

The Villager

March 2020 Volume 49 No 2

The community newsletter for Mapledurwell,
Up Nately, Newnham, Nately Scures & Greywell

COMMUNITY FUNDING FROM KEW GARDENS

To embellish the proposed Commemorative Wood in Frog Lane, I applied for wild flower seeds that are being donated by the National Botanical Gardens, Kew. I also found a source of funds from Kew for our village teenagers and those in their early twenties that seems to be worth publicising.

"Grow Wild" is Kew's outreach programme to the public. It has money from The National Lottery and others, based upon and inspired by the Great Outdoors. The organisation is inviting 14 – 25 year olds to dream up and undertake a project that is judged as a really good idea for promoting wild life – either visually, creatively, in a transformational way or even musically! Grow Wild is offering to help each project along with a grant of £500.

The website is www.Growwilduk.com/creative that includes a short video and offers of available support to projects.

It appears that these projects can cover just about anything based upon the inspiration of our UK native plants or fungi. I asked the coordinator about it and received the following reply:

"You might decide to create visual art through painting or photography. Maybe music, poetry or dance are more your thing? How about transforming a space in your community? Or even designing your own fashion collection? Pick something you enjoy doing, involve other people and let your imagination run riot."

Grow Wild was publicly voted the UK's Best Environment Project in the National Lottery Awards on BBC1.



So here's a challenge to our younger Villager Readers with a deadline for applications by 1pm on Monday 30th March 2020. Good Luck!

John Maclean

Tree Warden for Up Nately and Mapledurwell Parish Council

01256 460707

Are you looking for more volunteers to support your group activities? If so why not take part in Basingstoke Voluntary Actions "I Volunteer" campaign. Running from 1st March until 4th June the campaign seeks to highlight the many groups that have volunteers in the borough, the reasons why people volunteer with them and recognise the great work your volunteers do in the community.

How do I Take Part?

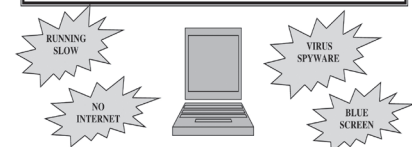
To take part, you will need to download an "I Volunteer" template from bvaction.org.uk, ask one of your volunteers to write why they volunteer on it and send BVA a picture of the volunteer holding the sign. BVA will publish a photograph a day to promote volunteering on their social media channels.

Diary dates

March

- 11 Maple & Up Nately Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Village Hall
- 12 Church Cleaning, St Mary's Greywell, 11am
- 13 Up Nately Coffee Morning, Eastrop Cottage, 10-12
- 25 Greywell Cafe, Village Hall, 11-12 noon
- 25 Mapledurwell Spring Tea Party, 3.30pm, Meddings Farmhouse

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Mapledurwell & Up Nately

FORMER WATERCRESS BEDS, FROG LANE

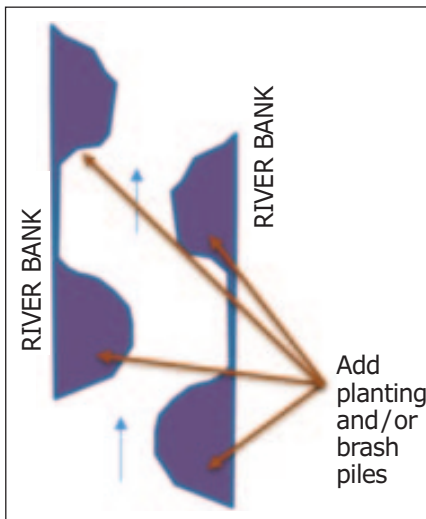
With the support of the Parish Council and having consulted with both the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and the South East Rivers Trust (Loddon catchment) on how best to approach this, some work has begun to try to improve the environment around the water channel at the former watercress bed on Frog Lane.

The aim over time is to narrow the channel into a more sinuous flow with planted areas on opposing / adjacent banks (see diagram). Hopefully this will lead to slightly deeper, faster water flow which in turn will scour and clean the chalk bed (ideal for spawning fish) and better control existing overgrown vegetation (which in one case is non-native).

This is a medium term plan; we are learning as we go along, and the aim is to work a section at a time, outside nesting / spawning time, to manage everything sensitively. The area around the water channel has been somewhat dominated by one or two plant-types and if we can encourage greater diversity then this should also attract more varied wildlife over time.

One of the methods of narrowing the channel is to use brush piles (loose bundles of reed and wood eg willow, hazel or the thin branches from the crown of local, native trees). Similarly, trunks of fallen / dead trees (native again) can also be useful. With the help of Herriard Estates we have been able to secure a good supply of hazel in particular, that was due to be coppiced in any event.

For further information or in the event of any query please contact colin.robertson21@btinternet.com, or call 01256 844553 and leave a message.



ALLOTMENT PARKING

The Parish Council is considering means to provide some limited off-road parking for allotment holders at Frog Lane. Plans as presently discussed require the removal of one tree at location and as photograph below. See tree application [T/00100/20/TCA](#)



Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Planning & Tree applications

[T/00100/20/TCA](#) (26 Feb)

Mapledurwell Allotments Frog Lane.

T1: fell.

[T/00099/20/TCA](#) (26 Feb) Webbs Barn,

Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. T1

Rowan: fell. T2 multi-stemmed Rowan,

fell. T3 Cherry, fell. T4 Cherry, fell.

[20/00153/FUL](#) (24 Jan) Elmwood,

Heather Lane, Up Nately. Demolition of

outbuilding and erection of one 5-

bedroomed detached dwelling with

associated access and landscaping.

[20/00009/PIP](#) (Pending) Nunnery

House, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell.

Application for Permission in Principle

for conversion of an agricultural

building to one dwelling.

[20/00013/FUL](#) (Granted 21st Feb)

21 And 25 Elder House, The Hollies.

Replacement of existing two-storey oriel

bay window structure with new two-

storey oriel bay window structure.

[19/02594/FUL](#) (Withdrawn 20th Feb)

The Egg Yard, Greywell Road,

Mapledurwell. Erection of two 3-

bedroomed dwellings.

[19/01693/FUL](#) (Granted 18th Feb)

Lyde Boarding Kennels, London Road,

Old Basing. Erection of a three-storey

building consisting of 20 flats with

associated parking, following

demolition of dwellinghouse and

associated kennels.

[19/03365/HSE](#) (Granted 14th Feb)

1 Blaegrove Cottages, Blaegrove Lane,

Up Nately. Erection of a car port with

cycle shed.

[19/03328/HSE & 19/03329/LBC](#)

(Withdrawn 31st Jan) Mead House,

Heather Row Lane, Up Nately. Erection

of a two storey rear extension.

[T/00550/19/TCA](#) (Granted 29th

January) The Gamekeepers, Tunworth

Road, Mapledurwell. Application for

works to trees growing in a conservation

area. Proposal: T1/T2 Eucalyptus: Fell.

T3 Cypress: Fell. T4 Cherry: Fell.

NOTICES - PLEASE REPORT...

Potholes to the County Council at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

A problem on a public right of way <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

A drainage or flooding problem <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

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NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm,

Village Hall Meeting Room.

Everyone most welcome to attend.





LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2020 BASINGSTOKE & DEANE

All borough councillors - plus all five members of Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council - and all six Newnham Parish Council positions - will be up for election on Thursday 7th May 2020.

For further information please see the electoral commission guidance / website (as below) or email clerk.mapledurwellupnately@parish.hants.gov.uk or clerk.newnham@parish.hants.gov.uk.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION GUIDANCE

Guidance for candidates is available at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

DELIVERY OF NOMINATION PAPERS

The Notice of Election will be published on Friday 27th March. Nominations may then be submitted between 10am and 4pm on any weekday, excluding bank holidays, from Friday 27th March until Wednesday 8th April, inclusive.

Delivery of the Nomination Papers, Consent to Nomination and assorted paperwork **MUST** be by hand, and should usually be by the candidate or the proposer or seconder of the nomination. Where it is delivered by somebody other than those listed above, the Returning Officer may accept it but this person cannot make amendments if they are needed.

Delivery must be to the Returning Officer, Electoral Services, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH.

It is recommended that an appointment is made for the delivery of the nomination. Please call 01256 845467 or email electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk.

It is also strongly recommended that you try to organise the submission of the nomination ahead of the last day if at all possible.

Additionally, draft nominations may be sent as a scanned email attachment to jack.grounds@basingstoke.gov.uk for an informal check in advance of your attendance for delivery - and this should also save time at the formal delivery. Please copy any such email to electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk

Once the nomination paper has been submitted and formally accepted, it cannot be amended.

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL



HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact Caretaker Jayne Norman on 474432 or check out the website at www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com

MAPLEDURWELL TEA PARTY

Our Spring tea party will be held on Wednesday, 25th March, at 3.30pm. Sarah and David Hooper will be hosting this at Meddings Farmhouse, Tunworth Road, and if you would like to join them please give Sarah a ring on 321.838. You are all most welcome.

UP NATELY COFFEE MORNING

Our next chatty morning with coffee in our village, will be on Friday 13th March 10-12 at Eastrop Cottage, Liz will be happy to welcome the regulars and especially newer residents, do come and meet your neighbours! Tel 762059

On 10th April, Good Friday, we have been invited to Beavers, more information next month.

There will be no gathering on 8th May, this is a Bank Holiday to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day

BABYSITTING AND DOG WALKING!

15 year old girl looking for babysitting (day or evening) and dog walking. Available in school holidays and weekends. Years of experience with a much younger brother. Please contact Amelia, 07702683347 or amh23i@bradfieldcollege.org.uk

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Holy dusters 2020

Revised cleaning dates for your 2020 diary

Feb 4th Apr 7th Jun 2nd
Aug 4th Oct 6th Dec 1st

Contact: suzie.coull@btinternet.com





Newnham & Nately Scures

NIGEL DOWNES

I would like to thank everyone for the kind donations collected at Nigel's funeral. A total of £520 was collected for Cancer Research. I would also like to thank everyone for all the kindness, love and support that I have received. Regards Angela Downes

NEWNHAM GREEN

The Parish Council is working to put together a five-year plan for Green maintenance - which will be agreed with owners the Malmesbury Charitable Trust and mindful of residents' views and use of the Green. The offers received of volunteer help are greatly appreciated.

The Parish Council must also be mindful of its duty to increase biodiversity where it has the opportunity to do so and work according to the declared Climate Emergency.

The ditches haven't been cleared mechanically for some seven years but sections will from now be cleared each year as part of the plan. Drainage, and minimising impact on wildlife being priorities.

LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2020

All borough councillors - and all six Newnham Parish Council positions - will be up for election on Thursday 7th May 2020. Please see the notice on the Mapledurwell & Up Nately page regarding election information and guidance for applicants.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH - Postponed. New date tba.

DIARY DATE Parish Assembly, Wednesday 1st April 7 for 7.15pm.

HOOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN JUDICIAL REVIEW

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/401-planning-news/42757-district-council-defeats-judicial-review-challenge-over-acceptance-of-report-on-neighbourhood-plan>

In October last year Wilbur Developments initiated a Judicial Review against the Hook Neighbourhood Plan (NP) on grounds associated with the NP's designation of the 'Local Gap' between Hook and Newnham. This Judicial Review was held at the Royal Courts of Justice on 21st January 2020.

On 11th February, the presiding Judge issued her judgment dismissing Wilbur's claim on all three grounds of challenge. This means that the Hook Neighbourhood Plan can now proceed to formal adoption by Hart as the local Planning Authority and will inform future planning decisions for Hook.

HART LOCAL PLAN

Hart District Council is pleased to announce receipt of the Inspector's Report for its Local Plan. This follows the examination hearings which took place in late 2018 and the consultation on the proposed modifications which concluded in August 2019.

The Inspector Jonathon Manning has found that the Local Plan is sound, subject to inclusion of his recommended Main Modifications and that the Local Plan can now proceed to formal adoption.

In accordance with the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 25 requires the Council to publish the Inspector's Report. Accordingly the Inspector's Report and Schedule of Main Modifications can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/local-plan-examination-2018/19>

The case presented by Wilbur Developments essentially challenged the need for a Local Gap between Hook and Newnham which the Hook Neighbourhood Plan states should be preserved. Wilbur argued that the Examiner and Hart DC failed to challenge the evidence provided by the NP to establish the need for the Gap. And Wilbur placed emphasis on the withdrawal of the Gap Policy from the Hart draft Local Plan.

Hart District Council's barrister argued consistency with the emerging Local Plan which recognised the Neighbourhood Plan could designate a Gap in order to prevent coalescence. He also stressed the boundaries of the Gap were established by practical planning work on the ground with consultations with the local community - providing fact-based site visits/observations.

Interestingly, as part of their case, Wilbur's Barrister argued that 'opinion of residents is not material in regard to the making of Planning Policy'. This is not in keeping with the concept of making of Neighbourhood Plans where 'Neighbourhood Planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area'. 'Neighbourhood Plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development' (para 29, NPPF).

Hart DC and Hook PC have fully adhered to the Neighbourhood Plan process which went through Independent Examination, Hart DC scrutiny, and a very successful Referendum.

PREPARING FOR MORE FREQUENT FLOODING

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is our Lead Local Flood Authority. Flooding or drainage problems can be reported at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>.

However all land and property owners are responsible for preventing surface water flowing from their land onto the Highways and responsible for maintaining their own ditches and culverts.

HCC will respond to instances of Highways flooding or of trees blocking the Highway, call emergency number 0300 555 1388.

When storm weather warnings are issued, 'partner agencies' including the Environment Agency, HCC Emergency Planning and the Borough Council (BDBC) work together 'to ensure the public is warned and informed and that all necessary precautions are in place'. During named storm periods, BDBC will have operational staff on standby - 'to provide emergency sand bag distribution and chainsaw clearance of fallen trees on the council's land - plus additional tree surgeons on standby to deal with any TPO trees that are damaged or pose a risk'.

HCC and BDBC hold a limited emergency supply of sandbags which they say are for 'rapid deployment' - 'directing and diverting surface flows into existing channels or ditches'. Councils do not generally supply sandbags to residents. With regards to flooding of private land, all residents are responsible for protecting their own property.





Parish Planning Applications

19/02070/ROC (24 Feb) Land to Rear of Natley Place, Scures Hill. Variation of condition 1 of 17/00619/FUL to amend the plans.

T/00089/20/TCA (24 Feb) New House, Church Path, Newnham Green. 1 x Beech, crown reduce by a third leaving a finished height of 11m: 1 x Yew: remove crossing branches and deadwood.

20/00405/HSE (14 Feb) Newnham Corner. Conversion of existing garage to guest accommodation and single storey extension [to garage] to provide home office and shed.

20/00283/FUL (4 Feb) Land Adjacent to Newnham Lodge, Tylney Lane. Erection of a detached dwelling with double garage and store room over, associated site access, car parking and landscaping.

20/00046/HSE (7th Jan) St Bernards, Scures Hill. A single storey rear extension with glass balustrade above.

T/00021/20/TPO (granted 18th Feb) 8 The Baredown. Horse Chestnut in front garden: reduce in height by up to 1.5m leaving an approx finished height of 10m and crown spread (radius) of 7m, crown raise by up to 5m.

19/03372/HSE (granted 12th Feb) Applecombe Cottage, Newnham Road. Single storey rear/side extension and a single storey front extension.

19/03245/RET (Pending) Land West of Hunters, Newnham Lane. Erection of a detached dwelling (amended scheme to that approved under 17/03705/FUL).

19/03224/LDEU (Pending) Manor Farm, Crown Lane, Newnham. Certificate of lawfulness for the continued siting of a caravan used as a farm workers' dwelling.

19/02613/HSE (Pending) Chapel House, Newnham Road. Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing garage and side extensions.

19/02070/ROC (Pending) Land to the Rear of Natley Place, Scures Hill. Variation of condition 1 of 17/00619/FUL to amend the plans.

19/01977/FUL (Pending) Land Adjacent To Natley Towers, Scures Hill. Erection of one 5-bed dwelling with double garage and creation of a new access.

16/03282/RET (Pending) Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane. 'Change of use from solely agricultural to mixed agricultural use to include the diversification of farm open days for no more than 100 days in a year with ancillary tea room and associated car parking.' To be decided by Development Control Committee, date tba.

Hook Planning Applications

20/00199/PREAPP (Validated 29 Jan 2020) Owens Farm, Newnham Road, Hook. Retirement village comprising 160 units and ancillary buildings.

Please note that this is a pre-application enquiry only and not open for public consultation.

Old House at Home
Newnham Green
01256 761896

***** Now Open on Mondays *****

Monday - Pie Night £10
Great selection of pies:
Cottage, Fish, Meat or Vegetarian

Wednesday - Steak Night £12.95
8oz Sirloin Steak, chips, salad, mushroom, tomato
& a peppercorn sauce

Sunday Roast £15.25
Traditional Sunday Roast: roasted carrot, parsnip & potatoes
with buttered vegetables, cauliflower cheese, Yorkshire pudding & gravy

Set Lunch Menu
Served Monday to Saturday Lunch
2 Courses £13.95
3 Courses £16.95

CLEAN AIR ANTI IDLING CAMPAIGN

Councilor's Briefing - update by Cllr Hayley Eachus, Cabinet member for Environment and Enforcement.



It has been over year a since the Borough Council (BDBC) launched its Clean Air Campaign encouraging people to reduce air pollution by using their vehicles less, to stop idling their car engines and to think about the ways in which they can reduce pollution in their own homes.

The campaign has seen BDBC and partners work with local schools to encourage parents and children to travel to school differently and reduce idling outside the school gates, and work with taxi drivers to reduce idling and encourage the use of ultra-low emission vehicles. We have also supported awareness and education events giving out over 5,000 anti-idling stickers to motorists to place on their car windows.

Response has been positive but in light of the Climate Emergency declaration last September, BDBC is bringing in new powers to issue fixed penalty notices to those motorists caught idling while stationary on a public highway. The notices can be issued by the council's Civil Enforcement Officers, Community Safety Patrol Officers and Environmental Officers. The £20 fines will be a last resort and a notice will only be issued when a motorist refuses to switch off their engine.

The fixed penalty notices will come into force in March 2020 and support the work towards a carbon neutral borough by 2030.

For more information on the new powers and what they mean for motorists, why we are tackling engine idling, information on the Clean Air Campaign and myth busting visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/clean-air

NEW PERMIT SYSTEM FOR HCC RECYCLING CENTRES



Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire residents will need to register their car for free by 1st April

A new residents' permit system is to begin operating at Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). It will be controlled by Automatic Number Plate Recognition and will allow continued free access for Hampshire residents to dispose of household waste.

Access for non-Hampshire residents will be for a fee of £5 per visit. Charges for non-household waste, including soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos remain. Hampshire residents can register up to three vehicles at www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc, or by calling 0300 555 1389.

The system will check the registration of the cars coming into the site against the registered number plates so that Hampshire residents can freely enter the sites as many times as they wish, without any further checks. Note that Hampshire residents who already hold a van or trailer permit do not need to re-register that particular vehicle.



Greywell



VILLAGE HALL
To hire the Village Hall
please contact Mike O'Neill
mjnoneill@gmail.com.

Parish Planning Applications

Registered:

20/00258/PREAPP The Old Vicarage The Street Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BZ. Replace shed at the end of garden with single storey garden room/office measuring 7.5 x 4 metres and 2.5 metres in height (lower than the current building)

20/00252/HOU Skylark Cottage Deptford Lane Greywell Hook RG29 1BS. Erection of part first floor part two storey rear extension, extension to driveway and alterations to fenestration



Hook Choral Society
Directed by Nicholas Woods
Patron Howard Goodall

Sunrise

Featuring Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass
and pieces by Chilcott, Grieg,
Schubert, Vaughan Williams,
Mendelssohn and Mascagni

with organist **Jacquie Harry**

7.30pm Saturday 25th April 2020
St John's Church, Hook, RG27 9EG
Tickets £12,
Family Ticket £20 for 2 adults and 2 children under 16
Group Ticket for 4 or more adults £10 per head

Available online at www.hookchoralsociety.org.uk
from Trees Newsagent
or ring 07957 293641

Registered Charity no. 800686 

St Marys

WANTED

Used paperbacks for the Book Exchange

At the back of the church

There is also a small children's library.

LENT LUNCH

13th March at Julie K-B's

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Family Communion

11am 22nd March

Mothers receive posies of flowers

CHURCH CLEANING

11am 12th March.

GREYWELL CAFE

Wednesday, 25 March
between 11 am and 12 noon

Tea or coffee, and biscuits will be provided for a small charge of £1 per person, any profit going to Village Hall funds.

Should anyone require transport to the Hall, I am sure we will be able to arrange it.

Libbie (702978) and Jackie (702859)

Kidzone

Il want you to try something for me. Grab a piece of paper and on it draw a picture of all the things you ate yesterday. Your meals, snacks, sweets... now tear off everything you threw away. So, if you had 2 weetabix for breakfast but left a bit or didn't finish the milk, tear off a small piece of the bowl of weetabix you have drawn. Tip the torn pieces of paper into an empty bowl.

In some countries, where there is famine, some people eat only this much food every day – and some even less than this! Some of us actually throw away more food than some children in the world get to eat in a day!

In a small country that I visited many years ago called Lesotho, some children don't eat anything at all on some days, and have to scavenge for grass seeds and roots to eat.

It doesn't seem very fair, does it? As this magazine comes out, we will be in the middle of something called 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. You may have heard of it – I expect you definitely recognise the symbol. It's a time when we especially remember those in our world who aren't treated fairly and who don't have as much as us. Maybe we can do that by looking out for this symbol when we go shopping with our parents – I especially love fairtrade bananas, sliced and dipped in melted fairtrade chocolate and popped into the freezer – yum! But maybe you can help by just making sure you don't waste all the lovely things that you're lucky enough to have.



Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship
God and serve the community'
www.united-parish.org.uk

From the Parish Registers:

Funeral

14th January, St Nicholas,
Newnham. Vera Ruth Gray

24th January, Basingstoke
Crematorium, May Maynard

29th January, Basingstoke
Crematorium, Nigel John Downes

6th February, Basingstoke
Crematorium, Grace Boyland

10th February, Thatcham
Crematorium, Joan Mellor

24th February, St Mary's
Greywell, Thanksgiving Service
for the life of Valentine Butler.

May they rest in peace.

For more information about any of the churches in the United Parish please
contact Rev Helen O'Sullivan on helen@moretolife.church or have a look at our
new website moretolife.church

Church Services

March 1st		
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mapledurwell
March 8th		
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Newnham
March 15th		
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Up Nately
11.00am	Informal Service	Greywell
5.00pm	Evensong	Nately Scures
March 22nd - Mothering Sunday		
8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Mapledurwell
9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Up Nately
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	Greywell
March 29th		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Odiham
5.00pm	Evensong	Long Sutton

Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Lady Nell at The Dower House in Greywell on Thursday 5th March at 11 am. This small friendly group would love for you to join us to enjoy a traditional service with a chance to discuss the gospel reading and offer our own prayers followed by coffee, cake and conversation. If you would like a lift, please contact Rev Helen O'Sullivan.

Special Church Services & Notices

March 22nd - Mothering Sunday. We have special family services on Mothering Sunday in Mapledurwell (9.30am), Up Nately (9.30 am), Greywell (11.00am). There will be posies of flowers for the ladies, well known hymns to sing and a simple service that will appeal to young and old alike. Do join us!

Please see the new postcards in the churches for details of our Easter services

APCM - On Wednesday 1st April, we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Mapledurwell and Up Nately Village Hall at 8 pm. All those who are on the electoral roll of, or feel connected to, one of the churches in the United Parish are invited and encouraged to attend. We will review the previous year in the life of our churches and look forward to what is to come in the next twelve months. This is your opportunity to contribute to conversations which shape the ministry and mission of the United Parish and to elect PCC members who represent your views in meetings and at key decision-making moments.

CAMROSE CENTRE, Basingstoke

Throughout the year our churches support our local Food Bank in Basingstoke, but during Lent and Advent the food we collect goes instead to the Camrose Centre, also in Basingstoke. The Camrose Centre is a drop-in centre primarily aimed to help homeless and vulnerable people, although it is open to all. The Centre offers its clients breakfast and a hot lunch, table tennis & games, advice on housing, employment, drugs and alcohol issues, telephone and computer facilities to assist with job applications, etc. and training in a variety of topics. If you'd like to contribute, please leave your donation in the clear plastic boxes at the back of each church.

Lent Course:

Our Lent Courses this year will be focusing on Rowan William's book 'Being Disciples.' There are courses running all over the Network from 2nd - 30th March and you are very welcome to join whichever date and time works best for you. For a full list of courses please contact the Church Office on admin@moretolife.church or 01256 703791.

The courses running in the United Parish are:

Tuesday, 7.30pm, Rev Helen O'Sullivan

Wednesday, 7.30pm, Malcolm and Camilla Douglas

Diary Dates in March/April:

1st April - Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Mapledurwell and Up Nately Village Hall at 8pm.



Have you ever just sat and watched as a young child desperately tries to copy something their parent is doing? Whether it's sitting in a certain way, tying their shoelaces, or even using phrases they've heard – both good and those not necessarily to be used in polite company!!

A few weeks ago, I had the absolute pleasure to be sitting on a mat in the sunshine playing with my youngest goddaughter, who was about to turn one. I don't know quite what possessed me but, in attempt to make her smile, I started clicking my tongue at her. She immediately cocked her head to one side, fixed me with her intelligent eyes, listened really carefully, and proceeded to click back. This 'conversation' went on for some time – me clicking, her responding, me clicking back. As it continued, she got more and more excited, grinning from ear to ear – as of course was I – and becoming more and more confident with her efforts.

This got me thinking – who do I listen to... I mean really listen to... who do I pay attention to? Who, when they say or do something, do I really want to emulate? Who or what do I allow to influence my life?

Our daughter used to be an international competitive swimmer. She'd practise her strokes for hours on end in the pool, listen to her coaches for advice, watch other swimmers to see how they placed their arms or flapped their feet. She knew, if she spent time listening, watching and putting into practice these good habits, she'd become a better swimmer. She dedicated hours of her time to just being around the people who could help her become better. As her coach always said, 'practice makes permanent'. He didn't like the other version, practice makes perfect – as he quite rightly pointed out, if you're practising doing it wrong, you'll only get worse!! You see, the people we spend time with, the things we watch, who we listen to... they all influence so crucially who we are, what kind of person we become...

So, my question is, who do we choose to surround ourselves with? What practices or habits are we forming now, which will eventually become permanent? Is it our friends around us? The sports team we're part of? Work colleagues? Family? Technology? You see, however hard we try, it is almost impossible to allow ourselves only to be influenced by the good, to filter out the stuff that isn't useful. In fact, let's face it, it is impossible. We see people we sometimes barely even know and yet admire, and somehow wish to copy their dress sense, attitude or taste in music. What else are we allowing them to influence us in? Where do we draw the line between being part of the crowd and succumbing to peer pressure?

As you read these lines, we will be heading into Easter. A time when we remember Jesus, arguably the most influential person in history, at his most influential moment – the days surrounding His death and resurrection. As we leaf through the Bible's account of those days, we see example after example of ways that Jesus was an influence on those He came into contact with. Whether it was His saving words to His fellow prisoner, as He hung on the cross; the stark image of the darkened sky and torn curtain, which convinced the centurion of who He really was, or even doubting Thomas, as he was able to experience the physical proof of Jesus' resurrection. They were all changed in some way through their encounter with Him, spending time in His presence.

But His influence certainly didn't stop there. Today nearly 2.5 billion people around the world would consider themselves Christians, their lives influenced on a daily basis by Jesus and His life – and that's not to mention those whose lives are governed by legal systems and moral yardsticks, based on His teachings.

But the scariest part of this influence thing is it goes both ways... Just as much as you are influenced, you are also influencers! There are already people who are looking up to you for advice and help. Your admiring grandchild, your employee, your neighbour, the one who pops around for coffee, even though you wish they wouldn't; these are the people you are probably already influencing.

You have most likely come across our new logo over the last few weeks – More+, and I guess this is exactly what that logo and the idea behind it is all about - that we as a church become ever more influenced by Jesus' teachings; become filled with more love, joy, peace, kindness and more of a sense of purpose, and that the fruit of this influence will ripple out into our communities as we offer them life, and life in all its fullness.

Helen Chatfield

LENT LUNCHES:

- Newnham - Monday 9th March - Caroline Peck
carolynpeck@btinternet.com
- Greywell – Friday 13th March - Julie Kentish Barnes
Tel: 01256 702644
- Up Nately – Tuesday 17th March - Michael Van de Gucht
michael.vandergucht@gmail.com
- Mapledurwell - Tuesday 24th March -
Camilla Douglas - camilla1951@gmail.com
- Nately Scures - Wednesday 1st April - Jill Homer
jillhomer1904@gmail.com

These lunches provide opportunities for communities to come together, enjoy a delicious lunch of soup in the warm welcome of someone's home and to raise money for local charities. We would love to see you there.

CAMROSE DROP-IN CENTRE

During the weeks of Lent our five Churches will be collecting for the Camrose Drop-in Centre for the homeless and needy people of Basingstoke. The Centre provides breakfast and a hot lunch on a Tuesday and Thursday and a brunch for the rough sleepers on a Friday, but they specifically are short of the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Instant noodles | Coffee | Biscuits |
| 'Mugshots' | Sugar | Cold cereal |
| Cup-a-soup | Ring pull tins of Soup and baked beans | |

Please give as generously as you can.

Thankyou.

Villager Contact Details

Editor: Stephanie Webb 07717 403610 - Stephaniewebbvillager@gmail.com; Distribution: Lorna Cuthill 354651; News Gathering: Up Nately: Liz Preece 762059; Mapledurwell: Lorna Cuthill 354651; Newnham: Sue Turner - clerk.newnham@parish.hants.gov.uk; Greywell: Henri Mogg - henriettamogg@hotmail.com; Vicar: Rev'd Helen O'Sullivan nhdbupcurate@gmail.com, 01256 765496/07858 930729

