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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).*

#### Disclaimer

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## THE OXDROVE Church and Community News Of The Candover Valley and Wield Rector: Interegnum

**Associate Minister Ian Thaker**—07864 095 435  
Ian will be in Preston Candover every Tuesday from 9.00am, to take morning prayers and available for anyone who wants to chat.

**Benefice administrator** – Tricia Knight email address:  
[beneficeFCW@hotmail.com](mailto:beneficeFCW@hotmail.com) Phone 07541 463750

## Rota for Services

*BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay led*  
The Parishes of Farleigh, The Candover Valley  
and Wield  
The Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield

*BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay Led*

#### Key to initials:

*IDT = Ian Thaker: PR = Peter Raine: JG = Julian Gibbons LH = Lyn Hardy: AL = Anne Luneburg: DC = Debbie Scholey*

#### Sunday 7th July 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

09:30	Wield	Matins IDT
11:00	Dummer	Summer celebration in music
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer JG
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion IDT
Readings	2 Samuel 5:1-5 and 9-10 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13 Psalm 48	

#### Sunday 14th July 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

10:00	Preston Candover	Holy Communion IDT
11:00	Cliddesden	Parish service IDT
18:00	Wield	Evensong PR
Readings	2 Samuel 6:1-5 and 12b-19 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-19 Psalm 1	

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

09:00 Wield Holy Communion IDT  
10:00 Preston Candover Family service JG  
11:00 Farleigh Parish Communion IDT and PR  
16:00 Preston Candover Outdoor service followed by tea and cake see below

*Readings 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6 30-34 and 53-56  
Psalm 89:20-37*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8:30 Bradley Holy Communion CW. IDT  
11:00 Brown Candover Morning Worship JG  
11:00 Ellisfield Parish service IDT

*Readings 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21  
Psalm 145:10-19*

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

08.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP IDT  
09.45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer PR  
11:00 Northington Holy Communion IDT  
11.15 Dummer Sunday Special

*Readings 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6 24-35  
Psalm 51:1-13*

**Songs of Praise**

Do you love singing? Do you miss some of the traditional hymns? Do you want to learn some new hymns? Do you have a favourite hymn, or two?

If so, and if you also enjoy eating outside, please come and join us in St Mary's churchyard on Sunday 21st July at 3.00pm, in the church if raining.  
Weather permitting, we will have a barbecue, if it is wet there will still be food, but maybe more nibbles.

Please bring a chair (if outside), plus crockery and glasses. There will be wine and soft drinks, but bring your own if you have a favourite.  
We hope to see you there!



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**The Annual Buried Church Service** will take place on  
Sunday 16th June at St. Nicholas, Chilton Candover at 6.00pm  
followed by refreshments at the Yard.

### John of Candover

Directly after the Norman Conquest (1066) the family of Andely, or De'aundely, settled in Chilton Candover and St. Mary Bourne. They probably came from Les Andelys, a fortified town on the River Seine between Parish and Rouen. By 1086 the Manor of Chilton Candover was held by Richer de Andely, under the Bishop of Winchester and the land continued in possession of the family for the next 475 years before being sold to John Fyssher.

One of the Daundely family, know as Johan du Candevre, lived at Chilton Candover in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and when he died in 1295, he was buried in a stone coffin in the churchyard of St. Nicholas church and is inscribed (translated from the Lombardic script) "Here lies John of Candover, may God have mercy on his soul".

John of Candover was a man of considerable importance and during the construction of ten royal castles in North Wales for Edward I in the last quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, he held the appointment of Warden of the Works, under the great Master Builder James of St George. His responsibilities included the assembling of artisans and

labourers from every county in England, the provision of iron, steel, timber and masonry and all building materials, near the site of the new castles, Conway, Caernavon, Harlech, Rhuddlan, Ruthin, Flint, Aberystwyth and other great fortified works.

He received money from the Lord Treasurer for the payment of wages to a large labour force, comprising some 600 smiths, carpenters, masons and quarrymen, together with about 2,000 minor workmen. All had to be found living quarter near the building sites, and arrangements made for their gathering in from far-flung counties, in groups of 30 to 70, with transport for their tools, each group escorted by guides.

Payment of wages was in silver pennies, and in 1283-84 some 1,400,00 coins had to be brought to Conway, a formidable undertaking in itself. Pressure of building work and general administration must have been massive, all ten major castles being completed within eighteen years 1277-1295. This was largely due to the energy and brilliance of Master Builder James of St. George supported by John of Candover.

In 1284 John was admitted to the Rectory of Swarraton and it is noted that he was a receiver of royal revenue in France at Agen, Cahors and Auch; it is also known that he was granted 40 acres of Land at Conway.

Communications and transport at that time was limited to horses, carts and wagons and it is astonishing that so much was efficiently and so speedily undertaken.

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## Message from Ian


A couple of weeks ago I had a free day and as the weather was nice, I took myself off to Brownsea Island to take some photos of the red squirrels.

Brownsea Island, for those who don't know, is a beautiful island off Poole. I loaded up my camera with a really long lens, set off early, got the ferry and walked to where I knew the red squirrels had a drey. I was excited when I arrived, because there was an adult scampering around. I put some nuts around the tree withdrew a short distance and waited. And waited and waited and waited. I waited for three hours and not a sign of them. In many respects it wasn't a wasted time. It was a sunny day, and I was hanging out in the pine woods with a long lens and not being arrested. But it wasn't what I wanted. I wanted the small red critter standing on a branch with tufted ears and a bushy tail.

As I waited the recurring question in my mind was why am I doing this? What makes me want to do things that others think is just a bit mad. It's not as if I'm being paid to do it or anyone will want to hang one of my pictures on a wall. The obvious answer is like most people with compulsive hobbies I do it because I want to. But the deeper answer is because I want to take pictures that are affirmed in a photographic competition or online review groups, I want to hear people I respect tell me that it's a great picture

As long as this doesn't get excessive, in photography there is always a new bit of expensive kit you can convince you need; achieving something even at a low level is something worth having. To bake the cake, to score the goal, to grow spectacular flowers and have someone say that is great is life affirming. It makes us feel good. So, to all those with compulsive hobbies, keep going and look to achieve the thing which is just a bit better.

The happy end to my story is that, just as I was thinking of packing up and calling it a day, this little fellow showed up and posed for 20 minutes. I went home feeling pleased with myself having one competition entry for this year in the bag.




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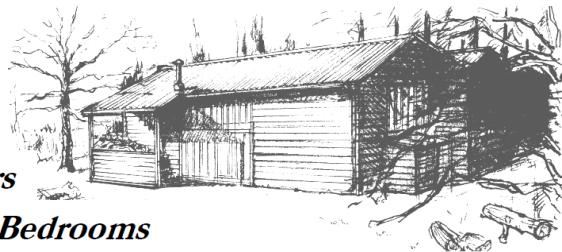
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## Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington		Mark Ashburton	
St Peter's Brown	28 July 11.00am	Sue Marriott	Geoff Ellett Paul Curtis Hayward
St Marys Preston Candover	7 July 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Gunnell Berry
	14 July 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Jane Laws
	21 July 3.00pm	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis	To be advised
	28 July At Brown		
	4 August 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg

All Saints  
Bradley

St James'  
Wield

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Graham & Trish Turner in Brown Candover whose three children have been awarded degrees in their respective subjects.

The first to be awarded degrees in the Turner family.  
Well done Jody, Katy & Tom - we are so proud of you all.  
With our love,  
Rod & Sandy Waller"

## Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

<b>St. John's Church Northington</b>	7 July 11.00am	Mark Ashburton	
<b>St Peter's Church Brown Candover</b>	Key Holder	July August	Alison & Geoff Ellett Sue Marriott
	Flowers		
<b>All Saints Church Bradley</b>			
<b>St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover</b>	Flowers		
<b>St James' Church Wield</b>	Flowers	29 June & 6 July 13 & 20 July 27 July & 3 Aug	Caroline Masterton Nikki Cowley Selina Geddes
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## The Stanchester Dig

A team of archaeologists from the Basingstoke club will be with us again this year for two visits. 6<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August.

They will be at Stanchester as before and the route for visitors will be signed.

They welcome visitors (and new diggers!) and you can contact them via Mark Peryer their leader – markperyer@gmail.com.

## Wield Cricket Club Fixtures – July

Matches are played on the ground opposite

the Yew Tree Inn, Lower Wield

**7 July    Grayshott    14.30 Home**

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Trevor Wood (chairman) 07717 488496

Andrew Yorke (president) 07885 193457

For teas and social matters, please contact Nicola (social secretary) at [ndes@kingsfarm.co.uk](mailto:ndes@kingsfarm.co.uk)/ 07767 238874

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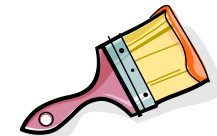
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## On the Farm—Julian Gibbons

On the arable farm, June is like listening to an audio book or podcast on x1.5 speed. It seems to speed up as one races to harvest.

The spring sown crops that went in later then would have hoped, generally look better then we could have hoped. They still aren't going to be record breakers, but better then they might have been. This is due to the kind May weather, not too hot and with just enough rain. This contrasts with the very dry Mays we have been having of recent years. Grass has grown constantly so there should have been plenty of grass silage made.

We finished putting in the wild bird crops in the beginning of May and these have had to have slug pellets to stop the biblical plague of slug devouring them as they emerge.

Autumn crop establishment might be challenging if they stay at the current levels. We have bought a straw rake to rake the fields after harvest. The theory is that it helps to spread the post-harvest trash and breaks up slug nests and their eggs. These can then either dry out and die or get eaten by birds. We will see if the theory is correct in practice.

We have re-sheeted another old shed. The old asbestos fibre cement roof had started leaking so has been replaced with a new fibre cement roof and cladding to match the rest. Asbestos fibre cement sheeting doesn't pose a health risk where it is, however, its removal requires specialist teams and is expensive to remove and dispose.

We just have the Maris Otter malting barley still in store, but that should have gone by the end of the week as I write this. Our oats have all gone for processing for UK produced oat milk. From us they go to near Devizes, where they are cleaned, and colour sorted. They then pass through a magnet field and destoner to remove any stones and metal objects. They are then dehulled to remove the husk and leave the clean groat to be stabilised before going for processing, water added, pasteurised and blended and then finally packed, all done in Shepton Mallett. The biggest oat milk brand is Swedish, so it is good that consumers have an opportunity to choose a brand grown and produced in the UK by the Wessex Oat Co. It can even be traced back to the farms and fields that produced it.

The poor autumn is putting pressure on the supply of seed for autumn crops, and we are being encouraged to make plans and order seed before harvest to guarantee supplies. This mirrors what we saw with spring sown crops where if you hadn't secured your orders in early November we would have struggled for supplies. We do have the option of keeping some grain aside to have cleaned and dressed for farm saved seed.

Last jobs before harvest are barn cleaning and rogueing crops to pull up wild oats. This is especially important if we wish to keep some of the grain for seed



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There is still no guarantee we will be able to accommodate your travel request as we have limited capacity, even if you do give us a minimum of 12 weeks notice.

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## **Welcome to Dr. Sayeda**

We offered a very warm welcome to Dr. Anna Sayeda in May who has joined the practice as a salaried GP, working a Wednesday morning & all-day Friday.

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## **Alcohol Awareness Week: 1-7 July 2024**

A chance for the UK to get thinking about drinking. It's a week of awareness-raising, campaigning for change, and more.

Alcohol Awareness Week is managed and hosted by Alcohol Change UK. This year's campaign theme is 'Understanding alcohol harm'

For further information or to get involved, visit; <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/alcohol-awareness-week-1>

## **If you suffer from Hay Fever, you don't need to see your GP to treat the effects.**

We would like to remind you we do not prescribe hay fever medication. We follow NHS guidance and do not routinely prescribe hay fever medication.

Hay fever tablets, liquids, nasal sprays and eye drops can be purchased from supermarkets and pharmacies.

**Please speak to your local pharmacist who can offer you hay fever help and advice.**





**The Alresford Surgery**  
Station Road  
ALRESFORD, Hampshire  
Out of hours telephone number 111

□ **You Said – We Listened..... Telephones** □

We know there hasn't been a lot of love for our telephone system – lots of you have told us that the queue facility wasn't good enough and that you frequently got cut off after waiting for over 20 minutes. Looking for a solution to these problems we have been in negotiations with our current telecoms supplier for the last two years. We are now pleased to report that we have negotiated an early release from our contract and commissioned a new system from a new supplier.

Our new telephone system went live on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and we have been working hard behind the scenes to get everything set up.

From a caller's point of view, you may notice several changes. Firstly, you will be told where you are in the queue and if the queue reaches a certain size, or you have been waiting for a while, you will be offered the choice of receiving a call back. This is an automated process which holds your place in the queue and calls you back when you reach the front. From our point of view, we will have easy and ready access to data on how busy the phones are and the number of calls waiting.

All incoming and outgoing calls will be automatically recorded and used for training purposes.

Alongside this investment in technology, we are increasing the size of the team handling the calls and we hope both these factors will improve the experience for our patients in their first contact with the surgery.

**Covid Spring vaccination programme**

Over the months of April-June our amazing bank practice nurses vaccinated 1100 of our patients who were eligible for their covid spring vaccination.

In addition to this our community nurse team & bank practice nurses vaccinated any eligible, truly housebound patients.

We would like to thank our amazing staff who have carried out this vaccination programme in addition to their usual workload, this includes our tremendous Reception team & Management team who are pivotal in the co ordination of the programme.

We will update patients as soon as we have been updated by NHS England about if/when there will be an autumn booster program.





## PRESTON CANDOVER ALLOTMENT CHARITY

Have you ever thought about growing your own fruit, vegetables, and flowers? Do you love being outdoors and enjoy the wonderful scenery of the Candover Valley? Could you benefit from some fresh air and exercise? Then what you need is an allotment!

There is a lovely community of allotment holders across the 16 plots with lots of advice and support if you would like it. We also have a social event each year to allow you to chat about your plot over a glass of wine.

The plots are £40 each for a full year starting 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Please contact Wendy Simson on 01256 389457 or at [wendy.simson3@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.simson3@gmail.com)



## ALRESFORD ART SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Alresford Community Centre, West Street, Alresford

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th July 10-5,

Sunday 7th July 10-4

Free admission

Original art work for sale by local artists

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## WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in May 2024

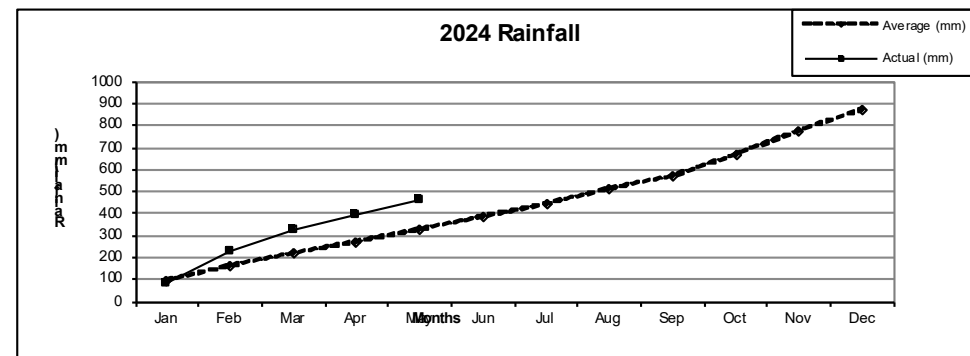
### Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	25.9/79	(12 <sup>th</sup> )
Lowest	1.6/35	(5 <sup>th</sup> )
Warmest Night	11.0/52	(29 <sup>th</sup> )
Coollest Day	13.4/56	(6 <sup>th</sup> )
Average maximum temperature	18.3/65	
Average minimum temperature	7.5/46	

### Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	65.3/2.57	(average 55.1/2.17)
Annual total	461.8/18.18	(average 331.4/13.05)
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	17.0/0.67	(13 <sup>th</sup> )
Number of days with rain	15	

**Summary** The unsettled and cool conditions from the previous month continued into May before high pressure provided some fine, sunny weather in the second week culminating in the warmest day at 79°F on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Low pressure systems returned towards the middle of the month with ¾ of an inch of rain on the 13<sup>th</sup> which ended, almost a week of dry weather. The second half of May was cloudy with sunny spells interspersed with showers or longer outbreaks of rain and temperatures were about average for the time of year. The rainfall for May and the spring season were above average and this was the fourth consecutive month with high rainfall. The temperature for the month and season were above the norm.



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## Farleigh Parish Playgroup



## Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

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5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July - it's our end of term party. Happy summer time everyone!

We return on 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September

**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 (increase to £3 in Sept) donation per family

Contact:

**Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)**



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# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

### Store and post office trading hours

**Monday to Friday** Store open: 8.00am – 6.00pm  
Post office: 8.30am – 5.00pm

**Saturday** Store open: 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Post office: 9.00am – 12.30pm

**Sundays & Bank Holidays** Store open: 8.30am – 12.30pm  
Post office: Closed

We look forward to welcoming you!

Alresford Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2EE

Tel: 01256 389500 [www.cvcs.org.uk](http://www.cvcs.org.uk)



## Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

Heading down to Ovington for a stroll by the river, we park in the shade of the wooded lane leading along to the Bush Inn. A splendid array of hart's-tongue ferns, with their clumps of glossy green blades, cover the bank bordering the narrow side-stream. From the tree canopy high above, a thrush sings loud and clear, pouring out melodies as we follow the path along to the wooden foot-bridge that spans the river.

We find the Itchen in full spate, surging below the bridge. Gazing down into the clear waters, we try to spot brown trout lying almost invisible on the stony bed beside the swirling green tresses of water crowfoot. Upriver a throng of house martins, swallows and swifts sweep low over the treeline, clearly feeding on insects. A mayfly spins by – a clue perhaps to the aerial feast taking place beyond.

Tall stands of yellow flag irises fill the wetland meadows beside the river and mark the way along the footpath that leads to Itchen Stoke. Dancing damselflies, known as banded demoiselles, are an unexpected delight this morning, shimmering a metallic blue at the water's edge. A chubby brown water vole comes bumbling along the soggy path. As we watch, it abruptly turns and dives into the undergrowth of bankside plants.

Later, on our journey home we note a curious sight. Here and there the leafy hedgerows are festooned with dusky webs – spun not by spiders but by caterpillars. Tucked under their protective netting, safe from foraging birds, these moth larvae munch away, stripping the bushes bare of leaves. The caterpillars will next pupate before emerging later in the summer as Small Ermine moths.

Here on the chalk downland, there are two main species of these moths: those that feed on spindle bushes and those that favour hawthorn or blackthorn hedges. Small Ermines are elegant little moths with fluffy white heads and sleek white wings, decorated with black spots. Over the summer their webs will gradually fade away as the shrubs slowly recover from their vigorous pruning.

Robert Bryant  
6<sup>th</sup> June '24



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## 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](mailto: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

[cvchires@gmail.com](mailto:cvchires@gmail.com)



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**MUSIC IN ST JOHN'S NORTHINGTON (Organ Restoration Project)**  
Following the completion of the conservation work on the organ of St John's Northington last June, audiences have been enjoying a wide range of events and activities in St John's Northington as part of the linked community and education programme. Indeed, almost 900 people of all ages from 6 months upwards have come to St John's to enjoy one or more of the very varied range of activities on offer.

AND - there is one further event to come as follows:

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY at 5.30 pm**

**Coastal Collective presents  
SUMMER RETREAT**

Join improvising group, Coastal Collective, for an informal evening of improvised music. This event will bring vibrant improvising ensemble - Coastal Collective - for their inaugural performance to celebrate the release of their EP, '*a piece of everything*' (released May 2024) and their debut album, '*No Borders, Just Horizons*' (released June 2024), both recorded in St Johns in January 2024.

This will be a relaxing session: all are welcome - and families are welcome to move around as needed. For booking details and tickets: £11.55 adults (Under 18s free) please see: Eventbrite link here: <https://bit.ly/CoastalSummerRetreat>

For details of all events please see: <https://www.stjohnsnorthington.org/>

All events have been made possible by generous grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund; Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust; and other kind donors.







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**ENTRY**  
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Helping to raise funds for  
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# CANDOVER VALLEY



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## St Peter's Pet Service

The service was held on Sunday 23 June in glorious weather.

Julian Gibbons, our Lay Preacher who farms in Bradley, took the Service and delighted us with stories of his childhood with donkeys, dogs and guinea pigs!

Amongst the congregation were labradors, whippets, wire haired dachshunds and Dolly, the horse that hacked all the way from Medstead!





## Jackie's County Corner for July 2024

Thanks to all the farmers who hosted 'Farm Sunday' on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. This picture is of Harry from a nearby grain processor with some of their products containing UK cereals. Whilst visiting New House Farm open day, I learned that UK produced oat milk (Momo contains UK grain) has a union flag on it denoting a product of the UK. It was an opportunity to buy local too!

There is a current consultation on the Winchester (rural) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which started on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and finishes on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The link to the papers is below and on my website. This is the next round of questions to support infrastructure planning and funding and it's an ideal opportunity to present your thoughts on improvements that you'd like to see for walking and cycling in your village and between communities. Hopefully you'll support The Watercress Way extending too. Please encourage other local interest groups to comment and suggest options, especially if you ride a bike.

It's a site hosted by HCC, but if you find the whole online process too clunky for your Council or group, please email your thoughts direct. There is an email address: [engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk](mailto:engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk)

The link consultation is below or go to [hants.gov.uk](https://www.hants.gov.uk) and search 'LCWIP + Winchester' <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/15052024WinchesterLCWIPsurveyPR>

**Cllr Rob Humby has stepped down as Leader of HCC.** Cllr Nick Adams-King is the new Leader, also responsible for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services

**Council meetings include formal questions:** the whole question time is limited to 30 minutes, and like the rest of the meeting, is recorded for public viewing. I asked a question on speed limits relating to one village, but took the opportunity (as a supplementary) to ask if a community must choose between 20 and 30 mph: which limit would be best /most likely to secure enforcement for a village with traffic issues?

The reply is on the link: <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=163&MIid=10802>

Questions come up some way into the recording. My first on speed limits is about 11 minutes in. I asked another on the Cart and Horses junction about 24 minutes into the session.

Since I wrote the last update, M3 junction 9 has been approved, but not the Cart and Horses junction upgrade. You will hear Cllr Adams-King's answer to 'so what happens next?'... I will add the transcript to my website.



### The Yard Hampshire

Tuesday 16th July 2024 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Join Melissa Hemsley; bestselling cookbook author, real food activist and sustainability champion, as she discusses her test book, Real Healthy with Yard Host Rebecca Fletcher

Passionate about spreading the power of feel-good food and celebrating accessible healthy food that everyone can enjoy, Melissa looks at how we can unprocess our diet with easy everyday recipes.

To get your tickets please head to [www.theyardhampshire.co.uk](http://www.theyardhampshire.co.uk)



## THE YARD

### Cafe Opening Times:

Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun, 9am-4pm

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**From Steve Brine, MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley**  
0207 219 7189 (House of Commons) Email: [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

After fourteen years and almost 170 columns (one a month) for **The Oxdrove**, it's time to say goodbye.

This will be my final column and it's simply a chance for me to say thank you. Thank you to current editor, Jean, and those who've gone before but also to the many volunteers who help produce – and of course deliver – each edition to local residents.

I don't suppose many MPs write a monthly column for each parish magazine but I wanted to because I think they are, in many ways, the lifeblood of local communities. A trusted voice in a cynical age where you can just stay up-to-date on what what's happening around the corner and hear from others – including your MP.

Fourteen years ago, in May 2010, I was first elected as our MP and have now formally stepped down ahead of the General Election on July 4 when you will elect a new Member of Parliament.

It is always hard to say goodbye but after many years public service it's my choice at this stage in my life to do other things and find other ways to serve. Wherever my travels take me next however, it will remain the privilege of my life to have served in the House of Commons.

I have always said nobody owns Winchester. I won four general elections (and will be the first and last MP for Winchester & Chandler's Ford because of boundary changes) and hope I earned your support because I did the job to the best of my ability every single day. I wish my successor all the very best and will watch with interest how that plays out.

You can download my **final Annual Report**, which looks back over the last 14 years and shows how I've aged, at [www.stevebrine.com/finalannualreport](http://www.stevebrine.com/finalannualreport) And you can watch back my **farewell speech to the House of Commons** at [www.stevebrine.com/farewellCommons](http://www.stevebrine.com/farewellCommons)

Thank you for your support over many years and above all, thank you to my family - Susie, Emily & William - for allowing me to serve in the first place.

**Steve Brine**  
**Outgoing MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley**

Calling the General Election means that no new decisions can be made or meetings called in the 'pre-election period'. This has delayed the working party decisions on the cuts to HCC Services consulted upon in the Spring until the September round of council meetings. This is unfortunate but allows us as local citizens more time to make a case for improvements to services, not cuts.

**I continue to work almost daily with Parents** who don't think their children are getting a fair deal from Hampshire's Education and Social care teams. This is heart rending, especially as HCC's work is considered 'Outstanding' by Ofsted but I will continue to work for each parent and child one by one to resolve differences amicably. It is very frustrating to see parents going to the complaint stage in the hope of a final resolution in their fight for a decent education for their child.

**I asked for broadband issues from you, and you delivered!**

Some of you still struggle to secure a system that works for you. Delivering faster internet speed is no longer a specific County role, and was reassigned to Government some time ago, but if I can use your cases to show that HCC influence is still needed before everyone has access to a superfast Service, and it could improve delivery of FTTP to more of you in this division, then it will be worthwhile. Thank you, and please keep your stories coming!

**Cllr Jackie Porter**

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk 07973 696 085, X @JackieLibDem  
Ansaphone 01962 791054 Website [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk)

*My Facebook account has recently been hacked-twice!. Please use email /phone/text to contact me.*



### **Candover Valley Gardening Club**

In May we had the first of our summer garden visits to West Green Gardens in Hartley Wintney. We were blessed with a warm and sunny afternoon and despite being a week or too late for their wonderful display of tulips, there was plenty to see including some beautiful Wisterias. Of course, there was also the opportunity for tea and cake from their busy café.

We also held our Plant Sale in May and took over £800 thanks to bringers and buyers. This will help to fund our year of speakers and garden visits which are becoming increasingly expensive.

In July we have a private garden visit in Medstead on 18th and also our Summer Garden Party on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Let's hope the weather has warmed up by then!

Our indoor meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from September to April. If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members. The annual subscription is £12.

Contact [blighrosemary@hotmail.com](mailto:blighrosemary@hotmail.com) for more information and you can find us on Facebook – Candover Valley Gardening Club.



# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

## Celebrating 5 years!



## Celebrating 5 years!

The photos on the page opposite show the party on 10 June to mark five years since the store opened.

Thank you to all who came along to join us. Garry cut a wonderful birthday cake made and decorated by store committee chair, Jane Laws.

Guests enjoyed their slices and with cups of tea, a speech or two and much chatter under the marquee set up on the field. Here's to the next five years and your continued support, for which we are always most grateful.

### Birthday photo competition

In the early part of July, CVCS committee members will judge all the entries submitted by the end of June closing date, casting their votes anonymously.

The winners will be contacted and copies of the top three images will be mounted and displayed in the store around the first weekend in July.

### **WE ARE RECRUITING! Come and join the team** **Post office and retail assistant (part-time) –** **Candover Valley Store**

An efficient and friendly post office and retail assistant (part-time) is being sought to join the team which runs the Candover Valley Community store and post office.

The working hours (up to 12 hrs per week) can be negotiated depending on the applicants' availability but will include some weekend and bank holiday working.

#### **The desirable skills we are looking for include:**

- Retail experience (*not essential*)
- Commercial skills and financial awareness
- Friendly and approachable personality
- Good computer literacy

If you are over 18 yrs of age, interested in the Candover Valley Community Store with excellent customer service skills and a reputation for being reliable, hardworking and good at working in a team then we want to hear from you.

Download the job description from the website [www.cvcs.org.uk](http://www.cvcs.org.uk) or call Jane Laws on