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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: Interegnum

Associate Minister, Rev Ian Thacker, MA. 07864 095 435.

Ian will be in **Wield Church from 9-10 on Wednesdays** for anyone to drop in. This will be followed by a brief service of morning prayer and bible study.

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
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: DS = Debbie Scholey; PR = Peter Raine*

Sunday 7th September Trinity 12

08:00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP <i>IT</i>
09:30	Wield	Matins or All Age worship <i>IT</i>
09:45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer <i>PR</i>
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer <i>JG</i>
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion <i>IT</i>
11:15	Dummer	Harvest Festival <i>AH</i>

*Readings: Jeremiah 18.1–11, Psalm 139.1–5, 12–18, Philemon 1–21,
Luke 14.25–33*

””

Saturday 13th September

13:30	Northington	Wedding - John Maxwell Jeffrey and Alice Elizabeth Rose Burke
15:00	Bradley	Wedding - Paul James Fowler and Robyn Amelia Gibbons

Sunday 14th September Trinity 13 (Holy Cross day)

08:00	Dummer	Holy Communion BCP <i>IT</i>
09:45	Ellisfield	Morning Prayer
10:00	Preston Candover	Harvest Festival <i>IT</i>
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion & Baptism <i>IT</i>
18:00	Wield	Evensong <i>IT</i>
Readings	<i>Numbers 21.4–9, Psalm 22.23–28, Philippians 2.6–11, John 3.13–17</i>	

Monday 15th September

19:30	Northington	Licensing of Rev. Jennifer Wright
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Saturday 20th September

14:30	Northington	Wedding - Nima Amin and Catherine Picton-Turberville
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Sunday 21st September Trinity 14

9:00	Wield	Holy Communion BCP <i>JW</i>
9:45	Dummer	Morning Prayer
10:30	Preston Candover	Holy Communion <i>JW</i>
11:15	Cliddesden	Harvest Festival <i>PR</i>
Readings	<i>Proverbs 3.13–18, Psalm 119.65–72 2, 2 Corinthians 4.1–6, Matthew 9.9–13</i>	

Sunday 28th September Trinity 15 IDT Away

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW
9:45	Dummer	Holy Communion CW
11:15	Ellisfield	Harvest Festival <i>JW</i>
16:00	Brown Candover	Harvest Festival
Readings	<i>Jeremiah 32.1–3a, 6–15, Psalm 91.1–6, 14–end, 1 Timothy 6.6–19, Luke 16.19–end</i>	

Preston Candover Village Hall

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The Patrons & Churchwardens of the Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield

Invite you to the Institution of
The Reverend Jennifer Wright
As Rector of the Benefice

by

The Bishop of Winchester
The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen
at

St. John's Church, Northington
Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30pm

Light Refreshments will be served after the service

RSVP Mr. Julian Gibbons
allsaintsbradley@gmail.com
Lower Wield Farm,
Lower Wield,
Alresford, SO24 9RX



Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde at All Saints, Bradley

Saturday 20th September 2025 6.00pm

The performance is presented by

Candlelit Theatre (bartleetheatre.co.uk)

£22 to include refreshments during the interval

Children under 11 free if accompanied by an adult.

Tickets from andrewmwdon@gmail.com

Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington		Mark Ashburton	Mark Ashburton
St Peters Brown Candover		Charles & Liz Dodson	Charles & Liz Dodson
St Marys Preston Candover	7 Sept 10.00am	Matina Avis	Jane Laws
	14 Sept 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	21 Sept 10.30am	Gunnel Berry	Jane Laws Gunnel Berry
	5 Oct 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg
All Saints Bradley	27 Sept 8.30am	Christopher Swan	Christopher Swan
St James' Wield	7 September 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Eileen Collins David Cowley
	14 Sept 9.00pm	Robert Grande	Selina Geddes or Amanda Bromfield Joanna Nelson
	21 Sept 9.00am	Catherine Simons	Lisa or Keith Stanton Ian Thacker
	28 Sept 9.30am	Brian Collins	Catherine Simons Amanda Bromfield
Coffee	7 th Sept 21 st Sept 29 th Sept	Nikki Cowley Lisa Stanton Amanda Bromfield	

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Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders	September	Charles & Liz Dodson
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	September	Jenny Fidgen Jean Frost Jenny Furguson
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole



Harvest Festival at St. Peters, Brown Candover

*Sunday 28th September at 4 pm followed
by tea in the Club.*

Everyone most welcome. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the harvest and our gardens.

Anyone who would like to bring fruit or vegetables to decorate the church is most welcome and the produce will be donated to charity.

Cleaner needed

St John's, Northington is looking for a cleaner for about 2 to 3 hours a month. Mainly consists of sweeping, hoovering and some brass cleaning. The position is paid and can be done at anytime suitable to the person.

Please apply to peter.agneau@outlook.com or telephone 01963 735066

Message from Ian

One of the things I've come to enjoy about working in a country parish is the way seasons are marked.

In the urban world I lived in before going to prison we certainly celebrated Christmas and Easter. Mothering Sunday was touched on and remembrance Sunday was nodded to.

Working in the benefice for the past couple of years has opened my eyes to see just how important seasons are to a community.

I was so impressed to see how the whole community came together to carry out Remembrance Sunday and enjoyed the rogation services in Wield and Northington.

At the heart of our celebrating the changing seasons is harvest. In an urban setting I often found churches struggled with harvest. If you asked the question about where food comes from many people would say Tesco or Sainsburys or if they are a bit posh, Waitrose. In a rural parish we see where food comes from because it is in the fields before our eyes. We see the incredibly hard work our farmers have put in to have a successful harvest and perhaps especially in this difficult year

So, at this time of year having the desire to acknowledge the harvest is something that runs deep. In each of our churches over this month there will be harvest thanksgivings. Even if you don't have much faith you are still welcome to come and say thanks.

However, it is one thing to say thanks it is another thing to being thankful. Food is something that perhaps we take for granted. Living in a relatively wealthy area it can be easy to lose sight that in Basingstoke and Winchester there are real instances where people struggle to effectively feed their families.

You can show thanks by contributing to the food banks. Being thankful by sharing a little of what we have with those in need.



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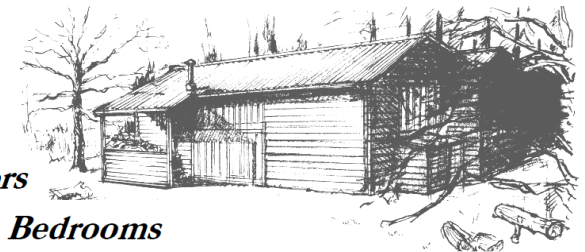


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Monument for William and Margery Wallop

In the chancel of St James, Wield, is a remarkable monument to William Wallop and his third wife, Margery. Born in about 1553, he was educated at Oxford, then set up as a merchant in Southampton. Here he took a leading role as a Burgess, later twice becoming mayor. He was elected to Parliament; MP for Lymington in 1586, then MP for Southampton in 1597. Afterwards he was sheriff of Hampshire. He died aged 64 on 15 November 1617, three years after marrying his third wife, Margery.

William made his will on 17 December 1616, in which he left £50 for his tomb, £100 for funeral expenses out of which £10 to be given to the poor, additionally £100 to the town of Southampton to help poor young men set up in trade.

The monument is of exceptional quality, amongst the best in Hampshire. Carved from alabaster, it features effigies of William, dressed in armour (though it is doubtful he ever saw military service), and Margery in the latest fashion of the time, her hat and hairstyle especially attractive. We do not know who made it, but the setting likely emerged from a Netherlandish workshop in Southwark, London, where many 'tomb makers' operated in this period.

By the mid-twentieth century the monument was in poor shape. Their hands had been destroyed and replaced with ill-fitting substitutes, whilst the paintwork had become shabby. Inger Norholt, a conservator then working in Hampshire, was commissioned by the Wallops in 1972 to restore the monument. She carved new hands, made a number of repairs to the alabaster work, repainted the heraldic display and also the plaque carrying the effusive elegy. Of the 70 or so monuments that Miss Norholt repaired, the Wallop setting is one of her best restorations.

Nicholas Riall, researching the 'Life and Work of Inger Norholt (1899-1985)'



With so many members away or busy during August no monthly meeting was arranged. The Summer Lunch was brought forward to July so that more members of the group would be able to attend. The lunch was held at Easton Village Hall with it's lovely outlook onto the cricket pitch, members and guests were welcomed with a drink and able to circulate and chat before lunch. The tables looked very summery with pretty vases of flowers and there was a table quiz to ponder over in-between courses. The Committee had prepared the delicious first course of cold salmon, Coronation chicken, salad, potato salad and bread and members of the group had provided a wonderful array of desserts. Coffee and mints were served at the end, plus the raffle and quiz answers. A couple of local girls helped with clearing and washing up, they were very efficient and allowed the Committee to relax and enjoy the event.

The Alresford Show Saturday 6th September Our WI has agreed to help in the tea tent at the show this year from **12.30 to 2.30**. The members helping will be Julia Barber, Rosemary Bligh, Lizzie Laird, Felicity Mathews, Gill Graham Maw, Kate Norrie, Vera Smith and Erica Sisk. Several members have offered to make cakes for the tea tent and expenses can be reclaimed.

Sewing Group The next sewing session will be held at Old Alresford Village Hall on Tuesday 19th August and will be held on the third Tuesday of every month thereafter.

Future Talks and Events Some interesting speakers have been arranged for later in the year such as "A Personal History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane" and "Dream Interpretations" plus the ever popular Lasagne Lunch in January 2026!

The next meeting at Swarraton & Northington Village Hall is at 2pm on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** with a talk titled "**Falconry**" - **A Talk About Anita's Hawks With The Possibility Of Some Being In Attendance** By Anita Ebdon who has advised that the hawks and owl are very used to being around humans.

Tea hostesses - Vera Smith and Margaret Sweetland

Flowers - Rosemary Bligh

Guests are also always welcome at any of the speaker meetings for a small charge of £5.

Please will members not able to attend send their apologies to Gill Graham Maw

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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

There's a noticeable pause in the world of summer bird song, a quieter time in late July and August when the breeding season is largely over and many birds are either tucked away moulting or feeding up ready for the autumn migration. Some bird species though persist with their territorial calls, showing remarkable verve and pace. On arable downland with mature hedges, yellowhammers in particular hold forth with seemingly endless chants, variations on the theme of 'a little bit of bread and no cheese ...please'. The unusual name of these birds may derive from an Old English word for a bunting with yellow feathers.

At the end of a glorious day of blue skies and bright sunshine, we were returning home from an evening stroll here at Northington Down, passing hedges bobbled blue-black with a fine crop of sloes. Looking up at the topmost branches of an ash tree just ahead of us, we could see one of these farmland buntings, lit up golden yellow in the glow of the setting sun. He was perching, head upright and calling boldly. Astonishingly he was not alone, but accompanied by eight swallows, each clinging lengthways to the surrounding bare branches.

Whether they were just basking in the sunlight, resting or roosting was unclear. Even a sudden burst of manic laughter from a green woodpecker, shrieking in alarm from the field edge below failed to disturb them.

These swallows nest across the lane in the outbuildings of Hassock Farm and are usually to be seen perched on the overhead phone line, before diving off to glide fast and low over the surrounding fields. The house martins that breed here at Newhouse Farm, also seem to be having a splendid summer. Numbers have grown steadily through the season.

Early one morning there was a flock of fifty or more fluttering and twittering in the crown of a neighbouring silver birch. On sunny days, they crowd onto the sloping roof of a nearby barn or jostle in rows on the power lines before heading off to feed.

Robert Bryant
8th August '25

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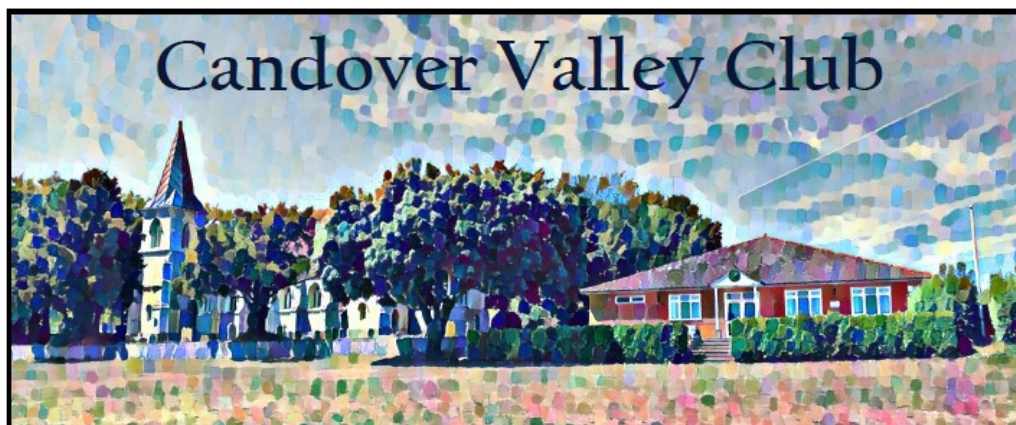


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Please contact cvchires@gmail.com for more information about using these wonderful facilities, or come for a drink on Saturday from 6.30pm.

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Over the past few months, we've shared everything from hearty pasta bakes to fresh traybakes and simple midweek favourites. Here are just a few of the dishes that have already been inspiring local kitchens:

- **Cauliflower Cheese Pasta Bake** – a comfort food classic, made with local Lyburn cheese, pasta, and fresh cauliflower.
- **Salmon, Tomato & Pesto Traybake** – frozen salmon fillets from Chapman's, roasted with Isle of Wight tomatoes and topped with a spoonful of smoky tomato pesto.
- **Bacon & Asparagus Pasta** – Denhay bacon, local asparagus, lemon, garlic, crème fraîche and parmesan for a seasonal twist on an everyday supper.

The idea is simple: good food, using local produce, without the stress of complicated recipes.

We'd love to hear from you.

Do you have a favourite quick supper sourced from the store that you'd like to see featured? Maybe a family recipe that makes the most of any local ingredients? Or perhaps a clever store-cupboard idea that deserves to be shared with the valley?

Email your suggestions to hello@cvc.org.uk and follow us on Instagram or Facebook

@candovervalleystore to see them featured.

We'd love to include your recipes in a future edition of the Supper Club!



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Music in her life and works

Felicity Kendal - narrator

James Gilchrist - tenor

The Primrose Piano Quartet

St John the Evangelist, West Meon

Sunday 14th September 3:30pm

www.westmeonmusic.co.uk

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11th-14th September 2025



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Candover Valley Gardening Club

Contact blighrosemary@hotmail.com for more information or you can find us on Facebook – Candover Valley Gardening Club
As I write this newsletter, we are looking forward to a visit to Longstock to see their collection of Buddleias. It will be interesting to see how the Buddleias have fared in this unusually hot summer.

In September, we will be back in the village hall, and we have a very interesting and varied programme lined up for the winter months.

On Thursday 18th September we will welcome Rosy Hardy. Rosy founded Hardys Cottage Garden Plants nursery in 1988. We visited the nursery last year and many of us were tempted by the wide range of perennials that are grown there. Rosy exhibits at many of the national flower shows.

Rosy's talk will be 'Attracting insects to perennials, pots and containers'.

Our indoor meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from September to April. In the summer months we visit some beautiful gardens. If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members for an annual subscription of only £15 per person.

Contact blighrosemary@hotmail.com for more information or you can find us on Facebook – Candover Valley Gardening Club

We will have appointment availability throughout the week & some Saturdays.
Please ensure that your mobile phone number is up to date (this can be done via updating your contact details on our website or on the NHS APP) as initially we will be inviting patients via text using a booking link.

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10th September

Every year on 10 September, the world comes together to raise awareness of suicide and highlight the actions we can take to try and prevent deaths by suicide.

You can find out more about the day and how you or your business can support and get involved on the Samaritans website.

We are a Safer Surgery!

In the past six months, the number of practices signed up to Safer Surgeries in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has more than doubled, rising to 26 practices.

This growing momentum reflects a shared commitment to making primary care safer and more accessible for everyone, especially patients who may face barriers to care.

Reminder - Afternoon Closure – Thursday 25th September

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.

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

Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

Welcome back to playgroup! 12th, 19th and 26th (Macmillan coffee morning) September
3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th October (closed on 31st for half term)

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: £3 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)





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

Travelling abroad

Immunisations and advice are available through our Travel Service. Please collect a form from Reception or follow the link on our website to complete the form online and then make an appointment in our Travel Clinic. The form should be returned to the surgery prior to your appointment. You will have a telephone appointment initially to discuss all your travel arrangements, then if required a follow up face to face appointment for the vaccinations. You should allow **at least 12 weeks** to enable vaccination courses to be completed. There may be a charge for certain vaccines. For more information, please visit our website; <https://alresfordsurgery.co.uk/clinics-and-resources/>

September Flu Vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for their flu vaccine from 1 September:

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024
- all children in clinical risk groups aged 4 years to 17.

Children in years R-7 will be vaccinated in school by Schools Health.

October Covid & Flu Vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for their covid & flu vaccinations (these need to be co-administered) **From October**, exact start date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course:

- those aged **75 years and over**
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- those aged 18 years and over in **clinical risk groups** (as defined by the Green Book, Covid-19 Chapter 14a)

October Flu Vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for their flu vaccinations **From October**, exact start date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, Influenza chapter 19)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme

Jumble Sale

Sunday 19th of October , 11am till
2pm

We will have Clothes, Childrens
Toys, Bric-a-Brac and much more
We have a tombola!!

Jumble drop of on the Saturday 18th
of October Between 10am-2pm
We hope to see you there!!



Preston Candover Village Hall, Alresford Rd, Preston Candover,
Basingstoke RG25 2EE

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 sought to join the team which runs the Candover Valley Community store and post office.

The working hours (16 – 24hrs) 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 or call Jane Laws on 01256 389491 for further details.



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Wield Cricket Club Fixtures – September

Matches are played on the ground opposite
the Yew Tree Inn, Lower Wield

31 August	Dummer	13.30	Away
7 September	Vagabonds	13.00	Home
14 September	Clanfield	13.00	Home
21 September	Ramsdell	13.00	Home
28 September	Lynchmere	13.00	Home

If you are interested in playing a senior game, please contact:

Ben Robinson (captain) 07903 513196,

Trevor Wood (chairman) 07717 488496

Andrew Yorke (president) 07885 193457

For teas please contact Nicola: ndes@cruckhall.com, 07767 238874

Or visit www.wieldcricketclub.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL FUND

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WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in July 2025

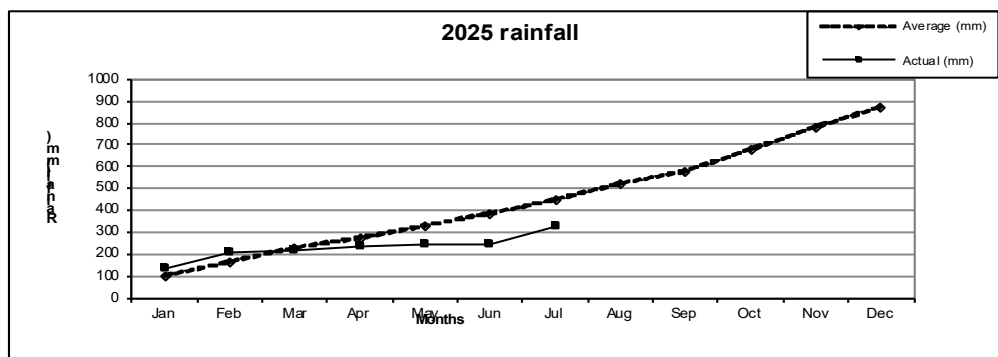
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	31.1/88	(12 th)
Lowest	5.4/42	(3 rd)
Warmest Night	16.5/62	(17 th)
Coolest Day	19.7/67	(29 th)
Average maximum temperature	24.7/76	
Average minimum temperature	12.0/54	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	42.4/1.67	Average 64.0/2.52
Annual Total	327.2/12.8	Average 446.8/17.59
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	9.5/0.37	(19 th)
Number of days with rain	10	

Summary The heat wave at the end of the previous month continued into the first day of July before daytime temperatures dropped to more normal figures as frontal systems brought rain in the second half of the first week. Pressure and daytime temperatures built again in the second week and reached the heat wave threshold over five days from the 9th with the warmest day at 88°F on the 12th. The third week was unsettled, with rain on most days or overnight. For the last week and a half, temperatures were generally at or below the seasonal norm, and there was a moderate shower with thunder on the 31st. The month was warm and dry, with two thirds of the average rainfall. It was the fifth consecutive month with below average rainfall with the total for the year to date 73% of the normal figure.



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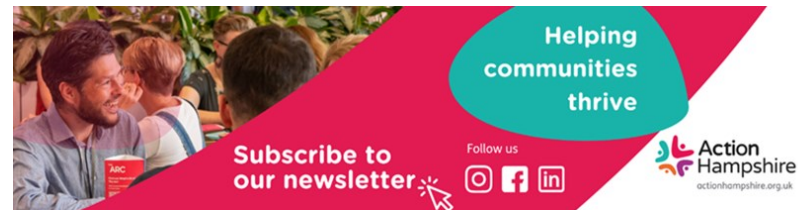
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Is your Parish meeting local housing needs?
Many rural communities are facing a quiet crisis. Local people - those

who grew up in the village, work nearby, or have family ties, are increasingly unable to find homes they can afford. Without action, rural communities risk losing the very people who keep them thriving. Action Hampshire is a local charity who provides Rural Housing Enabling (RHE) services to support communities and parish councils to deliver the homes needed in their community. RHEs act as an independent advisor providing impartial assistance in developing affordable and community led housing for people with a local connection and will work with and on behalf of rural communities to address the shortage of affordable homes within the parish - homes specifically for local people who are priced out of the general housing market. These homes can be for rent or sale, and eligibility for occupancy is based on a strong local connection, such as living in the parish currently, having previously lived there with family still in the area or working locally in essential roles (e.g. teachers, shopkeepers, farm workers).

Why it matters Hampshire has a serious housing affordability gap. Property prices are high, while wages are below average, in 2023, the median house price was **10 times** the average wage. This forces many households to leave their communities, which can lead to:

- Closure of local services like pubs, shops, and schools
- Loss of community diversity and sustainability
- Limited turnover in existing affordable housing stock

Unlike general housing developments, rural affordable housing built on rural exception sites is reserved for people with a local connection - helping villages retain their identity and support their services. Rural Exception Sites are small plots of land just outside or adjacent to village boundaries that are permitted as exceptions to standard planning rules because they meet a proven local need. These sites can accommodate small-scale housing developments (typically 4–10 homes) which are retained in perpetuity for occupancy by local people.

What can you do? Even if you're not directly affected, you can help raise awareness and encourage local action:

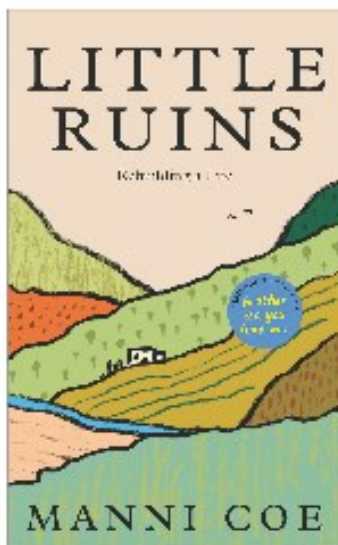
1. **Speak to your Parish Council** Ask them to contact Action Hampshire to **request a free Parish Housing Profile**. This provides an overview of the current housing situation in your area.
2. **Support a Housing Need Survey** This survey identifies the type and amount of housing needed locally. It provides evidence to help communities make informed decisions and may encourage landowners to offer land for development. These are usually commissioned by your Parish Council and can be carried out by Action Hampshire.
3. **Know a local Landowner?** If you know someone with land near the village, they might be interested in offering it as a Rural Exception Site. Landowners receive a fixed payment per property built but they will also be supporting their local community. Ask them to get in touch with Action Hampshire

Affordable housing is about more than bricks and mortar - it's about keeping building sustainable communities that will thrive for generations to come. Contact Action Hampshire housing@actionhampshire.org or find out more by visiting actionhampshire.org.uk



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**LITTLE RUINS: REBUILDING A LIFE | MANNI COE | THURSDAY
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15
AUGUST 2025 **PICNIC IN THE PARK VJ80 DAY**
2PM - 7PM | On the field! RG25 2EE

15
AUGUST 2025 **QUIZ NIGHT**
7PM-LATE | The village hall RG252EE

19
OCT 2025 **JUMBLE SALE**
11AM-2PM | The village hall RG252EE

08
NOV 2025 **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT**
5.30-8PM | On the field RG252EE

www.pcvh.org.uk
Follow us for more details nearer the time!



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Find out more via our webpage: www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk



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On the Farm— Julian Gibbons

We finished harvest on the 17th August with the spring oats. On the plus side it was generally dry and crops required minimal drying. We have sold most of the straw for baling at good prices. The Maris Otter winter barley and the peas achieved the budgeted yields if not slightly better. The wheat had good protein levels, so will earn a premium being used to produce bread flour of various grades.

On the downside, everyone has had good wheat protein levels, so financial premiums are disappearing fast. Protein levels are up because yields are down. This is bad for the spring malting barley, because we need low protein levels and quite a lot of it on the heavier clay soils is just a bit too high. Straw yields are way down as well, so straw sales will be down.

There has also been huge pressure on grain prices downwards due to the prospect of a good USA corn harvest. Financial premiums for malting barley have fallen as demand has fallen for beer. This is true on the continent as well so there will be limited export demand.

Another downside, our combine caught fire. Andy managed to put it out, but not before it caused a lot of wiring looms to melt. Robyn had called 999 and the fire brigade were able to damp it down and ensure there were no hidden hotspots which could reignite. So, we finished harvest with a hire combine.

You can't keep anything quiet in the farming world; everyone will find out eventually. We send nearly 2000t of grain to Trinity Grain at Micheldever Station. Suddenly drivers were saying "not having a good week, heard about your combine." This was whilst I was loading a lorry using Ben Robinson's JCB, because ours had an oil leak and was parked up waiting for a part for a day and a half.

However, we always have next year and the prospect of a better harvest.

The dry weather is causing concerns about drilling next years rapeseed crops and other early sown crops. Apart from oilseed rape we have pollen and nectar strips to get planted. We planted loads of strips last autumn, but they failed in the wet conditions, so we must get them established this autumn for our Sustainable Farming Initiative scheme that started last October.

After about 25mm of rain at the end of July we planted a small block of summer cover mix containing Phacelia, so hopefully Robyn's wedding guests can look over a purple blaze of colour instead of a bare cultivated stubble field. We just need it to come to flower quickly, so some late August overnight rain would be useful, the rain just needs to know when to stop.

Do come to the Alresford Show on the 6th September and please visit our Candover Valley Farmers cluster group stand in the education marquee to see what we have all been up to.