

The Villager

March 2021 Volume 50 No 2

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

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

In response to high demands on Public Rights of Way HCC Countryside Services has produced a 'Countryside Code Special' for their March Newsletter, plus an educational video on keeping dogs under close control in the countryside.

<https://mailchi.mp/e634c313c262/accessteamsmarch-2021-newsletter>

Dog video: <https://youtu.be/nixVnq6DejYCoun>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/countryside-code-full-online-version>



PROTECTION FOR LOCAL HEATHS

Sarah Bunce from the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership explains how a mysterious bird from Africa is protecting our local heaths.

'You might not think of busy south-east England as a hotspot for rare wildlife, but it really is. By a fluke of nature we have the perfect geology and climate for a very special wildlife habitat – Heathland. If you've taken your local heath for granted, think again, this heather-clad landscape is rarer than rainforest.



'Much of the magic happens at twilight. You could walk on the heaths everyday of your life and

not see my favourite bird, the nightjar. But visit on a summer evening at dusk, and you'll hear the strange, mechanical churring of the males, and maybe even catch a mesmerising glimpse of a bird in flight. They come all the way from Africa to nest here on our heaths. They nest right on the ground, amongst the heather and gorse.

'You might think that nesting on the ground would lead to a precarious existence, but these birds have been living and breeding alongside us for centuries. Only in recent years, with development on the up and a growing population, has their vulnerability become an issue.

'In 2005 the heaths in this area of Surrey, Hampshire & Berkshire became the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. This does so much more than protect rare birds. It protects the heathland for all sorts of wonderful wildlife, and of course gives the landscape we love a huge amount of protection from development. It's a pleasing virtuous circle: Protecting birds protects heaths, protecting heaths protects birds.

'Everyone can help...

'Simple things can make a huge difference. When you're out on the heaths, please keep to main paths and keep your dog on the path and out of vegetation.

'Help prevent fires by following the code: 'No fires or BBQs, ensure cigarettes are out and take all litter home'.

'Have you discovered *Greenspace on your doorstep*? It's a Directory of over 70 local country walks. By using them, you're also helping the heaths.'

More at www.tbhpartnership.org.uk

NATURAL ENGLAND



The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



VILLAGER EDITOR

Thank you to Stephanie Webb for five plus years of editing the *Villager*. Steph and her family have fulfilled their dream of moving to the coast, now in Poole looking forward to the summer in a new life. For future *Village* contributions please send to su.newnham@btinternet.com. All stories and pictures of local interest gratefully received.

M3 N/BOUND J6-5 RESURFACING

M3 N/bound will be closed overnight 9pm to 6am from 5th to 18 March, Monday to Friday only, junctions 6-5 including the N/bound on-slip at J6.

For Highways England resurfacing to sliproad at J6 and Lane 1, J6-5.

Diversion will be A30 London Road and A278. Access for Emergency Vehicles will be maintained throughout. Works are subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Newnham & Nately Scares



Grant funding for the bulbs was allocated by County Councillor Elaine Still from her devolved budget



GIRL POWER... Islay, Olivia and Roxy, friends from Newnham Road and all in Year 7 at Robert May's, completed their half term 'energiser task' planting spring bulbs on the Green

The girls were tasked with 'doing something good and helpful for their community' by some means that complied with lockdown restrictions.

Between them they planted over 500 bulbs, all in a day's work. Mostly native bluebells and snowdrops with a few aconite and anemone thrown in.

In future anyone walking by Church Path will be able to enjoy the colour and scent of the spring flowers around the trees which should naturalise, and can be added to, over time. All are pollinator friendly, the bluebells and snowdrops being accredited RHS 'Plants for pollinators.'



NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 100 CLUB WINNERS



February

1. James and Trudy Rankins £100
2. Tatjana Marsden and Chris Webster £50
3. Andy and Carolyn Peck £25

Rosie Richmond picked the names out of the bag.

January

1. Jill Homer £100
2. Sarah and Geoff Hawks £5
3. June and Peter James £25

Josh & Wilby Scott-Kerr picked the names out of the bag.

December

1. Angela Downes £100
2. Sam Horton £50
3. Lisa and Chris Bingham £25

*Thank you all very much for your support
From the Newnham 100Club Committee*

**To join the scheme, please contact Carolyn Peck
07775 994261 carolynpeck@btinternet.com**

All profits to Friends of St Nicholas' reg charity no 283088

HOOK PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/00400/EIA (Decision 3rd March, no Environmental Impact Assessment needed) Land at Owen's Farm. Screening opinion request for a retirement care living (C2) development of up to 160 units, along with ancillary uses.

20/03101/PREAPP (Answered 1st March) Fairfields, Newnham Road, Hook. Demolition of existing stables / buildings / sheds and replacement with 1 dwelling, a mirror of Fairfield.

Excerpts from the Officer report: 'In summary... the principle of development for a dwelling in the countryside unrelated to agricultural functions of the land would be likely to be unacceptable. The proposal does not fall within any of the exceptions allowed by adopted policies where housing may be allowed in the countryside ... The Council can demonstrate a housing land supply of over nine years.

'The site is located within land designated as a Local Gap in the Hook Neighbourhood Plan. Notwithstanding the proposal would not represent a significant physical and visual coalescence of settlements (Hook and Newnham) materially affecting their separate identity, it would result in development encroaching into in the designated area, extending sizeable development form into the Local Gap, which weighs against the proposal.

'... A different character/appearance as a dwelling and associated paraphernalia would represent an urbanisation of the site... readily visible from the public right of way and beyond... its presence in this countryside location would be clearly apparent and inevitably would be prominent in the landscape and thus would materially affect the visual amenities of the countryside/landscape ... encroaching into the natural openness and rural characteristics of this section of the countryside.'

OLD HOUSE AT YOUR HOME

Newnham Green

Take Away Menu

01256 761896

**Available Thursday, Friday & Saturday
12 to 8pm**

Sides/Starters £3.50

Garlic Mushrooms GF

Garlic Bread

Hand Cut Chips GF

Add Cheese 50p

**Steak, Ale & Mushroom Pie
with mash & mixed vegetables**

Thai Curry, (chicken, prawn or vegetables) & rice GF

Chicken Chasseur, mash & mixed vegetables GF

Cottage Pie & mixed vegetables GF

**Chickpea & Mediterranean Casserole & garlic bread GF*
£10 each**

Fish Stew & mixed vegetables GF

**Braised wild Rabbit & Prunes, with mash & vegetables
£12.50 each**

Sticky Toffee Pudding & custard

Chocolate & Orange Bread & Butter Pudding & custard

Apple & Blackberry Crumble & custard

Syrup Sponge Pudding & custard GF

£5 each

GF - Gluten Free *GF - with no bread

*Your takeaway can be ordered chilled so that you can heat it up
when you are ready to eat.*

*Main courses take approximately 30 minutes to heat up
and desserts 10 to 15 minutes.*

*These are best ordered between 12 and 4pm and
can be kept in your fridge for up to three days.*

Not suitable for freezing

All subject to availability



Dear all

Now that we have a 'road map' and the end is in sight, we have revised our opening times for the months of April and May.

We will be ending the takeaway service at the end of March to enable us to concentrate on getting the Old House at Home ready to open safely once again.

Thank you so much for your support during these challenging times. So excited to know that we can raise our glasses together very soon. 'Cheers!'

Donna & Chris

OUR REVISED & TEMPORARY OPENING TIMES

Focusing on the future we are taking it one step at a time. We have the 'Amber Light' to open from 12th April serving outside only, under the rule of six or two households, and it is table service only.

From 12th April

Monday & Tues	closed
Wednesday to Sat	12 noon to 8pm
Sunday	12 noon to 4pm

From 17th May

Monday	closed
Tuesday to Sat	12 noon to 3pm 5.30pm to 10pm
Sunday	12 noon to 5pm

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

20/01974/FUL (granted 3 Mar) Chapel House, Newnham Road. Change of use of agricultural access to residential curtilage. Brick wall 1m high to frontage to replace metal railings. Renovation and alterations to chapel building. Change of materials to dwelling and extensions (amendment to 19/02613/HSE).

20/01597/FUL (refuse 26 Feb) Land at Blackstocks Lanes. Erection of 2 no. dwellings and associated parking.

21/00025/FUL (validated 25th Jan) Nately Place, Scures Hill. Replacement detached dwelling house and detached ancillary accommodation building, following demolition

of existing detached dwelling house and garage. Erection of acoustic fencing to front/road-side boundary and landscaped retaining bank inbound of south boundary to facilitate leveling within rear garden.

21/00038/FUL (validated 6th Jan) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling. (Replacement application for 20/01666/FUL withdrawn 7th Dec.)

16/03282/RET (pending 15th Sep 2016) 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.'

TREE APPLICATION

T/00500/20/TPO (pending 23 Sept) 3 Kingsbridge Copse. 2 Oak & 1 Ash: prune.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wed 10th March 7pm via Zoom. Please email the Clerk for link to the meeting.

The pond throughout the year: FEBRUARY





POLICE UPDATE

Dear residents

I am pleased to report a lack of reported crime within our parishes. However I am aware of several sheds and outbuildings being broken into in Old Basing and the theft of catalytic converter exhausts in the Hook area.

One large problem we are experiencing nationwide is scams.

One recently was a resident in Ellisfield receiving a call from a man stating he was from Oxfordshire Police. The usual story... 'had a person in custody for fraud of the resident's bank card. Can you confirm the details...'

In such a case 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 the time as they will keep their line open and you will end up speaking to the same group. If you can get a phone number, put it through a Google search as it may well be known for 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 via a trusted source.

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.

The three most common scams are:

1. Your computer has a problem
2. A fraud investigation
3. An investment opportunity.

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 computer.

NEVER 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 say there are corrupt bank staff, or criminals have cloned your bankcards, and request your assistance with the investigation.

If you receive, a call like this – again – hang up, 'take five' and verify via a trusted method, NOT via numbers given in the call.

Your bank, the tax office, the police will never ask you to transfer or withdraw money or buy items on their behalf. They will never attend your home to collect cash, bankcards 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.

An investment opportunity – Genuine investment companies will not cold call you. Don't be pressured into making a quick decision. 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.

Criminals 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 have to act quickly. If you do 'invest', the criminals will often request 'transport' and 'storage' fees. These investments do not exist.

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.

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 screen out most phone scams.

UPTON GREY WARNING TO DOG OWNERS

A dog walked in Upton Grey has died from Alabama Rot. The owner walked around The Hoddington Estate, The Dower House, field off Cemetery Lane and Weston Patrick.

It is important to act quickly with this disease, if you see any new lesions on your dog call your vet immediately. It is thought to be picked up on paws & legs on muddy walks so always wash off the mud.

For more information please see www.vets4pets.com/alabama-rot

RISKS OF USING POISON FOR RODENT CONTROL

(Neighbourhood Watch Report)
Elsewhere in his beat area PC Reid is looking into a resident's reports that cats may have been poisoned. One possible cause may be secondary poisoning. This can occur when poison is used to control rats and other rodents. There can be sufficient residual poison in their body that if another animal (a cat, dog, fox, bird of prey etc) eats the carcass, the poison can affect them as well. Please be very careful when using poisons or when employing professional pest controllers to do so, and consider alternative methods of control that reduce the risks to non-target species.

Five things to look out for on a scam phone call

1. The caller does not 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 chequebook.

For more information, please visit <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/>

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.

Many thanks, Andrew Reid
Rural Beat Constable 3746
Police Office, Preston Candover
01256 389050 07768 776844
andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

ELECTIONS 6TH MAY 2021 FOR

- THE HANTS POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
- ALL COUNTY COUNCILLORS
- ALL BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
- PARISH COUNCILS

Borough Council elections will be for the new Wards all of which have three councillors per Ward. Mapledurwell & Up Nately and Newnham continue as part of Basing Ward – which is now 'Basing and Upton Grey' including parishes as in map below.

All Parish Council seats for Mapledurwell & Up Nately and Newnham Parish Councils will be up for election. The Notice of Election will be published on Monday 22 March. The close for nomination papers to be submitted to BDBC is 4pm, Thursday 8 April.



January 2021

Update on Housing Land Supply Matters for Town and Parish Councils

WHAT IS THE HOUSING LAND SUPPLY POSITION?

The 2020 Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 was published on the council's website before Christmas, see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bd02. The monitoring report sets out the current five year housing land supply position for the borough.

National planning policy requires Local Planning Authorities to identify a five year supply of specific deliverable sites to meet housing needs. The AMR states that 4.4 years of supply can be demonstrated. This continued shortfall means that policies relating to housing delivery in the borough's adopted Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans will continue to be considered out of date when determining relevant planning applications.

What are the ongoing implications for determining Planning Applications and how should Town and Parish Councils respond?

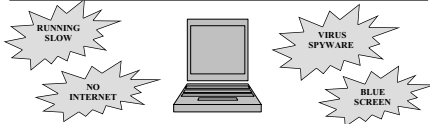
National guidance (the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF Para 11d) states that where relevant policies are considered out of date, planning permission will be granted – unless NPPF policies that protect areas or assets of importance provide a clear reason for refusing – or any adverse impacts of so granting would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies of the Framework taken as a whole.

The balance of issues for any particular planning application and the weight to be applied to relevant policies will be set out in officer and committee reports for individual planning applications as well as appeal decisions made by the Inspectorate.

While the housing delivery policies are considered out of date (although it does not mean that no weight is attached to them in decision making) other policies in both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans – such as those relating to landscape and heritage – are not. Therefore responses can helpfully focus on such issues.

Also, should an application be refused, and that decision then appealed, it is not the number of reasons for refusal that is relevant but the substantive issues raised within them.

CONFUSED BY YOUR COMPUTER?
TROUBLED BY YOUR TELEVISION SET?



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Desktop, Laptop, Ipad, Printers

Repair, Service & Support
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Mapledurwell & Up Nately

WELCOME

Canal Reach is delighted to welcome Lexi Meens to its community. Lexi is no stranger to the area, originally from Hook, she has spent a number of years living in London before deciding to return to a more rural setting. We hope that (Lockdown permitting) she will soon be able to meet her neighbours and become acquainted with the wider village.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

will be held in May when all Councillor seats will be up for election. The official 'notice of election' will be published on 22nd March.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17TH MARCH, 7pm, remote meeting via Zoom. Meetings continue to be open to the public. Please email clerk.mapledurwellupnately@parish.hants.gov.uk with any subjects you would like to raise, or for a link to join the meeting.

VILLAGE HALL PLAYGROUND – SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS

The playground at the Village Hall is provided and maintained by the Parish Council. BDBC provides an playgrounds inspection service, but the future of this as a free service is in doubt after the end of March.

The Parish Council also undertakes its own inspections and will continue to do so. Parish Councillor Kevin Rafferty is a level 2 RoSPA qualified playgrounds inspector, (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

As he can't be watching the playground all the time... The Parish Council would ask please, of regular tennis players or dog walkers or anyone using the grounds, if you could check as you are passing that are no bottles etc or anything else that may present an obvious hazard?

Of course we ask that all playground users to ideally take their rubbish home but if not to please use the bins provided and leave the playground as they would expect to find it.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00050/21/TCA (Approved 8 Feb)
Mapledurwell Allotments, Frog Lane. T1 Goat Willow: coppice. G1 Central line of trees (Willow): coppice.

T/00014/21/TCA (Approved 11th Feb)
The Willows, Greywell Road Mapledurwell. T1 Ash: pollard to leave finished height of 4.5m with a crown spread of 1.75m.

A HAPPY BAND OF BAKERS IN UP NATELY

once again have produced a large variety of delicious cakes for NHS Staff at North Hampshire Hospital. Huge thanks to Kirstine Jackson for organising!



ALLOTMENT TREES

Selected areas of trees have been coppiced as a first phase of tree and habitat management.

This to encourage regeneration and let in more light, importantly to the allotments. Log and brush piles have been left, for wildlife – and for further work on the river.



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/00552/HSE and 21/00553/LBC

(validated 16 Feb) Rose Cottage Tunworth Road. Demolition of kitchen extension (1978) and erection of single storey oak framed side/rear extension.

21/00427/FUL (validated 22 Feb) Land to north of Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Erection of 1 no. 4 bed dwelling, detached garage, vehicular and pedestrian access, servicing and landscaping.

21/00107/PIP (validated 25 Jan) The Farm, Tunworth Road. Permission in Principle for residential development for a maximum of nine dwellings.

20/03338/HSE (granted 22 Jan) Hillside, Heather Lane. Single storey oak framed sun room on side elevation.

20/03328/FUL (validated 27 Nov) Waterside, Frog Lane. Redevelopment of redundant offices (and light industrial unit) to create two family dwellings.

20/02087/GPDOFF (pending 07 August) Riverview House, London Road. Change of use from Class B1(a) office to Class C3 residential, for of 8 x one-bed flats. (Revised Flood Assessment Jan 2021.)

20/02124/FUL (pending 05 Aug) The Egg Yard, Greywell Road. Two x 3-bedroomed chalet bungalows.

20/01723/FUL (pending 29 June) Brockwell (Paddock and Stable) Andwell Lane. Eight dwellings with service road.

20/00060/HSE (granted 22 Feb) The Farm Tunworth Rd. Single storey rear extension.

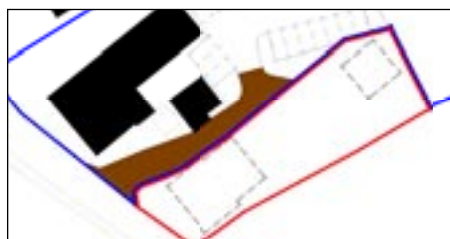
20/00009/PIP (pending 03 Jan 2020) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Permission in Principle for conversion of an agricultural building to one dwelling.



NEW SEMI-DETACHED HOMES NEXT TO THE GAMEKEEPERS

As of 3rd March 2021, Knightsgate (UK) Limited are the new owners of the land adjacent to the Gamekeepers where the two houses will sit (edged in red on the plan) and will be building the homes as permitted.

If anyone has concerns or queries in relation to the build, Knightsgate would be delighted to hear from you and help with any questions that may crop up. Please contact - enquiries@knightsgateuk.com



MORLAND CHORISTERS CAMP SUNDAY 25 JULY TO SUNDAY 1 AUGUST

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

**A residential course for young singers aged 9 to 17 years
The adventure starts herewe can only hope.....**

Plans are progressing for Morland Choristers' Camp to go ahead this year, as we try to celebrate our postponed 50th anniversary. Young people have lost out so much over the past year, and although our plans may well be derailed, we go forward in hope.

Since 1970, over 3,000 children and parents have discovered the magic of Morland – a unique blend of music-making and 'summer camp' activities in the stunning countryside of the Eden Valley, near the Lake District. Our all-inclusive residential course offers children bags of fun, new friends and freedom to express themselves in a safe, supportive, Christian environment with first class care.

The course is open to all singers aged from nine upwards, who may be members of church, school or other choirs – or who may just enjoy singing! Its unique feature is that over the years it has developed into an extended 'family', with a main age range of 9-17 and an even mix of boys and girls, offering first-class choral training in the highest traditions of the Church of England but in the atmosphere of an adventure holiday. There are some 20 highly qualified Staff with musical and/or pastoral training and experience.

The week offers a busy, exciting mix of good music and good company. It is planned so that everyone has fun as well as working hard. Activities centre on the church and the grounds of Morland House <https://morlandhouse.net/>. There is a camping site for the boys, girls sleep in the Village Hall, and meals are taken in the school. A typical day has rehearsals in the morning and evening for a wide variety of music. Most afternoons are devoted to non-musical activities, for example a dam-building competition in a mountain stream or Morland's particular version of 'Sports Day' plus the most competitive croquet tournament ever.

The week concludes with a number of exciting performances. Evensong is sung in Carlisle Cathedral on Friday, then on Saturday a secular concert in Penrith Methodist Church, which includes staged musicals, and possibly folk songs, spirituals and chart hits. On the final Sunday, the Camp processes down the village to morning Eucharist in the church. Then, in the afternoon, Tea for parents and friends culminates in a prize-giving, which includes an award for the most 'professional' chorister and the presentation of the group Challenge Cup. This leads on to the closing Choral Evensong, for which Morland Church is always packed.

If you know of any young singer who would enjoy this experience, then please encourage them to have a look at the website <https://morland.org.uk/> where it is also possible to sign-up.

There is an accompanied train from London (Penrith 3 hours). The Odiham Music Foundation was so impressed with the experience of some of the children from All Saints, that it has very generously offered to fund two bursaries for children from the Benefice who otherwise would not be able to attend. The fee is £360.



Church Notices

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

From the Parish Registers...

Funeral Services

February 15th at Basingstoke Crematorium:

Patricia Norris.

May she rest in peace

.....

From the Ministry team



John Betjeman's poem *The Hon Sec* tells how the flag of a golf club flies at half mast because the secretary has died.

The poem goes on to tell of the man's affection for the course, the surrounding countryside, a glass of whisky, a game of cards and his garden. It hints at all the good things he has done. 'The Times would never have the space for Ned's discreet achievements' but the lines which hit me when I re-read the poem recently are the last because they are so true 'It's strange that those we miss the most are those we take for granted.'

On New Year's Day I had a forceful reminder of just how easy it is to take things for granted, things which really matter. At lunch time I turned on the tap taking it for granted that the kettle would be full in a second or two and there was nothing – not a single drop. Fortunately, the supply was only interrupted for a short time while a main was being repaired but it really brought home to me how much what I took for granted mattered – how my life would be impacted without it.

One-offs which add a spice to our lives are exciting and memorable but perhaps what we've discovered during this year of pandemic is that the things we miss the most, the things which really matter, are the everyday things. Above all the everyday people, the people who we socialise with, the people who we meet, almost without thinking, at various activities – those whom we take for granted.

No one can deny the importance of water which normally gushes out of our taps and in a way the fact that we take this for granted is a compliment



Helen Chatfield, Youth Pastor
More to Life Network of Churches
(Formerly North Hampshire Downs Benefice)

KIDZONE

Hi Everyone! As I write this, many of you will be taking part in the National School Birdwatch. I look outside and I can still see a dusting of snow from storm Darcy and a cluster of birds fighting over the scraps on the bird feeder in our garden. I wonder how many different birds you saw on your birdwatch in the garden. Did you go on a bird hunt? I wonder if you've ever tried going on a bird hunt in the Bible...?

God uses birds a lot in the Bible – let's look at just a few.

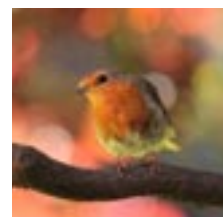


Do you recognise the bird in this picture? It's a dove. Some of you might remember the story of Noah's ark. After the storm had passed, when Noah wanted to check for land, he sent out birds. The dove came back with a twig in its mouth and Noah recognised a sign of hope.

Can you think of another time God uses a dove in the Bible? Why not look up

Matthew 3:16, and see what else the dove can represent in the Bible.

I'm sure you recognise this bird – of course! It's the robin: Britain's favourite bird! But did you know the legend of its red breast?



On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mary worried that her baby would be cold, so she turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

to our water supply system. We would hate to be in the situation where day after day we were reminded of water's importance by its absence – that's why the absence of the familiar, the taken for granted, has come so hard in the pandemic.

Our everyday living is built around the mundane, the ordinary. The word mundane has its root in the Latin for 'the world' and it can mean earthly. It's easy to take the earth in which things grow for granted too but we would literally be nowhere without it.

The word from which this season of Lent takes its name is quite simply the Anglo-Saxon word for spring – a time of growth. We quite often think of Lent as a time for giving things up but the reason for giving something up is to give something else the space to grow. This, though, has been a year for an enforced giving up and what I think I've seen grow is an increased appreciation of and thankfulness for those things and

people that in normal times are taken for granted because they are normally what makes up a large part of my world.

One thing which is there for us day by day 'new every morning' is the love of God in Christ. We may not acknowledge its existence, we may take it for granted but it is there, there with the capacity to enable the ordinary to become extraordinary. Lent gives us the opportunity, if we will, to let it be the earth in which we can grow up in love.

My grandparents never had the flow of water cut off; for water you went out into the yard to the pump and up it came crystal clear, cold and refreshing even on the hottest day. The love of God is like that – a fountain of water springing up to eternal life, there for the asking but so easily taken for granted.

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YOUR LOCAL **ROTARY ROUNDUP**

MARCH 2021

Volunteering is good for your Mental Health

Volunteering opportunities



Our Rotary group has been volunteering at the Hampshire Court Hotel, marshalling patients and car parking for the vaccination programme. The Fire Station has also opened for vaccinations with its own volunteers. Basingstoke Voluntary Action is coordinating volunteering opportunities at both centres. See link to volunteer.

www.bvaction.org.uk/vaccination-programme-volunteering/

We are also helping Spotlight UK Basingstoke and Inspiro with the delivery of food deliveries to vulnerable people in the borough.

The gift of time is something that costs very little and can bring unexpected rewards to the giver. At the moment it is the NHS and other Covid 19 needs that are providing opportunities to volunteer. All charities also need volunteers and you don't have to make a huge commitment. Help for just one event or possibly for just a few hours. Giving your time may also be chatting to an elderly person; you may be the only person they speak to all day.

If you want to meet new people volunteering is a great way of doing it; rewarding and great fun.

As a club, until we can meet in person we're meeting each week on Zoom. Zoom has given us the opportunity of some excellent speakers who join us from the comfort of their own home.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

WHAT IS ROTARY

Rotary is about helping communities, both local and internationally through our network of clubs with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. It is a non-religious and non-political organization comprised of both men and women who enjoy working together for good causes and also enjoy socialising together.

As Rotarians we do some fantastic work each year whilst having fun and raising money which enables us to donate it to more than 20 local and a few international causes, including locally, Mencap Basingstoke, Besom and Helping Hands for the Blind and many more.

Rotaract in Basingstoke

Having fun while giving back!

Want to volunteer with a group of friends but weren't sure where to start? Can you share your skills or some of your time to give back to others? Now is the perfect opportunity.

Rotaract is starting a pilot club for you to.....

- Make Friends. Network
- Make a Difference - Help Others
- Widen Horizons
- Support local good causes
- Develop as a Project Leader
- Link with Charities and with Business

Rotaract is a younger part of Rotary

Like Rotary, Rotaract is non-political, non-religious, inclusive, diverse and a catalyst for getting things done both locally and globally.

Interested? Aged in your 20s or 30s - then get in touch to join a small pilot group to exchange ideas and move this initiative forward.

Exciting times ahead!

To find out more

Contact Rotarian Chris Flemming:
Rotaract@bl-rotary.org mob 07942471526

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