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Owing to pressure of copy space we regret it may be necessary to abridge any article. (E-mail copy much appreciated).

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THE OXDROVE

Church and Community News

Of

The Candover Valley and Wield

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Tel: 01256 381 217. Email: stevemourant@btinternet.com

<http://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk>

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

The Parishes of Candover Valley and Wield

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

December rotas 2020

A message from David and Stephen

We do not know, as the magazine is being prepared for printing, whether we will be able to hold any services over Christmas. If we cannot hold services, then there will be online carol services and other material for Christmas available via links on the benefice website.

If we are permitted, there will be limited carol services and Holy Communion services over Christmas; in church there will be attendance limits – how many we can accommodate, socially distanced – so alternate pews and family groups together, with singing confined to small choirs singing the carols, or, weather permitting, outside services where we can worship more freely, socially distanced.

Some carol services could be run twice to double numbers – probably by swapping the alternate pews in which to sit, run back to back or if in an evening, to have them on successive evenings.

Please pray for God to intervene in this crisis in new ways - helping us to remain virus-free, and bringing the epidemic to a swift end, along with the development of effective vaccines.

We will prepare a service rota, circulate on email lists and also post it on the benefice website, and expect that you will circulate around your electoral rolls and villages via your local email loops.

Check here for update <http://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk>

Rev. David Chattell

Rev Stephen Mourant

Dear Friends

I write this during the second week of the second “lockdown”, as we are told to restrict our interactions with others, to slow down and stop the spread of the corona virus. Again, we have been told not to meet in our churches to worship corporately, although we are all welcome to enter our sacred spaces to pray.

Our personal relationship with the Lord in prayer is not confined to going to a place of prayer, for nowhere in the New Testament are we told to go to church – we ARE the church, and when we opened our lives to Jesus Christ, He entered and took up residence in our hearts; “Christ is IN you, the hope of Glory” (Colossians 1:27). We do not need church buildings to worship, for wherever we are, HE is – “You are the temple of the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

But God’s word also reminds us “Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some,” (Hebrews 10:25); fellowship, encouraging one another, is so important too – for “where two or three are gathered together, there I am in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20.) Human relationships, human contact, is part of being alive, and part of being “church” – we need one



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another's company especially in difficult times. When we are cooped up with the same person or people for a prolonged time, it can bring out the best – and worst in us, which is why we need some interaction with others; our mental and emotional health is more under pressure when we are separated from others, for the imagination can do strange things. We can be greatly thankful for phone calls, “Facetime”, Skype/Zoom and other video/audio platforms, enabling us to see and talk to people across the world, and join in worship, whether our own home-grown services by David and I, or other worship services we can find online if we look.

BUT Christ is with us, He is in you if you have invited Him, and His presence can build us up when we make time to listen and seek His face. Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian pastor, was in solitary confinement for years because of his opposition to the communist regime in his country; he wrote later of the sheer ecstasy of Jesus' presence with him in the underground cell- we are never alone; Jesus is with us.

David and I have been talking with PCCs about December and the Christmas services; until we know what we are allowed to do, it is difficult to plan ahead. We have some different scenarios – if we ARE allowed to go back into our buildings to get together and sing our favourite carols (or at least listen to small groups singing to us) then how do we manage numbers: do we hold open air shortened carol services where we hear some of the Bible stories foretelling the coming of Jesus alongside the nativity accounts? Do we hold carol services several times over to cater for the usual numbers? How do we do communion, especially Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Can we have Christingle services?

As soon as plans are made clearer by the church leaders and government– and you may be aware that very strong representation and opposition has been made by all faith leaders over this

latest restriction, as most of us have been able to manage social distancing and careful hand sanitising and been careful in worship - we will send out a plan and circulate it as quickly as we can and certainly the Benefice website will have the latest news.

Reflecting theologically and biblically, these may be difficult times, but are not unprecedented. In every century there have been crises, shortages, war and worse. We can make the best of these times by looking in – and finding the presence of Jesus with us; we can look up and realise God is in control and we can trust Him, and looking out – how can we help someone else – serving others is the best antidote to feeling low – we can be a blessing to another – a phone call, some food dropped off to someone’s door, a prayer for another, and above all knowing there is nothing to be afraid of – far too much fear has been spread, instead of hope, joy and encouragement. Be joyful, Jesus is for us and with us.

“Immanuel, God is WITH us.”

With prayerful love and hope this Christmas season,

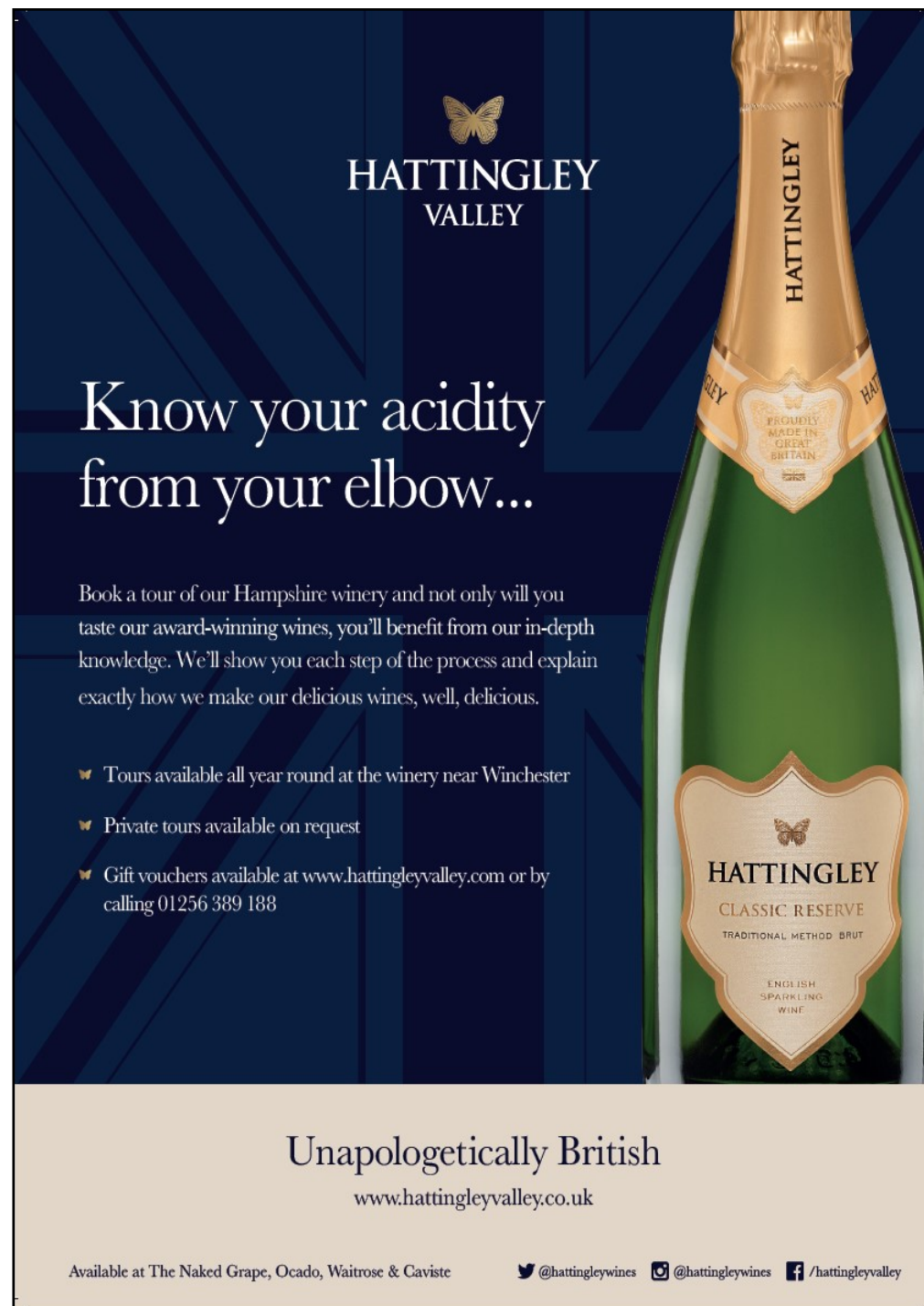
St. Peters, Brown Candover November 2020

It was good that so many attended the **Remembrance Sunday Service** at St. Peters Church, Brown Candover.

We have just heard that extra work has to be undertaken on the roof of St. Peters.

This will involve extra scaffolding in order that a stonemason can reach the east end gable of the church where the stone cross will have to be removed, repaired and replaced.

The interior of the church will need a big spring clean and it is hoped that we can rely on help from the Parish. Of course, we may still be in some form of lockdown. We will send a note round asking for help when it becomes clear that we can use our church again safely.



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Remembrance Sunday 2020

On Sunday 8 November a short Remembrance service was held at Brown Candover Church.

The service was held outside the church to comply with Covid 19 restrictions and passers by were able to pay their respects, suitably socially distanced.



St Mary's Thank You.

A huge thank you to everyone who has given of their time and energy to tidy up the church and churchyard, it is all looking much better.

I don't see all of you when you are working, so I hope you will accept my gratitude this way. It can seem an endless task, no sooner have the leaves been swept up than more fall, but please believe me that every little bit of work helps a lot.

Thank you all, Anne.

Denis Whitcher

23rd November 1942 - 26th September 2020



Denis was born in Lyndhurst and after a difficult childhood was fostered by the Blakes in Brown Candover when he was eight. Denis worked on the Brown Candover Estate for much of his life, on the farm and later as a game-keeper. He used to reminisce about those days especially the camaraderie of working with fifty other men. Apparently the accident book at the farm was full of scrapes that Denis had got into and there were few entries after he left!

In his 'retirement' he gardened for many families up and down the valley. Up until the last four months of his life

Denis was incredibly fit and healthy and boasted that he had never been to the doctor. He was still working at 77 and hated not having a job to do. He was never happier than when he was wielding a chainsaw. Losing Sue, the love of his life, in 2017 was a terrible blow to Denis but he picked himself up and carried on working.

Denis was a very kind man - always quietly helping others out. But he was also never shy about telling people what he thought, sometimes with quite colourful language! There are so many stories to tell about Denis and he is irreplaceable. It's true to say, they don't make them like him anymore. He is sorely missed by his daughter Helen, his son Danny, his grandchildren and his many, many friends.

A tree will be planted in Denis Whitcher's memory in a field in Totford Farm near the Wayfarer's Walk just past the big walnut tree - to look over the land that he loved so well. And maybe too, to remember all those many men with whom he once worked on this estate.

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Church flowers, cleaning and Key Holders

St. John's Church Northington	Flowers		
	Key Holder		
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Flowers	No services until further notice	Roof repairs
	Key Holders & brass	December	Edwina Curtis Hayward (01256 389704)
		January 2021	Sue Marriott (01256 389385)
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers & cleaning		
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	December	Hopefully Christmas flowers will be done,
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	December	Hopefully Christmas flowers can be done, Nikki will let us all know
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle Kuhn

Graves in Churchyard of St John the Evangelist, Northington

The Northington PCC intends to apply for a faculty in May 2021 for permission from the Diocesan Chancellor to remove the kerbstones and other grave furniture, to leave just the headstone on all full bodied graves in the churchyard and return the ground to level grass so the graves can be mown and kept weed free and tidy and in conformity with the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese. We hope that all will understand this need but if there are any objections, please contact the PCC Secretary c/o Ruffside, Northington, SO24 9TH by 30 April 2021.

If any grave is unsafe and/or untended we will ask the relatives to repair the memorial in order to pass the safety standards of the Diocesan architect within 8 months and to tend the grave to ensure it remains tidy.

The application for a Faculty will be made in May 2021 and work commenced once the Faculty is granted. The work may well take over 2 years and so the Faculty application will ask for the Faculty to run for that period. Any grave that receives an objection to being simplified will be temporarily spared but failure to repair a monument and/or tend a grave by 30 Apr 2022 will be taken by the PCC as a withdrawal of the objection. The removed furniture will be used in the foundations for the repair and refurbishment of the Grade 2 Listed Churchyard walls



Keep warm this winter.

This year it is especially important that we stay warm and safe at home. The Citizens Advice is part of a campaign to make sure that you are not paying too much for your energy and have all the

information you need to keep warm this winter.

The focus is to encourage you to check your bills, apply for any grants or discounts you might be eligible for, and check to see if you can switch to a cheaper tariff or provider.

There are many ways to contact us. For more information go to www.bigenergysavingwinter.org.uk or the Citizens Advice website. Or for direct contact email energy@caeasthants.org.uk or phone 0300 330 9028 and ask for a call back from the East Hampshire energy adviser.

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OS Map References: Bugmore Hill SU 5968 3781 Upper Wield Church SU 6294 3876

Riparian Responsibilities!

The aquifers are full & the Candover Brook is in full flow from Chilton Candover!

Please could we remind landowners to ensure ditches and culverts are clear! Daren has been busy with his digger - a work of art and a necessity!



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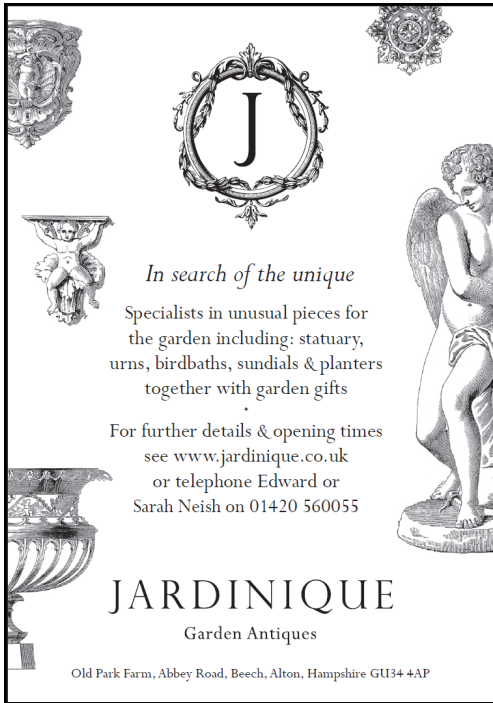
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- x** Ask you to hand over control of your PC
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Jackie's County Corner

It was such a pleasure to meet Susie Little at Tower House Horses. Susie generously uses her horses to help those who have been victims of Domestic Abuse, or addiction. If you'd like to know more, or donate, go to www.towerhousehorses.org

The County Council has set up a 'Citizens Forum' to receive feedback. Go to hants.gov.uk and search Hampshire Perspectives for details or go direct to www.hampshirecc.researchfeedback.net

The Covid-19 Local Engagement Board is headed up by the Leader of the County Council. It is advised by the Director of Public Health (DoPH), Simon Bryant. I attend the meetings as your Councillor and as Cabinet Member for Wellbeing at WCC. The local virus figures are low but rising steadily, so many events are being cancelled by organisers or by the DoPH. We want Christmas to be good for everyone- and I'm sure you'll agree that a Covid-free Christmas present is the best present we can imagine right now. Meanwhile, click on the interactive map on www.jackieporter.co.uk for recent, very local Covid-19 data.

If you have an autistic person in your family, you'll know the challenges of obtaining a diagnosis. At HCC **Children's Scrutiny we heard of the woeful progress of services for Autistic children** which has been an ongoing problem for more years than I can remember. It's a money issue- there just isn't enough- and the funding needed didn't happen because the General Election of 2019 'got in the way'. To an 'old hand' like me, this felt like Groundhog Day. I have asked for frequent updates until this is resolved, and was pleased that the NHS Director, newly appointed to carry this forward, agreed: this *must* improve.

Hampshire Hospital options: Online consultations involving 1000 people were held through the summer. Most people who attended the online events wanted the best healthcare wherever it was possible, the opportunity to 'stay local' for tests and check-ups, excellent public transport links to all sites (including Alton and Andover) for staff, patients and visitors, and a better link between the NHS and social care. Options for care have been drawn up by HHFT. You will be able to comment on these in early 2021. Visit www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk for more information about this health service improvement programme – and you can also follow it on Facebook (www.facebook.com/hampshiretogether).

Please give your comments: even if you haven't been to any of our hospitals yet, it is worth putting yourself in the shoes of an employee, patient or visitor to think how it would work for you.

Finally, are you entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers? These provide vouchers to purchase a range of healthy foods for some pregnant mums and children under 4. See more on www.gov.uk but if you need a printed version of the form, please contact me or your health visitor.

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County Councillor Jackie Porter www.jackieporter.co.uk 07973 696 085, jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

Staff Retirement

This month we will be saying goodbye to one of our long-standing members of staff. Debra Lain joined us in 2004 as a Receptionist but her organization skills and attention to detail meant that she was soon moved on to become firstly, Assistant Practice Manager and latterly, Patient Services Manager. Amongst other things Debra has been running our flu vaccination campaign for a number of years. This year's campaign has been the biggest and most complex ever and we applaud Debra for the huge effort she has put into this project. In addition, Debra has also kept track of our child immunisation programme, Better Health and all the other investigations that patients might have on an annual, bi-annual or five yearly basis. Needless to say, Debra has been a lynch pin in ensuring our clinical staff know exactly what they need to be doing and she will leave an impressive legacy in terms of our recall systems and we all hope she has a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Blood test appointments:

The surgery is under a lot of additional pressures and is extremely busy. Please be mindful when booking a blood test appointment that if we cannot offer you an appointment in the time frame you require, that you can access blood tests at Royal Hampshire County Hospital and this will help alleviate some pressure on the surgery.

It is easy & straight forward to book a blood test appointment at Royal Hampshire County Hospital either online or via telephone.

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The Alresford Surgery

Station Road
ALRESFORD
Hampshire

Out of hours telephone number
111

Surgery telephone number 01962 732345 SO24 9JL

Before attending the surgery:

The surgery is extremely busy with an increased workload & additional pressures.

We are unable to lock our doors like we did previously so please do consider carefully how vital your visit to us is.

Our dispensary has been constantly busy throughout Covid and due to social distancing measures are working in smaller teams.

Prescriptions take 72 hours to be processed, please do not call, email or attend the dispensary asking for your prescription before the 72 hours has passed, as it will not be ready early!

When attending the Surgery, if the waiting area appears busy & social distancing difficult, then please wait outside until more space is available.

Please do not come into the surgery if you have any of the following;

- A high temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please stay at home and use the following website for further help. 111.nhs.uk/covid-19
You need to be wearing a face covering/mask before entering the building, even if collecting a prescription.

To ensure there are as few patients in the building as possible,

- Do not attend more than 5 minutes before your appointment time.
- You should attend the surgery alone, unless you need an essential carer or parent/guardian to accompany you.

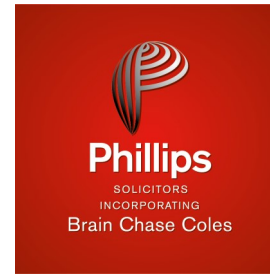
Any enquiries relating to appointments, repeat medications or otherwise please telephone (01962 732345) rather than attending the reception desk.

Flu clinics 2020 November/December:

We now have flu vaccine available for patients who are aged 65 and over so please book an appointment if you have not already done so.

For patients who are under 65 and at risk, we are expecting another delivery the last week in November and we have Friday morning clinics scheduled in December. These clinics are only for those patients under 65 who we have previously contacted by text or letter. Please be aware that these may need to be cancelled if the vaccine delivery does not arrive but we will be happy to book you in for now.

At the time of writing (early November) we still have no guidance or vaccine allocation for patients who are aged 50-64 not at risk. Please do not telephone the surgery as we are unable to provide this service at the moment. We await government guidance and will respond appropriately as soon as we are able so please be patient.



Leave a gift for charity

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity. Three quarters of Britons regularly give to charity in their lifetimes, but only 6% include a charity when writing a Will.

Without this source of income many charities would have to cut important services and some could not exist.

Lucy Watson, who heads the Wills and Probate team at Phillips Solicitors, said: “Charities rely on both regular donations and legacies in Wills to be able to continue their good work. Leaving money to charity in your Will can make a huge difference and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you’ve gone.”

“It is especially important to think of charities at the moment when so many of their normal fundraising avenues have been cancelled with the coronavirus pandemic.”

Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. A gift made to a UK registered charity is also inheritance tax free.

“If your estate is large enough to be chargeable to inheritance tax, gifts to charity will reduce not just the overall amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate but also the rate of tax, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance,” explained Lucy.

“If you are looking to leave money to a charity you may well consider Sebastian’s Action Trust, which is Phillips’ charity of the year.”

For help in leaving a charitable legacy, or for any other Wills and Probate issues, please contact Lucy by emailing lucy.watson@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854646.

More information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips Solicitors, can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk. Sebastian’s Action Trust provides emotional, social and ongoing support for seriously ill children and children with life limiting illnesses as well as their families. It also offers respite holidays to families from all over the UK at The Bluebells – the Trust’s unique facility in North Waltham, just outside Basingstoke.



Walking with Wildlife

One Sunday morning, we decide to head up the Candover Valley to Axford. Despite the dull weather, the field oaks and roadside beeches are aglow, lit up with autumn leaf colours, perhaps one of the most impressive displays for years. Still chuckling at the orange grins and grimaces of the Halloween pumpkins placed at cottage gates, we pass the happy hippos guarding the entrance to Axford House before bearing right along Berrydown Lane towards the bridleway at Wellclose Gate.

We were last up here in the spring and are now back for an autumn ramble along this intriguing trail through a secluded dell, tucked between the wooded slopes of Nutley Down and Berry Down. Although never quite sure what we may encounter, we are greeted today by soaring raptors as three buzzards and two red kites float over the dome of Nutley Down.

Despite the amusing antics of a dog that's clearly reluctant to go for a walk with its owner, we scan the leaf litter beside the track for autumn treasures and quickly find troops of toadstools. The milky-grey caps of clouded agarics stand out across the floor of the wayside copse, as does the violet tinge of a cluster of wood blewits. Three stinkhorns erupt from the base of an old tree stump. Bone white and no longer smelly, their startling appearance is perhaps more discreetly conveyed by their scientific name, *Phallus impudicus*.

Keeping our distance we meet and pass cheery hikers, trail bikers and two runners. Apart from the cough and clatter calls of pheasants hidden in the woodland depths, there's little sound of life in this tranquil setting. An elegant silver birch 'the lady of the woods' stands in a grassy meadow or deer lawn at the woodland edge. Around her base grows a ring of bright red fungi – fly agarics – the toadstools of fairy stories. All stages are present from the deep red of emerging bulbs through to the maturing caps, strikingly scarlet with white spots, and finally the fading orange of aged specimens.

Robert Bryant
10 Nov '20



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Police Report

**Andrew Reid, Police Constable Rural Beat Officer
3746 andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk**

**Information should be passed to: 101;
Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111;**

OR give me a call on 07768 776 844 or 01256 389 050

Dear residents

I am appealing for any information in relation to two non-dwelling burglaries in Preston Candover between 01:30am and 2am on Thursday October 22 in Alresford Road, towards the Chilton Candover end of the village. At one address several builders' tools were stolen and in the other a red Husqvarna TE 511 motorcycle registration HX61 HLG. I am aware that the thieves went up the Wield Road Preston Candover, I ask if anyone has CCTV or any other information to please let me know.

In Chilton Candover overnight of November 8 and 9 a Land Rover 90 Defender was stolen from outside a house in the village. I am aware that the vehicle was taken up Gunners Lane then onto the A303. If anyone has any information that can assist, please give me a call direct.

As we enter December may I again remind all residents to please be aware of home security and protecting your property; please use lighting and other security devices to protect your home.

Slightly further afield on October 18 between 1:30pm and 2pm two garages were broken into at the rear of Southlea in Cliddesden. On October 29 in the early evening, two men were disturbed, by the owner using torches, in a garden at a premises outside Cliddesden. They ran off and got into a Honda CRV which was later found burnt out in Henley-on-Thames. This is a good example of how far these people will travel in a day to commit crime. A van was broken into nearby during the same period.

Overnight of November 10 and 11 poachers killed a pheasant with a catapult in Green Lane Ellisfield and caused damage to the field. I suspect they returned the following evening and were seen in Green Lane and later in Bell Lane. I am aware that in Herriard a window was broken after a projectile was fired at a window by a catapult on the same evening.

Also I have become aware of an increase in problems with dog faeces; in the recreation ground recently I picked up some actually on the pitch! Whilst a resident of Stenbury Drive has also had to pick some up from his lawn where a dog has come into his garden and messed on the lawn on more than one occasion. Please if you have a dog do the decent thing and clean up after it.

Please remain vigilant and report any crime that may happen to you, it is vital that the Police are aware of crimes in our area as it may be part of a much larger series and link in to other similar crimes.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a very happy and safe Christmas period.



Candover Valley Club

The Candover Valley Club is located in a beautiful spot next to the church and fronted by the cricket pitch in the middle of the quiet village of Brown Candover. We are conveniently situated on the B3046 between Alresford and Basingstoke.

Both the clubroom and the back hall have recently been renovated and have never looked so inviting. Club night is Saturday from 6.30pm to 10pm if you fancy a drink, a game of darts or pool and a chat with the locals. Food is also served between 7pm and 9pm.

Our magnificent Skittle Alley is also available to hire – great for fun evenings with groups of people and parties!

The club and/or hall are both available to hire at very reasonable rates. We have a fully licensed bar, fully fitted kitchen and large spaces for wedding receptions and parties. Please contact Alison at cvchires@gmail.com - No booking is too large or too small.



We look forward to seeing you soon!



www.candovervalleyclub.co.uk



facebook.com/candovervalleyclub



[@CandoverClub](https://twitter.com/CandoverClub)

You can still move safely!

The governments campaign throughout the COVID crisis has been to *#keepthecountrymoving*. Even during the November lockdown agents have been encouraged to remain open and lettings and sales transactions to continue.

The demand for property remains high and the Candover Valley is an exceptionally desirable location with glorious countryside combined with easy access to commuting networks. Most of our applicants are families and individuals looking to move out of the city and establish a life in the country,

whilst still being able to access London and the South Coast. With this level of activity continuing as we enter the winter period under the uncertainty of COVID-19 regulations, it is important that you understand how we can continue to work with you safely and consistently.

Prior to any viewing we ensure that:

- Firstly, and most importantly, that the applicants have discussed the property with one of our team and ideally that they have looked at it on Google Maps (and if conditions allow have driven past) to appreciate the location. We have always prided ourselves on matching the right applicant to the right property. Success is not getting lots of viewings, it is about getting the most effective and appropriate viewing.
- Applicants give written confirmation to confirm that no one in their household is currently undertaking self-quarantine.
- That no one in their household currently has any symptoms of COVID-19 including high temperature, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or loss of taste.
- That to the best of their knowledge they have not been contact with any one with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
- We ask that the landlord, vendor or tenant leave all doors within the property open and that no more than 2 adults attend the viewing.
- Viewings are limited to 15 minutes with a reasonable safe period between viewings to ensure there is never a constant flow of people going through a house.
- We request that everyone involved with the viewing wears gloves and mask and we carry spare ones with us.
- We also ensure that all team members carry disinfectant wipes with them to wipe any surfaces that have been touched.

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WEATHERWISE

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in October 2020

By Simon Bourne

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

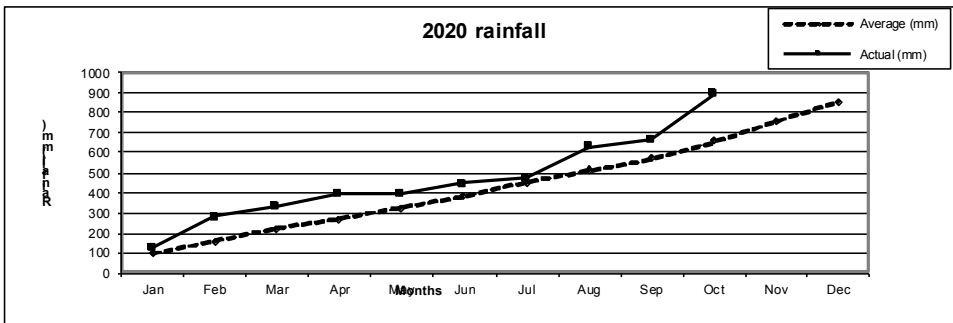
Highest	17.0/63	(8 th)
Lowest	1.5/35	(10 ^h)
Warmest Night	12.8/55	(21 st)
Coolest Day	10.7/51	(4 th)
Average maximum temperature	14.0/57	
Average minimum temperature	6.4/47	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	227.3/8.95	(average 96.5/3.80)
Annual total	886.4/34.90	(average 668.1/26.30)
Maximum 24hr. fall	59.0/2.32	(2 nd)
Number of days with rain	27	

Summary

October began very unsettled. Storm Alex brought two and a third inches of rain on the 2nd, the wettest 24hr period recorded here, and there was more than the normal monthly total in the first three days. The 3rd recorded the wettest day in the UK as a whole, from records dating back to 1891. The unsettled conditions continued throughout the month with rain on all but four days, but with slightly brighter weather in the second and third weeks. Temperatures were rarely above the seasonal norm though with so much cloud, the month was frost free. There were showers and prolonged periods of rain in the last week and it was breezy at times. Overall, it was a dull and cooler than average month with 236% of the normal rainfall.



- The same procedures are in place if a member of the team needs to visit a property for an appraisal.

In addition to the above we have also:

- Adapted our working procedures to enable the whole team to work together to provide **a full service** to all clients.
- Plus, we ensure that we have the very latest information from our industry governing bodies and from the government so we are able to keep clients up to date with changing regulations, including legal, financial and Covid-19.

So, far from being downcast about the period ahead we are ready, we are busy and we are eager to play our part in boosting one of the most important sectors of our economy. The property industry is central to our economy and our homes are central to our lives. So.....keep enjoying life in the Candover Valley, reassured that if you do need to move or reassess your property options it can be done safely with The Country House Company.

Marishelle Butler

Head of Marketing and Property Management

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Swarraton and Northington WI

Sadly, another month has gone by without WI members being able to meet up, and who knows how long it will take to get back to any kind of normal? However, HCFWI have done their best to keep us informed and to entertain with an on line programme.

HCFWI

Date	Event
13 November	Closing day – Story of Hope
13 November 7:30pm - 9pm	Violette Szabo talk by
19 November 7pm	New Speakers Showcase
23 November 7:30pm - 9pm	Always look on the bright side of life (David & Alison Woolford)
1 December 10-12 and 7 – 9pm	Resolution Meetings
2 December 10 – 11am	Alison Stuart (Author)
10 December 7:30 – 9pm	Festive Treats Cook along

James Pinniger, Rotary member and organiser of the local Christmas Appeal was delighted to receive 15 beautifully decorated shoe boxes donated by members of Northington and Swarraton WI destined for needy children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Philippines.

Sewing for the Days for Girls project continues with the tricky process of sewing slippery PUL to make the required travel bags. Many countries supported by the project now have a plastic free policy so the zip lock bags are no longer acceptable.

Our newsletters continue to keep members in touch and this month Margaret Robertson has entertained us with her choice of 8 books she would take to a Desert Island. Her eighth and last book was recently published, and posthumous, as its author, Clive James, knew it would be. In the last year of his life, unable to write due to surgery that impaired his sight, he reached back in his memory to the many poems he knew by heart, and there are about 80 of them, each with a commentary that reflects his love and enthusiasm for poetry. It is a gem; it can be read straight through or just dipped into. Poetry-lovers will almost certainly know and love many of the poems, but there are several new ones that bring great pleasure. It is called ***The Fire of Joy: Roughly 80 Poems to get by Heart and Say Aloud.***

Remember that right through December, the store will be carrying extra supplies of Christmas vegetables, fruit, bread, milk and other basics for your shopping basket as well as all the treats and gifts.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

To you, our lovely customers and wonderful volunteers, thank you for your support and hard work through 2020. You are all very much appreciated. Here’s to a more normal 2021! Merry Christmas and good wishes from Gary, Emma and the CVC store committee.

Citizens Advice Winchester District launches new free local Adviceline number

From 9 November Citizens Advice Winchester District will have a new free local Adviceline number.

The new number will be **0808 278 7861** and will be staffed Monday to Friday by a team of trained local volunteer advisers. This new number will replace all the existing local Citizens Advice Winchester District numbers.

Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager at Citizens Advice Winchester District says: “Our telephone advice service has always been an important part of our advice delivery but none more so than during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

“As we enter another lockdown, I’m really pleased that we can offer a free local Adviceline to anyone in Winchester District that needs our help. If you have a query relating to your employment, housing, financial situation, a benefits application or anything else that’s causing you concern then please do get in touch.”

Citizens Advice Winchester District is a local independent charity and a member of the national Citizens Advice network of England and Wales.

To speak to adviser, call for free on 0808 278 7861 (if our advisers are busy you can leave a message and they will call you back) or email advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk

Shop local this Christmas

Your community store stocks a range of tempting merchandise, edible and otherwise, all perfect for Christmas. Some of the best products come from local businesses and individuals, who have been coping with the challenges of a uniquely difficult trading year. Why not try to buy as many of your Christmas gifts as possible from these producers and give them your support? You will find lovely items on the gift table and many more in the chiller and on the shelves – anything from glassware and candles to delicious coffee, sparkling wine, apple juice and beers. Come in for a browse!

Christmas posting dates

The run-up to Christmas may be different this year but the team behind the post office counter at the store will be there to help you choose the best way to get your cards and parcels safely delivered on time. It's a good idea to post early and having the correct postcode is a must. To help with this, log on to royalmail.com/find-a-postcode which can find any address in the UK! The last posting date for Christmas delivery in the UK is Friday 18 December for 2nd class letters or parcels. For 1st class, it is Monday 21 December.

Store and post office opening hours – Christmas and New Year

Sunday 20 December – 8.30am - 4pm. Extended opening hours, store only.

Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 December. Normal opening hours.

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve. Post office closes at 12.30pm and store at 4pm. Friday 25 and Saturday 26 December – CLOSED.

Sunday 27 December – 8.30am - 12.30pm. Store only.

Monday 28 December (bank holiday) – 8.30am - 12.30pm. Store only.

Tuesday 29 to Wednesday 30 December – normal opening hours.

Thursday 31 December – post office closes at 3pm and store at 4pm.

Friday 1 January 2021 (bank holiday) – 8.30am – 12.30pm. Store only.



The foodbank is working with the wider support community to pack and distribute Christmas Hampers to the most vulnerable families and individuals and have asked local churches for help.

So as a Benefice we thought we could help by volunteering to pack 20 hampers with a set list of items containing mainly Christmas treats and luxury items.

Here is how you can help:

1. Donate items from the list below:
 - Cake, eg Christmas cake, yule log
 - Pudding, eg Christmas pudding, sponge pudding
 - Box mince pies, apple pies, etc
 - Box of chocolates, biscuits
 - Hot drink, eg coffee, tea, hot chocolate
 - Tinned meat, eg ham, mince, pie
 - Tinned fruit
 - Custard
 - Savoury sauce, eg curry sauce, pasta sauce
 - Toiletries Christmas Crackers (2 per box) Christmas cards
2. Donate money to purchase the items
3. Come along and help to pack the hampers (details to follow but will be after lockdown in a Covid safe environment)

Drop off points:

St Martins Church Ellisfield, St Leonards Church, Cliddesden and St Mary's, Preston Candover.

Contact details: Debbie Scholey: 01256381757 debbie@ivycottage.aero

On the Farm—Julian Gibbons

I sometimes check what I have written in previous years to make sure it isn't a complete repeat. When I looked at last years it said that we had about 280mm of rain since the 22nd September and was a tale of woe, of hardly any drilling completed. This year we have had nearly the same level of rainfall, but we have 95% completed drilling of crops. These went in two spells at the end of September and the third week of October. What causes the most problem is extreme rain events. They used to be so rare that you tended to remember them for many years, but we have already had 4 such events when we get a huge amount of rain in a very short time. The challenge for us as farmers is to adapt our practices to cope with them.

As always something new crops up that we hadn't thought about and eats some of the crops. Usually it is slugs after Oilseed Rape. This year we prepared for wireworms after a 5 year grass ley with may be the odd leatherjacket thrown in.

We used all the cultural methods we know. 1: Remove the food source by killing the grass off several months before replanting. 2. Cultivate to encourage Rooks, Crows etc. to feast on any grubs. 3 Roll after planting to keep a firm fine seedbed.

The result, crop was thinned out by Frit fly larvae that we couldn't prepare for!

We have seen more Frit fly damage this year then for many years, however generally crops have established well.

The star performer when I drive around and look at other farmers' fields is Oilseed Rape. After losing the whole crop to Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle (if you grow brassicas they cause "shot holing" of the leaves) we had decided to have a break and let the Flea beetle population to decline. Little did we know that they would hardly be a problem this year. The best guide next year will be to look in your grainstore and grain trailers after harvesting your rape. If you can see what appears to be rape seed walking out the shed and crawling up the walls it has been a good year for flea beetle and don't plant. In 2019 they were every where, but apparently not very visible in stores at harvest time this year.

Grain prices have finally stabilized. They have risen until they have met the cost of importing grain. The 2020 harvest has been officially the worst since 1980, leaving the UK to have to import a large quantity of wheat.

All the straw that was sold and baled at harvest has been collected , destined for South West Stock farms.

This year we are taking part in a grain analysis project. We have submitted representative grain samples from a range of crops and taken from produce of individual fields. They will be analysed for nutrients to see whether they have adequate, too little or too much. They also have detailed soil analysis and records of fertiliser applied. The aim is to improve the efficiency of fertiliser application and reduce cost per tonne. Inorganic fertiliser use has been declining steadily for many years and this is just one way to check we are not limiting yield and profitability.

We will probably start cutting our roadside hedges early in the New Year, this will give time for the birds to feast on the berries and seeds. I manage to wait until the first frost and the start of the autumn lockdown before picking enough Sloes to make about 4 litres of Sloe Gin and taking getting close to half a tonne of apples to Mr.Whitehead's Cider and exchange them for cider credits. These last two finally finishing the year's harvest!



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CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR
Monthly Newsletter – December 2020

And here we are, coming towards the end perhaps of a second lockdown. Candover Valley Choir have been rehearsing via ZOOM since the first lockdown in March although we also built in a good summer break. We resumed again in mid-October. Our current repertoire is almost entirely Christmas-focused – both sacred and secular. We do not know yet exactly how, if and in what way the traditional carol services in the Candover Valley will be able to take place or what the restrictions may or may not be. But by working on Christmas Repertoire, we are both enjoying ourselves as well as preparing to be ready for whatever the Churches feel they might be able to put in place.

As I write this article on Remembrance Day in November 2020, I am reminded of the tremendous experience the Candover Valley Choir had when 6 of us travelled to New York to sing in the first USA performance of ‘The Great War Symphony’ composed by Patrick Hawes, joining an international choir of over 100 singers from across the World to sing this fabulous new work in Carnegie Hall – on Armistice Day. What a tremendous experience that was. And here is the Candover Valley Choir Group (Me, Sue, Chris, Ali, Barbara and Philippa) outside Carnegie Hall, just before we went in to perform:



Interested in joining us - It may seem a strange time to join a choir, but we are always pleased to hear from those interested in joining. To find out more, please contact either me or Julian Jones, our Choir Chairman, on juliang.jones@btinternet.com

Jane Bryant

Music Director
(bryantjane50@gmail.com)



Candover Valley Gardening Club

Unfortunately like most other clubs, our meetings are cancelled for the time being but we are still keeping in touch with our members via monthly e-mails. We are all missing meeting up but are sharing ideas for jobs we can be doing in our gardens.

Seasonal tasks such as planting bulbs and sowing seeds give us hope and brightness for the future.

If you had been planning to join the gardening club to meet fellow gardeners, enjoy garden visits and get some inspiration from our expert speakers, please keep an eye on our website www.cvgc.btck.co.uk for the up to information on our programme and how to get in touch.



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- Would you like your fridge or freezer stocked with homemade favourites?
- Do you have a relative who could benefit from a monthly visit to stock up their freezer?
- Or might you need help cleaning out kitchen cupboards or clearing the larder of outdated items?

To discuss please contact Fiona Koetser

Mb: 07909 928 011 or Email: fiona.Koetser@outlook.com

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Christmas Trees by Midge

Beautiful Hampshire grown Christmas Trees

Originating from Hungary the Nordman fir has grown in popularity since it was introduced to the British market. With excellent needle retention, the needles on this tree are large dark green and soft to touch, therefore are ideal as a family focal point for your Christmas celebrations.

Trees are available in 4ft, 5ft, 6 and 7ft sizes with prices from £40.00
INCLUDING local delivery from Saturday 5 December 2020

For more information and to order, please contact:

Midge Scott: 07880 701688 or

Email: Rachel : rachel.ley@rlcuk.com

Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Gliddesden Millennium Village Hub

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

December: 4th, 11th with a visit from Santa (walks are subject to Gov protocols)

Due to Covid-19 we are offering a walk and following government guidelines

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups. Join us for a country walk suitable for all ages.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us.

Cost: £1 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (01256-477197)



News from the Yard

We had an interesting time in November adapting to the lockdown restrictions of takeaway only! It's been great to offer cakes, toasties & coffee to those of you wanting to get out into the fresh air. We're happy that you're taking advantage of the walking maps we provide, highlighting some of our fantastic local walks that can be started & finished here at the farm, including the Wayfarers Walk and of course, the Oxdrove.

We've opened our doors mid-week and are offering co-working space if you're in need of some distance from your home working environment or just need a change of scene. Spaces are limited, and social distancing key, so early booking is advised.

We've been busy getting ready for something new & exciting in the Candover Valley and can't wait to share our plans with you! Once a month, we'll be opening our doors in the evening, becoming a pop-up restaurant. We'll be hand picking incredible people to showcase their speciality cuisine so you can enjoy the Yard by moonlight. Tickets will be sold in advance, the menus will be pre-determined & delicious and up on the website as soon as lockdown restrictions have eased.

Our Yard website is now live, do go and take a look and see what's coming up, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

www.theyardhampshire.co.uk

Follow us on Instagram @theyard_hampshire

Chilton Manor Farm, Chilton Candover, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9TX



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- Coffee, tea, and takeaway drinks

We look forward to welcoming you!

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Saturday
8:30am - 5:00pm

Sunday
8:30am - 12:30pm

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8:30am - 5:00pm

Saturday
9:00am - 12:30pm

Sunday
closed

www.cvcs.org.uk

Candover Valley Store, Alresford Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2EE
Tel: 01256 389500

From Winchester's MP

0207 219 7189 (House of Commons) Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.stevebrine.com Steve Brine TV: www.stevebrine.tv www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP

We have all got used to the rather odd world of Zoom (other sites are available) this year, and I dare say many things will remain 'virtual' in the future, but I can boldly declare I have at last found a cast iron benefit.

UK Parliament Week usually sees Westminster full of school children learning about our Houses of Parliament and meeting up with their MPs including me. That obviously couldn't happen this year but I was able to dip into so many constituency schools – as if to teleport Star Trek style – and chat with many more pupils than would otherwise be possible. Thank you to Itchen Abbas, Hiltingbury and Prince's Mead for being among them.

This, and the many local events I have been able to reach while required to be in Westminster mid-week, have led me to create **Visit Westminster Virtually** which I think you're going to like very much.

The events promise a glimpse behind normally closed doors and will include a Q&A session with me so if you run a local organisation here in the Itchen Valley and want to plan something, do find out more via www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster

Westminster continues to be a hive of activity and I have been speaking of late on the Agriculture Bill (food standards), the self-employed, support for families during school holidays, the events industry and of course all things Covid you can think of – and many you cannot.

To hone in on **support for families**, we now have a properly worked out, funded, plan to stand with some of the most vulnerable families in our communities which is rightly so much more than a half-term voucher.

Councils will receive £170 million – Hampshire will get £1.9m – through the "Covid Winter Grant Scheme" which is ring-fenced to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over Christmas, February half-term and Easter 2021 school holidays. This builds on the £63 million provided to councils earlier this year to assist those struggling to afford food and essentials.

It is good news but I continue, with the help of many headteachers locally, to reach out to the families in my constituency impacted as their voice is all too often absent from the debate. I will be in touch (if I haven't already) via your school but would be pleased to hear from you if, for-instance, you don't yet have school age children. You will be eligible also for the record!

Finally, the winter edition of my constituency newspaper *The Winchester Post* is out now. It contains my call on the local NHS not to give up on our hospital, a full Westminster Report and dozens of local stories which I hope you find interesting. Delivery is a challenge this winter for obvious reasons but we'll get there and you can download it at www.stevebrine.com/publications

There is no question Christmas will be different this year but, wherever you are and whomever you are with, I wish you every blessing of the season.