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#### Editorial Team

#### Treasurer & Advert Co-ordinator

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

#### Technical Producer

**Jean Frost 01420 561 136**  
5 Pound Close, Upper Wield  
ALRESFORD  
SO24 9SH  
[jeanterry@uwclub.net](mailto:jeanterry@uwclub.net)  
Philippa Pellereau 01962 733107  
[ppellereau@gmail.com](mailto:ppellereau@gmail.com)

#### Distribution Manager

**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:** David Chattell, The Rectory, Preston Candover  
Tel: 01256 389 474 Email: [davidchattell172@btinternet.com](mailto:davidchattell172@btinternet.com)

**Benefice administrator** – Tricia Knight email address:  
[beneficeFCW@hotmail.com](mailto:beneficeFCW@hotmail.com) Phone 07541 463750  
Contact preferred by e-mail

## Rota for Services

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

### The Parishes of Candover Valley and Wield

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

4.00pm Cliddesden Christingle (Café open at 3.45 for drinks and snacks)

” ” ”

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

8:00am	Ellisfield	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
9:30am	Wield	Holy Communion BCP
9.45am	Cliddesden	Matins BCP
4.00pm	Brown Candover	Morning Prayer
2:30pm	Dummer	Christingle
11:00am	Northington	Christingle
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Isaiah 11.1-10, Romans 15 .4-13 Matthew 3.1-12</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
		<i>Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19</i>

*Sermon* John the Baptist: the preacher

” ” ”

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

8.00am Dummer  
10.00am Preston Candover  
11.15am Cliddesden  
6.00pm Wield  
6.00pm Northington  
*Readings* *Isaiah 35,1-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11*

*Sermon* *John the Baptist: the prisoner*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion BCP  
Holy Communion CW  
Family Communion CW  
Evensong BCP  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
*Psalm 146, 4-10*

” ” ”

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

7pm Cliddesden  
Nine Lessons and Carols

” ” ”

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

11.15am Cliddesden  
4.00pm Dummer  
4.00pm Wield  
6.00pm Brown Candover  
6.00pm Ellisfield  
*Readings* *Isaiah 7,1-16 Romans 1. 1-7 Matthew 1. 18 – end*

*Sermon* *Joseph's Obedience*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Family Service with Carols  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Nine lessons and Carols  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
*Psalm 80.1-16, 18-20*

” ” ”

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

2.00pm Cliddesden  
4.00pm Preston Candover  
4.00pm Farleigh Wallop  
11.30pm Northington  
*Readings* *Acts 13,16-26 Luke 1.67-79*  
*Sermon* *To give light to those who sit in darkness*

**Christmas Eve**

Crib Service  
Crib Service  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Holy Communion

” ” ”

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9:30am Bradley  
9:30am Wield  
9:30am Ellisfield  
10.45am Dummer

**Christmas Day**

Christmas Family Holy Communion  
Christmas Family Holy Communion  
Christmas Family Holy Communion  
Christmas Family Worship

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11.00am Preston Candover Christmas Family Holy Communion  
11.00am Brown Candover Christmas Family Holy Communion  
Readings Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20  
Sermon 'A saviour who is Christ the Lord'

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

10.30am Preston Candover  
Readings Numbers 6.22-end Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21  
Sermon 'In the fullness of time'



## Happy Christmas!

**Jean and Ros, your  
editorial team, wish all  
readers, contributors and  
advertisers in the  
Oxdrove, a very  
Happy Christmas and peaceful,  
virus free New Year**

### NEW YEAR 2023

The trustees of Preston Candover Village Hall invite all residents of  
Preston Candover, Axford, Nutley and Gobley Hole  
to celebrate the New Year with drinks and nibbles.

**Venue** Preston Candover Village Hall

**Date** Monday 2nd January 2023

**Time** 12.00md - 2.00pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	4 Dec 11.00	Rhona Hatchley	Rhona Hatchley
St Peter's Brown Candover	4 Dec 4.00pm	Celia Foote	
	18 Dec 6.00pm	Celia Foote & Sue Marriott	To be advised
	25 Dec 11.00am	Celia Foote	Jonathan Moseley & Paul Curtis Hayward
St Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	11 Dec 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg & Julian Gibbons
	24 Dec 4.00pm	Anne Luneburg & Marina Avis	To be advised
	25 Dec 11.00am	Jane Laws & Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg & Marina Avis
	1 Jan 2023 10.30am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg &
All Saints Bradley	25 Dec 9.30am	To be advised	To be advised
St James' Wield	4 Dec 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Alwin Hutchinson & Joanna Nelson
	11 Dec 6.00pm	Barbara Wells	Barbara Wells & Eileen Collins
	18 Dec 4.00pm	John Lailey	
	25 Dec 9.30	John Lailey	Julian Coleville & Jessica Asamo




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## Dear Friends

There are many views expressed as, “Christmas is all about...” and I’m told it is about family and togetherness, about getting away from ‘hype of the season’ by going on holiday through to those who will keep a midnight vigil and go to church on Christmas Day to worship their saviour. It seems generally accepted that Christmas will involve extra food and drink shared with wider family and friends, but of course there is more! The meaning of Christmas is both simple and profound, simply, the celebration of the birth of the historical figure Jesus, and profoundly, God in the flesh in his own world. The simple and true story of a baby in a manger, yet profound when understood that God in Jesus came and related to human beings before death on a Cross. Christians understand that Christmas is about the most wonderful and generous gift that has ever been given and offered to anyone. I look forward to celebrating with you this wonderful truth of ‘God among us’ at our services as we sing carols of the truth of God incarnate and that “this day a Saviour is born unto you, who is Christ the Lord”.

Many books are in print that might be bought as ‘stocking fillers’ about mindfulness, self-actualisation, finding meaning and purpose in life etc. There is a book out that tells us about that actually we are deeply loved by the most significant being in the universe, how to discover that love, that there is meaning and ultimate purpose to life, that there are answers to questions around identity, ‘who we are’, that there is someone who can accept us as we are, yet promises to work within us for healing and development of life. I’m writing about the Bible!

### Two gift ideas

Rowan Williams – *Being Christian. An outline of the meaning of Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer* in only 84 pages! Written by a former Archbishop and described by PD James as “Elegant and Lucid”

**And** from the author of the Bible Course, *The Bible: A story that makes sense of Life*. Described by Bear Grylls as “...revealing insight into the bestselling book of all time”.

Every blessing this Christmas and for the New Year.  
David

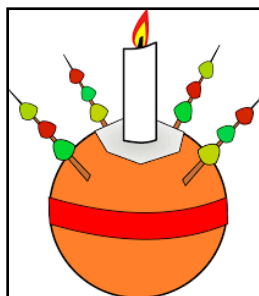
## St Peter's, Brown Candover

The Christingle service will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. All the proceeds of this service will go to the Children's Society.

The annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

The Candover Valley Choir will be leading the singing and it is hoped that, after two years of disruption due to Covid, this will be the start of a new era of hope.

Refreshments will be served after the service in the Candover Valley Club. All most welcome.



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We have limited space on the trailer so priority will be given to children aged 3-12. Under 5's need to bring their own adult with them please.

We meet at Swarraton & Northington village hall at 6.00pm ready for our first of three stops, and finish around 9.00pm back at the village hall.

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# Christmas Carol Singing around Wield

## Friday 23rd December

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- Gather outside the village hall at 6.30pm before embarking on a vocal tour of Upper Wield with festive refreshments en route.

The accordion-accompanied finale will be at the Yew Tree Inn.

Please bring lantern/torches.  
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## St John's Northington Launch of Organ Conservation and Restoration Project News update: December 2022

The PCC of St John's Church Northington is pleased to announce the formal launch of its Organ Conservation and Restoration Project. The PCC was delighted and grateful to have received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant towards this exciting heritage project. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, and with additional support through a successful fundraising campaign including a grant from the Hampshire and the Island Historic Churches Trust and generous private donors, this will not only ensure the conservation of our heritage instrument, but it will also deliver an associated inspiring and creative education and community programme.

The project, which will run until the end of January 2024 (although the Organ itself will be back in use by early May 2023), was launched during November with a community event in Northington Village Hall, and a concert in St John's by local choir, Vox Lucis. The education and community programme will be facilitated by music animateur, Neil Valentine. This dynamic role will help to highlight the heritage of the church and its organ through, amongst other things, workshops for children, organ and choir concerts and participatory community music events working with a range of partners including Hampshire Music Service and the Grange Festival. At the heart of the education involvement is an innovative approach which will see students from Perins School, Alresford, working on a cross curricular English, History, Film, and Creative Arts programme, resulting in a new, young people-led, digital guide to the heritage of the church.

We will keep you in touch with progress and events via the Oxdrove, Hill and Dale, and via our new website which the Lottery grant will also enable us to create. Work on the organ itself will start from the New Year.

**For further information - do contact Jane Bryant, St John's PCC Organ Project Lead ([bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)), or any other member of St John's PCC.**



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**Church flowers, cleaning and Key Holders**

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Flowers	December	All helpers for Christmas decorating Sat Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>
	Key Holders	December	Liz and Charles Dodson (01256 389 279)
		January	Sue Marriott (01256 389 385)
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers and cleaning	December	Felicity Wood All helpers for Carols on Wednesday, 21st December at 6.30pm ( to be confirmed)
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	December	Arrangers will be decorating the church on Sat 17 Dec
	Cleaner		

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

0207 219 7189 (House of Commons) Email: [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com) Steve Brine TV: [www.stevebrine.tv](http://www.stevebrine.tv) [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](http://www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP)

Constituents know of my passion for, and focus on, health matters so it is great to report I have recently become the new chairman of an influential Commons **Health and Social Care Select Committee**.

I gained the support of MPs across the House (Labour, SNP and Liberal Democrat colleagues signed my nomination) and took up my role in early November taking over from Jeremy Hunt who has, of course, become Chancellor. The committee has the power to question ministers and conduct inquiries into health issues – sitting on a cross-party basis which is its great strength.

The ability of the health and social care sectors to continue to deliver for patients is a key priority for my committee, particularly how to deal with the backlog caused by the pandemic and the need to recruit a workforce that's capable of meeting future demand. Further pressures look unavoidable given the current economic climate and the Chief Executive of the NHS has set that out starkly in recent weeks.

Despite spending vast sums on health, we fail to reap the rewards in better outcomes. We need to understand why and to press the government about getting better value for our money while delivering on the 'day job' around access to GP's and dentists in particular.

On mental health, we've a real challenge as demand far outstrips supply and I know the Government could do so much more on prevention to help tackle deeply concerning issues around health inequalities. Prevention and cancer will my focus in the role.

I welcome the opportunity as Chair to examine new solutions to support the NHS to enable it to continue providing the services that we all depend upon and I look forward to working with Ministers and MP's across the House on what is our clear national priority.

This is a national role but it will complement well my work on #priorityNHS in the constituency and the response from local health leaders has been hugely supportive already. You can read more at [www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs](http://www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs)

Secondly, and sticking with health, I spoke last month in an important debate in Parliament on access to **fertility treatment** for couples who are struggling to conceive naturally calling for a "step-change" in IVF treatment offered on the NHS.

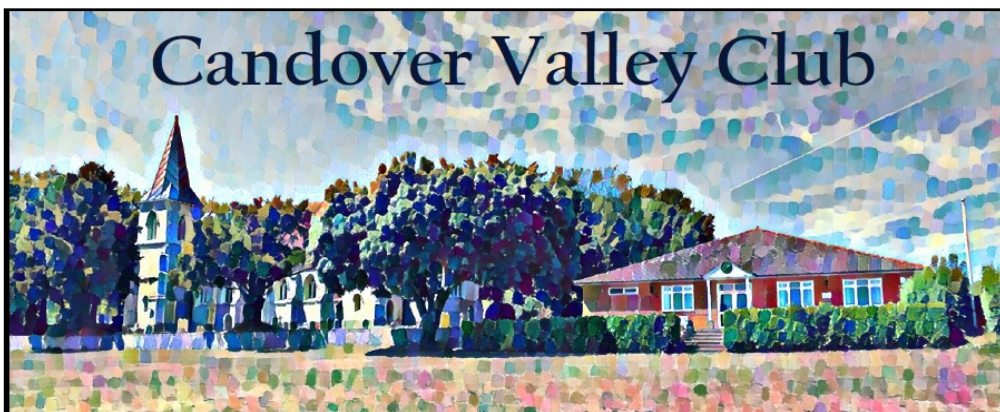
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**May we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year from all the staff & partners at Alresford Surgery.**



## Candover Valley Club

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

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

The Candover Valley Club, Brown Candover, Alresford SO24 9TT

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Thank you for your understanding.

### A fond farewell to Dr. Amy Chandler

We said a fond farewell to Dr. Chandler who left us in November.

Dr. Chandler completed her GP training with us & then joined as a salaried GP.

We have absolutely loved having her as part of our clinical team, but we also know that working at a practice a lot closer to home will work better for her & her family. We wish her all the best at her new practice.

### eConsult will be switched off during the Christmas & New Year bank holiday period:

Any eConsult request you submit outside of our normal surgery opening hours will not be read until we open the next working day.

Patients will not be able to submit eConsults over the weekend or bank holiday period.

All the other eConsult advice services will still be accessible 24/7.

NHS 111 can help if you have an urgent medical problem when your GP practice is closed. Dial 111 on any phone for advice, or visit the NHS 111 website – 111.nhs.uk.

Remember to call 999 at any time in a medical emergency. This is when someone is seriously ill, or injured, and their life is at risk.

### Christmas & New Year

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas – please make sure you have sufficient supplies of your usual medications to last over the holiday period which you can order in a number of ways;

IVF. Yet the vast majority of the 1 in 6 couples diagnosed with fertility problems cannot access that (sometimes they get one chance only) because of local NHS decisions.

We need, in my opinion, to level up access and we need the NHS across the board to recognise that fertility is a medical issue. Three strikes and you're out, let alone where it's less than that, is actually rather cruel so I want to test how far Ministers are prepared to change the system. This is a subject I will be returning to in one (or more) forms during this Parliament. You can watch the debate at [www.stevebrine.com/westminster](http://www.stevebrine.com/westminster)

Finally, my **Winter constituency newspaper** is out now and being delivered to homes across these villages. It is packed full of news and reports on my work in Westminster, full details of the cost of living help we have made available so far and huge amounts of my activity in Winchester on our behalf. As always, and as for 14+ years, it doesn't waste one column inch on negative campaigning and it never will. Compare and contrast is my challenge to you. You can download a copy at [www.stevebrine.com/publications](http://www.stevebrine.com/publications)

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.



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## WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in October 2022

### Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

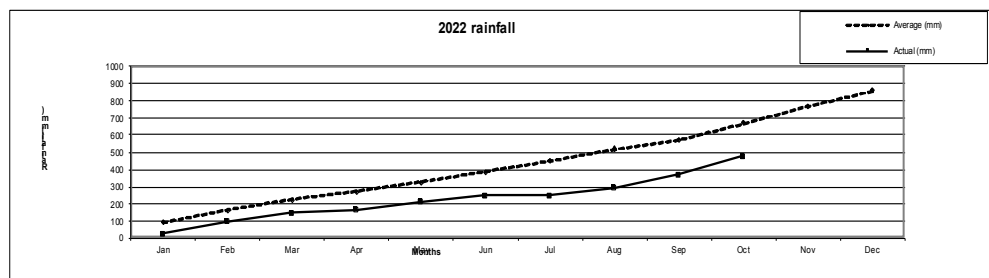
Highest	2.9/70	(29 <sup>th</sup> )
Lowest	-0.7/31	(11 <sup>th</sup> )
Warmest Night	13.3/56	(5 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> )
Coollest Day	15.0/59	(14 <sup>th</sup> )
Average maximum temperature	17.6/64	
Average minimum temperature	7.9/46	
Number of air frosts	1	

### Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	109.0/2.9	(average 99.3/3.91)
Annual total	477.3/18.79	(average 661.9/26.06)
Maximum 24hr. fall	17.8/0.70	(22 <sup>nd</sup> )
Number of days with rain	23	

## Summary

There was an unsettled start to October and this continued for most of the month. It was mainly dry with sunny periods during the second week with some overnight rain. The first air frost of the season occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It was wet and windy on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> with a fresh to strong breeze. Two days later there was early morning rain with thunder and a late afternoon thunderstorm. Temperatures during the last 10 days or so were particularly mild with the warmest day at 70°F on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Overall, daytime temperatures were the warmest recorded here for mid-autumn at almost 4°F above the seasonal norm. Rainfall for the month was 10% above the average, though the year to date figure is less than 3/4 of the long term average.



## CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR Monthly Newsletter - December 2022

### Nine Lessons and Carols 2022

The Choir is now preparing for the two Nine Lessons and Carols Services to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December (St John's, Northington) and 18<sup>th</sup> December (St Peter's, Brown Candover) both at 6 pm.

These services with their mix of congregational carols, choir carols, readings, and nativity scenes or readings by children and young people are wonderful community occasions.

This year, the choir-only carols will include the reflective setting of 'The Coventry Carol', John Rutter's 'Christmas Lullaby', a lively and dynamic arrangement of 'The Holly and the Ivy', and a beautiful setting of a Welsh Lullaby, 'Suo Gan' (Sleeping Child). Beginning with 'Good Christians all Rejoice' and ending with Philip Stopford's uplifting 'A Christmas Blessing', and with congregational carols galore, these Services promise to be wonderful Christmas celebrations and 'carolful' gatherings.

### Thinking ahead to 2023

The Choir is actively seeking new singers. We perform a wide repertoire including popular, light, and classical music, and the Choir has a great community feel to it. If you enjoy singing and would like to know more, give me a ring (07740 871341) or send an email to:

**Julian Jones, Choir Chairman, on: [juliang.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:juliang.jones@btinternet.com)**  
or

**Jane Bryant, Music Director, on [bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)**

Rehearsals in the New Year will start from late January (date tbc). There are no auditions, and we are always interested to hear from potential new singers.

**Jane Bryant (Music Director)  
November 2021**

## Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

In bright sunshine we set off for a ramble around the Woodland Trust's reserve at Home Farm, Burkhams. We follow the way-marked white trail through broad grassy rides before crossing pastures of former farmland, now rapidly regenerating with hawthorn, silver birch and oak saplings. Stands of dogwood, deep claret with autumn leaves, bloom with clusters of white flowers. A kestrel flies over from Wigdell Copse, the ancient heart of these woods.

Beyond Burkhams Lodge, we pick up the blue trail which takes us through the woods to the splendid craftwork picnic table set high on the grassy slopes overlooking Lasham Hill. To our delight a fascinating selection of toadstools has been laid out on the table, by an earlier fungal forager. Searching beneath the birch trees close-by, we find troops of huge fungi meandering across the woodland floor. Here are the scarlet caps of fly agaric, the classic fairytale toadstool, plus rings of woolly milkcaps, salmon pink, amongst others. All are of an impressive saucer size, possibly well nourished by the cowpats of sheltering cattle.

Chance encounters are one of the highlights of autumn walks. While visiting the Abbotstone Down reserve one morning, I pause to listen. Four British White cattle, conservation grazing, placidly chomp and chew. Pheasants croak from far afield; a distant muntjac deer begins to groan. From the out-lying yews comes the clamour and chatter of foraging birds. Heading along the perimeter path now recently cut and cleared, I find a flock of redwings busily gorging themselves on bright red arils, the fleshy fruits of the yew.

Large numbers of redwings and fieldfares, wintering thrushes, have been flying in from Scandinavia, having gobbled up all their rowanberry crops. Nervous flocks now roam the downland woods and hedges searching for berries.

The Royal Netherlands Air Force have a radar unit that tracks the seasonal 'vogeltrek' of flocks of birds, both large and small, crossing the Dutch coastline to winter here. Continental goldcrests, the tiniest of our birds, are quite intrepid flyers, migrating here from as far away as Finland.

Robert Bryant  
9<sup>th</sup> November '22



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## Swarraton and Northington WI

There was a good gathering for the November meeting. The hall was buzzing with chatter!

A sub committee was formed to organise the next summer lunch and another new member, Veronica Gibbs, was welcomed by Gill Graham Maw our President. Members had been busy packing shoeboxes for the Rotary appeal and Janet Pooley was able to take 17 boxes along to the packing party. The new flat pack boxes had been decorated with stickers and Christmas cards and all ages provided for.



The sewing group had met, produced and packed another 40 colourful feminine hygiene kits to be sent to Ethiopia. Some of the group had been busily repairing the kneelers for St John's Church Northington and plan to complete the task before the end of the year. The next sessions will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Please contact Beth if you can help. 735066.

Members received an invitation from Bishops Sutton WI to join them for a Christmas Meal at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas cards were on sale for Save the Children Fund and St John's Church.

We gave a warm welcome to Janet Budd our speaker, who gave an illustrated talk on her travels from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea. Janet had travelled from the dry dusty shores of the Caspian Sea, through secular Azerbaijan and on into the richer agricultural valleys which lie between the higher and lower Caucasuses. She then journeyed west into Christian Georgia with its beautiful Persian architecture and finally to the Black Sea. She found the Georgians friendly and generous and enjoyed the local markets, with their wonderful fruit and vegetables on sale and the delicious local foods and wines. Hot summers and very cold winters prevail in the area. There was little industry but there was oil production which boosted the wealth of these nations and a pipeline ran from coast to coast. Janet visited the childhood home of Joseph Stalin in Gori, the museum and Stalin's railway carriage. She also visited Batumi with its famous statue of Jason and told us about the origins of the legend Jason and the Argonauts.

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and will be our Christmas gathering when Debbie Towlson will demonstrate making Christmas Canapes and we will enjoy a festive tea. Visitors, guests and new members are always welcome. Do come along!**



We wish you all  
**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.**





## Cllr Jackie Porter

### County Corner - March 2022

County Councillor for the Itchen Valley

Division **Jackie Porter,**

[Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk), text 07973 696 085

I wish you the best of times this Christmas period. The year seems to pass so quickly: when you read my next County Corner the days will be getting longer again!

**The ONS has now published more granular and fascinating data from the 2021 census.** Go to the Office for National Statistics website [ons.gov.uk](https://www.ons.gov.uk) to see the latest publications dated from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. This is a powerful set of data looking at age, living arrangements, household size, health and education/deprivation etc. It is fascinating to compare your area with another. This is an example, by age: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/demographyandmigrationdatacontent/2022-11-02>

Local authorities at all levels are making plans for the future. Budgets being set out and Draft Plans are being consulted upon, and we'd like to know what you think of the new policies as well as the proposed sites.

The South Downs National Park has called for new sites for its refreshed Local Plan. Some parishes, like Micheldever are renewing their Parish Design statements, and Alresford is creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

Winchester is currently consulting on our Draft local plan, called **Your Place, Your Plan** until the 14<sup>th</sup> December and the County Council has its **Draft Minerals & Waste plan** out for consultation until the 31<sup>st</sup> January. Both of these are weighty and expensive books to produce! So, they are being published online for everyone on the [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) and [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk) websites- (search draft reg 18 plan for each) and paper copies are available in the libraries. There are details of their contents on my website. Both draft plans include important policies on which the success or failure of future planning permissions will depend as well as proposed sites. Please do have your say. Both can be tackled in 'bite size chunks.'

Last month I spoke about **the future financing of HCC.** The situation was recently described by the Director of Corporate Operations as 'dire'. As a result of the pressure on finances, **there is a rearrangement in the number of Directorships at HCC:** with one for Adults, one for Children which are statutory services providing personal services such as education and social

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care, and one for Universal Services which includes transport, roads and countryside services. All these under the overarching theme of Hampshire 2050, planning for the future as the County Council seeks to reduce climate change and accommodate a growing population which is getting older year by year. We thought Covid 19 would bring a baby boom, but it appears not!

**You will be aware of the spate of accidents at the Cart and Horses junction:** one in late October proved fatal for a local resident. Tragedies like this bring high emotions and I have spoken with our MP as well as parish councils, residents and county officers about the demand for change here. This junction is in many ways the pivot of the Itchen Valley division and the junction is used by many of us, and many agree the design is confusing which can lead to driver error or an horrific accident. A deputation for a safer design is being made to the County on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. I put regular updates with more detail and reflections about this on my website or you can of course contact me directly.

On a happier note: **Hillier Arboretum is opening for a 'light up' experience** from 24 Nov to 31 Dec 2022 4.30-8pm (except Christmas Day). It promises to be a great evening out; please book via their website.

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## Candover Valley Gardening Club

At the time of writing we are looking forward to the Franchi Seeds talk, "From Seed to Plate" which will take us on a food journey around Italy, just what we need for a dark November evening.

For our October meeting we enjoyed a very inspirational talk by Craig Livingstone and Rachel Hammond from Lockerley Estates on Regenerative Farming and Gardening. It was reassuring to hear how the farmland around us is being managed to encourage bio-diversity. Also we picked up some useful tips to improve the practices in our own gardens such as introducing no dig, mulching and having no walk areas to avoid compacting our soil.

We do not have a meeting in December but coming up next year we have talks on Roses, Bees and Hornets and Growing Orchids in the Home, so if you would like to join us, 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>. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Farleigh Parish Playgroup



## Gliddesden Millennium Village Hub

### Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas party and a visit from FC) and 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> January

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)



## On the Farm - Julian Gibbons

The dry weather was never going to last, that we all knew. Fortunately most of the autumn planting was over by the time the heavens opened and started making a valiant attempt to get the rainfall figures for the year closer to average. Wet spots, where the drainage isn't as good as we had hoped, have appeared in some fields.

We had our Red Tractor inspection in October. Our inspector was new to us, so the inspection took a bit longer than normal. However we passed without any minor failures (last year we failed for not having a no smoking sign by our pesticide store). The mild autumn has been good for our late-drilled rape that has grown big enough to get to hopefully avoid the ravages of pigeons and the winter.

We started moving feed wheat in the middle of November. The first day wasn't too bad, but the second day it was lashing with rain. In days gone by loading would have been out of the question. However most lorries now have electric controlled sheets that can open and close between buckets. Upper Farm, Bradley is a very windy spot and in days gone by with old-fashioned tarpaulin sheets it could take 4 of us to get the lorry sheeted after loading. The modern rollover sheet was brought in for health and safety reasons as it meant the load could be sheeted from the ground. The addition of an electrically operated hydraulic motor means that the driver can sheet and un-sheet using a remote control. Many farms now have rollover sheets on their dedicated grain trailers although with manual mechanism. We use ours to take loads to the Trinity grain store at Micheldever Station.

The newspapers have been full of news of shortages of eggs in the supermarkets. This has been the result of a perfect storm. The free-range market has been oversupplied for some time resulting in prices to producers being below the cost of production. The cost of production has shot up due to the rise in feed prices. This has resulted in many producers stopping production or cutting back to stem losses. Avian influenza has resulted in many producers having to destock, resulting in even lower production. The supermarkets move away from caged eggs, when producers had only just invested vast amounts into new large enhanced cages, has also dented industry confidence to invest. The result is we will be importing eggs to make up the shortfall, in many cases produced to lower standards than those we had already moved from.

Avian influenza is devastating to farmers whose flocks contract it. It is not just the loss of the flock. I heard of one egg producer who had 1 million eggs on the farm that had to try and find a home in the liquid pasteurised market. They then have to carry out a deep clean that is so thorough that in many cases it can be cheaper to build a new shed. The alternative is to leave the farm de-stocked for 12 months, this is the most likely option for small backyard flocks. There is insurance available to cover cleaning costs, but premiums have gone through the roof and policy holders were being told by the one company providing cover, that if they wanted cover at renewal they had to renew early with a reduced level of cover

It would appear that we are going to have to live with avian influenza for some time and manage the consequences both to the poultry flocks and the wild bird population.



**Candover Valley Pre-School** (within Preston Candover Primary School)  
 Tel: 01256-389008 Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com  
 Website: <https://www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/>  
 Opening times: Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 3.15pm Fri 8.30 - 11.45pm

**Hello from CVP!**

The little ones have had great fun celebrating Bonfire Night, creating firework pictures with chalk, junk models with paint and glitter and a sensory tray experience including flour, glitter, pipe cleaners and tools to mark make and explore with their senses. The little ones have also made their own fireworks with breadsticks and sprinkles to eat at snack time.

The children have been developing their fine motor skills to mould clay to create divas to celebrate Diwali and make their own little animals looking for somewhere to hibernate this Autumn! The little ones have also had a great interest in ponies and unicorns over the last few weeks, so we have been researching information and using our imaginations during role play.

We have been reading A Squash and a Squeeze and some related activities include exploring the sizes small, medium and large, how many animals we can fit into a house just like the little old lady's and identifying different animals and the names of their babies.

For the next few weeks, we will be focussing on encouraging the little ones to make marks with meaning. We use many experiences at pre-school not just paper and pencils including chalk, paint, sand, playdough, flour, clay, gloop, sticks and mud, transient art and sensory trays. This is a very important step to develop before moving on to pre-writing skills. Access to practise these skills by having resources available daily along with adults modelling mark making is very helpful.

The children have been exploring the stories 'Superworm' and 'Room on the Broom' during the forest sessions by making clay models, wands from sticks they found and decorated with ribbon and wool, role playing the stories together and making a special potion with natural resources they found in the woods. What fun at 'The Hornbeam Hideout' Forest School too, exploring, drinking hot chocolate, eating marshmallows and getting to know some animals.

Hope to see you soon!

Lisa Collisson Pre-School Head




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## Local Police report

There has been a significant spike of rural Burglaries and Thefts in the Basingstoke & Dean Borough within the last month. Police have noticed more often, that the criminals revisit locations very soon after an initial failed attempt of Theft / Burglary.

On re-attending addresses they appear to return better equipped with more advanced and heavy duty tools of their trade.

Two Honda CRVs have been identified as being involved in recent offences and have been described as one in green and another in silver. Police are following up on lines of enquiry.

Police advice, is to remain suspicious of cold callers attending your address and enquiring of cars that maybe for sale, especially those with 4 wheel drive functionality.

Any information about cold callers and any registrations of cars they arrive in are always of interest to the Police. You are requested to pass the information to the police by an online report or to your local Beat Officer.

Properties that have waste skips, usually because of renovation works, are also at an increased risk of being targeted. Whilst this usually involves theft from the skips themselves, namely metal objects from within. It also highlights other tools that may be used for any project work ongoing. All plant machinery and petrol powered tools like chainsaws & leaf blowers remain high on the criminal's gift list. Alas the list is not exhaustive.

PCSO Andy Jones continues to offer any crime prevention advice and answer any questions you may have, please email him below for any contact.

[Andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Redd Alert: Spotting Spawning Salmonids



Stroll along a chalk stream in winter, and you might see a wildlife wonder in progress. At this time of year, the cool, clear, oxygen-rich water is alive with amorous brown trout and salmon. As the females get busy building their nests, the males compete for the chance to be their spawning partners.

To create a nest, or 'redd', a female turns on her side and flexes her body. This directs the flow towards the stream bed, forming a hollow and sweeping away the finer sediment.

She lays her eggs in this hollow, the victorious male fertilises them, and she covers them over with a layer of gravel.

This process can take several days, but the result is a dip followed by a slight mound just downstream. A freshly made redd is easier to spot, since the disturbed patch is a lighter colour than the area around it. As sediment and algae accumulate, the redd gradually becomes less visible.

Of course, not every breeding attempt will be successful. Moreover, a female may start forming a redd to test a spot's suitability, only to abandon the site upon finding a better option. Beyond this natural uncertainty, however, there are other factors that make the odds less favourable.

Barriers like weirs and dams can be impassable for some fish, which isolates them and limits their space for spawning – you might see redds crowded together in the vicinity of these obstacles. In dry weather years, low water levels can leave redds exposed, putting the eggs at risk of dehydration.

Excess sediment can fill the gaps between larger pieces of gravel, thereby preventing water from flowing through them. This deprives a redd's eggs of oxygen, which is crucial to their development. Dredging can remove gravel from a stream bed entirely, leaving only fine sediment behind.

To ensure healthy wild fish populations, we must keep our chalk streams in good condition. The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is improving spawning habitats on the Test and Itchen headwaters; explore our projects at [www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk). Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### Online Talk – Environmental Impact of Septic Tanks

26th January, 7 - 8pm. Ali Morse, Water Policy Manager for The Wildlife Trusts, uncovers the impact of off-mains drainage. When improperly managed, these systems can cause environmental and financial problems for rural communities. Learn how to keep your system safe and efficient, while also protecting our precious chalk streams. Book your free ticket at [www.hiwwt.org.uk/events](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events)

Photo courtesy Linda Pitkin/2020VISION



# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

Date	Store	Post office
<b>Sunday 18 December</b>	<b>Extended opening</b> 8.30am – 4.00pm	Closed
<b>Christmas Eve</b> Saturday 24 December	8.30am – 4.00pm	9.00am to 12.30pm <u>Last collection</u> 10.50am
<b>Christmas Day</b> Sunday 25 December	Closed	Closed
<b>Boxing Day</b> Monday 26 December	Closed	Closed
<b>Bank holiday</b> Tuesday 27 December	8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed
Wednesday 28 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Thursday 29 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Friday 30 December	8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
<b>New Year's Eve</b> Saturday 31 December	8.30am – 4.00pm	9.00am – 12.30pm Last collection 10.50am
<b>New Year's Day</b> Sunday 1 January 2023	8.30am – 12.30pm	<u>Closed</u>
<b>Bank holiday</b> Monday 2 January	8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed

# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

## Shop local this Christmas! Our amazing little store has it ALL!

Garry's forward planning means that the store is now brimming with a huge array of edible treats for all ages and tastes. For the young and young-at-heart, there are chocolate advent calendars, Santas, reindeer and teddies. There's old fashioned toffee, striped candy sticks and selection boxes too. Grown-ups might be looking for a drop or two of local bubbles in pink and classic from Hattingley, The Grange or Candover Brook, to accompany something savoury from the ChalkStream trout range. Maybe your temptation would be a glass of Graham's port with a special cheese or a raspberry or pistachio macaron? Christmas puddings, iced cake slabs and mince pies are available too, alongside jars of mincemeat for cooks who prefer to bake their own. We have boxes of greetings cards and Christmas paper packs (some featuring Brussels sprouts!), recyclable coloured tissue, or trendy brown kraft in stock for all your wrapping needs. And, as always, Hannah has sourced some beautiful ceramic, cotton, wooden and woollen gift items that are bound to please anyone lucky enough to receive them. Prices start at less than £5.

### Extended opening – Sunday 18 December

You are invited to shop until 4pm on this Sunday.

### Early closing – 4pm on Christmas Eve

Please note that the store will close early on Christmas Eve. Shop and post office hours will be different on various days during the Christmas and New Year period. For full details please turn to page 31.

### To beat the planned strikes, please post early for Christmas

It is more important than ever to post early this Christmas as strikes are likely to disrupt postal services. Also, do remember to use up your old-style stamps as they are being phased out and will not be accepted after the end of January 2023. They are being replaced by new, larger, barcoded postage stamps.

**WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!**

Thank you all for your valued custom and support throughout 2022  
We look forward to seeing you again soon!

## Remembrance Sunday

The service on Sunday 13 November was very well attended. Brownies, Cubs and Girl Guides were in attendance as the RBL Standard Bearer, Rhys Smith, lead the procession at St Marys Church, Preston Candover



## THE YARD

Come & visit our beautiful, light-filled café  
in the heart of the Candover Valley!

We serve the best Moonroast coffee, pastries, cakes & simple, delicious  
breakfast & brunch & lunch.

Open every Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun, 9am-4pm.

NOW OPEN every last Friday of the month, 6pm-11pm  
Enjoy great cocktails, food & music, no need to book, all welcome.

Whether you're visiting by car, by bicycle or on foot, you're welcome to  
just turn up, we have plenty of seating both indoors & outdoors. Parties  
of 6 & over are welcome to book a table though if you're keen to be  
seated indoors.

We also host talks & workshops & a seasonal pop up restaurant.  
If you'd like to know what's going on, visit [www.theyardhampshire.co.uk](http://www.theyardhampshire.co.uk)  
& add your name to our mailing list to receive our monthly newsletters.

Follow us on Instagram @theyard\_hampshire  
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