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

Disclaimer

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

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

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

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
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: DS = Debbie Scholey*

Sunday 6th April 5th Sunday of Lent

08.00	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP IDT
09:30	Wield	Matins IDT
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer PR
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer JG
11:00	Northington	Morning prayer IDT
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 43.16–21 Philippians 3.4b–14 John 12.1–8	

Psalm 126

— ” ” —

Sunday 13th Palm Sunday

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

readings overleaf

Readings Luke 19.28–40 Isaiah 50.4–9a

Psalm 118.1–2, 19–end

_____"_____
Thursday April 17th Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Bradley Holy Communion IDT

Readings 1 Corinthians 11.23–26 John 13.1–17, 31b–35
_____"_____"_____

April 18th Good Friday

10am Wield to Northington Walk of Witness JG

2pm Cliddesden 'An hour at the Cross' IDT
_____"_____"_____

April 20th Easter Sunday

98:00 Dummer Holy Communion IDT

09:30 Wield Holy Communion
by extension CS

10:00 Dummer Family service LH

11:15 Cliddesden Family Holy Communion
by extension PR

09:30 Preston Candover Family Holy Communion
by extension JG

11:00 Northington Family Holy Communion
by extension JG

11:00 Brown Candover Family Holy Communion IDT

Readings Acts 10.34–43 Isaiah 65.17–end .1–2, 14–24
Luke 24.1–12

Psalm 118 1-2, 14 - 24
_____"_____"_____

April 27th Easter 1

8:30 Bradley Holy Communion CW IDT

9:45 Dummer Holy Communion CW IDT

11:00 Brown Candover Family Morning Worship JG

11:15 Ellisfield Family Holy Communion IDT

Readings Exodus 14.10–end; 15.20, 21] Acts 5.27–32 .14–end
John 20.19–end

Psalm 118 14 - end

Preston Candover Village Hall



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Message from Ian

In April the churches of the Benefice will be celebrating Easter. I like Easter, it is a festival that always happens at a nice time of the year. The days are noticeable longer and a bit warmer.

Easter is a time to celebrate new life, lambs and calves will be in the fields, The woods are alive with bird song and the family of squirrels that I am still trying to photograph have had a brood of kits. So, we celebrate this by giving chocolate easter eggs which leave us with a mild chocolate repulsion but are still infinitely better than giving a painted boiled egg.



For Christians there is a sombre aspect of Easter that makes it harder for our non Christian friends to buy into. We talk a lot about how an innocent man was betrayed, arrested, went through a mock trial, beaten and then hung out to die in a brutal way.

We hold onto these things not because we are attracted to the 18 rated horror of a brutal murder but because we believe that one unique man, by surrendering his life has made such a huge difference to the lives of billions of people around the world. That is why the cross, which was built as a torture instrument, is held in such high honour by all Christians.

Easter isn't simply about remembering a horror show because the second part of the Easter message is the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

If you are not a Christian, the resurrection is a difficult thing to swallow. Dying on a cross in Roman times was easy, hundreds of thousands of people suffered that fate but rising from the dead is a different story.

There are plenty of reasons for Christians to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and we will talk a lot this in the Easter services. For me, the compelling reason for the this is the way that the resurrection affects people's lives.

So, can I ask you to reflect as you scoff your second Easter egg of the day that the promise of a new start isn't just the world around us but can apply to you as well.

Cleaner needed

St John's, Northington is looking for a cleaner for about 2 to 3 hours a month. Mainly consists of sweeping, hoovering and some brass cleaning. The position is paid and can be done at anytime suitable to the person.

Please apply to peter.agneau@outlook.com or telephone 01963 735066

Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington		Matthew & Philippa Pellereau	
St Peters Brown Candover		Andrew and Pen Wilson	Andrew and Pen Wilson
St Marys Preston Candover	6 April 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Jane Laws
	13 April 10.00	Marina Avis	To be advised
	9.30am?	Marina Avis Gunnel Berry	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	4 May 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Celia Foote
All Saints Bradley		Christopher Swan	Christopher Swan
St James' Wield	6 April 9.30am	Brian Collins	Eileen Collins Amanda Bromfield
	13 April 6.00pm	John Lailey	David Cowley Ben Robinson
	20 April 9.00am	Alwin Hutchinson	Philip Geddes Ian Thacker
	4 May 9.30am	Catherine Simons	Joanna nelson Catherine Simons

Annual Vestry Meetings

The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings for the Parish of the Candovers with Bradley will take place in St Mary's on 29th April at 7.30pm. All very welcome, refreshments will be served. The Electoral Roll will be completely redone this year, please contact Celia Foote if you wish your name to be added.

Cheriton Singers Concert—Saturday 10 May

Cheriton Singers invite you to a concert of very romantic songs at 7.30 pm on Saturday, May 10th, in St Michael's Church, Cheriton.

Tickets £15 for adults (under 18s free), available from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk, Cheriton Village Stores, The Flower Pots, and on the door. Please make a note in your diary!

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Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders	April	Andrew and Pen Wilson
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers		
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole



Wield Litter Pick

Even more important than 20+ bags off litter collected by the band of Wield volunteers was the amount they raised for St James Church fabric fund - a terrific £1,700 (including Gift Aid).

Huge thanks to all those who picked up litter and to all those who made donations.

There is still time to make a donation to show appreciation of the dirty work done by the willing team of pickers

Nikki Cowley
nicolacowley@hotmail.co.uk

The Candover Valley Churches Good Friday Walk 18th April 2025

The local tradition of the Good Friday walk from Church to church was started by the late Rev. Ryc Smith in the late 1980's. We originally carried a large cross from Northington to Bradley stopping on the way at St. Peter's Brown Candover and St. Mary's Preston Candover for some readings, a hymn and a prayer. In between churches a chance to chat, meet new people and admire the wonderful countryside.

When Wield joined our group of churches, the route got longer and the cross got smaller!

There is no obligation to walk the whole way, but if you do either leave your car at Wield or drop it at St. John's Northington ready for your arrival in the afternoon. There is usually someone who can give you a lift back to your car. Many people join us for a section, if unable to walk the whole way. All our welcome, children especially, for whom there is an egg hunt at journeys end.

Whether this will be your first time or you have join us many times in the past Come and join us for the return of the Good Friday Walk 18^h April 2025.

Bring a picnic.

10.00am	Wield
11.15am	Bradley
12.15pm	Preston Candover
1.00pm	Chilton Manor farm for Lunch
2.15pm	Brown Candover
3.30pm	Northington

Dogs welcome

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wonderful countryside



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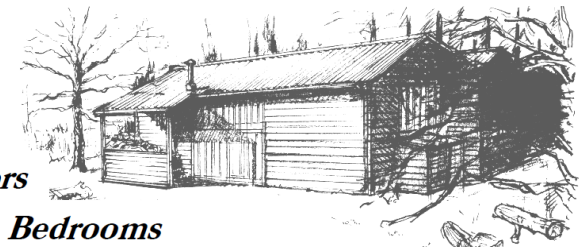
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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

Wisps of winter gnats, cousins of the dangle-legged crane flies, dance in the late afternoon sunshine at the bottom of our garden. Bobbing and bouncing low over the damp lawn and heaps of leaf mulch, they catch the light as the males try to impress the females with their shimmering displays.

Although winter gnats are remarkably hardy, they're not the only insects out and about early in the year. On mild sunny days, queen bumblebees, especially the buff-tailed variety, hungry for pollen and nectar, are cruising around. They search for early spring flowers and suitable nest sites such as an old mouse burrow. The deep buzz of one of these large furry bees caught my attention while walking across to Northington Grange. In bright sunshine I watched her rather clumsy flight, lurching low over the grassy verges as though still groggy from a long winter sleep. By chance a brimstone butterfly, sulphur yellow, flashed into view – the first of the season - followed by two more chasing away on their springtime adventures.

We've been helping with the farmland bird surveys that are being held here in the Candover Valley. At Newhouse Farm, we were pleased to record woodlarks singing. With milder winters in recent years, they've been returning to the wooded chalk downlands, spreading from their traditional haunts in the forest heaths. Woodlarks have a wonderful song, reflected in their scientific name *Lullula arborea*, delivered from a song post at the woodland edge. Alas, being ground-nesting birds, they are often vulnerable to accidental trampling.

In hazy sunshine, a large raptor, neither buzzard nor red kite, was gliding along the treeline of Micheldever Wood, where the open fields of the downs meet the sweeping boundary of the beechwoods. The pale underparts, s-shaped curve to the wing edge, plus the long tail, revealed a female goshawk – that elusive nemesis of woodpigeons and squirrels. Goshawks are still quite scarce and rarely seen, though sometimes glimpsed swooping through fairly dense woodland. Mating pairs are said to perform an extraordinary springtime display known as sky-dancing.

Robert Bryant
10 March '25

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Opening times: Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 3.15pm Fri 8.30 - 11.45pm



Louise Hatton, our wonderful preschool deputy is completing the Three Peaks Challenge, trekking up Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all in 24 hours, as a fundraiser for CVP! Candover Valley Preschool is a not-for-profit, charity organisation that provides a safe, nurturing, and high-quality early education for children aged 2-5 years.

As friends of CVP we would appreciate support from the local community and those affiliated with the preschool. Please consider donating and sharing this message with others who may wish to help, as your generosity will help us reach our goal and motivate Louise through her challenge.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Thank you for your kindness and support.

The start of Spring brings with it new learning experiences. The warmer weather has offered more opportunity to enjoy and explore the outdoors. We have been venturing into the community, exploring both seasonal changes and discovering more about our local environment.

The preschool children have also been enthused to meet our new caterpillar friends. Observing the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly enhances a sense of wonder for nature. It provides a hands-on, engaging way to learn about life cycles, fostering curiosity and scientific thinking. The children have been learning new vocabulary, such as metamorphosis and chrysalis, as they develop an understanding of the process we will follow.



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 from Autumn 2025.

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The Dever Society AGM

Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7:30pm
The Warren Centre, Micheldever Station, SO21 3AR

After the formal business there will be a panel discussion and Q & A session about the proposed Micheldever new town, which has been submitted to the government's New Towns Task Force as a 15,000-20,000 home development.

Panel members are Winchester MP Dr Danny Chambers, Cllr Martin Tod (Leader, Winchester City Council), Cllr Jackie Porter (Cabinet member for Place and Local Plan, Winchester City Council), Cllr Paul Harvey (Leader, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council) and Cllr Andy Konieczko (Cabinet member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)

Please join us – all welcome

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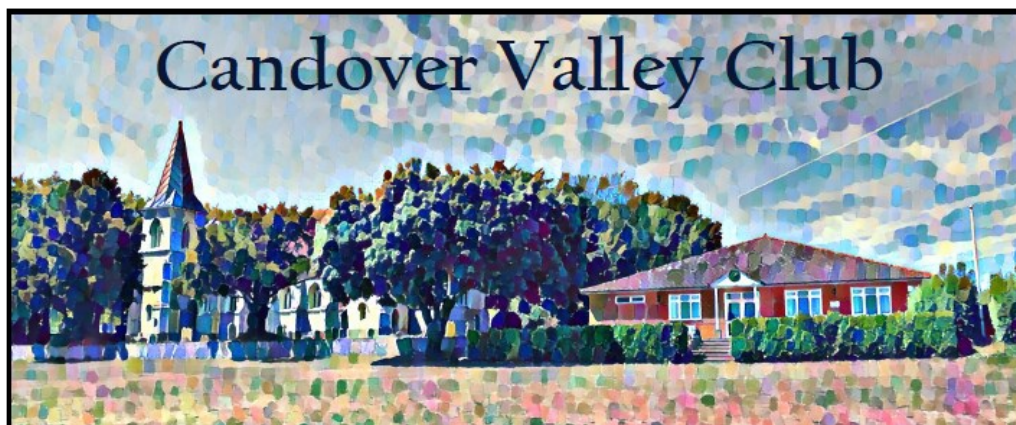


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Candover Valley Club

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

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

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2025 Coronation Cup

Hosted by WCC

On Wield's Village Green

Monday 5th May 2025

Kick-off: 2.00pm



**Sign up to play in the annual clash between
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Upper Wield versus Lower Wield

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**To play for Upper Wield, please contact: PJ,
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**To play for Lower Wield please contact Ed Reid,
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Oh Deer!

Deer are frequently seen in the Candover Valley - of the six different species living in United Kingdom, three (fallow, roe and muntjac) are well established here. The abundance of food, maize in particular and shelter (woodland) has seen the population explode over the last 30 plus years.

The result is considerable damage to agricultural crops and woodland but also an increase in road traffic collisions.

REDUCE YOUR RISK – DRIVE DEER AWARE

Beware during peak danger periods

Highest-risk times are from sunset to midnight, and the hours shortly before and after sunrise.

Drive with caution

During peak danger periods or on roads where hitting a deer is a possibility, drive with caution and be on the lookout for deer near the road.

Seen one? Look for another

Be aware that more deer may well cross after the one you have noticed.

Use your lights

After dark, do use full-beam when there is no opposing traffic. BUT, when a deer or other animal is noted on the road, dim your headlights as animals startled by the beam may 'freeze' rather than leaving the road.

DON'T VEER FOR DEER

Don't over-swerve to avoid hitting a deer

If a collision with the animal seems inevitable, then hit it while maintaining full control of your car is the safest option.

The alternative of swerving into oncoming traffic or off of the road surface could be a lot worse. Motorcyclists are at particular risk when in direct collisions with animals.

Look out for traffic behind you

Only brake sharply and stop if there is no danger of being hit by following traffic, and use your hazard lights.

STAY SAFE AND REPORT THE INCIDENT

If you see an injured deer on the roadside?

- Pull over at a safe place
- Call the Police.

Giving as precise a location as you can. Use What3Words if you can. They will deal with the situation and have access to specialists.

- **Do not** try to assist or move the deer as this can put you in danger.

If you hit a deer while driving, your priorities, in this order, are:

- Keep yourself and anyone with you as safe as you can
- Park your car in the safest place with hazard lights on.
- Call an ambulance if human injuries warrant it
- Call the Police

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Hampshire Choral Festival

Sunday 11th May 2025

The Anvil, Basingstoke, 7 pm

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and

Derek Beck The Life of Universal Song
(First performance)

Botley Choral Society
Compton & Shawford Festival Choir
Itchen Valley Choir
Overton Choral Society
Sarisbury Choral Society
Twyford Singers
Winchester City Festival Choir

Conducted by John Sutton

Tickets £30, £25, £20 (all include a £4 booking fee)

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On the Farm— Ben Robinson

At the time of writing, we are 5 days into lambing. It has been a slow start to the campaign with around 20 ewes lambing a day. Some years we can have around 50 lambing a day at peak. The cold North Easterly wind is whipping through, and the nights have been frosty, but the lambs are being born at very healthy sizes and the ewes have a lot of milk about them. At least it has been dry so far, a key ingredient to a good lambing. Quite an improvement on last year!

Farming is in a funny place at the moment; alongside the APR/IHT debacle the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme has just been closed to new applicants with no warning, leaving a big hole in many farm finances. This was a scheme that paid farmers for environmental works such as hedgerow planting, creating and managing herbal leys and drilling wildlife friendly cover crops. Those currently in the scheme such as us are still under contract and will continue to be paid at the time of writing. However no new applicants will be accepted. Our scheme finishes in 2026 and if there is no attractive replacement we will have to go back to farming up to the hedge line for maximum output to replace the lost income. The government needs the money for defence, health, welfare and all the other demands on the public purse. The bees, birds and butterflies will be paying the bill.

Grain prices are very poor due to a worldwide cereal glut at the moment but by contrast the beef price has gone up faster than a Space X rocket. Cattle are fetching £400-500 more than the equivalent beasts last year. It appears to be a perfect storm of rising demand for beef and a decline in cattle numbers over the past decade. High cattle prices is a worldwide phenomenon with US beef also fetching record prices. Sheep and lamb prices remain healthy and unusually have stayed at similar levels from September to now. Usually there is a seasonal price curve, with values lowering through the Autumn and rising in the spring before peaking in May and June.

Hopefully some of you will have made it to our 'Lambing Day' that happened on 29th March. Following the slightly overwhelming success of last year, when visitor numbers got a bit out of hand and traffic around the farm ground to a halt we have used an online system of pre-booking for vehicles. We are quite constrained by parking due to farm layout, so we thought it was the safest way of running the event this year. It is wonderful to be able to share the farm with the public, many of whom are actually pretty knowledgeable about sheep farming due to a heavy diet of Clarkson's Farm, Countryfile and Lambing Live.

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Candover Valley Gardening Club

In March we had a very interesting talk from Stef Bradfield who is Head Gardener at Lainston House kitchen garden. It was interesting to hear that she is now running tours of the kitchen garden throughout the summer. If you would like to see how she produces vegetables (an amazing 1 ton in 2024) for the Lainston House chefs, details are on the Lainston House website.

April sees the start of a new year for the Gardening Club. We will meet at **7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on Thursday 17th April**. Our speaker will be Paul Patton who is a horticultural consultant, writer, speaker, broadcaster specialising in plant care including pest, disease and weed control. Paul's talk will be 'Wimbledon or Wild Flower Garden'.

Our indoor meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from September to April. In the summer months we visit some beautiful gardens.

If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members.

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

Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

4th April (closed during Easter school holidays) 25th April

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd May (not open on 30th May as it is our half term holiday)

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us for a fun and happy time.

Cost: £3 donation per family

Contact:

Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (07757 498653)



CHARITY OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP

****REVISED DATE****

24th APRIL 7-9PM

@ The Yard, Chilton Candover

(Our sincere apologies to anyone who has booked for the 6th March we hope you have been contacted and can make the revised date which is 24th April.)

Join us for an oil painting workshop with our very own local artist Ingrid Berry, in aid of Candover Valley Preschool.

After a live demonstration, we will paint our very own still life with the help and guidance from Ingrid.

We will learn how to use oils whilst exploring the art of colour, shadows, form and perspective.

All skill levels welcome and all materials are provided. Everyone welcome to take their piece of art home!

£55, includes drink on arrival (all funds go towards fundraising our preschool)

Please book via this link:

www.ingridberry.com/event-details/oil-painting-workshop

or email: nettawp@hotmail.com

Limited spaces available, please book asap.

Candover Valley Store
community made

Store and post office trading hours

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

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you!

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Tel: 01256 389500 www.cvcs.org.uk

booster of COVID-19 vaccine.

You should be offered an appointment between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first.

Community Hubs

Pop along to the Community Hub for informal advice, information & signposting from Winchester City Council & Citizens Advice.

These take place at Coffee#1 Alresford on the fourth Friday of the month 10.00-12.00

Stress Awareness Month 2025 is observed annually in April

This year's theme, #LittleByLittle, emphasises the transformative impact of consistent, small positive actions on overall well-being. Even seemingly minor steps taken daily toward self-care and stress reduction can yield significant improvements in mental health over time. Here are some practical suggestions to incorporate into your routine:

- ☐ **Connect with someone:** Check in with your support network or connect with someone new. A sense of belonging and community can help reduce feelings of loneliness.
- ☐ **Go outside:** Spending time outdoors can have a positive impact on mental well-being.
- ☐ **Get moving:** Physical activity, even in small increments, contributes to stress reduction.
- ☐ **Be mindful:** Practice mindfulness techniques to stay present and manage stress.
- ☐ **Breathe deep:** Deep breathing exercises can help calm the mind.
- ☐ **Prioritise sleep:** Make small adjustments to your bedtime routine. Wind down by minimising screen time, creating a tech-free bedroom environment, and jotting down thoughts to set aside for the next day.
- ☐ **House Analogy:** Think of building mental well-being like constructing a house—one brick at a time. Each small action, such as taking deep breaths during a stressful moment or expressing gratitude daily, serves as a foundation for resilience.
- ☐ **Ball Analogy:** Just a 1mm change in the angle direction of a rolling ball can alter its trajectory significantly. Similarly, small positive actions accumulate and create a remarkable outcome over time.
- ☐ **The Butterfly Effect + The Positive Ripple Effect:** Lorenz's butterfly effect theory highlights how seemingly insignificant initial changes can lead to significant consequences. Your small efforts contribute to a positive ripple effect in your life.

Remember, even the tiniest steps matter, and collectively, they build a stronger foundation for mental well-being. If you're feeling stressed, consider checking your stress levels and explore ways to manage stress throughout the month.

For more information and resources related to Stress Awareness Month 2024, you can visit The Stress Management Society; www.stress.org.uk

May we take this opportunity to wish all our patients a very Happy Easter.



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

Reminder - Afternoon Closure – Thursday 3rd April

The surgery and dispensary will be closed from 12.30pm to enable all GPs & Nurses to attend a compulsory training meeting this afternoon.
Our phone lines will **not** be open on this afternoon.
If you require urgent medical attention, please call 111.

Patient Survey Results

Between 2020 and 2024 our patients told us they were not happy with our telephone system. Put simply, it didn't work as anyone hoped and patients and surgery staff alike were frustrated with its limitations. A new phone system was installed in May 2024 and while we were delighted with the functionality from our end we wanted to ensure our patients were also happy with it. To that end we carried out a survey in November and December 2024.

With 203 respondents:

84% of respondents feel the new telephone system is better than our previous system
91% of respondents rate their experience of the telephone call-back facility as 'good' or 'very good' with the rest describing it as 'fair'
92% of respondents rate their experience of our reception team when contacting the surgery by phone as 'easy' or 'very easy'
90% of respondents are 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the overall service they receive from Alresford Surgery

We appreciate everyone who took the time to complete the survey, your input is very valuable to us.

Good Friday & Easter Monday closure

Please make sure you have sufficient supplies of your usual medications to last over the bank holiday period which you can order in a number of ways;

- In person at the surgery
- By post
- Via the NHS APP or Patient Access

The surgery will be closed on Friday 18th April and Monday 21st April. If you need urgent medical care you can access the Out of Hours service for advice, a face to face appointment or, if it is necessary, a home visit & the number to call is **111**.

e-Consults will not be able to be submitted after 6.30pm on Thursday 17th April & will not restart again until 8am on Tuesday 22nd April.

COVID- Spring boosters

The practice will be offering the spring boosters COVID-19 from 1st April.
COVID is more serious in older people and in people with certain underlying health conditions. For these reasons, people aged 75 years and over, those in care homes, and those aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system are being offered a spring

CANDOVER VALLEY



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Hampshire Choral Festival

Sunday 11th May 2025

The Anvil, Basingstoke 7.00pm

*The three hundred voices of the
Hampshire Choral Festival choirs sing the*

VERDI REQUIEM

and

**Derek Beck The Life of Universal Song
(First performance)**

Helen Bailey (soprano)

Anna Loveday (mezzo soprano)

Jonathan Cooke (tenor)

Thomas Humphreys (baritone)

*The seven choirs of the Hampshire Choral Festival
Festival Orchestra*

Conducted by John Sutton

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WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in February 2025

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

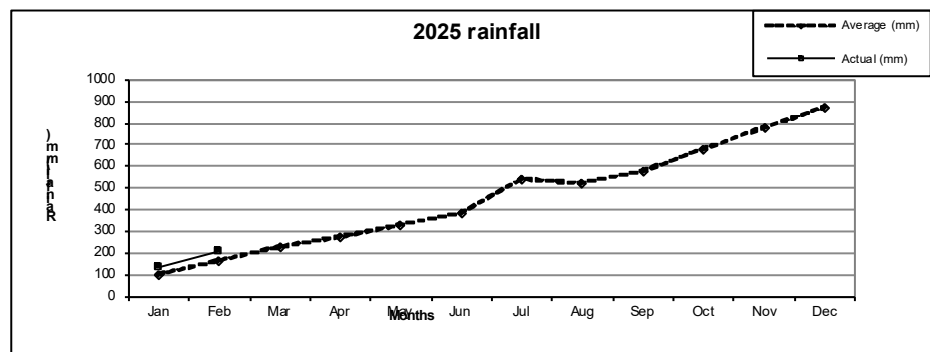
Highest	13.5/56	(22 nd & 25 th)
Lowest	-4.2/24	(28 th)
Warmest Night	9.5/49	(21 st)
Coolest Day	3.4/38	(10 th)
Average maximum temperature	8.1/47	
Average minimum temperature	1.0/34	
Number of air frosts	13	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	76.8/3.02	Average 68.2/2.70
Annual Total	211.0/8.31	Average 165.1/6.50
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	21.4/0.84	(23 rd)
Number of days with rain	14	

Summary

There was a cold start to February with temperatures mostly well below the seasonal norm. In fact, it was not until the end of the third week that temperatures recovered as cold easterly winds in the middle of the week gave way to milder weather and frontal systems brought rain and the wettest day with 0.84 inches on the 23rd. The mildest night occurred on the 21st with a temperature of 49°F and this exceeded the long-term average daytime temperature for February. High pressure at the end of the month brought fine, sunny weather and the coldest night at 24°F on the 28th. Not surprisingly, the month was colder than normal, and somewhat wetter. The winter season was also colder than normal but with average rainfall.



HOW ABOUT A LOCAL CHARITY FOR YOUR LOCAL LEGACY?

LEGACY ACTION WEEK

Let's be remembered for good

April 7 - 13 legacyactionweek.com

Winchester is home to many charities

Legacy Action Week (7 – 13 April 2025) is the time of year when we smaller local charities come together to remind people that we're as equally deserving as the larger, more well-known institutions.

You may know some of us and what we do from personal experience. Others you may not have known existed at all.

Together, our charities help people from the moment they're born all through their life to the moment of their passing -a whole life cycle. And each of us plays a vital part in helping the people of Winchester and the surrounding communities live better lives.

Once you've taken care of your own loved ones, you may want to consider donating a tiny fraction of the value of your home as a gift.

And that gift, if only a little, can mean such a lot. Small local charities use legacies in a very impactful way.

During Legacy Action Week you'll find access to events where you can get free practical advice on Will-making, probate and legal matters.

So if you're thinking about leaving a donation in your Will to a deserving cause, you've reached the right place.

www.legacyactionweek.com

DOG

WALK

Friday 4th April – 10.45am

Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Help us to support local families

JOIN US (you don't even need a dog)

A choice of two guided walks

(short or long – you can decide on the day)

Both walks leave at 11am sharp!

Book your place £15pp

Includes a ploughman's lunch and home-made soups*

You are welcome to join us for lunch only if you don't fancy the walk.

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The walks will go ahead whatever the weather and may include some stiles.



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EASTER FAMILY FUN



Thursday 10th April / 10am - 2pm: **Easter Biscuit Decorating**

Thursday 17th April / 10am - 2pm: **Easter Egg Decorating**

Wednesday 16th April - Tuesday 22nd April: **Easter Egg Hunt**

Cafe Opening Times: Wed - Sun, 9am - 4pm

Street Food & Bar open on the last Friday of each month 6pm - 10pm

CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

IS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL SINGERS!

THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR!
We start rehearsing again in early March.

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

The Choir performs a wide repertoire including 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 (there are no auditions), **do contact:**

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

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director
bryantjane50@gmail.com
07740 871341

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Candover Valley Store

community made

Join us for a Spring Tasting Event at Candover Valley Store

As the days grow warmer and spring settles in, we are excited to invite you to our Spring Tasting Event at the Candover Valley Store. This event will be a celebration of local food and drink, featuring some of Hampshire's finest artisan producers.

Date: Friday, 25 April **Time:** 2:00pm – 7:00pm

This will be an afternoon filled with exceptional tastings, exclusive offers and a fun festival atmosphere. It is the perfect opportunity to meet local producers, sample their products and enjoy the fruits of our community.

Featured exhibitors

Moon Roast Coffee: A family-run, small-batch coffee roastery based in the Candover Valley. Inspired by four generations in the coffee and tea trades, Moon Roast offers expertly crafted coffees, including their signature Candover Blend.

Hydes Cyder: A craft cidery based in Herriard dedicated to producing premium, hand-crafted ciders using traditional methods.

Summerdown: Renowned for cultivating and distilling their own Black Mitcham peppermint, which they use to create award-winning chocolates, teas, and body care products.

Homemade Brownie Company: Joining us from Basingstoke, this irresistible brand is renowned for its rich, decadent chocolate brownies, crafted with love and high-quality, locally sourced ingredients.

Candover Brook: From their vineyard rooted in the heart of Preston Candover, enjoy tastings of their exquisite sparkling wines, paired with special discounts on single bottles and cases.

Flowerpots Brewery: Located in the historic village of Cheriton at the source of the River Itchen, this local gem is celebrated for its exceptional cask ales brewed in small batches.

Freshly made wood-fired pizza

In addition to tastings from our featured exhibitors, we are pleased to welcome **Pizzaarti**, a wood-fired pizza food truck serving fresh, handmade pizzas throughout the event.

Whether you are looking to discover new local favourites, stock up on delicious treats, or simply an enjoyable tasty few hours, we would love to see you there.

Bring your friends and family and join us in celebrating the best of our local food and drink. **We look forward to welcoming you!**

YOU ARE INVITED

SPRING TASTING

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Find out more: <https://bit.ly/CVSSpringTasting> or scan

est. 2019
Candover Valley Store
community made

Easter Opening Times

	Store	Post Office
Good Friday - 18 April	8am - 4pm	Closed
Easter Saturday - 19 April	8.30am - 5pm	9am - 12.30pm
Easter Sunday - 20 April	8.30am - 12.30pm	Closed
Easter Monday - 21 April	8.30am - 12.30pm	Closed
May Day - 5 May	8.30am - 12.30pm	Closed



**JUMBLE
SALE**

**SUNDAY
6TH APRIL
11AM-2PM**

**PRESTON
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Drop off your jumble Saturday 5th april 2pm-4pm :)



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Jackie's County Corner

The process for the Hampshire wide Strategic Mayorality has started now the Government has accepted Hampshire's bid to make the change. Strategic Mayor elections will be on the 7th May 2026.

Local Government Reorganisation is a separate work programme. LGR will result in several Unitary authorities of around 500,000 people in each. Elections will be in 2027 or 2028.

When you read this, Southampton, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth, together with Winchester and all the other districts will have made their first proposals for Unitary Authorities to the Government on the 21st March. You can read Hampshire's submission on www.hants.gov.uk

The revenue budget deficit at HCC has been reduced using reserves but remains at around £100m per year. So, another consultation this month, but proposals made only reduce the deficit by £9.9m over four topics. These proposals to reduce costs in four areas including Adult Day Care services, Planned Highway Maintenance, and Children's and Young People's school & college transport **Deadline 7 May**

There has been a lot of debate about the terrible potholes in this area, and how HCC chooses to spend our Council Tax. One of the four proposals is to reduce the planned highway maintenance. HCC propose not to include any money from the HCC funds but limit the budget to the sum provided for this purpose by Government. I'm sure that many of you will want to comment on this proposal!

Changes in HCC transport costs to school and college are proposed too. The 1946 law is clear that children with special needs or on free school meals are fully entitled to free transport up to 16, but the County Council believes that post 16 to 25, this is not the case.

The proposal put forward by HCC is to provide these grants only if a young person is entitled to free school meals *and* an EHCP. It takes no account of the logistics of getting multiple children to school at one time. HCC is proposing to extend the scheme whereby they provide expenses for parents taking their own child to school or they will recover some of the transport costs. These options will be extended to more families. The initial proposal was also to charge parents 30% of the cost of transport which could be £3000 or even higher. Many residents have written to me about this saying how it will affect their own family. Councillors (including me) have challenged this, but it has been decided that the consultation will go ahead. Please advertise to others if you have the opportunity.

The public consultation on this and other proposed cuts runs from 12th March to the 7 May.

I spent a very happy afternoon playing with grandchildren at our local HCC owned country park. I really hope these aren't victims of budget deficits- they are such jewels in the crown.

A Bus Service Improvement Programme grant of just over £13million was confirmed on the 6th March. BSIP is an ongoing grant programme, aiming for a full return to bus travel to pre-Covid 19 levels, but it doesn't tackle the funding that is needed to improve rural services, nor the travel options for the 18.9% of our residents who don't have access or ability to drive their own vehicle. As our population ages, this should be a priority. I will continue to make this case along with councillors from all parties. Will this all improve with promised Mayoral control of transport? I hope so.



Swarraton and Northington WI

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - March 2025

This month's local speaker was Jude Hayland, who gave a talk on the art of writing fiction and achieving publication - not easy with publishing houses determined to pigeonhole authors

into specific genres.

She told us how she began by writing articles for magazines before moving into full length novels thanks to Troubador Publishing who favour authors with different approaches. Her stories are set in the recent past and follow themes of 'meetings, memories and moments' in the lives of people in what she calls the 'recipe of the times'.

Jude pointed out that as we go through life, we learn that the people and events which have populated our past have a greater effect on us than maybe we realise. The past can be a snare, can haunt, can send us off in different avenues but ultimately can give so much hope. Food for thought indeed.

Jude was warmly thanked by Beth Lamb and the membership then enjoyed afternoon tea and a chat.

Guests are also always welcome at any of the speaker meetings for a small charge of £5.

The next meeting at Swarraton & Northington Village Hall is at 2pm on **Tuesday 1st April**. It was planned to have one of the very popular reminiscence talks but may be changed to a speaker instead.

Tea hostesses - Erica Sisk and Judi Proctor
 Flowers - Rosemary Bligh

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