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### Editorial Team

#### Treasurer & Advert Co-ordinator

**Ros Partridge** 07960 902723.  
Harrow Cottage, Upper Wield  
ALRESFORD  
SO24 9RW  
[adverts.oxdrove@gmail.com](mailto:adverts.oxdrove@gmail.com);

#### Technical Producer

**Jean Frost** 01420 561 136  
5 Pound Close, Upper Wield  
ALRESFORD  
SO24 9SH  
[jeanterry@uwclub.net](mailto:jeanterry@uwclub.net)

#### Distribution Manager

**Philippa Pellereau** 01962 733107  
[ppellereau@gmail.com](mailto:ppellereau@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> May 3<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

08.00	Ellisfield	<a href="#">Holy Communion BCP</a> IDT
09:30	Wield	Morning prayer BCP IDT
09.45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer JG
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion IDT
11.15	Dummer	Sunday Special arch Deacon, Richard Brand
<i>Readings</i>	Zephaniah 3.14–end; Acts 9.1–6 7–20	

Psalm 30 John 21.1–19

”””

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

08:00	Dummer	Holy Communion IDT
09:45	Ellisfield	Morning Prayer BC
10:00	Preston Candover	Morning prayer JG
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion
18:00	Wield	Rogation service IDT
Readings	Genesis 7.1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13] Acts 9.36–end Psalm 23 John 10.22–30	

” ” ”

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

9.00	Wield	Holy Communion IDT
9:45	Dummer	Morning Prayer Guest Speaker Dr Andy Taylor
10:00	Preston Candover	Holy Communion IDT
11.15	Cliddesden	Family Service PR
Readings	Genesis 22.1–1; Acts 11.1–18 Revelation 21.1–6 John 13.31–35 Psalm 148 [or 148.1–6]	

” ” ”

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW. IDT
9:45	Dummer	Eucharist CW IDT
11:00	Brown Candover	Morning Worship JG
11:15	Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion IDT
Readings	Ezekiel 37.1–14; Acts 16.9–15 Psalm 67 John 14.23–29	

” ” ”

#### Buried Church Service.

The annual Buried Church Service will be held on Sunday 1st June at 6 pm. at St. Nicholas Church, Chilton Candover followed by refreshments at the Yard.

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## Message from Ian

I love Easter, the story is so powerful. We've been listening to this over the past few months, and it culminated with the horror of the cross followed by the joy of resurrection. I've been a Christian for over 50 years, and it continues to inspire me. The challenge is, like so much in life, we get caught up in the mechanics of the events and lose track of what is really important. There is always another service to prepare or person to see or sermon to write and easy to lose that sense of what it means. That is a shame, because Easter like Christmas has a colossal sense of wow but is so easily masked by being busy. The story of how one man changed the world by his teaching and death is something that needs retelling and listening to. The story of how the resurrection not only changed the disciples' lives but continues to affect billions of people around the world.

Now Easter is over it is time express thanks to everyone who has done so much to make it such a special time in the Benefice. Especially to Julian, Peter, Catherine and Lyn for taking some of the services. To those who took extra time arranging flowers and spring cleaning the buildings to make the churches look so special on Easter morning. Your contributions were noted, and I am really grateful.

Now the business of Easter is over the third thing is to look forward. For some of us there are big events to focus on. We have some families in the valley preparing for weddings and our family is really looking forward to the arrival of our second grandchild in October.

But even if your diary isn't that full it's still time to celebrate trees in new leaf and garden are starting to look beautiful again,

As a benefice we are looking forward to a special service in St James Wield on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. This is one of the creation Sundays in the church year when we pray for the farming community. With the number of tractors on the road again it looks like the farmers are now busy again. This will be a great time to thank them for all that they do and to show some support for the really hard job they have.

### 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](mailto: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	4 May 11.00am	Rhona Hatchley	Rhona Hatchley
St Peters Brown Candover		Michel de Carvalho	Michel de Carvalho
St Marys Preston Candover	4 May 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	Celian Foote
	18 May 10.00am	Gunnel berry	Anne Luneburg Gunnel Berry
	1 June	Buried Church Service	
All Saints Bradley	25 May 8.00am	Julian Gibbons	Julian Gibbons
St James' Wield	4 May 9.30am	Catherine Simons	Joanna Nelson Nicola Robinson
	11 May 5.00pm	Rogation Service	To be confirmed
	18 May 9.00am	Alwin Hutchinson	Keith or Lisa Stanton Catherine Simons
	1 June 9.3.am	Catherine Simons	Jean Frost Amanda Bromfield

### 80th Anniversary of VE Day

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, the trustees and committee of Preston Candover Village Hall invite all residents of Preston Candover, Axford, Nutley and Goble Hole to join them on **Saturday 17th May, 1.00pm - 3.00pm**, for Pimms and Pastries.

If it is dry find us on the field by kind permission of the Sainsbury Family and Preston Farms, or in the hall if wet. We hope to see you there.

### 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](http://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		
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	April & May	Lisa Crosswell
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	May	Nikki Cowley Caroline Masterton
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole

### Spring Litter Pick: Axford/Preston Candover

**A big Thank you** to all those who volunteered to help with the litter pick on the 27th of March this year. 15 people helped to collect 17 bags of rubbish along the verges, and in the villages, of Axford and Preston Candover. Well done!

Many thanks for your kind assistance over the years. **There will be a different scheme next year.**

Yours, Gunnel

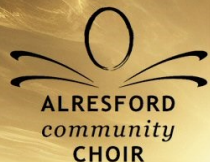
### Oxdrove - Chilton Candover

Having delivered the magazine to your door for the best part of 20 years, firstly in conjunction with Angie Waterston, I would like to hand over the distribution of the magazines in Chilton Candover.

I will deliver the magazines to your door and a list of the houses where they should be dropped. At present there are around 20 drops.

If you feel able to take this on (about an hour of your time and lots of chat), I would be most grateful.

Sue Marriott 07912 657797



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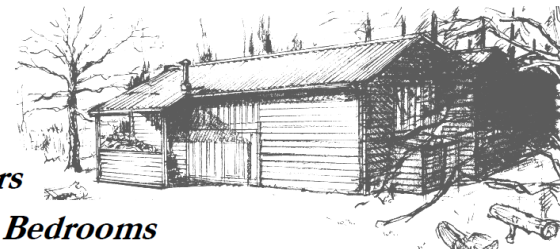
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## Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

The fine weather of early April has made springtime walks in and around the Candovers even more delightful this year. The misty displays of blackthorn blossom seem to set the scene when lit up by the rising sun along the hedge-rows and woodland edges.

On Mothering Sunday, as the clocks spring forward for British Summer Time, we return to Bugmore Hill at Godsfield for a morning stroll along to Wield Wood and back. Under remarkably blue skies and bright sunshine, we follow the Three Castles Path with its sweeping views southwards. The wayside banks at the field edge are pale yellow with splashes of primroses. Small white butterflies busily roam the grassy track, joined by a brimstone, sulphur yellow. Skylarks, quite invisible, sing from high over the fields, while chiff-chaffs, also quite elusive, chant from the bare treetops of Godsfield Copse.

The floor of the copse reveals a sunlit retreat for badgers amidst a dark green sea of bluebell leaves. The badgers have clearly been spring cleaning their setts, with heaps of old grassy bedding dragged out and dumped. While some early bluebells are in flower, their mass blooming will be eagerly anticipated later in the month. It's the petals of the sweet violet that provide the intense blues of the moment, plus the pale blue runners of ground-ivy. As we turn back to the path, a muntjac deer tiptoes away into the shadows.

There's a splendid wooden bench set into the bankside here, where we pause to scan the pastoral views over Armsworth before continuing along to Wield Wood. Bee-flies - fluffy brown mimics of bumblebees - hover in the sunshine probing the flowers of ground ivy for nectar. Hedgerow butterflies twist and glide along the sunny bramble banks: first a comma with its raggedy wings and later a peacock with its distinctive eyespots. A male orange-tip, freshly emerged, is a charming surprise.

At Wield Wood, a sprawl of starry white flowers basks in the spring sunshine lighting up the woodland floor. These are wood anemones or windflowers, indicators of ancient woodland, part of our countryside heritage.

Robert Bryant  
9<sup>th</sup> April '16

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This season, we've embraced the beauty of Spring by encouraging our children to explore nature and express what they see through art. One of our favourite activities has been painting large scale still life pictures of flowers. Children observe colour, shape and texture, and translate what they see onto canvas with vibrant creativity.

This simple yet powerful activity helps them develop fine motor skills, attention to detail, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Spring is the season of growth and there is no better way to experience it than by getting our hands in the soil and planting seeds and flowers. With watering cans in hand and muddy fingertips, the children have learnt how plants grow, what they need to thrive and how patience and care can lead to something beautiful. We are growing more than flowers this season – we are growing curious minds and kind hearts.

Fundraising for our preschool 'Three Peaks Challenge' is ongoing – please pop on our just giving page to donate. [https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL) Thank you for your kindness and support.



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## The Dever Society AGM

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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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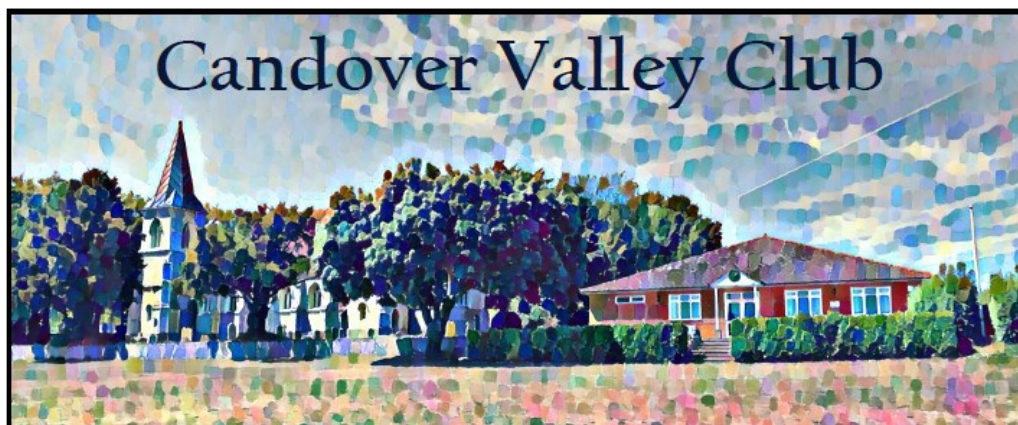


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## Candover Valley Club

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

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

[cvchires@gmail.com](mailto:cvchires@gmail.com)

## 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  
football's giants:**

**Upper Wield versus Lower Wield**

- Gather from 1.25pm
- Warm up 1.30pm; Kick off 2.00pm
- Post match refreshments in the village hall
- Spectators very welcome

**To play for Upper Wield, please contact: PJ,  
[paul.johnson@ha-limited.co.uk](mailto:paul.johnson@ha-limited.co.uk) M: 07720 349497**

**To play for Lower Wield please contact Ed Reid,  
[ed.reid@rocketmail.com](mailto:ed.reid@rocketmail.com) M: 07766 008213**

## 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

The Valley Stalker



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**Hampshire Choral Festival**

**Sunday 11th May 2025**

*The Anvil, Basingstoke, 7 pm*

# VERDI REQUIEM

*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**

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Friday 16th May 2.30—4pm

Saturday 17th May 10.00—12 noon

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## Candover Valley Gardening Club

May sees the start of our garden visits for this year and our first garden is a wonderful garden in Upton Grey. Originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll, John and Rosamund Wallinger bought The Manor House in 1984 and set about restoring the garden/jungle to its original form. The garden includes a formal garden, colourful borders, a wild garden, pond, nuttury and a small kitchen garden and is said to be one of the finest restorations of a Hampshire Garden.

We are busy preparing for our Plant Sale on the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May. Put this date in your diary and be sure to come along to pick up some bargains. See separate poster for details. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and we hope to see lots of you there.

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 for an annual subscription of only £15 per person.

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

## Candover Valley Store *community made*

### Store and post office trading hours

<b>Monday to Friday</b>	Store open: 8.00am – 6.00pm
	Post office: 8.30am – 5.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Store open: 8.30am – 5.00pm
	Post office: 9.00am – 12.30pm
<b>Sundays &amp; Bank Holidays</b>	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](http://www.cvcs.org.uk)





# THE YARD

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Chilton Manor Farm. Keep an eye out for our monthly events + cafe specials!



## **UKRAINE: REMEMBER ALSO ME with George Butler**

**Wednesday 11th June | 7:00 - 8:30pm**

The award-winning reportage artist George Butler has gathered artwork and testimonies of people, he has met in Ukraine during the last two years of war, displayed in his book 'UKRAINE: REMEMBER ALSO ME.' Join us at The Yard, for an evening with George Butler sharing both his work and stories from his time in Ukraine.

*Book tickets on our website.*

**Cafe Opening Times: Weds - Sun, 9am - 4pm**

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

tients to share their experiences and to work with us to help us improve and develop all areas of the service we provide.

At our meeting this year we gave a short presentation on the achievements of 2024, including the survey results and opened the floor to questions and comments. We discussed a range of topics including the provision of face-to-face appointments, the impact of the new housing development on the surgery and why the reception team asks for information about your problem when you call to book an appointment. We also talked about online access, using Patient Access or the NHS App and whether errors in medical records can be corrected.

We hold a Patient Forum meeting annually, but we are always grateful to receive feedback based on your own experiences at any time.

### **Did Not Attend - Missed Appointments**

- People not turning up to their appointments - something called a "DNA" or "Did Not Attend".
- In March, we recorded 53 missed appointments, across both the Doctor & Nursing teams. These appointments could have been utilised for others.
- We understand that life gets in the way sometimes, and things change. Any notice you can provide, even last minute, will enable your appointment to be offered to somebody else.
- Please remember to change or cancel your appointment if you are not able to attend.

Please **do not** rely solely on text message appointment reminders from the practice as this is not a fail-safe system!

### **Reminder - Afternoon closure for staff training – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

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 that afternoon.

If you require urgent medical attention, please call 111.

### **What service should I use?**

Whether it's knowing when to visit your GP, heading to a pharmacy for expert advice, or dialling 111 for urgent medical help, making the right choice ensures you get the care you need and frees up emergency services for people who really need them.

Remember these simple steps:

1. Self-Care: Minor illnesses like coughs, colds, or headaches
2. Pharmacy First: sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo, shingles, UTIs and other non-urgent conditions
3. Book a GP Appointment: For non-urgent concerns or ongoing issues
4. Minor Injury Unit: Minor burns, sprains or other non-life-threatening injuries
5. A&E: Life-threatening emergency

Making the right choice means getting the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

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most - go to <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/> #NHS #Healthcare

#ChooseWellCampaign





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

### **Veteran Practice**

As part of the health commitments of the Armed Forces Covenant, we have a dedicated Clinician, Dr. Hannah Haring, (you can read Hannah's statement here). Hannah, has specialist knowledge of military related health conditions and veteran specific health services. This is important in helping ex-forces to receive the best care and treatment. If you are ex-forces, to help ensure you are receiving the best possible care, please let your GP know.

A veteran is someone who has served in the British Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) for at least one day, and includes any member of the Merchant Marine who has served in a war zone. This includes crew from convoys in World War 2 and more recently in the Falklands conflict and Gulf Wars.

About 18,000 service people move back into civilian life every year and whilst most of these individuals have similar levels of health to the general population, around 2,000 leave on medical grounds. The top reasons for medical discharge are for issues relating to back, knees, mental health, and hearing.

Being accredited means that a practice can better identify and treat veterans, refer them, where appropriate, to dedicated NHS services (such as the Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison service (TILS), the Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS) and the Veterans Trauma Network) and capture better epidemiological data to improve future health provision. It also means that the NHS is better able to meet the health commitments of the Armed Forces Covenant, whereby the Armed Forces community, including veterans, should face no disadvantage in accessing health services and should receive priority care for military attributable conditions, subject to clinical need.

If you are a veteran, please let us know!

### **Bank holiday closures 5<sup>th</sup> & 26th May**

The surgery will be closed for the bank holiday weekend from 6.30pm Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May until 8am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May then again from 6.30pm Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May until 8am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Covid spring booster programme**

COVID-19 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 with a weakened immune system are being offered a spring COVID-19 vaccine. Those eligible will be contacted by the surgery either by text message or telephone call. The vaccination will take place at the surgery unless the patient is residing in a care home or is housebound.

**Alresford Surgery Patient Forum** On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 we held our annual Patient Forum meeting. The Patient Forum was set up in 2009 with the aim of empowering pa-

# CANDOVER VALLEY



## PICKLEBALL

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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*

*Tickets £30, £25, £20 (all include a £4 booking fee) Concessions for  
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**WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne**  
Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down  
in March 2025

**Temperatures** (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

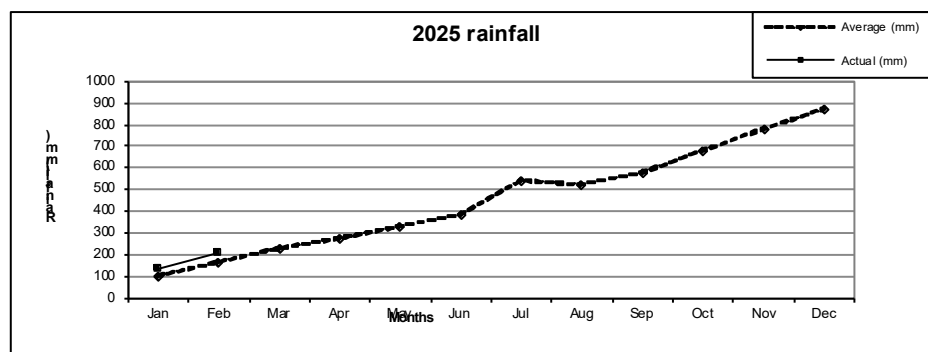
Highest	20.0/68	(20 <sup>th</sup> )
Lowest	-5.5/22	(1 <sup>st</sup> )
Warmest Night	8.5/47	(21 <sup>st</sup> )
Coollest Day	7.5/46	(17 <sup>th</sup> )
Average maximum temperature	13.3/56	
Average minimum temperature	0.9/34	
Number of air frosts	16	

**Rainfall** (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	6.8/0.27	Average 62.6/2.46
Annual Total	217.8/8.57	Average 227.7/8.96
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	3.4/0.13	(23 <sup>rd</sup> )
Number of days with rain	6	

**Summary**

There was the perfect start to the month with high pressure dominating which brought unbroken sunshine for the first four days and sharp overnight frosts. A week of milder weather followed before a persistent cold northerly breeze reduced temperatures to below average in the middle of the month. Then there was a return to milder conditions and the warmest day at 68°F at the Spring Equinox on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Light rain on the 21<sup>st</sup> ended a week of dry weather and was the start of a slightly less settled week. The month closed with some fine, sunny weather and rising daytime temperatures. Overall, March was milder than normal. There were only six days with measurable rainfall, and it was the driest March recorded here with only 11% of the long-term average figure.





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## PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust

Contact: Emma Burt

Publish Date: 01.04.25

Phone: 0300 777 0157

Reference 01/25

### Ageas Insurance support Blue Lamp Trust to supply free Ring Doorbells to vulnerable residents

Ageas Insurance have been a long-standing supporter of the Blue Lamp Trust, a charity based in Hampshire which supports vulnerable adults to improve their home safety and security.

The Blue Lamp Trust and Ageas, through its Rias insurance brand, have been working together to supply and install Ring video doorbells in the homes of older or vulnerable customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. So far, the Trust have visited more than 130 Rias customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and, as well as installing the Ring video doorbells, have also carried a free crime and fire prevention survey at the property.

Ageas are now donating a stock of Ring video doorbells to the Trust to be used as a fund to support vulnerable residents in the community who could not otherwise afford to install these units themselves, but that are in clear need of them to improve their home security and give reassurance to them.

Chief Executive Officer Emma Burt said "We are incredibly grateful to Ageas for the support they have given the us over recent years, and having this supply of Ring video doorbells that we can fit at our discretion for those most in need within our community is a real help. We often receive requests that we cannot fulfil due to the cost implications, so it will be wonderful to be able to say yes to those who really need our assistance."

Ring video doorbells can be a great deterrent but can also be used to gain evidence in cases of domestic abuse or anti-social behaviour.

#### About the Blue Lamp Trust

The Blue Lamp Trust is dedicated to safeguarding vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, providing them with the tools and support to live safely and independently. They offer free safety and security visits to vulnerable members of the community, providing practical solutions to help them live safely and independently. Their dedicated team of Safety Technicians offers various services, from fitting safety

The Blue Lamp Trust  
Police & Fire HQ, Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9SJ  
Tel: 0300 777 0157

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## Posy Rings and Mysterious Things.

Do you know why we wear wedding and engagement rings on the fourth finger of the left hand? Watch this space...

Many people choose to exchange rings when committing to a long term relationship. Ring trends, like all fashions, change over time. In medieval England, if you has sufficient means, a 'fede' ring, with two clasping hands, was a popular choice, or, perhaps your betrothed might even decide to splash out on a gold 'stirrup' ring (named for its shape) with a beautiful sapphire or garnet inset. However, some romantics chose to engrave a 'posy' (a brief sentiment or motto) on a ring with the common belief that, worn next to their partner's skin words had added poignancy and were more powerful.

### Medieval 'fede' ring with Clasped hands



Such 'posy' rings were generally (although not exclusively) gold and were all the vogue in both England and France from the late 14<sup>th</sup> to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. They are very occasionally found by metal detectorists and it is one of these rings which I uncovered (to my utmost astonishment) during a visit to a local field in March.

### Medieval gold 'stirrup' ring



### The 'posy' ring found locally



Inscriptions on these rings are often hard to read, some being written in Norman French or Latin, some with phonetic spelling, but many follow a general pattern and there are some ever popular phrases. For instance,

### A close up of some of the writing



'let love enduer' or 'accept my love', but some had more mysterious messages, for instance, 'think on the sender', or 'I wish it better'. One can only speculate on the relationships in question. Perhaps clandestine, perhaps arranged marriages, such is the mystery of these poignant rings.

And so, one day several centuries ago someone either left or lost our local ring. It undoubtedly meant a great deal to them, marking an important and now forgotten moment in their life. Perhaps it simply slipped, unnoticed, from their finger, or, maybe it was cast off following a stormy argument marking the end of a long term relationship. It will always be a mystery, but, whatever the reason it remains an enormous privilege to be the first to hold such an object after its loss so long ago.

Sadly the message inside the ring also remains a mystery for now since, at some point, the ring was cut neatly in two, most likely so that each partner could wear one half. I am hopeful that, when it is looked at by experts within the treasure process the message will be deciphered and if so I will, of course, let you know.

Oh, and the fourth finger of the left hand was thought by the Egyptians to have a vein which leads straight to the heart. How romantic!



## CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

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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](mailto:juliang.jones@btinternet.com)

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director

[bryantjane50@gmail.com](mailto:bryantjane50@gmail.com)

07740 871341

REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 7.45 pm

\*\*\*\*\*

Book your tickets now for

# A Midsummer Barn Dance

RAISING FUNDS FOR CANDOVER VALLEY PRESCHOOL

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£40 per person thereafter

Includes a welcome drink, food and fantastic caller-led dancing!

Scan the QR code to book or email Emily Paul on  
[eakpaul@gmail.com](mailto:eakpaul@gmail.com)





## On the Farm— Julian Gibbons

I was, somewhat, amazed to see a farmer on the weather at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March on local news complaining about the dry weather. There is a danger we are seen as “the boy who cried wolf”.

March was the best run of spring weather we have had for a number of years. Traditional spring drilling always happens when the wind turns round to the east and we get cold, drying winds. All the spring crops were planted on time in March in generally good conditions. We did have to leave some spots that were still flooded at the beginning of March and towards the end of March we did have to conserve moisture to ensure seedbeds didn't dry out too much.

All the fertiliser has been applied to the barley and the first main dose of nitrogen has gone on the wheat in time for the mid-April rain to wash it in. There is a bit of turning the spreader on and off to ensure we aren't fertilising bald areas, but most of the wheat has made a remarkable recovery. However, we are not going to be looking at a record breaking harvest.

Peas, as I write this in the middle of April. are emerging and the pigeons are just starting to change their focus of attention from struggling rapeseed crops to the peas. This has been the worst year for pigeons we have had for years, and we can but hope there is more natural food for them this winter to keep the pressure of the rapeseed. We belong to the grain storage co-operative Trinity Grain, that was formed from a merger of three co-ops. This year they have launched a climate smart malting barley grain pool linked to a maltster buyer. This hopefully for a bit of extra reporting will give us a bit of market reward for our nature friendly farming measures that we have adopted. These cover approximately 10% of the farmed area but also include how we grow the crop including shallow cultivations of no more than 10cm or direct drilling. Also, the use of organic manures, over winter cover cropping and livestock (if you have them).

All we have to plant now are our wild bird food plots and a herbal ley for Ben Robinson. WE need consistent moisture to get the grass to grow so just need to be a little patient

There was a bit of a panic just before the Chancellor of the Exchequer 's spring statement. There was a rumour going round that she was going to abolish red diesel. The use of the has been tightened up considerably in recent years. It isn't exempt from excise duty, but it has a lower level. The loss of it would be a huge blow to the industry, which we would be unable to pass on to consumers. Having filled all our fuel tanks, the treasury put out a notice denying the claims. We have had so many blows in the last 7 months that we start to believe that any announcement is possible. We are hoping to have a Rogation service at All Saints', Bradley involving a tractor and trailer ride and a blessing of the crops on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May details. It should be lovely and the trailer is covered, just in case.





# Candover Valley Store

*community made*

## **Candover Valley Store – celebrating our staff and volunteers**

As part of our recent *Love Your Shop* campaign, we invited customers to share what they value most about Candover Valley Store. The responses were genuinely heartening and the clear message that came through was that the community truly appreciate the warmth, friendliness and helpfulness of our staff and volunteers.

This feedback was especially meaningful as it echoed what we see every day; our volunteers play a vital role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for the whole community.

We would like to take this moment to thank everyone who took the time to offer thoughtful suggestions and kind comments. These contributions will help us continue to develop and improve the store for all who use it.

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without the ongoing support of our volunteers. With more than 40 dedicated individuals, our volunteer team keeps the shop open and running smoothly seven days a week, 363 days of the year. Their time, energy and commitment make all the difference.

We will be celebrating Volunteers' Week early next month, from 2-8 June, which also coincides with our 6th birthday! It's a perfect opportunity to recognise the incredible contribution of our volunteers and to say thank you once again.

We hope to see many of you in the store during the week as we take time to celebrate both our community and everyone who helps keep the shop running.



**St John's Church, Northington.  
The end of the Good Friday walk**

## **The Good Friday Walk**

The Good Friday walk this year began at St James Church, Wield.

Several good folk began the walk and walked with the group all the way from Wield, via Bradley, Preston Candover, Brown Candover and Northington.

Some joined at the various stops along the way and as you can see from the picture above, a very good size group finished the walk at St John's Church, Northington.

Many thanks to Chilton Manor Farm for hosting the picnic stop for lunch.

The Good Friday Walk next year will begin at Northington and walk to Wield.

## Wield Cricket Club Fixtures – May

Matches are played on the ground opposite  
the Yew Tree Inn, Lower Wield

4 May	Medstead	14.00	Home
5 May	Coronation Cup	14.00	Village Green
	Football		
	Upper v Lower Wield		
18 May	St James Casuals	14.00	Home
25 May	XIth Men	14.30	Home
1 June	Asford Hill	13.30	Away

If you are interested in playing a senior game, please contact:  
Ben Robinson (captain) 07903 513196,  
Trevor Wood (chairman) 07717 488496  
Andrew Yorke (president) 07885 193457  
For teas please contact Nicola:ndes@cruckhall.com  
07767 238874

## Farleigh Parish Playgroup



## Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

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

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> (Teddy Bear's picnic at St Leonard's), 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June

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)



## Swarraton and Northington WI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - May 2025

There was a brief meeting, the minutes of the last meeting were signed and thanks given for the flowers and the tea hostesses.

Details were given for the funeral of Fred Middleton on the 11th April, he was the husband of Gweneth a long-standing WI member and often attended our events. The group finances were in good shape and there was a reminder that copies of the WI Hampshire Magazine were available for members to take.

The group's long-standing charity, **Days for Girls** has changed from the original premise of supplying kits to young girls overseas, so they don't miss school days to supporting fewer overseas projects and supplying hybrid kits to women's refuges in the UK and projects in Wales. Our group has made over 700 kits in 8 years, but it has been decided in future to support the Winchester Hospice and make syringe driver bags, companion hearts, felt jewellery pouches and drawstring bags of various sizes. There will be a range of machine and hand sewing jobs to suit everyone, the sewing sessions take place in Old Alresford Village Hall with the addition of tea and delicious cake!

**Outing to Chavenage House June 25th.** This Grade 1 Listed English Country House near Tetbury is also famous for the filming of Wolf Hall, Poldark and many other programmes and films.

The speaker for the afternoon David Bickerton was introduced whose subject was Parents at War. It was a fascinating talk based on a collection of love letters exchanged between his parents between 1942 and 1945 before they were married. These letters, which he had found after they had died, led him to do extensive research on the war years and piece together a detailed picture of their wartime experiences that he shared with the members.

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 6th May 2025**. **AGM, Resolutions and a Bring & Buy Sale in aid of Winchester Hospice.** We are hoping to receive some tempting items and that everything will be sold but we do ask that you take home any unsold items!

Tea hostesses - Marian Baldwin and Maureen Wood  
Flowers - Beth Lamb

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