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Copy deadline 14th of each month unless previously agreed with the Technical Producer

Owing to pressure of copy space we regret it may be necessary to abridge any article. (E-mail copy much appreciated).

Disclaimer

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

THE OXDROVE Church and Community News *Of* The Candover Valley and Wield Rector: Interegnum

Associate Minister, Rev Ian Thacker, MA. 07864 095 435.

Ian will be in **Wield Church from 9-10 on Wednesdays** for anyone to drop in. This will be followed by a brief service of morning prayer and bible study.

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
beneficeFCW@hotmail.com Phone 07541 463750

Rota for Services

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

The Parishes of Farleigh, The Candover Valley
and Wield

The Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield

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

Key to initials:

IDT = Ian Thaker: PR = Peter Raine: JG = Julian Gibbons LH = Lyn Hardy: AL = Anne Luneburg: DC = Debbie Scholey

Sunday 6th October Trinity 19

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP IDT
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer PR
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer JG
11:00	Northington	Harvest festival IDT
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special
5.00pm	Wield	Harvest Festival Holy Communion IDT
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Job 1.1 2:1-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 2:5-15 Mark 10:2-16</i>	

Psalm 26

Advance Notice. The annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Peters, Brown Candover, will take place on **Sunday 22nd December** at 6pm.

Sunday 13th October Trinity 20

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

Readings Job 23:1-9 16-end Hebrews 4:12-end Mark 10:17-31
Psalm 22:1-15

Sunday 20th October Trinity 21

9:00 Wield Holy Communion BCP IDT
9:45 Dummer Morning Prayer
10:00 Preston Candover Family service JG
11:15 Cliddesden Family service PR

Readings Job 38:1-7 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45
Psalm 104 1-10 26, 35c

Sunday 27th October Last Sunday of Trinity

8:30 Bradley Holy Communion CW. IDT (JG to preach)
9:45 Dummer Holy Communion CW Register
11:00 Brown Candover Morning prayer JG
11:15 Ellisfield Holy Communion Register

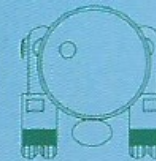
Readings Job 42:1-6 Hebrews 7:23-end Mark 10:46-end
Psalm 122

Sunday 3rd November All Saints Day

08:00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP IDT
09:30 Wield Matins PR
09:45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer IDT
10:00 Preston Candover Morning Prayer JG
11:00 Northington Holy Communion IDT
11:15 Dummer Sunday Special

Readings Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21 1-6 John 11:32-44
Psalm 24

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Message from Ian

It was going to be a brilliant shot. The heron was perched on the far side of a pool. The weather was perfect, the water was still. I had the camera on autofocus with the focusing square locked onto the bird. The exposure was right; all was well. I was in a hide on the other side of the road about 60 yards from the animal and all I had to do was wait. And wait and wait and wait. Just as the bird moved a couple of times and started to open its wings, a lorry drove past.

When the lorry cleared the field of view the bird had gone and I was left muttering words I wouldn't have used if the bishop was sitting next to me.



One thing I've learned from wildlife and sport photography is that you are going to have missed opportunities. You look the wrong way, you focus on the wrong thing, you don't press the shutter in time, all lead to lost images that would have been competition entries. Most people can identify with this. A failed job interview, a missed appointment, a botched relationship can so easily end up with a sense of "what if."

The things that professional photographers say is don't worry about the missed opportunities, rather get ready for the next one. If we focus on the regret of not achieving what we want, we miss out on the next thing that comes along. There will always be another opportunity, but we don't grasp it by looking back. But while there will be more opportunities the number and quality of opportunities are affected by what we do.

There is a well know military phrase about following the 5 p's I won't tell you what specifically these are. If you want to know, ask an old soldier. But loosely translated they say that proper preparation prevents a below standard performance. The thing I've learned as a husband, father, grandfather, priest and photographer is that the more investment I put into a situation the greater the outcome.

But what about when the outcome isn't so good? There are a few instances in my career where I deeply regret a choice I've made. I was offered two posts as a second curacy. I choose one in good faith but with hindsight should have taken the other one. When I'm in a dark mood and think about the "what if" moments I come back to the rocks in my life of faith and family and continue to be grateful for what I have.

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Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	6 Oct 11.00am	Matthew & Philippa Pellereau	Matthew Pellereau Philippa Pellereau
	November	Emma & Colin La Fontaine Jackson	Colin La Fontaine Jackson Emma La Fontaine Jackson
St Peters Brown Candover	27 Oct	Sue Marriott	Jonathan Moseley Anne Luneburg
St Marys Preston Candover	6 Oct 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Gunnel Berry
	13 Oct 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Jane Laws
	20 Oct 10.00	Marina Avis	To be advised
	3 Nov 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Marina
All Saints Bradley			
St James' Wield	6 Oct 5.00pm	Alwin Hutchinson	Jonathan Enderby Joanna Nelson
	13 Oct 6.00pm	Barbara Wells	Roger Fidgen Philip Geddes
	20 Oct 9.00am	Catherine Simons	Amanda Bromfield David Cowley
	3 Nov 9.30am	John Lailey	Catherine Simons (TBA) Eileen Collis

Harvest Festival at St Johns in Northington

- 1100hrs Sunday 6 Oct 24.

It is Morning Prayer Service with all contributions going to the Emmaus Trust - a local homeless charity.

If you are not a church goer but want to contribute please leave your donation on the doorstep of **Ruffside, Northington.**

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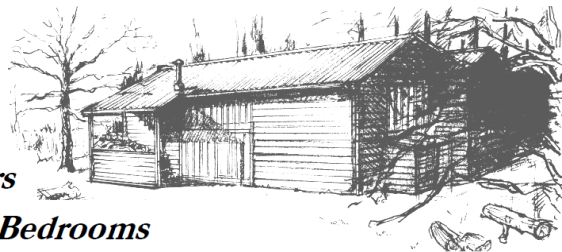
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St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover			
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover			
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	October 6 October 19 October 26	Harvest Festival Team Jean Frost Nikki Cowley
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole

The Annual Church/Churchyard Tidy of St Johns in Northington/Swarraton is taking place at 1000hrs on Saturday 9 Nov 24. All volunteers welcome - even if only for 30 minutes. Weather appropriate dress. Removing the ivy from the Yew trees is this year's main effort.

Harvest Festival in Wield, at St James Church (please note correct time)

This year's annual Wield Harvest Festival service will be held on **6th Oct in St James' church, Upper Wield starting at 1700hrs**, with drinks and nibbles afterwards.

Can we encourage you and your children to join us to celebrate this important milestone in village life. Gifts of nonperishable food to be delivered to a food bank will be very welcome. Please leave your gifts in church beside the Altar.

HARVEST FESTIVAL St. Peters, Brown Candover 4 pm on Sunday 29th September.

Looking out of the window with the rain pouring down, one wonders if there will be a harvest to celebrate. But we are not looking just to the uncut fields around us but to all the other harvests – in other countries and out at sea.

We celebrate them all and give thanks to those who work to bring food to our tables. Join us for the service and for the tea in the Club following the service.

Remembrance 2024

Sunday 10th and Monday 11th November

We invite you to join us at this year's Remembrance Services as we honour those who have selflessly defended our freedom.



The annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service will take place at **St John the Evangelist Church in Northington on Sunday 10th November**, beginning promptly at 10.55am. Following the service, we will gather at the Woolpack for drinks and reflection.

On **Monday 11th November**, a brief ceremony will be held at the **War Memorial in Preston Candover**, commencing at 10.55am.

We look forward to coming together as a community to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of those who have protected our way of life.

Kindly bring cash should you wish to make a donation.



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22 September	Droxford	13.00 Home
29 September	Lynchmere	13.00 Home

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CPRE North Hants would be grateful for your support for this event to help give the countryside a bigger voice!

Tickets: £30.00 per person. inclusive of arrival drink and canapés and a 2 course supper.

To book tickets: Please contact Hannah at: hannahhoustonlacey@yahoo.co.uk
To confirm number and that your payment has been made to:

Payment: CPRE North Hants District
Sort code 30-99-71, Account 01053498,
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Venue: Ellisfield Village Hall, Church Lane, Ellisfield RG25 2QR.

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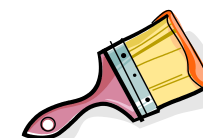
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One of Hampshire's most successful fairs, The Dummer Fair, opens its doors again this October.

Join us at Dummer Cricket Ground, on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October with the event set to feature over 85 stalls ranging from crafts and food to clothing and gifts. There will be a delicious real coffee pop up van and this year sees the return of our popular café on Thursday lunchtime. Ample parking on site - RG25 2AR.

Our stallholders will have plenty of items to tempt you as early Christmas gifts, birthday and special occasion presents or just to treat yourself and your loved ones! All proceeds go to Treloar's, a local highly specialist school and college supporting young people with physical disabilities.

Tickets on sale now.

For more information, please contact – The Treloar's Events Team: events@treloar.org.uk or see the website: www.dummerfair.org.uk





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2024 will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Programme for pregnant women to protect infants

All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant (the eligible cohort) on 1 September 2024, will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation and remain eligible up to birth. We will be offering this vaccination at the Surgery, however if you are eligible, you will be contacted in due course.

Welcome back to Dr Allberry

We offered a warm welcome back to Dr Allberry in September. Dr Allberry has been on maternity leave.

Dr Allberry is returning to us to work on a Wednesday & Friday.

Thank you to our wonderful staff

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

We have vaccinated 2,000 patients (to date) & this is all in addition to our usual workload.

Men's health awareness month

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



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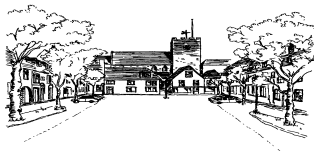
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Flu & COVID Boosters Autumn/Winter 2024

We are underway with co-administering Flu & Covid boosters this Autumn. Invitations have gone out to eligible patients via SMS text message with a simple online booking option and/or an invitation letter.

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

We have pre-bookable appointments & we have availability throughout the week. Vaccination clinics are being held here at Alresford Surgery. Both flu and covid vaccinations will be given at the same time and the appointment will be for both vaccines.

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

Thank you to our amazing volunteers

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

We would not have been able to provide such a slick & well organised clinic without their vital help!

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

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

You can find out more about them & join them by visiting;

<https://alresfordpigs.org/>

RSV Vaccination

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an enveloped RNA virus, in the same family as the human parainfluenza viruses and mumps and measles viruses. RSV is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. RSV is transmitted by large droplets and by secretions from contact with an infected person.

Infants under one year of age and the elderly are at the greatest risk of developing severe disease. While most RSV infections usually cause mild illness, infants aged less than 6 months frequently develop the most severe disease such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia, which may result in hospitalisation.

From 1 September 2024, 2 new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes will be introduced:

Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old

All adults turning 75 years old on or after 1 September 2024 will be eligible for the routine programme and should be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. A one-off catch-up campaign for those already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 September

Candover Valley Pre-School

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With the start of this term, it has been lovely to see the return of familiar faces and welcome the new children and families to CVP.

We have enjoyed meeting the new little starters and getting to know their families with their play and stay sessions and home visits. Our focus has been helping our new children settle into preschool; adjusting to the new environment, making friends and developing key skills through play based learning. This significant milestone for the children and their families is to be celebrated.

As the leaves change and the mornings turn crisp, we have been excited to welcome Autumn at CVP. The change in season has been the perfect opportunity for our little learners to explore nature and embrace the outdoors. We continue to enjoy our woodland learning session each week, encouraging children to foster a connection with the environment.



Painting in nature is a wonderful way to inspire creativity whilst encouraging sensory exploration. The CVP children collected blackberries and made their own paint to create their nature paintings. They then used the rest to bake blackberry crumble!

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Please contact us if you would like to enquire about a place for your child.

Places are currently available for Autumn 2025.

Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

On a breezy morning of bright sunshine, we head along to Micheldever Woods for a late summer ramble. As we stroll up the main avenue, the beechwoods begin to throb with the calls of woodpigeons, offset by the long whistles of nuthatches and the sudden goblin shrieks of jays. A solitary robin sings a wistful tune from deep in the leaf canopy. Of butterflies, only a speckled wood busies itself, fluttering around a tangle of bramble. A silver Y moth though dives down to hide among the foliage, blending perfectly, apart from the gleam of its gamma symbols.

We pause to sit on a conveniently placed log bench, to listen to the squeaks of a coal tit and the explosive trill of a wren. Looking up to scan the skyline of a stand of mature conifers, we note this year's bumper crop of spruce cones, sunlit and ripening to a pale brown. A flicker of movement reveals two small birds, darting out from their treetop perches to loop and swoop, snapping at insects – these are spotted flycatchers.

Greyish-brown above and faintly striped on head and pale chest – it's the younger birds that tend to be spotty – these flycatchers are summer visitors. Perching upright, and all of a twitch, these active little birds favour parks, gardens and woodland edges. They nest here, often tucked away in the climbers growing on a high wall. By September these intrepid little birds will be heading south on their long migration, spending the winter largely in West Africa. Surveys of ringed birds have shown that some venture as far south as Namibia, before returning here in the spring.

From the sunlit treetops, our attention turns to the puddles and pools along the shady woodland rides, where the muddy edges are full of the prints of dogs and deer. One pool, well-watered in our damp summer, is still wiggling with tadpoles. These are 'Peter Pan' tadpoles. Apparently, the water temperature is too cool for them to develop into froglets – so they will overwinter at the tadpole stage.

Robert Bryant
6th September '24

WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in August 2024

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

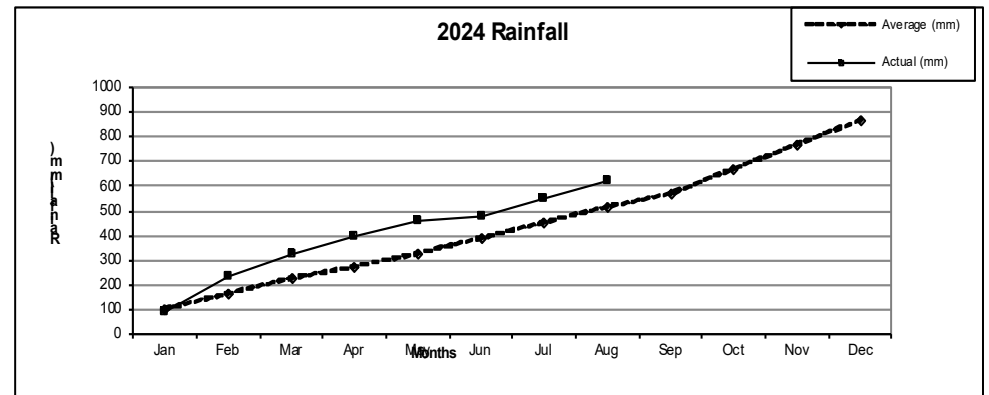
Highest	29.4/85	(12 th)
Lowest	6.5/44	(30 th)
Warmest Night	17.4/63	(12 th)
Coolest Day	17.9/64	(22 nd)
Average maximum temperature	22.1/72	
Average minimum temperature	11.4/53	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	74.8/2.94	(average 65.9/2.59)
Annual total	623.1/24.53	(average 517.7/20.38)
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	35.5/1.40	(1 st)
Number of days with rain	13	

Summary There was a warm start to August and a thunderstorm with heavy downpours on the 1st brought almost an inch and a half of rain. This was the exception for a month with sunny spells and the occasional light rain or drizzle during the day, and some overnight rain.

Temperatures generally fluctuated around the seasonal norm before a warm spell in the second week, with the warmest day at 85°F on the 12th. Temperatures were then mostly below normal for the remainder of the month. Overall, the temperature for August was average whilst rainfall was above that expected for the time of year. The



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On the Farm—Julian Gibbons

Farming is perhaps a different industry from many in the modern world. It is very 'rooted'. Unlike many businesses I can't register my farm as a company abroad, operating online from Dublin or the Cayman Islands. Farming is always on show for all to see, for good or ill. The mistakes are often obvious, and usually noticed by the neighbours!

Farmers tend not to move very far by necessity. The Welsh talk of 'hiraeth', or connection to their place or valley. In Scottish Gaelic there is a word 'dùthchas' which roughly translates as the bond between the people and the land around them. Do we have this in the modern English countryside, where the talk is as often about house prices, share prices and Artificial Intelligence as crops, cattle and the Autumn foraging season? Some people do still feel a connection I think, and I imagine it grows on new residents of our area the longer they live here.

I know when I was a student in Glasgow one of the things I missed most was brick and flint walls- something I had never particularly noticed before. Though some of us have lived here for virtually our whole lives, there is always a churn of population, those moving in and those moving away. Those born and those sadly no longer with us. It is good to remember that change is a constant, and something we all have to deal with, whether we lean into it, or back away from it.

The same is true of farming businesses. Over the past five years there has been a substantial re-structuring of farming in the Candover Valley with land being put out to contract rather than farmed in hand. This has been mirrored across the largely arable areas of England with a continuing trend of fewer, bigger farms aided by ever larger and technically advanced machinery. Some sectors still employ significant numbers of people, dairy, horticulture, pigs and vines for example. However broad scale combinable cropping employs ever fewer. In some ways this does not matter-greater labour efficiency has been the way of agriculture since man first put a hoe in the ground in Mesopotamia around 10,000 years ago.

However, I think there does come a point when the critical mass of farming labour required to manage the landscape is lost. The local farmer is needed with the JCB to move the fallen trees out of the way after the winter storm. The man with a tractor who clears the snow or pulls cars at a local wedding out of the muddy car park. The volunteers required to run the Alresford Show and other rural events. The tractor to pull the carol singers round the parish at Christmas time. Even a willing farmer or two to write the Oxdrove Farming Column! For all this to continue to happen enough people need to be employed in the rural community and for our area to be a true place of work, not simply a nice place to live.

The 2024 Basingstoke and District Ploughing Match is being held at Folly Farm, North Waltham, RG25 2BS on 5th October. 8.30am – Midday. Please go along and watch the competition. Entry is free.



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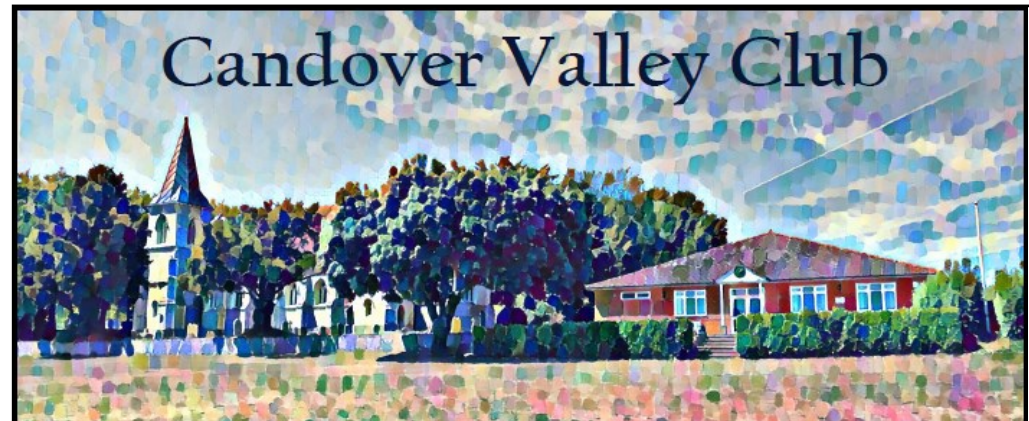


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The Candover Valley Club is located in the beautiful village of Brown Candover next to St. Peter's Church, and is fronted by the village cricket field. The Club has a fully licenced bar with kitchen, skittle alley, dart boards, pool table, TV, wifi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

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

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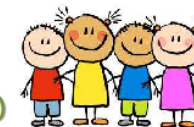
0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

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Saturday Store open: 8.30am – 5.00pm
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Saturday 26th October | 8:00pm

Marina

by Elizabeth Lewis

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A rehearsed reading

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Swarraton and Northington WI

The meeting started with a brief discussion about the recently held Summer Lunch, it was decided that perhaps we had over catered because of the number of guests not able to attend at the last minute.

The Shoebox Appeal - filled boxes can be brought to the next WI meeting on Tuesday 1st October, given directly to Janet Pooley or delivered to St Gregory's Church Hall on the packing day on Sunday 27th October.

Days for Girls - Delyth Pannett the country co-ordinator for the UK for DFG has sent an update praising the amazing work of all the volunteers. The next sewing session will be at Old Alresford Village Hall on **Friday 27th September from 2 - 4.30pm**

There being no further business, the speaker for the meeting, Shelley Lozano was introduced. Her talk titled "An Entertainer's Life" was very well received. She described how she had changed her acts to keep in work in a very competitive industry. Her many talents included Belly Dancer, Limbo Dancer, Fire Eater, DJ, Cabaret Artist and Children's Entertainer. She started her career as part of a dance troupe in Southampton, continually changed her acts, worked with celebrities in the UK and overseas and ran a successful entertainment agency. Her talk was enjoyed by all the members and she was warmly thanked.

The next meeting is at 2pm on Tuesday 1st October 2024
The talk is titled "FROM HELL WITH LOVE"

A story about a prisoner of war on the infamous Burma railway told from the pages of a secret diary. Guests including men are welcome to attend.
Teas - Cara Marshall and Charlotte Porter
Flowers - Janet Anderson.

Please will members not able to attend send their apologies to Gill Graham Maw.

Jackie's County Corner



Is your cat microchipped? It is now compulsory for cats (including indoor-only cats) to be chipped before they are 20 weeks old as of June 2024. Microchipping costs between £10 and £30 and is usually done by a vet, but some charities offer this for a reduced cost. For more details go to www.pdsa.org.uk

At this time of year, many paths become overgrown. If you own a hedge overhanging a path, please give it a good 'haircut' now. The warm, wet weather will result in another growth spurt before the end of the year, and you must keep the footway clear. If you encounter side growth as you walk along a public footpath, or a footway alongside a road, you can report these on www.hants.gov.uk using the 'report it' tab on the home page.

If you find this too difficult, take a photo and put it on

www.fixmystreet.com instead.

Please - don't *just* complain to your friends and family, but please *do* report these problems. The lists generated create the work sheets for the County council. You can report vegetation obscuring road signs in this way too.

Work to improve the Millennium Path at Alresford is going to plan, but the path to Bishops Sutton is still overgrown with no sign of county council works to improve it.

Gail Johnston has led a project to restore some of the old carriageways in her local area in Gundleton and Bighton. She has researched their history and sought my County Councillor Grant funding to support some of the work. It was so good to hear complements from walkers as she showed me the results of constructor and volunteer labour on the miles of path. Thanks Gail and team!

The County's finances are getting worse not better, and the HCC run Alresford recycling centre in Prospect Road is at risk of closure again. The decision may even have been made by the time you read this. There are so many reasons to create a 'walk-in' fully functioning Recycling centre: to improve air quality (no bonfires necessary), greener (more item recycling) offering pedestrian access (to be used by more people), and less travel (to reach the nearest HWRC in Winchester.) It has to be worth saving, doesn't it?

Cllr. Jackie Porter; 07973 696 085 Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk



ST JOHN'S, NORTHINGTON, SO24 9TH HALF TERM CONCERT Wednesday 30th October at 11 am

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For information about the concert visit:

<https://www.stjohnsnorthington.org/whats-on>

For directions/and access information visit:

<https://www.stjohnsnorthington.org/contact>



Candover Valley Gardening Club

Our last visit for this year was to Bere Mill in Whitchurch. The owner gave us a very interesting talk about the history of Bere Mill and then we had a lovely evening strolling around the garden bordering the River Test. There was plenty to see including herbaceous and Mediterranean borders, summer and autumn, an orchard and Japanese shrubs and trees.

On October 17th, our speaker is Lucy Thorpe. She will be speaking about her work at the garden of the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital. Lucy is Head gardener and is responsible for the care and maintenance of the garden. The centre serves patients from the whole of the south of England. Previously Lucy worked for Help for Heroes and is passionate about enabling others to access gardens and nature to support their mental and physical wellbeing.

Our indoor winter meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from September to April. If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members. Our annual subscription is currently £12.

Contact blighrosemary@hotmail.com for more information and you can find us on Facebook – Candover Valley Gardening Club.

Candover Valley Store

community made

Two ways to support the air ambulance

Throughout September sales of raffle tickets to raise funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, were in full swing as participants daydreamed about which store goodies up to a value of £100, they would choose if theirs was the lucky £1 ticket. As this magazine went to press there was more than a week's worth of sales to go and the holder of the winning ticket was still unknown, but £500 was already in the coffers. A match funding promise (up to a maximum of £2500) was agreed by the store committee as a way of benefiting our wider community through support for this vitally important charity. An update will be published next month. Meanwhile, look out for the big yellow "Heli Ali" bin outside the store where you can bring your aluminium drinks cans for recycling. It's another easy way to help the air ambulance. Please be sure only to put drinks cans into the bin. (Food tins are made from steel and are not acceptable. Neither is aluminium foil, unfortunately).

Did you know we offer all these Post Office services ...

Some are obvious, like mailing letters and parcels (we can advise which service is best for you) but there are many other ways we can help. These include cash withdrawals and deposits; cheque deposits; postal orders; travel money cards; foreign currency (order online and collect in-store); phone top-ups; payment of some types of bill; mail redirection and Amazon returns.

It's pumpkin time again!

Why not hold a family competition for carving the scariest pumpkin this Hallowe'en? (Responsible adults only to wield the knife of course)! The store is expecting a delivery of the amber orbs in the next week or so. Make sure to get yours early!

Please join us

Hampshire Medical Fund

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2024

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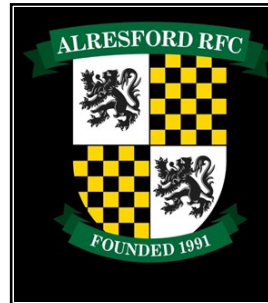
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and the Memorial Hall

Santa by Harry Krauklis-Gould



Alresford Rugby Football Club

Well, the summer (what there was of it!!) is now in the past, and we are now into the start of a new season for both of our senior teams and, of course, our minis and rugby tots. We had our first pre-season game last month against Southampton, where a youthful and largely untested Alresford First XV put up a superb show against a team in the league above us. Lots of positives and things to work on, which gives us much confidence for the season ahead.

Sadly, the match was marred by a serious injury to William, our scrum half, who broke his ankle. Special thanks to our medical team, and especially to Hampshire Ambulance and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, both of whom gave William the attention he needed. He has now had an operation to repair the damage, and we wish him well on his journey to recovery.

The Alresford Show was a resounding success despite the damp and muddy conditions. ARFC's car parking help provided to the Alresford Pigs was much appreciated. ARFC's Stand, the "Bouncy Castle" and rugby skills play area were fantastic and, as a result, the Alresford District and Agricultural Society awarded ARFC 1st Prize as the Best Trade Stand with the accompanying Perpetual Challenge Cup. All of this helps to raise ARFC's profile within the community and encourage new players and volunteers to join us.

Our October fixtures are as follows:

First XV

12/10 - Winchester III (A)

19/10 - Bognor II (A)

26/10 - Gosport & Fareham II (H)

Second XV

12/10 - Basingstoke II (A)

19/10 - Farnborough (H)

26/10 - Farnham IV (A)

As ever, we would love to welcome your support to any of these games. There is a club lunch for the Second XV on 19th October, with details on our website.

We also have the first of our Tweed Walks on 5th October, again with full details on the website.

We are hopeful of a successful month's rugby and look forward to welcoming any of you to join us on this season's journey.



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To book your tickets:
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Archaeology? – We dig it



You know when it's summer...the sun shines (occasionally), the warm winds blow (sometimes stronger than we may wish) and there may be the odd drop of rain (or deluge!!). Which can mean only one thing – Dig Season!

Over two separate days this season, the Basingstoke Young Archaeologists' (YAC), returned to assist, and learn from, the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS), as they attempted once again, to unravel the mysteries of an age gone by.

This year, as well as the obligatory digging, the YAC were fortunate enough to have been accompanied by a professional environmental archaeologist, Mike Allen.



Dr Mike has worked his environmental magic on many projects including the Cerne Abbas giant, and used core sampling to help us find the bottom of our ditch as well as confirming it's whereabouts, in relation to the geophys results. It was a great piece of practical archaeology to be part of, and we thank Dr Mike so much for his time!

The ever-enthusiastic YACsters also made a cracking job of finds processing and categorising, and were meticulous in their work – guys – you are simply amazing!



There was also time to help with surveying, planning, and drawing – using scales and ratios that were a real test for the Maths skills, but something which didn't phase the YACsters – so something for everyone!

We must once again thank all of our parents for their continued support of their YACsters. Without you, your children simply would not get here – so thank you for managing the SatNav and delivering them safely. Thanks also to the wonderful members of BAHS, for allowing us to access the site and for teaching us so much - thank you Mark, Dave and the team!

And of course, we have to give a huge 'thank you!' to Sue & Charles Marriott, who have once again been kind enough to allow the dig to take place. The experience is second to none!

We can't wait for next year!
Nikki Read, Co-Leader, Basingstoke YAC



Basingstoke Young Archaeologists' Club is part of a network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs in the UK, supported by the Council for British Archaeology.

Basingstoke YAC is for children aged 8-16 years.

The club meets on the third Saturday in the month and is run by a team of volunteer adult staff.

For further information please email your enquiry to basingstokeyac@hotmail.com

