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Editorial Team

Treasurer & Advert Co-ordinator

Ros Partridge 01420 563 816
Harrow Cottage, Upper Wield
ALRESFORD
SO24 9RW
rospartridge1@gmail.com

Technical Producer

Jean Frost 01420 561 136
5 Pound Close, Upper Wield
ALRESFORD
SO24 9SH
jeanterry@uwclub.net

Distribution Manager

Philippa Pellereau 01962 733107
ppellereau@gmail.com

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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: 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 1st December Advent Sunday

08.00am	Ellisfield	Holy Communion BCP <u>IDT</u>
09:00 am	Wield	Morning prayer IDT
09.45am	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer PR
10:00am	Preston Candover	Advent Carols JG
11:00am	Northington	Morning prayer IDT
3.00pm	Dummer	Christingle AH
<i>Readings</i>		<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end Luke 21 25-36</i>
		<i>Psalms 25:1-9</i>

_____””_____

Friday 6th December

16:00	Cliddesden	Christingle
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Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.00am	Wield	Holy Communion BCP IDT
10:00am	Preston Candover	Family service JG
16:00	Cliddesden	Nine lessons and carols PR
4.00pm	Dummer	Nine lessons and Carols IDT
6.00pm	Ellisfield	Nine lessons and Carols BC
6.00pm	Northington	Nine lessons and Carols with Valley Choir IDT

Readings Zephaniah 3:14-end Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18
 Psalm 146:-4-end

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

9:45am	Dummer	Holy Communion CW IDT
11:00am	Bradley	Carols and mince pies JG
11:15am	Ellisfield	Holy Communion IDT
4.00pm	Wield	Nine lessons and carols IDT
6.00pm	Brown Candover	Nine lessons and carols IDT
6.00pm	Cliddesden	Carols around the pond PR

Readings Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10 5-10 Luke 1 39-45
 Psalm 80:1-8

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

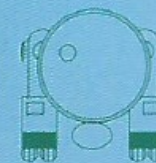
2.00pm	Cliddesden	Crib Service CN
3.00p	Preston Candover	Blessing of the crib IDT/AL
4.00pm	Farleigh	Nine lessons and Carols IDT
11.30pm	Northington	Midnight communion IDT
11.30pm	Cliddesden	Midnight communion

Readings Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14 Psalm 98

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

09:30am	Bradley	Christmas service JG
09:30am	Ellisfield	Family Communion IDT
09:30am	Wield	Holy Communion (by extension)
10:45am	Dummer	Family Eucharist IDT
11:00am	Preston Candover	Holy Communion (by extension) JG
11:00am	Brown Candover	Holy Communion

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Message from Ian

Most of us love Christmas, it is by far the nation's favourite holiday. You probably have your own family traditions that make the season so important. For us, it starts at the end of November, with my wife, daughter and granddaughter Serena (I promised her a mention) getting together to make a Christmas pudding. By December the build-up is fully into gear, and we tick off familiar things in the run up to the big day. Getting the Christmas tree up, having a spiced ginger latte at Starbucks or hearing "All I want for Christmas is you" for the first time



I love Christmas day. When children are around it is hard to have a sleep in. There is huge joy in swapping presents and wondering why on earth someone would want to buy you that. The highlight of the day is Christmas dinner that my wife and daughter prepare with almost military precision and culminates with the arrival of the flaming Christmas pudding.

There are two problems with this. Firstly, for me, as a priest, is that none of this is particularly Christian. But while the idea of having a celebration midwinter predates Christianity by a fair way, the story of the birth of Jesus is something that makes the day so much more special. Going to Church, singing the well-known carols and hearing the familiar stories that speak of Jesus as God's incredible gift to humanity. Secondly, the ideal Christmas that is already being played out in various adverts can be difficult for those having a hard time. People who have lost someone this year or are isolated from their families can make Christmas a hollow celebration. If you are on benefits and unable to work there is scant spare resources for celebratory food or presents

So as we prepare can I ask you to consider doing two things. Firstly, donate to a food bank. These will be having a busy time in the run up to the festive season but don't be afraid to put in an extra donation and include in it something special to help others celebrate. You can donate in the big supermarkets, the village store and in St Leonard's Cliddesden. You can also donate to a toy bank. Many of the larger supermarkets will run these. You can buy a toy and donated in a container in the store. These are then forwarded to charities who support families having a hard time. I'm told that this is a double issue of Hill and Dale so I'm to include something about the New Year. I was going to write about the New Year having so much promise. For a start it is not having another spiced ginger latte or hear "all I want for Christmas is you" for 11 months." But there isn't enough room so can I wish everyone in the Benefice a happy and really blessed Christmas and to the good people of Oxdrove magazine who want a separate New Year's message.....thanks



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Church sidesmen and readers


<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	1 Dec	Peter & Beth Lamb	
	15 Dec	Volunteers	
	24 Dec	Matthew Pellereau Philippa Pellereau	
St Peters Brown Candover	22 Dec 6.00pm	Curtis Haywards Moseleys	To be advised
	25 Dec 11.00am	Jonathan Moseley	To be advised
St Marys Preston Candover	1 Dec 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Various
	8 Dec 10.00am	Jane Laws	Gunnel Berry Jane Laws
	15 Dec 10.00am	Marina Avis	To be advised
	24 Dec 3.00pm	Marina Avis Anne Luneburg	
	25 Dec 11.00am	Gunnel Berry Jane Laws	Anne Luneburg Tracy Lintott
	29 Dec 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	5 Jan 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Gunnel Berry
All Saints Bradley	Dec 25 9.30am	Andrew Don	Christopher Swan
St James' Wield	1 Dec 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Ben Robinson Annie-Lou Gibbs
	8 Dec 6.00pm	Robert Grande	Roger Fidgen Amand Bromfield
	15 Dec 9.00am	Catherine Simons	Mark Kemp Gee Catherine Simons
	22 Dec 4.00pm	Alwin Hutchinson John Lailey	To be advised
	25 Dec 9.30am	Catherine Simons John Lailey	Claire Hewitson Julian Colville



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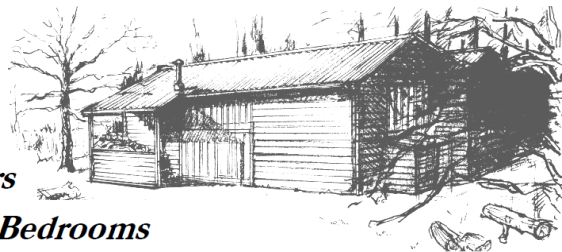
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Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders	January 2025	To be advised
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	14 Dec	All helpers welcome for Christmas flowers
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	21 Dec	All helpers for Christmas Flowers
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole

Advent Carol Service

Christmas puddings and mince pies may already be available in the shops (early October), but for the church Christmas preparations start on Advent Sunday when we begin to look forward to the coming, Advent, of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Everyone is welcome at the **Advent Carol Service to be held at St Mary's at 10.00 am on Advent Sunday, 1st December**. This is not a stuffy service, but hopefully though-provoking and enjoyable, with inspiring readings and the lovely Advent music. Please do join us and stay for seasonal refreshments afterwards

New Year Drinks

The trustees and committee of Preston Candover Village Hall warmly invite all residents of Preston Candover, Axford, Nutley and Goble Hole, as well as our regular hirers, to join them for New Year's Drinks, **Weds 1st Jan, 12noon - 2.00pm in the village hall**.

We hope to see you there!

Christmas Carol Singing around Wield

Saturday 21st December

Kick off the Christmas Celebrations
with a traditional sing-song
around the village

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

The finale will be at the Yew Tree pub
in Lower Wield.

Please bring lantern/torches.
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Remembrance 2024

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Several Services took place in the Valley to honour those who have selflessly defended our freedom.

The annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Service took place to a packed St John's in Northington.

As pictured, the Remembrance Day Service was held at the Memorial, Preston Candover where children from Preston Candover Church of England Primary School read poems and laid a wreath.

Huge thanks to all those who played a part in both Services.

Cleaner required

For St. Peters Church, Brown Candover. The job would entail dusting the pews and furniture and hoovering the whole church once a month.

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On the Farm— Ben Robinson

I do try to stay away from politics in my Oxdrove articles. However, the recent budget has felt intensely personal for many farmers and growers. The government repeatedly told the farmers that there would be no change to the rules surrounding Agricultural and Business Property Relief. In the Budget they then performed a total U- turn, imposing Inheritance Tax on family businesses with no consultation or impact assessment.

The new Inheritance Tax rules will protect those with a nice house and a hobby smallholding, they will also not affect most of the very largest landowners who often hold their land in Trusts or in complex offshore tax structures, outside the scope of IHT. The large landholdings of NGOs such as the National Trust, Wildlife Trusts and other charities are also unaffected. Corporations also escape the new rules.

What it will do is present an unpayable tax bill to working family farmers operating as Partnerships or Sole Traders. A 500 acre well equipped farm with a dairy herd and decent machinery will be looking at a bill of £1-2 million with each generation that passes. This is not money that is liquid and available, as it is with Capital Gains Tax or Income Tax, both of course already paid by farmers. The only way to raise funds will be to sell business assets, making the enterprise unviable. It will become pointless to invest in UK agriculture. If Labour's aim was to target the idle rich going after people who get up at 3.30am to milk cows seems a pretty bizarre way of going about it.

The whole industry is worried. Owner occupiers of course, but also tenants whose landlords may have evict them to sell the farm to pay the IHT bill. The land is very unlikely to be bought for farming in the current climate. Re-wilding, solar, housing or warehouses are the way the wind is blowing. The allied industries such as machinery dealers, vets, feed merchants and farm suppliers are deeply concerned for their customer base. Many tenant farmers will be above the IHT threshold just with the value of their livestock and machinery.

Even the DEFRA Secretary of State Steve Reed is now suggesting farmers to do 'proper business tax planning'. It's fair to say when a government brings in a tax and then starts offering advice on how to get round their own policy, it probably wasn't the right course of action. The Chancellor has at the time of writing refused to meet with the NFU President.

Some farming families will not be able to plan. In theory the 7-year rule allows a gift of a farm to be made from an older to a younger generation, without IHT being applicable. However, if the gift is made the older generation cannot receive any income from the farm business, or live in farm housing. Many simply cannot do this as their pension was the farm business. A farm still subject to a mortgage can be gifted, but this immediately triggers a Stamp Duty liability across the value of the whole farm, and at a similar rate to what the IHT would be. Trusts can be an option, but as land in Trust is not owned by the farmer, you cannot borrow against the value of the land. This means for most there will no way of investing in machinery, buildings or livestock. Heads they win, Tails you lose.

This Boxing Day the Hampshire Hunt will be meeting in central Alresford. All are welcome to come and see the horses and hounds. 10.45am on Station Road.

May I take this opportunity to wish all Oxdrove readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER -

NOVEMBER 2024

The meeting was well attended with members and guests and the formalities were dealt with efficiently and swiftly. Thanks were given for the flowers and to the tea hostesses and there being no further business, the speaker for the meeting, Annalie Talent was introduced to give her talk on Beatrix Potter. Naturalist, artist, businesswoman, farmer, land conservationist and, above all, author of the animal tales adored by generations of children.

The life and works of this famous, much-loved writer was the subject of a hugely enjoyable and knowledgeable talk given by Annalie, a lifelong fan. A quite solitary child, Beatrix had two great passions, natural history and art which eventually led to her self-published first 'little book for little hands' in 1901. The success that followed led to the purchase of Hilltop farm in the Lake District and her gift of land to the National Trust.

This was another talk that was greatly enjoyed by the members, it was the last of the 2024 programme that had been skilfully arranged by Linda Amarnani and Julia Barber. The talks have covered a wide range of topics and guests and husbands have been able to join the group. The December meeting will be slightly different so make sure that the date is saved! Guests always welcome for a small charge of £3

The next meeting is at 2pm on Tuesday 3rd December 2024

No speaker - Festive Tea.....and something special!

Teas - Judith Hand and Linda Amarnani

Flowers - Judith Hand

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

Just a reminder that the annual Lasagne Lunch will be held in the hall on Tuesday 7th January 2025 and guests are welcome.

NHS 111 can help if you have an urgent medical problem when your GP practice is closed. Dial 111 on any phone for advice, or visit the NHS 111 website – 111.nhs.uk. Remember to call 999 at any time in a medical emergency. This is when someone is seriously ill, or injured, and their life is at risk.

Christmas & New Year

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

- In person at the surgery
- By post
- Via the NHS App or Patient Access (<https://www.patientaccess.com/>)

The surgery will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 January. 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.

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

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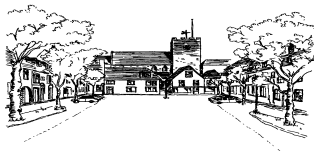
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RSV Vaccination

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 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 as we plan to be running clinics in the New Year.

Medication supplies over the Christmas break

If you take regular medications, please make sure you have enough to see you over the festive period and please place requests with us in good time if repeats will be needed.

If you have family coming to stay with you remind them not to forget their medicines.

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

Any eConsult request you submit outside of our normal surgery opening hours will not be read until we open the next working day. Patients will not be able to submit eConsults over the weekend or bank holiday period.

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

Candover Valley Pre-School

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com <https://www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/>

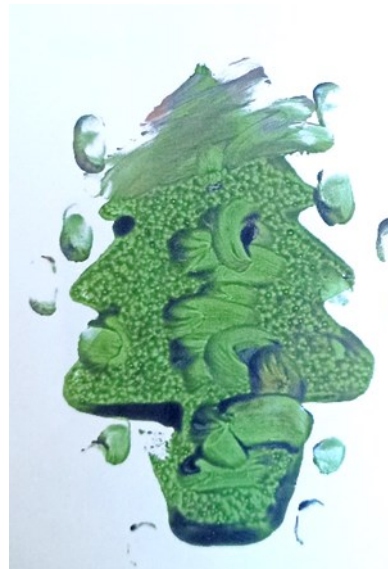
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The festive season offers endless opportunities for learning, especially for our young preschoolers. Each festive activity is a chance to explore new ideas, practice essential skills and spark creativity in ways that feel joyful and exciting.

Crafting decorations strengthens fine motor skills, while baking together introduces early maths concepts like measuring and counting. Singing festive songs builds language and memory, and sharing stories about different traditions nurtures cultural awareness and empathy. Every moment becomes a stepping stone in their educational journey.

This season is also a time to instil the values of generosity, kindness and teamwork. Whether

collaborating on a classroom project or participating in acts of giving, the children learn and grow not just academically, but emotionally and socially as well. We have enjoyed many wonderful

festive experiences this term and continue to enjoy celebrating with friends, family and our community.

We wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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.

The Water Rail's Tale

Even in the quietest parts of winter, our local chalk streams hum with activity. As coots and moorhens glide across the surface, one of their relatives may be hiding in plain sight. At around 23-28cm long, the water rail is smaller than these more outgoing members of the *Rallidae* family, but just as fond of damp places. Ponds, marshes, reedbeds, wetlands, and rivers are all potential homes for this enigmatic bird.

One reason for the water rail's wide variety of habitats is its omnivorous diet. Although it mostly eats fish, snails, and insects, it will also snack on roots, seeds, and berries. There are even reports of water rails catching small amphibians, mammals, and birds. With its long legs, long toes, and long beak, this species is perfectly adapted for hunting and foraging on boggy ground or in shallow water.

The water rail sports distinctive colouration that makes it fairly easy to identify. Its face and underside are grey, while its back is dappled brown and black. Zebra-like stripes along its flanks lead into bright white feathers under its tail, and both its eyes and beak are a striking red. As a chick, the water rail's black feathers make it resemble a baby coot or moorhen – the trick is to look for a pale yellow beak instead of a red one.

Despite having snazzy plumage and being relatively widespread, the water rail is notoriously elusive. Its camouflage helps it to blend into the undergrowth, and its skittishness causes it to run for cover when startled. The odds of a sighting do increase during winter, when the UK population is boosted by visitors from the colder parts of Europe. True to their cautious nature, these migrating birds usually travel at night.

While you need sharp eyes and good luck to see a water rail, you may have a better chance of hearing one. Of their greatest hits – which include creaks, whistles, groans, and even purrs – their most common call in wintertime is known as “sharming”. Used to converse, mark territory, or express alarm, this call is a mixture of grunting and squealing that would make a piglet proud!

Since the water rail is so shy, it likes riverbanks that have lots of lush plant life. To welcome these beautiful birds, we need to allow a thick fringe of vegetation to flourish along the water's edge. To learn more about how chalk streams can be improved for wildlife, check out the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Poetry Prize winners

Sixteen young poets, including Safiya Husain from Upper Wield, have been named as winners in the Tales from the Riverbank Poetry Competition. Ranging from 7 to 17 years old, they recently received their prizes at a

WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in September 2024

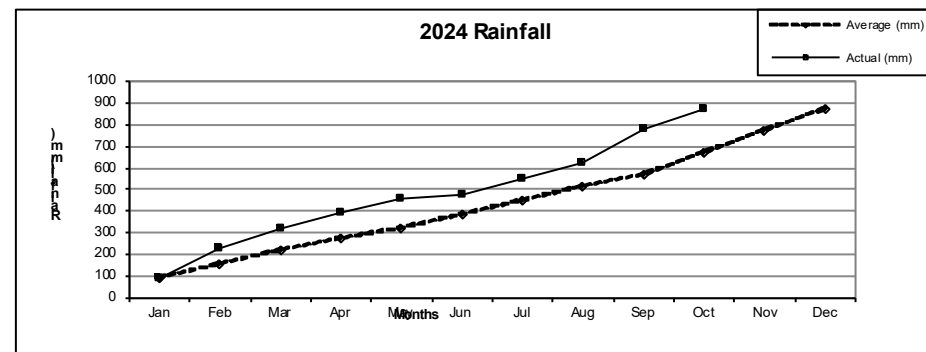
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	18.0/64	(16 th)
Lowest	-1.1/30	(11 th)
Warmest Night	10.4/51	(16 th)
Coolest Day	10.5/55	(13 th)
Average maximum temperature	15.4/60	
Average minimum temperature	6.5/44	
Number of air frosts	1	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	96.3/3.79	(average 101.9/4.01)
Annual total	870.4/34.27	(average 678.3/26.70)
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	23.1/0.91	(8 th)
Number of days with rain	19	

Summary October saw a mix of settled spells due to high-pressure and wet weather from a succession of low-pressure systems. An Atlantic low arrived on the 6th and brought a few days of wet weather including moderate to heavy showers and almost an inch of rain on the 8th. Then there were then a few days of dry and settled conditions before slow-moving weather fronts brought more rain. Continuous rain and a moderate to fresh breeze heralded the arrival of the first name storm of the season, Storm Ashley, on the 20th. The last week and a half was generally dull with occasional rain. Overall, the rainfall and temperature for October were slightly below the seasonal norm.



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special ceremony in Winchester. Their fantastic chalk stream poems can be read on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website (hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes) in the form of a beautifully illustrated anthology.

Congratulations to all!

Online Talks

The Hidden Life in Groundwater – 12th December, Online

Deep below Hampshire, there is an enormous chalk aquifer. The water that flows through this sedimentary rock is the source of our chalk streams but is also home to mysterious and ancient creatures. Join us to discover the secret world of stygofauna. Book your free ticket at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

Sustainable Drainage Systems – 8th and 15th January, Online

As our climate changes and urbanisation increases, some communities are experiencing more water around their roads and homes. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can help to manage this issue and protect our chalk streams from damaging runoff. Book your free ticket at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

Do you own or manage land for horses? Join us for a programme of free online talks by Elizabeth Ranelagh (author of 'Managing Grass for Horses'). Learn how to reduce your environmental impact through methods such as pasture reseeding, hedgerow cultivation, and manure storage. The talks will take place in early 2024 – email winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk to learn more.

Photo courtesy Joshua Copping



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Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

The mild misty days of early November seemed to be trapped under a blanket of low cloud. Despite skies of a dull mushroom grey, the downland beeches stood out with splendid displays of autumn leaf colours. The canopies of field oaks along the valley were also quite impressive; so too the hedgebanks and coppices of hazel.

Taking an afternoon stroll in this twilight world down at the Swarraton water meadows, shades of grey were an enduring theme. There were the muted tones of a grey heron taking off, plus three grey-brown cygnets of mute swans, now quite independent, tucking into the water plants in the surging brook.

A horse chestnut tree, bare of leaves, stood alone, its upper branches host to four dark raptors, well-spaced, each with forked tails – red kites. As we watched a fifth kite floated in, swooping round to perch with the others – but not for long, as they all took off, gliding away silently over the trees. Walking back by St. John's, we paused amused by the antics of jackdaws, playing high on the church tower, each trying to be the one to perch on the crest of the golden weathervane.

Later in the week after a busy day indoors, we were keen to go for a brisk walk and headed out around the edge of the back fields. With the end of British Summer Time, late afternoon walks are now taken in the half-light of early dusk – a time of silhouettes and shadows.

We were quickly alerted to a flock of birds clustering in the far treetops, lifting off and landing, clearly restless and not quite ready to settle down to roost. Their chattering calls were reassuringly familiar – the clamour of wintering thrushes – the nomadic redwings. Newly arrived from Finland and Scandinavia, their appearance around Hallowe'en or Bonfire Night signals the seasonal change in the bird world.

Glancing upwards and along the treeline, we also spotted a pair of very energetic bats, pipistrelles, whizzing back and forth, busily snapping up insects in the mild air.

Robert Bryant
7th November '24



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Candover Valley Club



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

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

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Candover Valley Gardening Club

In October we welcomed Lucy Thorpe, Head Gardener at Horatio's Garden. The garden is based at Salisbury Hospital Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre and is one of many across the country. Lucy described how the garden had developed over twelve years and was a really special place for the patients, visitors and staff to spend time away from the ward. She showed us some photos of the garden, how it was set out for easy access for wheelchairs and even beds. Our members took advantage of some early Christmas shopping as Lucy and her volunteers had brought along some beautiful gifts for sale.

There is no meeting in December, but we look forward to some interesting speakers in the new year including 'Growing Chillies' and 'Lainston House Kitchen garden'. 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.



Jackie's County Corner

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
I know it's a busy time, and replying to consultations is the last thing on your mind on December but please do at least this first one!

Everyone has a view about the NHS

Now is the time to give that view. To respond to the NHS 10-year plan consultation, go to <https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/> or simply type in

[change.nhs.uk](https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/) into google or www.gov.uk. Deadline 22nd December.

What are the barriers to Cycling and Walking for you? This is a new survey on behalf of HCC and WCC to aid work on the Council's Movement Strategy. Deadline 22nd December. Go to www.hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling

A route has been agreed for the next (southerly) section of the Worthy Down cycle path from the Harestock water treatment works to Wellhouse Lane, due to be completed Spring 2025. I have asked for some maintenance on the whole route, following heavy rainfall.

School Transport

In late October, the County Council were proposing changes to the education transport but withdrew plans at the last minute. School transport costs the Council over £85million a year, and the cost is rising, so this is one area where HCC wants to reduce the revenue budget.

I have written more detail on my website, but National Policies continue to be discriminatory against children in rural areas attending their local rural school, which may be a bus ride away from their own village. Parents also tell me they believe the 'walk to school' ethos is impossible to achieve for working parents. What do you think? Getting it right is important for the whole community: because school traffic is a huge proportion of the morning and afternoon congestion we face. Please look out for the consultation, and I will remind you in a future 'County Corner'. To be useful, I have asked HCC to seek responses from parents of children 'yet to travel', as well as those already travelling.

The proposed budgets cuts to 'Lollipop staff', Buses & Alresford HWRC were not agreed.

Kings Worthy has a school crossing patrol, which was one of the services threatened in the cuts. It was agreed that these wouldn't be removed as proposed. I am asking schools to include Parish and Town Councils when they update their school travel plans to support all additional safety measures near to the school.

The 75, 6, 64 and 67 buses will continue, and the 240 and 95 seem safe for now. The KB1 minibus is now running 6 days a week, funded for two years to October 2027. The Alresford HWRC is saved! Volume collected is at 24th out of 24 sites, so please use it often!



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County Councillor Grants

So far this year I have supported with small grants for nine projects. If you know of organisations that haven't had a grant from this fund before, I am keen to support children and greening projects this year, but it is a limited pot of money so closure for applications may be before the official deadline next February. Please contact me first to check availability.

In October, we shared our usual Councillor Surgery spot on West Street, and we were pleased to meet the Trustees of Bailey House who were explaining their role to residents. Bailey House in Alresford is unique with bedroom and bathroom, importantly with day-to-day companionship, and currently with vacancies. It's a really friendly place and following on from my last County Corner, when I was asking you to consider volunteering, I promised to thank them for their work as Trustees via this photo!



We continue to hold local Councillor surgeries: but please contact us by email or phone if you think we can help.

Cllr Jackie Porter website www.jackieporter.co.uk tel/text: 07973696085 email: Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk answerphone: 01962 791054

I keep an eye Facebook & Next Door: please tag me if you want me to see your post!



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6th and 13th December (our Christmas party with a visit by FC)

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)



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!

Alresford Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2EE
Tel: 01256 389500 www.cvcs.org.uk

Candover Valley Store *community made*

Date	Store	Post office
Sunday 22 Dec	8.30am – 4.00pm (open for a few extra hours!)	Closed
Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December	8.00am – 4.00pm	8.30am – 12.30pm <u>Last collection</u> <u>10.50am</u>
Christmas Day Wednesday 25 Dec	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day Thursday 26 Dec	Closed	Closed
Friday 27 Dec	Normal hours 8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 28 December	Normal hours 8.30am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 12.30pm
Sunday 29 December	Normal hours 8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed
Monday 30 December	Normal hours 8.00am – 6.00pm	8.30am – 5.00pm
New Year's Eve Tuesday 31 December	8.00am – 4.00pm	8.30am – 12.30pm <u>Last collection</u> <u>10.50am</u>
New Year's Day 1 Jan 2025 Bank holiday	8.30am – 12.30pm	Closed

Candover Valley Store

community made

Changes to store and post office hours over Christmas and New Year

On Sunday 22 December the store will be open until 4.00pm to allow customers some extra browsing and purchasing time. On Tuesday 24 December the store will also close at 4.00pm to allow staff and volunteers to get home to begin their celebrations. Both the store and post office will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Seasonal opening hours are published in full elsewhere in this magazine.

Last posting dates

Remember you will need to get UK standard letters in the post by 18 December for Christmas delivery. The store's post office-trained staff will be able to advise on dates for other countries and for parcels, but in general the rule is the earlier the better!

Wines and cheeses on special offer!

Look out for promotions on selected wines and on Tunworth cheeses this month!

New freezer, more choice!

The recently introduced range of frozen meals from FieldGoods is being extended and will now include delicious desserts.

Christmas raffle

The store will be supporting the Basingstoke Food Bank by running a raffle to win a hamper full of Christmas goodies. At this time of plenty for some, we must remember it is a very different scenario for those who are struggling. Please buy tickets if you can.

Pre-order your ChalkStream trout and Beres Bakes sourdough

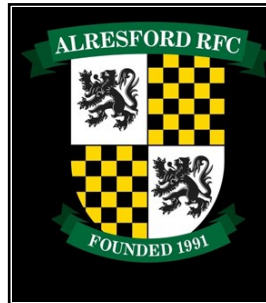
Speak to a member of the store team to place your order for sides of mouthwatering trout and the hand-crafted loaves you need for Christmas.

Don't forget to Shop Local this Christmas!

We have a wonderful selection of gifts, Advent calendars, cards, wrapping and tags in stock!

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Huge thanks for your support through 2024. We have loved serving you and look forward to seeing you again very soon!



Alresford Rugby Football Club

Well, despite the unseasonable weather, we are truly into Winter now, as the increase in Christmas adverts will no doubt make you aware!

A much-improved month for the club as our coaching, increased fitness and an all-round commitment to excellence is resulting in some superb performances from the First XV, with an away win at Bognor being our first there in many

years.

As we are now approaching the halfway point of the season, we are improving after a difficult start to the season and are now a team to be reckoned with in our league.

Our Second XV have been somewhat hamstrung by lower player numbers, but continue to put teams together, and this resilience is testament to the spirit of the club, as we move towards 2025. As ever, we are always looking for new players to join the club, with further details on the website.

Our fixtures in December are;

First XV

7/12 Lymington Mariners (H)

14/12 Alton (A)

Second XV

7/12 Basingstoke 2's (H)

14/12 Farnborough (A)

We have our last club lunch of the year on 7th December, with our Christmas party taking place on 21st December. Anyone wishing to attend either event, please see our website for further details.

It simply remains our pleasure to wish all of you, from Alresford Rugby Club, a very Happy Christmas and New Year; we thank those of you who are joining us on our journey and welcome your support as we enter 2025.



Stall holders: Anna MacInnes Art, Butter Bike Co, Candover Brook, Casa Sant Elia, Chalk Stream, Chuckle Soap, Claudia & B, Copper Lion Distillery, Creative Cooks, Emily Profit, Faite Design, Fine Fettle, Flower Pots, Gone Rural, Handley Green Jewellery, Honey Dot Designs, Lime White Designs, Little Hootons, Lizzall Makes, Louis & Co Maison, Marsdens Fudge, Montes & Clark, Munki Makes, Pelmont Home, Pushpanjali, Sandfish Clothing, Silkstead Pottery, Summerdown Mint, The Uncommon, Turnbull & Hooch, Wiltshire Liqueur Company, Winding Wood Apiary & Ziorva.

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