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### Editorial Team

**Treasurer & Advert Co-ordinator**  
**Ros Partridge 01420 563 816**  
 Harrow Cottage, Upper Wield  
 ALRESFORD  
 SO24 9RW  
[rospartridge1@gmail.com](mailto:rospartridge1@gmail.com)

**Technical Producer** **Jean Frost 01420 561 136**  
 5 Pound Close, Upper Wield  
 ALRESFORD  
 SO24 9SH  
[jeanterry@uwclub.net](mailto:jeanterry@uwclub.net)

**Distribution Manager** Philippa Pellereau 01962 733107  
[ppellereau@gmail.com](mailto:ppellereau@gmail.com)

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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](mailto: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**  
**The Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield**  
**Services for March 2024**

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

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP DC
09:30	Wield	Matins DC
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer IT
11:00	Northington	Holy Baptism DC
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special
4pm	Brown Candover	Farewell Service DC & JG
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22</i>	

*Psalm 19*

*Sermon* "Cleansing of the temple" \_\_\_\_\_ "\_\_\_\_\_"

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

08:00	Dummer	Holy Communion IT
09:45	Ellisfield	Morning Prayer IT
10:00	Preston Candover	Mothering Sunday Family Service JG
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion IT
18:00	Wield	Evensong PR
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21</i>	

*Psalm 107*

*Sermon* "Look up and be saved"

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9.00 Wield Holy Communion BCP **IT**  
9:45 Dummer Morning Prayer  
10:00 Preston Candover Holy Communion **IT**  
11.15 Cliddesden Family Service **PR**  
Readings *Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33*

Sermon "Walking in the dark...?"  
\_\_\_\_\_ "" \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 51*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday**

8:30 Bradley Holy Communion CW. +**D**  
9:45 Dummer Holy Communion CW +**D**  
11:00 Brown Candover Family Morning Worship **IT**  
11:15 Ellisfield Family Holy Communion +**D**  
Readings *Isaiah 50:4-9, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-end*

Sermon "Lies, betrayal, corruption, hatred and desertion"  
\_\_\_\_\_ "" \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 31*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March Maundy Thursday**

7pm Bradley Holy Communion **IT**  
Readings Exodus 12:1-14 1Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17

\_\_\_\_\_ "" \_\_\_\_\_

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday**

10am Northington to Wield Walk of Witness JG & +**D**  
2pm Dummer 'An hour at the Cross' Bishop David

\_\_\_\_\_ "" \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday**

09:30 Wield Family Holy Communion +**D**  
09:45 Dummer Family Holy Communion **IT**  
11:15 Cliddesden Family Holy Communion **PR**  
11:15 Ellisfield Family Holy Communion **IT**  
11:00 Preston Candover Family Holy Communion +**D**  
11:00 Northington Family Holy Communion **JG**  
4pm Brown Candover Family Easter Worship and tea following. +**D**  
Readings *Acts 10:34-43, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18*

Sermon "He is risen"

*Psalm 118*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

08.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP **IT**  
09:30 Wield Matins **PR**  
09.45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer **IT**  
10:00 Preston Candover Morning Prayer **JG**  
11:00 Northington Holy Communion ?? **JG??**



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11.15 Dummer Sunday Special  
Readings Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-end  
Sermon “We have seen the Lord”

Psalm 133

Sermon ‘Ashamed of Jesus?’

**There will be a final service** for David Chattell and his family on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### Dear Friends

Goodbye and thank you. Thank you for all your warm comments and good wishes sent to me and Ruth as we leave the benefice. Since arriving on April 1<sup>st</sup> in 2011 I have had the privilege of sharing in folk's lives in many different ways. Not least of which has been sharing the joy of couples in the solemnisation of marriage, the delight of holding newly born children at the font for baptism and helping many families with funerals. There has been so much more beside that, and I have enjoyed many conversations about faith, the privilege of listening to troubles shared or hopes explored and living in a beautiful area with you.

Some parting thoughts, firstly, I wonder what impresses you? An Oxford vicar now in his late fifties said that as a fit young man he was impressed by strength and physical prowess. In his twenties it was by academia as his friends gained graduate and post grad degrees. In his thirties he was impressed by business success as the financially able with business acumen accumulated wealth and made money, lots of it! He reflects now with the perspective of years that what impresses him most is human kindness. None of us needs to be very successful in anything to be kind, for it is always within our reach. In wedding services, we often hear St Paul's writing on love, described as patient and kind, that forgives and forgets, looks for the best and never ends, and concludes that without love all our abilities and talents are worth nothing, so primary and principle is love to a flourishing human life. As we often reflect, we do live in a beautiful area, and feel deep appreciation for the blessings bestowed through countryside and communities.

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Sometimes I wonder at two things, firstly with appreciation for those who are quietly kind with common courtesy through to philanthropy, and secondly, I am surprised by unkindness, why treat people worthy of respect, badly or with contempt?

When I left teaching to 'enter the church' I quoted from St Paul to staff at my send off from Romans 1 that 'I am not ashamed of the gospel as it is the power of God for salvation' that we all need. The gospel, or good news, of Jesus is that there is real effect and power in Christian truth, that Jesus has wonderfully made a way to approach God and to receive from him the blessing of forgiveness of sin and hope of eternal life. This message has power to change us inside since it 'does what it says on the tin' and over the centuries so many have found in Christ, wonderful things. God who is impressively strong, powerful who knows everything and with great creative power made all things and owns all things is fundamentally kind. The gospel is essentially God's kindness towards us and for us all, even those who treat God with contempt there's invitation to receive from him! The gospel message though, is like an RSVP, and we do need to consider our response!


Farewell and God bless,  
David

### **Reverend Ian Thaker**

The Reverend Ian Thacker will be taking services in the vacancy created by David Chattell's departure, in the Benefice of Farleigh, Candovers and Wield.

Ian was the Lead Chaplain at Huntercombe Prison for twenty years before his retirement to the area. Prior to that he was a Radiologist in a hospital.

His telephone number is on the website, and he will be pleased to make pastoral visits and get to know our communities better.




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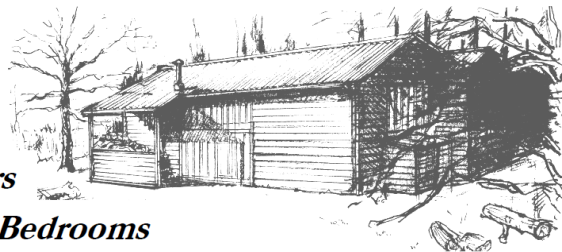
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## Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
<b>St John's Northington</b>	<b>3 March 11.00am</b>	Rhona and James Hatchley	Rhona and James Hatchley
	<b>31 Mar 11.00am</b>	Rhona and James Hatchley	Rhona and James Hatchley
<b>St Peter's Brown</b>	<b>3 Mar 4.00pm David's Farewell service</b>	Sue Marriott Celia Foote	Sue Marriott Anne Luneburg
	<b>24 Mar 11.00am</b>	Sue Marriott	Jonathan Moseley Paul Curtis Hayward
	<b>31 Mar 4.00pm</b>	Celia Foote	Rhys Smith
<b>St Marys Preston Candover</b>	<b>10 Mar 10.00am</b>	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	<b>17 Mar 10.00am</b>	Marina Avis	Marina Avis Jane Laws
	<b>31 Mar 10.00am</b>	Jane Laws Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	<b>7 April 10.00am</b>	Anne Luneburg	Gunnel Berry
<b>All Saints Bradley</b>	<b>24 Mar 8.00am</b>	Christopher Swan	
	<b>28 Mar</b>	Andrew Don	
<b>St James' Wield</b>	<b>3 Mar 9.30am</b>	Barbara Wells	David Cowley Joanna Nelson
	<b>10 Mar 6.00pm</b>	Robert Grande	Eileen Collins Catherine Simons
	<b>17 Mar 9.00am</b>	Brian Collins	Philip Geddes Mark Kemp Gee
	<b>31 Mar 9.30am</b>	John Lailey	Jean Frost Alwin Hutchinson
	<b>7 April 9.30am</b>	Alwin Hutchinson Allan Fuddy	Paul Markillie Amanda Bromfield



## Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

<b>St. John's Church Northington</b>			
<b>St Peter's Church Brown Candover</b>	Key Holder	March April	Edwina Curtis Hayward Sue Marriott
<b>All Saints Church Bradley</b>			
<b>St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover</b>	Flowers	30 March	Easter flowers, all helpers welcome
<b>St James' Church Wield</b>	Flowers	30 March	Decorating the church— Flowers by congregation
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole



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## Bradley Christmas Concert

Residents of Bradley were treated to a wonderful evening of Christmas music to raise funds for two worthy causes. Under the musical direction of Richard Morgans, performers including Vox Lucis choir, The Belles of St Martins from Ellisfield, professional musicians including Lianne Cole, Cathlyn-Rose McKellar, Chad Vindin and many more local musicians, generously donated their time, energy and talents free of charge to raise funds for Winchester Beacon Night Shelter and All Saints Church.

An impressive “pop-up” performance by the ‘Bradley Singers’ surprised and pleased all present. The evening rounded off with tasty refreshments and a raffle organised by Andrew Don.

Special thanks must be given to Robyn and Julian Gibbons for their hospitality and help in preparing the church for the concert. Thanks also to Isla Baring and the Tait Memorial Trust and other donors whose generosity enabled the concert to take place. This was a truly magnificent village event, in which everyone pulled together to make the concert a total success.

The total amount of £1,978 raised was divided equally and gratefully received by the Winchester Beacon Night Shelter and All Saints Church Bradley  
Very many thanks to everyone involved.

JRB

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD WALKER

As reported in the Oxdrove, Richard was awarded a British Empire Medal last September for services to the local community.

His contribution, over some forty years, to many village organizations has been substantial, and everyone approached was fully supportive of his nomination for an honour. This is the outcome!

To celebrate, and congratulate Richard in person, a gathering for all in the local community has been arranged:  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 11.30am - 1.30pm  
Drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome.



Eileen Jamieson

## Good Friday Walk with the Bishop of Basingstoke 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

This year we are being joined on our annual walk by Bishop David, please come and join us for the whole walk, just a section or at the churches

10.00am	Northington
11.15am	Brown Candover
12.00pm	Chilton Manor Farm for Lunch
1.15pm	Preston Candover
2.30pm	Bradley
3.45pm	Wield

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

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

### Inventing the Universe:

#### Why we can't stop talking about science, faith and God. (2015)

By Rev Prof Alistair McGrath. Amongst many things once Principal of Wycliffe Hall theological college, Oxford.

We just can't stop talking about the big questions around science and faith. They haven't gone away...in fact, we seem to talk about them more than ever....religion continues to grow around the world. Meanwhile, Richard Dawkins and the New Atheists argue that religion is at war with science - and that we must choose between them.

What if science and faith might *enrich* each other? What if they can together give us a deep and satisfying understanding of life?

Alistair McGrath, one of the world's leading authorities on science and religion, engages with the big questions that Dawkins and others have raised - including origins, the burden of proof, the meaning of life, the existence of God and our place in the universe. Informed by the best and latest scholarship, *Inventing the Universe* is a groundbreaking new primer for the complex yet fascinating relationship between science and faith.

*Amazon review.*

### Help wanted

I am looking for a **HOUSEKEEPER** to help us in Upper Wield. Might you be able to give me between 10-16 hours a week? The work will involve cleaning, ironing and day to day household chores. Some cooking skills would be useful but not essential. The job would suit someone happy to generally muck in.

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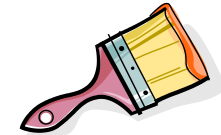
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## Lay Vocations Morning

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Green spaces are being lost at an alarming rate, so we need your support to stop harmful and unsuitable development ruining the glorious countryside. Become a member today before it is all too late.

The North Hants District Group, in conjunction with CPRE Hampshire, works to protect our local area by reviewing proposed developments to ensure that they are suitable and sustainable, while also submitting objections when necessary. To help support this valuable work we also hold various fundraising activities.

The charity works across many areas including: climate change, farming, green energy solutions, public transport alternatives and affordable housing.

Did you know that CPRE played a key role in creating our National Parks and the Green Belts? (Other bodies were also involved but CPRE was the driving force). These brilliant achievements, along with the fight to cut out the clutter of advertising signage, would not have been possible without CPRE, whose imperative is to keep villages alive.

Membership is your best way to connect with and support a beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone, and to promote gentle progress and protection for our rural areas. The charity collaborates with communities and holds government to account for positive change and a sustainable countryside.

Please do consider joining and be part of what CPRE stands for! Individual membership is £5.00 per month and household membership is £7.00 per month. Parish councils or an organization pay £5.00 per month for their membership.

As well as helping to protect the countryside, membership has some other good perks too: discounted entry to local attractions, gardens, beautiful houses, stately homes and even caves. You will also receive the CPRE Magazine, exclusive to members, which features opinions, in-depth articles and updates on campaign work.

There are also other ways to help CPRE, such as volunteering at events or help fundraising with the North Hants District Group.

Your support is vital to assist with the work we do for the countryside, so please do get in touch if you wish to know more about our wonderful events, campaigning or to become a member - <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/>

Thank you.

Hannah Houstin-Lacey  
Acting Chair, CPRE North Hants District Group  
[hannahhoustonlacey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hannahhoustonlacey@yahoo.co.uk)

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in tables 3 or 4 in the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book)

We will be in touch directly with patients who are eligible to organise this vaccination.

**Pharmacy First – Prescription-only medicines without seeing a GP**

Pharmacy First will enable community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common health conditions without the need to visit a GP.

The 7 conditions are:

Sinusitis, Sore throat, Earache, Infected insect bite, Impetigo (a bacterial skin infection), Shingles  
Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

For further information, see:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/01/over-10000-nhs-pharmacies-begin-treating-people-for-common-conditions/>



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Your review is an opportunity to discuss maximising your lifestyle and health. Please help us to ensure your condition is stable by organising the following:

#### **1) A BLOOD TEST APPOINTMENT**

When you attend for your blood test appointment, please complete the following:

- Collect a urine **ACR** kit and information sheet from reception.
- Use the waiting room BP machine for your **height** and **weight** (hand slip into reception)
- **Home BP readings** for 7 days

**2) A BETTER HEALTH *telephone* appointment 2 weeks later with our nursing team.** Please make sure you have provided your **7 days of Home BP readings** ahead of your appointment by responding to the text or email we may have sent you or by completing this form via the surgery website:

<https://alresfordsurgery.co.uk/downloadable-resources/>

Paper copies are available from reception if you are not able to do this.

If you do not have your own machine, we recommend you purchase one. These are freely available at the chemist or online and cost around £15.

### **Important changes to local hospital services**

Have you heard about the plans for a new hospital for the Hampshire region?

With significant suggested changes to the acute hospital services in and around Basingstoke and Winchester.

A public consultation on the proposed options is currently in process.

The consultation runs from 11 December 2023 for 14 weeks until midnight 17 March 2024. Have your say at: <https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk>

### **NHS App**

Have you downloaded the NHS App yet? Did you know you can now book a range of appointments with us, directly through the app.

### **Covid Spring Booster Campaign**

We have been made aware that there will be a Spring booster campaign for Covid, which will commence in mid April.

You are eligible for this booster if you are;

## **Beautiful Blue Butterflies**

The rolling hills of Hampshire's chalk downlands are amazing havens for butterflies. These colourful creatures light up the landscape, and are a crucial food source for birds, bats, small mammals, and amphibians. If you take a walk around our local chalk streams, keep an eye out for these blue beauties – just remember that the females, which can be partly brown, present more of a challenge!

The earliest to emerge is the holly blue, which can appear as early as April. This first generation is followed by another in August, and sometimes a third in October. As its name suggests, this species tends to congregate around holly plants in the springtime, although the summer generation mostly relies on ivy. Unlike the others in our list, this butterfly is pale blue on the underside of its wings.

Britain's most widespread blue butterfly, the common blue, can roam due to the prevalence of its favourite foodplant: common bird's-foot-trefoil. You can often spot it in grassy areas, including along riverbanks. Look for individuals or pairs in late May, and again in late August. As with the holly blue, a third generation can sometimes arrive in October if the weather has been warm.

The chalk hill blue is the largest blue butterfly on our list, and the second largest in Britain. It is mostly confined to chalk downlands, as they are the main habitat for horseshoe vetch – its sole foodplant. Unusually, the chalk hill blue has just one generation, which emerges from July to September. The caterpillars secrete a sweet substance, so ant colonies will often protect them from predators.

Eating only horseshoe vetch is a trait shared by the Adonis blue, although this butterfly prefers to find its food on slopes with shorter grasses. Like those of the chalk hill blue, Adonis blue caterpillars have a symbiotic relationship with ants. Despite a significant decline in its overall population, this species can still be seen at sites across Hampshire in late May and late August.

If you're keen to learn more about these amazing animals, the local branch of Butterfly Conservation holds guided walks throughout the spring and summer. To discover the wonderful world of chalk streams, explore the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme at [hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes](http://hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes). Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### **Free Online Talks**

'The Future of the UK's Water Resources'

14<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm

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

'An Introduction to Floodplain Meadows'

25<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

Floodplain meadows bring beauty and biodiversity to the landscape, but many have been lost over time. How can we restore these habitats? Book your tickets at [hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes](http://hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes).



## Pollinators, Honeybees and the Asian Hornet – why should you care?

You may have heard about Asian Hornets in the news recently, as last year the UK has suffered its biggest incursion to date of this non-native species. We have gone from just a single nest in 2016 to 72 nests in 2023.

### Why should any of us care, though?

Whilst the Asian Hornet does not pose any more danger to people than our native European Hornet, it is a prolific hunter of insects – eating ALL pollinators – but especially a threat to honeybees. Honeybees are conveniently housed in hives by us humans and this has made their colonies something of an Asian Hornet’s equivalent to a MacDonalds drive-thru.

France was particularly badly hit last year, and the fear is that the hornets are homing in on the UK to take up permanent residence next. Number-crunchers have estimated that the economic impact of the loss of bee colonies in France could amount to €30.8 million per year and other estimated losses throughout Europe are huge.

For all you keen gardeners, walkers, tree surgeons ... it is worth knowing that Asian Hornets are much more aggressive than our native European Hornet if you get too close to their nest. Beekeepers who have been to talks by the experts have heard first-hand witness to an Asian Hornet attack and they say it is not something that they would want repeated ...

### So, what is being done and what can you do to help?

A public awareness campaign has been initiated by DEFRA, the NNSS (Non-Native Species Secretariat), APHA (Animal & Plant Health Agency) and NBU (National Bee Unit). Among them, these departments aim to make as many people and organisations as possible aware of this species, to both help control its spread and to protect employees and the public.

Beekeepers across the nation, and across Europe, are uniting to try and stop the spread. It is an uphill battle, and we need as many eyes as possible to help us! Research by experienced insect geneticists is revealing that just one queen introduced to France in 2004 may be responsible for the spread of the entire invasion we have now. But when a nest is spotted and destroyed, the rate of proliferation is considerably slowed.

Most beekeeping associations will have a team of volunteers to help raise awareness, assist the NBU and monitor sightings, etc.

If you think you spot an Asian Hornet, try to take a photo and note exactly where you are. Download the **Asian Hornet Watch App** on your phone and report your sighting, using the photo you took. ‘Or if you prefer you can send a photo via [www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport).

The photo will be automatically sent to the NBU and inspectors will come to the site as soon as possible. Please do not attempt to catch or kill the hornet. It is essential that it can be traced back to its nest and for the nest to be destroyed. Licensed staff from APHA and the NBU take over to track down and destroy the nest. It is illegal for non-licensed organisations to do this.

We are grateful for all the help you can give to keep this invasive insect out of our area, keep all our pollinators safe and let the honey flow from our busy bees! Thank you in advance.

There is further information about Asian Hornets on the British Beekeepers Association website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/Listing/Category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina>

## WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in January 2024

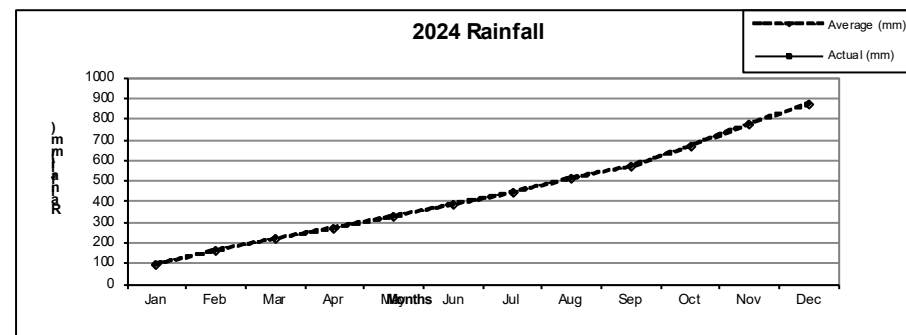
### Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	12.4/54	(2 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> )
Lowest	-9.3/15	(18 <sup>th</sup> )
Warmest Night	7.7/46	(18 <sup>th</sup> )
Coollest Day	2.0/36	(17 <sup>th</sup> )
Average maximum temperature	7.6/46	
Average minimum temperature	0.2/32	
Number of air frosts	14	

### Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	88.1/3.47	(average 95.0/3.74)
Annual total		
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	36.6/1.44	(4 <sup>th</sup> )
Number of days with rain	14	

**Summary** January started mild and wet with Storm Henk on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Whilst we escaped the worst, there were damaging winds and heavy rain with southern England particularly affected. 2½ inches of rain fell in the first five days then it was all but dry to the end of the third week. There was some fine, sunny weather with at times a cold northerly breeze and snow flurries in the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were well below average with sharp overnight frosts, and the coldest at 15°F on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Storm Isha brought rain and a fresh to strong breeze in the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> which caused a power outage. Milder temperatures continued to the end of the month. This was followed by Storm Jocelyn two days later. The last week was somewhat dull with rain but mainly falling overnight. The month was colder and slightly drier than normal for mid-winter.



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## Volunteers and Sponsors Wanted Annual Wield Litter Pick on Friday 5th April 10.15 at the Village Hall

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Flyers will be delivered with more detail in March but please save the date and join the team on the day.

Queries and suggestions to Nikki Cowley on 01420 562520 or 07860 106263.nicolacowley@hotmail.co.uk



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**Saturday** Store open: 8.30am – 5.00pm  
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**Sundays & Bank Holidays** Store open: 8.30am – 12.30pm  
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## Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

On a fine winter's morning of hazy sunshine, we head up the valley to Chilton Candover, passing the brook flowing in full spate alongside grassy banks now white with splendid displays of snowdrops. Walking down from the busy Yard café at Chilton Manor Farm, we skirt the roadside pond where a pair of coots, sooty black with white bill and head shield, bob about on the clear waters. One of the coots clambers onto a willow branch where it dips into the water and begins a loud foot slapping display. She seems to be smacking down wet pondweeds onto the branch, probably as the basis for a nest.

Across the road, a robin sings from the edge of the yew avenue, an impressive feature of the landscape here. This private avenue of magnificent trees - the finest in Hampshire according to Peter Norton in his 2014 survey: 'The Avenue of Yew' - has been carefully managed by generations of landowners. The yews have weathered many a storm, with dead and damaged trees being replaced. Both a roost and refuge, the dense dark canopies host all manner of birds. The red fruit of the yew, the arils, are popular with foraging redwings. A Merlin App is a useful aide here, picking up the calls of both a blackcap and a bullfinch tucked away in the depths of a roadside yew.

Following the ambling path up Dundridge Lane with its mature hedgerows and snowdrop banks, we walk softly, pausing to look and listen. Amidst the background clatter of rooks and redwings, a distant song thrush begins to sing, and a great spotted woodpecker starts to drum. A wintering flock of tits and finches moves swiftly through the branches above us. Beyond Dundridge Copse, there are fine views over the downs to Woodmancott. Meadow pipits flutter and dance over a field, while red kites and a buzzard float overhead.

Looping back along the way-marked footpath across the fields and down to the farm, we hear an early skylark singing high above, but quite invisible.

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



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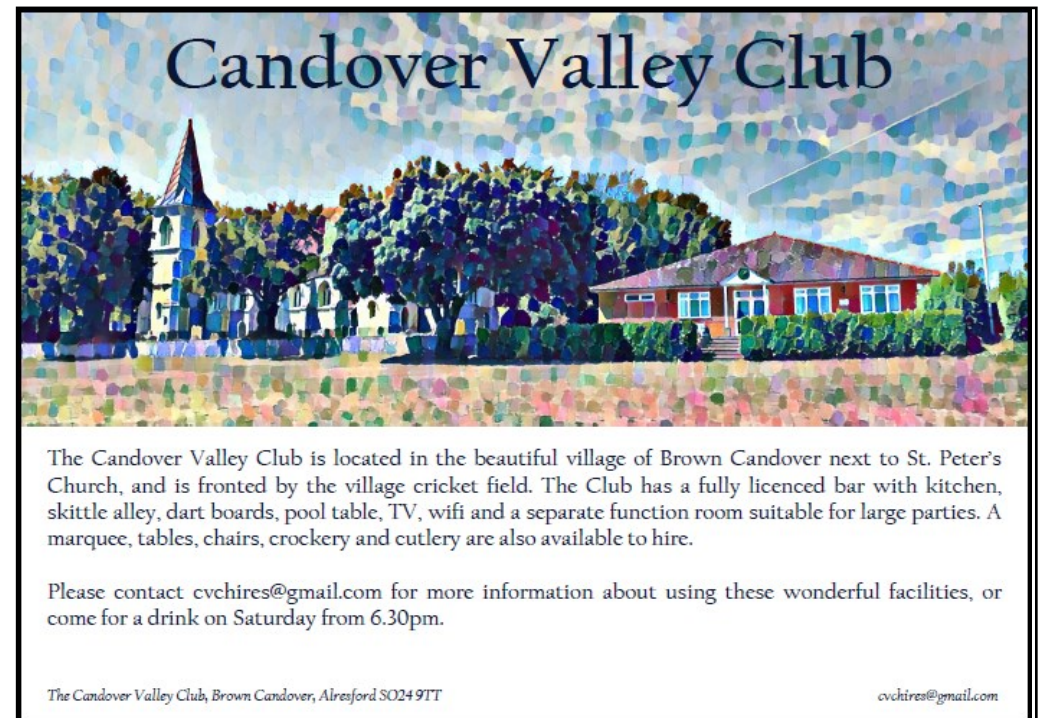
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# Candover Valley Club

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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## CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

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**Singing is good for you – it is creative, has great health benefits, is very rewarding, and is hugely enjoyable!**

The 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](mailto:juliang.jones@btinternet.com)

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director

[bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)

[07740 871341](tel:07740871341)

REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 7.45



### Candover Valley Gardening Club

We began 2024 with a quiz when we were joined by our neighbouring gardening Club – Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop and El-lisfield Horticultural Society. Tasty refreshments were provided on the table and the final scores were very close. The evening was a lot of fun!

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March we have a short AGM followed by a talk by Pauline Weeks. Pauline is a gardener and artist and is passionate about sustainability and gardening for wildlife. In her words, “when I’m not covered in soil or paint, I help people get into gardening and nature’. Her talk is entitled ‘The Terrors of Opening for the National Garden Scheme’.

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**



### Wield Cricket Club AGM In the Yew Tree, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 8.00 pm

Please support your local cricket club and come along to the AGM; there will be a chance to have a few beers after the business part of the evening.

#### *Dates for your Calendar:*

**AGM – 7 March in the Yew Tree**

**Ladies Social – Wednesday 17 April, Supper in the Yew Tree**

**Senior Season begins – 5 May Away v Medstead**

**‘Coronation cup’ Football Match: Upper v Lower Wield –**

**Monday 6 May**

**President’s Match – 9 June**

For further information about any aspect of the club, please contact:

Paul Johnson – chairman: 07720 349497

Ben Robinson – captain: 07903 513196

Neil Hewitson – secretary: [Neil.Hewitson@KPMG.co.uk](mailto:Neil.Hewitson@KPMG.co.uk)

Ed Reid – treasurer: [ed.reid@rocketmail.com](mailto:ed.reid@rocketmail.com)

Nicola Robinson – social/teas: 07767 238874 or [ndes@cruckhall.com](mailto:ndes@cruckhall.com)



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### **On the Farm—Julian Gibbons**

All the spring seed is on the farm now all we need is the right weather! The last half of February and the first half of March is really the ideal time to plant spring cereals and spring beans. In the Eastern Counties some farmers will plant spring barley over the winter following sugar beet crops, but it can just sit in cold soil and not do a great deal for not a great deal better yield or an earlier harvest date.

We have peas to plant as well, but they want to go in slightly warmer soils. They don't like emerging into cold weather where they can just sit and get eaten by pests. The same goes for linseed (although if the answer is linseed my brother quite rightly says I've asked the wrong question!) and spring oilseed rape. For these, warm growing conditions are the answer to most pest problems.

Although at the time of writing this, soils are still too wet, with days growing longer conditions soon change especially if we get a spell of easterly winds.

Fertilising of crops and grass starts in late February to get crops growing again. For grass where the main source of nitrogen will be from clovers it is about putting on a small amount to start grass growth. The clovers don't start fixing nitrogen until the soils warm up, so if you want grass to feed stock early, you need to give it a helping hand. The other 80% of nitrogen will come gradually through the season from the clovers and other legumes in the pasture.

We have a new fertiliser spreader arriving for the start of the season. There are 3 methods of spreading fertiliser. You can buy liquid fertiliser and apply it with your crop sprayer. You will use special nozzles or dribble bars to apply streams of liquid fertiliser rather than a spray. The aim is to get the fertiliser on the ground, not to stay on the crop leaves. The fertiliser is stored in large tanks, and these get filled up before the season and then during the season. It keeps barns for other uses. Solid fertilisers are either a granule or a prill. Prills are manufactured in a prilling tower, where they spin out molten fertiliser at the top of a large tower. It forms round prills in the air that then solidify as they fall to the bottom of the tower. To spread solid fertiliser, you can use a boomed pneumatic spreader where the fertiliser is blown along a boom to outlets spaced along the boom, where it rains out onto the crop. As with liquid fertiliser you only get fertiliser where you put it, they are however very expensive and if you have a lot of telegraph poles prone to damage if you aren't careful.

The most common method of spreading, the one we use is the twin disc machine. Here you have fertiliser feeding 2 spinning discs that spread the fertiliser in an arc behind the machine. If you are spreading 24m the actual machine will spread 48m, the overlap provides the evenness of spreading. This however results in fertiliser potentially being spread where you don't want it, into the field boundary.

So lots of work and innovation goes into restricting the spread to keep all the fertiliser within the field. So we have border limiters, automatic disc speed reductions and other fancy bits of software to alter the pattern. This all being done at a press of a button or in some instances automatically, GPS means it knows what it has put on where and ensure it doesn't get more than it should. Weigh cells regulate the flow of fertiliser. This saves money and the environment, but it has put the price of spreaders up considerably. They used to be around £12000 and now they are £30000+.



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# Preston Candover Village Hall



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## Swarraton and Northington WI



The monthly meeting was well attended with members, husbands and guests and before the speaker could begin there was a short meeting to discuss various matters for the group. Last month's Lasagne lunch had been a great success and much enjoyed by members and guests. The Treasurer reported that the finances were in good order, but she was disappointed that the WI annual fee had been increased to £48. Payment being due on 1st April by cash or cheque or after this date by bank transfer to keep it in the new financial year.

A Summer outing has been provisionally booked to Longstock Water Garden on **Thursday 23rd May**. This will be by coach leaving the hall at 9.15 and returning around 4pm. Lunch is planned at The Mayfly near Stockbridge. Full details to follow shortly.

The next Days for Girls sewing session has been arranged for **Tuesday 20th February** at Old Alresford Village Hall from 2 - 4.30pm. Anyone wanting to sew, fold, pack or even make tea most welcome and the ever-tempting promise of some cake!

With no other business the speaker Lt Col Jeremy Prescott was introduced, his talk was titled "Violette Szabo GC" He spoke movingly of a very young woman who was recruited into the SOE, undertook extensive training, was parachuted twice into France but sadly captured, imprisoned, tortured and executed. His talk included terrible statistics about the number of deaths and executions in the awful POW camps and also mentioned other female recipients of the GC. Violette was also posthumously given the Croix de Guerre. Jeremy makes no charge for his talks and any money he receives he donates to a charity for Combat Stress. The afternoon was rounded off with a cup of tea, sandwiches and cake.

**The next meeting is at 2pm on Tuesday 2nd April. It is titled " Tea and Reminiscences" by the members.**

New members always welcome, we have an interesting array of speakers, a large selection of books, collect stamps and pennies for charity and seasonally have surplus plants and produce. All the meetings end with time to chat and enjoy tea. We are a low-key group and in case you are wondering...we do not sing Jerusalem!



## CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

**NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?  
WANT TO DO SOMETHING NEW?  
NEW YEAR NEW BEGINNING?**

**GOOD TIME TO JOIN A CHOIR!**

**Singing is good for you – it is creative, has great health benefits, is very rewarding, and is hugely enjoyable!**

### 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](mailto:juliang.jones@btinternet.com)

or

**Jane Bryant, Music Director**

[bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)

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



## **How to Build Confidence in Children Wednesday 13th March | 11:00am - 12.30pm The Yard Hampshire**

Too much time phone time? Anxious about socialising? Happy to stay in their bedroom? Social anxiety is becoming an increasing problem for some of our children. However there is a lot we can do as parents to improve confidence in our children.

Join Joanna Gray as she runs a friendly Confidence Building Workshop at The Yard. Learn practical techniques to help establish and embed confident habits in our children. Confidence is a habit that can be developed with practice.

Joanna has enjoyed over 20 years working as a journalist, editor and writer for some of Britain's foremost publishing companies. She has written over 25 inspirational gift books for Quadrille - titles including The Cath Kidston Life Planner, The Little Book of Courage and How to be More Unicorn! She developed The Confidence Course in 2021 and now combines writing with mentoring young people in techniques to establish and embed confidence. She has worked with over 70 children at three secondary schools in Hampshire. She read Modern History at Christ Church, Oxford and lives in the countryside with her husband and three sons.

Tickets available on our website.



**THE YARD**



**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)

As our Member of Parliament, I regularly visited local schools. It's the most rewarding, and often hilarious, part of the job.

I find dedicated teaching (and support) staff who love what they do but there's not enough of them and, in particular, they tell me they just cannot recruit the teaching assistants they need to support an increasingly complex picture.

I am therefore really pleased to see a **new teaching apprenticeship** that will launch this autumn revolutionising the way schools recruit teachers while supporting more people to earn while they study for a degree.

The teacher degree apprenticeship will offer a high-quality, alternative route for people to become qualified teachers. This includes people who may not be able to take time out to study full-time for a degree such as teaching assistants or staff already working in schools, to access this route to a rewarding profession.

Trainees on the new teacher degree apprenticeship will spend around 40% of their time studying for their degree with an accredited teacher training provider, gain qualified teacher status and all tuition fees are paid for, so trainees won't be saddled with student debt.

I think it will be a game-changing opportunity for schools to nurture and retain talent from the ground up.

Secondly, because we Brits can sometimes be our own worst enemy, there's some really good news on the subject I wrote about last month in *The Oxdrove* – NHS dentistry.

Earlier last month, the long-awaited **Dental Recovery Plan** appeared. Its focus on prevention has to be right and the roll out of the 'Smile for Life' programme to reduce dental decay in children will see parents-to-be offered advice on baby gums and milk teeth with babies and toddlers in nurseries having tooth brushing as part of the daily routine.

Measures for short-term recovery are also welcome; some 2.5 million additional NHS appointments as well as additional money for NHS dentists to treat adults and children who have not seen a dentist in over two years and incentivising dentists to work in underserved areas with one-off 'golden hello' payments of up to £20,000. The idea of dental vans to help deliver care in rural and coastal areas is interesting and I will be seeing if we can get a slice of that.

The British Dental Association described my select committee's report on NHS dentistry as 'an instruction manual' to save it but I am clear achieving that will require all of this – and more.

You can find more on these subjects, and my wider work as our MP, at [fb.com/stevebrinemp](https://fb.com/stevebrinemp) and [stevebrine.com](https://stevebrine.com)

## **New Year, New Chapter: Northbrook Arms in East Stratton Welcomes Fresh Leadership**

As 2024 gets underway, the Northbrook Arms, a cherished establishment in East Stratton (8 miles north of Winchester), is excited to announce a fresh chapter with a dynamic new management team at the helm.

Owners Kate and Adam Shanley, who acquired the site in April 2019, have dedicated the past three months to ongoing improvements, solidifying its reputation as a multifaceted destination. The completion of a three-year renovation project in Autumn last year has seen the addition of four self-catering accommodation units, enhancing the pub's offerings alongside its bar, new restaurant and function room.

Reflecting on the journey, Kate shares, "The Northbrook Arms has been a labour of love for us. We're proud of the transformations and enhancements we've made, particularly through the challenging trading conditions of the last few years, setting the stage for an exciting future for the pub."

Now, with the first two phases of building works completed, Kate and Adam are thrilled to introduce the new leadership team ready to guide the Northbrook Arms forward.

**Colin Savory**, an accomplished Head Chef with extensive experience in the pub sector, brings his culinary expertise to elevate the dining experience, while **Alex Abrey**, previously operating London based pubs, assumes the role of General Manager, ready to lead the Northbrook Arms to new heights. They join **Lisa Knight**, Head of Housekeeping, who's been ensuring the self-catering accommodation maintains the highest standards since 2021.

Focused on providing exceptional experiences for guests, whether local to the area or visiting Hampshire, the Northbrook Arms is committed to delivering unforgettable moments. As we step into the New Year, the team there warmly invites guests to enjoy a delightful pub meal, host private events or stay in its uniquely charming setting.

For more information, visit [www.northbrookarms.com](http://www.northbrookarms.com) or contact 01962 774499.



# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

## **We are recruiting!**

An energetic and friendly retail assistant (part time) is now sought to join the team that runs the Candover Valley Community Store and post office. The working hours (up to 12 hours per week) can be negotiated depending on the availability of the applicant but will include some weekend and bank holiday working.

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

- Retail experience
- Commercial skills and financial awareness
- Friendly and approachable personality
- Good computer literacy

If you are over 18 years of age, have excellent customer service skills and a reputation for being reliable, hard-working and good at working in a team, then we would like 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 01256 389491 for further details.

## **An invitation to YOU!**

The store volunteers are keen for you to join them! Keeping our amazing community shop open seven days a week is quite a big ask, but if you have two hours a week free to give us, you will be helping to do exactly that! Volunteering is fun and rewarding and full training will be given. Call Jane on the number above or speak to any of the team in the store.

## **Mother's Day – 10 March**

There will be a plethora of delicious and beautiful items in our big-hearted little store to enable you to spoil your mum! Pop in! Shop

## **On This Day in Wield**

### **11 March 1905**

Riding Without Reins – Albert Smith, carter, Lower Wield, was summoned for riding without reins on the highway between Northington and Old Alresford on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He did not appear. Police -constable Morris proved the service of summons and also gave the necessary evidence showing that defendant was in charge of three horses and a waggon, and that he was riding on the fore part of the waggon without any control over the horses. The Bench fined defendant 5s and 4s costs.

### **March 14 1805**

On sale: One hundred and twenty six oak trees in cowdown and Wield Woods. Apply to Mr Faithfull Winchester. Windebank the wood-ward at Wield will shew the timber. **Winchester**

### **18<sup>th</sup> March 1805**

#### **To be Sold by Auction**

At the Swan Inn, Alton, in the county of Southampton, on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March next, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon.

All that compact and very desirable farm situate at Lower Wield in the said county, comprising a substantial modern built farm house, with three barns, granary, stables and other requisite out buildings, and 120 acres of rich arable and pasture land in a high state of cultivation.

This Estate is Copyhold of Inheritance, held of the manor of Wield, at a fine certain, and was in the occupation of Mr Wm. Budd.

Wield is situate in a fine sporting country, and is only six miles from Alton and Alresford, and nine from Basingstoke, all excellent market towns, The purchaser may have immediate possession upon taking the crops on the ground at fair valuation.

Further particulars may be known by applying to Thomas Clement Esq, solicitor Alton, or Mr Hopkins solicitor New Alresford.

#### **Licensing Justices Approve Application.**

The Yew Tree, Lower Wield, Wield. Publican's licence to Raymond Basil Burbridge (Beerhouse licence already held).

### **March 1863**

#### **To be sold by Private Contract-**

Four well built cottages, with large gardens, eligibly situate in front of West Green, Upper Wield.

The property is well adapted for a Baker, or any business requiring extensive Premises.

For further particulars apply to Mr Samuel Broad, Wield Micheldever Station, Hants