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**Copy deadline 14th of each month unless previously agreed with the  
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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).*

#### Disclaimer

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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:  
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## 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: PR = Peter Raine: JG = Julian Gibbons  
LH = Lyn Hardy: AL = Anne Luneburg: DS = Debbie Scholey;*

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### All Saints Day White or Gold

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP
09:30	Wield	Matins BCP
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer CW
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer CW
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion BCP
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Daniel 7:1-3,15-18, Ephesians 1:11-end, Luke 6:20-31 Psalm 149</i>	

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent Red or Green

10.55	Dummer	Remembrance Service
10.45	Brown Candover	Remembrance Service
10.30	Cliddesden	Family Remembrance Service
Readings		<i>Job 19:23-27, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-end, Luke 20:27-38 Psalm 17</i>

## Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

11:00 Preston Candover Laying of Wreaths

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent Red or Green

9.00	Wield	Holy Communion BCP
9:45	Dummer	Morning Prayer BCP
10:00	Preston Candover	Family service CW
11.15	Cliddesden	Family service CW
Readings		<i>Malachi 4:1-2, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19 Psalm 98</i>

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November      Sunday before Advent Red or White

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW
9:45	Dummer	Holy Communion BCP
11:00	Brown Candover	Morning prayer CW
11:15	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP
Readings		<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43 Psalm 46</i>

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Purple

11:00	Farleigh Wallop	Holy Communion
Readings		<i>Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 3:11-end, Matthew 24:36-44 Psalm 122</i>

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## A message from Jennifer



My services throughout October have talked about times of change that we have encountered either in our Scripture readings or within our own lives and that of our benefice.

In the Church of England there has also been change. The Rt Revd. and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is our new Archbishop of Canterbury elect, and Bishop Kelly is the new Bishop of Basingstoke. I pray that they both have a faithful ministry filled with joy.

As we notice the change in seasons with the lovely autumnal colours, I write about November and it being a month of "Remembering".

1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints, when we think about all the men and women who have left us an example of holy living. They too, just like me and you were ordinary people called by God who, by His grace did extra-ordinary things. 1<sup>st</sup> November is a time to be encouraged by their example.

2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls, allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly, those who gave us life, those who have nurtured us on our journey.

11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day when we remember and honour all those who gave their lives in wars past and present, naming before God those from each of our families and communities.

30<sup>th</sup> November - Advent is a season in the Christian calendar that marks a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus's arrival on Christmas day. During Advent, we will reflect on themes of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Whether you currently find yourself in a time of change, remembrance or anticipation, I pray you may be filled with hope, joy, peace and love.

With love and prayers, Jennifer.

## Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	2 Nov 11.00am		
St Peters Brown Candover	9 Nov 10.45am	Rhys Smith	RBL
	23 Nov 11.00am	Rhys Smith	Rhys Smith
St Marys Preston Candover	3 Nov 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Ane Luneburg
	16 Nov 10.00am	Marina Avis	To be advised
Advent Carol Service	30 Nov 4.00pm	Gunnel Berry Anne Luneburg	Various
	7 Dec 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Celia Foote
All Saints Bradley	23 Nov 8.30am	Christopher Swan	Christopher Swan
St James' Wield	2 Nov 9.30am		
	16 Nov 9.00am		
Coffee			

### Annual tidy at St Johns

On Saturday 8 November at 0930 to 1230hrs, St Johns in Northington is undertaking its annual church tidy. Graveyard and internal. If you can only afford 30mins that is sufficient to lend a hand.

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## Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders	November	Rhys Smith
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	November	Nikki Cowley
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole

### Advent Sunday at St Mary's

If, like me, you despair of seeing all the shops decked for Christmas in October and hearing canned Christmas songs ad infinitum, please join us at St Mary's for our traditional Advent Carol Service.

We will sing the beautiful Advent music and listen to inspiring readings, all designed to start our journey towards the wonder of Christmas. There will be seasonal refreshments.

**Date, Advent Sunday, 30th November. Time 4.00pm**

Everyone will be most welcome.



### **Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peters. Brown Candover**

The Annual Service of 9 Lessons and Carols at St Peters Church, Brown Candover will take place on Sunday 14th December at 6 pm with the Candover Valley Choir.

This will be followed by refreshments and everyone is most welcome.

## Thank you!

We lived in Sumner House in Preston Candover from 1978-2006 with our 4 children, and were joined by Penny's Granny in the early 80s and her mother and stepfather from 1983 till 2006 when her mother died...all three are buried in St Mary's churchyard as is Marina Thorne who was our beloved cleaner for 23 years.

We moved up to London in 2006 but visit the Candover Valley regularly as two of our daughters still live there, and several times a year we go to St Mary's to tend our graves which we enjoy doing.... most of the time!

But now we're both in our 80s we're finding that strimming round them and keeping them tidy is becoming harder and a real chore (especially when holding a walking stick!) which we don't look forward to at all! As all our graves aren't in the front rows surrounded by neatly mown grass but further back 'in the rough' where the grass, when we were down in July, was waist high. We are terrified of falling down and ending up in our own graves prematurely!

So, when we turned up on Monday 6th October two weeks ago, with sinking hearts at the thought of the backbreaking work which lay ahead, you can imagine our joy when we found the whole of the rough area had recently been strimmed and tidied and was looking wonderful!

We have no idea who did it but whoever it was is an unsung hero and we would be so grateful if you could pass on our HUGE thanks to him (or her!) via the Oxdrove.

Tim and Penny Cooper.

PS. We hope and pray it wasn't a one-off! But do realise that obviously that part of the churchyard isn't as important as the main area which is always beautifully mown whenever we visit St Mary's.

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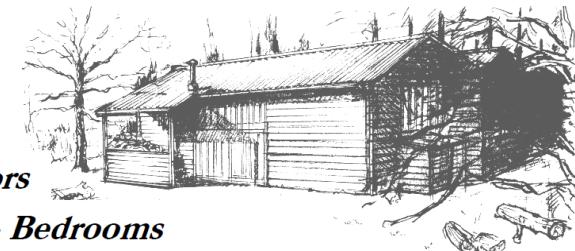
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If you would like to know more or would like to come and try us out (there are no auditions), do contact:

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)  
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**REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 7.45  
STARTING IN OCTOBER!**

## Swarraton and Northington WI

Gill Graham Maw thanked the many members who had attended and welcomed two new members who were joining the group. She thanked Janet Anderson and Maureen Wood, the tea hostesses and Lizzie Laird for the flowers. Following the "wash up" meeting for

the Alresford show, Gill told us that a very healthy amount had been made from our participation serving drinks and cake at the show. Carole reported that the finances were in a good shape, the sewing sessions were going well and a recent visit by Janet Anderson to the Winchester Hospice had been warmly welcomed and much appreciated. A reminder that the **Lasagne Lunch will be on Thursday 22nd January at 12 for 12.30**, £20 for members and guests, and lists were circulated for names and offers to make a dessert. On 4th November our WI will be hosting a Group Meeting for five local WI groups and there will be tea and a raffle. Save The Children Christmas cards will be on sale at this meeting. There were self-assembly shoeboxes to collect with a reminder that the deadline this year is the 18th October and the addition of a £2 coin taped to each box to cover transport costs.

**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, the next one will be on **Tuesday 21st October**.

**Speaker** There being no further business the speaker, Pete Allen was introduced to give his talk on the personal history of The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. We were given an entertaining talk about the history of the theatre, it was built in 1663, and the current building is the fourth on the site due to previous fires which eventually led to the introduction of the fire safety curtain. The original plays performed there gradually evolved into the pantomime as we know it today. There were various Royal intrigues, an assassination attempt and stories of ancient secret tunnels. There were lots of stories about many famous names and productions in the theatre. Pete had started his career as a Red Coat at a very young age, and he spoke clearly without a microphone which indicated his advancement to stage director. The theatre is currently owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber who has spent approximately £60M of his own money refurbishing the building. He was warmly thanked for such an interesting and entertaining talk.

**Future talks and Events** Some interesting speakers have been arranged for later in the year and 2026 such as a Festive Christmas Tea with a talk titled "The Great American Christmas" with audio and visual clips. Then in February we have "Jane Austen's Wicked Women" - Girls Behaving Badly!

The next meeting at Swarraton & Northington Village Hall which is also a Group Meeting is at 2pm on **Tuesday 4th November 2025** with a talk titled " Dream Interpretations - How Dreams Can Help You in Life" by Graham Birchmore.

**Tea hostesses** - Nancy Brooke and Charlotte Porter

**Flowers** - Jill Parker

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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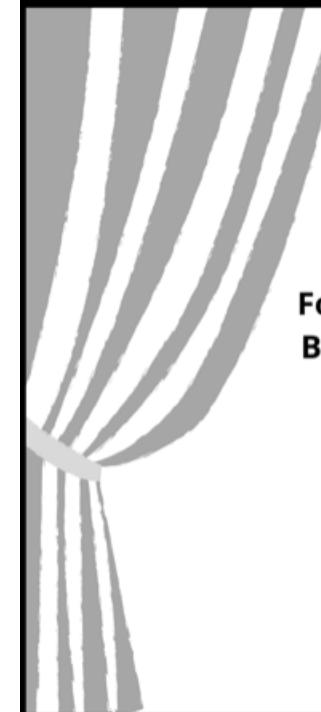


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There's a fabulous concert coming up in St John's on  
**Saturday 15th November at 7 pm**

London-based Chamber Choir, Vox Cordis, will be conducted by local Northington resident, Charlie Grace, in what will be their ninth appearance at St John's.

They will sing music by Byrd, Walford-Davies, Tallis, and other wonderful composers.

Lasting approx. one hour, there will be light drinks afterwards. Do come, enjoy the music, and help raise vital funds for St John's at the same time.

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## Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

Following on from last month's article, the dormouse footprint survey proved to be most intriguing. At first on regular visits to refresh the ink pads, there were no signs of activity in any of the twenty tunnels – apart from some inky dribbles of rainwater on the paper linings.

Eventually after four weeks, we were delighted to find the first signs of dormouse footprints in four of the tunnels. By the end of the survey period, we had found sets of prints running through eleven of the tunnels, with some splendid trails of particularly inky footprints. As well, a dormouse had made a summer nest of dried grasses in one of the tunnel tubes.

The use of the footprint tunnels has confirmed the presence of dormice in this mature hedgerow here at Northington Down and seems to be an excellent method to detect these elusive creatures. Even in the summer, dormice are rarely seen, being active usually after dark, foraging through the dense cover of mixed woodland. They make very few sounds, apart from snoring when asleep (see: YouTube Snoring Dormouse).

Flickering movements from the canopy above revealed the shadowy forms of small birds, dipping and twitching as they chased insects. These were leaf warblers on their Michaelmas migration, heading south, although some will stay in milder winters. Their 'chiff 'call indicates chiffchaffs on the move. After a dry summer with few puddles, I find they are keen to visit shallow bird baths set up in our garden. As they hop in and splash about, their plumage is olive-brown above, with a tinge of yellow below. They have a pale eye stripe and dark legs. A quick shake and they're away, vanishing into the trees.

Just before storm Amy swept through on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, we were searching for fungi in Micheldever Woods. In the half-light of the beechwood, we found a dying beech decorated with a fine display of translucent, glistening, egg-white domes. Known as the porcelain mushroom (*Oudemansiella mucida*), this impressive fungus wound its way up the trunk and into the branches, like a natural artwork.

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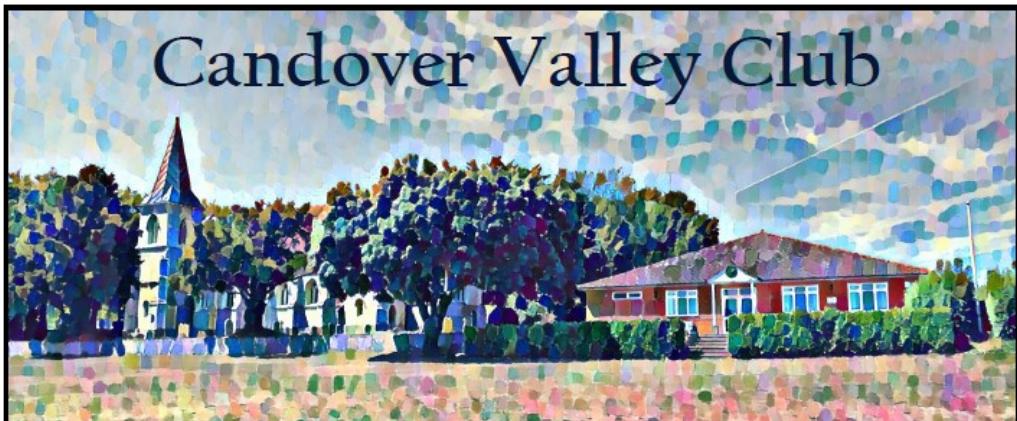
Alresford RFC is Hampshire's friendliest club, founded in 1991. The club emphasizes **UNITY • PURPOSE • FAMILY**. They are celebrating 30 years of rugby by giving **FREE ADULT RUGBY**, **FREE Senior playing membership**, and **FREE MATCH FEES**. Scan the QR code for **FREE** membership or visit [our website](http://www.alresfordrfc.co.uk). The club has **2 MEN'S TEAMS & 1 WOMEN'S TEAM**, **PLAY TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER**, and **Join the Alresford RFC family**. The logo features the club's crest and the text "ALRESFORD RFC" and "FOUNDED 1991".



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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](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*

# BONFIRE NIGHT P.C.V.H

## PRESTON CANDOVER VILLAGE HALL

# 08.11.25



### Entry

**Family £23.00**

**Adults £10.00**

**Children £4.00**

**MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.PCVH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.PCVH.ORG.UK)**

**Times**  
Gates open 5:30pm  
Bonfire lighting 6pm  
Judging the Guy 6:30pm  
Fireworks 7pm (ish)

**BBQ/Bar&hot drinks**  
**Glow Sticks**  
**Kids activity (+£)**

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or 01962 776476

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## CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

### Newsletter – November 2025

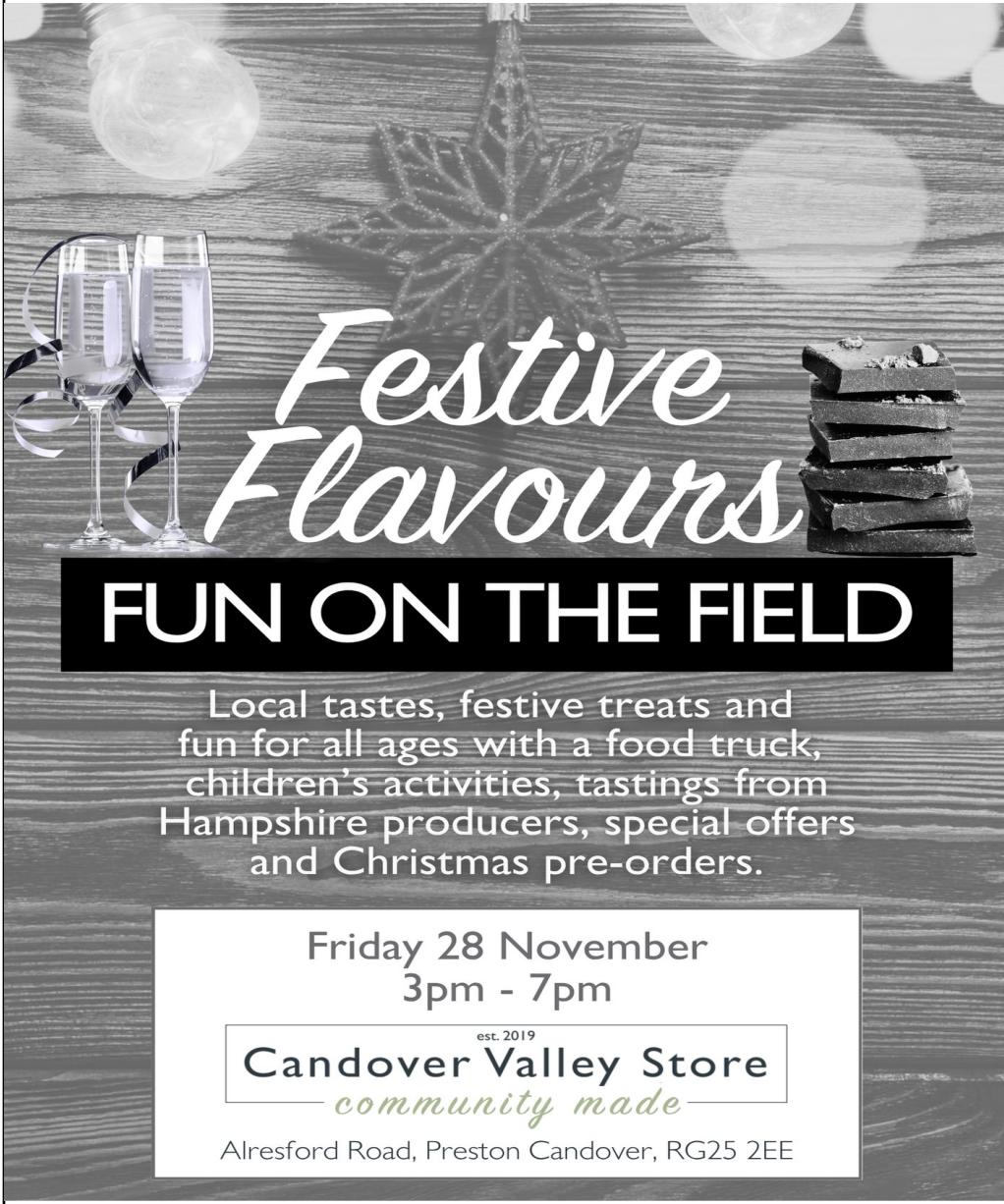
As we approach Remembrance Sunday, it is interesting to recall that in November 2018, six representatives of The Candover Valley Choir travelled to New York to take part in the first performance of the Great War Symphony, composed and conducted by its British composer, Patrick Hawes. The performance - in Carnegie Hall - took place on Remembrance Sunday. The Great War Symphony was composed to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War, and was therefore, particularly moving. Choirs from across the world took part.



The Candover Valley Choir always feels privileged to be able to sing for the Remembrance Service here in The Candover Valley. This year it falls on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, when we plan to sing Elgar's 'We will remember them', a beautiful reflective setting of the poem by Laurence Binyon.

**We always welcome new singers – do contact me if you want to find out more.**  
Jane Bryant - Music Director: [bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)

Candover Valley Store  
*community made*



Two glasses of sparkling wine and a stack of dark chocolate squares are visible on the left. A large, stylized text 'Festive Flavours' is in the center, with 'FUN ON THE FIELD' below it in a white box. The background is a dark, textured surface with a large, glowing, star-shaped light effect.

**Festive Flavours**  
**FUN ON THE FIELD**

Local tastes, festive treats and fun for all ages with a food truck, children's activities, tastings from Hampshire producers, special offers and Christmas pre-orders.

Friday 28 November  
3pm - 7pm

**Candover Valley Store**  
*community made*

est. 2019

Alresford Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2EE

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& DAUGHTER

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est. 2019

**Candover Valley Store**  
*community made*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Candover Valley Community Store Ltd

**Wednesday 19th November 2025**  
**7.30pm (prompt start)**

Preston Candover Village Hall

All are most welcome to attend – but only shareholders may vote.

**Candover Valley Store**  
*community made*

#### Store and post office trading hours

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

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

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

**We look forward to welcoming you!**

Alresford Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2EE  
Tel: 01256 389500 [www.cvcs.org.uk](http://www.cvcs.org.uk)



## Candover Valley Gardening Club

In September, we welcomed Rosy Hardy from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants near Whitchurch. Rosy spoke about attracting insects to perennials and also brought a wealth of plants which were readily purchased by members.

In November, Roger Hirons will be discussing gardening for climate change. Roger is known as The Plant Doctor and has a wealth of plant knowledge. He trained at Pershore College of Horticulture and has worked in plant nurseries, run garden centres and has his own garden design business.

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

### NEED MORE SPACE FOR GUESTS?

#### Annexe for Rent in Preston Candover

A peaceful and self-contained, newly converted garage annexe

- Entrance hall, shower room, stairs to modern studio-style layout
- Comfortable double bed and living space with large sofa and desk
- Wi-Fi and smart TV
- Private entrance and ample parking

£85 per night (includes utilities and Wi-Fi)

Flexible stays available

Please call 07816324179 or get in touch at willowcopleston@googlemail.com



**We will have appointment availability throughout the week & some Saturdays.**

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

### **Thank you to our amazing volunteers**

We would like to say a massive thank you to volunteers from The Alresford Pigs who have provided us with volunteer Marshalls for the fourth year running, who have been helping with directing patients at our Saturday Covid/Flu clinics.

**The Alresford Pigs** – Who raise money locally and give to worthy causes in Alresford and the surrounding villages.

The Alresford Pigs Association has given financial help to those in need in Alresford and the surrounding villages for more than 40 years.

You can find out more about them & join them by visiting; <https://alresfordpigs.org/>

### **Thank you to our wonderful staff**

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful staff who have organised, co-ordinated, vaccinated & inputted at our covid & flu clinics.

We have vaccinated 2,170 patients (to date) & this is all in addition to our usual workload.

### **Men's health awareness month**

November is our time to unite. To take on mental health, suicide, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. Get support and more information: <https://uk.movember.com/mens-health/get-support>



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

### **Significant changes to the eligibility criteria for Covid Vaccinations this Autumn 2025/26**

For the first time since December 2020, when Covid vaccines were first introduced, people under 75 and those with most clinical risk factors, such as diabetes or heart disease, will no longer be eligible for an NHS Covid booster vaccination. In addition, frontline health and social care workers are no longer eligible for a booster dose. This is in accordance with the latest JCVI guidance, which can be found in Chapter 14a of the Green Book.

This change will affect some 250,000 people across Hampshire and Isle of Wight who until now have been eligible to have an annual NHS Covid booster vaccination each Autumn.

### **New Eligibility Criteria for Covid Seasonal Vaccine**

Residents in a care home for older adults (all residents regardless of age)  
All adults aged 75 years and over (including those due to turn 75 years of age on or before 31 January 2026)

Persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in the specific 'Immunosuppression' subsection of tables 3 and 4 only of the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book.

### **Flu vaccination eligible cohorts from 1 October 2025:**

those aged 65 years and over  
those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups  
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 health and social care workers

We are well underway with vaccinating our patients.

Vaccination clinics are being held here at Alresford Surgery.

## **ALRESFORD ART SOCIETY**



### **Talk - Christmas in Art by Nigel Halliday**

Thursday 27 November at 7:30pm

Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, Alresford, SO24 0AH

Non-members welcome - admission £5 to include a glass of mulled wine



National  
Trust

## Christmas Lunch Menu

Available to book for weekdays, 24 Nov - 17 Dec, 12-2pm.

Food, hot drink + mince pie. Two courses £25 / person. Three courses £30 / person.

### STARTER

**Soup of the Day** (Please state at the time of booking if you require Vegetarian/Vegan options + any other dietary requirements.)

### MAINS

**Turkey festive lunch:** Roast turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and parsnips, carrots, sprouts, braised red cabbage, gravy, cranberry sauce and stuffing.

**Turkey festive lunch NGCI\***: As above, but without the stuffing.

**Vegan festive lunch:** Mooless Moo Pie, roast potatoes and parsnips, carrots, sprouts, braised red cabbage, gravy, cranberry sauce and stuffing. VG

**Vegan festive lunch NGCI\***: As immediately above, but without the stuffing. VG

### DESSERTS

Christmas pudding VG  
Chocolate brownie V

### TO FINISH

Any regular hot drink + mince pie

Call 0344 249 1895 or scan QR code to book.



V = Vegetarian VG = Vegan \*NGCI = Non gluten containing



**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30pm**  
Itchen Abbas Village Hall

**Bring a team of eight or join a team on the night (pre-booking is essential)**  
There is a raffle and prizes for the winning team



**Tickets £17.50pp**

**Includes a hearty ploughmans supper\***  
Beer, wine and soft drinks available

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Or call: 07976 686979

Or email:

[info@home-startwinchester.org.uk](mailto:info@home-startwinchester.org.uk)



Our fundraising event is kindly sponsored by IVC Cars.

\*gluten free alternative available



Terra Organica wines kindly donated by Watermill Wines.



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## WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down  
in September 2025

### Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	24.5/76	(19 <sup>th</sup> )
Lowest	0.2/32	(23 <sup>rd</sup> )
Warmest Night	14.7/58	(7 <sup>th</sup> )
Coolest Day	13.5/56	(26 <sup>th</sup> )

Average maximum temperature 18.5/65

Average minimum temperature 7.7/46

### Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	76.1/3.00	Average 59.4/2.34
Annual Total	435.5/14.14	Average 570.8/22.47
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	18.8/0.74	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Number of days with rain	16	

**Summary** It was with some relief that the dry weather over the past six months came to an end with the onset of autumn. The month was predominantly unsettled, with frontal systems bringing rain for much of the first three weeks. This included frequent showers, some moderate in intensity, in the first week and a half. It was breezy at times, including a fresh breeze with showers on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the long-term average monthly rainfall had been exceeded three days previously. High pressure brought the best of the weather and settled conditions over five days from the 21<sup>st</sup>, which included the autumn equinox. There was plenty of sunshine during this time but below average temperatures and the first frost of the season on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Overall, September was cool, bringing an end to the six-month run of warmer than average temperatures, and wet with 128% of the long-term average rainfall.



### OUR SERVICES

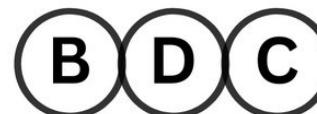
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# CANDOVER VALLEY



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## Christmas Market

22nd of November from 10am-3pm

Looking for something special this year? Why not come along and look at our amazing range of stalls! From Food and drink to Lucky dips

We hope to see you there!!

Look out on our facebook as we share our stallholders!!

If you would like a stall please visit our website [www.pcvh.org.uk](http://www.pcvh.org.uk)

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



**CHRISTMAS FAIR THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER | 3:00PM - 8:00PM  
& FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER | 9:30AM - 3:00PM**

We look forward to seeing you all at this year's Christmas Fair. We have so many great stall holders joining us to shop, browse + find special gifts for loved ones. The café will be open on both days serving delicious coffee + food. Tickets are £5 + can be bought on our website or on the door.

**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

I saw this quote from Robert Gardner:

*'Because concrete can buy time.*

*But only Nature can buy tomorrow.'*

It is said that politicians love a hard hat picture. But the truth is that hard hat and safety glasses are not very flattering!

I was visiting a food waste processing site. You can't smell the rotting food in that pile of bags behind me! The people who work at sites like these have my complete respect. It isn't an easy environment to work in, but their value to us is immeasurable.

Managing our waste is an essential part of your Council services. Curiously at present, your district council collects your waste and recycling, and the County Council disposes of it. Each authority includes the cost of their service in the council tax you pay. These arrangements will change when the County Council ceases to exist, and unitary authorities have responsibility for both functions. I'll let you know when the Government consultation on the Unitary options opens

Many other services cross both councils. As we near local government reorganisation, the first reorganisation for fifty years, all councils in Hampshire need to work together for a seamless transition for the sake of our residents. As one of the 'double hatters' representing you on both councils, I feel uniquely placed to understand both worlds and the subsequent challenges the unitary authorities will face. And there are many well publicised challenges. HCC is about to send out another consultation on school transport. If you pay for a 'spare capacity' space, these are at risk of being axed.

At HCC, we regularly look at the Autism services for children. I have taken an especial interest in this and sought a regular update from the NHS to Children's Services as the numbers of children awaiting 'diagnosis' continues to exceed the number receiving them. Their report came to Children's Select committee in October. Today we recognise that no two people with autism experience life in the same way. We don't know why numbers seeking diagnosis are increasing, but it is recognised that improving outcomes for our autistic population and their families and schools requires a whole system approach and cannot be delivered by any organisation in isolation. I have been campaigning for better teacher training for this too. I'm pleased that this is now gaining traction. Over time, there has been a paradigm shift in approach, but there's still more to do. The NHS offers help for parents of children at a drop in on the first Wednesday of every month at the ARC, Winchester. Contact me or CAMHS if you'd like to know more.

**Good news!** A last-minute change of heart has restored the County Councillor grants scheme. There are tighter rules: total grant pot is £5K, each grant maximum is £1000, and it cannot support ongoing costs, deadline 25<sup>th</sup> February for submission. Any charity which serves residents in the Itchen Valley division is open to apply search County Councillor Grant on [hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk Telephone/text 07973 696085



## On the Farm— Julian Gibbons

What a difference a year makes. Last autumn we had had a sodden harvest followed by a very wet autumn. Sown crops were being eaten by a biblical plague of slugs. This year we have had just enough rain to soften the ground, the dry weather over the summer has naturally cracked and opened the clay ground.

Our rape has established well, and all the winter cereals are in the ground, with the last sown still to emerge. We have planted the biggest area of winter wheat for many years; all we have to do is control costs on the crop to try and make a profit. It isn't all sunshine and roses; there is always something that rears its head. This year it is a little fly called gout fly. It isn't new and we used to get wheat affected by it when we planted crops in the middle of September. It lays its eggs on the newly emerged leaves, 7-10 days later the eggs hatch and the larvae burrow into the shoot. In the spring, the affected shoots are short and swollen like small leeks and they eventually die off. Hopefully the plant produces enough extra shoots to compensate for the loss of the main shoot, and it generally does. The early emerged crops were covered in the little white, cylindrical eggs so we will have to wait until the spring to see the crop effect.

Because we have struggled to plant crops in the wet conditions of the past two autumns we bought a second-hand seed-drill that will plant in more challenging conditions, and we did use it a bit following a pea crop that had a lot of trash. We will use it to plant our winter beans that are still to be planted (currently a bit early at mid-October).

We have planted our various pollen and nectar strips that needed to go in this autumn to replace the ones that failed to establish last year. We have paid a bit more for a better mix that will hopefully last a few more years, before being replaced. We did finally get our combine out of the field from where it had resided since it caught fire. We were waiting for some parts to come from the USA, but they eventually arrived, and the combine was able to be driven out of the field. It leaves a combine shaped patch in the rapeseed that has been planted around it.

When I use to drive through Wales to see our daughter in Aberystwyth, there were signs to stop and see Red Kites. I would see one flying if you were lucky. Back in Hampshire they are everywhere. One day I had 21 Red Kites in the field where I was planting. They are after voles and mice. I did however see a Buzzard trying to fly off with a leveret, that was probably just a bit too heavy for it. Auto steer enables you to be much more observant whilst tractor driving.

A report issued on the vulnerabilities of various jobs to AI, did reveal that if you are a translator (one of the most vulnerable jobs), you should consider retraining as a tractor driver (the least vulnerable job). So, there is one silver lining for the future, we just have to get there!