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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

The Editorial team takes no responsibility for any information given or views expressed in the Oxdrove and will not be held liable for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from the use of information and advertisements in this publication.

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: JW = Jennifer Wright: IDT = Ian Thacker: PR = Peter Raine: JG = Julian Gibbons LH = Lyn Hardy: AL = Anne Luneburg: DS = Debbie Scholey;

Sunday 5th October Trinity 16

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP - JW
09:30	Wield	Harvest Festival - JW
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer - PR
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer - JG
11:00	Northington	Harvest festival - JW
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special - LH

Readings: Lamentations 1.1–6 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1.1–14 Luke 17.5–10
”””

Sunday 12th October Trinity 17

08:00	Dummer	Holy Communion - JW
09:45	Ellisfield	Morning Prayer - BC
10:00	Preston Candover	Holy Communion - JW
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion - JW
18:00	Wield	Evensong - IDT

Readings: Jeremiah 29.1, 4–7 Psalm 66.1–11 2 Timothy 2.8–15 Luke 17.11–19
”””

Sunday 26th October last Sunday after Trinity

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW. - JW
9:45	Dummer	Holy Communion CW - JW
11:00	Brown Candover	Morning prayer - JG
11:15	Ellisfield	Holy Communion - JW

Readings: Joel 2.23–end Psalm 65 [or 65.1–7] 2 Timothy 4.6–8, 16–18
Luke 18.9–14

””

Sunday 3rd November All Saints Day

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP - JW
09:30	Wield	Matins - JW
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer - IDT
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer - JG
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion - JW
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special LH

Readings: Daniel 7.1–3, 15–18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1.11–end Luke 6.20–31

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St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders		
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers		
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A message from our new Rector—Jennifer Wright



On Monday the 15th September, the day of my installation service had finally arrived, and what a service it turned out to be!

My many thanks go to all who attended the service at St John's Northington to support my new ministry in becoming the new Rector of your parishes and thanks to all who were unable to attend but sent such kind, supportive messages.

It was a wonderful service filled with much love and joy. I was humbled by the presence of so many people from my previous parishes, who eventually arrived back home at 2am, and delighted to be supported by my friends, the furthest travelling over 500 miles.

I have had many messages asking that I relay their thanks to you all for such a warm welcome.

My daughters Emily, Lucinda, Alice, Jessica and I, would also like to give our sincere thanks for such a wonderful welcome, we are very much looking forward to settling into the parishes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the churches that were involved in getting us to this point. I know that many hours will have been spent throughout the interregnum process and many meetings held. I hope I serve you well in return.

It may take some time, but I look forward to meeting you all. Whether you come to church or not, please do feel free to get in touch.
Jennifer

Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	5 Oct 11.00am	Charles Cochrane	Charles Cochrane
St Peters Brown Candover	26 Oct 11.00am	Fergus & Claire Gilmore	Fergus & Claire Gilmore
St Marys Preston Candover	5 Oct 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Gunnel Berry
	12 Oct 10.00am	Marina Avis	To be advised
	18 Oct 10.00am	Jane Laws	Anne Luneburg Jane Laws
	2 Nov 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg

All Saints
Bradley

St James'
Wield

Coffee

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.

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Harvest Festival at St James, Wield Sunday 5 October, 9.30am

All welcome to our Harvest festival.

St James supports the Food Bank,
Basingstoke.

Please leave your donations in the church for collection and
delivery to the food bank.



Harvest Festival at St John's, Northington

**On Sunday 5 Oct at 1100hrs St John,
Northington** is holding its Harvest Festival
Service.

All contributions are welcome (fresh or tinned food, toiletries or
household goods).

The church supports Emmaus. If you cannot attend but want to
contribute, please leave your offering on the steps of Ruffside.

Church Clean Up—St Marys, Preston Candover

The warm summer has allowed our resident spiders to proliferate with abandon,
and St Mary's now boasts a fine array of cobwebs. We would like to gently
remove what we can, along with dust and other debris and are planning a general
church clean up to have the church sparkling in time for Remembrance Sunday.

If you could spare half an hour or so, please come and help us. If you bring your
energy and dusters etc., we will provide coffee and biscuits.

St Mary the Virgin, Preston Candover, **Saturday 25th October, 10.00am-ish**
until we have finished. If you are busy that day, please do feel you can help
whenever it is convenient for you. I will leave a list of what needs to be done by
the pulpit.

We hope to see lots of you there! Thank you in advance, Anne.

PS Warning - we plan to tackle the churchyard once the majority of the leaves
have fallen!

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Julian Jones, Choir Chairman, on:

juliang.jones@btinternet.com

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director

bryantjane50@gmail.com

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St James, Wield. The Wallop tomb, continued.

In the September Oxdrove Nicolas Riall gave us an expert description of the remarkable Tudor tomb of Willian Wallop which is an unusual feature in such a small village church.

He mentions, in passing, the “effusive elegy” in the epitaph above the tomb.

What is particularly interesting about the epitaph is that it refers almost exclusively to the life of William’s uncle, Sir John Wallop who was a member of the Privy Chamber of King Henry VIII and a Knight of the Garter. The epitaph tells us that Sir John was the Admiral of a navy and Captain of 1000 adventurers against the French. He served against the Moors for the King of Portingal (sic). He was General at the siege of Landarcy. He was sent as ambassador to France, to the King of Naples, to Emperor Charles Vth and to the King of the Romans, He was the Captain of the castle of Calais and Marshall to the county of Guines.

The epitaph ends rather lamely with the information that “this William” (who is, after all, the actual occupant of the tomb) was a Justice of the Peace and thrice mayor of Southampton.

Incidentally, Sir John was buried in Guines, a small town outside Calais.
Brian Collins, Churchwarden (Rtd)

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Swarraton and Northington WI

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - September 2025

After a short membership meeting covering events and finances for the group the speaker for the afternoon Anita Ebdon was introduced.

Anita runs Hampshire Hawk Walks which offers unique interactive experiences with hawks, she arrived at the hall accompanied by five of her birds, three hawks and two owls. She gave an interesting talk about each bird covering how she acquired them and their care and feeding, explaining that she had to weigh the birds every day to determine the amount of food they would be given as this was crucial to keeping them slightly hungry so they would return to her when flying around.

Anita's talk was accompanied by Barney the adult owl "talking!" and at the end she introduced a baby owl that she was rearing. She assured us that all the birds were bought from licensed breeders that rear birds imprinted on human handlers.

She was warmly thanked by Cara Marshall and everyone agreed that it was an interesting and enjoyable talk.

The Alresford Show Saturday 6th September Our WI helped in the tea tent at the show this year from **12.30 to 2.30**. The members helping were Julia Barber, Rosemary Bligh, Lizzie Laird, Felicity Mathews, Gill Graham Maw, Kate Norrie, and Vera Smith. There were lots of customers who enjoyed the drinks and cakes, and we were praised for being the best refreshments at the show!

Sewing Group A reminder that the sewing sessions will be held at 2pm at Old Alresford Village Hall on the third Tuesday of every month.

Future talks and Events Some interesting speakers have been arranged for later in the year such as Dream Interpretations, A Festive Christmas Tea plus the ever-popular Lasagne Lunch in January 2026!

The next meeting at Swarraton & Northington Village Hall is at **2pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025** with a talk titled "**A Personal History of the Theatre Royal - Drury Lane**" by Pete Allen.

Tea hostesses - Nancy Brooke and Charlotte Porter

Flowers - Lizzie Laird

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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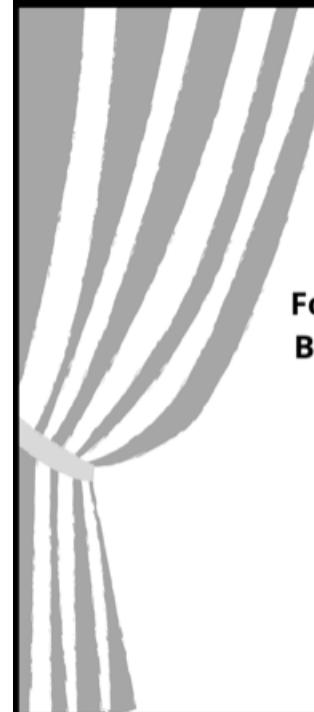
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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

We've been helping to survey dormouse footprint tunnels, set up along a hedgerow here at Newhouse Farm, Northington Down, by the local Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). Hazel dormice were once quite common, but loss of habitat has placed them on the vulnerable list.

They're quite endearing creatures being golden brown with large black eyes and a long bushy tail. Being mainly nocturnal tree dwellers, they are rarely seen in daylight. During early autumn, they forage for fruits, berries and nuts as they fatten up for their long hibernation. Hazelnuts are a great favourite which they open by chewing a neat round hole with smooth edges, unlike the raggedy-edged tooth-marks of nuts chewed by wood mice.

Unlike squirrels, dormice rarely cross open ground, so their presence is an indicator of a well-wooded landscape within a network of mature hedgerows.

The footprint tunnels, twenty of them, made of black plastic, were each fixed, chest high, at 15m intervals along the length of this leafy field boundary. Being open ended, with a wooden insert, a lining of white paper and fresh ink pads at each entrance, any foraging small mammal would leave a trail of inky footprints within.

Hazel dormice have characteristic triangular footpads which distinguishes them from the tracks of wood mice for example. The survey takes place at fortnightly intervals over a 10-week period covering August and September. During each visit the ink pads and paper are refreshed.

The field boundary here consists of a row of mature oaks, ash trees, and a sweet chestnut. Many of the trunks are swathed with ivy, rising above a dense understorey. On the sunny side there's a fine display of autumnal fruits and nuts.

There are blackberries and elderberries, large quantities of sloes, and tiny wild green apples. The hawthorns and hollies are heavy with berries; rose hips gleam and a red necklace of bryony beads winds through the hedge. Masses of acorns crunch underfoot.

At the time of writing the survey is still underway. Are there dormice here? We hope so.

Robert Bryant
10 Sept '25

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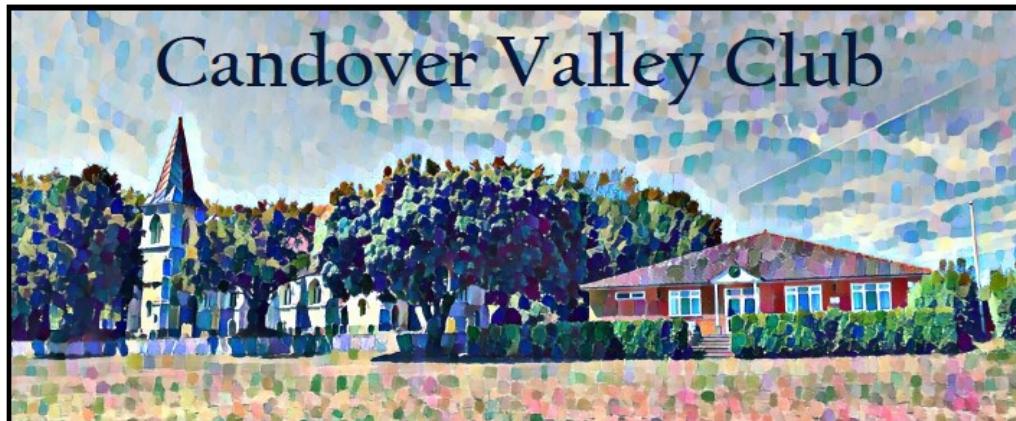
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The Candover Valley Club is located in the beautiful village of Brown Candover next to St. Peter's Church, and is fronted by the village cricket field. The Club has a fully licenced bar with kitchen, skittle alley, dart boards, pool table, TV, wifi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

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

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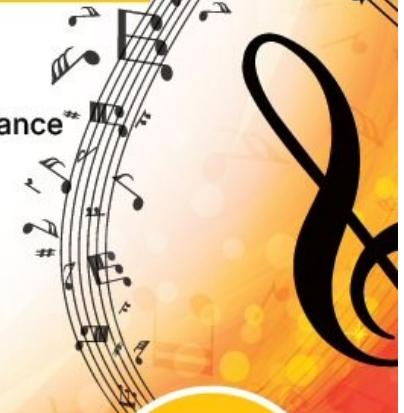
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It is not surprising that Chilton Candover and its surrounding area has always been a popular place to live. There is certainly evidence of occupation around the village from the Neolithic ((around 4,100 to 2,500 BC) onwards. This was the time when farming started to be practiced alongside traditional hunting and gathering and, the valley, with its natural spring and the clear Candover stream, together with its geology of Upper Chalk with some clay and flint deposits, offered early inhabitants' fertile soil for crops, water for everyday needs, and plenty of building materials. Neolithic people left their mark. There are remains of long barrows, their burial monuments, one to the west of Spiers Lane and one in Preston Candover, close to the chapel remains. These were built from the early 4th millennium BC and it is thought (and backed by recent DNA research)

Neolithic scraper found locally



SUR-4FAA28

Occupation continues into the Bronze Age, made clear to us by the presence of burial monuments (barrows), within the valley, two of which you can

see if you walk towards Wield along the Ox Drove. There are others recorded in both Preston and Brown Candover. These were used for a small number of individuals unlike the Neolithic long mounds. Bronze Age barrows are classified as bowls, bells, saucers or ponds, but the Candover ones are bowl barrows, a mound with a surrounding ditch (now invisible). They are often in a group, a cemetery if you like.

The Bronze Age was marked by the onset of metal work. Bronze, an alloy of tin and copper, was used to cast axes and swords. This heralded the beginning of more complex societies with marked hierarchical structures.

A Well-Preserved Bronze Age Barrow



Occupation continued into the Iron Age, dating from 900 BC until the Roman Invasion of AD 43. Iron ore was more accessible than tin and copper, and, importantly, iron was stronger. It became the metal of choice and with that society became even more complex, competition increasing over land and resources. Society also became heavily tribal with the local tribes for Chilton Candover being the Atrebates (based at Silchester) and the Belgae (based at Winchester).

There are a few local landscape features recorded from the Iron Age. A banjo enclosure, named for the shape, use unclear but possibly for livestock coralling, a Little Woodbury enclosure (a small round house), and also some field systems on the downs. An Iron Age ring ditch has also been discovered during the excavations at Stanchester, predating the Roman occupation there.



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Other material evidence includes a small 'quarter stater' coin which has connections with Gaul, likely through trading links in this complex society, and a brooch fragment from the later Iron Age.

Iron Age Quarter Stater



SUR-675F42

Late Iron Age Brooch



SUR-DB1828

As with all of these societies one blends into another and so our Iron Age ancestors became Romans. The story continues.....

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Independent Voice for Oakley & The Candovers

Hello, my name is Alex Rowley. I have lived in Oakley since 2020, and over that time I've become increasingly involved in our community. Next May I will be running as an independent candidate to represent Oakley & The Candovers on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Through involvement with Oakley Community Association, Neighbourhood Watch, and serving on Oakley and Deane Parish Council, I have seen first-hand the strengths of our communities. I have also seen how hard it can be for communities when responsibilities are spread across county, borough, and parish councils, and how much persistence it takes to make things happen.

I believe local government should be about listening first, acting locally, and working with residents to solve problems. Running as an independent means I will not be tied to party politics – I'll be free to focus on what really matters here.

Over the coming months I'll be talking with as many of you as possible about your priorities. This is about people-powered politics: not decisions made about us, but decisions made with us.

I will be hosting a campaign launch soon to bring neighbours together and talk about our priorities. In the meantime, if you'd like to get in touch, I'd love to hear from you.

□ 01256 592443 | □ alex@alexrowley.uk

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
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Candover Valley Store *community made*

Community support makes a real difference

Over the past year, residents of the Candover Valley have once again shown the generosity and spirit that make this area so special. Thanks to your kindness and involvement, together we have been able to support two vital causes: the Basingstoke Food Bank and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.



Basingstoke
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

By buying the items most urgently required, we have been able to ensure that help reaches those who need it most. In total, these contributions have provided the equivalent of 1,200 meals for local families over the past 12 months.



**HAMPSHIRE AND
ISLE OF WIGHT
AIR AMBULANCE**

Raising funds for the air ambulance Preston Candover has also played its part in the regional "Heli-Ali Tin Bin" scheme, which collects aluminium cans for recycling. Together, the network has gathered 11 tonnes of aluminium so far this year, raising an impressive £10,000 for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. In July alone, 2.3 tonnes of cans raised £1,722.09. These funds help to keep this life-saving service in the air.

Whether you have contributed financially to the Food Bank, dropped a can into the Tin Bin, or simply shopped at the store, you have played a part in these successes. Every small action adds up, and these results are a clear reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved. With continued support, we can build on these achievements and keep making a difference together.



Candover Valley Gardening Club

In August, we had a very interesting trip to Longstock to view their collection of Buddleias. After a difficult year, some of the plants were suffering from lack of water but Peter Moore was still able to show us over ninety different varieties.

Having had some wonderful garden visits during the summer months, we are now back in Preston Candover Village Hall for our monthly meetings.

On 16th October Claire Mitchell will be talking about 'Gardening for Climate Change'. Claire – The Gardening Editor – has 20 years' experience and in her words 'I have a strong eye for design, a passion for living sustainably and a belief that gardening is for everyone, regardless of skills, ability and background. I love making things simple, easy and effective for modern living.'

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

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NHS Cervical Screening Programme – Digital results launching September 2025

The NHS plans to start sending results from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, utilising the NHS App.

In September, those who have negative test results will be notified of this by an NHS App message. It will also appear as an NHS App notification. If the NHS App message isn't read within 72 hours, a letter will be sent as a failsafe.

Abnormal result letters will continue, for the time being, to be delivered by post.

This change follows the successful rollout of digital invitations and reminders in June 2025, where since the launch, 9 out of every 10 invitations are being sent digitally, with the remainder being sent by post.

Important actions for patients:

We would be grateful for patients continued support in downloading the NHS App & having notifications turned on: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/

Important Notice to All Patients - Medication Delivery Service Ending

Final delivery date: 31st October 2025

Preston Candover Post Office: Final delivery date 24th October. Please note all medications to be collected by 2pm on 31st October.

Any remaining medications will then be collected and returned to the surgery.

We would like to inform our patients that The Alresford Surgery is unable to continue to provide a medication delivery service beyond Friday, 31st October 2025.

We have proudly provided this service for many years, and the decision to discontinue it has been made with great care and consideration. A number of factors, including financial challenges, have led us to this difficult conclusion. Regrettably, it is no longer sustainable for the practice to continue offering this service.

Alternative Options Available

Collect from the surgery dispensary

You are welcome to collect your medication in person from our dispensary.

Nominate someone to collect on your behalf

A trusted friend, family member or carer can collect prescriptions on your behalf.

Use a local pharmacy

Many local pharmacies offer their own delivery services. Please contact your preferred pharmacy to check availability.

Use an online pharmacy

There are a range of NHS-approved online pharmacy services that offer convenient home delivery.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause and appreciate your understanding as we continue to focus on delivering safe and sustainable care for all our patients.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Reminder - Afternoon Closure – Tuesday 14th October

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 on this afternoon.

If you require urgent medical attention, please call 111.



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

Flu & COVID Boosters Autumn/ Winter 2025

We are underway with inviting and vaccinating our patients.

Invitations have gone out to eligible patients initially via SMS text message with a simple online booking option and/or an invitation letter.

In order to avoid clogging our phone lines please call after 11am.

Vaccination clinics are being held here at Alresford Surgery.

Please note the **eligibility for the vaccines** are slightly different to last year;

September Flu Vaccinations

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

From 1st October;

- 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 ONLY Vaccinations

From 1st October;

- 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

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.

Thank you, once again, for your support with this vaccination programme.

Dress to impress – ahead of your flu/covid vaccination

Please ensure you wear loose fitting or short sleeves, as the flu & covid vaccination is usually injected into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm.

Please remove as many layers of clothing as possible, ahead of coming into your appointment so that we can carry out your vaccination in the most efficient way possible.

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 off 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

Action Hampshire

Help Shape Local Health & Care and be in with a chance to win a £25 Gift Card!

Action Hampshire is working with Healthwatch Hampshire to gather feedback from people across the county about their experiences with health and social care services. We especially want to hear from underrepresented groups such as rural communities like yours.

Maybe you've had a great visit with your local GP, or perhaps you've struggled to get a dentist appointment. You might have had support from a social worker, or needed help from a paramedic. Whatever your experience, we'd love to hear about it. Your feedback helps make sure services are working well and meeting the needs of local communities.

As a thank you, you'll have the opportunity to enter our free Autumn Prize Draw to win one of three £25 One4All gift cards – perfect for a little treat.

Deadline: Sunday 26th October at midnight

Share your feedback here: bit.ly/AutumnPrizeDrawHWH

Let's make sure rural voices are heard – your story could help shape better care for everyone.

Supporting Hampshire's Heart: Help for Community Groups, Charities & Village Halls

Did you know there's a local charity dedicated to helping small community groups, village halls, and charities thrive across Hampshire?

Action Hampshire has been empowering local communities for over 70 years. Whether you're running a village hall, starting a community project, or managing a small charity, they offer practical support to help you succeed.

From governance and training to grants and advice, Action Hampshire provides tailored guidance to help your group grow. They run workshops and events to build skills and connect with others doing similar work. They offer specialist help for community buildings, including funding, networking opportunities, and best practice guides.

Action Hampshire works on behalf of all local charities to represent the sector's needs to local authorities and funders. Their regular e-newsletter contains useful updates and links to new funding opportunities as well as details about new project funds they are delivering. Their projects focus on tackling health inequalities, organisational development, poverty and cost of living, community led research, and rural affordable housing.

They are currently inviting applications for several community-focused projects, including funding opportunities for initiatives such as 'Healthwatch Hampshire Engagement', 'Safe and Warm Communities', and 'Let's Be Smoke Free'. Visit www.actionhampshire.org.uk or call 01962 854971 to learn more and see how they can support your group.



FREE AUTUMN PRIZE DRAW

WIN A £25 'One4All' GIFT CARD

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Good. Bad. Anything in between.

Share your experience of GP Surgeries, Pharmacies, Dentists, A&E and all other health and social care to help improve local services.

Open to all Hampshire residents,
excluding Southampton and Portsmouth.



Share your story confidentially and enter the prize by scanning the QR code or visiting:

bit.ly/AutumnPrizeDrawHWH

Prize draw closes 26 October 2025 Ts&Cs apply

WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in August 2025

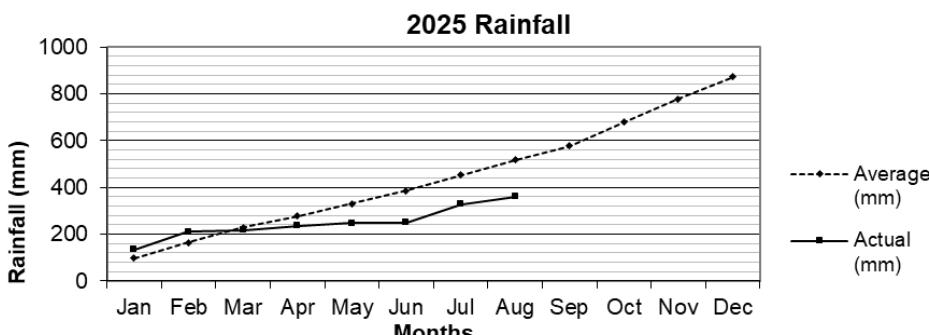
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	32.8/91	(12 th)
Lowest	3.4/38	(22 rd)
Warmest Night	15.7/60	(12 th)
Coolest Day	18.4/65	(20 th)
Average maximum temperature	23.3/74	
Average minimum temperature	10.5/51	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	32.2/1.27	Average 64.6/2.54
Annual Total	359.4/14.14	Average 511.4/20.13
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	18.5/0.23	(28 th)
Number of days with rain	7	

Summary There was a somewhat unsettled start to August before a prolonged dry period, with no measurable rain for three weeks. This included some fine, sunny weather in the second week as daytime temperatures increased and the warmest day of the summer at 91°F was recorded on the 12th. It was warm on the bank holiday with unbroken sunshine before low pressure heralded the transition to autumn with rain on the last six days including rumbles of thunder on the 29th and lower than average temperatures. Overall, the month was slightly warmer than normal. Rainfall was 50% of the long-term average and this was the sixth consecutive month with below average rainfall and the second driest year to date after 2022. The summer temperatures were above average, and rainfall was just under two thirds of the seasonal norm.



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We hope to see you there!!

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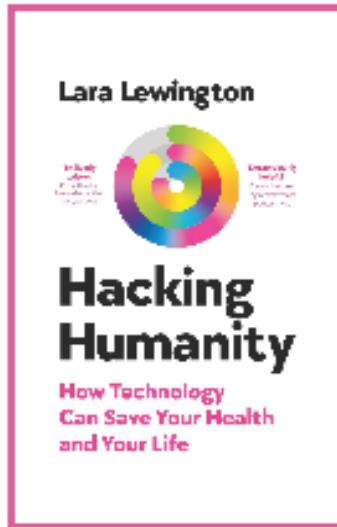
If you would like a stall please visit our website www.pcvh.org.uk

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



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LARA LEWINGTON - HACKING HUMANITY | WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER | 7:30 - 9PM

Technology broadcaster and journalist, Lara Lewington joins Alison Martin to talk about her latest book, "Hacking Humanity" - a deep dive into the ways new technology and AI could improve our lives now and kickstart a new age of personalised, predictive and preventative medicine.

This promises to be a fascinating insight into ways that we can use the technology available now to not just increase our lifespan but boost the amount of time we spend living in good health.

Find tickets to this event + others on our website!

Ellisfield Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 29th November 2025
at the Memorial Hall
from 2pm to 4 pm

Come along to shop at a variety of stalls and see friends over a cuppa and mince pie



Hamper Raffle –
buy a ticket to try and win the
luxury Hamper

As in previous years, any money raised is shared between the Church and the Memorial Hall

Santa by Harry Krauklis-Gould

Jackie's County Corner

Unitaries-what happens next?

Hampshire's final proposals for the new Unitary Authority boundaries were discussed at the September County Council meeting, and these have now been submitted to the Government for consideration, alongside those from every district, Portsmouth and Southampton, and the Isle of Wight. The next step is that the Government considers those options put forward by every authority in Hampshire, decides which are the best options, and sends those options back out to you, Hampshire's residents and organisations, for *another* consultation.

Many people ask what happens next? There will be elections for Mayor of the combined authorities of Hampshire, and for county councillors and city councillors in May 2026, but Councillors for Unitary authorities will not be elected until 2027.

Bus route changes

When the county council received Bus Service Improvement Funding from central Government, the Executive councillors at Hampshire County Council chose to fund improvements to the bus services to achieve increased uptake on the major bus routes.

But as a result, we have seen a number of bus routes disappear completely. Thankfully most buses in this division have remained, some even improved, but I am continuing to canvass views (with a new route or extra stops?) for the 67 and what buses could work for the Micheldever area: if you have any views, please let me know.

It begins to feel that Hampshire is starting to draw to a close as an authority. Costs of statutory services such as SEND education and transport and older persons' care are high, and there is evidence that the county is gradually dropping all but essential services.

- I am sorry to say that new requests to support No Cold Calling Zones have been refused: this HCC service has now closed. There is a 'Buy with confidence' scheme. If a company ignores a request not to call, you can report it to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. Call **0808 223 1133**
- Similarly, traffic regulation orders for yellow lines etc are regularly taking well over 12 months to process. I know that this is frustrating for residents and businesses alike.
- I was appalled to hear from a resident that 'no parking white lines' on the road outside their drive could only be considered if a non-refundable fee request for over £100 was submitted. Has this affected you too?
- Unfortunately, the popular HCC Members Grants Scheme for charities was stopped for this 25/26 year, and seems unlikely to be reinstated. Some have already asked me about this, but I'm dreadfully sorry; I will not be able to help small charities at this time.
- All road works seem to be on a long wait time- whether to fix a pothole or install a new crossing.
- There is no longer a Zero Carbon team.

This is such a sad state of affairs; thank goodness for local highlights such as the Alresford show! I hope that many of you enjoyed the day too.

County Councillor Jackie Porter, tel: 07973 696 085, email Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

On the Farm— Ben Robinson

I write after a largely successful Alresford Show. The weather was kind, and the crowds came in their thousands. A freak accident which led to a horse be euthanised in the Main Ring meant the day was tinged with sadness, however the professionalism of the on-call vets and HH staff in dealing with the incident was much appreciated. The new livestock layout was very well received by all exhibitors and will hopefully be a springboard for future growth in this area of the show. The machinery both old and new was once again spectacular. The Alresford Show, unlike many others, is still known as a place where farmers do business which means machinery dealers are happy to invest in their excellent stands.

As Livestock Chairman may I extend my thanks to all those who help make the show what it is, all the volunteers, the trade businesses, the exhibitors and of course those who come for a day out. It is a wonderful day which really demonstrates the very best of our part of England.

On the farm we have recently spread digestate slurry from a local anaerobic digestion plant on the stubble turnip ground and grassland. This will aid the growth of these crops going into winter and is a significantly cheaper and more environmentally friendly option than buying manufactured fertiliser. Now the rain has begun to fall we will hopefully build up a bit of forage before winter, having had such a deficit during the exceptionally dry summer.

This week we have tried sending some fit lambs' 'deadweight' ie. Straight to the abattoir rather than through the livestock market. I normally sell 'live' however it is good not to put all your eggs in one basket. If you want a heated debate among a room of sheep farmers, ask them if it is better to sell 'live' or 'dead'. Some maintain deadweight is more efficient and you get a better price going direct, others that you must 'sell live to thrive' and we should all sell live to encourage competition for the good of the industry. In reality there is a bit of truth in both stances, it slightly depends on the type of lambs you have to sell, the area of the country you are in, and whether you are selling into a rising or falling trade. I sell down both routes. If the sheep market was controlled by an oligopoly of big slaughterhouses rather than driven by competition in markets both farmers and the consumer would be worse off. This scenario can be seen in the USA, Ireland, and many other countries without strong livestock markets. However, I confess the extra £5/head you sometimes make deadweight is occasionally enough to tempt a direct sale.

We have kept more of our ewe lambs this year, meaning around 1250 females will be going to the rams in three weeks' time. With expansion comes challenges and we will have to lamb more outside this year. If winter 2025-26 can happen in the winter months and not in spring that would be much appreciated.