

The Villager

October 2024 Volume 54 No 9

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

SOLAR TOGETHER 2024 scheme
is open for applications

Run by iChoosr together with Local Authorities,
the group-buying scheme brings homeowners
together to get more competitive prices for
installing solar panels and battery storage.

<https://solaraltogether.co.uk/>

BDBC RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE NPPF AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

The Council continues to take a positive approach to planning for the local area and, as such, welcomes many of the principles underlying the proposed changes. This includes supporting changes which result in the delivery of additional affordable housing (especially socially rented housing) to meet needs and also the emphasis on plan making for guiding growth and change.

However, the Council has a number of serious concerns with the NPPF proposals which are at odds with these stated intentions.

We understand the new Government's desire to take action, but do not believe your approach will achieve the ends it desires: you cannot fix fundamental failings with the 'system' by simply setting higher housing numbers. We feel strongly about this, like so many others in Local Government. It is critical for Government to listen to the voice of local authorities and amend these proposals.

To be clear, we are not advancing a NIMBY argument. Basingstoke & Deane has undertaken more than its fair share of house building over recent years. We have been responsible, we are innovative and, above all, we are focused on delivering the socially rented homes we know we desperately need. That is why we ask that Government thinks again and chooses to work with us as partners.

The NPPF needs to empower Councils, not dictate to us – success requires collaboration, not imposition. The Government has an elected mandate, and so too do local authorities.

There are some key areas we would like to highlight:

Housing need calculations

The Council strongly objects to the proposed new housing need figures. Whilst we fully support measures to increase the volume of affordable housing (especially socially rented housing), the proposed step change in market housing numbers is both severe and immediate, and will lead to high levels of unsustainable and unplanned development, especially over the shorter term. The provision of new homes should not be at the expense of environmental objectives (as outlined in the Environment Act),

climate change objectives and the need to provide infrastructure alongside development.

There is a deep concern that the proposed housing targets are undeliverable, both in the short and longer term, and will not solve the affordability crisis. When the increases required are this significant, the reality is that areas such as Basingstoke & Deane will be even more dependent on developers and landowners than we are now.

The ability and willingness of the development industry to deliver the number of homes required is questioned as it is not in their interest to overdeliver in light of market forces. The real solution is to introduce measures that discourage developers from sitting on land rather than simply increasing the number of outstanding planning consents; we have enough of these already. Please look again at how the housing number is calculated.

We can get on with building our planned-for sites if we are allowed to progress our post Regulation 18 Draft Plan. We have a Plan that works, building homes we know we need in the places that can best sustain them.

Transition arrangements

The proposed transition arrangements are not supported as currently drafted. The Council has been moving at pace to progress its Local Plan to deliver much needed new housing and we remain ready to move quickly. We agree that growth should be Plan-led. However, the proposed changes effectively force us back to the drawing board, and will only delay our efforts, which is not what anybody wants.

We have reached a significant stage of Plan making, undertaking a Regulation 18 consultation earlier in the year. At this late stage of the process, the proposed arrangements are too limited and do not support the Government's expressed intention of maintaining progress with Plans. The Plan-led system is completely undermined by the current proposals.

The transition arrangements need to be rewritten to support Plans such as ours to move forward under the current system in a realistic timescale, and better reflect the extensive

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Greywell Hill Estate LOGS

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS
(ALL SOURCED FROM
ESTATE TIMBER)

Cut when dry
in the summer and
stored in a barn

Delivered in a farm trailer
2.5 cu m (90 cu ft)
and tipped – £350, or

Tractor bucketful
1cu m (35 cu ft)
delivered in a smaller trailer
and tipped – £150

Tel: Office 07434 924810
or Tom 07515 371681
or Joe 07956 055071

PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO NEW NPPF PROPOSALS

The Parish Council responses included some positive comment but, in particular, opposition to:

(Q6) Strengthening the presumption in favour of development;

(Q7) reintroducing mandatory five year housing land supply

(Q9) reintroducing the 5% buffer

(Q16-19) the concept and application of an affordability uplift

(Q82) removing the footnote text:

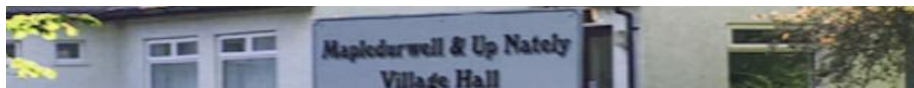
"The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development"

(Q103) transitional arrangements preventing Regulation 18 and most Regulation 19 Plans proceeding to examination under the Dec 2023 NPPF and housing numbers.

To further express concerns
re the new NPPF proposals,
email our MP

alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk

Mapledurwell & Up Nately



JEWELLERY WORKSHOPS

The Village Hall Committee will be running a couple of jewellery workshops in November. Up to nine maximum in each class so we have booked:

Friday 1st November

Tuesday 12th November.

Each workshop will last 2.5 to 3 hours.

You each make two silver bangles, with two charms on each included in the price. (More charms are available to buy on the day if people wish.)

Price £95 per person including the silver.

To secure the date we would require a £20 deposit per person.

All jewellery tools and the silver are included in the price.

If interested please contact Heather Ramsdale on 07552 506898 or mail to onramsdaleheather21@gmail.com to arrange preferred day and deposit.



MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

8. There are positive aspects to the NPPF proposals including ambition for more social rented housing.

9. If Government doesn't amend its proposals for advanced stage Plans, we don't have sufficient sites to meet the new figures. Will have to start again with a new call for sites.

See BDBC response to NPPF Consultation, from front page.

Hospital Pushing hard for new hospital, clear cannot take more new housing without it; recognise priority for buildings with RAAC.

University Serious about Uni provision, looking to STEM courses, engaging with local business and industry. Plan for post and under graduates to live on site.

Conversations with investors, beginning to see a positive shift in the market; business wants to come here. Basing View to be mix of office and residential; taller buildings here, maybe up to 10 storey.

Leisure park will be one of biggest in country – for leisure only, not retail. The town for retail, the Malls are full, hoping to relocate Post Office to Top of Town, looking to buy assets where we can; show the way and encourage others to invest. Town Centre has very little Council ownership – considering wide variety of proposals.

'There is so much happening that's positive for the town, but the housing figures are dominating conversations... Will do our best and will be back.'

PARISH COUNCIL

Playground maintenance New gate installed (awaiting gate-stop). Bark pit to be refilled and timbers replaced as needed (end October). Trees to be cut back over swings; wet ground by gate and new picnic bench to be raised with scalplings.

Tennis court resurfacing Applied to BDBC Community Infrastructure Fund for £50K for new surfaces. Unsuccessful, BDBC decided not eligible as not a building.

Plan B is a cheaper option for a three-stage process of cleaning, resin-bound patching and painting over the existing surface. Initially sought to schedule the work for September. But need dry weather for the resin patching, and to be warm and dry for two to three days for the painting. So Spring next year. Will continue to look for other grant funding in the meantime.

Verges in Frog Lane reinstated.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday 20 November, 7pm in the Village Hall meeting room. Everyone welcome.

NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

BOROUGH COUNCIL *update from Cllr Paul Harvey (Council Leader) and Cllr Andy Konieczko (Portfolio holder for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)*

Local Plan preparation and the proposed new housing figures

1. Received 7K responses to the Local Plan Update Reg 18 consultation – on policy framework, on sites – including from developers, their barristers.

The Officer team has been working through a huge amount of detail. Looking to how we can shape development delivery for the better; had managed to remove further greenfield sites from the Plan including Popham, much by reworking what can be done in Basingstoke town centre without disadvantaging urban communities.

2. Then there was the General election. Government now looking to an increase in housing numbers in England of 1.5M over five years.

The housing figure for BDBC was 828 dwellings per annum; our intention was to build 700 per annum over the first five years and then re-evaluating upwards to potentially 900 per annum after that. Our housing figure is now 1,194 homes per annum. To achieve that figure over the Plan period would take more than all the sites put forward.

3. Also frustrating and worrying is Government proposes to reintroduce the mandatory requirement for a five-year supply of deliverable housing land.

4. The Officers are talking to KCs. Seeking to find a way to continue towards Examination of the Plan under the present system. We have a Plan ready to go; will make every effort to challenge the proposals.

5. Some LPAs are even more drastically affected; Rushmore's housing figure has tripped and the New Forest's doubled. Though where all the skilled labour will come from to build these numbers?

6. (AC) The Public Consultation ended on Tuesday 21st; BDBC's message is that our Plan is so far down the track and the new figures are too many homes for us to accommodate without beginning again. It seems Government has been inundated with responses saying similar things. Hearing surprise from Government as to the level of feedback and opposition!

7. (AC) We are continuing work on elements of the Local Plan – eg Gypsy and Traveller sites – which not related to housing numbers. Not appropriate for us to continue, to incur additional costs which may prove wasted, all conjecture at the moment as to what will happen.

continues next column

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/02002/FUL (Validated 18 Sept)
Nunnery House, Tunworth Road.
Demolition of barn and erection of one new dwelling.

24/01821/HSE (Pending 08 Aug) Silver Birches, Wood Lane (of Heather Lane) Up Nately. Erection of a single storey side extension and extension of terrace to rear of building.

24/01354/FUL (Pending 24 June) The Gamekeepers. Hardstanding to provide access to the cesspit for the pump-out lorry and to enable the dray lorry to make deliveries clear of the highway; also to serve as additional parking; plus 4x low-level, bat-friendly downlighters within landscaped margin. (Reduced scheme to 21/01777/RET)

24/01259/GPDMA (Pending 10 June) Riverview House, London Road. Application for prior approval to convert of existing building into 8 flats

24/01063/ROC (Pending 09 May) Riverview House, London Road. Variation of Con 1 of 22/02416/FUL to allow design alterations.

24/00756/FUL (Pending 16 April) Land North of Parrotts, Greywell Road. Four detached dwellings, with garages and associated vehicular access, parking, amenity space and landscaping.

23/02103/FUL (Pending 18 August 2023) Land Adjacent to Twine Rose Cottage, Heather Lane. Demolition of outbuilding; erection of new dwelling with garage.

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

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00445/24/TCA (Validated 19 Sept) Hurdles Tunworth Road. T1 Eucalyptus (Over extending branches on all sides suppressing adjacent trees) – crown reduce by 5m leaving a finished height of 10m with a crown spread of 5m.

T/00388/24/TCA (Approve 18 Sept) Arlings, Tunworth Road. T1 Norway Maple – remove revision growth; T2 Ash Leaf Maple – reduce by 2m and reshape; T3 Lawson Cypress – fell to ground level. T4 False Acacia – shorten lower limb restricting public footpath.

T/00364/24/TCA (Approve 18 Sept) The Old School House, Greywell Road, Up Nately. T1&2 Ash – fell to ground level; T3 (amended proposal) small Oak – fell; T4&5 Willows – pollard to 1-2 meters; T6 Sycamore, T7 dead Elm, T9-12 Ash – all fell to ground level.

PLANNING APPEALS

APP/H1705/W/24/3347575 (Start date 03 October) Brockwell Paddock and Stable, Andwell Lane. Erection of three dwellings and landscaping.

Continued from first page

resident engagement and hard work undertaken by already stretched planning teams in local authorities. We ask that more pragmatic arrangements are introduced for authorities that have successfully completed Regulation 18, alongside direct funding to enable us to undertake the unforeseen additional work and reopen engagement with communities.

Forcing us back to an earlier point in the Plan making process, when we are ready to proceed post our Regulation 18 Draft plan consultation, will set us back years.

Housing land supply thresholds

The loss of the four-year housing land supply threshold is also not supported. Its removal will lead to unsuitable speculative development in our area which will last for a number of years if the final changes require us to go back to a call for sites.

It is vital that a reduced short-term land supply requirement, or other transitional arrangement, is introduced; the immediate removal of this type of protection will leave the Council in a position where it cannot meet its land supply requirements, with no way of rectifying that position in the short term.

The five-year land supply approach, as proposed, will do more damage than good. As the Government is aware, development takes time and the planning process should not be altered to enable unmanaged and unsustainable development to drive housing delivery. That developer free-for-all is something we want to avoid.

We want planned development supported by local communities. Firm Planning Regulations should require developers to start building within 12 months of permission and complete within a reasonable time, they should not be allowed to game the system.

Industry challenges

From our experience, we doubt that the housing industry can build the number of homes that the Government wants. There simply are not enough skilled people or sufficient building materials to complete so many new properties.

We are seeing a dangerous consolidation of the industry into a few major housing companies that will dominate and control the market. We need to promote small and medium sized developers that can offer quality and variation.

Just letting the big corporates carry on when they are land banking and controlling supply and prices cannot be right. At the moment, the industry controls delivery rates. Ramping up the numbers without reforming the sector will only make matters much worse. It will promote conveyor belt development with poor standards;

it will be a race to the bottom. We do not believe that Government wants this; neither do we.

For the industry to be successful, land tax arrangements, skills shortages and viability all need to be tackled. Taxing companies for land banking would be a sound approach and help redress the imbalance we currently see.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a major problem. We do not have the schools, public transport or GPs to serve new communities. Water supply and electricity are also constraints, while sewage management is a major worry.

In Basingstoke & Deane's case, we cannot take the level of growth Government desires without a new hospital. Sir Kier Starmer promised the people of Basingstoke a new hospital during the General Election campaign, but the necessary funding has since been questioned. Homes without infrastructure will only create greater social problems. We need to think about place, quality and community.

Environmental concerns

We cannot support demands for more housing if it results in us killing local rivers and waterways. The ecological crisis is as important as the climate crisis. We do not want to see volume housing building result in a degradation of environmental policies. Relaxing rules around nutrient neutrality, is not the same as finding meaningful solutions. We do not wish to irrevocably pollute the chalk aquifer that serves the River Test. Both the River Test and Loddon are at the tipping point of irrevocable damage. This is not considered serious enough to be an exceptional circumstance within the scope of NPPF; however, it is of huge concern to our borough.

New towns

The council supports the emphasis on suitably-located new towns to deliver the levels of growth required and would welcome working with partners to help the Government in identifying and delivering such opportunities locally. It is hoped that Local Planning Authorities are given the opportunity to play an important role in this work.

Genuinely affordable housing

Finally, while the emphasis on the provision of affordable housing (especially socially rented housing) is strongly supported, it is considered that the Government could do more to support the provision of new affordable housing. This can be achieved both through the provision of suitable funding and also by updating current national planning guidance on assessing viability for plan making, so that the actual reality of affordable housing delivery can be reflected. Developers should demonstrate their

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Newnham & Nately Scures



Newnham 900!

NEWNHAM 900 VILLAGE CELEBRATION

BACKGROUND (with thanks to Nigel Bell for historical information)

There is no definitive record of when this 'New Ham' or new settlement was created. The Village's formal existence is intertwined with the building of a permanent stone Church. While impossible to determine the foundation date of St Nicholas', the available information shows that 1124-1125 AD is the most likely. This is a significant milestone worthy of celebration.

Newnham 900 first meeting held in the Clubroom on D-278

OUTLINE PLAN

Saturday 14th June 2025

An afternoon event on the Green; a BBQ early evening, silent disco

Sunday 15th June 2025

1.30pm: Walk along Church Path from Hook to St Nicholas' Church

3-4pm: Service in St Nicholas' with the Bishop of Winchester

4-5pm: Tea & Cakes.

ORGANISERS

So far the Village Church Committee (VCC) has been leading. Al Richmond volunteered to lead on the Saturday events. Carolyn Peck has kindly offered to assist. More volunteers would be welcome!

Please message Al on 07971 529667

SOME INITIAL IDEAS

Cake stalls, brass band, country dancing, vintage cars (Odiham's 'Wings & Wheels' group), evening bonfire and silent disco; logo and merchandise

Activities – archery, jousting, bouncy castle

Local history and land use, including of Newnham Green

Stalls – U3A, fare from local businesses

Crafts – weaving, embroidery or new banner, competitions.

THIS IS YOUR VILLAGE'S CELEBRATION

We need your Support, Involvement, Comments, Offers, Ideas:

What YOU would like to see included in a weekend's celebration event that brings our community together.

ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday 13 October, 4pm

Followed by refreshments



NEWNHAM AND NATELY SCURES HARVEST SUPPER

Friday 11 October, 7pm

to be held at Manor Farm Barn
Crown Lane, Newnham

On going to press, there are a few remaining places; please contact trudy@rankinfamily.com
07975 957960.

Entry is free but you are asked to contribute a dish (main, side, or dessert) and bring a place setting (plate, cutlery, dessert bowl or plate).

Drinks and glasses will be available for a suggested donation. There will also be a raffle with proceeds in aid of St Nicholas'.

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council welcomed Sue Symons as new Parish Councillor. Thanks to Revd Debbie for her update on Newnham 900 (see left).

Scures Hill – Blocked gullies and poor condition of sections of the pavement; to report on HCC website.

Andwell Lane bus shelter Application to Community Infrastructure Fund unsuccessful; BDBC notification that: 'We received proposals amounting to a requests for over £1.4M from the £0.5M available. We did not feel that the bus shelter matched the criteria in relation to community premises as closely as other proposals received...'

Agreed to proceed asap to have a window put in the side of the existing shelter, and (secondary) a new seat.

Highways works at Water End to implement a new drainage scheme have been two years in the planning; now it seems will be a ongoing for six weeks rather than the phased works previously discussed. HCC have not shared the plans; concerns again raised re measures to intercept and filter the increased road runoff which goes directly into the Lyde.

Next meeting to be the Assembly previously postponed. To hold in Clubroom late Nov early Dec tbc.

FIFTY YEARS OF BASINGSTOKE & DEANE

The 'Basingfolk' project and exhibition is part of a wider series of events and activities being led by the Council to mark 50 years of the joining of the communities into the district now known as Basingstoke & Deane.

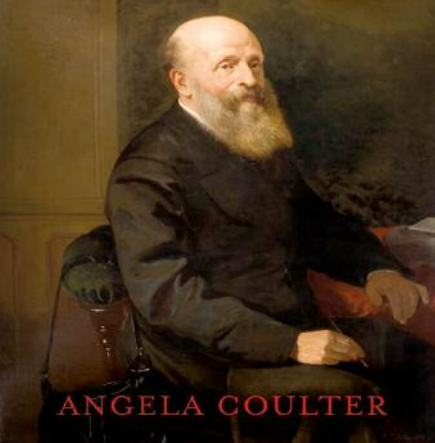
Covering 245 square miles, the area was brought together on 1 April 1974, when the then Basingstoke District Council was created under the Local Government Act 1972. On 20 January 1978 the district was renamed Basingstoke & Deane and

granted borough status – taking 'Deane' as the smallest Village to represent the rural parts of the borough .

The Council will be hoping to capture memories from people living and working in the borough from as far back as the 1970s for an exhibition of images and stories set to launch in October. To be involved please email hello@lovebasingstoke.com or call 01256 844844 and ask to be part of the Basingfolk project.

PROBING DEATHS, SAVING LIVES

Birmingham's Victorian Doctor-Coroner



From author, Angela Coulter

'Villager readers might be interested to hear about my new book, *Probing Deaths, Saving Lives*. It's a biography of John Birt Davies (1799-1878) who was born in Nately Scures, where both his grandfather, Rev Alban Thomas Jones Gwynne, and father, Rev Thomas Davies, were rectors between 1777 and 1812.

'The second chapter of the book covers Nately Scures and the two Revds' time there, including a photo of St Swithun's.

'John Birt Davies was my great-great-grandfather. All I first knew of him was that his family came from Wales and he lived most of his life in Birmingham. On delving deeper, I was thrilled to discover he had been a significant public health pioneer and major figure in Birmingham at a fascinating time in its history.

'Birt Davies was a physician, professor of forensic medicine, political activist, medical reformer, coroner extraordinaire and something of a public health hero to the people of Birmingham. Now most of the thousands of people who drive past his memorial (the memorial clock at Five Ways roundabout in Birmingham) will be unaware of his fascinating life, so I felt it was high time his story was told.'

Probing Deaths, Saving Lives by Angela Coulter; Released 28 September 2024
Paperback, eBook; ISBN: 9781805145370

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/02271/FUL (Validated 03 October)
Collingwood, Newnham Road. Erection a 1.8m high closeboard fence on the repositioned west boundary and change of use of land to residential.

24/00882/LBC (Pending 16 April)
Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row. Demolition of south entrance porch, changes to fenestration; new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to conservatory, replace glass roof with tiled roof. Various internal / external alterations.

24/00712/FUL (Pending 26 March)
Land East Of Naishes Barn. Agricultural barn with hard surface apron and extended access track. For Development Control Committee meeting of 09 Oct.

24/00715/FUL (Grant 06 September) Land At Blackstocks Lane. One dwelling with garage... and a new access. (Part retrospective replacing withdrawn application 22/02539/FUL which sought to replace approved 22/01675/FUL in order to include the new access.)

23/02722/FUL (Pending 02 Nov) Land East Of Keepers, London Road. Three new detached dwellings with new access, parking, drainage, landscaping.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00474/24/TCA (Validated 24 Sept)
Newnham Lodge Tylney Lane. Acacia tree: fell and remove stump.

T/00417/24/TCA (Approve 01 October) Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane. Fell one dead/dying Norway Maple.

LODGE FARM – ODIHAM PARISH

23/02242/PREAPP Warehousing and logistics centre proposal. Hart website records 'opinion issued 12 July'. No officer report posted to website as yet.

NEWNHAM LITTER PICK

The next Newnham Litter Pick will be on **Sunday 3rd November**.

Please meet at the benches on the Green at 11.30am. Thank you!

NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



September winners are
£100 Anonymous (kindly donated to Church funds) (44)
£50 - Sarah & Geoff Hawkes (16)
£25 - Penny & Al Richmond (31)
Thanks to Kate Jefferson for drawing the numbers *Carolyn Bell*

NETWORK RAIL WORKS IN HOOK TO JUNE 2025

Works are to improve the stability of the railway embankment between Winchfield and Hook. The work is planned near Bassett Mead Country Park RG27 9QB.

Main site access is via Bassett Mead Country Park from Doctors Acre, off Holt Lane RG27 9UW. The project will have various lorry movements daily via Doctors Acre.

The noisiest part of the work is expected to be from about 18th to end of October as we construct a temporary haul road to the site. Work will be mostly Monday to Friday, 7.30am- 6pm.

However some works are due to be carried out during 'track possessions' (ie when the railway is closed), so then may be overnight and at weekends.

We are reconstructing part of the embankment slope using granular fill with soil nails and mesh. An area of 8,000m² is being repaired, with teams also removing carefully identified trees and some vegetation to allow access. After the works are completed, we will restore the area.

The railway in this area has previously had failures leading to the closure of the main line. These preventative works are being carried out to avoid further failures to the embankment.

Public Affairs Manager, Southern: Wessex

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viability calculations based on the true financial reality of affordable housebuilding, rather than an artificial construct. Viability rules and processes are a major obstacle to the delivery of socially rented homes.

A clear definition of 'affordable' is required. Just setting it at a percentage of average prices does not work, as the industry drives its financial results by 'upselling' to more expensive units, so endlessly increasing the average.

Permitted development

We would welcome changes that tackle the problem of permitted development of offices (or other buildings in employment use) into residential. These developments should be subject to the full Local Planning Process so that they can be properly assessed against Policy. Developers should also have to use local authority building control services – we should learn the lessons of Grenfell on this point and developers should not be able to appoint their preferred contractors.

Closing thoughts and a better way forward

There is so much we could do in partnership. The current NPPF proposals need to reflect the hard work that many Councils have been doing to develop Local Plans and help us to get on with delivering homes through a planning framework; we need to be protected from speculative development.

District Councils remain your greatest asset. We are the face of government that people see day-in day-out. Instead of a Local Government versus Central Government battle, would it not be novel and groundbreaking for us to work together to reflect our respective democratic mandates and deliver something we can really be proud of? Cllr Paul Harvey, Leader, [BDBC]
Cllr Andy Konieczko, Portfolio Holder for Planning [BDBC]

Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'
www.united-parish.org.uk
https://www.moretolife.church

From the Parish Registers

Wedding: Lara Jakubovic and Christopher Goulden at St Mary's Greywell on 7th September.

Funeral: Catherine Gillian Swinton-Clarke ('Gill') at Basingstoke Crematorium on 9th September, followed by Memorial Service at St Nicholas' Newnham.

CHURCH SERVICES SEPTEMBER INTO OCTOBER

Sunday 06 Oct 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Harvest Festival
11am St Mary's Greywell, Harvest Festival

Sunday 13 Oct 9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said)
4pm St Nicholas' Newnham, Harvest Festival

Sunday 20 Oct 9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion
5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong

Sunday 27 Oct 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said)
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship
4pm St Mary's Upton Grey, Service of Light (Benefice Service)

Sunday 03 Nov 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell CW Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship with Baptism.



Mothers' Union have just launched a new campaign to promote literacy around the world, Especially among women who in many countries do not get the opportunity to read and write. This campaign builds on the literacy work that Mothers' Union pioneered in a number of countries. 480 million women around the world can't read or write, which means that they can't register the birth of their baby, read the labels on medicine bottles or open a bank account. Literacy empowers women and changes their lives and the lives of their community.

Our local branch will meet on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre when we will find out more about this new campaign. If you would like more information about the activities of the Mothers' Union, please contact me, Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or email suemurphybranch@outlook.com

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



From the Benefice Ministry Team

I always find October a bit of a strange month. It's the point in the year that feels a bit odd... We've had our summer months by then (allegedly... not that we've seen much evidence of summer this year). Children have all started new schools, or new year

groups, and we're into the daily routines. Christmas looms. But we're not there yet. The month as a whole feels dark and a little uneventful. And so it's a strange time to talk about change and newness.

But for me, this is a month of significant change. Having led the churches in Greywell, Mapledurwell and Up Nately for the last two and half years, I have moved house and become the Vicar in Odiham. As Simon takes on national church responsibility, Chris moves to become Rector of the benefice, and I take on this new role, it feels like quite a bit of change within our churches here. And yet, reassuringly, it also still feels the same. Our congregations are the same, the work and ministry of the churches continues as it did, we still meet for worship and community every Sunday and throughout the week. The predictability of change and consistency hand in hand.

As I reflected on this it reminded me of God, of his love, his dependability, his steadfastness. In the Bible we have statements about 'his mercies being new every morning'; something refreshing, new and innovative about God. And yet he is 'the same yesterday today and forever'; he is constant and sure. He is the God who always surprises us, yet can be depended on.

I feel this is a comforting thought for all of us. Life may be ever-changing, or a predictable pattern, or perhaps somewhere in between. Wherever we may be, God brings us his 'dependable excitement', as I call it. He brings into our lives a rock and steadiness which can consistently surprise and amaze us. And I am convinced that God has great things in store for us as individuals, as churches and as villages.

So why not come along to your local church, connect in with the community there, explore a bit of what this is all about; why we think there is more to life. I'm personally looking forward to getting to know the people of Odiham and the congregations of All Saints', serving alongside you in the years to come. And as we journey together in whichever village we may be, we journey with the wider benefice seeking to see our communities transformed by the love of God.

God bless you all

The Revd Matt Bianchi, Vicar of Odiham

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE STORIES & PHOTOS to the Villager: CONTACT DETAILS Editor Susan Turner 07515 777060 su.newnham@gmail.com
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Helen Chatfield
Youth Pastor
More to Life network of Churches
North Hampshire Downs Benefice

KIDZONE

Hi everyone!

A friend of mine recently gave me a really useful gift – a powerful mini torch, that fits onto my key ring. You see, she knows I often set off back home late at night and it's super dark. Sometimes I can't see where I'm walking and the paths around here can be quite rough. Now I have this torch with me all the time, I never have to worry about that – doesn't matter how dark it is, I can see clearly where I'm going.

Every October, we have a service in Upton Grey called the Service of Light. It's one of my favourite of

the whole year – I mean, how often do you get to eat hot dogs and marshmallows around a fire pit at church?! We enjoy crafts, games, drama and songs together as a church family – all ages welcome! Young and old! This year it's on 27th October, crafts from 4-5pm, followed by a short service, candlelight procession, hot dogs and mulled cider (for grown ups!).

This service reminds me a lot of my little torch, which sheds light even in the darkest night, because in it we remember one really important thing: it doesn't matter how dark things seem – maybe life seems tough, or we don't understand things that are going on around the world – we can rely on God being our light, showing us the way to go. He promises to always light our way, whatever we are going through.

In fact, this is what it says in the Bible... Can you work it out?

Why don't you come and join us on Sunday 27th?

God Bless and see you next time! *Helen C*

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The Table
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

North Warnborough Village Hall

UPCOMING DATES:
15th September
29th September
27th October
10th November

From **5PM**

Please contact Matt to book matt@moretolife.church

FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS
JOIN THE GREYWELL RINGERS
AT GREYWELL VILLAGE HALL FOR THEIR
BEETLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 2.45PM. FIRST GAME 3PM.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN THE INTERVAL.
Tickets £10
Booking essential 07867 594160

Discover more – try Alpha

There's never been a better time to do Alpha!

Alpha is a series of eight interactive sessions to explore the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly environment.

Each session starts with coffee, followed by a short video and time for questions. (See a taster video for the excellent Alpha Film Series at www.moretolife.church)

There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge. Why not come along for the first session and see what you think? We look forward to seeing you!

For details of our next Alpha courses, please contact Chris Dudgeon chris@moretolife.church



AUTUMN HAS DEFINITELY ARRIVED

It may be chilly and at times more than a little wet, but the weather does not deter our members from enjoying themselves! Our 'garden trip specialist' Pam, has recommended two gardens to view the splendour of autumnal colour: Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire and, closer to home, Winkworth Arboretum nr Godalming.



Our groups Walking for Pleasure and Nordic Walking are also out enjoying the change in seasons first hand. Walking for Pleasure revisited a favourite walk around Crondall. The group maintains the

fresh air and exercise leads to a guilt-free pub lunch!

Wings and Wheels continue with their mix of visits and visitors. Visits range from British Airways HQ to the RAF Welford Museum and more locally The Phoenix in Hartley Wintney, original home of the Vintage Sports Club. Their most recent visitor was Peter Le Gros speaking about Air Traffic Control.

Meanwhile indoors, some members of Craft and Chat had already begun work on Christmas presents!

Plus the usual wide variety of projects taking place, including the 'upcycling' of an old teapot using colourful paints.



Family and Social History started the new term with a reminder of the record sources available for research before the 1841 Census, plus a member's fascinating account of tracing his family members, the Hignettes.

Of course there is always time for computer research and refreshments! Science and Technology recommends us to listen to *In Our Times* on Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Perhaps a perfect comment on our times!

To find out more, please visit our website.
www.odihamu3a.org.uk

COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK RESPONSE TO NEW NPPF CONSULTATION

www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk

Published 27 September 2024

'Councils which cover county and rural areas warn that their communities face a developer "free for all" and could be left at the mercy of speculative housing development under the Government's flagship plans to reform the planning system.

'A new survey from the County Councils Network (CCN) shows that the vast majority of County and Unitary councils do support nationally set targets.

'However, nine in 10 local authorities surveyed believe these new targets for their areas are excessive. New analysis from the CCN reveals that county and rural areas will see a dramatic increase in the number of houses built under the new mandatory targets. On average, those local authority areas will see a 56% rise in the number of new homes required per year – over 64,000 properties. This is far higher than any other part of the country, and over three times the percentage increase for councils in England's major cities.

'County and Unitary councils say they have a chronic lack of infrastructure to cope with a dramatic increase in housing. They are warning that pressure on their local roads, health services, schools and amenities has worsened over the last five years with little guarantee at the moment that the system will be improved to help deliver more infrastructure.

'With the Government's proposals effectively watering down the power of Local Plans, nine in 10 councils say they will be at the mercy of speculative development in unsuitable and unpopular places, running the risk of the new system becoming one which "drives a bulldozer through locally-led planning decisions".

The CCN argues that Government's proposals are being done in the wrong manner, and ministers should introduce strategic planning before implementing new housebuilding targets, as this would allow councils to better plan for housing and infrastructure in their areas.

'Cllr Richard Clewer, Housing and Planning Spokesperson for the County Councils Network, said:

"The County Councils Network's survey is clear: Councils in rural and county areas are not anti-housing and the vast majority support the principle of nationally set targets. But these targets are excessive... without any commitment to essential road networks, school places, and GP surgeries that will be required.

"We don't have enough infrastructure to cope now, let alone after building a quarter of a million extra homes over the course of this Parliament. We also must remember much of this development in county areas will be in the places with limited or no public transport, compared to the benefits of building in or around cities where there is already good infrastructure.

"Worse still, Government's proposal to re-introduce a five-year land supply drives a bulldozer through locally-agreed housing decisions in our Local Plans and empowers developers. If implemented alongside these dramatic new housing targets, we will see a developer free for all in many county and rural areas, weakening democracy and leading to development in unsuitable locations, regardless of local views."

Kevin Curtis

Carpenter & Joiner



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Checkatrade membership number 230871

North Warnborough & District Garden Club Thurs 24 Oct 2.10pm, N Warnborough Village Hall Speaker 2.30pm Rosy Hardy on *the Work of Prickle Lodge Hedgehog Rescue*. Visitors welcome £3 www.nwdgc.org.uk