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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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beneficeFCW@hotmail.com Phone 07541 463750

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

Friday 1st December

3:45pm Cliddesden Christingle

_____ ” ” _____

Sunday 3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent

08.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP

09:30 Wield Matins

09.45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer Rev Ian Thacker

11:00 Northington Morning Prayer

4.00pm Preston Candover Christingle

6.00pm Preston Candover Advent Carols

3.00pm Dummer Christingle

(Dummer team with Rev Ian Thacker)

Readings Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 13:24- end

Psalm 80:1-8, 18-20

Sermon “The return of Christ”

_____ ” ” _____

Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

08:00 Dummer Holy Communion
09:45 Ellisfield Morning Prayer
11:15 Cliddesden Family Holy Communion
6,00pm Wield Evensong
6.00pm Brown Nine Lessons and Carols
Readings *Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8 – 15a Mark 1:1-8*
Psalm 85:1-2, 8- end

Sermon "The beginning of the gospel..."

””

Friday 15th December

7pm Cliddesden Nine Lessons and Carols

””

Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 Wield Morning Prayer with Baptism
4pm Dummer Nine Lessons and Carols
4pm Wield Nine Lessons and Carols
11.15 Cliddesden Family Service
6pm Ellisfield Nine Lessons and Carols
6pm Northington Nine Lessons and Carols
Readings *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8 – end 1 Thess 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28*
Psalm 126

Sermon "A true witness"

””

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 Bradley Morning Prayer, Mince Pies and Carols
2pm Cliddesden Crib Service
4pm Preston Candover Crib Service
4pm Farleigh Nine Lessons and Carols
1130pm Cliddesden Midnight Holy Communion
1130pm Northington Midnight Holy Communion
Readings *2 Sam 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25- end Luke 1:26- 38*
Psalm 144

Sermon "Blessed are you among women"

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25th December Christmas Day

0930	Bradley	Family Holy Communion
0930	Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion Rev Ian Thacker
0930	Wield	Family Holy Communion
10:00	Dummer	Family Holy Communion Rev Mary Copping
11:00	Preston Candover	Family Holy Communion
11:00	Brown Candover	Family Holy Communion

Readings *Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14*
Sermon *"Jesus, full of grace and truth"*

-----"-----

Sunday 31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

11:00 Preston Candover Holy Communion Rev Ian Thacker

Readings *Isaiah 61:10 to Ch 62v3 Luke 2:15-21 Galatians 4: 4-7*
Psalm 148

Sermon *"The Shepherd's quest"*

-----"-----

Sunday 7th January 1st Sunday of Epiphany

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
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special

Readings *Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12*
Psalm 72:1-15

Sermon *"The Magi's quest"*

St John's Northington – Carol Service and Midnight Mass.

We are celebrating Christmas in Swarraton and Northington with our candlelit Carol service at 1800hrs on Sunday 17 Dec and an atmospheric candlelit Midnight Mass to see in Christmas Day starting at 2330hrs on Christmas Eve - 24 Dec 23.

All are welcome - Please remember to bring a cash donation if you can.

Merry Christmas

Dear Friends

How's the pre-Christmas shopping and planning going, or are those things best put off until nearer December 25th? We are now in the season of awful cracker jokes, here are a couple to warm us up!

“Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks!” “Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had nobody to go with.” “I've upgraded my car to run on herbs, it's now capable of thyme travel...” and we laugh, or groan (mostly) at the ridiculous and enjoy clever and funny jokes.


Classic films to watch over the festive season might be *The Polar Express*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Snowman* and many others. A 'feel good' factor makes the film attractive, however improbable the plot lines, and yet, somehow, if only things did always turn out well, and people really did make 'turnarounds' and all ended happily ever after, wouldn't that be great? Our Christingle, Nativity and Crib services offer feel good factors too, as we do enjoy coming together for nativity plays and the story of baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the wee donkey!

Some might feel that the nativity plot line is improbable, that God, creator of the universe and giver of life comes to earth to be born as part of his own creation.

Then, cradled in a manger and nourished on Mary's milk, he grew up to work with wood, became very learned by age eleven and astounded the grown-ups with his learning. In adult life he amazed and inspired many, he challenged people to live as God intended, loving their neighbour as themselves until the loveliest life the world has ever known surrendered his life on a cross. But this is not the same as a feel-good film, this is the true narrative of God who came looking for his own, that when they find his grace and mercy, they become his children, and he blesses them.


Of course, this is marvellous and mysterious and so we respond with awe, thanks and worship as this carol encourages us to do “Come... come, and worship, worship Christ the new born king” We would love to see as many as can come at any of our Nine Lessons and Carols, or any other service, you are welcome.

Christmas Blessings
David



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Lay Vocations Morning

Saturday 18th November, 9.30am – 12.15pm
St Boniface, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2FT

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join us at St Boniface Church Chandler's for a morning to explore the options.

Bishop David will be sharing about how God calls us and why we respond to that call. The Winchester School of Mission team will be helping you to discern whether you may be called to mission and ministry. Find out more about the Bishop's Commission for Mission in pastoral care, worship, children youth and families ministry, and Beyond Church Walls. Is someone called to preach regularly in your church? Do you know someone who might be called to become a Spiritual Director or a Licensed Lay Minister. And what does a Licensed Lay Worker do?

Please join us for this day to help you prayerfully consider your response to God's call on your life. It doesn't commit you to anything but will help you understand the different paths available.

Please contact Wendy Atkinson at
wendy.atkinson@winchester.anglican.org to book your place.

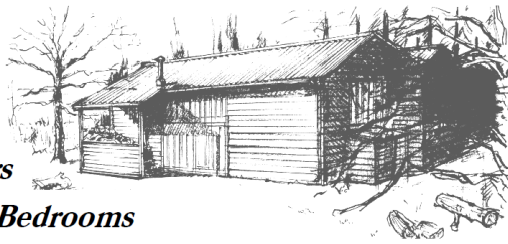
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New Year Drinks at Preston Candover

All residents of Preston Candover, Axford, Nutley and Gobley Hole are warmly invited to join the Trustees and Committee of Preston Candover Village Hall to celebrate New Year 2024 with drinks and nibbles.

Please join us on Monday 1st January, 12noon - 2.00pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone welcome!

Anne, PCVH Chairman

Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	3 Dec 11.00am	Rhona Hatchley	Rhona Hatchley
St Peter's Brown	10 Dec 6.00pm	Paul Curtis Hayward Jonathan Moseley	To be advised
	25 Dec 11.00am	Sue Marriott Celia Foote	To be advised
St Marys Preston	3 Dec 4.00pm	Marina Avid Jane Laws	To be advised
Carol Service	3 Dec 6.00pm	Anne Lunebutg Gunnel Berry	Various
	24 Dec 4.00pm	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis	To be advised
	25 Dec 11.00am	Jane Laws Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	31 Dec 11.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Celia Foote
	3 Jan 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg
All Saints Bradley	24 Dec 10.00am	Julian Gibbons	Julian Gibbons
	25 Dec 9.30am	Andrew Don	Robin Gibbons
St James' Wield	3 Dec 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	David Cowley Jean Frost
	10 Dec 6.00pm	Robert Grande	Joanna Nelson To be advised
	17 Dec 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Gibbons Family and Friends
Nine Lessons & Carols	17 Dec 4.00pm	John Lailey	
	25 Dec 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Brian Collins Alwin Hutchinson



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St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Flowers	Dec 9	All helpers for Christmas decorations please
	Key holders	Dec Jan	Sue Marriott Geoff & Alison Ellett
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers and cleaning	Dec 11	All helpers please, for Christmas decorations and cleaning
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers		
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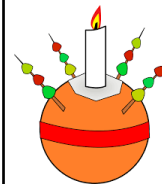
Advent Sunday December 3rd.

4p.m. Christingle

Collection for The Children's Society

6p.m. Advent Carol Service.

Bradley & The Candovers welcome you all to St Mary's, Preston Candover for either or both Services.



Christmas Carol Singing around Wield

Saturday 23rd December

Kick off the Christmas Celebrations
with a traditional sing-song
around the village

Gather outside the village hall at 6.30pm before
embarking on a vocal tour of Upper Wield with
festive refreshments en route.

The accordion-accompanied finale will be at the
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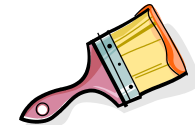
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Psst, want a font?

Olivia Mills' history of Wield says simply "the font in St James's church was dug up in a garden in the close of Winchester Cathedral". I was therefore quite intrigued when, by chance, I discovered a report in the Hampshire Chronicle published on 6th August 1893 which reported that a font that had previously been dug up in a garden of the Dean in the close of Winchester Cathedral had been installed in the Cathedral.

The report was detailed. The font was Norman, made of Purbeck marble, and had originally come from the church of St Mary Kalendar in central Winchester. When that church was deemed to be redundant at the end of the English Civil War the font had been broken up and buried in the cathedral close. When it had been dug up the Dean had repaired it, fixed iron rods in the four corners, and used it for horticultural purposes.

The font in St James has clearly been repaired and a hole had been plugged in each corner. What a coincidence. I went to the Cathedral Archivist and showed him this newspaper report, but he denied any knowledge of a Norman font saying very reasonably that they had a world famous Tournai marble font already in 1893. I then gave up although it seemed obvious that we had that font.

Enter Jonathan (Sherlock) Enderby who was intrigued and carried on the investigation. After discovering much of the detail of our church in Victorian times he finally found in the Cathedral records for 1899 a hand-written note saying that "the Norman font from the North transept has been given to the church at Wield by request of the Vicar."

So, we know now that we have a Norman Purbeck marble font that, after a rather dodgy passage, has come to rest in our little Norman church.

Brian Collins

The surgery will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 January. 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**.


111 is the NHS non-emergency number. It's fast, easy and free. Call **111** and speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care for you.

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May we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year from all the staff & partners at Alresford Surgery.

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Medication supplies over the Christmas break

If you take regular medications, please make sure you have enough to see you over the festive period and please place requests with us in good time if repeats will be needed.

If you have family coming to stay with you remind them not to forget their medicines.

eConsult will be switched off during the Christmas & New Year bank holiday period:

Any eConsult request you submit outside of our normal surgery opening hours will not be read until we open the next working day.

Patients will not be able to submit eConsults over the weekend or bank holiday period.

All the other eConsult advice services will still be accessible 24/7.

NHS 111 can help if you have an urgent medical problem when your GP practice is closed. Dial 111 on any phone for advice or visit the NHS 111 website – 111.nhs.uk.

Remember to call 999 at any time in a medical emergency. This is when someone is seriously ill, or injured, and their life is at risk.

Patient Forum Meeting – save the date.

Our next Patient Forum meeting will be held on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 6pm in the surgery waiting room. We look forward to these meetings as a chance to share information and ideas about how we work and for our patients to support us with constructive feedback and questions. Further details of the meeting topics will be published next month in our newsletter and will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Please put the date in your diary – we hope to see you there.

Christmas & New Year

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas – please make sure you have sufficient supplies of your usual medications to last over the holiday period which you can order in several ways.

- In person at the surgery
- By post
- Via the NHS App or Patient Access (<https://www.patientaccess.com/>)



Lily and her bunnies at All Saints, Bradley helping her mum with this lovely Remembrance Day display.

Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

On bright and breezy days, the autumn sunshine lights up the landscape of the valley and the wooded downlands beyond. Massive field oaks still in full leaf glow a golden brown; roadside beeches cascade bouncing beechnuts, while silver birches shake out showers of tiny seeds. The lime trees of Northington Down, storm-stripped of leaves, now reveal green globes of mistletoe high in their canopies. A towering ash tree, struggling with die-back, shows bare branches emerging from a trunk swathed in ivy. A tawny owl roosts here, tucked away deep in his evergreen haunt. At twilight he emerges to emit strange bubbling calls and to challenge any upstart owls with loud hooting contests.

Chalk woodlands often produce splendid autumn displays, especially among the broadleaved thickets. On a recent ramble around my local woods one fine morning after rain, I viewed an intriguing tableau. Set against the amber tones of a hazel copse stood a field maple with leaves of a startling yellow. A drift of dogwood, deep claret-red filled the foreground, while centre stage the bizarre coral-red berries of a spindle bush twinkled in the sunshine.

Squelching along a grassy ride beside banks of bracken, coppery brown, I tiptoed around a red admiral butterfly basking on the track. Once a seasonal visitor that migrated south in the autumn, many now remain, often visiting gardens to feed on windfall apples. Another glimpse of red beneath a wayside silver birch revealed not a butterfly, but the bright domes of fly agarics - the classic fairytale toadstool. With caps of orange-red speckled with white scales, they trooped around the birch trunk.

Heading along the track, I almost stepped on the complete skeleton of a small deer, a muntjac doe, laid out on its side in an apparent peaceful repose, the bones seemingly undisturbed and showing no obvious signs of injury.

Later while cycling home through Hassock Copse, a muntjac buck appeared by chance on the far verge. Strolling nonchalantly across the road, he paused to stare at me before slipping away into the shadows, white tail bobbing.

Robert Bryant
9 November '23

WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in October 2023

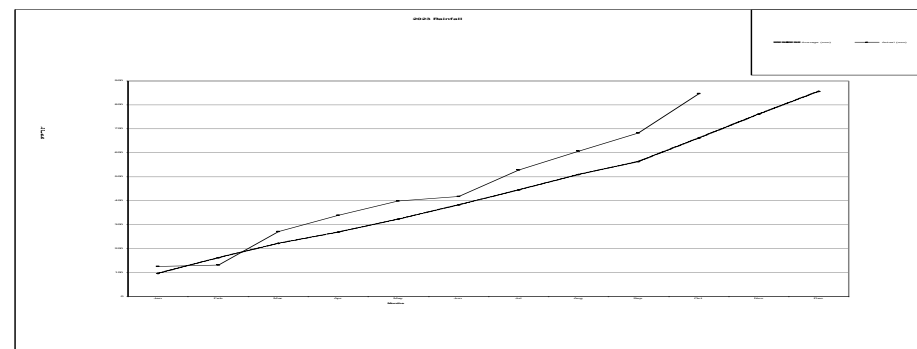
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	23.5/74	(9 th)
Lowest	-2.0/28	(16 th)
Warmest Night	13.9/57	(12 th)
Coollest Day	10.9/52	(15 th)
Average maximum temperature	16.5/62	
Average minimum temperature	7.4/45	
Number of air frosts	2	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	163.4/6.43	(average 102.1/4.02)
Annual total	846.6/33.33	(average 669.9/26.37)
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	27.7/1.09	(19 th)
Number of days with rain	17	

Summary The first week and a half was all but dry and generally sunny with above average temperatures. There were three consecutive days with temperatures in the seventies Fahrenheit with the warmest at 74°F on the 9th. This was 14°F above the seasonal average. It was overcast and wet as fronts swept across the country in the second half of the second week. Then conditions settled down to give a few days of brighter weather with significantly cooler temperatures and the first frost of the season on the 15th. The remainder of the month was dominated by low pressure with milder and unsettled conditions and rain on all but one day. The wettest day was on the 19th, with over an inch of rain. Overall, October was mild and wet with 160% of the normal rainfall for the time of year.





THE YARD
at christmas

We have a wonderful weekend lined up for you in December!

FRI 1st DEC, 7pm. Charity Christmas concert
Songs & Readings in a beautiful candlelit setting, please join us to hear the
luscious close harmony group, Cantores Esprecopt.
All raising funds for Sebastian Action Trust.

SAT 2nd DEC, 4-7pm. Christmas Fair with Father Christmas!
A festive evening, free entry, food & craft stalls, all welcome

SUN: 3rd DEC, 9.30-3pm. Christmas Fair with Father Christmas!, pony &
trap rides, craft stalls, delicious festive food & drink, all welcome

We look forward to seeing you there!

*booking is required for Father Christmas, please visit website for details:
www.theyardhampshire.co.uk



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Candover Valley Gardening Club

In October members enjoyed a very informative talk from Marina Christopher. Marina is a very popular speaker at the club and in October she gave us all some ideas for plants that look good in the autumn and provide food and shelter for insects, birds and small mammals. She encouraged us not to be too hasty in cutting back perennials when they have finished flowering – one less job to do in the garden?

On November 16th, Jacqueline Aviolet's talk has the intriguing title 'Brussel Sprouts to Tangerines'. This will cover all things horticultural with humour.

We do not have a meeting in December but on Thursday January 18th we will be having a quiz evening and members of the Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop and Ellisfield Horticultural Society will be joining us.

Our indoor meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month. If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and, of course, we always welcome new members - £12 for the year which is extremely good value.

You can find us on Facebook – Candover Valley Gardening Club

Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

12th, 19th and 26th January - Happy New Year

2nd, 9th (closed on 16th for half term) and 23rd February

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us for a fun and happy time.

Cost: £2 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)



Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November

1st and 8th (Christmas Party and visit from Santa) December

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us for a fun and happy time.

Cost: £2 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)



Candover Valley Club



The Candover Valley Club is located in the beautiful village of Brown Candover next to St. Peter's Church, and is fronted by the village cricket field. The Club has a fully licenced bar with kitchen, skittle alley, dart boards, pool table, TV, wifi and a separate function room suitable for large parties. A marquee, tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery are also available to hire.

Please contact cvchires@gmail.com for more information about using these wonderful facilities, or come for a drink on Saturday from 6.30pm.

The Candover Valley Club, Brown Candover, Alresford SO24 9TT

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On the Farm—Ben Robinson

November and December on our farm is probably the quietest time of year in terms of jobs to do, though the lack of daylight means the pressure to get everything done is still very present. Largely we are putting electric fences up and taking them down as well as moving flocks of sheep between blocks of grazing. As the grass growth slows and eventually stops, we need to move sheep more regularly than in the Summer just to keep feed in front of them. If the weather is very wet or freezes hard the grazing will last even less time.

The rams have finished with the ewes and have been removed to rest and repose for another year. Any rams lacking condition will be sold as culls following some hard feeding. Scanning has been booked for early January when we find out how many lambs each ewe is carrying. We keep weighing lambs and sending them for slaughter as and when they come fit; 42kg plus and feeling ‘finished’.

We have a TB test this week. Some cattle are being pre-movement tested before sale and others are calves being post movement tested. TB regulations change frequently, and a recent rule is that cattle from certain parishes of the ‘Edge Area’ (of which Hampshire is a part) require post movement testing if they move to a lower risk parish, such as Wield. This means that some calves that I bought from near Overton in the Summer require post movement testing. Although TB testing and movement controls are a chore it does seem that together with the badger cull, they are having a positive effect on the disease. The prevalence of TB in England is now at its lowest level since the early 2000s.

Meanwhile in Wales, where the devolved government refuses to deal with the TB reservoir in wildlife, the numbers of the cattle killed prematurely due to contracting TB continues to rise year on year.

We had a bit of a shock today- at only 16, one of our two horses, Winston, died in the field of a suspected heart attack. He went out for a hack this morning and seemed totally fine, so it was a bit out of the blue when we found him this afternoon. At least we can be glad that no one was on his back when it happened. Like any of our cattle or sheep that die on farm Winston has gone to the Hampshire Hunt kennels at Ropley, which operates a fallen stock service. It seems fitting that a horse that loved his hunting so much should end his life feeding the hounds.

As I write the weather forecast is looking increasingly wintry. On behalf of all snowplough drivers may I ask everyone to locate the towing eye on your car in case you need towing in the snow. Please also don’t set out driving in a blizzard in swim wear and flip flops as I memorably saw on the A339 a few years ago- however good your car heating may be!



Jackie's County Corner

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy 2024!

The Meals on Wheels service provides healthy food for those who don't feel able to prepare food themselves. Food is now served by a new provider, but with the same offer. It's a service generally for over 55's who need a little more support, but also open to adults aged 18-54 who are living with dementia, learning difficulties and disabilities, a history of substance misuse, including support for adults with a temporary disability (eg living alone with broken leg etc). Meals are served hot to your door with a wellbeing check. Delivery drivers are trained to spot customers who may need extra support. The meals cost £8.50 for a two-course meal (£10 for three courses) and afternoon tea if required costs £3.95. Full information on the Meals on Wheels page, but if you need assistance,

please contact me.

www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/meals-on-wheels

The County Council is consulting on School Transport changes and there are two current consultations- both cover eligibility and update the costs and benefits for children. The first consultation is for children of school age, and the second for 16-25 years. Both consultations run until 11.59pm the 6th December. You can see them on this link

www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport

The Emergency Planning briefing that we had recently seems especially relevant after a week of heavy rain. Ground water levels are rising, and so it was useful to receive a refresher of who takes command, and what and who to contact in case of flooding or any other emergency. It is also worthwhile registering for flood updates too. More information here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/prepareyourcommunity>

Councils urge all families to consider how they would cope if there was a household emergency. I have put details about some flood protection items for your home on my website www.jackieporter.co.uk I can send a printed sheet on request.

Progress towards new hospitals for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust

I am a member of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at HCC. The meeting at the end of October was very interesting: my role there is to represent your views, so please keep them coming! Health services provided by the different parts of the NHS are scrutinised by the County Council and this JHOSC looks specifically at the progress of the HHFT's application for the 'new hospital'.

Our Local Hospital Trust has received confirmation that new hospital funding is still available, but choice of design is not for our Trust alone: work is being done nationally to look at value for money/best practice designs for new hospitals.

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is looking at provision, bearing in mind that the number of over 75's is predicted to increase by over 50% in the next 20 years. There are a few more hurdles to cross- but a consultation for all of us is expected relatively soon: picture yourself in a decade: what services will you and your family need then and in 2050? Responses will be online, and in person. I'll advertise details asap.

You can contact me as usual over the holiday period: details below.

Cllr Jackie Porter www.jackieporter.co.uk 07973 696085 email Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk



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Sunday
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Monday to Friday
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Sunday
closed

www.cvcs.org.uk

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



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The plots are £40 each for a full year starting 1st April.

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Swarraton and Northington WI September 2023

On such a lovely, sunny Autumn afternoon it was wonderful to see 25 members, new and existing attend the monthly meeting. There were apologies from Jill Parker, Erica Sisk and Diana Irons, thanks for flowers and tea hostesses. Janet Pooley gave an update on the Shoebox Appeal and Carole Ledger reported that the finances were in good shape but the charity that our group support, Days for Girls, was running low on funds. There was sad news that Sheila Elsmie had passed away and her funeral details. The date for the Lasagne Lunch has been changed to Friday 19th January 2024, there was a selection of Save the Children Christmas cards on display and the group were encouraged to look at the WI Life magazine and various leaflets to see details of any courses or events.

We then had a very interesting talk by James Hill a specialist teacher of the deaf at Medstead School. James who is deaf himself, gave us a background history of teaching verbal and nonverbal deaf children from the first public school in the UK founded by Thomas Braidwood in 1760 up to the present day where many deaf children helped by cochlear implants are able to attend normal schools. James was a very charismatic and entertaining speaker and even taught our group some basic sign language.

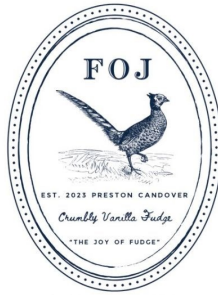
New members are always welcome, we have a large selection of used books, the collection of used stamps and pennies for charity and any surplus plants or produce. We also have an ongoing project for a really worthwhile charity called Days for Girls which involves sewing sessions held in Old Alresford Village Hall. Guests are always welcome at any meeting for a small charge of £3. At the end of the afternoon, we always enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, cakes and sandwiches and a chance to chat to other members.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5th December at 2pm at the Village Hall
This will be our Christmas meeting and there will be a Bring and Buy of Christmas Goodies to raise money for the Days for Girls charity.

The talk is titled - My Experiences As A Children's Entertainer - by Ollie Butler

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What's on in Wield?

**Christmas Open Day
at the village hall
Saturday 16 December
10.00am till 4.00pm**

Come along and join in the fun.

There will be stalls, a raffle and tombola as well as stocking fillers, and stalls by local producers.

Try your luck to win a prize in the mince pie competition.

For more information, please contact Georgie on georgie@aldersonslater.co.uk or Jean on jeanterry@uwclub.net

Watch this space each month to find out
What's on in Wield?

Candover Valley Store
community made

Date	Store	Post office
Saturday 23 December	8.30am – 6.00pm (open for an extra hour!)	9.00am – 12.30pm Last collection 10.50am
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December	8.30am – 1.00pm	Closed
Christmas Day Monday 25 December	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December	Closed	Closed
Wednesday 27 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Thursday 28 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Friday 29 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 30 December	8.30am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 12.30pm Last collection 10.50am
New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December	8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed
New Year's Day 2024 Bank holiday Monday 1 January	8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed

From Steve Brine, MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

0207 219 7189 (House of Commons) Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

Westminster has been a buzz of activity (more than usual even) in recent weeks as the new session of Parliament got underway with a **King's Speech**, an **Autumn Statement** that did even more to stand with people as we head into Winter and a **Cabinet reshuffle** that rather took me back to my early days as an MP.

David Cameron and I have stayed in touch since he left the House of Commons in 2016 – he's done some really good stuff with dementia research – but to become our new Foreign Secretary was a (rare) well-kept Westminster secret. I look forward to working with David again and he's already made himself freely available to colleagues; crucial of course given world events.

Much more local – where all politics is of course – I am welcoming a massive new funding package from central Government to **fix potholes and maintain local roads**. Ministers announced £132 million for Hampshire to tackle the issue of potholes and over the next ten years invest in longer term, proactive road maintenance.

How did we do that given money is tight? Well, everyone had something to say about scaling back HS2 but it's because of funds redistributed from that we can put this cash directly into Hampshire.

Wherever it comes from, this is welcome news for Hampshire and follows significant lobbying by the Conservative County Council to make the case for additional money, nationally, to help reverse the deterioration of our roads. Having a ten-year settlement confirmed enables them to plan ahead carefully with more certainty, and to allocate and prioritise resources more effectively.

The money will help to tackle the challenges of unprecedented demand, soaring inflation, and the impacts of heavy rain, flooding and sub-zero temperatures; all which impact on our road surfaces. The County Council has already allocated £22.5 million of its own money over the next three years to repair potholes and other defects and this is already helping to make our roads stronger ahead of another potentially difficult winter period.

You can contact me – as always – with your views on these subjects or any other things on your mind. And you can find me on [facebook.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)

Let me wish all readers of this magazine a very **Merry Christmas** and a peaceful **New Year**.



THE YARD

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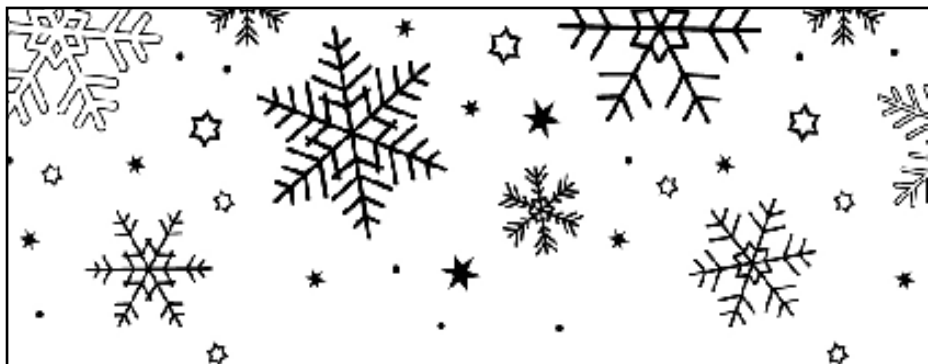
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Avoid the Christmas queues, reduce your food miles AND support your community store! On our shelves you will find delicious Hampshire-made food and drinks, ideal for treats and Christmas gifts. ChalkStream trout, Winchester and Tunworth cheeses, Hattingley, The Grange and Candover Brook sparkling wines, Bradley Orchard apple juices, Summerdown mint chocolates and Moon Roast coffee are among the most local premium ranges we stock. Then there's Max's homemade mincemeat and preserves, all made just a stone's throw from the store! We also have Christmas puddings, iced rich fruit cake slabs, mince pies and stollen bites as well as other sweet treats and chocolate and traditional advent calendars. On the gift table, Hannah has gathered together another beautiful selection of ceramic, cotton, wooden and woollen items for you to choose from, complemented by Art Angels cards and stationery packs. With the post office on site too there really is no need to travel further than Preston Candover for the majority of your seasonal needs! Why not come to browse and indulge in a cup of coffee and a pastry or a slice of cake at the same time? Garry, Emma and the whole team look forward to welcoming you to the store very soon.

Extended opening – Saturday 23 December and Christmas Eve

The store will be open until 6.00pm on Saturday 23 December and the post office will be open from 9.00am until 12.30pm. Last collection 10.50am. On Christmas Eve (Sunday), the store hours are 8.30am until 1.00pm. The post office will be closed.

Christmas Day and Boxing Day

The store and post office will be closed.

Post-Christmas Bank Holidays

On Sunday 31 December and Monday 1 January, the store will be open from 8.30am until 12.30pm. Remember the post office will be closed on these days.

UK last posting dates for Christmas

Last posting for 2nd class letters is Monday 18 December and 1st class is Wednesday 20 December. Please post your cards and parcels early to avoid the last-minute rush.

**We wish all our customers a happy Christmas and New Year!
 Thank you for your valued support through 2023.**