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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

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

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

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

The Parishes of Candover Valley and Wield

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

***Harvest readings: Joel 2:21-27, 1 Timothy 2:1-7 OR 6:6-10, Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 126**

Sunday	5 September	14th after Trinity
<i>Readings</i>	Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23; James 2:1-13, Mark 7:24-end,	Psalm 125
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>Don't show partiality</i>	
9.30	Wield	Matins BCP
10.00	Preston Candover	Morning Prayer
11.00	Northington	Holy Communion CW

Sunday	12 September	15th after Trinity
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-end	Psalm 116:1-8
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>Curb the tongue, Twitter Feed, Instagram, Gif and all else...</i>	
10.00	Preston Candover	Family Service
4.00 p.m.	Bradley	Afternoon Harvest Celebration
6.00	Wield	Evensong BCP

Sunday 19 September 16th after Trinity
Readings Jeremiah 11:18-20, James 3:13- 4:10, Mark 9:30-37
 Psalm: 54 or *Harvest readings
Sermon Who is the greatest? OR to whom do you submit?
 OR harvest theme
 9.00 Wield Matins BCP
 10.00 Preston Candover Harvest Festival
 4.00 Northington Deanery/Benefice farewell service for Stephen

Sunday 26 September 17th after Trinity
Readings: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16,24-29; James 5:13-end, Psalm 19:7-end
 or *Harvest readings
Sermon "Be careful not to cause a child to stumble" OR harvest theme
 10.00 Preston Candover Family Service
 4.00 Brown Candover Harvest Festival

Sunday 3 October 18th after Trinity
Readings Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16
 Psalm 8
Sermon: Real marriage: "a man shall...be united to his wife and the two become one flesh"
 9.30 Wield Harvest Festival
 10.00 Preston Candover Morning Worship CW
 11.00 Northington Harvest Festival with Holy Communion CW
 2.00 Preston Candover Baptism of Claudia Dyson
 3.00 Dummer **Benefice Bereavement Remembering Service**

Farleigh Parish

Sunday 5 September 14th after Trinity
 8.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
 9.45 Cliddesden Holy Communion CW
 11.15 Dummer Family Service/Sunday Special
 2.45 Dummer Baptism of Poppy Waaler

Sunday 12 September 15th after Trinity



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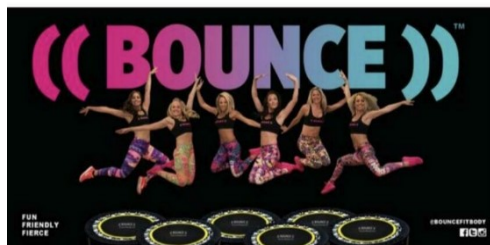
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8.00
9.45
11.15

Sunday

8.00
9.45
11.15
4.00

Saturday

6.00

Sunday

9.45
11.15

Sunday

8.00
9.45
11.15
3.00

Dummer Holy Communion BCP
Ellisfield Holy Communion CW
Cliddesden Family Communion CW

19 September 16th after Trinity

Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
Dummer Holy Communion CW
Cliddesden Harvest Family Service
Northington Deanery/Benefice farewell service for Stephen

25 September

Cliddesden Holy Communion BCP

26 September 17th after Trinity

Dummer Harvest Festival
Ellisfield Harvest Family Service
with the Belles of St. Martin's

3 October 18th after Trinity

Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
Cliddesden *Morning Prayer
Dummer Sunday Special Family Service
Dummer Benefice Bereavement Remembering Service

Bradley Harvest Festival—12th September 4.00pm

Come and join us to celebrate harvest.
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Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield

We warmly welcome anyone who has been bereaved recently or longer ago to our

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All Saints' Church Dummer on
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Or stevemourant@btinternet.com **01256 381217**

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Dear Friends

The new academic year has begun in the educational world as September brings the start of New Year groups and classes, new lessons and topics, new colleagues, new intentions to work hard with extra application in class, perhaps, and all this without a New Year's resolution!

"Constant change is here to stay" and new starts are reminders that change is an inevitable part of life and we welcome these with mixed emotions, sadness of good times ending, happiness of new prospects and improvements, though possibly a little trepidation in facing new challenges.

"Through all the changing scenes of life, in sorrow and in joy, the praises of my God shall still, my heart and tongue employ", is the first verse of an old hymn. Amidst all the changes of life God is constant. God cannot change, if he were to improve then he would not be perfect, which is an attribute of God. If he should change his mind, was he in error in the first place? No. God's perfections forever rule out the possibility of change.

So then, let us trust in God who is described as a rock and strong fortress in the psalms, who never changes. Let us acknowledge his being, his constancy, his goodness and, amidst change and trouble in this world, worship a good, perfect God, whom Jesus has revealed to us. Perhaps some would like to start a new term in your faith discovering the joy of belief and trust in God as he is revealed to be in the Bible, of a God who waits to welcome us with love, the one who so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son to be our saviour, to save us from the ultimate consequence of our sins but requires our response to him. Please do begin a conversation with me about this or perhaps or start an 'Exploring Faith' course this autumn.

Retirement of Rev Stephen Mourant

Stephen joined us in November 2011 as 'Associate Rector' and has taken the lead on pastoral work and ministry in the Farleigh Parish comprised of Cliddesden, Dummer, Ellisfield and Farleigh. I am very grateful for his faithful work and constant support over the last ten years and thank him for all that he has brought to us with assiduous pastoral work and diligent preaching. His administrative gifts have been put to very good use over the years and he leaves the benefice having set up the role of our administrator, Tricia Gray-Knight, having given copious training on the all-important matters of weddings, funerals, baptisms, rotas and other admin tasks!

Stephen has been generous of himself and happily contributed to ministry across the whole benefice, often in unseen ways with good advice, practical support and encouragement. We are very grateful too for the help Stephen's wife, Rev Julia Mourant, and thank her for her help, especially with Easter



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and Christmas Communion services so that no village was without a service on those important occasions.

I do hope that as many as can will join us at a farewell service, in the company of Bishop David, at **4pm in St John's, Northington on September 19th**.

New Church service rota and future ministry after Stephen's departure.

The departure of Stephen leaves me as the sole priest to maintain a pattern of worship that is as full as it can be. Our patterns of worship will continue but there will be small changes to the number of Holy Communion services, some being replaced with services of Morning Prayer and led by people from the congregation.

I will be in the Farleigh Parish for two Sundays per month per church to take services of Holy Communion.

We are given to understand by the Diocese that an appointment will be made after Stephen's retirement whereby a retired priest is offered accommodation in exchange for taking Sunday services, two days of work plus weddings and funerals.

This is an unpaid role and there has been no indication of when this might be.
David

Harvest Festival at St Peter's, Brown Candover 26th September—4.00pm

St Peter's Harvest Festival service will be at 4 pm in the Church followed by Harvest Tea at the Club.

Gifts can be brought to the church and will be distributed to the Night Shelter in Winchester, a charity for the homeless.

A landscape photograph of a field with a blue sky and a logo for The Country House Company. The logo is a blue square with white text: 'THE COUNTRY HOUSE COMPANY' and 'Sales | Lettings | Management'.

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Sidesmen and Readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington	5 Sept 11.00	Jane Bryant	Jane Bryant
	19 Sept 4.00pm	Jane Bryant	Jane Bryant
	3 Oct 11.00	Emma and Colin La fontaine Jackson	Emma and Colin La fontaine Jackson
St Peter's Brown Candover	26 Sept 4.00pm	Sue Marriott & Celia Foote	Jonathan Moseley & Charles Marriott
St Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	5 Sept 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Gunnel Berry
	12 Sept 10.00	Anne Luneburg	To be advised
	19 Sept 10.00	Jane Laws	Marina Avis & Jane Laws
	26 Sept 10.00	Marina Avis	To be advised
	3 Oct 10.00	Anne Luneburg	Sue Marriott
All Saints Bradley	12 Sept 4.00pm	Julian Gibbons	Robyn Gibbons
St James' Wield	5 Sept 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	David Cowley and Amanda Bromfield
	19 Sept 9.00	Barbara wells	Catherine Simons & Barbara Wells
	3 Oct 9.30	Brian Collins	Joanna Nelson & Eileen Collins
	19 Sept 9.00	John Lailey	Nicola Robinson & Annie-Lou Gibbs



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		Key Holder	St John's will remain locked until October
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Flowers	September	All helpers Sat Sept 25 th please for Harvest Festival
	Key Holders & brass	Sept	Sue Marriott 01256 389 385 Jonathan Moseley 01256 389 488
All Saints Church Bradley	Flowers & cleaning	Sept	Gibbons Family
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers	Sept	To be advised
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	Sept 4 & 11 Sept 18 & 25	Lorna Timmis Jean Frost
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle Kuhn

Benefice Morning Prayers

Since 2019 a group of us have been meeting to pray every Wednesday from 9.00 am to 9.30am, reading a Psalm and praying for matters concerning the Benefice, each other and for issues in our country and the world. David and Stephen come almost every week to join in what is most important – praying and seeking the Lord.

Since last year's lockdown we've met on Zoom, which has widened the group beyond Ellisfield, and grown in numbers. Some of us have learned to pray in ways we've not done before, and we have grown spiritually as a consequence.

From August we will meet on the first Wednesday in the month "face to face" in St Martins, the remaining Wednesdays we will meet on Zoom. We would love you to join us, and you will witness specific prayers being specifically answered.

The Zoom link is on the Benefice website.

If you would like to know more please call Peter and Sylvia Raine on 01256 – 381221..... or just come.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals Farleigh & Candover Valley

Baptisms

Northington

15 August 2021 Ophelia Elowen Moragh ADAMS

Cliddesden

1 August 2021 Hugh Francis Charles WALKER

8 August 2021 Ted Geoffrey McDERMOTT

Weddings

Northington

7 August 2021 Henry Douglas Anthony HOLME & Jessica Louise GLAISTER

14 August 2021 Andrew George SUMMERS &

Georgina Stephanie Sophia Elizabeth Mary McMillan BELL

Funerals

Cliddesden

24 August 2021 Margaret Rose BREWER aged 89 (at crematorium)

Preston Candover

12 August 2021 Richard SAUNDERS aged 56 (service at Chesil House, Winchester)



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Farewell Party for The Reverend Stephen Mourant

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We are also collecting money for a present for Stephen. Please donate generously whether or not you are able to attend. Ticket money and donations collected by the Church Wardens:

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Lyn Hardy, The Dell, Tower Hill, **Dummer**, RG25 2AL
allsaintsdummer@gmail.com

Bernard Cazenove, Brocas, Green Lane, RG25 2QS
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Dear Residents

I write to briefly take this opportunity to thank you all most sincerely for the kind presents, wishes, cards etc., that I received upon my recent retirement as your local Beat Constable.

Both my wife and I were overwhelmed and we literally cannot thank you all enough for your kindness.

Thank you also to everyone that came to my leaving event at Brown Cando-ver club on July 23rd, it was so wonderful to see so many people.

May I also thank both Lord Portsmouth and Mrs Audrae for their most kind presentations and to Mr. Jonathan Moseley for arranging the event and working so hard and all his support for me both in this instance and during my service.

I send my sincere best wishes to you all and again thank you for your kindness and indeed support over the years.

With all best wishes for your future,
Andy Reid

Rev Stephen Mourant's Farewell Service. September 19 4pm St John's, Northington.

Stephen is retiring after almost ten years of ministry in our benefice and we are having a farewell service for him to which all are invited.

Please do join us if you can, there will be refreshments after the service.
David

Revs Stephen and Julia Mourant are moving:

Stephen retires at end of September 2021 and we are moving from Ellisfield after ten good years to our new home.

Please note our new address with effect from 27 September 2021:

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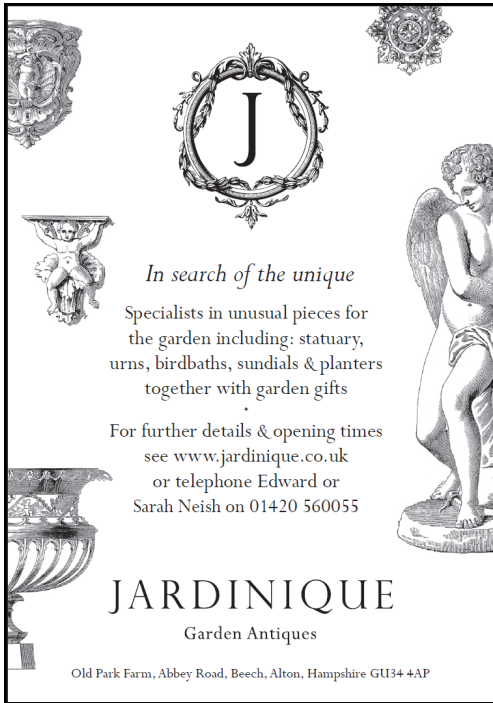


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Pets Service.
This was held on 25th July on a day when the sky threatened to deluge us all but it kept find for our service.
Here are two photos taken at the Pets Service.
With thanks to Sue Marriott.



The lady with cat is Femka.

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The family with the lamb are Michelle Brand, her granddaughter Evelyn, their dog Arla and the lamb whose name is Bunny!

Reflections on 10 years in the Parish of Farleigh

Stephen's first curacy was in 1983 and since then he has served in a range of parishes, mainly urban with several hundred worshippers in one church. Coming to Farleigh was rather different; a rural parish with the smallest church population but the largest number of churches spread over a large area, each with their own characteristics.

Stephen was licenced in Farleigh just before Advent almost 10 years ago. One of his first duties was at a Christingle service, his first experience of this type of service. Although potentially hazardous with candles, children and flowing gowns the experience went without incident and is now a regular and popular event in the Advent season. In case you are counting Stephen informs us that he has been here for 520 Sundays- that's a lot of sermons!

What changes has Stephen noted in the last decade and how that affected the ministry?

There have been a lot of leavers and newcomers to the villages resulting in a change in demographics. The numbers on the electoral roll remains fairly constant but the age range has changed. This means having to work harder to build communities and encourage more people to take responsibilities. There are fewer children in Ellisfield and Dummer and in recent months Cliddesden has become the focus for children's services and young families. One of the recent highlights is the introduction of the new family service format at Cliddesden run by a team of willing [gifted] volunteers.

Stephen was appointed as Farleigh became part of the United Benefice of Farleigh and Candover's with Wield, bringing together the parishes and working as a team alongside David Chattell. He has enjoyed working with David they complement each other with different strengths. Stephen and David have always supported each other and regularly prayed together. As a result we have had the benefit of both Stephen and David for the last 10 years sharing duties and introducing new initiatives. In Stephen's view this has opened up our Parish to broader populations which brings with it some efficiencies and provides the option for combining resources and sharing events. This has in his view offered an element of stability and sharing that would not have been possible without the united Benefice.

What are the highlights?

Stephen successfully introduced Messy church with a great team which ran for 5 years until a couple of years ago when the children grew up and moved on to other things.

In particular Stephen has enjoyed the Exploring Faith and Lent Courses that he ran as well as the Benefice Lent courses that have become a firm favourite on the Lent agenda for the last few years.

Stephen has introduced us to a variety of new hymns as well, some of which have become firm favourites.

He has run at least one confirmation course each year and at least 20 people went on to be confirmed. He enjoys the challenging questions that are raised during these more informal courses.

Stephen and David have run Marriage Preparation days since 2012, which have been honed, polished and improved each year as different issues have arisen to add in to the day. 2021's preparation was run entirely on Zoom, which although it went very well, was missing the interaction with couples face to face, particularly missing the brilliant lunches that the folk from Cliddesden Church provided each year. The courses were a great gift to the couples who all so appreciated the care, attention to detail and humour with which the material was

Covid vaccination passports – Please do not contact your GP surgery

If you've had both jabs and need to prove your vaccination status:

Download the NHS app, or Call 119 to request a letter.

Please don't contact your GP practice about it.

More information here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-status>

Choose if data from your health records is shared for research and planning

There have been posts on social media with false information about opting out of sharing your data with the NHS.

Here's what you need to know:

- There is no 30 September deadline for opting out of sharing your data.
- You can opt out at any time.
- NHS Digital will never sell your data.
- There are strict rules about how the NHS can use your data.
- It's only shared securely and safely.
- Shared data helps the NHS.
- It has been used to find the first treatment for coronavirus and for vaccine research.

<https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/>
<https://your-data-matters.service.nhs.uk/landingpage>



The Alresford Surgery

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ALRESFORD
Hampshire

Out of hours telephone number
111

Surgery telephone number 01962 732345 SO24 9JL

Before entering the surgery, please remember

- Make sure you wear a face covering while you are inside the building unless you are exempt.
- The practice may look different so that we can keep you at a safe distance from our staff and each other.
- Please do not attend for a face-to-face appointment early to help manage the number of people in the building.
- You may need to queue outside so that we have a safe number of people inside.
- Please **do not** come in if you have tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccination programme

We are still vaccinating patients in line with the Government & NHS England guidelines alongside attempting to return to normal in general practice.

Below you can find details of standard operation procedures for general practice at the current time;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/managing-coronavirus-covid-19-in-general-practice-sop/>

delivered. Stephen's administrative skills with this work have been handed on now to our very able part time administrator Tricia Knight.

Sophie Duncan married Dan Du-Heame in August 2013. She was christened at St. Martins and grew up in the village and attended one of the marriage preparation courses. Here are some reflections on the course:

"I'm in my nothing box!" ... a phrase regularly heard in our household and one of many interesting concepts introduced to us by Stephen during our 'Marriage prep' sessions. Lots of what we discussed in those meetings have been invaluable in helping us understand one another and also the commitment we were entering in to. Stephen's reassuring words, thought provoking questions and kind understanding were a perfect precursor to our big day.

Lango.

The deanery of Alresford has had a link with this northern Ugandan diocese since the mid-1970s. Stephen has played a leading role as a member of the Lango Committee, helping to rejuvenate the link with a trip in 2017; sadly the link is being severed as no-one in the deanery wants to take on the task. A link with another country and its Christians always helps to give us an international view of the Kingdom of God. Stephen had made 6 previous trips to Uganda between 1993 and 2010 taking small teams to teach, preach and encourage the Church.

Rural Challenges?

Sundays are intense, it is generally a one man show with limited support and involves driving between services along sometimes hazardous country lanes. In larger churches there are likely to be more staff and lay ministry and only one church. One of the challenges has been persuading people to come forward for lay ministry. However in the last 2 years there has been more involvement with lay members, including leading prayers, Cliddesden family community, regular prayer meetings and bible study groups.

And Finally...

There is Stephen the U-tube video star! Covid-19 will be remembered as a significant time in the last 2 years of Stephen's ministry but, not deterred that churches were closed for worship, he embarked on a weekly pre-recorded video, clocking up more than 60 videos recorded between March 2020 and April 2021. He was aided by his daughter Chloë who happens to be a rising star in the film industry with skills that allowed editing of clips, and turning them into a seamless video. Not only did these provide a much appreciated service to the locals, there were many hundreds of hits worldwide including Africa! Stephen thinks though, that the most masterful work was the digital Nativity in December 2020! Still available to view!

Stephen has provided throughout his ministry a much appreciated pastoral role. During lockdown these became even more important, although limited to phone calls and emails or meeting people on walks around the village, they really did help to keep some people together.

So Stephens top tips for the future... pray and read the bible, join discussion groups and talk! What does the future hold for Stephen?

As you would expect Stephen knows that God will open new doors and he expects to become involved in his local church in Farnborough. He is looking forward to holidays, walking in the woods and to being a grandad to his 2 grandchildren. Let's hope God will open a door to seeing him minister in Farleigh from time to time!

Walking with Wildlife

The high downland bordering Woodmancott is well wooded with copses, coverts and plantations, merging into a summer skyline of sweeping broad-leaves plus the odd towering conifer. Together with Blackwood Forest over to the northwest and Micheldever Woods flowing away to the south, these woods form the Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area – a blend of forestry and farmland centred on the historic Stratton Park.

On a rather autumnal day in early August, we pass through East Stratton with its charming thatched cottages and head up the leafy lane that runs alongside the Park. At the top here is Rownest Wood, a compact Forestry Commission beechwood, known for its fine displays of bluebells in the spring. Two large blocks of sandstone guard the entrance, placed like Sarsen stones – as if markers or seating, or possibly mounting blocks for horse-riders. A splendid stand of teasels grow just within the wood, their bristle cone heads banded violet with tiny flowers. Bumblebees, their furry backs in damp tufts from early rain, cling on in torpor, rather cold and wet, all foraging temporarily suspended. Both white-tailed and tree bumblebees are present.

Strolling along the main ride, we enter a plantation of well spaced beech trunks with good sight lines below the pale green leaf canopy. Clumps of enchanter's nightshade with their delicate sprays of white flowers grow vigorously beside the path. Apparently in Saxon times, this intriguingly named plant was used to ward off spells cast by elves.

Deeper in the wood we find glow sticks of cuckoo pint or lords and ladies. The spikes of bright orange-red berries gleam in the low light of the woodland floor.

Following a line of horse's hoof prints, we emerge into a secluded farm lane brimming with colourful margins of trefoils. Walking up, we find an oak tree of great character contorted by age, looming from the hedgebank. Just beyond, there's an arable field with a wildflower meadow tucked into the top corner. A yellow blur of wild parsnip towers over the mauves and purples of field scabious, knapweeds and marjoram.

Robert Bryant

10 Aug '21

Swarraton and Northington WI



. We did it! At last we have held our first meeting in the Swarraton village Hall since February 2020 and it was so lovely to see everyone again. We sprinted through our very belated annual meeting electing Gill Graham Maw as our new President before settling down to some great entertainment as we played “Call My Bluff”. Bobbie Sanderson, Jill Dickens and Kate Nor-

rie challenged the audience with a selection of words chosen by Bobbie and some true and improbable definitions derived by the team.

It was a great success and it was lovely to hear so much laughter again.

We rounded off the afternoon with a delicious afternoon tea.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th September at 2pm when our speaker Richard Murphy will deliver...”And now the Good News”.

We are always pleased to welcome guests.

CALL MY BLUFF

Here are a few of the words chosen.

Can you find the TRUE and the BLUFF?

1. Bossett a) a stone used for sharpening tools b) a decoration on the shield shaped back of a chair. c) a knob

2) Diglot a) a plot of land licensed to convicts completing their 7 year penal punishment in New South Wales
b) a french word meaning a dyke and a low sea wall
c) using or expressed in two languages, bilingual

3) Portress. a) a gateway into a harbour
b) a female Porter especially in a nunnery
c) a Portuguese wine waitress

4) Pledget. a) a visual promise
b) a small piece of lint for placing on a wound
c) a strip of metal which is located in the gear box

In true Call My Bluff style our team wrapped up their definitions in clever humorous descriptions which had us all laughing.

Did you get them right? **Answers 1.c, 2.c, 3.b, 4.b**



WEATHERWISE

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in July 2021

By Simon Bourne

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

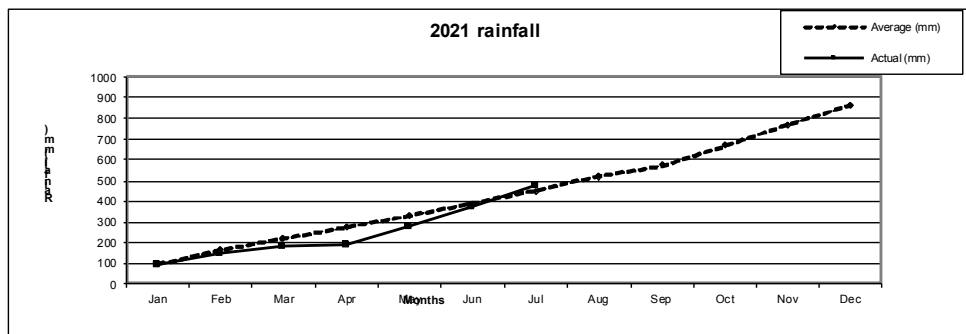
Highest	30/86	(19 th 20 th & 21 st)
Lowest	9.6/49	(16 th)
Warmest Night	14.3/58	(19 th)
Coollest Day	17.5/64	(11 th)
Average maximum temperature	22.7/73	
Average minimum temperature	12.3/54	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly & annual total	106.0/4.17	(average 65.3/2.57)
Annual total	476.8/18.77	(average 453.4/17.85)
Maximum 24hr. fall	23.3/0.92	(12 th)
Number of days with rain	18	

Summary

There was a disappointing start to the mid-summer month with almost two weeks of unsettled weather. It was generally cloudy with sunny spells and rain on most days including heavy showers. High pressure then brought ten days of mostly fine, sunny weather and three consecutive days reached the temperature of 86°F. The unsettled conditions returned on the 24th and continued to the end of the month with temperatures back to near average for the time of year. There was rain on most days including further heavy showers, and thunder on two occasions. Overall, the month was warmer and wetter than normal, with 162% of the average rainfall.



Candover Valley Gardening Club

Our members have been very much enjoying the summer garden visits. It has been wonderful to meet up again and we have shared some beautiful gardens together. In July we were invited to a lovely garden in Upper Wild which had a wide selection of unusual plants with many variegated varieties for all year round colour interest and we also had our Annual Barbeque which was very well attended and great fun, with the bonus of excellent weather. At the time of writing in August we are about to visit an NGS garden near Alton after which our indoor meetings will recommence.

On Thursday 16th September at 7:30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall our speaker will be Marina Christopher, who runs a local nursery and grows plants for the Chelsea Flower Show. Her subject will be Late Summer Flowering and Extending the Season. She is very experienced so will have lots of knowledge to share with us. Hopefully she will also have plants to sell which are always very popular with our members. We have been delighted to welcome some new members recently so if you would like to learn more about gardening from our varied range of talks and are wondering about joining us please come along. Hopefully numbers will be no longer restricted but please check our contact details for up to date information.

Candover Valley Gardening Club on Facebook or our website at <http://candovervalley.org/2021/04/candover-valley-gardening-club-2/>

Candover Valley Store
community made

WE ARE RECRUITING! Come and join the team Senior Assistant (Part-time) – Candover Valley Store

A dynamic and friendly senior assistant (part-time) is now sought to join the team which runs the Candover Valley Community store and post office while the assistant manager is on maternity leave.

The working hours (up to 16hrs per week) can be negotiated depending on the applicants' availability but will include some weekend and bank holiday working.

The desirable skills we are looking for include:

- Retail experience
- Commercial skills and financial awareness
- Friendly and approachable personality
- Good computer literacy

If you are over 18 yrs of age, have excellent customer service skills and a reputation for being reliable, hardworking and good at working in a team then we want to hear from you.

Download the job description from the website www.cvcs.org.uk or call **Jane Laws on 01256 389491 for further details.**

est. 2019

Candover Valley Store

community made

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8:30am - 12:30pm

Monday to Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm

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9:00am - 12:30pm

Sunday
closed

www.cvcs.org.uk

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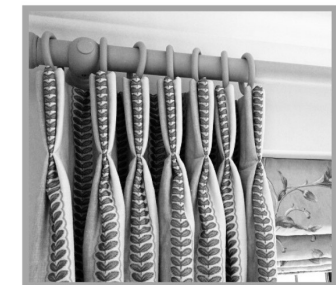
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Candover Valley Store
community made

Richard Saunders

It is with immense sadness that we mark the untimely death of Richard Saunders, formerly a resident of Preston Candover and for several years, treasurer of CVCS. Throughout the intense period of building the store, preparing to open and the early months of trading, Richard navigated us through an enormous list of complicated processes involving institutions such as HMRC, BT and Post Office Ltd. At the same time, he was efficiently keeping control of the finances, solving myriad IT and other headaches, plus keeping his store committee colleagues on the rails with his calm assurance. Between them, Richard and his wife Sarah (an inaugural CVCS committee member who masterminded the business plan) gave huge amounts of time and expertise to the successful establishment of the store. Their young children Monty and Agnes joined in to help with all sorts of tasks including ground levelling and seed sowing during the landscaping phase of the store build. We, and their many friends in the valley, send Sarah and family our heartfelt condolences.

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Richard with children Monty and Agnes, landscaping the area around the Candover Valley Store with committee chair Jane Laws, in May 2019.



On the Farm— Ben Robinson

This summer's moderate temperatures and frequent rainfall have been ideal for grass growth. Grass is best grazed at the three leaf stage, after that the plant becomes a bit stemmy and the nutritional quality starts to decline. However just because there is plenty of green grass this year doesn't necessarily mean that the livestock do better for it, as there is less dry matter in the grass and more water.

The worm burden on lambs this year has been very high as warm, moist weather is ideal for the growth of parasites, and the hatching of microscopic faecal worm eggs. This has meant the lambs have needed to be treated with a wormer more often, which adds cost to the enterprise.

The cattle are doing well. They are less affected by parasitic worms than sheep. I have usually had to sell my 15 month old store cattle by this time of the year but as the grass keeps growing I will keep grazing them. They will then be sold in the autumn sales and bought by another farmer to finish. Beef prices remain very strong, buoyed by another summer where most people are remaining in the UK, even if BBQ weather has been in short supply!

The arable harvest has been a frustrating affair. The Maris Otter winter malting barley was combined and the grain hauled to the shed just before the weather broke in July. To my surprise all the straw was hauled by the merchant immediately. They often take months to move a stack. The speedy movement emphasised how short straw is nationwide after last year's poor harvest.

The combine wheels haven't turned much for three weeks due to the frequent rain. Grain needs to be dry to be cut, and straw needs to be dry to be baled. If the weather is looking catchy arable farmers may choose to 'chop' their straw rather than put it in swaths for baling. The positives of chopping straw for the arable man is that there is no delay in establishing the next crop caused by clearing bales and no danger of soil compaction caused by extra machinery wheelings on the field. Potash and phosphate are also left behind by the chopped straw. The downside of not baling straw is of course not having an extra product to sell. Furthermore crops such as oilseed rape are very susceptible to slugs if straw is not baled.



Welcome back

We hope our customers who managed to get away for a break during the school holidays enjoyed their change of scenery. We missed seeing you and it's good to have you back!

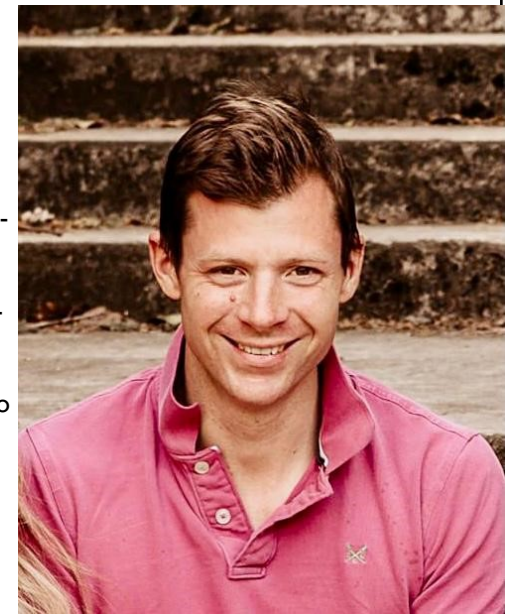
Your store needs YOU!

Although we have a fabulous core group of volunteers, there is always capacity to bring new recruits into the team. Some of our regular helpers are looking forward to the prospect of a well-deserved holiday as autumn approaches. You may have been thinking about doing something new to fill a couple of hours (or more!) with the children back at school and as the shorter days approach. Now could be the perfect time to get in touch! The store is a really sociable place and you will receive induction training before you start. There is always someone on duty who'll be willing to help you as you gain confidence with tasks. And if your biggest fear is using the till – don't worry, it's quite straightforward! Why not come and join us – it could really brighten up your autumn! Have a chat with anyone working in the store to find out more, or call Jane Laws, committee chair, on 01256 389491.

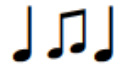
Introducing new CVCS committee member, Hugo Webb

We are delighted that Hugo recently accepted our invitation to join the store committee.

Here, he tells us a little about himself: "I moved to Preston Candover 18 months ago with my fiancée, two children and our ever-expanding menagerie! I was born in Basingstoke Hospital so it's nice to return to my Hampshire roots. I'm a commercial pilot, flying mainly European destinations from Heathrow. When I'm not in the sky, I particularly enjoy woodwork or if the sun is shining, you can't beat biking around the Candover Valley or a day out on the Solent! CVCS provides vital support to residents of our rural community – this is something I have experienced first-hand during lockdown. I'm keen to contribute as much as I can to the ongoing success of the store and its investment within the local area. I look forward to meeting you in the shop soon, probably chasing my two children out of the sweetie aisle!"



CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR



RECRUITING NOW!

COME AND JOIN US!

The Candover Valley Choir is actively recruiting for singers in all voices.

The Choir has singers from across the Candover Valley including Dummer, and from Winchester, Alresford, and beyond Alton.

Come and join us and sing for Christmas!

For more information, please contact either:

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

or

Jane Bryant, Music Director, on bryantjane50@gmail.com

Rehearsals for Autumn and Christmas will start from mid-September on THURSDAYS AT 7.45.
(We usually rehearse in Northington.)

www.candovervalleychoir.co.uk

**Ploughing Match 2nd October 2021
Down Farm Dairy, Preston Candover**



On Saturday 2nd October the Basingstoke and District Agricultural Society (BDAS) will be holding their annual a ploughing Match, which is due to take place at Down Farm Dairy, Wield Road, Preston Candover, RG25 2ER, by kind permission of Moundsmere Farming Company. This will be hosted by the Society's President, Mr Andrew Shirvell.

The purpose of the Ploughing Match is to test the abilities and skills of the local Ploughmen. The competition is held in a field to determine who is the best Ploughmen in the neighbourhood! There are various classes that are judged on the day, including modern and vintage classes, reversible ploughs and a novice class called the 'Drag and Drop'.

The event is a genuine landmark in the farming calendar of the local Agricultural Society and has been contested on the land around Basingstoke for a hundred years and more.

Residents from the local villages are very welcome to attend the morning of the competition from 8.30am when the event will be underway and will conclude at midday. No charge for admission. As well as being able to watch the local Ploughmen, there will be the judging of the Corn, Hay and Root competition, and a burger van and bar open for refreshments.

Please be aware that you are very welcome to attend but there will be machines operating in close proximity to you. We will be adhering to the appropriate Covid restrictions at the time of the Ploughing Match.

We thank you for your understanding and support, and look forward to seeing you at Down Farm Dairy, on Saturday 2nd October!

"This highly recommended book by a local resident offers a very considerable contribution to the debate on the issue of how to support veterans of the armed forces who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is born out of Katharine's still vivid memories of her father's decline into mental illness in his last years after a long and illustrious career in the Royal Air Force. It is a deeply researched account of his extraordinary life written from a very personal angle and, with her professional background as a neuroscientist, she asks for a more focussed approach to treatment and support for our veterans."

Peter Davidson

BEHOLD THE DARK GRAY MAN

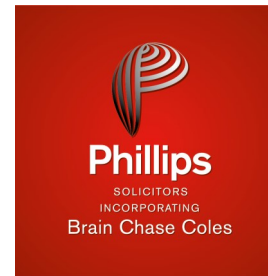
"...The climax of the work is Campbell's theories about the causes and nature of her father's mental health issues in his last years. Readers are offered almost a textbook on PTSD and associated issues, yet the book is always readable.Her approach is far from conventional. I cannot think of any similar volume in the literature on Second World War commanders.Sholto Douglas will continue to be a controversial figure. What has changed is that nobody can now be taken seriously in assessing him who has not read Campbell's scholarly volume."

Geoff Simpson (BMMHS)

".....Shining a spotlight through the layers of gray which make up the human psyche and highlighting this is perhaps the most important achievement of this unique and indispensable book."

Stephen Bungay (Historian)

KATHARINE CAMPBELL



Summer holiday break-ups and family mediation

For many families the summer holidays are the best time of year. This is especially so for children when they can spend some quality time with their parents.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case as for many people the summer break can reveal cracks in a relationship that were previously papered over. Indeed, spending a great deal of time together when a marriage is already on rocky ground can often be the final straw as has been proved to be the case by many in the pandemic.

Divorce may already be on the cards, but we often find that parents are unwilling to start proceedings until the children are back at school, when couples can take stock as to whether the marriage is worth preserving.

Sheila Parkes, who heads Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors, tends to see an increase in mediation enquiries following the end of the summer months, in much the same way as there is an increase after the Christmas and Easter holidays.

"If you feel that you want to separate, then my advice is to use a qualified family mediator, such as myself, to help you resolve issues around children and finances on or in the lead up to a separation," said Sheila, who has been a qualified family mediator for more than 25 years.

"When people discover that family mediation is less expensive than being represented in court proceedings in a divorce case, as well as being less stressful and quicker than the court process, most realise it is a process worth considering."


"Over the years I have helped hundreds of parents work together to develop realistic and effective parenting plans and fair financial outcomes, always with the aim of putting the best interests of their children first. After all, parents are the best people to make the decisions that will affect their future and that of their children, rather than a judge imposing a decision."

If you feel that mediation is right for you or to find out more information, please contact Sheila by calling 01256 854652, emailing sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk or by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation



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News from Chilton Manor Farm

If you haven't located either the Yard pop-café or Moonroast Coffee yet, we're neighbouring businesses, located in the farm buildings at Chilton Manor Farm. It's been quite a journey adding the pop-up café to the diversified activities here on the farm since we opened last July amidst a pandemic and we're proud & relieved to have now passed the milestone of our 1st anniversary.

Being able to serve up the freshest coffee, roasted next door by Fran, Judy and their team, is definitely one of the highlights of running the café and we're so excited on their behalf as they've just added a prestigious award to their collection: the Muddy Stilettoes Award for Best Local Food/Drink Producer in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight!

We hosted our summer supper club in July where delicious, seasonal vegetarian food was served to a backdrop of fantastic floral displays. This coming autumn, we're delighted to be working with Pondero, jointly hosting a weekly, daytime series of wide-ranging & interesting talks by a range of professional speakers. Do keep an eye on the events page of our website for more details.

We'd love to get you over to the Yard to hear your thoughts & feedback so we can continue to improve our offering. For the month of September, we'll be offering a complimentary hot drink for every completed questionnaire, forms will be kept at the counter. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Opening hours: Fri, Sat & Sun, 9am – 4pm

www.theyardhampshire.co.uk



Follow us on Instagram @theyard_hampshire
Chilton Manor Farm, Chilton Candover, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9TX

PC Andy Reid's farewell drinks
Here are a few pictures of Andy Reid's farewell drinks. If you would like to see more, please go to:
<https://we.tl/b-vUifAXEvmq>



From Steve Brine, MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

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Parliament has, in recent weeks, been debating a major new **Health and Care Bill**.

Drawing on my experience, I have been highlighting the need to address long term structural gaps in staffing to back up commitments made in the NHS ten-year plan and to tackle the NHS Covid backlog. We have years of workforce challenge to face and it is THE big ticket item on the desk of the new head of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard.

As the Commons returns for the Autumn term, I and others are calling for a requirement on the Government to publish modelling of the future supply of the entire health and care workforce; and I reiterate my belief in an immigration policy that recognises, not curtails, the unique circumstances across health and social care.

On primary care, I welcome the formal creation of new Integrated Care Systems (which will remove the silos that exist) and feel we need them to realise their potential fast. What do I mean by that? General Practice needs to embrace the wider primary care family and that means realising the potential of community pharmacy, ophthalmology and dental services as vehicles of prevention as much as treatment.

And moving upstream of the Bill, I am clear it has to be all about prevention. We hear regularly now talk of a waiting list touching 13m people but we hear less of addressing poor health at source. So I enthusiastically support measures in the legislation to face up to the obesity challenge; driving as it is incidence of cancer, heart disease and diabetes among others.

Secondly, the back end of 2021 is going to be dominated by the **COP26 climate summit** in Glasgow this November. It's a landmark moment and I hope to be there working with colleagues from the Conservative Environment Network.

At COP26, we will (among other things) ask countries to commit to net zero by mid-century, with more ambitious nationally determined contribution targets for 2030 and to urgently protect and help adapt our communities and natural habitats from the destructive effects of climate change.

And as part of my local COP, I am conducting a major **Green Winchester survey** which you can complete at www.greenwinchester.com

And finally, some readers of The Oxdrove will be interested to read about our **Strategy for Veterans of the armed forces** which has just been published. It covers legacy issues relating to Northern Ireland, health and wellbeing services as well as maximising veteran employability. I would urgent anyone keen to look it up and contact me with questions.

Steve Brine
MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

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The Dummer Fair 2021

The Dummer Cricket Centre, RG25 2AR

Wednesday 13th October

4:00pm – 9:00pm

including complimentary wine

Advanced ticket: £8

On the Day ticket: £10

Thursday 14th October

9:30am – 3:30pm

Advanced ticket: £5

On the Day ticket: £7

Lots of new stalls for 2021!

Please visit our website for
latest COVID-19 protocols.



www.dummerfair.org.uk

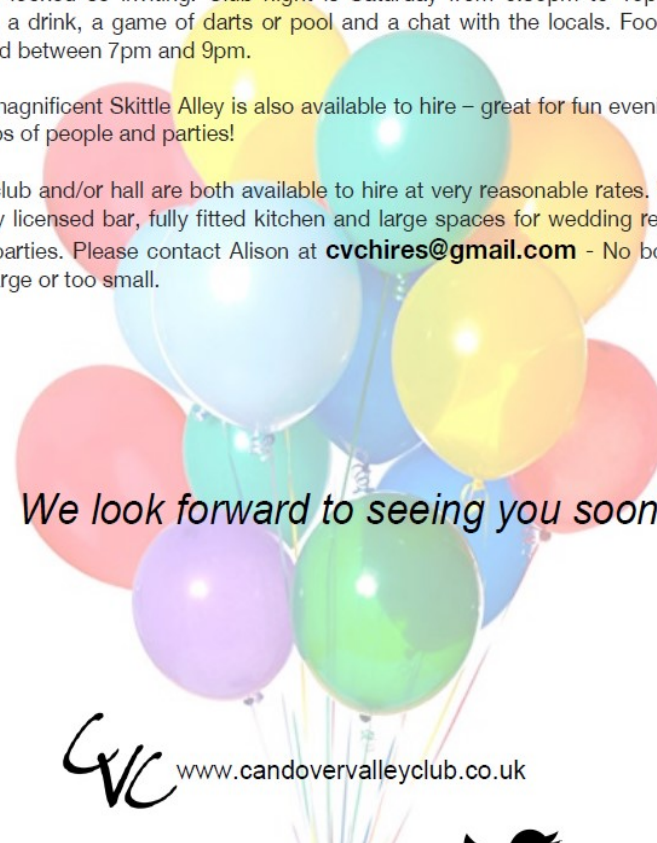
CVC Candover Valley Club

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

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

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

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



We look forward to seeing you soon!

CVC www.candovervalleyclub.co.uk



facebook.com/candovervalleyclub



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

Wield Cricket Club Senior Fixtures September

Junior coaching is held on the Lower Wield Ground every Wednesday during the summer term-time at 6.30pm

29 August	Hursley	13.30 Home
5 September	Wessex Pilgrims	13.30 Home
12 September	Rioteers	13.30 Home
19 September	Whiteditch Wanderers	13.00 Home
26 September	Lynchmere	13.00 Home

If you are interested in playing a senior game, please contact Ben Robinson (captain) 07903 513196, Jack Robson (vice-captain) 07787 018155, Paul Johnson (chairman) 07720 349497.
For junior enquiries contact Mike Daniels: michel-daniels@btconnect.com
Alternatively visit www.wieldcricketclub.co.uk

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As we move out of the formal Covid-19 restrictions, it's an opportunity to read, learn and reflect on our attempts to build a greener world after the pandemic. I know many Parishes and individuals are considering

how they can improve their green credentials: I hope that this month's items may be of interest.

WinACC has set up the WASH project: Winchester Area SuperHomes.

It's an exciting new project which is aimed at reducing domestic energy use in our homes across the District. It supports homeowners to transform the energy performance of their properties by retrofitting and so reduce their carbon emissions. To find out more, and book a video call or home visit, email wash@winacc.org.uk Retrofitting means changing your home so it needs less energy to keep warm, and changing the heating from gas, oil or solid fuel to electric. There are lots of ways to do this - from insulating walls, ceilings and floors to installing technologies like heat pumps.

The cost of recycling is counteracted by the value of the material. Glass is mainly recycled abroad but there is a new project to recycle glass in the same town as the original Pilkington glass factory. This is a good news green growth story. If you have a good idea to save waste in your community or further afield, you can apply for a grant from the County Council. For simplicity, I have shortened the link to <https://tinyurl.com/greenerhamphshire>

Pre-loved clothes have a value and you can recycle them at a variety of places. Bring-to sites are popular, raising funds for many organisations such as The Fire Service or Winchester's Hospice. If the bin is full, please don't leave items out in the rain- they'll be of little value, but report the full bin and return a few days later.

It is a distressing fact that around 1 in 8 children are now living in poverty in Hampshire. As a member of the Winchester Food Partnership, we're keen to see more parents of young children taking up the Healthy Start vouchers worth £4.25 a week for food and vitamins. Unfortunately currently, only half of those that are eligible do this. More about this on <http://tinyurl.com/healthystart2021>

In October, I will be holding 'Drop In surgeries' around the division to help parents sign up to the new online process for these vouchers. If you are interested, please contact me to book a convenient time slot. The vouchers will be replaced with a card to credit parent-shoppers when they buy healthy foods up to a value of £4.25. Some shops, eg; Iceland, offer free 'healthy extras' too. Also, *anyone* can join the 'Pantry' at Unit 12 at Winnall, where £15 worth of food can be purchased for £5 on a weekly basis. This can be used in addition to any other scheme.

County Councillors have an annual budget to award small grants to local organisations. In the 20-21 year, grants included an award to help victims of Domestic Abuse, a greener living idea and a Memorial. If a County Councillor grant would be of use to your organisation, please contact me direct so that we can talk over your plans before you apply. Grants can be processed within a month.



Monthly Column— 2021

RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P

Serving people across North East Hampshire
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In last month's column, I explained what my work to 'Build Back Better' meant for Bradley and the Candovers in terms of our road network; how the national vision will improve our lives here in North East Hampshire.

Ahead of our children and grandchildren returning to school, I wanted to write on what is surely the most important part of Our Plan for North East Hampshire – a great education for the next generation. Not only does this mean making sure that there are enough school places for everyone in the future, but making sure the funding and support is there for pupils today.

It goes without saying now that COVID-19 has been a real strain on us all, not least our children and our schools. That's why I welcome the news that our children will be benefitting from a share of the £1.7 billion made available for catch-up support like summer schools and mental health support – part of over £3 billion for education recovery. I know that this funding has given parents, teachers and children here in Hampshire and further afield help to get things back on track.

Having two young children of my own, I know how hard it has been for parents to juggle the uncertainty of school life with the everyday stresses and strains of working in the 'new normal' world. But the fantastic grades from this year's A-Level and GCSE pupils – despite disruption – shows the huge potential they have.

HM Government has already committed to increasing school funding by £14 billion. For us here in Bradley and the Candovers, in schools such as Preston Candover Church of England Primary, this means every school pupil will benefit from at least £4,707.

And, looking to the future, it is important we build new classrooms – and even a new school. Schools across North East Hampshire, from Hook Infant and Junior Schools, to Calthorpe Park in Fleet have been extended in recent years. This is great news. But I know that there is an appetite for a new school in time too. Take a look at: ranil.uk/school for more – together, we can provide more school places, increase choice and improve standards further.

Building back a better education system is not only vital for Britain and her future in the world, but for North East Hampshire and local families.

For my latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook ("Ranil Jayawardena MP") – or sign up to my newsletter at: ranil.uk/newsletter – and, as ever, if there is anything my team and I can help you with – send me a message: email@ranil.uk.

Celebrating 40 years of Cricket on the Hook

On Sunday 25 July Wield Cricket Club marked 40 years of playing visiting teams on the present ground with a fixture against Medstead XI. Aptly, Medstead was the first village team to play against the home side on the Hook opposite the Yew Tree Inn in the summer of 1981. 40 years on, WCC comfortably won the match as the opposition collapsed after tea whereupon the teams moved across the road to the pub...

The principal purpose of this milestone anniversary was to gather together & thank former and current players & supporters of the club. Over 130 people aged 2 to 90 years met after the game at the Yew Tree Inn for a wonderful BBQ laid on by pub managers, Matt & Jas.

Despite a dire weather forecast, the rain held off until 9.30pm when a torrential downpour persuaded the diehards to move from the garden into the pub to continue reminiscing about bat & ball and swap village tales.



Any item left in a vehicle can entice an opportunist thief to smash the window for a closer look.

TAKE IT

Take all your valuables with you – don't hide them in your vehicle

LOCK IT

Lock the vehicle and shut windows

CHECK IT

Check you've locked it and look inside again – have you left anything?



The only difference being that they were now all about a foot taller, no longer had squeaky voices and some even had signs of facial hair! Online sessions don't prepare you for that!



After the mandatory H&S briefing, the group neatly divided into two. Whilst one half followed Penny to set about weighing, measuring and recording copious amounts of CBM (call it building rubble) the rest of us set off to rediscover an area that had only been tickled upon in previous years. Initial surface scanning proved very encouraging, and before long, the Hampshire countryside was ablaze with the gentle chirp of conversation and the tinkle of trowel upon flint.



The rumbling of empty stomachs signified that lunch time had arrived, not a thunder storm, and so, away to the gazebo we trundled. Once again, a lovely chatter returned to the whole group as the contents of sandwiches were revealed, and sizes of bread roll were compared. I believe we even had our first lychee on site – an item which proved a little messy but great fun to eat! At least it wasn't a courgette muffin as in previous years!

The appetites sated, the conversation dwindled, then stopped....out came the mobile phones! They are human after all! How times change.....

The appetites sated, the conversation dwindled, then stopped....out came the mobile phones! They are human after all! How times change.....



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Sam Kerr-Smiley is delighted to be joining his wife Nony in the world of freelance estate agency after selling property in Alresford and surrounding villages. Between Nony and Sam, they have been selling houses for over 25 years, providing a service like no other. Sam will take all of the stress of both buying **and** selling, and has been recognised by national bodies for his customer centricity.

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If you are currently under a sole agency contract to another agent, you should check the terms of that contract to avoid potentially being exposed to dual fees

Return of the YAC!

Some said it could never happen. Others winced and nodded a nervous 'OK?'

But after a year's delay, (and I'm not going to even mention the 'C' word), the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS) were finally able to return to Chilton Manor Farm. And accompanying their archaeologists – for one day only – were Basingstoke Young Archaeologists' Club, (YAC).

Over the last year, meetings for our YAC have been a little 'different' to say the least and whilst some groups around the country have ceased altogether, we managed to get by using good old Zoom and a lot of imagination.

However, with restrictions easing, permission was granted once again for digging to re-commence and after many hours of meticulous planning and organisation both on the part of BAHS and YAC volunteers, to ensure the safety of all those involved; the stage was set, and the YAC returned for a brief, third summer season.



The Hi-Viz were dug out of the boxes and trowels were cleaned and honed, as our eager YACsters prepared themselves for a fabulous day of digging and finds processing.


The day dawned bright and sunny, well for some of us; the rest of us could only stare in disbelief at the enormous grey clouds as they grew and threatened on the horizon.

Not to be disheartened, after a year plus of being locked indoors, parents braved the rain-soaked track ways with gusto, to safely off load our small but perfectly formed group of diggers

It was wonderful to see how quickly and excitedly the YACsters greeted each other – it was as if it had been no time at all since we last met in person.



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WE ARE BACK! Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

Happy summer holidays to you all. We meet again on 10th, 17th, 24th September

We are following government guidelines and hope to meet in the hall. Alternative meeting will be a country walk. Please phone or FB for more info.

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups.

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us.

Cost: £2 (£1 for country walk) donation per family

Contact:
Melanie (07833-528040) Claire (01256-477197)



Preston Candover Primary School, Year 6 Leavers 2021

Something extremely fun and different was the aim for this year's Preston Candover school leaver's party.

After a tough time of lockdown/s and home learning the year 6 leavers departed the school for the final time as pupils on 22nd July. Blessed with beautiful weather they left as per tradition, by the infamous trailer ride to the Candover Valley Club.

After a picnic lunch the children were taken to Active Nation for a fun 'donuting' session before returning to CVC for an additional surprise; a huge bouncy slide!

Very much a family event, the children were joined at the club by parents and grandparents for a delicious BBQ from Soles Butchers before ending with water balloons and fun on the field.

Judging by the squeals of delight, huge smiles and laughter, the day will be remembered by the children and parents alike for a very long time.

Huge thanks to Andy of Newhouse Farm for providing and driving the trailer, Mrs Marriott for access along the Avenue and everyone who ensured the children had such a wonderful send off!



Good luck to all the fabulous children as they start their senior school adventures in September!

Nicola and Michelle

