

The Villager

May 2023 Volume 52 No 4

The community newsletter
for Newnham, Nately Scures,
Mapledurwell and Up Nately

International Dawn Chorus Day

Sunday 7th of May, 2023



www.wildlifetrusts.org/dawn-chorus-day

A CELEBRATION OF NATURE'S SYMPHONY

Taking place on the first Sunday of May, International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's greatest symphony. All across the world people rise early to revel in the sweet sound of birdsong, from rattling wrens in Rotherham to crooning cowbirds in the Caribbean. And you don't have to head out to a nature reserve, you can just open your window and listen...

WHO CAN I HEAR? Log on to www.wildlifetrusts.org/dawn-chorus-day to listen to recordings of some of the star performers.

Song thrush... Often the most confident voice and one of the earliest to start singing. Listen for loud, clear verses repeated two to four times.

Blackbird... Another early riser, with a clear and confident voice. The song is low-pitched and given in short, fluty verses. Unlike the song thrush, blackbirds don't repeat their verses.

Robin.. Like the thrushes, robins start singing early in the morning. The song is clear and comprised of rippling notes and whistles. Robins are one of the few birds to sing all through winter.

Blackcap... This migrant warbler has one of the finest voices. Its song begins as a chattering warble, before breaking into louder, clearer flute-like notes.

Chiffchaff... One of the most easily recognised voices in the dawn chorus. The chiffchaff's song is a repetitive 'chiff chaff, chiff chaff, chiff chaff', occasionally with an extra note mixed in.

No Mow May

Plantlife's #NoMowMay is back,
blooming better than ever!

Join our No Mow May movement and
liberate your lawn starting on the 1 May.

Free the wildflowers in your lawn so they
can grow wild and provide a feast for
pollinators, tackle pollution, and lock
away atmospheric carbon below ground.



<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

Join the movement... Let us know you are joining the No Mow May movement in the form provided online. This will give us a better picture of how many gardens and green spaces are part of No Mow May, and the size of the area that has been liberated for nature to thrive this year.

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

Spring is a wonderful time to be walking in the beautiful English countryside, but where to find new and interesting walks?

'WALKING IN HAMPSHIRE'

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants has loads of walks to download and print for free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is here.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information out there on the web but it can be difficult to find. "Walking in Hampshire" brings all this together... With walks from half a mile to 12+ miles, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. Please check out our website and get walking!'

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Plantlife

WHAT IS NO MOW MAY?

'No Mow May' is Plantlife's annual campaign calling all gardeners and green space managers not to mow during May – liberating your lawns and providing a space for nature.

Why should I take part?

We've lost nearly 97% of flower rich meadows since the 1970s, and along with them vital food needed by pollinators like bees and butterflies.

A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can lock away carbon below ground. Best of all, to reap these benefits all you have to do is not mow your lawn in May!

With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities and the climate. This is why Plantlife is calling for people to get involved with #NoMowMay and let wild plants get a head start on the summer.

Mapledurwell & Up Nately



www.mapledurwellvillagehall.co.uk

OUR RUBBISH EVENT FOR THE BIG HELP OUT

Fabulous turn out from Mapledurwell and Up Nately... And my goodness did we get litter. Thanks to all who came and those who helped haul back the rubbish.... Some of which we left elsewhere for collection....

Both of our events are either side of the actual Coronation weekend due to a high percentage of the Committee being away, and we thought this might also be the case for quite a few villagers.

Please save the date for the Coronation Quiz Friday 19 May



CORONATION QUIZ FRIDAY 19 MAY 7.30 PM

**Back by popular demand
QUIZMASTER-STEVE CHAPMAN**

Welcome glass of fizz

Music/Cash-only Bar/Nibbles

Tables of 8/ Prizes/ Raffle

**Contact Heather Ramsdale on
ramsdaleheather21@gmail.com
or 07552506898**

Tickets £7.50 per person

live
theatre

Plus a new diary date for some live theatre at the Village Hall. **Sunday 24th September 6.30pm.** Show details and ticket information to follow soon!!

UP NATELY NEWS

Up Nately Village coffee morning We have our bi-monthly 'coffee-and-chat' morning on 5th May at Lealands, 10-12 noon, all are welcome! Call Jane for more information 07743 914 277.

Farewell We have said goodbye to the Gallagher family who have left the village, we wish the four of them every success and happiness in the future!

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00833/FUL (Validated 11 April) Addisons Farm House, Tunworth Road. Replace broken front gates, gate posts, and wooden fencing to widen vehicle access and provide separate access; repair and replacement stock fencing and wooden gates (part retrospective).

23/00725/FUL (Pending 21 March) Swan Hill Nursery, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Conversion of two storey tractor shed and storage building to residential annex to main house. Addition of a stairwell on the side of the existing building to allow access to upper floor.

22/03417/FUL (Pending 28 Dec) The Egg Yard, Greywell Rd, Mapledurwell. Erection of three dwellings with associated parking using approved access.

22/03317/HSE (Pending 13 December) Arlings, Tunworth Road. Replacement garage / outbuilding (including home office and arts and crafts room) .

22/03307/HSE and 22/03308/LBC (Scheduled for DC Committee 07 June) Blaegrove Cottage, Blaegrove Lane, Up Nately. Single storey rear extension.

22/02818/ROC (Granted 06 April) The Egg Yard, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Variation of conditions of 20/02124/FUL to allow for update to landscaping and finishes, and removal of condition I1 relating to garages.

22/02416/FUL (Pending, 26 August) Riverview House, London Road. Extensions including an additional floor and a three storey rear extension to provide nine additional one-bedroom flats. [Total 17 x one-bed flats.]

22/02210/RET (Pending, 05 Aug) Priory Farmhouse. Variation of Condition 2 of 15/04301/FUL to allow continued use as Class E children's nursery to 31/08/2032.

21/01777/RET (Pending 24 May 2021) Gamekeepers. Hardstanding plus seven downlighters (retrospective).

21/00827/FUL (Pending 20 April 2021, new documents Oct / Nov 2022) Land opposite Hillside, Heather Lane. Change of use to dog walking area and off road parking; gate, fence and shed.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00144/23/TCA (Validated 11 April) Hillcrest, Tunworth Road. Fell four Ash trees showing preliminary signs of Ash dieback. In addition two of the trees have large wounds at the base.

T/00086/23/TCA (Approved 06 April) The Old Orchard, Tunworth Road. T1 Ash: reduce height to 12m with a spread of 5m. T2/T3 Ash: reduce height to 12m with a spread of 7m. T4 to T8 Leylandii: reduce height to 9m with a spread of 6m.

T/00120/23/TCA (Approved 12 April) Rye Cottage, Tunworth Road. Horse Chestnut. Remove low branch over neighbours' property.

T/00117/23/TCA (Approved 12 April) Lanterns, Tunworth Road. T1 Willow: crown reduce to finished height of 15m x 15m and thin crown by 30%. T2 Sycamore: prune back branches to give 3m clearance of the property.

TALES FROM THE CHALKSTREAM

Actually, more of a riddle from the allotments...

So what do St Mark's Day, compost heaps and nectar actually have in common?



Pictured: Male St Mark's fly – the female has a smaller head and eyes

Bear with me...

Working on my allotment on 25th April (St Mark's Day) I saw a host of long (10-15mm), thin, hairy black flies lazily clinging onto the inside of my netting which I had hoped was protecting my allotment onions.

Well... as a novice allotmenteer I was worried! Were these critters onion fly chomping through my over-wintered crop, or even carrot fly from last year's crop rotation? Was it something worse?

A photo later and a look on the Insect ID app and all is well.

These are St Mark's flies (*Bibio Marci*, also known as Hawthorn flies). Completely harmless, even if they fly rather sluggishly and land on anything in their way, including us humans. The larvae live in rotting soil and compost which I had of course previously transferred onto my onions. They generally appear within a few days of St Mark's Day (right on time this year!), and are one of our earliest pollinators, especially of fruit trees, as they feed on nectar.

Much relieved, I happily released them to do their good work, and carried on, slightly bemused that I found a fly and its unseen work, quite so absorbing.

Colin Robertson colin.mandunpc@gmail.com

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY PARISH ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY

to be held in the Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm

refreshment available

This will be a short and sociable event, with wine and snacks, and the opportunity to discuss issues relating to the Parish. **There will be a presentation from the Basingstoke Canal including on the Last Five Miles into Basingstoke.** Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

POLICE UPDATE

Selling door to door 'Nottingham knockers' reported in the area to be doing a bit of a 'hard sell'. Local Police attended relatively quickly but suspects had left prior to arrival, likely due weather changing for the worse.

A scam using Whats App is currently doing the rounds. There has also been similar as text message. A scammer will send a generic message... 'Dad [or Mum]! It's your son. I've broken my phone so using this number can you message me back.' Scammer is trying to engage in order to obtain details from you. Police urge people to not respond to unexpected messages without knowing or verifying where they have come from.

Car theft is still on the increase especially high end with the keyless functionality. Please use Faraday bags to block the car signal.

Please report any crime, antisocial behaviour or suspicious incident – search Hampshire Police reporting and this will take you to the link www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/

101 is for non-emergency reporting, when nothing can be gained by immediate response.

Call 999 when a crime or incident is happening now and requires immediate attendance.

All Creatures Great & Small

are invited to attend

St. Mary's Pet Service

Sunday 21st May, 11:00 a.m. at Alan's Barn,
Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell

Please join us to thank God for all his creatures,
in particular our pets, as they enrich our lives on a
daily basis.



Well-behaved owners welcome! Please come
along even if you don't have a pet.

Coffee will be served from 10.30 a.m.

Maths Tutoring KS3 to GCSE (Ages 11-16)

I would love to help improve your child's confidence in Maths. I am studying A level Mathematics at Farnborough Hill and achieved a Grade 9 at GCSE (receiving 97% of marks available). I offer in person and online lessons – located in Mapledurwell – as I am fundraising towards joining an expedition to Borneo, assisting local conservation/ development projects.

Rate: £20/hr. For more information please contact me by text on 07557 916452

Newnham & Nately Scures



YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
ARE INVITED TO A

CORONATION PARTY

DATE Monday May 8th 2023

TIME 12 noon to 12 midnight

VENUE The Iron Bull Roadhouse Water End

ENTERTAINMENTS INCLUDE:

- Children's Picnics in the Pub Garden – blankets supplied – bring your own picnic
- Adults seating at tables and chairs under large marquee in Pub Car Park
- Special Coronation Celebration Menu in Pub
- Hot and cold drinks in Pub at normal prices
- Bring your own picnic if preferred
- Cove Brass Band at 2.00pm and 3.30pm
- Coronation Cakes - home-made - one for EVERYONE, tell us about any dietary needs
- FREE raffle – donations before very welcome
- FREE Children's Fancy Dress Competition - prizes for funniest, oddest, most original
- FREE Best Adult Crown, Hat, Head Covering- prizes for funniest, oddest, most original

NOTES

- Car parking Hackwood Business Park across A30 from Iron Bull
- Toilets in The Iron Bull
- The Celebration is sponsored by The Iron Bull, Premier Grounds Garden Maintenance and Newnham Parish Council with a grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council King's Coronation Fund.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO MAKE BUNTING, DONATE RAFFLE PRIZES, FIND OLD PHOTOS OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION SO WE CAN CREATE A MEMORY BOARD OF THE TWO CORONATIONS

Please let the organisers know if you intend coming and how many of you, so we can arrange enough tables, chairs, food and prizes. We want you to have a day to remember.

(Please be aware numbers are limited to the capacity of the venue.)

Pauline.hedges

Pauline.Hedges@easilyengland.co.uk 07757716493 52 Water End Park

Julie Knight – Julie@h2bc.co.uk 07985343917 6 Water End Park

Paul Ghent – paul@ironbullroadhouse.co.uk 01256 765158



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Tel 07802 972 722 or email
bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk
Wifi available

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/0092/HSE (Validated 18 April)
Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane, Newnham.
Erection of Oak Framed Orangery to rear of existing dwelling

23/00835/FUL (Validated 31 March)
Land Adjacent To Mulberry House, Scures Hill. Erection of 1 no. two storey detached house with integral garage and loft rooms. Creation of new access gates off existing shared private road with new driveway, fencing and landscaping.

23/00347/PIP (Scheduled for decision by Development Control Committee 07 June) Land at the Barracks. Permission in principle for a minimum of one and max of four residential dwellings

22/03225/HSE and 22/03226/LBC (Withdrawn 18 April) Newnham House, Ridge Lane. Erection of new garden store / garage / annex with alteration works to flat within the Coach House.

22/02097/FUL (Pending, 09 Sept)
Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. New detached house, garage and access.

TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00112/23/TCA (Validated 15 March)
New House, Church Path, Newnham. T3 Silver Birch situated close to the house. Dismantle down to ground level.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AGM on Tuesday 30th May from 8pm in the Clubroom. Everyone welcome.



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Contact Sally; stay@dillydallycottage.co.uk;

07779617097

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NEWNHAM
COMMUNITY'S



April draw results:

£100 Christopher Symons

£50 Beth and Richard Wilson

£25 Liz Broomfield

Congratulations to winners. Thanks to Rev Matt Bianchi for drawing the numbers and to all ticket holders for your ongoing support!
Carolyn Bell

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Kevin Curtis

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Run by and for the community raising money for local charities and community groups

HOOK FUN RUN & ROAD RACES

Sunday 21st May hookfunrun.com/

The Hook Fun Run and Road Races include a 2.5 mile fun run, and 10km and 10 mile route.

The minimum age for entry is 15 years for the 10km and 17 years for the 10 mile, while the Fun Run is open to all runners five years and over. (There is also a toddler race across Hartletts Park.)

Please see hookfunrun.com/

Running numbers will be posted out in May, all entries received after 12th May will need to be picked up on the day. (We can't issue refunds but races can be switched up to early May.)

All profits go to local charities and organisations. If you are involved with such and would like to register an interest in receiving money from the Hook Fun Run & Road Race, please email us at team@hookfunrun.com. All applications are carefully considered and money distributed after each Fun Run. The closing date for donation requests is 30 June each year.

All routes start from Hartletts Park, start times are from 11am.

The Hook 10km and 10mile races goes through Rotherwick and so on to Newnham. There will be a water station on Newnham Green (with kind permission of Lord Malmesbury). The 10km turns left at the Green to head back into Hook through Newnham; the 10 mile goes down Crown Lane, left up Scures Hill, then back into Hook via Old School Road and Newnham Road..

SOLVE: SAVE OUR LODDON VALLEY ENVIRONMENT



Photos from SOLVE facebook page show former meanders of the Loddon

PROJECTS IN RECENT YEARS SUCH AS THE PUBLICISED SWINDALE BECK PROJECT (CUMBRIA 2016) SHOW HOW QUICKLY WILDLIFE RETURNS WHEN THE NATURAL RIVER HABITATS ARE RE ESTABLISHED

The story from Swindale....

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-65341994>

'About 200 years ago, the community of Swindale embarked on an ambitious project to straighten a section of the beck, with the aim of speeding the flow of water through the valley and increasing the amount of farmland surrounding it. Which had unintended consequences. The faster-flowing water was too swift for fish like salmon and trout to spawn. And the river carried more sediment downstream, making it murkier.'

So in 2016, the RSPB and project partners – Environment Agency, Natural England – and the water company who owns the land – embarked on a re-meandering 'rewiggling' project.

'After studying the valley to locate the original path carved out by the river, a team of diggers was dispatched to recreate the curvy channel. It is now about 180m (200 yards) longer than the straight line that had been in the valley bottom for two centuries.

'The transformation was almost immediate: "About three months after the diggers left - we had salmon and trout spawning in the river again."

'The re-established, meandering curves have slowed down the flow of water, which creates aquatic habitat at each bend. Fish, including minnows (pictured), salmon and trout now have vegetation for cover.

'"We now have vegetation in the river, where young fish can shelter... There are gravel banks, deep pools and riffles – shallow, turbulent parts of the river where the water draws in oxygen. It all benefits the whole food chain.

"It's like a living thing moving through the valley now, while the old, straightened river was just like a sad canal."

'This restoration was expensive. Funded in equal parts by the RSPB, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the water company landowner, United Utilities, it cost just over £200,000 to 'rewiggle' the 1km (0.6 miles) stretch of beck.'

The Government is currently funding a number of conservation schemes like this one under what is called the Landscape Recovery Scheme. Through this, farmers will be able to apply for money to boost biodiversity on their land, possibly by 're-wiggling' their own rivers or establishing more wild spaces like woodlands. Somewhat ironically, environmental damage that water companies cause in the future could also provide a funding source for restoration projects such as this.

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'YOUR WATER, YOUR SAY'

The Water Companies are preparing detailed plans for 2025 to 2030 and are holding 'Your water, your say' virtual meetings. More information about these meetings is available from CCW and Ofwat.

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/price-review/2024-price-review/your-water-your-say/>

REGISTER TO TAKE PART IN 'YOUR WATER, YOUR SAY' VIRTUAL MEETINGS

THAMES WATER

(Waste Water service for our area.)



Our first 'Your water, your say' meeting will be held online on Friday 19 May from 3pm to 5pm. The event will be hosted by an Independent Chair, appointed by our regulator Ofwat and the Consumer Council for Water (CCW).

We want to hear from our customers, communities and stakeholders from across the region and would like you to join us for an open challenge session. Your questions could cover the service we provide, our impact on the environment, what will happen to your water bill or whatever other topic is important to you.

Members from our Executive Team and Board will be on hand to share what's in our draft plan, the challenges we are facing, and the ways in which we're working together with communities and stakeholders to deliver more for customers and the environment.

You'll be able to learn about and have your say on our investment plans for 2025 to 2030 including:

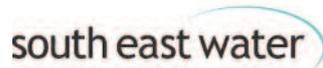
- Our customer service priorities
- Environmental outcomes
- Our longer-term delivery strategies
- How we are addressing affordability

You're welcome to put your questions to our panel during the live session. In case you're unable to attend the event or you'd prefer, CCW will raise your question on your behalf. You can submit your query prior to the meeting to yourwateryoursay@ccwater.org.uk, stating clearly that your question is for Thames Water, and whether you're unable to attend or you're attending but would prefer CCW to raise it for you. Questions won't be shared with us in advance of the meeting.

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/your-water-your-say>

SOUTH EAST WATER

(Drinking water supplier for our area.)



'Your water, your say' virtual meeting will take place on Tuesday 06 June, between 2pm and 4pm, and will be independently chaired. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of senior directors. Let us know what really matters to you and what you would like us to focus on in the future. As above, you can submit your query prior to the meeting, stating for South East Water, to yourwateryoursay@ccwater.org.uk

Your questions could cover:

- the service we provide
- our impact on the environment
- what will happen to your water bill
- whatever other topic is important to you

The event will cover our drinking water supply plans across our whole supply area of Kent, Sussex, Surrey Hampshire and Berkshire.

You can register to attend on our website

<https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/about/our-plans/your-water-your-say-registration-page>

REPORTS FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CREATE A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

On 20 March 2023 DEFRA and Natural England updated the guidance on declaring a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It is now easier for Parish and Town Councils to make a declaration... this is an opportunity to contribute to Nature Recovery while engaging members of the community of all ages.

To declare your site as an LNR first contact Natural England consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or 0300 060 3900.

You'll be asked to formally declare your LNR by sending a draft declaration document (template on the website). It must include a boundary map and a management plan detailing:

- ownership of the land
- any agreements or partnerships
- why the LNR site was chosen
- aims and objectives
- biodiversity management & environmental education
- community participation, access & visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements.

Following consultation you will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England. To read the guidance in full see:

www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves

The Electoral Commission

Bring photo ID to vote

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter

VOTER ID

To vote at a polling station on Thursday 04 May 2023 you will need to bring photo ID. Polling station staff will all attend compressive training sessions on Voter ID and its application at the polling station.

You only need one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original, not a photocopy. Expired ID is acceptable, provided the photograph remains a good likeness.

Accepted forms of photo ID include:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card.)
- A relevant concessionary travel pass funded by the UK government.
- Older Person's / Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ Card (more rigorous application than 18+ Oyster Card)
- Freedom Pass
- A badge prescribed under the "blue badge scheme."
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Student cards that are PASS accredited would be accepted (eg the National Union of Students 'TOTUM' student card). All accredited PASS cards bear the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram.



FOREIGN COINS & NOTES FOR PROSTATE SCREENING

We are collecting foreign notes and coins – cluttering up your home – in our Odiham, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing Charity Shops.

This is a joint project that will share the proceeds between Odiham Cottage Hospital and Hook & Odiham Lions (covering Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney).

All Lions proceeds will help fund the next Lions' Prostate Cancer Screening session at 10am Saturday 13th May 2023 at the Odiham Cottage Hospital.

Please see the Lions website for more details

hookandodihamlions.co.uk

NATIONAL OPEN GARDENS SCHEME

<https://ngs.org.uk/>

Tydney Hall has been opening its gates for the Open Gardens Scheme for more than 30 years. In recognition of this, two rare Cork Oak Trees (to replace two which have recently died of old age) were presented to Sam Aziz, Tydney Hall General Manager, by Mark Porter, County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme in Hampshire.

This year Tydney Hall will be opening on Sunday 14th May and Sunday 11th June, 10am to 5pm.

Admission £5, children free. Cash only. Refreshments: Cream teas in the Chestnut Suite from 12 noon. Large garden of 66 acres with extensive woodlands and beautiful vista. Fine avenues of 26 wellingtonias; rhododendrons and azaleas, Italian garden, lakes, large water and rock garden, dry stone walls originally designed with assistance of Gertrude Jekyll.

This is a great garden to visit and one we are proud to have in our Hampshire NGS portfolio.

Beechenwood Farm Hillside Odiham opening every Wednesday from 29th March to 8th June, 2-5pm. Also by arrangement – to offer a more private and leisurely visit.

Admission £5, children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/8569>. A two-acre garden in many parts. Wander through the woodlands with drifts of Spring bulbs, and the Rose pergola with pots of Spring bulbs.

Pat Beagley pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'

www.united-parish.org.uk
<https://www.moretolife.church>

From the Parish Registers

Interment of ashes:
Brian and Gillian Coles at
St Mary's Greywell on April 14th



From the Ministry Team

As I'm writing this, it certainly feels like Spring has sprung. Birds are chirping outside, sunshine is pouring through my window and there

is a warmth that was not there a week or two ago.

It really is great, and it gives life a more positive and optimistic feel. I'm noticing many more smiling people and a generally increased joy about the place. In the light, in the warmth, there is hope. There is optimism.

There is a noticeable increase in green around us, and the multi-coloured blanket of flowers is slowly beginning to emerge. The cold, stark winter landscape is transforming and I'm aware – as you read this in the May edition – we will be even further through this progression.

This leads me to think about light... In some ways, in the winter when things are so dark, we're much more acutely aware of the light. When it shines into the darkness, we notice it and immediately sense its impact. However, when we have more

daylight and the sun consistently shines, we begin to take it for granted. We begin to just accept that it will be there shining each day (despite this being far from a certainty in England!). And this has made me wonder about how much in life we take for granted, how many good and lovely things we don't always appreciate.

With a cost of living crisis, and the war in Ukraine as the two most obvious examples, I think we are seeing in many ways the undermining of those things we take for granted. In these cases, readily accessible food and heating, and the expectation of security and stability. It can feel deeply unnerving and unsettling, and if we're not careful we can obsess over these things.

It's at these times when I feel the need to remind myself, and others, of the one thing in life more constant, consistent and stable than the rising of the springtime sun. Jesus is above all things, over all things, in all things. While we may not always feel him there, or appreciate his presence, or maybe even acknowledge his existence, he is always there.

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.' Hebrews 13.8

Writing this as we are about to walk through Holy Week, remembering again the journey Jesus took to the cross, the grave and into resurrection after, for us, fills me with confidence. The one who entered in to be like us, to die and rise again to ensure that death is not the end, to give us a hope for the future. The one who did all that for us is constant, even in the uncertainty of the world around us. He is sure and constant. I pray you know his blessing this springtime, as the flowers bloom and the leaves return, and into the rest of the year ahead.

Revd Matt Bianchi

CHURCH SERVICES MAY INTO JUNE

Sunday 07 May	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Coronation Service
Sunday 14 May	9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said) 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, 1662 Morning Prayer
Thursday 18 May	7.30pm All Saints' Odiham, Benefice Ascension Day Service
Sunday 21 May	9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion 11am Alan's Barn, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell Pet Service (coffee from 10.30) * 5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong
Sunday 28 May	10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion 11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship
Sunday 04 June	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Songs of Praise

* See notice on Mapledurwell & Up Nately page

The RBL Old Basing are putting on a full day's celebration for the coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May. The event is being screened in the Jack Morris Hall, Old Basing. Breakfast is served from 9.30 to 10.30am when the procession starts on screen. Cream teas served from 2pm with a tombola stall provided by the Women's Section with traditional games. There is a Club Gin bar and BBQ and Osprey Roadshow will be providing entertainment during the afternoon and evening. Look forward to seeing you. Sue Wilson - Publicity



CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III
All Saints' Odiham
5th-14 May 9am-5pm
'A CELEBRATION IN FLOWERS'



Enjoy the floral displays, created by the All Saints' Church flower arrangers, for this very special occasion. Admission free.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club next meeting Thursday 25th May with Annual Plant Sale from 1.30pm followed by a Plant Auction. Visitors welcome www.nwdgc.org.uk

ODIHAM OPEN GARDENS
Saturday 10 June 2 - 5pm

Approx 13 gardens open. Tickets £7.50, accompanied under 16s FOC. Home made teas and refreshments.

You can only buy passport/tickets on the day from participating gardens. Clear signs are displayed.

Contact the organisers 01256 703791 joanna@moretolife.church

All proceeds to All Saints Odiham to help to maintain the churchyard.

The Friends of St Michael's Hospice invite you to the world-renowned GERTRUDE JEKYLL GARDEN

The Manor House, Upton Grey, on Sunday 11 June from 11.30 am to 2pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs John Wallinger. Drinks and canapes served. Tickets £25 per person Please contact janelyns@talktalk.net

Upton Grey Horticultural Society Summer Show Church Meadow Saturday 12 August. For information please call June Hunt 01256 862719.



LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

So, what keeps a group of over 40 men in one room, quiet and facing the same way for two hours and doesn't involve alcohol? Answer... someone talking about building a replica Spitfire at 80% of original size!

Steve Markham's amazing story covers 16 years and five months from buying a kit of parts to securing the approval from the appropriate authorities to actually fly the aircraft. The aircraft is known as the Odiham Spitfire, not just because it was built by Steve in the village, but because it is a replica of one of the photo reconnaissance aircraft that were based in Odiham in 1944.

Our military history theme continued with our Family and Social History group. They heard a member's presentation on the derring-do of HMS Valiant in WWII a ship on which Prince Philip served for a while. The story of Valiant being seriously damaged by limpet mines placed by Italian frogmen riding two-man 'human torpedoes' was made very personal when the group learnt that the captain had been the presenter's grandfather and had been played by John Mills in the film made of the incident!

Looking forward, members of our Moto Group are planning for their trip to Isla Cristina in Southern Spain in September. Too early to buy the sun cream - but never too early to start the conversations of how to get to Gatwick!

We will be showcasing all our groups at our Annual Open Day, on the afternoon of Thursday 10 August. More details to follow but due to building works at our usual venue, Robert Mays School, we will be in Elizabeth Hall, Hook. Save the date! In the meantime to learn more about our u3a please visit our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/home>

REPORTS FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

POTHoles - In the Chancellor's Spring Budget on 15th March he announced an additional £200M for the national 'pothole fund', with £5,954,400 confirmed for Hampshire. This is welcome additional funding. But the twin challenges of ongoing materials inflation and severe weather mean that substantial further funding is needed. We will continue to make the case to Government for further funding and a multi-year settlement.

Please continue to report road defects on the website, we really appreciate it, if you don't report it we may not know about it.

For details of roadworks by the county council and utility companies - current and planned - use the interactive website one.network.

Links to report a problem associated with the Highway

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving
www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem