

# The Villager

March 2026 Volume 55 No 1

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



## SAVE OUR CHALK STREAMS



The  
Wildlife  
Trusts

### Re NPPF Consultation to 10 March (draft of Dec 2025)

'Call on Government to add chalk streams to the irreplaceable habitats list in the National Planning Policy Framework.'

**You can help to protect chalk streams by sending an email via our website to support The Wildlife Trusts' response to the consultation.**

<https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/183198/action/1?locale=en-GB>

For the first time, chalk streams are mentioned in England's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This recognition is thanks to our members and supporters who have taken action to back our Save Our Chalk Streams campaign, spoken out to raise awareness of

the importance of our precious chalk streams lobbied MPs.

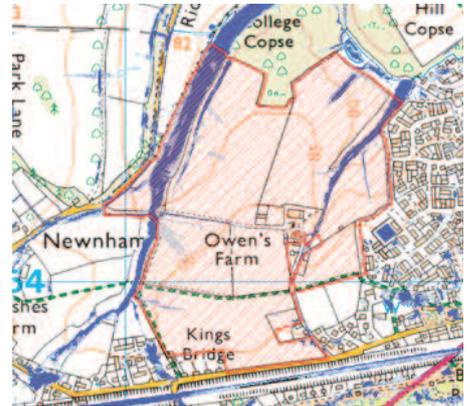
However, these mentions fall short of delivering on the Government's promise of 'explicit recognition'.

**This current Draft lacks the detail and strength needed to properly protect them. With your help, we can secure irreplaceable habitat status and give chalk streams the protection they urgently need.**

We've written the email template for you so all you need to do is use the simple e-action via our website to submit your response to the consultation calling on Government to add chalk streams to the NPPF's irreplaceable habitats list.

Consultation closes on 10th March.

Planning application to Hart for 415 houses in the designated Hook to Newnham gap Also see page 6



## HOUSING NUMBERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE BASINGSTOKE & DEANE LETTER FROM COUNCIL LEADER

Recent crises we have seen with Thames Water queuing tankers full of sewage on local roads is unacceptable. Further, the storm overflow of sewage into the River Loddon is disgraceful. The 100s of hours of dumping sewage into the Loddon at both the Basingstoke and Sherfield on Loddon STWs is unforgivable, as it yet again exposes the lack of investment in capacity to cope with what are now regular occurrences.

I have written to the CEO of Thames Water to request a meeting where we will make the strongest possible representations. I want to make it absolutely clear to Government, to developers and landowners as well, that in our Borough the imposition of such high housing numbers will only have a detrimental impact on our environment. There are huge consequences from the arbitrary and algorithm derived housing targets.

The lack of infrastructure has been painfully exposed and Government must see this. If they choose to ignore the crisis then they are ultimately culpable and responsible for the destruction of the River Loddon and our environment.

I felt it important to let you know how strongly we feel and how we stand with you in this battle over infrastructure.

Cllr Paul Harvey, Leader of the Council

## MOTO APPLICATION FOR A MOTORWAY SERVICE STATION SOUTH OF JUNCTION 6

PLUS FOR CONSTRUCTION ACCESS ROAD TO DICKENS LANE

**25/00754/OUT** (Validated 25 March 2025) Land Adjacent To J6 M3. Outline application (with access to be determined, all other matters reserved) for development of a new Motorway Service Area (MSA) and associated landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works.

**20/03130/FUL** Land At M3 J6 from J5 off slip. Construction of temporary access road to enable construction of Basingstoke Motorway Service Area.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a response, or further response to this/these application(s).

**PLEASE NOTE: The applications have now been withdrawn** from Development Control Committee (DCC) of 11 March. This due to the case officer assessing that more information is required from Thames Water.

Now unlikely to be considered by Development Control Committee before the summer. Thus there is plenty of opportunity yet to respond if you have not already done so or have further comment to make..

To comment via the website, search on case reference 25/00754/OUT Alternatively email to [planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk)

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

# SPRING



## Mapledurwell and Up Nately Village Hall Team

invite you to quizzing at the Village Hall on the

**20th March at 6.30 pm.**

Teams of six

**Prizes** for winning table and best table display (spring theme)



Cash Bar (Wine/Beer etc)

**Glass of fizz**

Bring your own snacks

Quizmaster-Steve Chapman

Tickets **£7.50** per person

If you would like to join the fun contact **Heather**  
on **07552506898** or **Sue** on **07495367169**

## UP NATELY NEWS

One local resident had a near miss on a very wet and windy day in December, when a tree fell on the bridge in Heather Lane, knocking off a parapet and cutting the lane in half, the tree just missed her and her dog. Huge thanks to a local hero who cleared it away!

**The next coffee morning** will be at Eastrop Cottage on 6th March, 10-12 noon.



NEW  
STYLE OF  
SERVICE

St Mary's, Mapledurwell.

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

**St Mary's Mapledurwell**  
**March 15th, 11am**

We are delighted to be launching a new Informal Worship Service at St Mary's Mapledurwell – and it's the perfect Sunday to join us as we'll be celebrating Mothering Sunday together. Flowers and refreshments await.

There is also a Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's Greywell at 11am with Sarah Barnes, likewise with flowers and refreshments.

Across the North Hampshire Downs there is a wide range of styles of service, and the aim in the United Parish is for its five churches collectively to offer a similar variety. The new service at Mapledurwell will remain informal, and will give people the opportunity to explore and enjoy an unscripted approach to worship which is free-flowing and participative.

You are all warmly invited to come along on a third Sunday to experience the new approach. New service – same warm welcome!

Revd Luke Augustyn

## BIG BEAR TEAM FUNDRAISER FOR BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Held at the Gamekeepers, Sunday 08 February, supported by local band Ungentlemanly Conduct.

*'Thanks to Garth and his band for a fantastic night's entertainment, and to Phil and Sandra for providing the perfect setting! Thanks also to everyone who came along to support, and especially for getting the Big Bear Voyage 2026 appeal off to such a great start – you were incredibly generous and raised £762.50 for Jon and Jackie Brewin's ongoing fundraiser for Children in Need.'*

For those who missed it and want to find out more, please get in touch or follow the link .... [www.justgiving.com/page/jonathan-brewin-1](http://www.justgiving.com/page/jonathan-brewin-1)



WE'RE SUPPORTING **BBC CHILDREN IN NEED**

**Big Bear Team fundraiser for BBC Children in Need**

Jonathan Brewin is raising money for BBC Children in Need  
Team: Team fundraising for BBC Children in Need

## EASTER SERVICES

You are warmly invited to join our Easter Services:

Greywell (Morning Worship Family Service), Mapledurwell (Holy Communion) and Up Nately (Holy Communion, said). Come and celebrate the Resurrection joy of Easter with us – uplifting worship and the happy chaos of seasonal refreshments to share!



## MAPLEDURWELL LITTER PICK

Thank you to the amazing litterpickers of Sunday 01 February. This is probably half of what was collected so a fabulous effort. Thank you for braving the rain!!!

Special thanks to Alan and Charlotte who ferried the bags back to base, and to Sue for organising

## NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

March meeting date TBC, see website for details.

## PARISH ASSEMBLY DIARY DATE

Wednesday 20 May 7pm Village Hall

## BDBC'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

To thank everyone who responded to BDBC's Regulation 18 Spatial Strategy consultation.

Officers are reviewing responses and the resulting revised (Reg 19) Draft is due to be published for further consultation this summer.

BDBC's schedule, the 'Local Development Scheme (LDS)' says 'This involves the publication of the Plan in a form which the council believes to be sound and which it intends to submit for examination.

'A further six-week consultation (Reg 20) asks specifically for comments on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan.'

## ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

If you are interested in taking on a plot at the Frog Lane allotments...

Please contact Colin Robertson [colin@mandupnately@gmail.com](mailto:colin@mandupnately@gmail.com) or the parish clerk on [clerk.mapledurwellupnately@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.mapledurwellupnately@gmail.com)

There is currently one plot available.

## POLICE UPDATE FROM PCSO ANDY JONES

'Basingstoke Rural has seen a big increase in burglaries of large manor-type houses targeted between 1700hrs and 1830hrs during an evening. The thieves have been focusing on jewellery with reports of up to £100K worth being stolen. Properties in Dummer, Upton Grey and South Warnborough have been victims from around 14 others including in Basingstoke, Winchester as far as Highclere and Whitchurch. On occasions burglars entered properties while people were home and unaware.'

Crime prevention advice

- If you have to keep your jewellery at home, invest in a safe and seriously consider installing a monitored alarm system. Your insurance company will provide advice as to which type and grade of safe and alarm is compliant with your home insurance policy.
- Ensure that your home is fully secured; take this opportunity to look around your property and consider improving any areas of poor security. More information can be found at [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)
- Keep an inventory of your jewellery. This can be done on line via Immobilise; for more information go to [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Photograph your jewellery. Place your jewellery against a plain background with a ruler next to it to give an idea of size, this can then be uploaded to Immobilise
- When leaving, ensure doors and windows are locked, and use a timer to switches lights on when you're out to make your home look occupied.
- Book a free home security survey with the Blue Lamp Trust by calling 0300 777 0157 or by visiting [www.bluelamptrust.org.uk](http://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk)
- Be cautious about what you say on social media as you cannot be sure who will see your posts. For eg, don't indicate you are going on holiday.

For further advice, please visit our website

[www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/)



## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**26/00085/LBC** (Validated 16 Jan) Mead House, Heather Row Lane, Up Nately. Removal of five existing windows and installation of five new windows.

**25/02579/ROC** (Validated 27 October) Bridgeway Mansion, Heather Lane. Relief of condition numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 14 and 16 of application BDB/74968 (erection of one dwelling following demolition of piggery buildings and barn) for Condition 1 Approved Plans; 3 Details of Materials; 5 Landscaping; 7 Brickworks Docks; 14 Visibility and 16 Front Enclosure.

**25/01148/FUL** (Withdrawn 13 Nov) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. New vehicular access onto Tunworth Road.

**25/00304/HSE** (Pending 26 February) 6 St Stephens Close. Erection of part first floor, two storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extensions.

**24/00756/FUL** (Pending 16 April 2024) Land North of Parrotts. Four detached new dwellings, garages, access, parking, amenity space etc. (Withdrawn from consideration by Development Control Committee of 12 November.)

**22/02210/RET** (Pending 05 Aug 2022) Priory Farmhouse. Variation of Con 2 of 15/04301/FUL for continued use Class E children's nursery to 2032.

## PLANNING APPEAL

**26/00015/RLD** (Appeal validated 27 Feb) The Gamekeepers. Certificate of lawful development for the existing use of the Gamekeepers as a restaurant; ref 25/02178/LDEU. (Refused BDBC 03 Nov.)

## TREE APPLICATIONS

**T/00066/26/TCA** (Validated 04 Feb) The Beech House Tunworth Road. T1-Ash: Crown lift over cherry to 6m and reduce remaining lateral growth to offer 4m clearance over cherry. T2-Cherry: Lateral reduction by 2m to give a more balanced shape due to Ash creating suppressed unbalanced crown.

**T/00026/26/TCA** (Approve 10 Feb) Webbs Farmhouse, Tunworth Road. Cherry tree fell to ground level T2 weeping Willow, repollard to previous points taking the height from 7m down to approximately 5m and from 6m spread to approximately 3m.

**T/00015/26/TCA** (Approve 04 Feb) Kolkinnon House, Blaegrove Lane. To cut 12 dead Elms.

**T/00588/25/TCA** (Approve 15 Dec) Ashlea Tunworth Road. T1 Cypress, reduce by 3m to natural bulge and cut back overhanging growth to boundary.

# Newnham & Nately Scures

## NEWNHAM 900 AND ONWARDS

*Following the success of the Mediaeval Feast as part of the Newnham 900 celebrations...*

The Team are delighted to invite the village and its supporters to welcome summer with another

### FEAST ON THE GREEN FOLLOWED BY A SILENT DISCO EVENING OF 30 MAY

Catering will again be provided by Berro Kitchen and admission will be by ticket – pricing to be confirmed.

**Please spread the word and save the date**

## NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S

*January winners*

Collette Wiggin  
(donated to church funds) – £100  
Paul & Sally Derby – £50  
Jeff Ford – £25

*February winners are*

Jon Stevenson – £100  
Anonymous donation to church £50  
Chloe Morris – £25.

### THANK YOU

to Tracey Elmer for taking over the Newnham 900 and to Carolyn Bell for her time in administrating.

Wishing Carolyn and Edward the very best for the future albeit greatly missed in Newnham.



St Nicholas' Church Newnham

## LENT LUNCH

**Friday 6th March 12-2pm**

Venue: Waratah House, Ridge Lane, Newnham. RG27 9AS

Please join us for a light soup and bread lunch. Donations invited for St Michael's Hospice.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 4th March by contacting Trudy Rankin 07975 957960 [trudy@rankinfamily.com](mailto:trudy@rankinfamily.com)

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

**St Nicholas' Newnham  
15 March**



Children's crafts from 10am, family service for all ages at 10.30, ladies in the congregation will be presented with flowers.



<https://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/>  
CLUBROOM HIRE Wifi available  
To book tel 07802 972722 or email [bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk](mailto:bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk)

## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**25/02704/ROC** (Grant 06 Jan) Land Adjacent to Blackstocks Lane. Variation of conditions 2, 3 and 14 of ref 25/00548/FUL (Erection of one dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping). Con 2 to vary footprint following design change; Con 3 materials; Con 14 water consumption.

**25/02505/HSE** (Grant 12 Dec) 13 The Baredown. Erection of open porch to front following demolition of garage conversion; to include new windows to front, replace windows and doors, new rooflights to rear roof slope, elevational treatments.

**23/02080/FUL** (Pending 26 Aug) Land East of Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. The construction of a self-build single detached house and associated access.

**25/02019/RET** (Pending 18 August) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of Con 9 of 21/01670/FUL (Erection of one dwelling) Changes to landscaping (retrospective).

**25/01947/HSE** (Grant 04 Sept) Woodlands House, Scures. Erection of a single storey extension to side (to replace existing); erection of two-storey extension to side; installation of a rear porch; erection of porch; external works.

## PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

**T/00631/25/TCA** (Approve 15 Jan) Manor Farm, Crown Lane T1 to fell a dead hung up ash tree. T2 cut back 2x major limbs on a Oak tree hanging over Road side to lower crown break due to major cavity which could end in failure. Leaving remaining structure.

**T/00630/25/TCA** (Approve 15 Jan) Ashmead, Newnham Road. (T1) To fell one Beech tree with tip dieback to ground level. (T3) To fell one sick Horse Chestnut to ground level (T4). To fell 1 one Ash tree with ash dieback disease to ground level.

**T/00602/25/TPO** (Approve 21 Jan) Land East Of Nately Scures House, Scures. T1. Oak: fell to ground level.

**T/00036/26/TCA** (Pending 20 Jan) Fir Tree Cottage, Newnham Road. H3 – Laurel, mixed hedge. Remove stems within 6m of area of damage. (height 8m). H5 – Cotoneaster, Hawthorn, mixed hedge: Remove stems within 5m of area of damage (height 3.5m). T9 – Oak. Remove close to ground level and treat stumps with herbicide to inhibit regrowth (height 14m, DBH 85cm, canopy radius 5m, stems 1).

**T/00460/25/TCA** (Approve 06 Oct) Rose Farm Cottage, The Barracks. 2x Willow: reduce back to previous points. Oak tree (Black Oak) reduce height by one third to allow more light into the front of the house. The Eucalyptus in the back right hand corner of the back garden: fell..

## Newnham, Our Newnham



Nigel Bell

*Newnham, our Newnham*, written by long-time Newnham resident and local historian Nigel Bell to commemorate Newnham Church's 900th anniversary, is available to buy for £15 a copy, signed or unsigned.

For today's villagers, those with family links to the village, local residents and history buffs alike, it is a fascinating account of a typical rural Hampshire community that has evolved over the last millennium. With over 90 years of first-hand knowledge, Nigel describes the village's history, people, houses, economy, church and environment. The book, which has been generously supported by the Hampshire Archives Trust, is extensively illustrated with maps and photographs.

The author's costs have been recovered and profits from sales will go to The Friends of St Nicholas' which supports the upkeep of Newnham's wonderful 12th Century church. Please contact the church Treasurer [jeff.ford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeff.ford@hotmail.co.uk) to obtain a copy or copies.

## EASTER SERVICES

### PALM SUNDAY

#### UNITED PARISH SERVICE AND DONKEY-LED PROCESSION

#### St Swithun's Nately Scures 29 March, 10.30am

You are warmly invited for this joyful and meaningful start to Holy Week. The morning begins with a donkey-led procession at 10.30 starting at the church – a moment of fun and celebration for all ages – before we move into the Palm Sunday Service at 11am.

Thus marking Christ's entry into Jerusalem, holding together the joy of the day and the gravity of the unfolding story. Come walk with us. Come worship with us.



### GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

#### UNITED PARISH SERVICE

#### St Swithun's Nately Scures 03 April, 11am.

The quiet reflection of Good Friday precedes the joy of Easter Day. Easter Sunday is only possible because of Good Friday. We invite you to prepare for Easter by keeping company with Jesus for one hour in St Swithun's Nately Scures at 11am for a service of music, readings, reflection, prayer and silence.

### EASTER SUNDAY

#### 05 April

Please do join us on Easter Sunday (April 5th) at either St Swithun's Nately Scures or St Nicholas' Newnham.

**St Swithun's Nately Scures will hold a 9am** BCP Holy Communion (traditional, with hymns).

**St Nicholas' Newnham will hold an 11am** Family Communion (relaxed, with hymns), which will be a less traditional service, suitable for all ages, and there will be Easter egg painting from 10.30am.

#### PLEASE NOTE

There will not be a service at St Nicholas' Newnham on Sunday 12th April.

Discovery by Water End resident

## GOLD MOURNING RING

**Date:** 1700

**Discovery:** Found by Mr John Rhodes while metal detecting on Sunday 1st June 2025. Recorded by Dr Simon Maslin, FLO for Surrey.

**Description:** A complete gold post Medieval mourning ring. The hoop has a flat plano convex cross section, 3.8mm wide and 1.4mm thick and an internal diameter of 17.6mm.

The exterior is plain apart from a stylised oval skull or death's head motif on one side and the inside is flat with an inscription reading

*J:H: ob July: 19: 1700 ./Eta: 28.* *Ob* is the Latin abbreviation for *obitus* (death) and *aetas* means years or time of life, so this can be read as

*'J H died July 19th, 1700 aged 28'*

There is small area of damage to one edge of the ring.

Diameter: 19.8mm; Width: 3.8mm; Weight: 2.82g.



**Discussion:** Mourning rings were worn to commemorate the loss of a loved one and were typically made from gold, often inlaid with black enamel or niello. From at least the 17th century, some people set aside money in their will for mourning rings to be distributed amongst their friends and family, a practice which continued into the 19th century. This example, with the skull engraved on the exterior of the hoop, typifies one of the most common styles of these types of finger ring.

There are many examples dating from the mid 17th to early 18th centuries on the PAS database, including examples which are old enough to have been submitted as Treasure, such as NMS-92AAD6 (2017T 1172), PAS-463683 (2017 T1086), HAMP-AE93 77(2016 T408), NMGW-03238B (2014 T13), NMGW-02BOCE (2013 T24), WILT-6D49E2 (2015 T168) and IOW-8D4F41 (2012 T539).

**Conclusion:** The find is comprised of precious metal and is over 300 years old at the time of finding. Consequently, it qualifies as Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996 in terms of age and precious metal content.

**Author:** Dr Simon Maslin FSA MCifA, Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey.

MA (Cantab): Archaeology & Anthropology; MSc: Geoarchaeology; PhD: Archaeology Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London; Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Finds Liaison Officer with Surrey County Council (Historic Environment Planning) on behalf of the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. Previously with: Hampshire Cultural Trust (Collections Team); Surrey County Council Cultural Services; University of Reading (School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science); Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) at the University of Reading.

**Date:** 19/06/2025

*Newnham pages continued overleaf*

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Mapledurwell News and Distribution Lorna Cuthill 354651; Up Nately News  
Liz Preece 762059; Church Benefice [www.moretolife.church](http://www.moretolife.church)

# Newnham & Nately Scures cont...

## APPLICATION FOR 400 HOUSES IN THE LOCAL GAP BETWEEN HOOK AND NEWNHAM

25/02564/OUT (Validated 15 Jan) Owens Farm, Newnham Road, Hook. Outline application for up to 415 dwellings, landscaping, open space, SANG, SuDS, and associated works with access from Newnham Road (principle and access to be considered).



**Owen's Farm illustrative masterplan as supplied within the application documents**

### BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE HOOK TO NEWNHAM GAP AS DESIGNATED IN HOOK'S ADOPTED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2018-2032

#### Hook Neighbourhood Plan Policy HK6 'Hook to Newnham Gap' requires that

'Development in the Hook to Newnham Gap, as identified on Fig 8.13.1, should not lead to the physical or visual coalescence of these villages, or damage their separate identity.'

#### 2019 Judicial Review of Hook Neighbourhood Plan Gap Policy HK6

*Wilbur Developments Limited v Hart District Council*  
Case Number: CO/3994/2019

Wilbur Developments contended that the Neighbourhood Plan Policy conflicted with Hart's Emerging Local Plan (ELP) from which a specific gap policy had been removed.

The Judge said that:

'A policy in the Neighbourhood Plan which designated specific gaps in its area was, in principle, in accordance with the ELP.. the Neighbourhood Plan examiner showed that the gaps policy continued to be supported in the ELP, albeit in a different form.

'The Neighbourhood Plan examiner had carefully balanced the potential harm arising from the policy against the benefits of maintaining the gap and had given adequate and

intelligible reasons for recommending its adoption,' the judge said. 'Wilbur Developments was a well-informed participant in both the Neighbourhood Pan and ELP examination processes and was able to understand from the examiner's reasoning why its prospects of obtaining planning consent to develop the Owen's Farm site "remained poor".'

Dismissing Wilbur Developments' challenge, the Judge concluded:

'The court must be alert to the risk that a legal challenge is being used as a covert way of impermissibly reviewing the planning merits, which I consider to be the case here.'

A further Neighbourhood Plan policy, requiring that views between the two villages should be respected, was also upheld.

## PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Newnham Parish Council has a vacancy due to the resignation of Cllr Paul Ghent. To thank Paul for his contribution to the Parish during his time at the Iron Bull at Water End and his time as a Parish Councillor.

If you could find some time to join the Parish Council and contribute to the wellbeing of the Parish and its residents please contact any of the Parish Councillors or [clerk.newnham@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.newnham@gmail.com)



## EMERGENCY NOTICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

### NEWNHAM BOAT 6

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under Section 14(2)b of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that Hampshire County Council, to prevent serious damage to the road surface, considers that the closure to the road as specified below should come into force without delay:

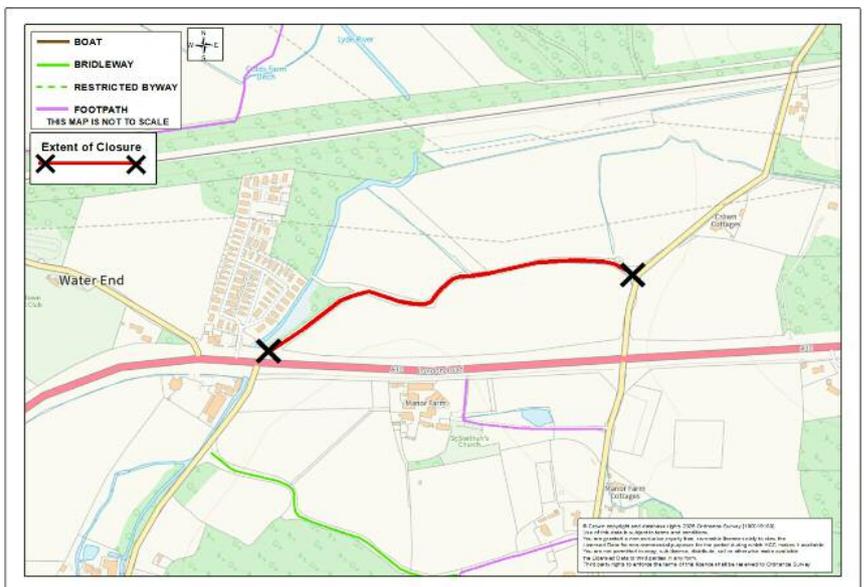
**ROAD TO BE CLOSED: NEWNHAM BOAT 6**

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AVAILABLE**

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE: From 09.02.2026** for a period of twenty-one days, an order will be made to enable the closure to stay in place until **01.05.2026** or until the path is considered safe, whichever is the sooner.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact the Countryside Access Team, tel: 0300 555 1391, or via e-mail to [countryside@hants.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@hants.gov.uk)

JONATHAN WOODS, Countryside Strategic Manager, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD



## NPPF CONSULTATION TO 10 MARCH

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)

Please respond to this consultation on the Draft NPPF (December 2025 version) which seeks to fundamentally reshape the planning process

The draft NPPF is restructured into two main sections:

- 1 **Plan-making policies**
- 2 **National decision-making policies (NDMPs).**

**NDMPs are national planning policies which aim to provide 'A consistent baseline for planning decisions across the country.'**

Potential consequences:

- Limited scope for Local Planning Authorities to tailor NDMPs at the local policy level.
- Adopted Local Plans which conflict with NDMPs will carry 'very limited weight' once new NPPF is adopted.

Uncertainties which need to be resolved...

- How will tensions between NDMPs and existing Local Plans be reconciled/addressed?
- What will this mean for Local Plans in late stages of production when the revised NPPF takes effect?

The presumption in favour of sustainable development and its tilted balance test becomes a **permanent 'presumption in favour of suitably located development'** which is focused on location-based needs and spatial strategies.

Government 'want to make clear what forms of development are acceptable in principle in different locations as part of a more rules-based approach to development'.

This would 'direct development to the most appropriate location'.

**Substantial weight is to be given to the benefits of supporting business growth in particular sectors.**

These include AI Growth Zones, logistics, town centres, and agriculture and rural development.

**Housing delivery has been central to this Government's agenda, and the policies in the NPPF seek to support this in a number of ways:**

- Higher-density development near transport hubs
- New policies in the draft text promote higher-density residential development at 50 dwellings per hectare (dph) near 'well-connected' railway stations which are located outside settlements.
- There are also proposals to support higher density development in other sustainable locations (at a minimum density of 40 dph) including through the redevelopment of corner and low density plots, upwards extensions and infill development, including within residential curtilages.

**Explicit support is proposed for SME (small to medium-sized enterprise) developers** to bring forward medium-sized sites (1 - 2.5 ha) in recognition of SME developers' role in diversifying housing supply.

**Further support for rural social and affordable housing and clearer expectations for accessible housing** is proposed with a view to further diversifying the housing mix.

While not a part of the proposed NPPF text itself, within the published set of consultations is a proposal to introduce a 'medium development' site category of between 10-49 homes. It is envisaged that this size site would benefit from reduced regulatory and policy requirements.

See [www.irwinmitchell.com/news-and-insights/expert-comment/post/102mfb5/decoding-the-new-nppf-consultation-draft-key-take-aways-from-december-2025s-prop](http://www.irwinmitchell.com/news-and-insights/expert-comment/post/102mfb5/decoding-the-new-nppf-consultation-draft-key-take-aways-from-december-2025s-prop)

## WINTER LIFE OF THE WREN

The wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* may be tiny, but during the winter months this charismatic bird proves that size is no barrier to survival. In fact, the wren is the most common



breeding bird in the UK, with an estimated 8.6 million breeding territories – a remarkable success for such a small species.

Wrens are instantly recognisable by their warm brown plumage, delicately barred wings and tail, and their habit of holding that short tail cocked upright. Look closely and you'll see a fine, pale eyebrow stripe and a slim, slightly curved beak, perfectly designed for probing into crevices for insects.

Despite their modest appearance, wrens have one of the loudest songs relative to body size of any bird in the UK – a surprisingly powerful burst of sound that can be heard on crisp winter mornings. Their sudden bursts of song are thought to help maintain territories and may also play a role in strengthening pair bonds ahead of the breeding season.

Wrens are found across a wide range of habitats. They favour places with plenty of cover, including hedgerows, woodland undergrowth, scrub, gardens, reedbeds and even coastal habitats. In winter, dense vegetation becomes especially important, offering protection from cold winds and predators. You might also spot wrens around log piles, compost heaps or garden sheds, where insects and spiders shelter from the frost.

Their diet in winter consists mainly of small invertebrates, including spiders, beetles and larvae. Wrens are relentless foragers, constantly flicking through leaf litter, moss and bark to find food. Their fast metabolism means they must eat almost constantly during daylight hours, making short winter days especially demanding.

Winter is a challenging time for wrens, but they have developed remarkable survival strategies. On the coldest nights, they may roost communally, huddling together in old nests or



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*continued back page*

# Church Notices

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

[www.united-parish.org.uk](http://www.united-parish.org.uk)

[www.moretolife.church](http://www.moretolife.church)

## From the Parish Registers

Baptism: Rowan MacKay at St Stephen's Up Nately on February 1st

Interment of Ashes: Janne and David Barker at St Stephen's Up Nately on February 13th

Funeral: Pamela Powter at Basingstoke Crematorium on February 19th

Funeral: Anne Griffiths at Basingstoke Crematorium on December 30th

Baptism: Nia Jones at St Mary's Mapledurwell on January 18th

Funeral: Albert Williams at Basingstoke Crematorium on January 21st.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH TENEBRAE

### All Saints' Odiham, 02 April

The name Maundy Thursday comes from the word *mandatum*, 'commandment'. In John 13.34 we read that Jesus said to his disciples at the Last Supper: 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' It contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

On Maundy Thursday we will be meeting together in All Saints' Odiham at 7.30pm for a quiet and reflective service as we take time to prepare ourselves and to walk with Christ towards the horror of the cross and the joy of Easter Day. Our service will fall into two parts.

The first part will be a communion service during which we will recall the institution of the Lord's Supper, and enact Christ's command to 'do this to remember me'.

The second part will be a Tenebrae, which is a service of shadows in which darkness symbolically encroaches as we step closer to Christ's death on Good Friday. The service is structured around nine short readings and after each reading a candle is extinguished, until the church is in darkness, and we leave quietly as we prepare for Good Friday.



## FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

### February letter

I'm not sure what the weather will be like by the time that you get to read this, but as I write I've woken up to a light dusting of snow and thinking about the days when we had 'proper' winters and I could, living in the countryside, reckon on at least two days off work in February because we'd be snowed in. In the middle of this month, on the 18th, we shall be keeping Ash Wednesday, and I find myself remembering another Ash Wednesday a good while ago when I lived in the Candovers. Remembering how on that Ash Wednesday evening, coming out of Church to find a fresh fall of snow accompanied by an icy blast, Canon Bryan our Vicar kindly put my bicycle in the back of his estate car and took me the two miles back home. So Lent begins in winter.

'Proper' winters are about letting the penetrating frost get into the ground, which has been ploughed in the autumn, and breaking it down.

'Proper' winters are also about that same penetrating frost acting as nature's control on the bugs and pests which otherwise cause havoc with the crops which will be showing their heads in the springtime. Springtime is not very far away, and before Lent is over and we get to Easter it will be spring, the time of new growth and freshness. So during Lent we shall pass from winter to spring.

Climate change has messed things up somewhat, and the seasons now tend to blur into one another. Ideally though winter and springtime, like love and marriage in the song, should go together like a horse and carriage. So too in Lent we need the marriage of the elements of a 'proper' winter and spring. Lent is an opportunity to let God penetrate our lives to break down the things which prevent us being receptive and to 'debug' us so to speak. And then we need the springtime, providing opportunities to grow and to be renewed.

When we wake up to an even slightly snowy morning it can be a bit like waking up to a whole new world. May this coming Lent give us the opportunity to see things in a different way as well.

*Alan Hoar, Licensed Lay Minister*

## CHURCH SERVICES MARCH INTO APRIL

**Sunday 01 March** 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion  
11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship  
11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, 1662 Morning Prayer.

**Sunday 08 March** 9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said)  
10.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, 1662 Morning Prayer

**Mothering Sunday 15 March**  
10.30am, St Nicholas' Newnham, Mothering Sunday Service  
11am St Mary's Greywell, Mothering Sunday Service  
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Mothering Sunday Service

**Sunday 22 March** 10.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said)  
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship

**Palm Sunday 29 March**  
11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, United Parish Family Communion, preceded by Donkey Procession at 10.30am

**Maundy Thursday 02 April**  
7.30pm All Saints' Odiham, Benefice Holy Communion with Tenebrae

**Good Friday 03 April**  
11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, United Parish Good Friday Reflection

**Easter Sunday 05 April**  
9am St Swithun's Nately Scures, BCP Holy Communion  
9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion  
11am St Nicholas' Newnham, Family Communion  
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said).



## FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

### Letter for March

I have been thinking recently about the idea of the 'Common Good'. It's something we don't hear that much about in a culture which is highly individualistic, and yet, I think, it's rather important.

The 'Common Good' has been variously defined by different ages and philosophical schools. Aquinas, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, JS Mill, Keynes and more have all incorporated and developed ideas around the Common Good in their thinking and writing. In doing so they follow in the footsteps of other notable individuals such as Plato and Aristotle.

The Common Good therefore is not necessarily simple to define and enact, but despite this it remains an important idea. If we were to try to give it some shape we might say that the Common Good is that which emerges through collective participation in the forming of a shared desire. We might say that it is inseparable from, and must respect, basic human rights. We could try to define it in a more utilitarian way, suggesting that it is the outcome in which the greatest number of people benefit in the greatest possible way. However we seek to define it, one feature of the common good prevails – the idea that it is attainable only by the community and yet individually shared by its members.

This I think captures something important, that a balanced view of the individual and the collective – or, to put it another way, of the citizen and society – matters. This balance is important if we are to value both individuals and the collective appropriately. Being out of balance one way or the other ultimately leads to dehumanising consequences. If we think only of the collective, then individuals cease to matter and are expendable (as in Marxist and Socialist thought). If we think only of the individual, then the social structures that bind us together fail and we are less fully alive than we could otherwise be (an undercurrent in many of the ideas of classical liberalism and Humanism, for example). In his book *The City of God* St Augustine of Hippo suggests that human wellbeing is found in the good of the whole society. Contemporary

Catholic social teaching suggests that the Common Good is 'the sum total of social conditions which allow people, as groups and individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily' – importantly, this school of thought also notes that the Common Good is for all people and the whole person, and that human beings cannot find fulfilment only in themselves, as we necessarily exist with others and for others.

For me, this captures something profound. The idea that, as wonderfully made and unique beings, our individuality is to be honoured and prized, but that the proper place for this is within community, because without community we are not and never can be fulfilled or fully ourselves.

The Church, both worldwide and expressed locally across our villages, tries to live out its calling to work for the Common Good in faithfulness to Jesus's teachings. The church at its best is a community in which each of us becomes more fully alive and more fully themselves in reference to and alongside others – together working for the flourishing of all. The Jesus that we meet in the Christian Bible was interested in the life of the individual and the community. And, in his teaching, one does not have to triumph over the other, rather each needs the other in order to find purpose and joy.

*Rev Simon Butler*

## THANK YOU! FROM REVD LUKE AUGUSTYN

**To everyone in the United Parish who gave so generously to the Christmas Toy Appeal for Basingstoke Hospital – an enormous thank you!**

Because of your contribution, a veritable truckload of gifts made its way to the children and families who had to spend their Christmas on the wards instead of at home with family, friends and loved ones.

Be assured that when the gifts were delivered to Charlies Children's Ward on Christmas Eve, hearts sang and eyes glistened. Your kindness travelled further than you know.

In a season that can feel heavy for many, you helped carry a message of hope straight from your heart, into hospital corridors.

Thank you for embodying the light we speak of so often — and for sharing it so abundantly.

With every blessing to you  
Revd Luke Augustyn

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

## North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union

### January letter

For the past few years, Mothers' Union has supported prisoners in Winchester Prison by buying gifts for their children at Christmas time. This Christmas we provided selection boxes for children attending the Families Day organised by Spurgeons. Prisoners and their families were grateful for the gifts which help to bring a bit of normality to their children's lives.

We are also providing knitted items and Christmas gifts to families at the Women's Refuge in Basingstoke. In January we met for our usual Wave of Prayer service, and then in February for our AGM and to start our knitting project for the coming year.

### February letter

We were very saddened to her of the death of Carol Kirkpatrick in January. She was a great supporter of Mothers' Union and of our local projects, including the Sunflower Café and the Child Contact Centre which was organised in Hook for about 10 years.

Carol also helped with the Mothers' Union stall at RAF Families Day, where she looked after the urns catering for the thousands of people who came to our refreshments tent. She will be greatly missed.

Our March of Monday (Monday 02 March) is a reflection for Lent held at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on [suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com](mailto:suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com) or 01252 845011.



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# KIDSZONE



*Paul Dadd  
Children and  
Youth Pastor*

The dark, gloomy days of Winter are almost behind us and Spring is in the air.

The long winter can be hard for many of us and it can affect our sense of wellbeing. Our worries and anxieties can feel a little heavier and we can tend to neglect the very things that nurture our souls.

So, I was so encouraged by the decision from Robert May's School to run a mental health awareness week for their students last month called 'Bounce, Don't Break'. The week focused on six key practices that help to nurture and guide us and keep us from falling down when we have a wobble.

Below is a simple idea for each of the practices that might help you to see out the winter and get you through tough times.

**Be Active** Even if it's too cold or wet to go outside for a walk, how can you be active indoors? Whether it's an exercise bike, a YouTube Just Dance session, playing a game together or doing the vacuuming – how can you get moving?

**Over Give** This is about practising generosity. Giving to another person helps us to connect with our own need for contribution and purpose. This might be spending

quality time with someone, giving a simple gift or even giving some words of love, encouragement or appreciation.

**Understand Oneself** Knowing what helps to nurture your soul is hugely important. Is it moving, making, exploring or problem solving? Make sure you do at least one thing in your day that helps you feel like you.

**Notice how Fortunate** Experts say that practising gratitude is the best medicine for when our souls are feeling sad. Take time at the end of the day to name at least one thing for which you are grateful.

**Connect** Take time to connect with yourself. Spend a minute or two, a couple of times a day, to check in with yourself: stop what you're doing, take a few full breaths and note any sensations in your body, eg tension in your shoulders. How are you feeling... stressed, excited, annoyed, bored, tired, hurt, disappointed? Acknowledge all this and take a few more full breaths before carrying on.

**Engage** Even if you like being by yourself, take time to be in the company of family and friends every day. Talk, play, laugh, cry with others.

All of these things are good for us because it is how God made us to be. These are things that people of faith have practised for centuries. And, since we have just started the season of Lent, these are good things to be practising today.

Bless you. Paul Dadd

# UKRAINIAN TRIP EDITION



*Helen Chatfield  
Children & Youth  
Outreach Pastor*

Hi Everyone!

This KidsZone is going to be a little different, and more about kids than for kids! I want to tell you about a long journey I took last year.



Unusually, I'm going to start at almost the end, when, on the morning of 24th October, Diana and I set off, along with a convoy of nearly 40 other vehicles, to cross the border between Poland and Ukraine. It had already been a long trip of over three days and across five countries. We'd already visited new places, met with friends, experienced different foods and cultures – but in so many ways, this was where our journey really began...

We set off bright and early, full of excitement and just a little trepidation – our dear Vera (Ukrainian for faith, for those who missed my editorial in October) was showing her age, and not quite running as smoothly as we'd have liked! Our fears were soon realised as we chugged along puffing out thick smoke. We pulled into some services to check her out, clinging onto the faith that everything would work out. She wasn't going any further... but, she lived up to her name and our faith, and just behind us pulled in another vehicle from our convoy, on the search for decent coffee.

Now, sad to say, this is where we had to part company with our vehicle, but never fear, within days she had caught up with the rest of the convoy and she and her precious load made it to the people in Ukraine who needed it most.

*continued...*

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# KIDSZONE UKRAINIAN TRIP EDITION *continued...*

Diana and I, on the other hand, squeezed into the space made for one with our knights in shining armour, and returned to the road.

After a rejig, I became the co-driver in a different vehicle and headed off to the border.



Despite it being after 10 o'clock, we visited cafés and gift shops and, through the soft sparkling lights glinting off of the shiny pavement, I was able to see the beauty of Ukraine first-hand. My tour, however, began and ended with a reminder that this is a country at war.

Our first stop was The Garrison Church of St Peter and Paul, where we lit candles for my host's fallen friends, and ended with a rush to the hotel, to get back in time for curfew.



As you might be able to tell from the picture, the weather wasn't all we had hoped – in fact it was cold and wet as we waited at the crossing. Pickups 4 Peace had done a great job organising everything with border control, however, and we were soon in Ukraine.

As the night drew in, and the rain got worse, we thundered towards Lviv in a convoy headed up by the Ukrainian military police. We sped through traffic lights, over stopped roundabouts and past vehicles politely stopped on either side of the road, waiting to let us pass. Our final destination was a dark car park, with military personnel waiting to empty the vehicles and allocate the much needed equipment.



Our night was disturbed by the eerie sound of the air raid siren – although I have to admit I've imagined worse air raid shelters than the restaurant of a gorgeous hotel! But that didn't stop us getting up bright and early, ready for a full day of experiences. It would be impossible for me to do justice to our day, laying wreaths at the field of Mars, being presented with a plaque and thanked by dignitaries, visiting an orphanage for children who have lost parents during the war and the celebratory feast to end the day.

If you want to watch my video logs of the whole trip, please scan the QR code or come and hear all about it at our next concert.



What is my main take away from this trip? That, despite the many stereotypes and misconceptions I might have had about Ukraine, from growing up during the Cold War, I was able to fully appreciate that this is a developed European country, through and through. Yes, it's recovering from generations of neglect by an occupying state, but the architecture resembles many Austrian cities I've wandered around, the people are kind and generous, the food is delicious.

This is a country on our continent which is occupied and under siege. These are children, parents and grandparents, just like ours, who are fighting to survive every single day. This is a culture straining every sinew not to be destroyed...

So, what has this to do with children and young people, I hear you ask?

Well, none of this would have been possible without their hard work and determination. They've already raised more than £19,000 to send these vehicles out to Ukraine, and during the week of 24th February, as we remember the four years since the start of the invasion of Ukraine, they will attempt to raise the £4,000 more that's needed to send out their fourth.

Please watch this space for more information about activities, and I hope you can warm yourselves in the glow of our future concerts.

*Helen*

075540 140228  
 Children & Youth  
 Outreach Pastor  
[youth@moretolife.church](mailto:youth@moretolife.church)



It had been a long, tiring day, but I was overjoyed when the grandparents of one of the families who moved into our area in 2022 travelled to meet me and show me round the city at night.





CROSS BARN  
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ODIHAM

**20 March** Film: *About Time* with Bill Nighy, Domhnall Gleeson, Tom Hollander.

'A romantic comedy/drama film, written and directed by Richard Curtis. Beautifully filmed and unabashedly sincere, *About Time* finds director Richard Curtis at his most sentimental' – Rotten Tomatoes

**27 March** Film: *The Choral* with Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Alun Armstrong Ramsden

'Yorkshire 1916. The local Choral Society's men are quitting the choir and enlisting, leaving the demanding Dr Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) to recruit teenagers to replace them.

Written by Alan Bennett, inspired by the experiences of the Huddersfield Choral Society. An unsentimental but deeply felt drama, actual passion with the music of Elgar eaves us with a heartbeat of wit, poignancy and common sense – The Guardian

Tickets £7.50. Doors open at 19.00, Film starts at 19.45. Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available. Purchase tickets online at

[www.thecrossbarn.org.uk](http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk)

## NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME – OPEN GARDENS

**Beechenwood Farm**, Hillside, Odiham RG29 1JA. Opening Monday **6th April 2 to 5pm**. Pre-booking available. Admission £5, children free. Cashless payments available. Home-made teas (in aid of Sebastian's Trust). Two-acre garden with lawn meandering through woodland with drifts of spring bulbs, meadow, walled herb garden, orchard, greenhouse and vegetable garden, a rock garden eight acre copse.

**Brick Kiln Cottage**, The Avenue, Herriard, RG25 2PR Opening Sunday **26th April 11.30am to 3.30pm**, pre-booking available. Admission £5, children free. Cash only. Home-made teas. Two-acre bluebell woodland garden with a perimeter path including shepherd's hut and cottage garden filled with herbs. This garden was developed using the natural landscape left in the Old Brick Works.

**North Warnborough & District Garden Club** Next meeting Thursday 26 March from 2.10pm, N Warnborough Village Hall. Plant stall. Speaker Andy McIndoe on Planting for Wildlife. Visitors welcome £3. [www.nwdg.org.uk](http://www.nwdg.org.uk).



**Wren** ©Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography

*continued from page 7*  
sheltered spaces to conserve warmth. Historical records describe dozens of wrens squeezing into a single nesting box – an extraordinary sight for such a fiercely territorial bird during the breeding season.

Nests are also distinctive structures: domed and carefully woven from moss, twigs and leaves, with a small side entrance that helps retain heat.

Helen Skelton-Smith, Communications Officer – PR & Media Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

*Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a charity which protects wild places so that wildlife including the wren can flourish.*

Members directly contribute to this work. To join the Trust and help this vital work, visit the Trust website for more information:

[hiwwt.org.uk/join-today](http://hiwwt.org.uk/join-today)



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## VOLUNTEER FAIR



### MARCH 7TH 2026

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