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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).*

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THE OXDROVE

Church and Community News

Of

The Candover Valley and Wield

Rector: David Chattell, The Rectory, Preston Candover

Tel: 01256 389 474 Email: davidchattell172@btinternet.com

**Associate Rector: Stephen Mourant, The Rectory, Church Lane
Ellisfield.**

Tel: 01256 381 217. Email: stevemourant@btinternet.com

<http://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk>

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

If live services restart in March we might hold one each week in
the open air – e.g.,

Mothering Sunday 14th March, Passion Sunday 21st March, Palm
Sunday 28th March and we might just have full services during
Holy Week – leading to Easter Day 4th April.

We will circulate information via emails and website closer the
time.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship
Sunday 7 March Third Sunday in Lent
Readings Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22 Psalm 19
Sermon: I am a fool for Christ: whose fool are you?
””

Sunday 14 March Mothering Sunday
Readings Exodus 2:1-10, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Luke 2:33-35
Psalm 127:1-4
Sermon: Mothering Sunday theme
””

Sunday 21 March Passion Sunday
 Readings *Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrew 5:5-10, John 12:20-33*
 Psalm 51:1-13
 Sermon: *the cross*

Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday
 Readings: *Zechariah 9:9-12, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Mark 11:1-11* Psalm
 118:19-end
 Sermon: *Palm Sunday theme*

Thursday 1 April Maundy Thursday
 7.30 p.m. Dummer Maundy Communion CW
 Readings: *Exodus 12:1-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-7, 31-35*
 Sermon: *Passover theme*
Good Friday 2 April – possible Walk??

Sunday 4 April Easter Day
 Readings *Acts 10:34-43, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8*
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Sermon *Resurrection theme*

10.00	Preston Candover	Morning Worship CW
11.00	Northington	Holy Communion CW
6.00	Wield	Evensong

Farleigh Parish

Sunday 7 March	Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday 14 March	Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday
Sunday 21 March	Passion Sunday
Saturday 27 March	
Sunday 28 March	Palm Sunday

POSSIBLY:-

7.30 p.m.	Thursday	1 April Cliddesden Maundy Thursday Communion
Good Friday 2 April		
2.00 p.m.	Cliddesden	Last Hour

Sunday 4 April	Easter Day – some possibly outdoors
8.00	Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP
9.45	Cliddesden Holy Communion CW
11.15	Dummer Family Communion /Sunday Special
6.00	Ellisfield Easter Praise??



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Please note:

All services will be held online until further notice

David or Stephen will send an email giving details and the link to the service each week

Dear Friends

I went for a ride on a motorbike the other day, up and down the valley and although I had ridden motorbikes in the past I did feel a little apprehensive about getting on a machine after 25 years!

But it was fine. Muscle memory came back as I began to learn the feel of the new machine. Some people describe that that is what it is like to pick up an instrument they haven't played for years, that somewhere in the back of the back of the amazing brain are the skills, the 'know-how' to play and make music again.

Memories are tucked away for all sorts of reasons in our minds, associated with activities or events often with poignancy. There are some memories created at moments of spiritual awareness, when we have thought carefully about faith and perhaps made a serious step of interest and exploration, maybe ending with a Confirmation that was now long ago. There are often things that bring back the 'muscle memory' of those times. In Lent we remember Jesus being led to go into the desert to pray and fast for forty days and nights. He knew that God's spirit was strongly leading him into that experience and he was obedient to it.

Often, we have sensing that moments in life are important and we want to recognise them spiritually. The arrival of a baby is one such moment, the wonder and joy at seeing this new life is one of great joy and profound for parents and often we meet in church for a baptism or thanksgiving service. That service is a beginning of a journey that parents promise to undertake with their children and with God in learning more about the Christian faith through 'private prayer and public worship'. Sadly, though that journey ends at its beginning, so often. Similarly, with services of Confirmation where there is declaration of faith and trust in Jesus Christ, some go on in Christian discipleship and others have simply marked a milestone, a rite of passage, perhaps in their school's program.

God has a memory! He remembers our first breath and cry, every moment of joy and laughter, every sadness and grief. In the bible we see that God is acquainted with all our ways and that we might pray to him in every circumstance. The amazing thing about Christian faith is knowing the presence of God and that once we have had that knowledge, we may take this further. Jesus promised, “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” That is an amazing promise that God will be so close we can chat over a meal! But that is wonderfully how it is for those who respond to God’s call in Christ.

How do you feel about the question, “What is God’s spirit leading you into, reawakening in you, making you wistful for? Is it to start exploration again of faith, of asking searching questions about the Christian faith, is it to find again the first glimmerings of faith and trust in God?”

In a few weeks we celebrate Easter, thinking especially about the events in Jesus’ life of his deep prayers, trials, mocking’s, crucifixion and death. Except it does not all end there! Jesus was wonderfully brought back to life and having conquered death lives and the benefit of his death and resurrection is for all.

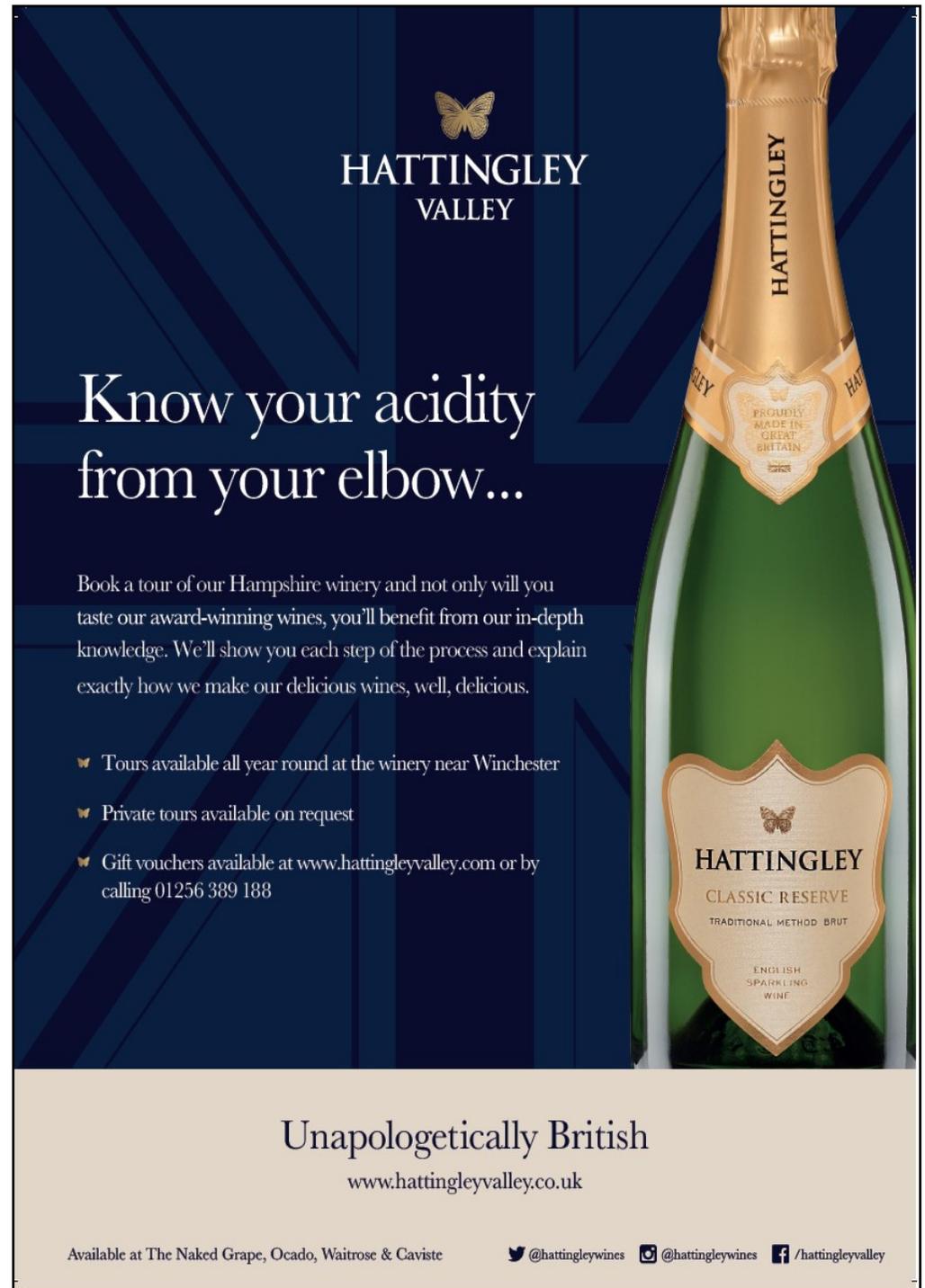
Why not get in touch and we can explore this together, over a bonfire in the church yard, the garden gate, walking the dogs, or some other way, you choose!

Blessings
David

Benefice Administrator

We appointed an Administrator for the Benefice who began work in January, Sadly, for personal reasons April has left that post but we are pleased to have appointed a new administrator , Tricia Grey. Tricia brings a lot of administrative experience to the role and I look forward to introducing her to folk around our churches.

David



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Church Cleaner Required

£15 per hour is being offered for a cleaner at St John's, Northington. 4 Hours per month – more hours likely in the summer to cope with Weddings.

The job is tidying, dusting, floor seeping/hovering and the occasional brass polishing.

The working hours are not set and are very flexible. Please apply to Peter Lamb at peter.agneau@outlook.com or 01962 735066

FOR RENT – Wield Village Hall Flat

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The upstairs flat comprises:
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LATEST LOCKDOWN. Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of another lockdown? Why not join one of our Zoom lectures. We are the Basingstoke branch of The Arts Society and we have moved our programme of monthly lectures on to Zoom during lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from Arts Society registered lecturers on a wide range of topics. We are inviting anyone who is interested to join us at these lectures which are live on Wednesdays at 10.45 am. Lectures last for one hour and there is an opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

At Christmas we watched video clips from a Royal Ballet production of The Nutcracker whilst a member of their orchestra treated us to a unique glimpse of how things worked backstage.

On February 17th we will be learning about **Fakes and Forgeries: The Art of Deception** from a former specialist police detective.

Or if you prefer to learn about a topic in more detail we have a Study Day on February 24th from Peter Medhurst entitled **Paintings inspired by Music and Music inspired by Painting** who will discuss and analyse a range of magnificent paintings as well as giving us a live recital. Lectures cost £5 and Study Days cost £15 for non-members

For more information on these and future lectures and to register for either of these events visit:
theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk

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The object of the Charity is to provide help to any residents of Preston Candover & Nutley Parish who are in need, or suffering hardship. Help can be in the form of money or payment for goods, services or facilities.

Individuals or organisations with similar charitable aims can apply.

Enquiries can be made, in strict confidence to the Clerk to the Trustees,
Wendy Simson,
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Thank you so much to all who have paid your subs I hope you weren't too put out by the bright coloured envelopes.

In case you have mislaid the envelope pinned to the front of the January issue, and still need to pay your subs, here's how to do it.

Amount: £7.00 for the year for 12 copies

The preferred way to pay is online to:

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Jackie's County Corner

Revised Minerals and Waste Plan

This is being reviewed as the previous Minerals and Waste plan was published in 2013 and the ways in which we use building materials, recycling and disposal of waste has changed considerably in a decade too. Planning the sites is essential because these sites don't always make good neighbours. One example is the proposal for the inert waste recycling plant at Three Maids Hill which was rejected by HCC last month.

County Council Accounts

The County budget went to Council in February. The Council tax rise includes 3% for adult/children social care, but not enough: it will raise £21m but costs have increased to nearly £30million

Funding for Broadband: During 20-21 HCC supported the Government Gigabit scheme with a £1m fund for this county, but because of the difficulties of the scheme and Covid, take-up was low. We are awaiting news of the 2021-22 schemes now. See more on www.hants.gov.uk/broadband or contact me for details.

Census 21

The ten year census is being held on Sunday 21 March 21 - this time it's broadly online but you can see more on the website

www.census.gov.uk or if you prefer social media: #Census2021

Connect 4 Communities

The County Council has funds for play schemes at half term and holidays. Schemes must include elements of play, activity and food at lunchtime, primarily for children and families needing free school meals. It is open to childminders, sports clubs and schools too. Contact me or Suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk direct

It's called 'Your Place, Your Plan'

The consultation on the Local Plan Strategic Issues and Options is open. The response deadline is 12th April 2021. Go to

www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk to take part - either online at one of the four public sessions or on the website. Short, longer and full versions of the questionnaire available too!

Footpaths and Bridleways

The delivery plan for the Worthy Down to Winchester bridleway has been agreed and it is hoped it will be in place for Sept 21. The final part of the route is being worked on as we speak: I have always wanted the route to go into Winchester, not end on the Andover Road. I hope this persistence will pay off!

Flooding, A31, and Solar Farms:

There's a lot more to discuss, and I cannot hold surgeries for a while yet, but please see my website through the month or contact me direct, my details below.

Cllr Jackie Porter, 07973 696085, Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

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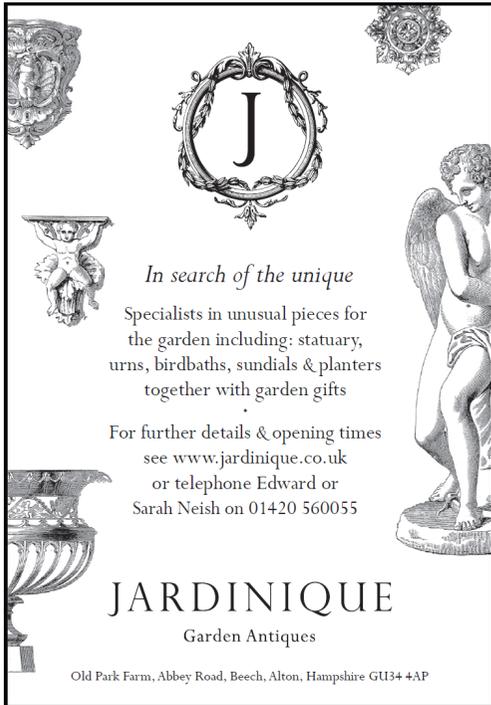
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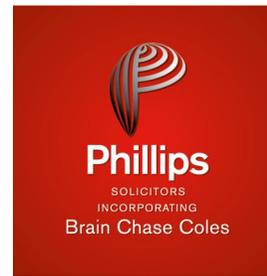
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Shuttle Mediation

Mediation is a well-known way for couples to resolve issues at the end of their relationship and generally involves you both being in a room with your former partner and a mediator to discuss matters. It can be quicker and cheaper than alternative dispute resolution methods. Mediation encourages couples to compromise and helps reduce conflict which is known to be beneficial for children of separating couples.

Sometimes the barrier to mediation is that the relationship has deteriorated to such an extent that you cannot contemplate the prospect of sitting down together in a room even with an independent mediator to address issues in mediation. Shuttle mediation gets you round that barrier and yet has all the advantages that the mediation process offers. It is simply a variant of the more usual mediation model.

With direct shuttle mediation, you are in separate rooms and the mediator moves between the two rooms to facilitate discussion and help you reach a compromise. Separate arrival and departure times are arranged to ensure that the risk of contact is minimised which can be reassuring for those of you with concerns. It can make the process possible but less stressful.

Even with Covid-19, virtual shuttle mediation is still an option. Using Zoom as the online platform, breakout rooms can replicate shuttle mediation as you can opt to be in separate "breakout rooms" while the mediator moves between the two virtual rooms helping you both achieve an agreement that is right for you both. The use of the "waiting room" is also good if you are mediating jointly online but just need a break within the meeting if feelings are running high.

At Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors, we are happy to discuss any concerns with you before you commit to the process. Feel free to contact Sheila Parkes by calling 01256 854652, emailing sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk or visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation



Walking with Wildlife

It was one of those rare winter mornings: calm and clear with blue skies, dazzlingly bright sunshine, and crunchy snow underfoot. Seizing the chance to take a lockdown stroll, I head off, well wrapped up, from the back gate of our garden. Firstly, looking for tracks and signs along the snowy edge of the neighbouring field, I find a line of fresh prints showing where a roe deer had tip-toed by.

Skirting a field of dried millet-type stems, frosty-white in the morning sun, I pause to watch a gleaming flock of goldfinches busily stripping the last of the seed heads. During short winter days the search for food is relentless and these conservation crops are invaluable. A roaming party of chaffinches arrive to forage furiously. Restless, they take off, flying up and around before swarming down to resume their winter banquet. Using binoculars, I'm able to pick out a distinctive little finch among them – with a red crown; it's a redpoll.

The field boundaries of mature oaks and ash trees, a feature of the local landscape, tower at the wayside edge. The sculptural effect of their bare branches lit up by the low sunshine is offset by the dense cladding of their ivy-covered trunks. The ivy seems to ripple with redwings, chattering fieldfares, and a solitary blackcap, all busily plucking the black ivy berries – the bird equivalent of feasting on Mars bars according to the RSPB. The thicket below also flickers with birdlife: tits, dunnocks and wrens. A robin pops up as I pass by; a blackbird breaks cover skimming away.

Tramping along the lane-side hedge I'm looking for signs of spring. Clusters of green flutes of cuckoo pint or arum, one of the earliest of spring plants, are emerging in the shelter of the hedge bottom.

Glancing across the open snowy field, I spot three brown hares, each well spaced, apparently oblivious of the red kite floating overhead. On the far side of the field, two roe deer in coats of winter-grey stand at the edge of the hazel copse.

Robert Bryant
10 February '21

Everyone is trying to make the best of the situation and, as a practice, we are committed to caring for you in the best possible way whilst keeping both you and our team safe.

To keep you as informed as possible, we will update these messages frequently as we become aware of more information from NHS England:

- The vaccines are still being rolled out in a very strict order.

The order of which is set out below;

T1. Residents in care home for older adults
Staff working in care homes for older adults.

2. All those 80 years and over.

Frontline Health and social care workers.

3. All those 75 years of age and over.

4. All those 70 years and over.

Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those less than 16 years of age)

5. All those 65 years of age and over.

6. Adults age 16 to 65 years of age in an at risk group.

7. Adults age 55 years of age and over.

8. All those 50 years and over.

- We may contact you via telephone or text to book your vaccination or you may get written to by NHS England.
- Please **only book one appointment** for your Covid vaccine.
- Please do make sure you **keep your vaccine appointment**. If you are unable to attend, please telephone the venue.
- It is very important that no vaccines go to waste due to patients not attending for their appointment.
 - **Before and after** your vaccine you must
 - wash your hands
 - wear a face mask as advised
 - keep 2 metres apart
- Do remember that we are still open if you have any medical concerns.
- We have been made aware of several scams involving Covid vaccinations, so please be assured that we would **never** ask you for payment for your vaccination.

Thank you for your patience from the GP Partners of Alresford Surgery.



The Alresford Surgery

Station Road
ALRESFORD
Hampshire

Out of hours telephone number
111

Surgery telephone number 01962 732345 SO24 9JL

Before attending the surgery:

The surgery is extremely busy with an increased workload & additional pressures.

We are unable to lock our doors like we did previously so please do consider carefully how vital your visit to us is.

Our dispensary has been constantly busy throughout Covid and due to social distancing measures are working in smaller teams.

Prescriptions take 72 hours to be processed, please do not call, email or attend the dispensary asking for your prescription before the 72 hours has passed, as it will not be ready early!

When attending the Surgery, if the waiting area appears busy & social distancing difficult, then please wait outside until more space is available.

Please do not come into the surgery if you have any of the following;

- A high temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please stay at home and use the following website for further help.
111.nhs.uk/covid-19

You need to be wearing a face covering/mask before entering the building, even if collecting a prescription.

To ensure there are as few patients in the building as possible,

- Do not attend more than 5 minutes before your appointment time.
- You should attend the surgery alone, unless you need an essential carer or parent/guardian to accompany you.

Any enquiries relating to appointments, repeat medications or otherwise please telephone (01962 732345) rather than attending the reception desk.

Covid 19 Vaccinations:

We know that you, like us, are struggling with the continued confines imposed upon us all due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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!



www.candovervalleyclub.co.uk



facebook.com/candovervalleyclub



@CandoverClub

Swarraton and Northington WI



Well we still can't meet in the Hall but the WI is not quiet.....there are lots of good things on line and here are just two of them.....

HCFWI continue to organise ZOOM events. These are available to non-members as well as members so why not try one?

1. Cook Along with Peter Lie Wednesday 3rd March Time: 6pm – 7pm Price: £5.00

Join Peter on Zoom as he demonstrates how to make Middle Eastern Spiced Pistachio Chicken and Pomegranate Couscous. These are very easy dishes to prepare and Peter will guide you through all the techniques and steps resulting in a delicious meal ready in time for dinner. Peter Lien is an experienced cookery tutor and founder of Cook Bristol, he is well known to many WI members as a Denman tutor and previous Head of the Denman Cookery School. To book your place, please email ticketing@hampshirewi.org.uk or complete the slip below and return with your cheque and SAE to: WI House, 22-24 Station Hill, Southampton Road, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 9XB.

2. Create a Garden for all Seasons

Friday 19 March 2021 Time: 7.15 for 7:30pm start Price: £5.00

Adam Pasco has been a leading gardening journalist in the UK for over 39 years, successfully launching and editing BBC Gardeners' World Magazine for 22 of these. He now runs his own company, Adam Pasco Media, as a writer and content provider, lecturer, and consultant to clients in the gardening industry. To apply use details above.

We have voted for the National resolution to be debated in the Royal Albert Hall in June.

We continue to keep in touch with our phone calls and newsletters sharing garden notes, quiz questions and recipes and lots more besides.

RECIPE

Another way to enjoy porridge oats and something for the grandchildren in lockdown.

We call this **Scottish Granny's Scrunch**

8ozs Porridge Oats

3ozs Demerara Brown Sugar

2ozs melted butter

Mix porridge oats, brown sugar and melted butter. Fry until golden brown and crisp.

Allow to cool.

We have it with stewed fruit and the grandchildren love it with ice cream.

Janet

computer. Do not download software on the request of a phone caller. A genuine service provider will never call you out of the blue regarding issues with your computer. If you are having issues with your computer, contact the retailer you purchased it from.

If you are having problems with your internet connection, contact your internet provider.

Fraud Investigation - Your bank account has been compromised. Criminals may call and claim to be from your bank, the tax office or police and claim there is a problem with your bank account. They often state there are corrupt staff at your bank, or criminals have cloned your bank cards and request your assistance with the investigation. If you receive a call like this hang up. 'Take Five' and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. Your bank, the tax office or the police will never ask you to transfer or withdraw money or buy items on their behalf. Your bank, the tax office or the police will never attend your home to collect your cash, bank cards or ask for your pin. Speak to friends or family if you are unsure. Never share your PIN with anyone. Not even by tapping it into the keypad on your phone - If you receive a call like this hang up. 'Take Five' and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. Never allow anyone to remotely access your computer.

Do not download software on the request of a phone caller. A genuine service provider will never call you out of the blue regarding issues with your computer. If you are having issues with your computer, contact the retailer you purchased it from. If you are having problems with your internet connection, contact your internet provider. Genuine investment companies will not cold call you. Don't be pressured into making a quick decision and seek impartial financial advice before committing to any investment. There are no 'get rich quick' schemes. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. When investing with genuine companies research what you have been offered and the investment company. Speak to the Financial Conduct Authority if you have concerns. Call 0800 111 6768 or visit www.fca.org.uk. They will call you to persuade you to invest in all kinds of products, including diamonds, wine or art. They offer low risk and high rates of return, claiming it's a once in a lifetime opportunity and you'll have to act quickly. If you do invest, the criminals will often request further 'transport' and 'storage' costs. These investments do not exist.

Always report scams and fraud to Action Fraud, either online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by telephone on 0300 123 2040. Every report; Assists police investigations, provides intelligence, informs national alerts that protect all communities, disrupts criminals and reduces harm.

Contact police directly on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Forward any scam text messages to Ofcom on 7726 (free of charge). All major phone companies provide a call blocker service. This should help screen out most phone scams.

5 THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR ON A SCAM PHONE CALL

1. The caller doesn't give you time to think, tries to stop you speaking to a family member or friend or is insistent and makes you feel uncomfortable. 2. The caller asks you to transfer money to a new account. 3. They phone to ask for your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password. Even if they ask you to give it to them by tapping into the telephone keypad rather than saying the numbers out loud, this is a scam. 4. They ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping. 5. They may say that you are a victim of fraud and offer to send a courier to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book. For more information please visit <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/>

This is just a brief guide on what to / not to do when someone calls you.

May I also thank the many residents who have called in reporting suspicious vehicles in our area, it really helps and allows me to update our intelligence unit with such sightings.



Police Report

Andrew Reid, Police Constable Rural Beat Officer
3746 andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Information should be passed to: 101;
Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111;

OR give me a call on 07768 776 844 or 01256 389 050

I am pleased to report a reduction in reported crime in the area of this magazine, but wish to make you aware of some in a neighbouring parish. We had an attempt to break into a car parked in Bagmore Lane, Herriard between 4:30 pm January 28th and 12:00 on the 29th. We have also had a number plate stolen from two cars parked in Winslade lay-by whilst people out walking.

I also wish to reiterate yet again the requirements for dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when near farm livestock. I am currently dealing with three dog attacks on sheep resulting in seven ewes being killed, three others have aborted their lambs and one other which was severally bitten and is undergoing treatment. In one case a dog literally ran over ¼ of a mile to get at a flock of sheep. Please be aware that farmers do have the right to shoot any dog found in the act of worrying livestock on agricultural land, it is vital that **EVERY** dog owner, and it can be any dog despite what most people say, that will chase sheep given the chance. Please keep your dog under proper control when in the countryside. Most people will not even be aware that a flock of sheep could be in the next field out of sight.

Whilst I am pleased to report a lack of reported crime within the parishes of this magazine. One large problem we are experiencing nationwide is various scams, one recently was a resident in Ellisfield having a man stating he was from the Oxfordshire Police. Usual story - had a person in custody for fraud of the residents bank card, can you confirm the details. In this case always ask for a contact number and say you will call 101 later today to be put back to them. **DO NOT** call anyone back at that time as they will keep their phone line open and you will end up speaking to the same group. If you can get a telephone number put it through Google as frequently it is known for operating scams.

Nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone, Criminals can impersonate your bank, the police, tax office, investment or software companies and other trusted organisations. They will try to convince you to part with your money. Hang up on cold calls from any business/authority, then 'Take Five' to check it out as genuine via a trusted source. The three most common scams are: 1. Your computer has a problem - 2. A fraud investigation - 3. An investment opportunity.

Fraudster's tactics - Criminals can disguise their phone number to make it look like it's from a bank, the tax office, the police... or anyone. They can call you with what looks like a genuine phone number. They will keep your landline open by not hanging up and even play a dialling tone over the phone. They can text messages requesting you call them, or click on a link. These messages usually appear in the same text thread as genuine messages and send website links which can steal your data and money when you click on them. Never trust the caller ID display and record the number where possible.

A computer problem - Criminals may call and claim that there are problems with your computer or internet. They claim to be your computer manufacturer, telephone or internet service provider and suggest they can help you. They instruct you to download a program which gives the criminal remote access to your computer. They can then access your bank. If you receive a call like this hang up. 'Take Five' and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. Never allow anyone to remotely access your



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On the Farm—Ben Robinson

At the time of writing I have spent the last week thawing pipes. Night time frost is not a problem for livestock but when the temperature falls below freezing day and night for more than a day or two things can become quite challenging. The surface of the water troughs freezing is easy to deal with, but the freezing of water pipes is more problematic.

If we could be sure of very cold weather every winter it would be cost effective to dig water pipes into the ground, rather than have them laid on the surface or suspended between buildings. However, as we only get a proper freeze every few years the pipes remain exposed and I make do with bowzers, blow torches, boiling water and muck when it freezes. As any gardener will be aware muck makes its own heat as it breaks down. Before a cold spell is forecast it is good practice to heap generous amounts of muck around the water trough pipe work. Heat can then be generated and the water prevented from freezing.

The Brexit deadline has been and gone. Much to the surprise of industry commentators the lamb price hasn't crashed, but has instead rallied to dizzying new heights. Sadly I sold most of my lambs before Christmas, with only the last 80 to go next week- always the way!

Lambing will start around the 20th March. Due to Covid induced cabin fever I have had an abundance of youngsters contact me wanting to help with lambing. Hopefully they will enjoy the experience. The scan this year is 192% so I am expecting in the region of 725 lambs to be born. Plenty of work for all.

If you have children and want to come up and see lambing taking place, please do get in touch- ben.robinson@kingsfarm.co.uk

Hopefully lockdown rules will be eased by then!



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WEATHERWISE

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down in January 2021

By Simon Bourne

Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

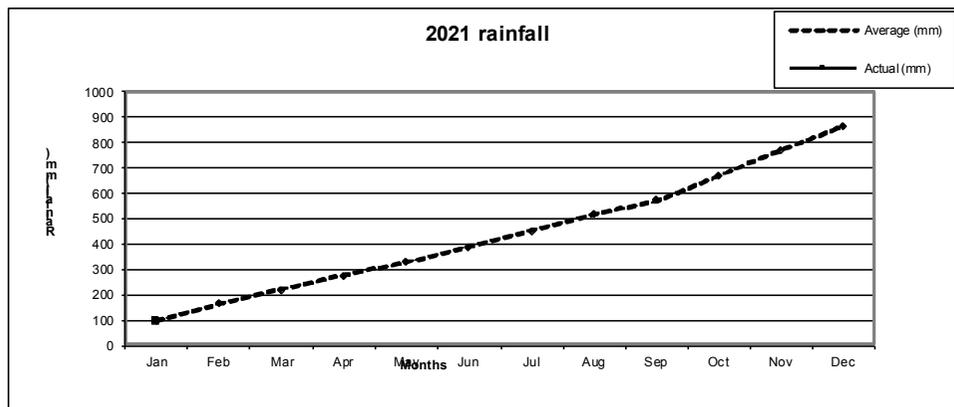
Highest	13.4/56	(28 th)
Lowest	-5.7/22	(24 th)
Warmest Night	8.0/46	(20 th)
Coollest Day	0.5/31	(7 th)
Average maximum temperature	6.5/44	
Average minimum temperature	-0.3/31	
Number of air frosts	16	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly & annual total	90.2/3.55	(average 97.3/3.83)
Annual total		
Maximum 24hr. fall	14.7/0.58	(19 th)
Number of days with rain	24	

Summary

There was a dull and cold start to the year with overcast conditions and freezing fog on the 1st and similar on the 7th, when the daytime temperature remained below freezing. This was the first of seven days without sun and included fog slow to clear on the 9th and 10th. Temperatures increased to above average from the middle of the second week and apart from one sunny day, the weather was unsettled with rain on most days and some hazy sun. Storm Christoph brought over an inch of rain and breezy conditions on the 19th and 20th. There were 1½ inches of snow and the coldest temperature of 22°F on the 24th. The last week was milder with the warmest day at 56°F on the 28th before temperatures dropped below average. Overall, the temperature and rainfall were below the norm for January.



Candover Valley Gardening Club

Fortunately, although our members are still unable to meet, we are keeping in touch with a monthly update.

We are keeping busy in our gardens with many seasonal tasks and planning for the planting season ahead. The talk on Climbing Plants originally planned for March has been rescheduled for the same time next year.

In more usual times, the club meets monthly and holds a wide variety of indoor talks by expert speakers in the winter months, a Plant Sale in the spring and beautiful local garden visits in the summer, plus an Annual Show of produce and crafts in August. Currently this is all on hold but if that appeals to you and you are interested in joining us, please see our website www.cvgc.btck.co.uk for up to date information and how to get in touch.



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Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of this lockdown?

Why not join one of our Zoom lectures? We are the Basingstoke branch of the Arts Society and we have moved our program of monthly lectures from Sheffield on Loddon Village Hall to Zoom during lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from Arts Society registered lectures on a wide range of topics.

We are inviting anyone who is interested to join us at these lectures which are live on the third Wednesday each month at 10.45am. Lectures last for an hour and there is opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

Previous lectures Our January lecture was about the artist Frida Kahlo - 'Recollections of a Life of Canvas' given by Sian Walters Our February lecture was 'Fakes and Forgeries' the Art of Deception, given by a former police detective, Michael Kenwood. We also had a study day at the end of February to learn in more depth about 'Music in Art' by Peter Medhurst.

Next lecture on 17th March at 10.45 am 'The art and Culture of Fin-de-Siecle, Vienna' given by Gavin Plumley. At the turn of the last century Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world. It produced painters such as Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Oscar Kokoschka, architects like Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffman, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the composer Gustav Mahler and the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. This lecture looks at these and other figures in the context of the society in which they worked and asks how and why the City of Dreams became a cultural hotbed around 1900.

Do join us on 17th March for non-members the lecture costs only £5...to register visit: theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCcIVV9RKIDMYU9ZtU-QsvcbD_ng0rTMfT-BIIBFncen_h_IA/viewform Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/TheBasingstoke Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/The -Arts-Society Basingstoke-100482031870805/](https://www.facebook.com/The-Arts-Society-Basingstoke-100482031870805/)

Candover Valley Store

community made

Supporting Fairtrade Fairtrade Fortnight will be coming to a close as you read this (ends 7 March) but it is good to know that the Candover Valley Store has products available all year round, that carry the Fairtrade label and support the movement. At its core is the drive to reward farmers and other workers around the world with a fair price for their products and this year's focus is to recognise the ever-increasing threat of climate change to their communities. Next time you need to buy coffee, tea, cocoa, hot chocolate powder, sugar, chocolate (chips, chunks or bars) and even cotton wool, you may choose to support Fairtrade producers by selecting their branded products. The store is also sometimes able to offer fairly-traded bananas and is looking to expand the Fairtrade offering in the future. Look for the Fairtrade logo (often printed in blue and green) representing a blue sky for optimism, green for growth and a raised arm for empowerment. Alternatively, if there are any pupils from Preston Candover Primary School in the store with their parents when you visit, ask them! The curriculum includes an element celebrating Fairtrade and pupils are often very enthusiastic and well-informed.

Mother's Day – Sunday 14 March All mums deserve a bit of pampering and if you are lucky enough to have yours within your family bubble, how about starting her day by preparing breakfast in bed? The store can provide all the ingredients for a delicious plate of scrambled eggs topped with bacon or Chalk Stream smoked trout on some toasted Bramley Bakery bread and accompanied by a glass of Hill Farm apple juice or a mug of Moonroast coffee. There are lots of other ideas to inspire you on our gift table, sourced by Hannah or made by Tina (both store volunteers), plus bouquets and blooms from Medstead Flower Shack, a great selection of chocolates and wines, including English sparkling wine from our neighbouring producer, Hattingley Valley. And don't forget the store has a range of greetings cards to complete mum's treat.

Easter opening hours egg-cetera! The store will be open every day over Easter but for a shorter time on Good Friday 2 April (8.30am to 4pm) and on Easter Monday 5 April (8.30am to 12.30pm). The post office will be closed on both days. On Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday the store and post office hours will be unchanged. On the very important questions of eggs - Cadbury, Nestle and Kinnerton chocolate eggs have been in stock for some weeks and premium brand eggs will arrive in plenty of time for Easter. For non-chocolate lovers there are lots of tempting alternative sweets and gifts. Garry and Emma will be ordering extra supplies of everyday essentials, fruit and vegetables to help you avert any last-minute kitchen dramas!



NEWS FROM THE YARD

We turned our coffee machine for most of January, and closed our doors. It was very quiet as a result! Despite being technically allowed to offer takeaway coffee during lockdown #3, we felt it better to close & support the stay-at-home messaging from government, particularly with the new Covid strain starting to spread. But we plan to open up again, Fri-Sat-Sun 9am-3pm during February. Our booking system will be in place so we can restrict numbers for safety, so do please visit our website, or social media pages to choose a time, then you'll be welcome to swing by if you're local, and visiting us for the purpose of exercise, dog walking or cycling, and fancy a takeaway coffee, toastie or crepe.

We've been using the downtime to get busy on the cycling front, with the launch of a new Strava club, and our 1st edition Yard cycling jersey currently in production! The deadline for pre-orders has been & gone, but don't worry, there'll also be a chance to buy in early March when the jerseys arrive on our doorstep.

We've also been working in conjunction with some favourite local businesses to bring you a unique take-home Valentine hamper, designed to bring you the best breakfast-in-bed or a delicious stay-at-home evening meal-for-two. See our website, insta or facebook for more details!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

www.theyardhampshire.co.uk

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CANDOVER VALLEY CHOIR

Monthly Newsletter – March 2021

With best foot forward metaphorically speaking, the Candover Valley Choir has now resumed ZOOM rehearsals. It's certainly different from singing together in one space as ZOOM does not actually facilitate us to sing together! But, over the last year, we have just about become used to this. And, it is good to see each other and is certainly helping to keep our spirits up as well as ensure our voices remain in relatively good form.

With the aid of backing tracks to help us feel we are part of a singing ensemble, we are singing through a range of diverse material, from Bach to Mendelssohn to Elgar. Plus, we are having fun with some with some lighter material including for instance, 'The Rhythm of Life' from Sweet Charity, and some New Zealand folk songs.

Why is that we all enjoy singing so much? An article published last year by Making Music states: 'Making music is fun, uses different skills to those you need to employ in the rest of your life, is relaxing and stress-busting, and makes you feel better about yourself. There is now a growing body of research which shows that this can amount to better physical and mental health: making music really is good for you.'

So - although this may feel a strange time to join the choir, if you would like to know more about the **Candover Valley Choir** or would like to come and join us on ZOOM, **do contact me**. I would be very happy to talk things through with you.

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7.30

For more information do contact:
bryantjane50@gmail.com

www.candovervalleychoir.co.uk

Jane Bryant
Music Director

From Winchester's MP

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Website: www.stevebrine.com Steve Brine TV: www.stevebrine.tv [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)

First up this month and Winchester came *to me* recently as my new series of **Visit Westminster** came to life.

The wonderful **Dever Society** had a behind the scenes tour at the House of Commons and got to put any questions they like to me in a Q&A session.

Thank you to everyone who joined the call and your kind comments since. If you are part of a local organisation it could be your turn next; we'd love to have you. Please visit www.stevebrine.com/visit-westminster-virtually for more details.

Last month in **Oxdrove** I was setting out my case for the re-opening of our society and economy that moves in lockstep with the incredible success of our covid-19 vaccination programme. I hold 100% to that view and predict the public, let alone Parliament, will grow increasingly furious if one doesn't follow the other.

That is why I continue to push the case for **schools** to fully re-open on 8th March given the untold damage being done to the forgotten victims of this pandemic – our young people.

As I said to the Prime Minister in the House of Commons last month, I am genuinely shocked by the sense of desperation and concern parents in the constituency are communicating to me given what they are seeing from their children. We have a vaccine which is being rolled out at pace, and while it will face challenges as new strains emerge, we have to accept a balance of risks as we always have. I have called for teachers and school (as well as early years) staff to be vaccinated as soon as possible because, as I see it, if schools really are our national priority we need to start acting like it.

And finally, continuing my determination to remind constituents that Parliament is doing other things at this time alongside managing the crisis, you may be interested in some of the other strands of my work at this time. Through my ongoing work as the Chair of the all-party group for childcare and early education, I am stepping up efforts to make the case for the **early years sector** too often over-looked while a genuine lifeline for many working parents. My page at www.stevebrine.com/earlyyears has lots on this and links to much more.

Equally, I am picking up again my work on local transport services as commuters prepare (someday) to return to the railways. The issue of 'part-time' **season tickets** hasn't gone away – in fact it just got even more important – so watch this space from Government / SWR this spring. And I am about to embark on some work around the vexed issue of **shared parental leave** for new mum's and dad's which was fudged by the coalition Government and – for all the grandstanding – hasn't gone away. If you have views and experience of this I would love to hear from you.

Much more, and daily updates, via [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)

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