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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

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

THE OXDROVE

Church and Community News

Of

The Candover Valley and Wield

Rector: David Chattell, The Rectory, Preston Candover
Tel: 01256 389 474 Email: davidchattell172@btinternet.com

Associate Rector: Stephen Mourant, The Rectory, Church Lane Ellisfield.
Tel: 01256 381 217. Email: stevemourant@btinternet.com
<http://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk>

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
beneficeFCW@hotmail.com Phone 07541 463750 Contact preferably by e-mail

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

The Parishes of Candover Valley and Wield

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

Sunday	4 April	Easter Sunday
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8</i>	
	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>Resurrection theme</i>	
8.30	Bradley	Family Holy Communion CW
9.30	Wield	Family Holy Communion CW
11.00	Brown Candover	Family Holy Communion CW
11.00	Northington	Family Holy Communion CW
11.00	Preston Candover	Family Holy Communion CW
	" "	
Sunday	11 April	Second Sunday of Easter
<i>Readings:</i>	<i>Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21; 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-end</i>	
	Psalm 133	
<i>Sermon:</i>	<i>Ever messed up? There's always hope in repentance and restoration</i>	
8.30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW
10.00	Preston Candover	Morning Worship CW
6.00	Wield	Evensong BCP
	" "	
Sunday	18 April	Third Sunday of Easter
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Acts 3:12-19, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-48</i>	
	Psalm 4	

Sermon
9.00 We **are** the children of God
Wield Holy Communion BCP
10.00 Preston Candover Holy Communion CW
””

Sunday 25 April Fourth Sunday of Easter
Readings Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-end, John 10:11-18

Psalm 23
Sermon What does a good shepherd look like?
10.00 Preston Candover Family Service
11.15 Brown Candover Morning Worship CW
””

Sunday 2 May Fifth Sunday of Easter
Readings Acts 8:26-end, 1 John 4:7-end, John 15:1-8

Psalm 22:25-end
Sermon Branching out? Or pruning drastically?
9.30 Wield Matins BCP
10.00 Preston Candover Morning Worship CW
11.00 Northington Holy Communion CW
””

Farleigh Parish

Sunday 4 April Easter Day
8.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
9.45 Cliddesden Family Easter Communion CW
11.15 Dummer Family Easter Communion CW
3.00pm Cliddesden Family Baptism with the Bishop of Basingstoke

Sunday 11 April Second Sunday of Easter
8.00 Dummer Holy Communion BCP
9.45 Ellisfield Holy Communion CW
11.15 Cliddesden Family Communion CW

Sunday 18 April Third Sunday of Easter
8.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
9.45 Dummer Morning Prayer CW
11.15 Cliddesden Family Service

Saturday 24 April
6.00 Cliddesden Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 25 April Fourth Sunday of Easter
9.45 Dummer Holy Communion CW
11.15 Ellisfield Morning Praise

Sunday 2 May Fifth Sunday of Easter



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Please Note:

Some services may be outside depending on weather, so be prepared – notice will be given well in advance and this rota assumes full resumption of services.

Online services will continue for as long as they are needed.

St. Peters Church, Brown Candover

At last all the building work has finished and now we can use our church.

The first service will be Easter Day and this may take place Inside or outside in the graveyard, depending on the Covid rules.

If we are allowed into the church, we will clean and decorate on Saturday 3rd April. We will send a message round if this is the case.

Dear Friends

The Easter story of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and bodily rising again on Easter Day is fundamental to the Christian faith; if Jesus did not rise from the dead, there is no life after death, no forgiveness of sins, no purpose in life, no hope in death and no truth, and as 1 Corinthians 15:16-19 tells us” *For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. BUT in fact Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep..*”

Some people say to me how can I believe such an idea? The answer lies in the facts that convinced me, the faith I exercised and the experience of the risen Christ entering my life back in 1971, and that His presence has grown over those many years. One hymn writer wrote:

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain: Then bursting forth in glorious Day

Up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry

to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me
from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!
(From "In Christ Alone" by Stuart Townend)
Easter is not about bunnies, chocolate Easter Eggs or a long bank holiday – those are
peripheral at best: it's about the breaking of sin's power and death's dread, and
God's Kingdom beginning to reign in reality in the lives of those who choose Jesus.
In the Exploring Faith course I've compared Christianity to the other world reli-
gions: their founders are dead and gone: their teachings maybe interesting but not
life giving, their philosophy worth reflecting on but providing no hope beyond
death, no forgiveness of sins, no personal relationship with the creator.

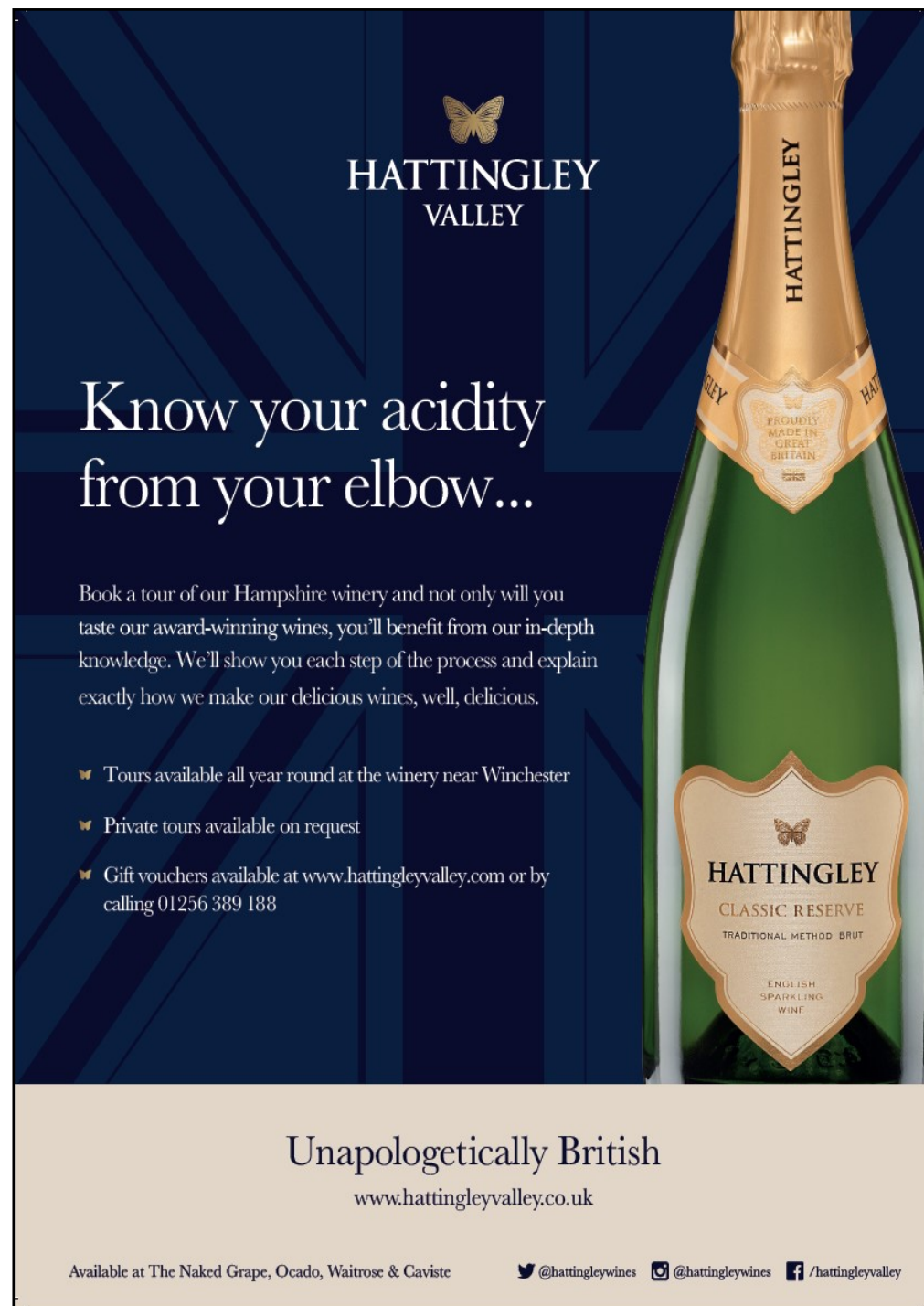
Why choose a philosophy, a belief in inanimate objects as if they were able to heal,
a belief that reality and truth is what we make it, instead of encountering the Living
God who made us? I recently I spoke on "I am a fool for Christ. Whose fool are
you?" The so-called foolishness of believing in the teacher from Nazareth, whose
resurrection changed the course of history is true wisdom. I sometimes meet people
who have made up their own religion and ideas, but without reference to what God
has already revealed about Himself. We can so easily delude and deceive ourselves
because it is convenient. When Jesus invites us to His table, to His presence, we find
He is THE truth – for there can only be one truth – either something is true or it is
not. It cannot be both, depending on your perspective because that is just nonsense.
No such thing as "Your truth" as opposed to "my truth" – there is only THE truth.

We start Easter services with the festal shout "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Hallelujah!" :Being convinced of the reality of Jesus being alive and willing to enter
every life that is opened to Him, is what makes the faith infectious – in of course the
very best sense. The hallmark of real living faith is joy: - knowing we are forgiven,
accepted, had mercy shown, having a purpose, experiencing the power of Jesus is
life transforming. A pastoral encounter with someone who was in need told me later
as we prayed for them, "It was like the power being switched on – I felt a new energy,
a power that flooded my being with peace."

What is your Easter hope? Is it based in the person of Jesus Christ, risen, ascended,
glorified, and one day coming again? Or who or what? He welcomes us to come to
Him in repentance and trust, to find hope, mercy and forgiveness. May each of us
say without hesitation and without a shadow of doubt, on Easter Day, "Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!" for we know it is true for we know Him.

May the living Jesus bless and make His presence known to you this Easter season,
in His name and joy,

Stephen



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Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	4 April 11.00	Rhona and James Hatchley	Rhona and James Hatchley
	2 May 11.00	Sophie and Mark Ashburton	Sophie and Mark Ashburton
St Peter's Brown Candover	4 April 11.00	Celia Foote	Jonathan Moseley
	25 April 11.15	Sue Marriott	Edwina Curtis hayward
St Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	4 April 11.00	Marina Avis and Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg and Marina Avis
	11 April 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Celia Foote
	18 April 10.00	Jane Laws and Joan Hills	Anne Luneburg, and Jane Laws
All Saints Bradley	25 April 10.00	Marina Avis	To be advised
	2 May 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Sue Marriott
	4 April 8.30	Julian Gibbons	Julian Gibbons
St James' Wield	11 April 8.30	Christopher Swan	Christopher Swan
	4 April 9.30	Alwin Hutchinson	Paul Markillie and Max Konig
	11 April 6.00pm	Barbnara Wells	Barbara Wells and David Cowley
	18 April 9.00	Brian Collins	Jean Frost and Alwin Hutchinson
	2 May 9.30	Alwin Hutchinson	Ben Robinson and Alwin Hutchinson

Church flowers, cleaning and Key Holders

St. John's Church Northington	Flowers	
	Key Holder	
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Flowers	<p>I have not been given any details about flowers in any churches for Easter or April Services.</p> <p>I assume your 'Flower person' will let you know the arrangements and then send me details for May services.</p>
	Key Holders & Brass	
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers and Cleaning	<p>Jean</p>
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	

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Our new Benefice Administrator

"Hi, my name is Tricia Knight and I'm the new benefice administrator for the Farleigh, Candover and Wield benefice. I'm originally from Bishops Sutton and am now living in Sherborne St John, Basingstoke. I'm from a farming background and did an Agriculture degree at Harper Adams University.

In addition to this new role with the FCW benefice I am also a bookkeeper, secretary and groom and I enjoy the variety that having multiple roles brings.

I look forward to getting to know you all and working for the benefice. "

Graves in Churchyard of St John the Evangelist, Northington

The Northington PCC intends to apply for a faculty in May 2021 for permission from the Diocesan Chancellor to remove the kerbstones and other grave furniture, to leave just the headstone on all full bodied graves in the churchyard and return the ground to level grass so the graves can be mown and kept weed free and tidy and in conformity with the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese. We hope that all will understand this need but if there are any objections, please contact the PCC Secretary c/o Ruffside, Northington, SO24 9TH by 30 April 2021.

If any grave is unsafe and/or untended we will ask the relatives to repair the memorial in order to pass the safety standards of the Diocesan architect within 8 months and to tend the grave to ensure it remains tidy.

The application for a Faculty will be made in May 2021 and work commenced once the Faculty is granted. The work may well take over 2 years and so the Faculty application will ask for the Faculty to run for that period. Any grave that receives an objection to being simplified will be temporarily spared but failure to repair a monument and/or tend a grave by 30 Apr 2022 will be taken by the PCC as a withdrawal of the objection.

The removed furniture will be used in the foundations for the repair and refurbishment of the Grade 2 Listed Churchyard walls.



News from the Dever Society Winchester's Local Plan

Your chance to have your say on
development in the district
and say **NO** to a large new town

Deadline 12th
April



The new Local Plan – the housing and development blueprint for Winchester District

Winchester City Council has published details about the **new Local Plan**, the all-important policy document that when agreed will set out the sites that will accommodate the homes that need to be built across the district through to the year 2038.

The Government has instructed the council that 14,000 dwellings should be built, roughly 700 per year.

The previous Local Plan has already identified where many of these homes will go, but the new Plan will make decisions on where the rest will be built. The council is asking residents for their views on four possible options for how to meet this remaining target.

One of these, Option 3, is to build a large new settlement on greenfields in the district. Micheldever new town

Option 3 puts the prospect of the new town at Micheldever squarely in the frame. Once again, our communities need to band together to see off this threat.

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The owners of the new town site at Micheldever Station are heavily promoting their plan. They are proposing to build a town the size of Petersfield or Romsey in the Dever Valley. The town would be huge, with upwards of 8,300 houses. It would be a disaster for the environment and would destroy our communities and 1,350 acres of countryside.

If the council rejects Option 3 at this stage of the Local Plan's development, then the new town threat is greatly diminished.

The Dever Society supports the Local Plan process and agrees with the need for new homes, but we strongly believe that brownfield and previously built on sites should be developed before any greenfield sites are considered. Building a large new settlement and destroying swathes of pristine habitat would be an environmental travesty and we are compiling a detailed response to the consultation to make sure Option 3 is rejected.

Please make your voice heard – deadline 12th April

If we are to stop Micheldever new town then the council needs to hear from as many people as possible that Option 3 is the **WRONG** option for the district.

We urge you to tell the council that you do not support new towns in the countryside and oppose Option 3.

There are a number of ways to do this.

The easiest way is to send an email with your objection to Option 3 to: planningpolicy@winchester.gov.uk. **In the subject line of your email, please state 'Response to Strategic Issues and Priorities consultation'.**

Or you can write to:

Local Plan Consultation
Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
SO23 9LJ

Don't forget, the deadline for responding is 12th April.

Further information about the Local Plan is available at the council's dedicated website www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk where you can find the full consultation document (entitled *Strategic Issues and Priorities*). Apart from housing, the Local Plan will cover issues such as the environment, the economy and transport.

For further information, please contact: admin@deversociety.org



Small pleasures

This delightful picture is of three small children in a rubber boat on the pond at the end of the Avenue in Chilton Candover. It was sent by Sue Marriott.. The children are obviously having fun and finding ways to amuse themselves.

Don't be tempted to paddle!

The water in the Candover Brook is very clean and we discovered this morning that there are an abundance of leeches enjoying the clean water. It is very tempting to paddle but please don't go into the water with bare feet as leeches are quick to jump on you and then they are very difficult to

Preston Candover Parish Council

Unlike the recent viral Standforth Parish Council Meeting, we as your local parish council have continued through this pandemic on a calmer course. As we navigate our way out of lockdown, our last Skype parish meeting (all being well) has just been held, with no "kicking out" required!

The precept funding we receive from Basingstoke & Deane Council has been used for various local needs in the past year – including a grant for the local scout group and replacement notice boards in parts of the parish. Through careful financial management we have not asked for an increase to our precept this coming financial year and have also been able to plan and go ahead with projects such a landscaping improvement project around the local war memorial.

On a final note, we would like to thank all those people throughout the parish who contributed to the parish in the past 12+ months, even the smallest thing will have helped in some way. Touch wood, we are on the last lap of lockdown and can look forward to a brighter and a Covid freer summer and future in general.

STOP PRESS: A generous financial donation has also given the Parish Council the opportunity to consider supporting youth orientated projects within the parish. If you want to find out more or even have an idea - contact us at www.prestoncandoverandnutleyipc.co.uk

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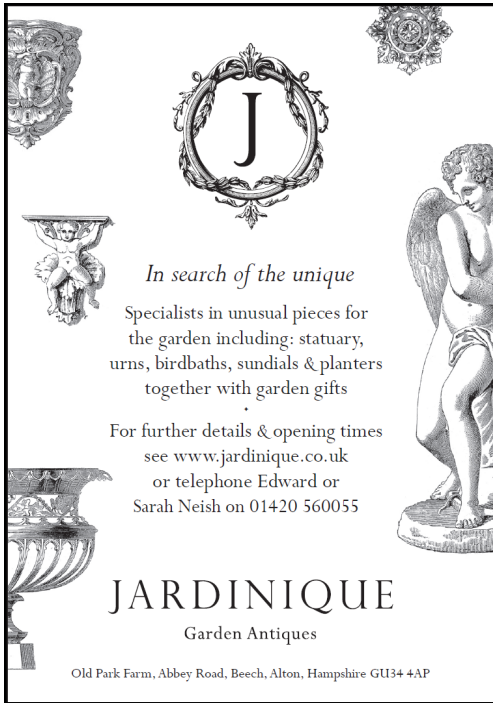


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Leeches

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Walking with Wildlife

It was one of those rare winter mornings: calm and clear with blue skies, dazzlingly bright sunshine, and crunchy snow underfoot. Seizing the chance to take a lockdown stroll, I head off, well wrapped up, from the back gate of our garden. Firstly, looking for tracks and signs along the snowy edge of the neighbouring field, I find a line of fresh prints showing where a roe deer had tip-toed by.

Skirting a field of dried millet-type stems, frosty-white in the morning sun, I pause to watch a gleaming flock of goldfinches busily stripping the last of the seed heads. During short winter days the search for food is relentless and these conservation crops are invaluable. A roaming party of chaffinches arrive to forage furiously. Restless, they take off, flying up and around before swarming down to resume their winter banquet. Using binoculars, I'm able to pick out a distinctive little finch among them – with a red crown; it's a redpoll.

The field boundaries of mature oaks and ash trees, a feature of the local landscape, tower at the wayside edge. The sculptural effect of their bare branches lit up by the low sunshine is offset by the dense cladding of their ivy-covered trunks. The ivy seems to ripple with redwings, chattering fieldfares, and a solitary blackcap, all busily plucking the black ivy berries – the bird equivalent of feasting on Mars bars according to the RSPB. The thicket below also flickers with birdlife: tits, dunnocks and wrens. A robin pops up as I pass by; a blackbird breaks cover skimming away.

Tramping along the lane-side hedge I'm looking for signs of spring. Clusters of green flutes of cuckoo pint or arum, one of the earliest of spring plants, are emerging in the shelter of the hedge bottom.

Glancing across the open snowy field, I spot three brown hares, each well spaced, apparently oblivious of the red kite floating overhead. On the far side of the field, two roe deer in coats of winter-grey stand at the edge of the hazel copse.

Robert Bryant
10 February '21

- Social Care workers - Completed
- 3) All those 75 years of age or over - Completed
 - 4) All those aged 70 years or over and the clinically vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those aged less than 16 years) - completed
 - 5) All those aged 65 years to 70 years over - Being invited by the NHS mass vaccination sites.
 - 6) All those aged 16 to 65 years of age in an at risk group – Completed.
 - 7) All those aged 60 years or over - Completed
 - 8) All those aged 55 years and over – In progress
 - 9) All those aged 50 years and over - not starting yet.
- We may contact you via telephone or text to book your vaccination or NHS England may write to you..
 - Please **only book one appointment** for your Covid vaccine.
 - Vaccinations organised by the surgery are being held at the Holiday Inn, Winchester & this will be the case until at least the end of June.
 - Please do make sure you **keep your vaccine appointment**. If you are unable to attend, please telephone the venue.
 - It is very important that no vaccines go to waste due to patients not attending for their appointment.
 - **Before and after** your vaccine you must
 - wash your hands
 - wear a face mask as advised
 - keep 2 metres apart
 - Do remember that we are still open if you have any medical concerns.
 - We have been made aware of several scams involving Covid vaccinations, so please be assured that we would **never** ask you for payment for your vaccination.

As always, please do **NOT** call the practice to query when your vaccination will be.

We will invite patients as soon as we are able to but due to vaccine supply this may be at short notice.

We have been assured vaccines have been reserved for second doses within the 12 week period, however we have been informed it will not be before a 10 week gap.

Thank you for your patience from the GP Partners of Alresford Surgery.



The Alresford Surgery

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ALRESFORD
Hampshire

Out of hours telephone number
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Surgery telephone number 01962 732345 SO24 9JL

The Alresford Pigs – Thank you

We have been extremely fortunate to have been given a very generous donation from The Alresford Pigs.

This donation has been gratefully received & has been used to purchase airway suction kit for emergency care and resuscitation, a surgical trolley & digital cool bags with thermometers which allow staff to vaccinate the housebound.

The addition of this new equipment helps us to provide essential services to our community during the Covid pandemic, and will also benefit our patients in the future....

The Alresford Pigs has given financial help to those in need in Alresford and the surrounding villages for more than 40 years & do so through fundraising events. For more information about the Alresford Pigs or any of their upcoming fundraiser events, please visit; <https://alresfordpigs.org/>
Thank you so much from all the GP Partners at The Alresford Surgery on behalf of our patients.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

We know that you, like us, are struggling with the continued confines imposed upon us all due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Everyone is trying to make the best of the situation and, as a practice; we are committed to caring for you in the best possible way whilst keeping both you and our team safe.

To keep you as informed as possible, we will update these messages frequently as we become aware of more information from NHS England:

- The vaccines are still being rolled out in a very strict order.
- We are working hard to get Cohort 9 patients vaccinated by the government's target date of mid-April & we are confident in being able to achieve this.
- Those eligible will be receiving a text or call to book their vaccination.
- We are completely reliant on the supply of the vaccine; please do not call us querying when you will be receiving your vaccine.

At present, the order of priority for vaccination is:

- 1) Residents in care homes for older adults and their staff - Completed
- 2) All those aged 80 years or over and frontline Health and

CVC Candover Valley Club

The Candover Valley Club is located in a beautiful spot next to the church and fronted by the cricket pitch in the middle of the quiet village of Brown Candover. We are conveniently situated on the B3046 between Alresford and Basingstoke.

Both the clubroom and the back hall have recently been renovated and have never looked so inviting. Club night is Saturday from 6.30pm to 10pm if you fancy a drink, a game of darts or pool and a chat with the locals. Food is also served between 7pm and 9pm.

Our magnificent Skittle Alley is also available to hire – great for fun evenings with groups of people and parties!

The club and/or hall are both available to hire at very reasonable rates. We have a fully licensed bar, fully fitted kitchen and large spaces for wedding receptions and parties. Please contact Alison at cvchires@gmail.com - No booking is too large or too small.



We look forward to seeing you soon!

CVC www.candovervalleyclub.co.uk



facebook.com/candovervalleyclub



[@CandoverClub](https://twitter.com/CandoverClub)

Swarraton and Northington WI



Days for Girls update.....After much stitching, overlocking and finishing during lockdown we have amassed a fabulous stash of items ready to send to Sandra Sherwood We have 925 liners, 15 bags and 132 shields ready to go - what an achievement! They will eventually be shipped to The Gambia and to Tanzania. We are running short of cotton and polycotton material now and would welcome donations of fabric. Perhaps you may come across something you no

longer want when spring cleaning or decluttering?

New Alresford WI have kindly invited our members to join them on 7th April for a Zoom cookery demonstration by Debbie Towlson. Debbie will be making a Pear, Maple and Pecan roulade.

For many years we have supported Treloar College by holding bring and buy sales and sadly that hasn't been possible during lockdown. However members might like to join Alan Titchmarsh MBE VMH DL and Walk for Treloar's this Easter to raise some much needed funds. Walk for Treloar's is set to take place across the Easter weekend – Friday 2nd April to Monday 5th April – and will see those taking part getting their walking shoes on and completing a distance of either 4 miles or 8 miles, however, this could also be a chosen distance in your local area. Once you have signed up, you'll receive a digital event information pack from the fundraising team followed by your very own Walk for Treloar's t-shirt to wear on your walk.

Denman courses- Members have enjoyed taking part in these excellent online courses. Non-members can also enrol and they are modestly priced at £5. The lectures about Kent Churches and Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs were fascinating and the practical craft courses are really good with step by step demonstrations, tips to make things easier and good patterns and instructions. Here are a couple of the things we have made.

We are also encouraging members to start knitting ready for the shoe box appeal. Hats and gloves or mittens always make useful gifts to pack in the boxes.



Police Report

**Andrew Reid, Police Constable Rural Beat Officer
3746 andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk**

**Information should be passed to: 101;
Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111;
OR give me a call on 07768 776 844 or 01256 389 050**

Dear Residents

A few things to both make you aware of this month. Recently in Preston Candover there has been further damage caused to growing crops by poachers. This happened overnight of March 10 and 1. On the evening of March 8 a car was stolen from outside a house in Brown Candover and later found in Fareham. Whilst this type of crime is rare it does reiterate the fact that criminals are active in our area and will, if the opportunity arises, take the chance.

In Axford between February 17 and 20 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car parked outside a resident's home. The cost of scrap metal has increased of late and this is noticeable in the increase of metal related thefts.

Not too far away in Cliddesden, overnight of February 21 and 22 the theft of several 'staddle stones' took place from a garden in Hackwood Lane. These are the old 'mushroom' type stones used in the past when a farm building was placed on top of them to raise it from the ground. Usually at this time of the year we experience an increase in the thefts from garden sheds and outbuildings as well as from gardens.

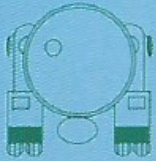
In nearby Herriard overnight of March 10 and 11 a padlock and chain was cropped on a gate in Bushywarren Lane, Herriard.

If anyone can assist within any information of any of these crimes, please give me a call direct.

As spring has finally arrived may I also please remind residents to keep their property secure, mark expensive tools and machinery and keep sheds and outbuildings secure with good locks, alarms if possible and good censer lighting.

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

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On the Farm— Julian Gibbons

There is nothing like cold easterly winds to dry out the ground ready for spring work and there is nothing like the start of spring drilling to cheer an arable farmer, lock-down or no lockdown.

We started barley drilling on the 2nd March the earliest for a number of years. We started on the lightest chalkiest fields of Ben Robinson's behind his stubble turnips. Seedbeds appear to be good and it was nice to see flocks of gulls on the freshly cultivated ground. As I write this we are moving into the second half of March and the soils are just starting to warm up. The freshly drilled barley has had to contend with heavy rain and frosts.

The barley fields left are on heavier clay fields and will need to dry out a bit more before we can plant those. We also have the peas and beans to plant, the peas want to go into warm seedbeds and grow so they will be last to plant. We had a field of fallow planned, but the high price of rapeseed might tempt us to plant spring rape into it. We will see how the spring drilling progresses before committing ourselves. Fertilising started at the end of February. We have spent some time analysing historic yields, grain protein levels and applied fertiliser to ensure we are putting no more nitrogen than necessary. It is the single biggest input into the crop and it is important we get rates right. As in previous years we use satellite imaging, plant shoot counts and an app on my phone to calculate what nitrogen is already in the crop and from that calculate how much more we will need. We then use the satellite imaging to variably apply the first dose to the crop. Some fields will be getting twice the amount of others.

The last of our Maris Otter got delivered in March up to the huge Boortmalt maltings at Bury St. Edmonds. For a change we had more in the barn than we thought which is always a pleasant surprise.

The Maris Otter is on a min/max price, but grain prices, if you have any crop left to sell, are very buoyant. This is a combination of the poor UK 2020 harvest, meaning we are a net importer, China hugely increasing its grain purchases and Russia putting export taxes on grain to keep their domestic prices lower. Ironically, we sold the last of our milling wheat, but have had to hold it until July as the flour millers are covered with imported wheat until then.

Fertilising in late February I saw the earliest Leveret I can ever remember seeing, scampering through the crop. I thought it might be a fluke, but I saw one, even smaller, again a few days later in another field. We have also had about a dozen Golden Plovers in one of the fields near the farm for the last 6 weeks.

With lambing under way, please as always keep your dogs on leads or close control.

WEATHERWISE

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in February 2021

By Simon Bourne

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

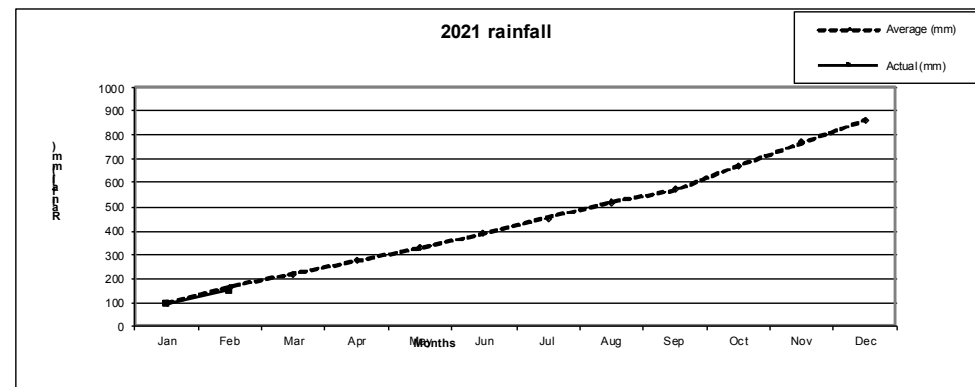
Highest	13.5/56	(24 th)
Lowest	-5.6/22	(21 st)
Warmest Night	8.0/46	(21 st)
Coolest Day	-0.1/30	(8 th)
Average maximum temperature	8.5/47	
Average minimum temperature	1.3/34	
Number of air frosts	12	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly & annual total	56.9/2.24	(average 67.6/2.66)
Annual total	147.1/5.79	(average 165.0/6.50)
Maximum 24hr. fall	9.3/0.37	(14 th)
Number of days with rain	15	

Summary

The first five days were unsettled and mild, followed by bitterly cold winds from the north and east which drove temperatures down and it remained below freezing on the 8th with snow flurries on this and the following day. Temperatures remained well below the seasonal norm to the end of the second week with a few days of dry weather and the heaviest frost on the 11th. A week of wet weather was followed by glimpses of sun though thick cloud and the second half of the month was mild. High pressure brought all but clear skies and unbroken sunshine for the last three days and more overnight frosts. Overall, February was dry with temperatures at the



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Candover Valley Gardening Club

Although unfortunately we are still unable to meet in April, we are very hopeful that by May the restrictions may have been lifted sufficiently for us to enjoy an exciting local garden visit together. Also in May we are hoping to hold our Annual Bring and Buy Plant Sale which is always very popular with members and local villagers. Meanwhile we are all busy nurturing our seedlings and dividing plants in the hope of having surpluses to sell. This way we are able to offer a wide variety of bargain plants so please watch this space next month for further details.

If you would like to find out more about our gardening club please see our website www.cvgc.btck.co.uk



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Property disputes involving unmarried couples

As more and more people choose to live together rather than marry, there has been an increase in the number of disputes between separating couples. One of the biggest issues for these people is their interest in and right to occupy the home they had previously lived in as a couple. Other situations can also involve inherited property and property purchased for investment.

Many people do not realise that unmarried cohabiting couples do not have the same amount of legal protection as those who are married.

While property disputes can be complicated, Simon Arneaud, who is an experienced dispute resolution solicitor, is on hand to help you.

“Property ownership disputes are often governed by a piece of legislation called The Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 – often known as TOLATA for short,” explained Simon.

TOLATA gives the Court the power to determine what share of the property each person is entitled to. It can force the sale of a property and it can make an order where one person refuses to leave the property but allows the other to regain access.

“If the property is owned in joint names the Court’s starting point will usually be, unless one party can provide compelling evidence such as, for example a signed agreement, to order that the sale proceeds for that property should be divided in equal shares,” said Simon.

“When a property is in one person’s name the court will generally state that they are the sole owner. However, the non-owning person may still be able to establish an interest in the property, if it can be shown that the couple shared a common intention that the property would be jointly owned.”

If you would like to know more or set up a Zoom meeting, or if necessary meet in person, to discuss a property ownership matter, please get in touch with Simon by calling 01256 854667, emailing simond.arneaud@phillips-law.co.uk or visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk

When contacting Phillips, please mention The Oxdrive.



Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager for Citizens Advice Winchester District gives advice on how to manage your post and delivery issues.

Q. We've had a lot of issues receiving our post recently and haven't seen our usual postie around in a little while. Some of my neighbours have had some of their online deliveries delayed too. Is there anything I can do?

You're not alone, we know posties are currently working very hard, but we've seen a huge increase in the number of people coming to us for advice about post and parcel issues.

Letters

If you haven't received any letters in your post, think about if there's anything you were expecting like bills that might be due soon. If you're missing a bill you could check your account online to see how else you could pay. Lots of businesses offer online chat, email and phone as a way to contact them.

If you're worried about missing letters about any benefits you receive you can contact the Department for Work and Pensions on the number given on any previous letters you've had. If you have questions about Universal Credit and don't have a digital account, you can call the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 5644

You can check Royal Mail's website for updates on areas which may be experiencing delays.

Parcels

If you bought something from a business to be delivered, it's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. If the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's happened to your order - it's not your responsibility. Check the delivery address you gave the seller. Then contact them and ask where your order is.

If the seller claims they've delivered it or don't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential and you let the trader know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act, you can ask the seller to deliver the item again if the item wasn't delivered either:

- by an agreed date
- within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days.

If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time you can ask the trader for a refund.

If you ordered something from a private seller or if you think a seller had broken the law by refusing to deliver an item, you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline for help.

For specific support with a consumer issue, contact the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133

To speak with a local adviser at Citizens Advice Winchester District, call their Free-phone number 0808 278 7861 or email advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk



Walking with Wildlife

Robert Bryant

On winter walks in Micheldever Woods, I follow a beechwood trail: a rutted path that leads to a stretch of icy puddles and shallow pools of rainwater. One mild damp snowdrop day, as I tread softly towards one of these mirror pools, there's a familiar splash, ripple and swirl of muddy leaves, as a frog dives away, the first of the season to arrive. Returning two days later, I find masses of frogspawn bobbling the surface of these puddles. Clearly, large numbers of frogs had gathered here overnight for a spawning party, before heading off to resume their secretive woodland ways.

There seems to be no shyness among the frogs down at the Swarraton water meadows however. Looking across from the roadside verge one sunny afternoon, I count twelve adult frogs in wetsuits of olive and brown splashing around a grassy meander of the surging brook. Some sit like garden ornaments, half-submerged, croaking loudly, while others leap and frolic in bright sunlight.

On this St. David's Day, it's warm enough for worker honeybees to emerge from their winter slumbers. The colony of wild or feral bees that live within a beech tree high on Kites Hill Copse above Northington are on the wing. Queen bumblebees (buff-tailed) also cruise around foraging widely.

Clumps of primroses are in flower on grassy banks; lesser celandines catch the eye, gleaming golden-yellow in the sunshine, while the Candovers are adrift with snowdrops. Chalky patches begin to appear along the waysides, lighting up the sombre winter hedges: first the cherry-plum blooms in sprays of white, before the blackthorn billows forth.

Great spotted woodpeckers begin to drum, tapping out their territorial text messages.

While taking a late afternoon stroll along the edge of the back fields, a skylark abruptly lifts off, shooting upwards as if pulled on a string. Six hares, their coats golden-brown in the glow of the setting sun, lounge and lollop across the arable field, while over by the distant copse, a roe buck and four does catch the last of the sunlight.

Robert Bryant
11 March '21

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Jackie's County Corner—April

Hopefully some of you will have received notice of vaccination by the time you read this. But that doesn't mean that everyone's problems will be over. You can ask for advice on **Hampshire's Coronavirus Support & Helpline 0333 370 4000**. Maybe you have time to be a telephone buddy to a lonely resident? For info: <https://www.butterfliesfriendship.com/telephonefriends>

he Winchester District Local Plan consultation is open until the 12th April. Go to www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk to see the strategic Issues and give your views on the options posed. Questions include Carbon Neutrality, Homes for all, the Natural Environment, and the Vibrant Economy. If you need a paper copy, please call WCC on 01962 848508

Other consultations are coming this summer after the May elections. Hampshire Hospitals consultation on hospital provision see more at www.HampshireTogether.nhs.uk
Highways England M3Jn9: go to <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvements/> for details, and to register for updates.

Extensive Flooding Alleviation Work is continuing across the division. This has been a major focus for me in the last year. Several sites have been listed but frustratingly, some of the work isn't being done until the next financial year due to budgetary constraints or the effects of Covid 19 on work teams.

A pilot of **School streets** is looking at removing traffic from streets in front of school gates, to improve opportunities for active travel (cycling and walking) into school. We'll hear the results in the autumn term.

Residents are seeking **non-motorised access to Recycling Centres** (HWRC's) but the promised pilot of 'walk in/cycle in/buggy in/wheelbarrow in' hasn't started yet. Hopefully the HWRC's will be fully open by the summer, and the pilot will start then.

Additional special school places are being created in Andover at Ick-nield and Samuel Cody School, due by 2022, and opening in September 21, the Austen Academy at Basingstoke for children on the Autism spectrum. This provision adds to the growing need for special school places for children with SEMH and neurological conditions as well as for those with physical disabilities.

The 20/21 HCC Gigabit scheme being carried out in conjunction with BDUK and Openreach is very popular after a slower start and as a result the local resident/organisers are finding the process challenging! Of the 26 schemes registered so far in the county, at least 7 are in the Itchen Valley Division! I have appealed to the County to renew their fund of £1m to ensure their top-up support continues. We asked to scrutinise the process because it is resulting in frustration in failure to deliver by Openreach. It was very useful- you can see extracts of the YouTube of the meeting on my website: search 'broadband'.

My website includes news through the month too, but please email me direct if you have any queries. Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk 07973 696 085, @JackieLibDem or see my website www.jackieporter.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

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Singing is good for you – it is creative, has great health benefits, is very rewarding, and is hugely enjoyable!

**The Candover Valley Choir is
always interested in hearing from potential new singers
interested in joining.**

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

As we begin to consider the possibility of emerging from lockdown, and the thought that we may – at some point in the not-too-distant future - be able to meet in person (CV19 restrictions and guidance permitting) and enjoy singing together once again, do think about coming to sing with us. The Choir performs a wide repertoire including sacred, classical, contemporary, and popular music.

If you would like to know more about the **Candover Valley Choir** or would like to come and try us out, **do contact me** (Jane Bryant).

I would be pleased to talk things through with you and tell you a little more about the Choir. It's a very friendly group and we enjoy singing, as well as want to perform at our best! (There are no auditions).

REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 7.45

For more information do contact:

Bryantjane50@gmail.com

www.candovervalleychoir.co.uk

From Winchester's MP

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

Website: www.stevebrine.com Steve Brine TV: www.stevebrine.tv www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP

We have to start with a big event I was pleased to take part in last month - a first for Winchester – an online rally.

Organised by the Save South Winchester campaign group, and the excellent Dever Society, it was a chance to make clear our opposition to **proposed new towns** either side of the city. Of course, we're all too familiar with the fight against Micheldever new town but even after many wins over the years it won't go away.

As I said to the event, the ongoing review of Winchester City Council's Local Plan is an opportunity to protect the precious landscape setting for many years to come. The need for these large schemes has never been shown and we should be clear Winchester has no need to build anywhere near this many houses so there is no credible route whatsoever to an argument framed - for RoyalDown or Micheldever - which says Central Government made us do it. Please contact your city councillors and make your voice heard within the local plan process.

As the Covid roadmap plays out, I am doing my best to get the Winchester view into Government; especially around the future of our **hospitality sector** which is still closed. The "recovery grants" will help – as will the widening of the **Self Employed Income Support Scheme** for others – but I'm nervous as to what normal looks like when the dust settles.

As a former Public Health Minister, who had responsibility for the international health portfolio, I am doing some work the **origins of covid** and building resilience to **future pandemics**.

To build strength in the domestic health system, we are establishing the *National Institute for Health Protection* which will be responsible for ensuring our readiness to respond in future. Combining the health protection capabilities of PHE with NHS Test and Trace, including the UK-wide Joint Biosecurity Centre, and building on the experiences of Covid-19, I welcome it but am keen to scrutinise and help Ministers get it right.


On the international stage, we are leading a global approach. At the UN General Assembly last year, the Prime Minister set out an ambitious plan including a global network of zoonotic research hubs to spot new pandemics before they begin, by identifying pathogens before they leap from animals to humans. There's also increased R&D and manufacturing capacity for treatments and vaccines to ensure treatments are ready to deploy against emerging threats as well as improved horizon scanning and early warning systems.

This is all positive, and the UK will use its' G7 Presidency this year to further the agenda as I welcomed in the House recently, but we need all countries on-board.


That's why, in parallel, I am pressing Ministers for the Government's view on the origins of Covid-19 but also the effectiveness of the WHO's mission to China and Wuhan.

US President, Joe Biden, has raised concerns over the mission and China's lack of transparency and cooperation. What emerges must be robust, open and scientifically rigorous or we're never going to make progress.

Much more, and daily updates, please 'follow' www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP



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Monthly Column— 2021

RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P

Serving people across North East Hampshire

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Huge strides are being made locally this month. Every day, we are seeing a more positive outlook.

Well over 30,000 residents in North East Hampshire have been vaccinated so far – over a third of local people – with 99.8% of over 65s having been vaccinated in the North Hampshire and Farnham CCG area. Nationally, over 24 million people have been vaccinated as I write this today. Having visited two of the local vaccination centres myself, I can testify to the enormous effort being made by our medical and volunteer teams – it’s no wonder our area is storming ahead!

Thanks to this rollout that last month, the Prime Minister set out our national roadmap out of coronavirus restrictions. It is a well thought through, cautious, but optimistic approach. Full details can be found at: gov.uk/coronavirus.

I know this has been a tough time. HM Government has sought to help as many people as possible by providing £407 billion in extra support. I know that this support has very much been welcomed locally and has helped countless people and businesses weather the storm.

The best way to help people and businesses out of these troubled times is to reopen the economy in line with the roadmap. Last week, the Chancellor set out his plan for Britain’s recovery. Businesses – big and small – in North East Hampshire will be able to access new grants and loans; benefit from the continuation in the VAT and business rates reduction; an extension to the Self-Employed Income Support and ‘Furlough’ Schemes; and a doubling of the apprenticeships payments for all new hires, of any age.

To help household finances further, the planned increases on fuel and alcohol duty have been cancelled, which may be helpful to you as we begin to see family and friends again at Easter! And I know many people will be pleased to know that there will now be an extension of the Stamp Duty cut by three months, plus – being in an area with higher-than-average house prices – it’s fantastic news that there should be more 95% LTV mortgages available for those looking to make the step from tenant to homeowner.

The programme is working. People in North East Hampshire are being offered a vaccine. There is further to go, but the roadmap is clear and the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter still. For the latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook (“Ranil Jayawardena MP” – original, I know!) or sign up to my newsletter at: ranil.uk/newsletter – and, if you need my help, please send me a message to: email@ranil.uk



LATEST LOCKDOWN. Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of another lockdown, then why not join one of our fascinating monthly lectures? We are the Basingstoke branch of 'The Arts Society', our programme is available on Zoom during this latest lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from registered Art Society lecturers, who are leading experts in their chosen field. We are inviting anyone interested to join us at these lectures, which are live on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.45 am, the fee is £5pp. Lectures last for one hour and there is also an opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

We would love you to join us for our next lecture on **Wednesday 21st April 10.45 'Artemisia Gentileschi - Daughter of Rome, Painter of Europe'.**

Lecturer: Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe.

Artemisia was a rarity in that she was an accomplished female, painting strong women, at a time when few women had the opportunity to paint.



<https://theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk/Home.aspx>

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*On my first visit to Nicola it was obvious that she had great insight. She immediately saw a side of me that over the years I had kept well hidden - A lack of self belief and confidence that only she and I knew about. I always look forward to seeing her and learning about the tools i can use to create a deeper understanding of myself and how I can move forward. i am very grateful.
Diana B*



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Candover Valley Store

community made

Volunteering at the store

Since the lockdown last spring many of us have changed the way we shop. Out of necessity, “local” has become much more important and this has been reflected in the number of valley residents using our store. Managers, Garry and Emma and duty managers Carolyn, Sean, Lucy and Becky had to work incredibly hard to keep on top of the increase in turnover. But there was one more element that was (and still is) critical to the store’s successful operation – our amazing volunteers! Together they have generously committed thousands of hours to serving cheerfully at the tills, filling shelves, cleaning and tidying, collecting produce from suppliers or delivering shopping to isolating families.

Two people who given many extra hours of volunteering at the store during lockdown, write here about their experiences.

Catherine

Catherine says: “I am thoroughly enjoying my shop volunteering, an unexpected bonus of lockdown which forced me to stop my coaching work. Having been very well supported by the local community over the last 22 years of tennis coaching, it has been very special to be able to give something back. The CVS management team are hugely supportive and encouraging to all volunteers and it is



a very happy place to work. In particular, it has been lovely to get to know locals that I hadn’t met before. I would thoroughly recommend volunteering at the store to anyone who has a few spare hours a week or someone who has a bit more time on their hands. It is hugely rewarding to be part of such an important service in our community, especially in

these restricted times. It is also heartening to hear customers’ gratitude for everything that the shop and post office provides. The store has become part of the beating heart of our wonderful community and it is a privilege to be part of the volunteering team.”

Stephanie

Stephanie told us: “I wanted to get involved in volunteering at the shop from the outset because I felt that after all the hard work that had gone into getting it built, it was the very least I could do to support it. Anyone who has been into the shop can see what a wonderful environment has been created, which makes it such a lovely place to work.

As a volunteer you are only asked to work two-hour shifts. This makes helping out so much more manageable, which is key if you already have a job or a busy life (pre-Covid!). When my work as a reflexologist had to stop due to the various lockdowns, I upped the number shifts I was doing to help keep me sane and occupied. I remember wanting to put my name down for daily shifts but felt I was denying the opportunity to others, so restricted myself to three a week! I’m always amazed at how patient Gary and Emma are, given so many of us work there in a single day, probably asking the same questions over and over!

I feel that the shop has had a very unifying impact on our communities and has played a vital role during the pandemic. When the major supermarkets had run out of loo roll, yeast and flour we had them and because of the wide variety of products stocked at the shop, it saved people from having to go further afield when they didn’t want to. I would highly recommend stepping up to volunteer a few hours of your time, as seeing and catching up with old and new faces every shift and feeling that you are contributing to village life, is really uplifting.”



A sincere thank you to Catherine and Stephanie and to every single one of our volunteers. If this has inspired you, please join us! To find out more call Jane Laws on 01256 389491 or email jane@rosslaws.co.uk