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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

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Contact preferred by e-mail

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay led

The Parishes of Farleigh, The Candover Valley
and Wield

Sunday 5 February

08.00 Ellisfield
09.30 Wield
09.45 Cliddesden
10:00 Preston Candover
11:00 Northington

3rd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion BCP
Matins
Morning Prayer
Morning Worship
Morning Prayer.
(In the Village Hall)

11.15 Dummer

Sunday Special

Readings

*Isaiah 58:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,
Matthew 5:13-20 Psalm 112*

Sermon

'Let your light so shine...'

_____”_____

Sunday 12 February 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00 Dummer Holy Communion BCP
 9.45 Ellisfield Morning Prayer
 10.00 Preston Candover Holy Communion CW
 11.15 Cliddesden Family Communion CW

6.00 Wield Evensong BCP
Readings *Genesis 1:1-2:3, Romans 8:18-25,*
 Matthew 6:25-end Psalm 136
Sermon *'Worrying in perspective'*

_____””_____

Sunday 19th February Sunday before Lent

9.00 Wield Holy Communion
 9.45 Dummer Matins
 10:00 Preston Candover Family Service
 11.15 Cliddesden Family Service

Readings *Exodus 24:12-end, 2 Peter 1:16-end,*
 Matthew 17:1-9 Psalm 2
Sermon *'New Moses'*

_____””_____

Wednesday 22nd February Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Preston Candover Ash Wednesday service
Readings *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10,*
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Psalm 51
Sermon *Jesus in the Desert: Spiritual Warfare*

_____””_____

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Sunday 26th February	1st Sunday of Lent
8:30 Bradley	Holy Communion
9:45 Dummer	Holy Communion CW
11:00 Brown Candover	Morning Worship
11:15 Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11 Psalm 32</i>
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>'Garden to Wilderness'</i>

-----"-----

Sunday 5th March	2nd Sunday of Lent
08.00 Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP
09.45 Cliddesden	Morning Prayer
11:00 Northington	Holy Communion (In the Village Hall)
11.15 Dummer	Sunday Special
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 Psalm 121</i>
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>The Bible's most famous verse'</i>

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Many Thanks

Thanks to the generous support of the residents of Bradley we have been able to send £202.50 to Hampshire Air Ambulance from the profits of the Bradley Jubilee Commemorative Calendar 2023.

From the collection at Bradley Carol's Evening, £112.25 was sent to the Camrose Centre to support the homeless of Basingstoke.

Thank you so much to all involved,

Jane

Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington		Peter Lamb	
St Peter's Brown Candover	26 Feb 11.am	Celia Foote	Rhys Smith & Paul Curtis Hayward
St Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	5 Feb 10.00am	Marina Avis	Jane Laws
	12 Feb 10.00	Gunnel Berry	Celia Foote & Gunnel Berry
	15 Feb 10.00	Anne Luneburg	To be advised
	22 Feb 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg
	5 March 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg
All Saints Bradley	26 Feb 8.30am	Christopher Swan	Christopher Swan
St James' Wield	5 Feb 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Alwin Hutchinson & David Cowley
	12 Feb 6.00pm	Robert Grande	Barbara Wells & Eileen Collins
	19 Feb 9.30am	John Lailey	Catherine Symons & Mark Kemp Gee
	5 March 9.30am	Brian Collins	Joanna Nelson & Amanda Bromfield



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Dear Friends

Archbishop Justin Welby has announced that £100 million is going to be invested in community projects specifically aimed at helping families affected by the slave trade.

Clearly reparations for slavery are a vast topic but this excerpt from an article in Premier Christianity magazine might be helpful. Full text online under the ‘Opinion’ section of the January edition.

Written by Bishop (Pentecostal church) Mike Royal who describes himself as second generation Windrush, whose... “late parents came to the UK from Jamaica in the 1950s. They longed to see change in their lifetime. As Martin Luther King once said: “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice”

What’s striking about the Church Commissioners report (Church Commissioners Research into Historic Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery) is the forensic, financial rigour that has been applied. It begins with a historical account of the Queen Anne’s Bounty, the South Sea Company and its links to the slave trade.

It then outlines the methodology used to review and detail 8,500 transactions in the ledgers of the Queen Anne’s Bounty, associated activities and links to the South Sea Company. An analysis by an independent firm of accountants concluded that an estimated third of all benefactions (donations) to the bounty came from people likely linked to the slave trade.

Truth be told, a £100m is a drop in the ocean in terms of righting the wrongs of the slave trade. What value can be put on a human life?


However, it does attempt to direct compensation in the right direction. With the Quakers having also recently made announcements about slavery reparations, is the Church finally coming to terms with its past?”

“Mike Royal is a Pentecostal Bishop with the Apostolic Pastoral Congress, a social justice advocate and the current general secretary of Churches Together in England. He was previously the co-chief executive of The Cinnamon Network and is a founding trustee and former national director of Transforming Lives for Good (TLG).”


From reflecting on the abhorrence of the slave trade to the immediate matters in our lives. In the book and workshops on ‘Healing Wounded History’, Rev Dr Russ Parker speaks about bringing healing to those in churches and communities who have been wounded and faced tough, broken or bewildering situations, often for historic reasons, injustices both in word and deed wound us and bring limitations to healthy relating in family, church, village life, the workplace and so on.

Our yearning for justice it is an inherent part of us and ultimately God will bring justice. As quoted earlier, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice" There is opportunity now, for those who will, to reconcile, acknowledge their role in sad history, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and the Christian understanding of reconciliation is to bring healing of relationships through the grace of God in Christ, beginning with ourselves before God. There is healing, flourishing and blessing to be had.

Blessings
David



Carol Singing Around Wield Raises funds for The Not Forgotten



In time-honoured fashion, on Friday 23rd December a handful of locals armed with torches and carol sheets met at Wield village hall to embark on the annual sing song.

First stop was Pipers Yard where the Cowleys provided Christmas refreshments that successfully oiled the vocal chords. The group then went onto the Robsons where other guests joined in several hearty renditions of our favourite carols while enjoying mulled wine and substantial nibbles.

By the time the group arrived at the Geddes' barn, numbers had swelled to c 100. With Trevor Burch at the keyboard, more delicious eats and wine, everyone sang their hearts out.

The final stop was the Yew Tree Inn where Roddy Watt accompanied the now raucous singers on his accordion...

The evening raised £398.67 for the forces charity, The Not Forgotten. Heartfelt thanks go to the musicians, our generous hosts, the pub and everyone who put their hands in their pockets for this worthy cause.


Baptism Matters and Confirmation.

It's always a joy to hold a tiny 'bundle of joy' and baptise a child and pray God's blessing on that young life. Sometimes it seems that the sacrament of baptism is not very well understood for what it is and is thought of more akin to 'folk religion', something rather superstitious than about Christian faith. Understandably parents want to fulfil a need for a rite of passage to mark one of life's miracles and a having a child baptised clearly is part of that. So, in preparation with parents, I explain the Christian understanding of why a child may be baptised, what we say in the service and why, since there are of course Christian theological reasons to appreciate! A Parish Priest is obliged to a) baptise a child from the parishes they serve (not beyond) and b) prepare parents who bring a child for baptism, it's in the job description.

Baptism is so much more than the application of water! There are commitments to the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and a commitment to be



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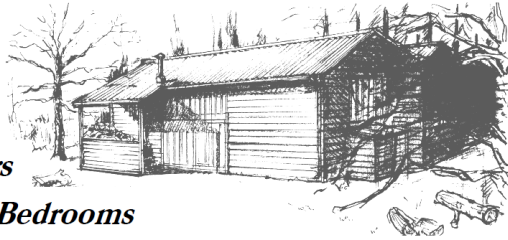
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“faithful in private prayer and public worship” from parents and godparents. At this stage in preparation many parents will know they lack in both areas but the grace of God is invitational and so moving on with integrity on the Christian pathway is the best response at that point.

Parents and godparents make declarations in the service in response to various questions and declare:

“I turn to Christ, I repent of my sins, I renounce evil”. (The world the flesh and the devil, as in the Book of Common Prayer).

Then follow statements of belief, trust and assent that the parents and godparents believe in Jesus as Son of God, who died for us and rose again and that they trust in the Holy Spirit to give new spiritual life.

Some couples feel that they can't say those things with integrity and so are invited to have a 'Service of Thanksgiving' instead, assuring the parents that a baptism is always available for those who believe, of any age.

But what happens to a child when it is baptised? Clearly it gets wet! But if the promises made in the service are kept and prayers are answered the child will 'come to faith' or, as Jesus put it, 'be born again' or 'converted' and then in the Anglican tradition may be confirmed by the Bishop.

And that is the thing, coming to faith. Being baptised and not coming to faith is like being given a cheque for millions of pounds as a baby and never cashing it in while there is so much treasure waiting to be claimed! Never coming into the full blessing of God in Christ; Salvation, forgiveness, filled with the Holy Spirit, alive to Christ, to know one's true identity as a child of God with a heavenly Father and being part of his family. These are spiritual realities precious for many but not realised for the baptised but 'not yet Christian' child.

Here's a point, that if all the baptised children and confirmed adults came to church regularly, what a joy that would be! What growth of faith there would be, what wonderful times of worship we would have as those who belong to Christ meet together in his presence! What prayerful impact we would have in our villages seeing God's blessing touching so many.

Give me a call, 'change gear' in the 'faith journey' and learn more about knowing Christ and being a Christian today and perhaps exploring whether confirmation is for you and your children?

Notes. Re Godparents.

“... there shall be not fewer than three godparents, of whom at least two shall be of the same sex as the child and of whom at least one shall be of the opposite sex.”
“Parents may be godparents for their own children provided that the child shall have at least one other godparent. The godparents shall be persons who have been **baptised and confirmed** and will faithfully fulfil their responsibilities both by their care for the child committed to their charge and by the example of their own godly living.”

Blessings
David

Church flowers, cleaning and Key Holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover			
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St James' Church Wield			
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Happy New Year from CVP!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your family, and we are very excited to start the new term.

We will be sharing our stories and pictures from our Christmas adventures over the holidays, looking at who we visited, where we went, our family traditions and presents we received and gave to others. We will be focusing on rhyming through stories and songs for our phonics work. Exploring Stickman and The Three Billy Goats Gruff stories, linking this with exploring our family trees, making our own Stickman families to play with and role playing the stories.

We will also be talking about our teeth and how to clean them using toothbrushes as well as using brushes to practice cleaning the toys and explore new ways of painting.

Best wishes and hope to see you in the New Year!

Lisa Collisson, Pre-School Head



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Healthier Together:

It can be extremely stressful when your child is unwell. We know that there is a huge amount of information available at your fingertips but finding something that provides clear and accurate information is not always easy! The resources on the Healthier Together website have been developed in partnership between parents and healthcare professionals from across Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. You'll find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including advice on what 'red-flag' signs to look out for, where to seek help if required, what you should do to keep your child comfortable and how long your child's symptoms are likely to last.
<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>

Welcome to new staff:

We are excited to announce the arrival of Dr. Shereen Elboray who joined us as a salaried GP at the beginning of January, her working days will be all day Wednesday & Friday.

We are also excited to announce the arrival of Dr. John Robinson who joins us on 13th February as a salaried GP & will be working Monday, Tuesday & Thursday.

Enhanced access services:

Mid Hampshire Healthcare started running our enhanced access services in October.

Extended hours will be offered every Tuesday & Thursday evening as well as every other Saturday.

These appointments can be booked via Reception.

From Steve Brine, MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

0207 219 7189 (House of Commons) Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

Constituents will not have missed the pressure our NHS is under at this time and that was especially the case over the Christmas period when the media was wall-to-wall with coverage from many parts of the UK.

As our local MP I have, of course, made the NHS my number one priority since day one but I am now able to amplify that through my national role as chair of the powerful Health & Social Care Select Committee in Parliament.

Wearing both hats, I paid a New Year visit to Winchester's Royal Hampshire County Hospital to see for myself how Winter pressures impact our local NHS and to thank staff for their hard work over the holiday season. I spent time meeting senior Trust managers before visiting the Emergency Department and spoke with staff at length.

I also visited Clarke Ward - and Shawford Ward - where colleagues spent time chatting with me about the impact on specialist and general wards of the huge rise in demand this Winter for acute services.

There is no question the usual Winter impact is being compounded this year by a huge rise in demand and the 'twin-demic' of flu on top of Covid.

The message I received time and again was just how poorly many people being admitted are - some of them much younger - because of the nasty strain of flu virus circulating at this time. All of this is, of course, on top of the usual RSV and upper respiratory infections we see at this time of year.

There is no question, and I hear this everywhere I go, until we resolve some of the long-standing problems in social care - on the domiciliary side in particular - and in access to primary care we will continue to see the acute sector struggle.

My Select Committee will be returning to this subject including scrutinising the recent announcement of a further £250 million to speed up hospital discharge, safely discharging thousands of patients to free up hospital capacity and reduce the Covid backlogs.

While at the RHCH, I also discussed recruitment and retention issues facing nursing and the strikes being pursued by the Royal College of Nursing. Nurses in Winchester are not striking but they certainly recognise many of the issues facing the profession. You can see much more on this stevebrine.com/prioritynhs.

Finally, it was my pleasure to pop backstage last month at the Theatre Royal in Winchester as the famous Blue Apple Theatre put on their latest show. 'Lashings of ginger beer' ran in early January and was received brilliantly by the reviewers and those who managed to get a ticket. Check out the write-ups online!

Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

In the glimmer of a damp dawn, a kestrel hovers at the bottom of the garden, scanning the field edge below. Dark flocks of jackdaws fly rapidly overhead. A robin begins to sing from the beech hedge. Feeding parties of finches bounce through the cover crop planted in the back field. There's a mix of chaffinches, goldfinches, and a twitter of linnets.

Later in the day, while tramping along a distant field edge, I tread with care to avoid the dark green blobs of Nostoc or star jelly. Curiously alien, this cyanobacterium was once thought to fall from the sky overnight. Thriving in mild wet weather, it swells rapidly in the rain, shrinking to a mere crust in dry conditions.

The kestrel, a local resident, lifts off from his lookout, perched on top of a wayside telephone pole. He hovers over the field, now light green with rows of new shoots. Two red kites, just shadows in the bare tree canopy, float free. With wings outstretched they drift effortlessly around the treeline. A clatter of fieldfares, wintering thrushes, abruptly scatter from the nearby treetops in alarm.

The hazel copse, a former game covert that bounds this field, is now pale yellow with dangling catkins. Green tips of bluebell shoots spear through the dark brown layers of leaf litter covering the dim recesses of the copse. Badgers have lived and mined here for generations: the domed entrances to their underground setts form chalk-white hallways.

A slight shift of a rump shows an anchor pattern, black on white – there's a herd of fallow deer here, tucked away among the hazels. As I move, they move, slowly and stealthily to emerge on to the path. One coughs, a bark of alarm, and all eight of them take off across the field bounding stiff-legged with a pronking gait. They stop and stare, watching me head off, before turning and flowing back to their wooded retreat. My search now is for hares, but none today – just the silhouettes of two roe deer grazing quite boldly in a far field.

Robert Bryant
10 January '23

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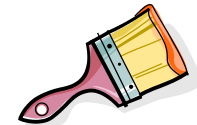
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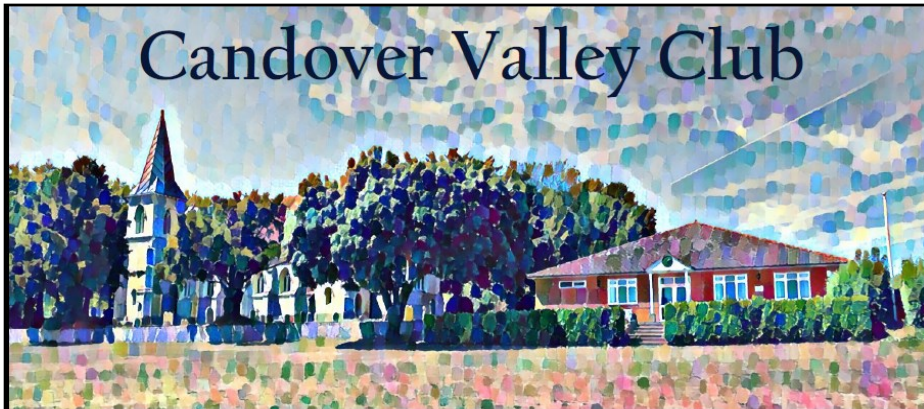
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Candover Valley Club

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

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

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Candover Valley Gardening Club

At the time of writing our members are looking forward to meeting up again for our "For the Love of Roses" talk, the first for the new season. I will tell you all about that next month.

On Thursday 16th February at 7:30pm at Preston Candover Village Hall, our speaker will be Nigel Semmence, a former local Bee Inspector and he will talk to us about Bees and Hornets, which is likely to include the invasive Asian Hornet which we all need to look out for. He is very knowledgeable and this should be of great interest to us all. If you would like to find out more about the Bees and Hornets in your garden you would be most welcome to join us as a guest for £3:00 for the evening. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, our contact details are as follows: Candover Valley Gardening Club on Facebook or our website at <http://candovervalley.org/2021/04candover-valley-gardening-club-2>

Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Gliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

3rd, 10th (not 17th as half term), 24th February and 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March (Easter party)

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us.

Cost: £2 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)



Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hampshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

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CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

New Year Resolution?

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New Year, new beginning?

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The Candover Valley Choir

is always interested in hearing from potential new singers

interested in joining.

The Choir performs a wide repertoire including classical, contemporary, and popular music

This is an ideal time to join the choir, as we set out on the new programme for 2022. If you would like to know more about the **Candover Valley Choir** or would like to come and try us out (there are no auditions), **do contact:**

Julian Jones, Choir Chairman, on: juliang.jones@btinternet.com

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director

bryantjane50@gmail.com

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7.45

Cllr Jackie Porter

County Councillor for the Itchen Valley Division

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

telephone: 07973 696 085 Website: www.jackieporter.co.uk

Need help with your finances?

Although the cost of living is in the news at present, there may be other reasons why you need help with your finances. Our local Citizens Advice provides an amazing service for all queries, including online, face to face and by telephone. Led locally by Dr Sue Campbell, CA has good networks with HMRC, charity including cancer care providers, energy and housing providers etc. They also currently receive additional funding to help you cope with the heavy burden of inflation of food and energy costs for families and older people. Go to the 'get advice' tab for details of how to contact them, face to face time for calls & visits etc. <https://citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk> or call 0808 278 7861 to talk to an advisor Mon-Fri 10am -4pm

Vaccinations and boosters for children

Adults are usually invited for vaccination, but it's not so easy to know what to do for children who may not be vulnerable themselves but are in regular contact with someone who *is* medically vulnerable. I asked Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health. His advice is to call the NHS HIOW helpline **0300 561 0018** for details of all under 18's clinics. Unfortunately, there are no current Winchester venues for infant boosters/vaccinations, so you may have to travel further afield if the mobile unit isn't in place soon. If you have any direct queries for Simon, please email simon.bryant@hants.gov.uk or contact me.

Constant rain is resulting in more potholes

The wet weather conditions are creating problems for the County Council as roads are literally being washed away leaving huge holes in the tarmac surface. Please report any you see so that they can be filled as quickly as possible (although that may be with a temporary material just for safety). Please call 0300 555 1388 or go to the hants.gov.uk website and search 'report a road problem'. You can report overgrown hedges, flooding and more from here too. Thank you.

A change in arrangements for disposal of Upholstered Seating from Jan 2023.

Most HWRC's will now have a separate skip in which upholstered seating will be collected for disposal by incineration: the reason for this is they contain POP's: persistent organic but toxic pollutants. Alresford is not one of the sites accommodating this change because it is too small to accept yet another skip, so it's best to book a trip to Winchester or Alton.

PS: Rumours abound but I have written confirmation from HCC: there is no plan to close Alresford Library.

HCC Grants continue to be offered for greener energy and recycling schemes, and community hubs.

On the Farm - Julian Gibbons

The cold spell in December put an end to any field work. Hopefully combined with the January cold snap the weather will have dealt with any residual aphids lurking in the crops.

The cold spell was an opportunity to roll the cover crops and a couple of winter bean stubbles that are going into spring barley. The rolling bruised the plants leaving them more likely to be killed by the cold weather and enable us to use less chemical to kill them off in the spring.

We have some of Ben Robinson's sheep grazing stubble turnips at Bradley. They came in early January and should have enough grazing through February. The challenge with all the wet weather is ensuring the sheep graze the crops but are moved soon enough not to poach the wet ground. Our turnips haven't developed much bulb to them, but in a better crop the sheep eat the top first and then eat the bulb. This can appear that the sheep are just eating stones, whereas most of the "stones" are in fact turnip bulbs. A large amount of nutrition is in the bulb not the leaf so it is important to get as much bulb eaten as possible.

We have got all the spring cropping finalised. The large fall in grain prices has slightly altered the cropping and we have reduced our spring barley area and will have 40ha of peas to follow the stubble turnips. This will also save some nitrogen fertiliser, as peas fix their own and leave some for the following crop. They are also more drought tolerant than beans.

We are starting to regret not selling more grain. From our best sale in September, we have seen the price fall by just under 25%. Farmers are quick to tell you their best sale, but rarely what the worst sale was and what was their average price.

It is generally why many years ago we started putting our grain into professionally managed grain pools. We won't get the top price, but we get a good average.

We have signed up to the new Sustainable Farming Initiative. This is the entry level for the new farm support based on paying farmers for the actions they carry out, not for the area of land they farm. The first module is based around soil protection and has an introductory level and an intermediate level. We are already doing nearly everything for the intermediate level. We carry out regular soil testing including soil organic matter, we have 70% of over wintered green cover and this includes 20% multispecies cover crops. Some time ago the government decided that the farming sector would be the first to go fully digital and no paper applications accepted. This is a challenge for those who have avoided computerisation. They either have to employ an agent or find a family member who can apply for them. The irony is that to appoint an agent or a family member you need to do it by logging into your gov.uk account as they no longer produce a paper form!

So in the end they have had to accept appointing an agent via the telephone. This is what they had to do when we first registered for the system after they discovered that the verification process, they chose didn't work very well in farming. They wanted 3 pieces of identification, a copy of your house mortgage, passport, and photo driving license and all of these had to be uploaded. Unfortunately, at the time a very large minority of farmers didn't have any of these or a broadband service fast enough to function.

The Winchester Beacon

Dear Supporter,

We would like to thank everyone who so thoughtfully and generously supported The Winchester Beacon over the festive period. Whether you donated items, gave money, attended one of our Christmas events or gave your time - thank you. We were very moved by the many acts of kindness and countless offers of support.

Thanks to the donations of gifts, all our 22 residents had presents under the tree to open on Christmas Day. A lovely family came to cook a delicious Christmas lunch using food kindly donated by our local community. We invited former residents that we thought maybe spending the day alone to pop by for lunch. Mike, who stayed with us until last summer, said how much it meant to him to be invited back..

With the start of a New Year, often comes a desire to seek out new challenges and adventures. Please read on to find out more about a number of rewarding opportunities to support our work and help people experiencing homelessness.

Wishing you and your parishioners a Happy New Year and all the best for 2023,

Michèle Price

Chief Executive

Volunteers needed

We need at least 24 volunteers a week to enable us to open 24 hours a day and recently we have been struggling to fill all of our shifts. We have slots available throughout the week and weekends both in the day and during night. Volunteers simply log in online and book to help out when they are available, so it is very flexible.

Find out more on our website and please get in touch, adminassistant@winchesterbeacon.org.uk if you would like to book onto one of our induction sessions. <https://wcns.org.uk/volunteer-with-us/>

Off-site Cooks

Can you help us by cooking at home?

We are looking for extra pairs of hands to help by cooking meals at home for our 10 residents. If cooking for 10 is a bit much, you could team up with friends cook half each. We can provide recipe ideas including low-cost options.

If you would like to find out more, please email catering@winchesterbeacon.org.uk

Work for Us

Are you looking for a new and rewarding challenge for 2023? We have an exciting opportunity to join our team in the full-time position of Operations Manager.

Find out more: <https://wcns.org.uk/work-for-us/>

Please contact me if you have an idea and we'll work out which grant is the most useful for you.

Safer Roads

Finally, I must mention the Cart and Horses junction. Most local people will be pleased to hear that I will continue to campaign for a safer junction here. Thank you for all your encouragement to do so. The Exec Member, Cllr Adams-King, has agreed to meet me again with local councillors when we know more of the accident investigation, which should be this month.

Free Energy Surveys for small businesses in East Hampshire

Are you a small business worried about rising energy prices? Energy Alton is offering free, independent and tailored energy advice to small businesses across East Hampshire.

Energy Alton is a social enterprise run by volunteers that has been running a successful free home energy advice service for the past 10 years - which has now been extended to small businesses.

Trained volunteers are available to carry out free energy surveys at business premises. They will look at how a building could be improved to reduce heat loss and suggest a range of solutions, from draught proofing to insulation.

The survey will also cover advice around heating systems, hot water appliances and lighting plus how ventilation could be upgraded to reduce the risk of damp and condensation. It is followed up with a written report which details all the ways in which energy costs can be reduced plus information on installers and funding.

After a steep increase in their energy bills, The Kings Arms Youth Centre in Alton contacted Energy Alton for advice on how they could heat their building more efficiently. A volunteer surveyor

identified several measures to reduce heat loss - including loft and internal wall insulation, secondary glazing, thermal curtains plus replacing oil filled radiators with more efficient programmable storage heaters.

Will Schofield, Operations Manager, said "Mike was brilliant and answered all my questions - it was good to have advice on different options. I didn't have the time to research it all myself, so I really appreciated having a report which helped me create an action list."

Will is now getting quotes for much of the suggested work and is looking forward to a warmer and cheaper winter next year.

For more information or to arrange a free survey, email energyalton@gmail.com, call 07811 462 659 or visit





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