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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

Rector: David Chattell, The Rectory, Preston Candover
Tel: 01256 389 474 Email: davidchattell172@btinternet.com

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
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

Sunday 4th February

08.00 Ellisfield
09:30 Wield
09.45 Cliddesden
10:00 Preston Candover
11:00 Northington
11.15 Dummer

Readings Proverbs 8:1, 22-31, Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-14

Psalm 104

Sermon "Made peace through the blood of his cross"

””

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion BCP *DC*
Matins *DC*
Morning Prayer *IT*
Morning Prayer *RC*
Holy Communion *DC*
Sunday Special

Sunday 11th February

08:00 Dummer
09:30 Preston Candover

11:15 Cliddesden

18:00 Wield
Readings 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

Psalm 50

Sermon 'Jesus on the mount of transfiguration'

Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion *DC*
Morning Worship with
Bishop Philip Mountstephen. *DC*
Join Bishop Philip for coffee at 09.30.
Worship begins at 10am.
Morning Worship with
Bishop Philip.
Coffee after the service. *DC*

Evensong *DC*

Wednesday 14th February

7pm Ellisfield

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service **DC**

Sunday 18th February

9.00 Wield
9:45 Dummer
10:00 Preston Candover
11.15 Cliddesden

1st Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion BCP **DC**
Matins **CPT**
Holy Communion **DC**
Family Service **DC**

Readings Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-end, Mark 1:9-15
Psalm 25

Sermon 'Jesus is in the wilderness, without a phone!'

Sunday 25th February

8:30 Bradley
9:45 Dummer
11:00 Brown Candover
11:15 Ellisfield

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion CW. **DC**
Holy Communion CW **DC**
Morning Worship **IT**
Family Holy Communion **DC**

Readings Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Romans 4:13-end, Mark 8:31-end
Psalm 22

Sermon 'Ashamed of Jesus?'

Sunday 3rd March

08.00 Ellisfield
09:30 Wield
09.45 Cliddesden
11:00 Northington

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion BCP **DC**
Matins **DC**
Morning Prayer **IT**
Morning Prayer
with Holy Baptism **DC**
Sunday Special

11.15 Dummer
4.00pm Brown Candover

Readings Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22
Psalm 19

Sermon 'We proclaim Christ crucified'



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Dear Friends

We moved to Preston Candover on April 1st, 2011, and find it hard to think that was 13 years ago, time goes by so quickly.

Time is a funny thing, just try explaining what it is! “What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know.” (St Augustine) Whatever it is, it passes very quickly and somehow gets faster each year!

There is a time for everything, planting and reaping, building up or tearing down, says the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes in the list of ‘seasons’. My time serving as Rector of our churches in the benefice will end on March 3rd and I shall be taking up a new role in the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton.

It is not easy to move on as those who have served in the armed forces will know, that as a career progress so relocation is necessary. But we are all ‘moving on’ each day, significant birthdays are anticipated and celebrated, sometimes with a sense of wonder, “how did I get to this age so quickly?” we ask. So, without moving anywhere, we still move on!

There is a reminder that we should take opportunity to find God as time passes by, written around the clock on the tower of All Saints church in Sidmouth, (where I once lived) a biblical text says ‘It is time to seek the Lord...search for him while he may be found’ Our various appointments come and go and God invites us to see that there can be one with him, that ‘now’ is our time to turn to him, not putting off until ‘one day’ as that day may never come...

Jesus made the invitation personal, “...those whom the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them...this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life” John 6:37ff.

My God bless to you today and always and keep you in the knowledge of his love and promises in Jesus Christ.
David.

Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	February	Peter & Beth Lamb	Peter & Beth Lamb
	March	James and Rhona Hatchley	James and Rhona Hatchley
St Peter's Brown	25 Feb 11.00am	Celia Foote	Ed. Daniels Rhys Smith
David's farewell service	3 March 4.00pm	Anne Luneburg Celia Foote	Sue Marriott Julian Gibbons
St Marys Preston	4 Feb 10.00am	Gunnel Berry	Gunnel Berry
	11 Feb 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	18 Feb 10.00am	Anne Luneburg Jane Laws	Jane Laws Celia Foote
	3 March 4.00pm	David's farewell Service	Refreshments after at St Peter's Brown Candover
All Saints Bradley			
St James' Wield	4 Feb 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson Allan Fuddy	Catherine Simons Max Konig
	11 Feb 6.00pm	Brian Collins	Eileen Collins Roger Fidgen
	18 Feb 9.00am	John Lailey	Mark Kemp Gee Amanda Bromfield
	3 March 9.30am	Barbara Wells	David Cowley Joanna Nelson

CROSBIE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A service will take place at St Mary's Church, Preston Candover on 26th February at 2pm to celebrate the lives of both Rosemary and Gordon Crosbie who were residents in Preston Candover for 40 years.

Gordon died aged 92 on 10th April 2020, with no funeral due to Covid restrictions, and Rosemary passed away peacefully on 10th January aged 94, having lived in the Lake District since Gordon's passing.

John Crosbie



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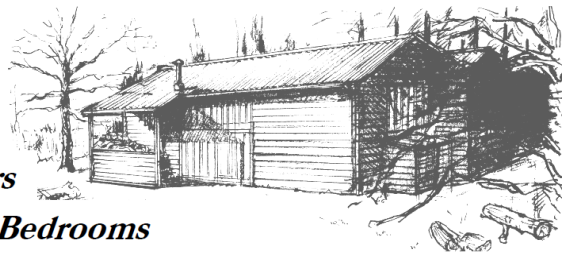
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Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Key Holder	February March	Celia Foote Edwina Curtis Hayward
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	Feb 3 & 10 14 Feb -29 March	Rosemary Bligh No flowers—Lent
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	Feb 3 till Lent	Nikki Cowley
	Cleaner	Permanent	Leanne Griffiths

We will be holding a final service for David Chattell and his family on Sunday 3rd March at 4pm at St. Peters, Brown Candover, followed by tea in the Club. Everyone is most welcome, and Celia and Sue would appreciate it if you are able to help with tea. Please contact Celia on 07715 504317

The new Bishop of Winchester, Rt Rev Philip Mounstephen

The Rt Rev Philip Mounstephen was announced as the new bishop in July 2023, and officially started in January. His service of welcome was held at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, January 13. Bishop Philip will serve as the 98th Bishop of Winchester Diocese, which covers 255 parishes across most of Hampshire, parts of Dorset, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Philip was educated at Southampton University and Magdalen College, Oxford, before training for ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He served his title at St James', Gerrards Cross and St James', Fulmer, in the Diocese of Oxford, and was ordained priest in 1989.

In 1992, Philip was appointed Vicar of St James', West Streatham, in the Diocese of Southwark. Between 1998 and 2006, Philip worked for the Church Pastoral Aid Society during which time he held several roles.

From 2007, he served as Chaplain of St Michael's, Paris, in the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe and, in 2012, he was appointed Chief Executive of the Church Mission Society.

In 2019, Philip took up his current role as Bishop of Truro. He is married to Ruth, a former strategic planner, and they have one adult daughter.

Bishop Philip will be visiting our Benefice on February 11th and will be preaching and meeting people at Preston Candover at the 10.00am service and Cliddesden at the 11.15am service.

All welcome at the services to meet Bishop Philip.

(Sunday 11 February—coffee at 9.30 with Morning Worship starts at 11.00am.

Sunday 11 February—11.15 Morning Worship at Cliddesden with coffee after the service)



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Carol Singing around Wield

A good number of enthusiastic carollers gathered at Wield Village Hall on the evening of 23 December with torches & vocal chords at the ready. First stop was Piper's Yard where David & Nikki Cowley provided their guests and singers with mulled wine, sausages & mince pies in exchange for several favourite carols.

Numbers were swelled at Lunway with Sam & Tony Robson's guests all crowding into their family room. Helped by copious servings of mulled wine and eats, the singing became louder and even more enthusiastic.

Next stop was the Geddes' thatched barn where Philip assumed the role of choir master and Mark Banks took his place at the keyboard. Wine flowed, the food did too, and numbers reached in excess of 80 people. The highlight was undoubtedly the rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. The more robust members of the group ended up at the Yew Tree Inn with a final carol session - the new man behind the bar really gave Pavarotti a run for his money!

Huge thanks to all the hosts: the Cowleys, Robsons, the Geddes & to Matt & Jas at the Yew Tree; the evening raised **£261.28 for The Not Forgotten military charity.**

Nicola Robinson



Speeding has reached epidemic proportions and calls for a paradigm shift in the way we tackle it. In rural areas where fatalities are four times more likely to happen than in urban areas, the discussion about road safety tends to focus on the number of collision casualties alone. In most areas where Speedwatch operates and where speeding is evidently a concern to the communities, the quality-of-life issue as well as feeling safe when using the roads recreationally, are equally important to the affected areas' residents. This is not an attempt at diminishing the dismay of the high number of fatal and seriously injured victims but a reminder that the problem of speeding goes well beyond quantifying its consequences with casualty statistics alone.

Inconsistently applied enforcement methodology is not likely to change socially perceived acceptable behaviour if the majority of those caught speeding either are not, or consider themselves not to be, habitual speeders. Increased compliance with the law can be achieved with means other than enforcement. Speedwatch, personalised education is a methodology that is just as efficient to help bring the problem under control.

Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council are investigating the purchase of a set of Speedwatch equipment and are looking for volunteers to be trained to operate it.

If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Clerk on:
prestoncandovernutleyipc@candovervalley.org

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New Hospital Programme - Consultation

As a Stakeholder Governor for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust (HHFT) on Behalf of Hampshire County Council. I would encourage you to take part in the consultation below and have your say on the future of Health Services.

www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk

Basingstoke is to be included in the government's national New Hospital Programme. It is an opportunity to invest between £700 million and £900 million to improve our hospital facilities and hospital services.

The money will help transform the care and treatment patients receive. It will enable HHFT to meet the changing needs of our growing and ageing population, attract and retain the best staff, provide better and more consistent care, help people stay healthy for longer, and, crucially, provide safe, sustainable, high-quality services for the future.

HHFT want to do this by creating two excellent acute hospitals; with significant investment in refurbishing the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester, and by building a brand-new specialist acute hospital on either the existing Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital site, or at a new location near Junction 7 of the M3.

HHFT have worked together with patients, local communities, and health and care staff to develop proposals for ways to best use this significant investment.

HHFT are undertaking a public consultation on the proposed options.

The consultation runs from 11 December 2023 for 14 weeks until midnight 17 March 2024.

Basingstoke and Deane District Councillor Juliet Henderson.



The Community HeartBeat Trust

Defibrillator Training @2pm

Preston Candover Village Hall

Saturday 27th January – CVC

Saturday 10th February

Northington Village Hall

Saturday 24th February

The Parish Councils of Preston Candover, Axford & Nutley, Brown & Chilton Candover and Northington have arranged defibrillator training for all residents.

Each session will take 2 hours with an opportunity to use a training defibrillator on adults & children.

Numbers are limited to 50 people per session so please contact the Parish Clerk, Wendy to book your place.

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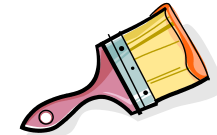
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On This Day in Wield (compiled by Jonathan Enderby)

27 January 1939

RAF Sergeant's End (this refers back to the item in January's Oxdrove about the Hurricane crash at Manor Farm, Wield.

No explanation was offered at the inquest, held at the Public Assistance Institution Alton for the RAF single seater plane crash at Wield near Alton on Tuesday week, when Sergeant Pilot L. Griffiths (23) of No3 Squadron, Northolt was killed.

The County Coroner (Mr A.L. Bowker) sat with a jury and commented that it was "another most regrettable flying accident". Frederick Leonard Newman, Lower Wield, said he saw the plane when he was working in a field. It was not very high and had the appearance of going at a very fast speed. He watched it until it was out of sight. He could still hear it, however, his impression was that the pilot was looking for a landing place. When the machine came back into his view it was still flying low, and it completed a short turn when it crashed into the field. Presently he heard an explosion. Later he found the body some distance from the machine.

Replying to the coroner, Newman said when he saw the plane first it was flying at about 500 feet, and it was only about 300 feet when it crashed.

Pilot Officer Walter Bruce Skinner said Griffiths had had 140 hours' flying experience and had done 3 hours flying in this particular machine. His flight that morning was from Northolt to Bournemouth and back, and when he left the aerodrome visibility was about 3,000 yards. He could give no reason for Griffiths circling in that particular spot. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death" and sympathy was expressed with Griffith's father who was present.

21 February 1885

Board School Examination- The annual examination of the Board School Wield took place on the 19th January and was conducted by T.W. Greene Esq and Mr E Hicks, Her Majesty's Inspectors. The result, which has just been received, is highly satisfactory to all interested in the schoolwork. The percentage of passes this year is greater than that of last year, which was 91.2, this year being 96.8. There were only three failures on the whole school, two in writing and one in arithmetic. The Government report is as follows: - "The generally quality of the work continues to be highly satisfactory, arithmetic being particularly creditable. This result is the more commendable as it has been arrived at in spite of irregular attendance". On the Government Certificate of Mrs Day, the school mistress is the following sentence. "Further progress has been made, and the result is most creditable. Discipline is also good."

28 February 1885

Presentation: On Wednesday afternoon a very pleasing incident took place in Wield Schoolroom. For some little time past Miss Cordery and the Misses Earwaker have been active in calling upon the children attending the school, and their friends, to assist in giving Mrs Day, schoolmistress of Wield, a present, for her indefatigable efforts in promoting the education of the children. These ladies met with such success, that sufficient donations were received to enable them to buy a beautiful, floral album. This was presented to Mrs Day by Miss Cordery, in the name of the children on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Day, in accepting the gift, heartily thanked the children, Miss Cordery, and all kind friends.

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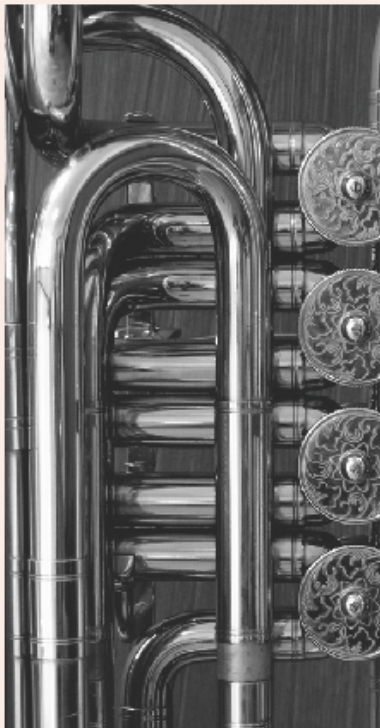
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Alresford Pigs present £5,000 cheque to Alresford Surgery. Pigs Members (from left) Nick Denbow, Dave Adam, Sam Kerr-Smiley, Robert Sanders, Mike Kerby and Frazer Budd. Surgery members: (from left) Dr Paul Webb, Dr Ben Saunders (Image: Contributed)

Reminder - Afternoon Closure – Wednesday 28th February

The surgery and dispensary will be closed from 12.30pm to enable all GPs & Nurses to attend a compulsory training meeting this afternoon. Our phone lines will **not** be open this afternoon. If you require urgent medical attention, please call 111.

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All other X-ray examinations, Ultrasound, DEXA, CT or MR requests are appointment only – patients will be contacted via a letter or phone with an appointment.

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It can be extremely stressful when your child is unwell. We know that there is a huge amount of information available at your fingertips, but finding something that provides clear and accurate information is not always easy!

The resources on the Healthier Together website have been developed in partnership between parents and healthcare professionals from across Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. You'll find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including advice on what 'red flag' signs to look out for, where to seek help if required, what you should do to keep your child comfortable and how long your child's symptoms are likely to last.

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>

Thank you to The Alresford Pigs Association

You may have seen in the Hampshire Chronicle recently that we have been very fortunate to be presented with a cheque from The Alresford Pigs for £5,099.64 which has helped us fund the purchase of two important pieces of medical equipment, a Hyfreator to assist and enhance the Practice's ability to deliver minor surgical procedures as well as a bariatric couch - an important item to help the treatment of a small section of our patients.

The Alresford Pigs is a local charity providing financial assistance to those in need in Alresford and the surrounding villages and has been doing so for 50 years. While the Pigs are perhaps best known for their fundraising events, such as the town Duck Race in June and lighting up Alresford with Christmas Trees in December and Arrival of Father Christmas as well helping to deliver the Alresford Show and many other events, they funded local good causes to the tune of £25,000 in 2023 alone.



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Estelle Sanderson. 'Bobbie' 1927-2023

'For the first time in 109 years there won't be a Sanderson living at Abbotstone'

These were the final words of the eulogy for Bobbie at her service of thanksgiving in Alresford Methodist church just three days before Christmas.

Bobbie was born in Heathrow in 1927. It was then a small market gardening community not the great hub of aviation we know today. She was an only child but grew up within a large family of aunts' uncles and cousins. Her great love of the countryside and all things rural stemmed from the holiday visits to family in the Vale of the White Horse. After the village school she won a grammar school place and cycled five miles each way because she loved school. Exams were sat in air raid shelters for this was the height of the Second World War. Bobbie then gained a place at Reading University and had a placement year in post war Strasbourg. It was quite a challenge. She enjoyed all sports but was particularly talented at tennis and hockey.

Teaching was to be her career and she was appointed to the staff at Winchester County High School. She joined the local Hyde Abbey tennis club where she met John a farmer who farmed at Abbotstone. Her first visit to the farm meant a bus ride from Winchester to Itchen Stoke and a mile and a half walk to the farm. She fell in love with that beautiful countryside and, married John, had two sons and never left her beloved Abbotstone. She loved the farm and would milk the cows and help raise the piglets even coping when they invaded the farm kitchen.

Bobbie and John were active members of Alresford Methodist church where Bobbie was a steward and preacher. Bobbie was a member of the Churches together in Alresford group and even packed a shoebox for the annual appeal just weeks before she passed away. Bobbie was also a keen member of Swarraton and Northington WI where she was President and a lively committee member. She played in the tennis matches until she was 84, set quizzes, came up with clever definitions for Call My Bluff games and worked with the sewing team to pack feminine hygiene kits for Days for Girls.

Bobbie spent her final years in a beautiful, thatched cottage in Abbotstone close to the Candover stream where she enjoyed all the things that are so special about the Candover Valley.

She was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Erica Sisk



WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in December 2023

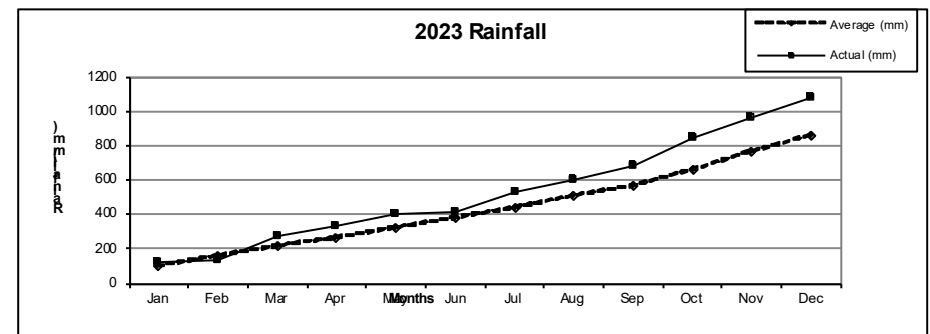
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	13.5/56	(24 th)
Lowest	-5.8/22	(3 rd)
Warmest Night	10.4/51	(25 th)
Coollest Day	1.3/34	(1 st)
Average maximum temperature	10.1/50	
Average minimum temperature	3.8/39	
Number of air frosts	5	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	114.4/4.50	(average 96.3/3.79)
Annual total	0176.3/42.73	(average 865.9/34.09)
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	20.0/0.79	(3 rd)
Number of days with rain	25	

Summary There was a cold start to December with freezing fog on the 2nd which persisted throughout the day and the following night recorded the coldest temperature at 22°F. Thereafter, a succession of Atlantic fronts brought mild, wet and windy weather. Some of the overnight temperatures were more akin to the average daytime figure, with the mildest at 51°F on the 25th. Two storms named as Elin and Gerrit brought strong winds on the 9th and 27th/28th. The year ended with another Atlantic low-pressure system bringing further wet and windy weather. The temperature in December was over 3°F above the long-term average and it was the second mildest recorded here. Rainfall for the month was almost a fifth higher than normal and it was the



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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

On a rare day of blue skies and bright sunshine, we head up the Candover valley for a brisk ramble around Home Farm, the Woodland Trust's reserve at Burkhams. Setting off from the car park at Burkhams Lane we follow the waymarked white trail, squelching along in welly boots as the paths are soggy from winter rains.

The tree canopies seem transformed when flooded with sunlight. Their branches are lit up to reveal splashes of pale lichens embellished with rampant clumps of damp shining mosses. Somewhere deep in the woodland, a song thrush seems to be singing in the New Year as we pass through the gateway leading to Bishop's Common. Formerly a downland pasture, a mosaic of chalk grassland and regenerating woodland is now revealed. Young oaks, huddled under their coppery cloaks of crinkled leaves, mingle within a landscape of hawthorn domes, some still glowing deep red with their huge harvest of autumn berries.

Pausing to look and listen, we hear the laughing call of a distant green woodpecker, the wistful song of a robin, and spot the tiny prints of a muntjac deer crossing the muddy path. A kestrel now lifts off, silhouetted against the sun, and begins to float on pointed wings, riding the breeze to hover head down, as it scans for voles. From the wooded skyline beyond, three buzzards and a red kite, vast wings outstretched, rise on the morning thermals, lit up as they turn into the sunshine.

Heading on, following the woodland trail that leads to Burkhams Lodge, we glance up to find the three buzzards cruising low overhead, as if on morning patrol. Crossing the lane, our walk takes us to the viewpoint overlooking Lasham Hill. Sitting at the magnificent wooden table sited here, we scan the skies to see not buzzards, but a great white stork of a sailplane gliding high over Lasham Airfield.

Strolling back via Tickley Bottom, a flock of goldfinches catch the light with their amusing antics, constantly flying up and down from the woodland edge in tight formation.

Robert Bryant
9 January '24

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Candover Valley Gardening Club

No meeting was held in December but nonetheless we were busy planning next year's programme which will include some interesting talks and some beautiful gardens in the summer.

On Thursday February 15th Tim Woodland will focus on bulbs that can be grown and naturalise well in shady places including wood anemone, Arisaema's and Martagon lilies. Tim will be bringing a selection of bulbs including gladioli, begonias and dahlias for sale.

All our indoor meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month in Preston Candover village hall at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members – currently £12 for the year.

You can find us on Facebook – **Candover Valley Gardening Club**

Reporting Road and other problems in Hampshire

To report highway issues, use these links:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

For issues on National Highways Roads (Motorways, A31, A34, A303, A36, A3 etc)

Report a problem: <https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk>

Water Updates:

Report problems and view updates here:

Southern Water: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/.../works-or-issues-in-my...>

Wessex Water: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk>

Electricity Updates:

Report problems and view updates here:

SSEN: <https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack>

Weather updates:

Keep up to date with weather warnings via the Met office here: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/.../warnings.../uk-warnings...>

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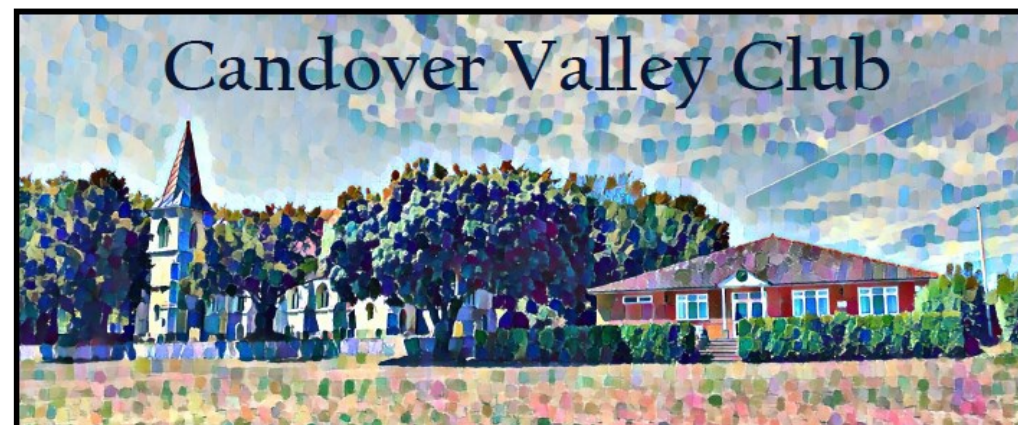
0 – 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

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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.

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On the Farm—Ben Robinson

January has been a busy and challenging month. The incessant rain flooded not only many of our grazing fields, but also my office in two inches of groundwater that bubbled up from below. This then gave way to a hard freeze. Frozen ground allowed us to get on with some much-needed hedge cutting. Usually, we'd take the opportunity of frozen ground to muck out some sheds but the early arrival of our second son meant I was otherwise engaged in Winchester hospital during the weather window. Mother and baby are doing well, even if the cattle could still do with being mucked out!

Early in January I took delivery of a new JCB rough terrain forklift- a key farm workhorse which we use on a daily basis to feed bales and bed up cattle. Our old one was 15 years old and really starting to show its age. The cost of machinery is pretty frightening these days. Every additional mod con, safety feature or added extra to help the environment is all very laudable but they add thousands to the price of the machine. This new telehandler will have to last at least 15 years to pay for itself.

The working capital requirements needed in modern agriculture are substantial. I can fully understand the appeal of the wildlife schemes some landowners are signing up to, even if they do nothing for the wider economy of UK plc. There is an element of de-risking the business, as long as you trust HM Government to pay up when promised. Historically this hasn't always happened on time, though they do seem to have improved recently.

We have recently joined the sustainable farming incentive scheme. This supports the farm to improve management of the hedgerows, permanent pasture land and arable field margins. Particularly interesting to our mixed farming system is the payment for herbal grass leys. These benefit bees and other pollinators whilst providing good quality forage for the sheep. There is anecdotal evidence that herbal leys reduce worm burdens too, especially in lambs. My lambs in the Autumn did seem to finish well on them.

I sent a lorry load of lambs to Salisbury market this morning. Storms Isha and Jocelyn have been affecting the country meaning many farmers further North have struggled to draw lambs in the storms. The bad weather reducing supply coupled with shipping issues in the Red Sea affecting the arrival of lamb from Down Under has meant the price of finished lamb has suddenly shot up. Hopefully I will be able to send a few more before a deal is brokered with the Houthis rebels!

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What's on in Wield?

A good number of Wield residents attended the first meeting of the Wield History Group, took place at the village hall on Thursday 18 of January.

Below is a summary of majority of views expressed. This defines what the WHG is going to become.

There was a lot of interest in the History of Wield and Hampshire, and a strong desire to delve into "the Wield/Hampshire mix". With the occasional meeting with a speaker on Wield /Hampshire **and** wider historical issues. Day trips out to interesting places was also a popular choice.

Most people thought that four per annum was good timing, or perhaps meetings during the winter months only – (October to End of March). Scope to encourage additional ad hoc meetings throughout the year for interested research groups was also suggested.

Offers of help with administration was called for and some have already expressed an interest in helping.

An annual subscription fee to cover the cost of hiring the hall and fund guest speakers and events.

It is hoped to set up a second meeting in March if there is continued support

=====

A meeting of the Wield Social Group is planned for February when more exciting events will be planned.

In the meantime, Watch this space for details of events.



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Swarraton and Northington WI



On Friday 19th January the annual Lasagne Lunch was enjoyed by 39 members and guests. The hall was wonderfully warm on such a cold day.

The tables looked cheerful with lovely spring flowers and the Committee prepared a full choice of different lasagnes plus a cottage pie all served with salad and fresh bread. Other members of the group supplied a delicious selection of desserts, and the meal was rounded off with fresh coffee and chocolates. This popular event is a nice chance to catch up with people in the quiet days after the Christmas rush.

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 6th February at 2pm
at the Village Hall**

The talk is titled - Violette Szabo GC by Lt Col Jeremy Prescott

All guests welcome to come and hear this very interesting talk.

CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

**NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?
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Candover Valley Choir

is always interested in hearing from potential new singers interested in joining.

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

This is an ideal time to join the choir, as we set out on the new programme for 2024. If you would like to know more about the **Candover Valley Choir** 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

bryantiane50@gmail.com

REHEARSALS start in MARCH and TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 7.45 pm, usually in St John's Northington



Jackie's County Corner

The groundwater levels are high right across the area, so your home may be at risk of flooding. If you are not already signed up for Flood Alerts, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. You can also sign up for priority services in emergencies for water www.southernwater.co.uk and electricity www.ssen.co.uk/power-cuts-emergencies/priority-services)

For some months now, I have talked about the financial position in which HCC find themselves and the revenue cuts they must make.

Have your say on the 'Future Services' consultation which continues until the 31st March 2024.

The consultation is online or can be viewed at a library; call 0300 555 1375 for a paper copy. Responses are submitted online: www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation or to Freepost HAMPSHIRE

These are just some of the topics where the county council is asking for views:-

- Adult Social Care changes (contribution changes from 95% of income to 100%)
- Adult Social Care grant schemes (eg: withdrawal of grants to Voluntary Services, Citizens' Advice)
- Hampshire Cultural Trust grant (reduce £'s to manage and deliver culture/arts)
- Highways Winter service (reduction in priority one salting and snow clearance)
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (running on a reduced budget resulting in less hours of opening, possible closure of Alresford HWRC)
- Passenger Transport (withdrawal of *all* funding for community transport schemes, including supported bus routes, and concessionary travel hours. This affects all rural bus services, Cango etc)
- Rural Countryside Parking (charging for parking at countryside sites like Crab Wood)
- Street Lighting (To dim street lights further and switch off for additional 2 hours.)

Please consider these changes and respond if you can. You can complete one or all sections as you wish.

Last month I wrote about broadband and many of you replied- thank you. I have asked again what Hampshire is doing to help the 'last 5%' of you that don't yet have fast broadband. The County isn't leading on the schemes now- but you can register your interest for better broadband speeds: go to www.cityfibre.com who are the supplier for Hampshire. More details on www.jackieporter.co.uk.

If all else fails, I have heard that signing up to 'Starlink' isn't cheap but it can give speeds of up to 200Mb and reaches rural 'hotspots'. Go to www.starlink.com for details.

Hampshire County Council has also opened the consultation on the Minerals and Waste plan : Partial Update, Reg 19 Proposed Submission Consultation. This runs from 9th Jan 2024 to 5th March 2024. Maybe you would like to comment on recycling household waste and industrial waste, the dreadful decision to carry on oil and gas extraction, the impact of large M&W lorries trundling through the countryside and anything that may be affected by Minerals and Waste planning, please respond online via the website survey www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update or email hmwp.consult@hants.gov.uk. Thank you

Finally, if you are worried about paying bills, eating or heating your home and it's affecting your health, please consider going to Citizens Advice for help. They have grants to help. Call 0808 278 7861

Clr Jackie Porter text/tel: 07973 696085, Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk website: www.jackieporter.co.uk

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

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

Many constituents have contacted me in recent years about the challenge of finding an **NHS dentist**. It is by no means a problem for everyone but, if it's a problem for you, it's a real problem.

As Chair of the Health Select Committee, I am right in the middle of this vexed issue and doing my utmost to press Ministers for a comprehensive – sustainable – response.

Last Summer we published what turned out to be a landmark report setting out, based on the evidence we received, what the Government should do. That report was described by the British Dental Association as an “instruction manual to save NHS dentistry” and Ministers responded to it just before Christmas.

My committee concluded that NHS dentistry is facing a crisis of access, resulting in a worrying decline in oral health. And we challenged the new Secretary of State to set out how she intends to realise the laudable ambition that everyone who needs one should have access to an NHS dentist.

Last month I spoke in a high-profile debate in the Commons about the issue and didn't pull my punches.

On the contract dentists have with the NHS – which is critical to why so many are leaving - I recognise that the Government has taken action. Some initial changes were made to the dental contract in 2022 - and we have assurances of further fundamental reform – but this has to represent a move away from the current system known as ‘Units of Dental Activity’ in favour of a contract which provides financial incentives for seeing new patients and those with greater dental need. One that prioritises prevention and person-centred care.

But contract reform alone is unlikely to bring back dentists who have already left the NHS or are considering leaving. We must urgently provide compelling incentives to attract new and existing dentists to undertake NHS work.

And we must see the long-promised ‘Dental recovery plan’ which includes a short-term set of actions to help those suffering real pain today and a fully funded plan that brings NHS dentistry back from the edge.

Finally, I wrote last month about now published plans for the possible **new hospital** between Winchester and Basingstoke (near junction 7) and the implications thereof for the Royal Hampshire. That consultation continues and you can find links to it plus years of my work on this issue at stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

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The Yard Hampshire
Wednesday 7th February 2024 | 7- 8:30pm

Join Daisy Buchanan, award-winning journalist, author and broadcaster and The Yard Hampshire's resident host Rebecca Fletcher for the paperback launch of 'Limelight'

Ticket holders will be able to get their exclusive copies a day before it hits the shelves and get their copies signed by Daisy.

Hosted in the rustic ambience of The Yard Hampshire, Rebecca and Daisy will be exploring unconventional love stories and themes of sisterhood and self-esteem as they chat and reflect on Daisy's novel.

In a world which is constantly telling us who we are, Daisy's writing asks the question -
"What happens when we start paying attention to ourselves?"

To get your tickets please head to www.theyardhampshire.co.uk

THE YARD

Candover Valley Store

community made

Christmas hamper and foodbank results

During December we ran a draw for a hamper of delicious local products. Sara Jervoise was delighted to discover her ticket had been picked, winning her the cache of Christmas treats. The proceeds of the draw were added to donations for the Basingstoke Foodbank that were collected at the store during December. Customers put extra items in their baskets and their cash donations were spent in the store on a list of goods the foodbank were asking for. Together it all totalled an amazing £971.73! A sincere thank you to each and every one of you. Your generosity will have made a real difference to local people in need.

Shrove Tuesday is pancake day ...

Did you know that the date that Easter is celebrated each year is determined by the date of the first full moon after the vernal equinox? With Easter falling on 31 March this year, it means that Shrove Tuesday is also relatively early, on 13 February. But rest assured, Garry will have the store's shelves ready with ample supplies of flour, eggs, milk, sugar and lemons for those who prefer a traditional pancake and Nutella or alternative sweet toppings to suit other palates.

... and the following day is St Valentine's Day!

If you still have any room after your pancakes, the store team have been busy making sure there is plenty of choice for you to find just the right gift for the special person in your life - or an indulgent treat for yourself. Perhaps chocolates, flowers, wine or luxury goodies from the chiller? Also, Hannah's table of gifts, to be found near the greetings cards in the coffee area, is bound to have a variety of beautiful items to choose from.

Chalk stream poetry competition and literature festival

Hampshire's chalk streams are some of its most precious wild places. These globally rare habitats are home to iconic species like the otter, water vole, brown trout, and kingfisher. With their serene beauty and vibrant wildlife, it's no surprise that chalk streams have inspired authors like Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Richard Adams (*Watership Down*), and Charles Kingsley (*The Water Babies*).

This year, there are several exciting new ways to discover our chalk streams. The Watercress and Winterbournes Landscape Partnership Scheme is teaming up with Hampshire Library Service to continue a literary tradition that spans centuries. We'll be sharing our favourite river-focused books and celebrating creativity through a poetry competition and literature festival.

The poetry competition, which is free to enter, asks 7-18 year olds to write a short poem inspired by the wonderful world of chalk streams. Winners will receive National Book Tokens worth up to £75, and have their poems published in a special commemorative booklet. Entrants must live within the scheme area, which includes the Candover Valley, and submit their entry by midnight on 31st July 2024.

Both children and adults can also enjoy a watery literature festival this summer. Participants can expect to hear talks by prominent nature writers like Amy-Jane Beer and Tom Moorhouse, and to explore their own creativity with chalk stream-themed writing workshops. The events will be held this June in Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, and Alresford.

For more information on the 'Tales from the Riverbank' competition and festival, visit www.hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes/tales. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Online Talks

'The Future of the UK's Water Resources'

14th March, 7pm

A growing population and changing climate are putting our water resources under mounting pressure. How can we avoid a future of shortages?

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

Photo courtesy
Matthew Roberts

