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Copy deadline 14th of each month unless previously agreed with the Technical Producer

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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Contact preferred by e-mail

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay led

The Parishes of Farleigh, The Candover Valley and Wield

Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday

08.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP

09:30 Wield Matins

09.45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer

10:00 Preston Candover Morning Prayer

11:00 Northington Holy Communion (Village Hall)

11.15 Dummer Sunday Special

Readings Isaiah 50:4-9, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-end of 27
Psalm 31

Sermon ““Welcoming a king”

_____””_____

Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday

7pm Bradley Holy Communion

Readings Exodus 12:1-4,11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17
Psalm 116

Sermon “I have given you an example”

_____””_____

Friday 7th April Good Friday

10:00 Walk of witness (Wield to Northington)

2pm Ellisfield “An hour at the cross”

Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday

09:45	Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion
11:15	Dummer	Family Holy Communion
09:30	Wield	Family Holy Communion
11:00	Preston Candover	Family Holy Communion
11:00	Brown Candover with Northington	Family Holy Communion

Readings Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18

Sermon 'Jesus is alive'

Psalm 118

Sunday 16th April Second Sunday of Easter

9.00	Wield	Holy Communion BCP
9:45	Dummer	Morning Prayer
10:00	Preston Candover	Family Service
11.15	Cliddesden	Family Service

Readings Acts 2:14,22-32, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-end

Sermon 'Fear not'

Psalm 16

Sunday 23rd April Third Sunday of Easter

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW
9:45	Dummer	Holy Communion CW
11:00	Brown Candover	Morning Worship
11:15	Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion

Readings Acts 2:14,36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

Sermon "When the penny dropped"

Psalm 116

Sunday 30th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

09.30	Brown Candover	Holy Communion
11:00	Farleigh Wallop	Holy Communion

Readings Acts 2:42-end, 1 Peter 2:19-end, John 10:1-10

Sermon "Sheep first"

Psalm 23

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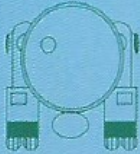


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Sunday 7th May Fifth Sunday of Easter

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP
09:30	Wield	Coronation Commemorative Service
09.45	Cliddesden	Coronation Commemorative Service
10:00	Preston Candover	Coronation Commemorative Service
11:00	Northington	Coronation Commemorative Service
11.15	Dummer	Coronation Sunday Special

Readings *Acts 7:55-end, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14*

Psalm 31

Sermon "There's always one!"

_____”_____

Coronation Commemorative Service - Sunday 7 May

Do come and celebrate with thanks the crowning of Charles III at a Commemorative Service in St John's church in Northington at **1100hrs on Sunday 7 May.**

It is also the first service in the church on completion of the 4 month organ restoration.

Thank you Bradley!

Thanks to the generous support of the residents of Bradley we have been able to send £202.50 to Hampshire Air Ambulance from the profits of the Bradley Jubilee Commemorative Calendar 2023.

From the collection at Bradley Carol's Evening, £112.25 was sent to the Camrose Centre to support the homeless of Basingstoke.

Thank you so much to all involved,

Jane

Dear Friends

Happy Easter!

Are you a glass half full person or glass half empty person? A man was waiting at the bus stop and a friend stopped and offered him a lift in the car. "No, thank you," said the man, who was rather on the glass half empty side, "if I go with you the bus is bound to turn up! "

A church leader was once asked if he was a pessimist or an optimist. "I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead."

The answer showed that from his perspective he saw life through a very different lens that wonderfully saw God was at work through Jesus, both in his life and resurrection and also now by his Holy Spirit.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead changes everything, a bold claim! Dr John Lennox, described on his website as "Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University (emeritus), is an internationally renowned speaker on the interface of science, philosophy, and religion. He regularly teaches at many academic institutions... and has written a series of books exploring the relationship between science and Christianity."

At the end of a televised debate between himself and Prof Richard Dawkins he spoke of his belief in the resurrection of Jesus' dead body from its stone tomb. If this is true (and I firmly believe it to be so) it does change the way we live and die since there is a miracle working God who gives life to the dead!

But people might say, "Faith is a delusion. I'd no more believe in God than I would in the Easter Bunny, Father Christmas or the Flying Spaghetti Monster".

These ideas have been made famous by people such as Prof Richard Dawkins. The only thing they are good for is mockery., said Prof Lennox.

"Statements by scientists are not always statements of science," said Prof Lennox. "Stephen Hawking said, "religion is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark". I said, "atheism is a fairy story for people afraid of the light".

"Neither of those statements proves anything at all. They're all reversible. What lies behind all these delusion claims is the Freudian idea of wish fulfilment [that we believe what we hope to be true.] This works brilliantly providing there is no god. But if there is a god, then atheism is wish fulfilment."

Christian faith is precious to believers. One of the 'books' in the bible is a letter from St Paul to a church in a city called Thessaloniki and in it explains that those who have died in faith in Christ are with him now and that all who trust Jesus will be reunited again one day. Because of this, he wrote, comfort and encourage one another with these words! We do.

May God give faith in his work through Jesus this Easter, that Jesus is alive!

Blessings
David

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Good Friday Walk 7th April 2023

Whether this will be your first time or you have join us many times in the past, come and join us for the return of the Good Friday Walk 7th April 2023

10.00am Wield
11.15am Bradley
12.15pm Preston Candover
1.00pm Chilton Manor farm for Lunch
2.15pm Brown Candover
3.30pm Northington

At every church we have a reading, a hymn and prayers. Some walk the whole route and some join us for part. We have our picnic lunches at Chilton Manor farm. All are welcome on the walk, children especially for whom there is an egg hunt at journeys end.

Dogs welcome

Spend the day in good company, fresh spring air and wonderful Hampshire countryside

Parish of the Candovers with Bradley

The Annual Parochial Church meeting and Vestry Meeting of the parish will take place on Tuesday 18th April 2023, 7.00pm in St Mary's.

All parishioners are invited to hear what has happened at All Saints, St Mary's and St Peter's over the last year, to learn about plans for this year, and to elect the Churchwardens.

Those on the Electoral Roll, (revised this year, please contact Celia Foote), are also eligible to vote for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members.

If you are interested in joining the PCC, please talk to the Rector or Churchwardens. Refreshments will be served.

Looking ahead to Easter – St Peters spring clean



We will be doing a church, brass and graveyard clean up on **Saturday 1st April** and we welcome as many helpers as possible.

We will start at 10 and coffee etc when we have finished.

Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	2 April 11.00am (at the village hall)	Mark Ashburton	
Coronation Commemorative Service (Not Holy Communion)	7 May 11.00	Peter and Beth Lamb	Peter and Beth Lamb
St Peter's Brown Candover	9 April	Sue Marriott & Ce3lia Foote	Jonathan Moseley Charles Marriott
	23 April 11.00am	Celia Foote	Ed Danielle Paul Curtis Hayward
St Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	2 April 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Marina Avis
	9 April 11.00am	Marina Avis & Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	16 April 10.00am	Marina Avis	To be advised
	7 May 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Jane Laws
All Saints Bradley			
St James' Wield	2 April 9.30am	John Lailey	Jean Frost Catherine Symons
	9 April 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Alwin Hutchinson Max Konig
	16 April 9.00am	Brian Collins	Joanna Nelson Mark Kemp Gee
	7 May 9.30am	John Lailey (TBC)	Philip Geddes David Cowley



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Church flowers, cleaning and Key Holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Key Holders	April May	Paul Curtis Hayward Ed Danielle
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers & Cleaning	April	All helpers for Easter, please.
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	Sat 8 April April 15 & 22 April 29 & 6 May	Easter Flowers, all helpers most welcome Jane Laws Lisa Cresswell
St James' Church Wield	Cleaner		

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Easter and Early May Bank Holiday changes to opening hours

Good Friday 7 April – store open 8.00am to **4.00pm**. Post office closed.

Easter Saturday 8 April – store open as usual from 8.30am to 5.00pm. Post office open 9.00am to 12.30pm.

Easter Sunday 9 April – store open 8.30am to 12.30pm. Post office closed.

Easter Monday 10 April – store open 8.30am to 12.30pm. Post office closed.

Early May Bank Holiday Monday 1 May – [store open 8.30am to 12.30pm](#).
[Post office closed](#).

Golden rabbits, chocolate eggs, hot cross buns – an Easter abundance!

The store is well stocked for all your Easter requirements whether for perennial plants and cut flowers, Summerdown chocolates, golden rabbits, every size of Easter egg and piles of hot cross buns!

Coronation Bank Holiday Monday 8 May – store open 8.30am to 12.30pm. Post office closed. **This is the day of the BIG HELP OUT** and could be your opportunity to find out more about volunteering at the store whether it is working in the store serving customers or helping out behind the scenes with DIY, cleaning and gardening. Come and talk to us in store and see how your talents and time can help your local community!

New bread supplier

Beresbakes, a Basingstoke bakery, will now be supplying the store with sourdough bread every Saturday. 16 varieties of bread are available in a wonderful array of flavours including wholemeal, beetroot, stilton & walnut; feta & sundried tomato and many more. If you require a particular variety it can be pre-ordered, so come on in and find out more.

Saturday 20 May - Hampshire Fare Day

A plan is forming for CVS to host a Hampshire Fare day on the morning of Saturday 20 May, when local suppliers will be invited to show off their produce in and around the store. Jams, jellies, honey, locally grown salads and watercress, mouthwatering cheeses, trout products, chocolate and mints, and stunning locally produced wines – will all be on display and for sale.! Watch this space next month for further details.

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The Wonderful World of Water Voles

Have you ever walked by a chalk stream and seen a flash of fur? You may have been lucky enough to spot an elusive species – the water vole! These small mammals love the clear water and lush plant life that characterise chalk streams. While they are rather shy, staying quiet and still could reward you with another sighting; listen for rustling in the streamside undergrowth and the famous ‘plop’ of them diving into the water.

Water voles are known for the character of Ratty in ‘The Wind in the Willows’, and are often mistaken for their rodent cousin, the brown rat. Several features can help with this critter confusion: brown rats have a greyish hue, pointed muzzle, prominent ears, and hairless tail; water voles have a chestnut tint, short muzzle, small ears, and furry tail. Their way of swimming is another clue: if only the head is above water, it’s probably a rat.

If you didn’t get a good look, there may be other signs that water voles are present. They choose a special place for eating, so you might find plant stems nibbled at a 45-degree angle. You might also see a ‘lawn’ of shortened plants by the entrance to their bankside burrows. Another sign to search for is a latrine near the stream’s edge; water vole droppings have a distinctive tic-tac shape, and can be green, brown, or purple in colour.

Once present throughout the UK, water voles have sadly become endangered in recent decades. Pollution and habitat loss have played a role, as has the spread of an invasive non-native species – the American mink. Originally introduced for fur farming, these voracious hunters can swiftly wipe out small mammal populations. According to one estimate, water voles have been lost from 97% of their former geographical range.

So, how can you help our furry friends? If you manage a chalk stream, leave a two-metre-wide margin of tall bankside plants, and do your habitat management outside the breeding season (spring and summer). If you walk your dog by a stream, keep them on a lead in places where water voles have been seen. In general, look out for American mink – you could even consider hosting a footprint raft or wildlife camera.

You can also monitor water vole populations in north and central Hampshire through the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme – contact winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk to learn more. Our work is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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Friday 3rd November

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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

I know a bank where the wild primroses grow, their pale yellow flowers a springtime delight even on a chilly March day under steel-grey skies. Well wrapped up, we are searching for signs of spring on Abbotstone Down and find the primroses tucked away on a grassy mound, the south ring of the Iron Age hill-fort. A great spotted woodpecker drums from its distant wooded retreat, despite the buzz of a woodcutter's chainsaw.

Heading through the trees towards the open chalk grassland, well knobbed with ant-hills, we meet some walkers taking a large mottled cat for an afternoon stroll. As it glares at us from the undergrowth, like a native wildcat returning to its ancestral habitat, they explain it's a Bengal cat, an engaging breed of great character.

Following the bridle path down to the old barn and back, we pass a bare field of cultivated soil. A feeding flock of winter thrushes, some two hundred or more, well camouflaged, are moving slowly over the chalk-brown tilth. The dance of the fieldfares, here with redwings and blackbirds, is a curious sight – with heads up, all facing forwards, one hops, they all hop; they pause and hop again. A buzzard flies down to join them. Looming over the others, he too searches for earthworms. Apparently the patter of their feet mimics the fall of raindrops, so luring the worms to the surface.

On another brisk afternoon, while crossing Northington Down, I pause to count the fallow deer that roam the arable fields here. As if on a parkland estate, some forty does in coats of charcoal grey are camped out mid-field. Among them are two bucks, each ghostly white and bearing splendid racks of antlers. Turning to watch a rainbow forming, I'm entranced as it lights up two roe deer grazing in the neighbouring field.

Heading down the hill to the post box, I find the Candover brook surging through the Swarraton water meadows. Two mute swans graze the banks. Scanning the splashy shallows, I spot my first blobs of frogspawn of the season.

Robert Bryant
7th March '23

Receptionists, Patient Advisors, or Care Navigators, are an integral part of the practice team, they work really hard to ensure patients are seen by the right healthcare professional. The information you give them will ensure you receive the right care, in the right way, by the right person.

All staff operate to strict guidelines and work under clinical supervision, which means you can trust them to treat all information given confidentially.

Good Friday & Easter Monday closure

Please make sure you have sufficient supplies of your usual medications to last over the bank holiday period which you can order in several ways.

- In person at the surgery
- By post
- Via the NHS APP or Patient Access

The surgery will be closed on Friday 7 April and Monday 10 April. If you need urgent medical care, you can access the Out of Hours service for advice, a face to face appointment or, if it is necessary, a home visit & the number to call is **111**.

e-Consults will not be able to be submitted after 6.30pm on Thursday 6th April & will not restart again until 8am on Tuesday 11th April.

Text messages from the surgery

As a surgery we have increased the usage of texting our patients with relevant health information, this can be as a follow up to a consultation with links to useful websites or as a way of inviting patients to attend vaccination clinics or reviews that they are eligible for.

Please ensure that we have consent to text you & that we have your correct contact details.

You can update these details via Patient Access, NHS App, by calling us or by emailing us on admin.alresford@nhs.net

Home blood pressure monitoring

If you are asked to provide us with home blood pressure monitoring information, you can download the monitoring sheets from our website using the following link; <https://alresfordsurgery.co.uk/downloadable-resources/>



The Alresford Surgery

Station Road
ALRESFORD, Hampshire
Out of hours telephone number 111

The role of the GP Receptionist

The role of GP Receptionist has changed dramatically in recent years, they play a key part in helping patients get the right care, by the right healthcare professional at the right time.

Now more commonly known in GP surgeries as Care Navigators, Care Co-ordinators, or Patient Advisors, receptionists have a much wider role than just answering phones and making appointments.

There are currently unprecedented pressures across all health services in Hampshire. This is in common with most areas of the country and is leading to huge levels of demand for GP services.

Sometimes, seeing a GP isn't the best option for the patient. In fact, studies show that 25-40% of consultations with a GP are unnecessary. Some patients may receive more appropriate care and advice more quickly elsewhere - for example, a physiotherapist for back pain, or a nurse for a skin rash, a pharmacist for medication advice - freeing up the GPs time for those who really need it.

This is where our Receptionists (Patient Advisors) come in. They receive comprehensive training, and their role is to actively listen, to signpost people to sources of help, advocacy, and support, and to help people play an active role in managing their own health.

There is a misunderstanding that Receptionists (Patient Advisors) are being noseey when they ask for information from a patient, or that they are trying to gatekeep appointments. This isn't the case at all. By asking several specific questions of the patient they are able to make sure that they book them an appointment with the most appropriate healthcare professional, or if its more suitable, signpost them to other services in the area. They will still book an appointment with a GP if the patient feels they need it, but the patient may have to wait longer for this.

theWI

Swarraton and Northington WI

There was a good turnout at our March meeting to hear Jackie Dimmock, our speaker, who gave a very interesting and amusing talk= 'The Good, the Bad and the Downright Funny'. Jackie had served Hampshire Constabulary as WPC 22 for almost 30 years until her retirement in 2011 and joked that a murderer would serve less time in jail for their crime. She illustrated her talk with the beautifully quilted mats which she has crafted during her retirement.

Jackie described how situations can take members of the public from being vulnerable to being volatile and reminded us that 15 police officers have died carrying out their duty during those 30 years. A police officer needs to deal with, domestic violence situations, be a social worker and handle drug and alcohol abusers.

On the lighter side, she described the pleasure of finding a local bakery whilst on duty in the early hours of the morning and tucking into warm doughnuts, Jackie served on the Isle of Wight at Newport police station and of course the streets would be packed in the summer with tourists and their daily enquiries of 'Where is Marks and Spencer and the nearest toilet'?

She described the frustrations of appearing briefly as a witness at the Crown Court and the pleasure of the camaraderie and supportive friendships with fellow officers.

Dealing with the aftermath of explosive and poisonous gases from cannisters, which landed on the beaches, following Naval exercises in the Solent was hazardous and helping a victim of a stag party prank that went very wrong was among the stories she shared. Jackie also described the training she received back in the 1980s, which included learning to swim and drive and amused us describing the restrictions of the uniform which WPCs wore. It was a very jolly afternoon as members asked lots of questions and thanked Jackie with warm applause. Tea was served.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 4th at 2pm when three members will share their Reminiscences. This is always a popular and interesting meeting so do come along and bring a guest. **Visitors are always welcome.**

WIELD CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

6th, 7th and 8th of MAY 2023

This is a **Save The Date** for everyone in
Upper and Lower Wield for the
King's Coronation weekend celebrations

SATURDAY 6 th MAY, Evening	Barn Dance with a <i>LIVE BAND</i>
SUNDAY 7 th MAY, Afternoon	The BIG Lunch Picnic on the Green with lots of fun activities for ALL THE FAMILY
MONDAY 8 th MAY, Morning	The BIG Help Out
Afternoon	A BIG Fun Village Cricket Match

Come and be part of the **CREW**

("Coronation Revelry Events, Wield" 😊)



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& WIELD WHATSAPP MESSAGES!

We look forward to seeing you there!
your Coronation Planning Team, Wield

WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in January 2023

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

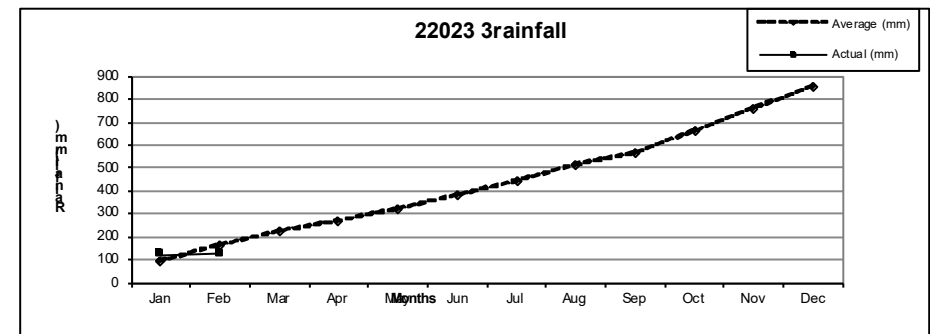
Highest	14.0/57	(14 th)
Lowest	-7.5/19	(8 th)
Warmest Night	7.8/46	(18 th)
Coolest Day	7.1/45	(28 th)
Average maximum temperature	10.1/50	
Average minimum temperature	0.9/34	

Number of air frosts 11

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	5.1/0.20	(average 65.0/2.56)
Annual total	130.8/5.15	(average 160.3/6.31)
Maximum 24hr. fall	2.3/0.09	(21 st)
Number of days with rain	7	

Summary High pressure influenced the weather for much of the month. There was an unsettled start with a few days of dull and mild conditions, followed by fine sunny weather at the end of the first and beginning of the second week with some hard overnight frosts. The first daytime rain fell on the 15th which was the start of an unsettled period of mild, overcast weather with drizzle and light showers. The last few days were dry and brighter with below average temperatures. Overall, the temperature was above average due to mild days. Rainfall was exceptionally low for the time of year with only 0.20 inches or 8% of the long term average, the driest February here in over two decades. The winter was colder than the long term norm, with average rainfall.



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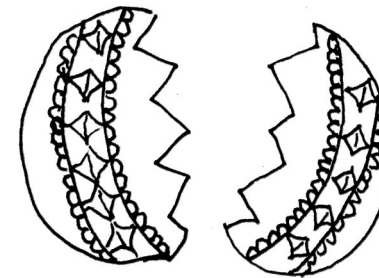
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- Design proposal
- Planting and setting out plans
- Project management and visualisations

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Candover Valley Gardening Club

For our February Meeting we had a very interesting talk on Bees and Hornets by Nigel Semmence from the National Bee Unit, formerly our local Bee Inspector. He was able to explain the huge variety of bees including Honeybees, Bumble Bees, numerous Solitary Bees and also Hornets, to look out for in our gardens so we look

forward to identifying them flying around soon. He also covered the Invasive Asian Hornet we are trying to stop establishing in the UK.

On Thursday 20th April at 7:30pm at Preston Candover Village Hall, we have the first talk in our new programme. Our speaker will be Chris Bird, lecturer and Garden Designer from Sparsholt College, who will be talking about The Natural Calendar based on their previous entry for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This covers Gilbert White's Garden over time and Chris has provided talks several times in the past that have all been excellent.

If you would like to join us, guests are very welcome at £3 for the evening but now is a good time to become a member at £12:00 for the year. If you would like to contact us please find us at Candover Valley Gardening Club on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Voter ID (Identification) - what's changing

Electors will have to show an approved form of photo identification to vote in a polling station.

Photographic identification that can be used to vote

Include:

- passport,
- driving licence,
- immigration document,
- a PASS (Proof of Age Standards Scheme) card,
- Ministry of Defence Form 90,
- concessionary travel pass (excluding railcards)
- national ID card.

Electors without an official form of photo identification can now [apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate](#).



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

On the Farm - Julian Gibbons

If you drive around the countryside, you should have already seen the first signs of spring – February sown, freshly emerged spring barley. As you read this our early March sown barley should be emerged.

As the spring progresses so we will increase seeds rates to allow for the shorter time the crop is in the ground. We also have peas to plant. These need to go in and grow so don't mind late March/ early April planting.

We are trying to get more nitrogen on the wheat slightly earlier than in recent years. This is especially true for the more backward crops. These have followed oats and spring barley so there is less residual nitrogen in the soil. We have ordered two thirds of our nitrogen for next year already. This is the earliest we have ever ordered, and delivery will be in the summer. Energy prices have fallen, and prices have fallen 25-30% from last summer prices. Next year there are new rules controlling the use of urea and after March all urea must be coated with a nitrification inhibitor to reduce losses to the atmosphere. This is always the reason we haven't used urea in the past, but with the effective closure of 50% of UK ammonium nitrate production, we have been forced down the coated urea route.

We have used our new no tillage drill. New drills are always slightly fraught when you start. Fortunately, we did couple it to the tractor in January and discovered we needed an extra hydraulic coupling, this was ordered and fitted. We also managed to get its electronics to talk to the tractor. Electronics and farm equipment used to be very problematic with different manufacturers equipment not talking to another's. This meant having loads of different displays in the cab at great expense. Now nearly all equipment uses a common isobus standard. You plug the implement into the isobus socket on the back of the tractor and the tractor immediately recognises the implement and will populate the display with all the controls and information required. You then just scroll between all the pages you wish to see depending on how much information you wish to be able to see.

We managed to get a couple of woodland edges coppiced back in early February. This should hopefully allow for fresh growth to thicken up the edge and improve the habitat. It has also removed the overhanging branches that tended to break tractor wing mirrors.

Grain prices have been steadily falling since Christmas. We did sell some in a brief price rally, but we still have some left to sell.

Your community-based local choir needs you!

CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR is recruiting across all voices

Candover Valley Choir is always interested in hearing from potential new singers interested in joining.

The Choir enjoys a wide repertoire including classical, contemporary, and popular music.

Our 2023 repertoire will include

VIVALDI's GLORIA

and pieces by Faure, Whitacre, and others!

This is an ideal time to join the choir, as we set out on the new programme for the season ahead.

If you would like to know more or would like to come and try us out (there are no auditions), do contact:

Julian Jones, Choir Chairman, on:

juliang.jones@btinternet.com

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director

07740 871341 - bryantjane50@gmail.com

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7.45

Cllr Jackie Porter

County Councillor for the Itchen Valley Division

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

telephone: 07973 696 085 Website: www.jackieporter.co.uk

Council Tax 23-24: You will have received your Council tax bill for 23-24 by now. The HCC part of your bill is the major one. HCC manages children and adults' social care, disposes of the household waste that we put out every week, and manages highways, libraries, country parks, many schools and the footpath networks. For 2023/24, the County requirement from each Band D household is £1460.25. The lowest charge (band A) is £973.50, upper (H) is £2920.50. Other charges on your tax bill include the Fire, Police, City and Parish precepts which thankfully are much lower than the County proportion. If you are struggling to pay your bills, please don't wait but please seek help as soon as possible. Citizens Advice or your housing provider can help.

Several additional provisions for children with special needs are being built on the sites of mainstream schools. This is good news, especially for younger pupils. Children with SEND needs often travel long distances to school; this can be distressing and tiring. The County is building more units to improve life for parents and children, but SEND numbers are still rising, so there's more to do to satisfy everyone's needs. If your child has SEND needs, and you are concerned about which school your child will be moving to in September, please contact me by email.

The County Council holds decision days and one March decision day had several items which will be of interest to residents. One item was 'movable traffic enforcement' which allows the new wardens to act not just on parking breeches but other enforcement too. Take care: this may affect you in the Autumn when the County takes back their responsibility of Winchester's enforcement of on-street parking.

The second item of local interest was the decision to continue with Cala's plans to close a section of Andover Road to traffic (probably around 2025) which links with the Movement Strategy. I know this was not a popular decision for many, but I hope it will allow the site roads to build out now: they are in such a poor state at present. I have placed a link and comments to the paper on my website, www.jackieporter.co.uk. This paper included the decision to make changes to the B3047/A33 (Cart and Horses) junction in conjunction with National Highways as they construct the new motorway junction (but not until they build, so likely to be 2024- 27). I remain hopeful that some short-term safety improvements will be implemented soon, but so far, the Executive Councillor has not agreed to anything specific at the Cart and Horses, which is disappointing. Did you use the junction whilst the traffic lights were in place? What was your view of that potential solution? Many



**Fancy an afternoon out in lovely surroundings?
Why not visit a wonderful garden, open with the National Open Gardens Scheme.**

Gardens open in April

Sunday 9th April—Twin Oaks, Chandler's Ford, SO52 1LW.

Teas, plants available, all in a beautiful Spring garden with Azaleas, rhododendrons and spring bulbs. Entry fee £4.00.

Friday & Saturday 28/29 April—Bluebell Woodland, New Odiham Rd., Alton, GU34 5SX. 100 Acre ancient woodland with secluded seats to admire the views. Teas and dogs allowed. Entry fee £10.00

Sunday 30 April—Brick Kiln Cottage, Herriard, RG25 2PR

Tea and plants available in a bluebell woodland. Entry fee £4.50

Or why not try a bit further afield?

Sunday 23 April—Spinners, Lymington, SO41 5QE

Woodland garden with many unusual and rare plants including erythroniums and trilliums. Cream teas and dogs allowed. Entry fee £6.00

Gardens open in May

Sunday 14 May—Coles, Privett, near Alton, GU34 3PH

A dazzling display of spring bulbs, Azaleas Rhododendrons and koi in Japanese ponds. Light refreshments, dogs and picnics allowed. Entry fee £10.00.

Sunday 21 May—Little Court, Crawley, near Winchester, SO21 2 PU

A walled naturalistic garden especially good in spring. Teas and plants and seats to admire the view. Entry fee £5.00.

All these gardens are open to the public with the National Open Gardens Scheme.

After such a long cold and wet winter, we all need a little time to relax and be with nature. What better way to do that in a beautiful garden whilst donating to charity. A cream tea will also be most welcome!

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people thought it was a trial for traffic lights: it was not, but merely a safety issue for the work team as they renewed the popular section of path alongside the A33.

Talking of paths, a contractor has been chosen to mend the Millennium Walk in Alresford this summer!

This is exciting news because it is so dangerous being plagued with holes for so long now. The path is so popular, but the river is teeming with creatures that need protection and cannot be disturbed. As a result, the work can only be done in July and August, so it may occupy much of the school summer holidays. I'm hope you'll agree that this needs to be done. The result should be a much more accessible path, still with a great place to feed the ducks by Autumn 2023.

Tree planting. HCC has been planting trees on highway verges. Many people are delighted but you can't keep everyone happy. Some residents don't want a tree, and some want a tree, but none has been planted!

To request a tree at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/tree-planting>
And to complain, go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

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Candover Valley Pre-School (within Preston Candover Primary School)

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com

Website: <https://www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/>

Opening times: Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 3.15pm Fri 8.30 - 11.45pm

=====

More news about the children in the May issue

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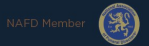


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