

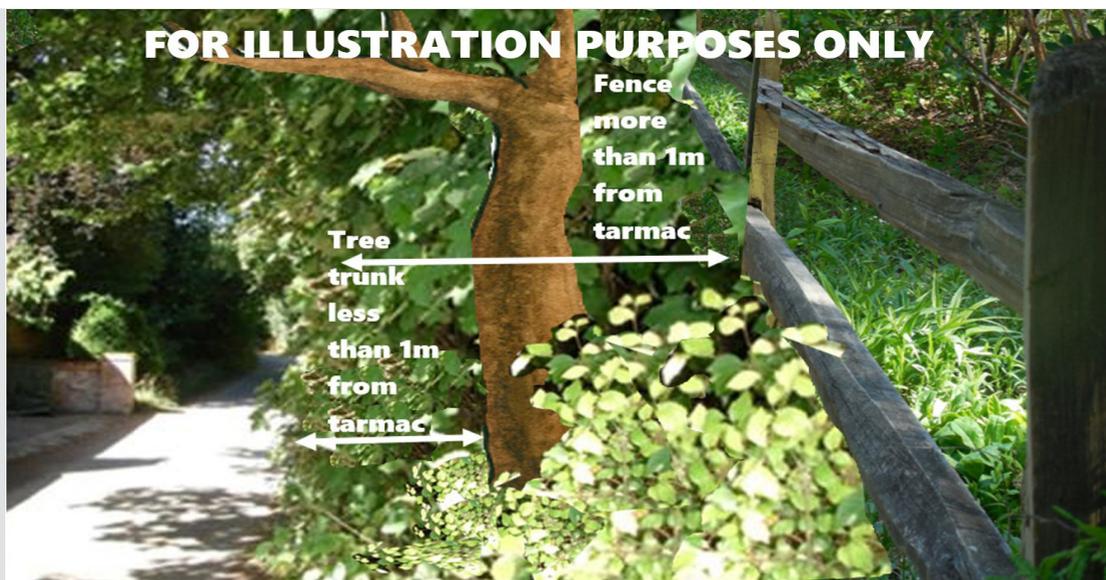


# The Villager

September 2020 Volume 49 No 8

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

## TREES GROWING BESIDE THE ROAD



I wonder how many of us have a responsibility for a tree on a roadside verge?

In my example above, I am showing a tree that is flourishing and threatening to break into a house on the other side of the highway with its overarching branches. It is growing on a bank with its trunk standing within one metre of the tarmac.

As your local tree warden, I registered a similar problem with Hampshire Highways and received a reply from their Arboriculture Inspector. I was expecting agreement for its boughs to be sawn off by the Authority's contractors. I considered "it must be their job" simply because the tree was so close to the road.

I was wrong. From the inspector's reply and subsequent correspondence, I had to concede that the tree posed no threat to the public use of the road. They had also called in their assessors to scrutinise the tree's position. Not being part of the highway, neither the steep bank nor a boundary fence beyond persuaded them to change their minds. In all probability they considered its roots were well entrenched within the property as well.

Similarly in the illustration, the roadside tree would appear to belong to the owner of the property behind the fence unless Land Registry shows it to the contrary.

This is because the interest of a Local Highways Authority (LHA) and for which it has legal powers, is the road surface and sufficient depth to carry out maintenance or removal of an obstruction. It does not own or have responsibility for trees, ditches, hedges and banks that border a highway.

So this leaves any remedial work (such as lopping branches) to be resolved between neighbours. And given that most of us live within a Conservation Area, Local Authority approval is then required for the work that they agree upon.

In conclusion, the LHA is unlikely to remedy a general nuisance that is brought to its attention unless it disrupts traffic. Also the 'one metre' rule of thumb guide is not an obligation to act upon a request.

Thus our tree in the example can grow onwards and upwards to its heart's content unless there is agreement between neighbours to do something about it and how the tree surgeon's bill is paid!

John Maclean  
Tree Warden to Up Nately and Mapledurwell Parish Council  
Jkmaclean1@btopenworld.com

**CONFUSED BY YOUR COMPUTER?  
TROUBLED BY YOUR TELEVISION SET?**

RUNNING SLOW

NO INTERNET



VIRUS SPYWARE

BLUE SCREEN

---

**On site visits include**  
Desktop, Laptop, Ipad, Printers

**Repair, Service & Support**  
Virus / Spyware removal  
Problems with Email, Printer, Internet access (fixed)

Prices from £45 on site Covers the first Hour

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Regular maintenance keeps your computer clean and fast

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**On site visits for**  
TV, Audio & Video Repair

**TV Tuning and Setup**  
Supply and Install Freeview receivers  
Advice and Support.

Prices from £45 + Parts 1st Hour

Prices from £35

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**IAN**

01256 701480

07719738897

imcs@hotmail.co.uk



# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

## A VERY WARM WELCOME

to Dan and Abbie Hayes, three-year-old William and baby Alex. We hope you enjoy living in Boycotts and join in village events once we get back to a bit more normality!

## FOUND: A CD storage wallet

on the road near the tennis courts. If the owner would like to be reunited with the music collection please contact 07740 778410 or email sallycv8@gmail.com

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

**Mapledurwell Allotments** The Parish Council is delighted to welcome new allotmenters and very pleased that all plots have been taken. An 'allotment renovation project' is being discussed, in particular for new fencing – to keep the deer and rabbits out?

**Playground fencing** The picket fencing has been repaired with new posts where needed and all wood treated. The Parish Council is trialing 'Lifetime Wood Treatment'. Having been searching for the unlikely combination of a product that protects wood and is environmentally friendly – see [https://www.thenaturalgardener.co.uk/lifetime\\_wood\\_treatment.php](https://www.thenaturalgardener.co.uk/lifetime_wood_treatment.php)

They say: 'This non-toxic treatment soaks into the wood fibres, changing the structure so that it protects from rot, mould and fungal growth. We believe it works by altering the free hydroxyls within the wood into acetyl groups making the wood no longer digestible by enzymes and hugely reducing the ability of the wood to absorb water.' So time will tell!

## Parish Planning applications

20/02124/FUL The Egg Yard, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Two x 3-bedroom chalet bungalows [revised application].

20/02087/GPDOFF (validated 7 August) Riverview House, London Road. Notification of proposed change of use from Class B1(a) office to Class C3 residential, consisting of 8 x one-bed flats.

20/02126/OHL (validated 3 August) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Upgrade of existing pole gaining a height of more than 10%.

20/01675/FUL (pending 15 July) Parrotts, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Demolition of agricultural building and erection of one single storey dwelling.

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

20/01350/LBC (pending 23 June) Andwell Mill. Internal wall reconfigurations.

20/01257/HSE and 20/01258/LBC (Granted 21st Aug) Mead House, Heather Row Lane. Two storey rear extension.

20/00060/HSE (pending 3 March) The Farm, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Single storey rear extension.

20/00153/FUL (pending 24 January) Elmwood, Heather Lane, Up Nately. Demolition of outbuilding and erection of 1 x five-bed detached dwelling with associated access and landscaping.

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



**TENNIS: Residents of Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish who wish to make use of the courts please contact hugocubitt@gmail.com for the combination code.**



The Village Hall Committee has agreed to sole use of the hall for the nursery school to enable it to continue as safely as possible. As such we will be unable to take any outside bookings – either regular users or one off bookings.

## Parish Tree applications

T/00374/20/TCA (validated 7 Aug) The Willows, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. T2 Ash: fell. T3 Ash: Pollard to leave a finished height of 4m and crown spread (radius) of 1.4m.

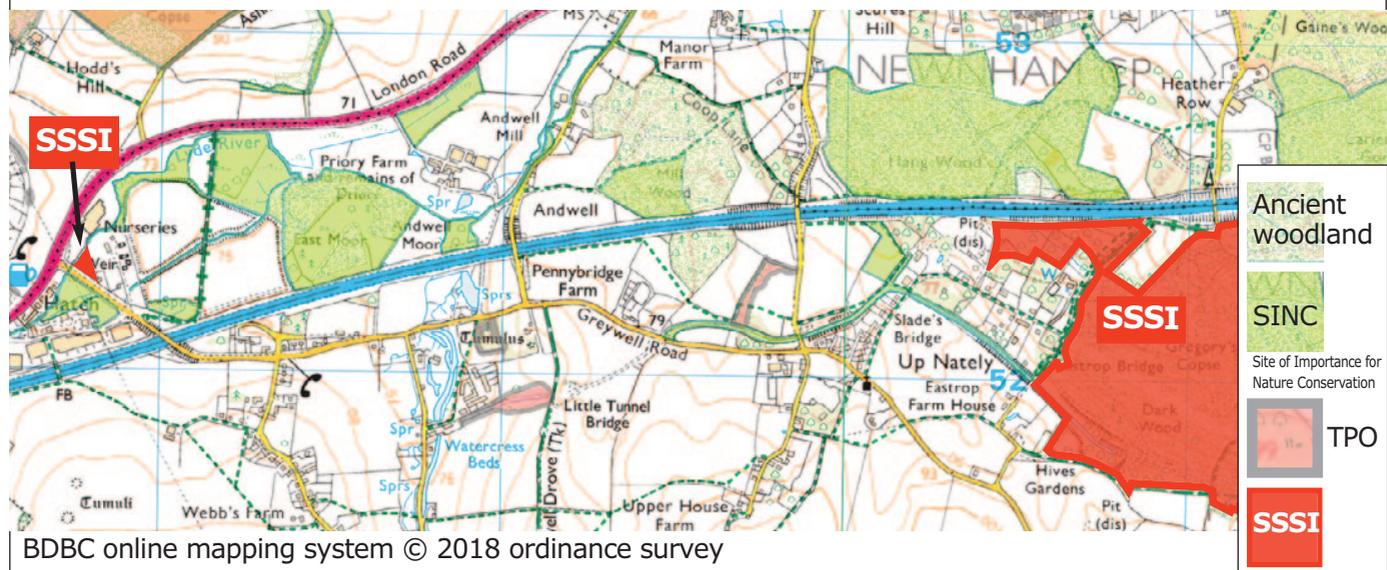
T/00346/20/TCA (pending 30 July) Sakantha, Frog Lane. Willow re-pollard leaving an approx finished height of 6m with a crown spread of approx 5.5-6m.

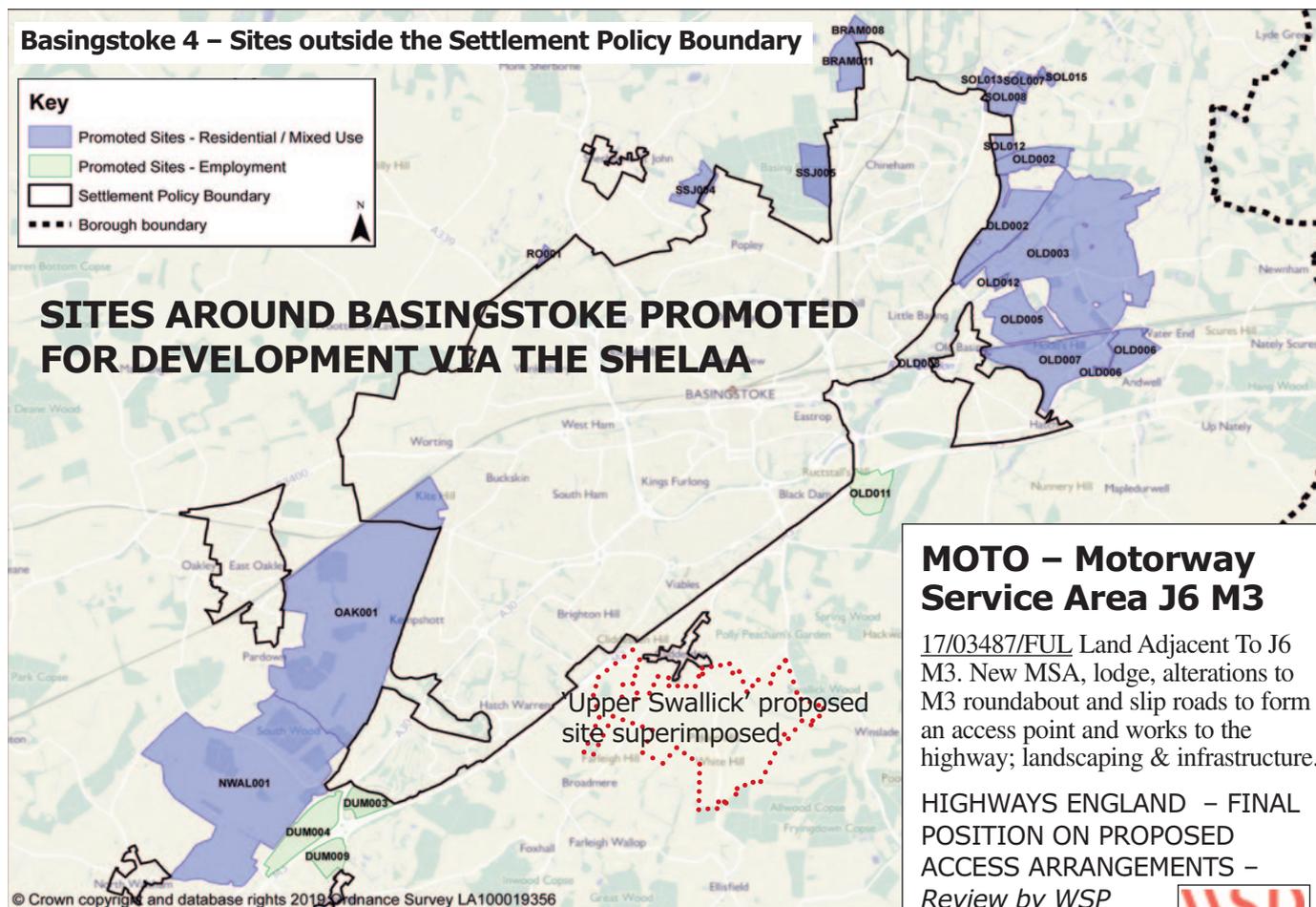
T/00318/20/TCA (pending 16 July) Lanterns, Tunworth Road. Willow (T1) crown reduction. Sycamore (T2) crown lifting.

T/00290/20/TCA (approved 24 July) The Willows, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. T1 Ash: fell.

## The North of the Parish showing Ancient Woodland, Tree Preservation Orders, SINCS and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=7a6aba6613324537ac852932fe1ec518>





## BDBC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Basingstoke & Deane's current Local Plan was adopted in May 2016 and presently covers the period from 2011 (when the previous Local Plan ended) up to 2029.

National government promotes an 'on-going cycle of plan making and review' reinforced by a legal requirement to review Local Plans every five years.

In preparing for its Local Plan Update (LPU), BDBC made a 'call for sites' last year to update the SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment). The maps copied above and adjacent are from the SHELAA Appendix 6 as published in December 2019.

Sites submitted more recently such as the Portsmouth Estates' proposal for Upper Swallick Garden Community will be added to a later published version.

BDBC will hold consultations on the Local Plan Review, the first being an Issues and Options document due to be published for public consultation this autumn.

Considering housing numbers, the Government's evolving approach for assessing housing need will have to be taken into account. As a starting point, the present Local Plan

requirement is for 850dpa (dwellings per annum). BDBC's current assessment is that a 'need for 884 new homes a year up to 2038 would lead to a requirement of around 6,000 to 7,000 more new homes' – and the LPU will need to allocate new sites for these homes.

Re the map above, OAK001 west of Basingstoke is 'South Manydown' with potential for 5,000 houses. NWAL001 is suggested for 4,500 homes and has also been put forward by the promoter as the new hospital site.

### Sites promoted in Mapledurwell



**MAP001** Paddock at the Farm, Tunworth Road – 0.75ha, 13 dwellings.

**MAP002** Land East of Cob Cottages, Greywell Road – 1.14ha, 20 dwellings.

**MAP003** Land adjacent to Meadowcroft, Greywell Road – 1.63ha, 25 dwellings.

**MAP004** Land at Greywell Road – 5.9ha, 118 dwellings.

'The applicant has worked collaboratively with WSP, Highways England, BDBC and HCC to resolve all the issues that WSP had at the time the application was submitted, such that we no longer have any outstanding issues with the Highway Design Layout.

'Due to this the applicant has been able to finalise the design and progress the design through the departure process, gaining approval to them and complete the Stage 1 Road Safety Audit and Designers Response.

'This resulted in Highways England agreeing conditions with the applicant and submitting their "No objection subject to conditions" formal response to the application.'

### Three Government planning consultations:

- Changes to the Current Planning System (17 September)
- White Paper: Planning for the Future (15 October)
- Transparency and Competition: A call for evidence on data on land control (16 October)



# Newnham & Nately Scures



## BAR OPENING HOURS

Monday - Closed  
 Tue - Fri - 12:00 - 15:00  
 17:30 - 22:00  
 Saturday - 12:00 - 22:00  
 Sunday - 12:00 - 18:00

## KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

Monday - Closed  
 Tue - Fri - 12:00 - 14:00  
 17:30 - 21:00  
 Saturday - 12:00 - 14:30  
 17:30 - 21:00  
 Sunday - 12:00 - 16:00



OldHouse NewnhamGreen



The Clubroom is open in line with Government guidelines. Numbers attending regular keep-fit and dance based classes will be restricted according to social distancing guidelines. The hall at present is not for hire for parties / large gatherings.

For queries or booking requests please contact Chris Alliston on 07435 782 122 or bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk



PHOTO: Chris Broughton

## HOSPICE CYCLE RIDE

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously from Newnham, Hook and US for our sponsored bike ride. Together we made £766. John and Chris Broughton



## VILLAGER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

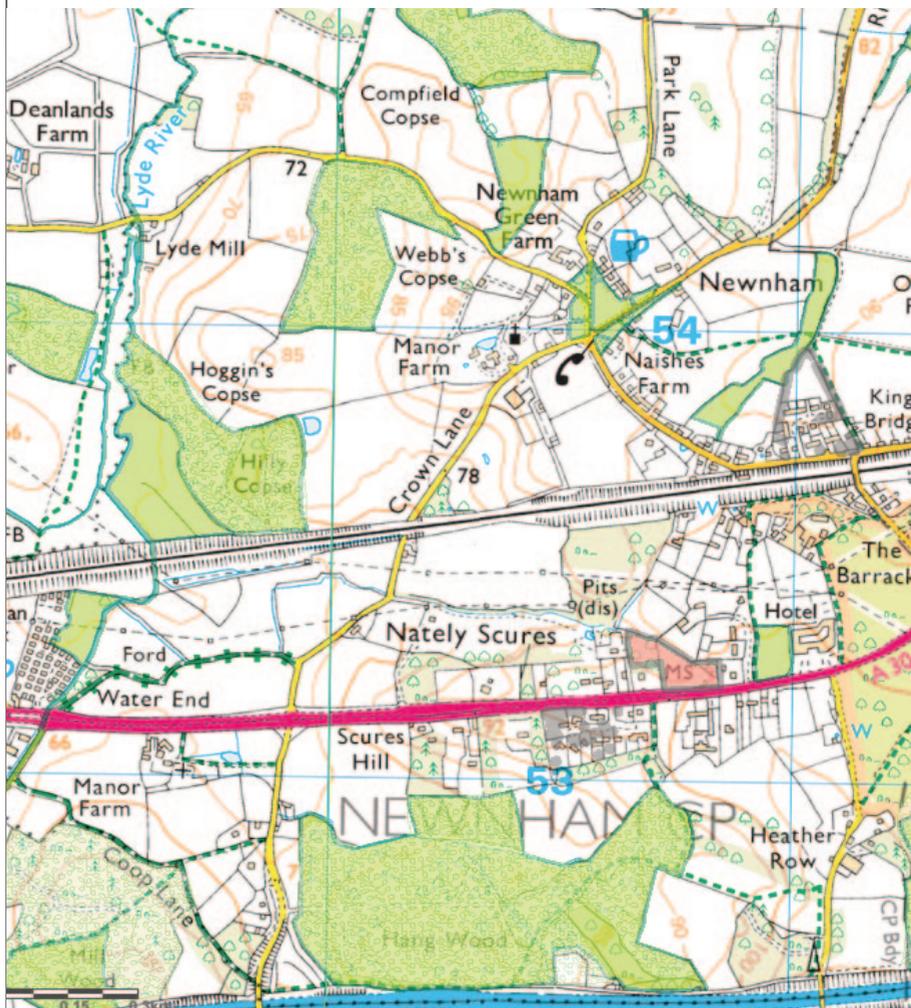
TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES OR PHOTOS OF LOCAL INTEREST TO SHARE IN THE VILLAGER please email to clerk.newnham@parish.hants.gov.uk



## Ancient Woodland, Tree Preservation Orders and SINCs in Newnham Parish

BDBC online mapping system © 2018 ordinance survey



	Ancient woodland		SINC Site of Importance for Nature Conservation		TPO Tree Preservation Order
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<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=7a6aba6613324537ac852932fe1ec518>



## Parish planning applications

20/01974/FUL (validated 24 July) Chapel House Newnham Road. Change of use of agricultural access to residential curtilage. Erection of 1.0 metre high brick wall to frontage to replace metal railings. Renovation and alterations to chapel building.

20/01903/RET (validated 05 Aug) Highview Business Park, The Barracks. Change of use of land from woodland to C3 residential and amenity land enclosed by the relocation of the western boundary fence.

20/01798/FUL (pending 20 July) Land Adjacent to Tithe Barn, Ridge Lane, Newnham. Erection of a dwellinghouse partly on the site of a tennis court; formation of access driveway following demolition of car port attached to stables at Tithe Barn Cottage.

20/01666/FUL (pending 25 June) Land at Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. Erection of one new dwelling and detached garage.

20/01597/FUL (pending 24 June) Land at Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. Two dwellings and associated parking.

20/01587/ROC (granted 12 August) Snipes Wood House, Scures Hill. Variation Conditions 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8 of 17/01659/FUL to allow for the addition of a garage, slight rotation of dwelling, alterations to elevations and to alter pre-commencement conditions.

20/01213/HSE (granted 17 August) Naishes Barn garden, Newnham Road. Construction of domestic swimming pool & landscaping.

20/01230/HSE (granted 3 Aug) Newnham Edge, Tylney Lane. Erection of single storey rear extension with roof terrace above and external stairs to garden. Alterations to fenestration – two new external doors.

19/03224/LDEU (pending - 29th Nov 2019) Manor Farm, Newnham. Certificate of lawfulness for the continued siting of a caravan as farm workers' dwelling.

16/03282/RET (Pending 15 Sep 2016) Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. 'Change of use from solely agricultural to mixed 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 applications

T/00403/20/TCA (validated 09 Aug) Land At OS Ref 470609 154268 Tylney Lane, Newnham RG27 9AJ. Oak (T1) Reduce by outer canopy 25% (2.5-3m) to limit impact of trees on neighbouring property and reduce weight on certain over extended lateral limbs. Oak (T2) Reduce by outer canopy 25% (2.5-3m) to limit impact of trees on neighbouring property and reduce weight on certain over extended lateral limbs.

T/00364/20/TCA (validated 04 Aug) Wildmoor, Newnham Road, Newnham. T1 Birch: Fell. T2 Honey Locust: Fell (dead). T3/ T4/T5/T6 Hawthorn: Fell, T7/T8/T9: Sycamore: Fell, T10/T11 Pear: Fell. T12/T13 Sycamore: Fell. T14 Chestnut: Fell.

T/00274/20/TCA (validated: 04 Aug) The Pink House, Newnham Lane, Newnham RG27 9AG. T5: remove. T6 Beech: crown reduce. T8 Sliver birch: reduce height. T11 Black alder: reduce height. T13/T14/T21 remove.

T/00272/20/TCA (approved 3 Aug) Newnham Lodge, Tylney Lane, Newnham. Acacia tree: crown reduce to suitable growth points approx 4-5m.

T/00232/20/TPO (pending 3 June) 11 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Area G2: 1 Spruce: fell.

## Hook application

20/01486/FUL (pending 30 June) Fairfields, Newnham Road, Hook. Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of two detached dwellings [1x4bed, 1x5bed] with integral garages & new access to the highway.

## HIGHWAY VERGES

### Origin and Importance

From 'Highways Verges Information Sheet' © Open Spaces Society (a revised version of 'Roadside Wastes' by WR Hornby Steer MA LLB first published July 1936)



<https://www.oss.org.uk/need-to-know-more/information-hub/highway-verges>

1. Along many of the highways of England and Wales are to be found strips of land open to the public, running between the metalled road and the fences enclosing the adjoining land. Such strips are often irregular in character and sometimes of considerable width.

2. A reason for their origin is to be found in the judgment of Abbot, LCJ in *Steel v Prickett (1819) 2 Stark 463 NP*, where he used these words:

'In remote and ancient times when roads were frequently made through unenclosed lands, and when the same labour and expense was not employed upon roads, and they were not formed with that exactness which the exigencies of society now require, it was part of the law, that the public, when the road was out of repair, might pass along by the side of the road.

This right on the part of the public was attended with this consequence that although the parishioners were bound to repair the road, yet, if an owner excluded the public from using the adjoining land, he cast upon himself the onus of repairing the road... hence it followed as a natural consequence that when a person enclosed his land from the road he did not make his fence close to the road, but left an open space at the side of the road to be used by the public when occasion required... the object was to leave a sufficiency of land for passage by the side of the road when it was out of repair.'

3. When an owner has left such a strip alongside the road, with the intention that the public should be able to use it for passage, and the public has so used it, there is a presumption that he intended to dedicate the strip as part of the highway, and such strips must in many cases be deemed to have been so dedicated. In that event, the strip alongside the road, is just as much part of the 'highway' as the metalled road itself.

4. Sometimes the roadside strips belong, not to the owner of the adjoining property, but to the lord of the manor, and are part of the manorial waste. In such cases they may or may not be subject to rights of common, but in either event they may be held to have been dedicated to public passage, in which case also they are part of the highway. See *East v Berkshire County Council (1911) 76 JP 35*; and *Evelyn v Mirrielees (1900), 17 TLR 152, CA; 65 JP 131n*.

5. These 'roadside strips' are now more commonly referred to as 'roadside verges'. It is important that strips of roadside verge should be safeguarded from any illegal attempts to inclose them.



6. With the loss of most of our traditional meadow land through agricultural change, our largest nature reserve is now represented by roadside verges, an important habitat which extends to perhaps half a million acres. They are a vital reservoir of wildlife, especially of wild flowers (Soil Association 1992).





# Greywell

## Planning Applications

20/01567/HOU Skylark Cottage  
Deptford Lane Greywell Hook  
Hampshire RG29 1BS. Erection of  
part first floor part two storey rear  
extension, extension to driveway and  
alterations to fenestration.

20/00568/HOU Old Pound Cottage  
Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29  
1BU. Erection of a barn style shed and  
replacement of old white picket fence  
bordering Hook Road with new white  
picket fence.

### NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We look forward to welcoming everyone  
when we meet again on Thursday 26th  
September.

For further information, please  
telephone 01252 843848

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greywell Harvest

## PHOTOGRAPHY & ART COMPETITION

On the theme of  
**'MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN  
GREYWELL'**

4 Categories: Children's Art/Photo. Adults Art/Photo  
£1 per entry: Physical & Online  
Proceeds shared by Church & Village Hall  
Judging: October Harvest Weekend (tbc)

Dear Residents

Thankfully not too many problems to report within the last month. I am however seeking any information in relation to an incident that occurred about 10:45 PM on August 12th 2020 in Tunworth Road not far from the Game Keepers public house. During this incident a man and two women were walking in the road, the man involved then went to a Taxi being driven towards the Greywell Road direction and approached the car which stopped and tried to pull the wing mirror off, when this failed he punched a window which shattered. I am seeking any information of this man and ask if you can assist please give me a call direct, all calls treated in strictest confidence. The only other crime of note was on August 6th 2020 when two men attempted to steal cooking oil from The Old House at Home public house in Newnham but were disturbed. They made off in a white Transit van AV07 LWO.



On August 10th 2020, a local resident in Newnham had a Cold Calling incident in which a man with an Irish accent called at his home and spoke or cleaning his driveway, the resident said he was not interested, however a short time later the man reappeared and started to clean the driveway, he was stopped and again informed that the work was not required. The man came from a company called 'Oakwood Cleaning Solutions'. I ask if you have any cold caller offering to do any type of work please be careful if you employ them, make sure you know your rights, ideally check Hampshire Trading Standards website for 'Buy with Confidence' they offer various trades and ALL the companies and their staff have been vetted so you know you won't be ripped off or conned.

Thank you once again for your continued support

Andrew Reid

Local Constable,

01256 389 050 Mob 07768 776 844 andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk



# Church Notices

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

## From the Parish Registers:

### Funerals

13 July

Basingstoke Crematorium,  
Robin d'Abo of Newnham

27 July

West Berks Crematorium,  
Dorothy Thompson of Up Nately

*May they rest in peace*

### Churches Open for Individual Prayer

We are pleased to announce that all five of the churches of the United Parish are now open for individual prayer. While we are only able to open for a limited number of hours and days due to Covid restrictions we are so very pleased to once again be able to invite people into these beautiful, peaceful spaces for prayer.

The current opening times are as follows:

- St Swithun's Nately Scures: Open on Saturdays and Sundays, 9am-6pm
- St Mary's Greywell: Open on Wednesdays and Sundays, 10am-3pm
- St Stephen's Up Nately: Open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 9am-5pm
- St Mary's Mapledurwell: Wednesdays, 11am - 2pm
- St Nicholas's Newnham: Open on Wednesdays and Sundays, 11.30am-3pm

### Diary dates in September/ October:

Wednesday 16th September: PCC Meeting, venue and time TBC

Wednesday 7th October: 7.30pm  
United Parish APCM, St Nicholas Church, Newnham

## Churches Open for Church Services

Along with the rest of country we have been tentatively opening up our churches for worship on Sunday mornings, taking care that we are making them as safe as possible. We began by opening two of our churches, Greywell and Mapledurwell and I am very pleased that from September we will also be opening Up Nately and Newnham. The PCC and I are keeping a close eye on when it might be possible to restart our Evensong service at Nately Scures but for now that is on hold. The pattern of services for September in the United Parish are as follows:

6th September		
9.00am	Common Worship Holy Communion	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Informal Service	Greywell
13th September		
9.00am	Common Worship Holy Communion	Newnham
11.00am	Informal Service	Greywell**
20th September		
9.00am	Common Worship Holy Communion	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Informal Service with an act of Communion	Greywell
27th September		
9.00am	BCP Communion	Newnham
11.00am	Informal Service	Up Nately

\*\* Please note that the plan is for Up Nately to have two services but due to planned holidays Greywell are kindly hosting the service this week.

All our churches are marked out for Physical Distancing and there are careful processes in place for things such as sharing communion. From 8th August it was mandatory for face masks to be worn by those attending an act of worship in churches and although those leading and reading can take their masks off while suitably distanced they are put back on for distributing communion. If you have any questions about these processes then please do contact Rev Helen on helen@moretolife.church.

### Harvest Festival - Sunday 4th October 2020

We are very aware that due to lockdown we have missed many of the 'event' services that our communities enjoy. Sadly we were not able to host our Rogation service nor any of our Pet Services so we are keen to be able mark Harvest Festival in some way, especially to honour all our local farmers who have continued to work so hard in such challenging conditions. However with the current restrictions in place our celebrations this year will need to look a little different to how they would look in normal years. We hope that even with these changes you will feel able to come and join us.

As a one off for this year we are currently planning two joint Harvest services on Sunday 4th October:

- 9am Newnham and Nately Scures will join together to give thanks for the harvest.
- 11am Greywell, Up Nately and Mapledurwell will join together to give thanks for the harvest.

We are praying the weather will be kind and we will be able to meet outside to enjoy traditional harvest music, the offering of harvest gifts and thanksgiving for the land and food that we are blessed to enjoy. Keep an eye out at the beginning of September for confirmation of venues.



## FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

I was mowing my lawn this morning, a task which I have to admit is not one of my favourite things to do, and as I was walking up and down the length of my lawn my eyes were caught by the sight of a fresh green acorn fallen from one of the large oak trees which border my garden. It is a vibrant green, still safely ensconced in its textured cup and it reminded me of the words of the well known twelfth century anchoress Julian of Norwich. In one of her famous visions Julian reflected on a hazelnut in the palm of her hand, so small, so insignificant, much like the acorn I found this morning. She marvelled how anything so little could last or have value but God answered her questions by saying

'It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.'

The smallest of things can be reminders of God's love and from the smallest hazelnuts and acorns great trees can grow which will outlast all that plant them.

As we have joyfully re-started our in-person worship in some of our churches we always make time in our informal services to share things which have encouraged us or for which we are grateful. I have been struck over the last couple of weeks how the things we are sharing now are the things which we most likely took for granted six months ago. Suddenly it is the small details of our lives which bring us the most encouragement and which inspire the most gratitude. We are no longer striving for the big experiences or latest possessions but are recognising the small everyday gifts we are blessed with. For example one person was grateful that, having been shielding for twelve weeks they were finally able to go into a shop, another was encouraged by being able to meet up with a group of friends in person and another that they could finally see their Mum who only lived down the road. For me, as someone who lives on their own, I remember how grateful I felt when I drank the first cup of coffee in twelve weeks that I hadn't had to make for myself. We are surrounded every day by small gifts which may at first glance appear insignificant but which on reflection encourage us and bring us hope and joy.

In the gospels Jesus often celebrates the small things in life. He values children and when the disciples want to send them away because they are distracting and noisy Jesus rebukes his friends and invites the children to gather round because it is in their little lives we can see the kingdom most profoundly. He told stories about God's love using images such as a lost sheep or a lost coin, the small things that others might consider insignificant, matter to God. And he told his disciples of the power of having a 'little faith'

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."

From small beginnings great things can come and as we begin to take the first tentative steps in re-opening those aspects of our lives put on hold by lockdown, it is valuable and comforting to remember this. It can sometimes feel overwhelming to try to grapple with the larger picture of what is happening or to make long term decisions and commitments when the next few months feel so uncertain. So my encouragement today is to be like Julian of Norwich. Look out for the small signs of life that are emerging during this time, be encouraged by them and share them with others. I am going to keep my acorn on my desk for the next few weeks as a reminder to value the small, everyday gifts in my life.

Julian of Norwich recognised the beauty of these gifts and she dedicated her life to writing about the joy, hope and light she found in God's love demonstrated in Jesus Christ. In reflecting on the eternal wonder hidden in the beauty of the gifts all around her Julian wrote her most famous meditation,

'And so our good Lord answered to all the questions and doubts which I could raise, saying most comfortingly: I may make all things well, and I shall make all things well, and I will make all things well; and you will see yourself that every kind of thing will be well.'

Whatever the coming weeks and months hold may we all find the peace of knowing the joy and assurance of Jesus' love for each of us as we celebrate the beauty of the small gifts in our lives.

Rev Helen O'Sullivan

advertisement

**Kevin Curtis**  
**Carpenter & Joiner**



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