

The Villager

April 2026 Volume 55 No 2

Newsletter for Mapledurwell, Up Nately, Nately Scures & Newnham

You're Invited To A

SUMMER BANQUET

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

&
SILENT DISCO

Dress Theme: A TOUCH of PINK!

Sat 30th May 2026
Drinks from 6pm at
The Old House at Home
Dinner on the Green
at 7:30pm

SUMMER FEAST & FUN ON THE GREEN ! FOLLOWED BY A SILENT DISCO PARTY!

Link for tickets overleaf

Newnham & Nately Scures

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00595/HSE (Validated 27 March)
Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. Single storey kitchen extension to rear elevation with balcony above

26/00562/FUL (Validated 17 March)
Rowan Lodge, Crown Lane. Single storey flat roof extension to rear of building over area of external terrace to provide additional internal communal space.

26/00566/RET (Validated 25 March)
The Old House at Home. Siting of container for additional kitchen facilities (retrospective).

26/00144/LBC (Validated 02 Feb) and **26/00151/ROC** (Validated 03 Feb)
Newnham House, Ridge Lane. Variation of Con 1 of 24/02797/FUL to amend drawing numbers to allow for various alterations to scheme [re Coachhouse].

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

25/02019/RET (Grant 05 Mar) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of Con 9 of 21/01670/FUL (Erection of one dwelling) Changes to landscaping (retrospective).

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00067/26/TPO (Approve 16 March)
Whisperwood, Newnham Road. Fell 3 multi-stemmed Ash trees.

T/00036/26/TCA (Approve 02 March on revised wording) 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).



EVENING OF 30 MAY

Catering will again be provided by Berro Kitchen and admission will be by ticket. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

<https://buytickets.at/newnham900/2102678>

or scan the QR code

Please spread the word and save the date.

REDEDICATION OF KNEELERS

St Swithun's Evensong 03 May

Over many years, a large number of kneelers were made for St Swithun's by Merv Foster – a wonderful servant of the church.

After Merv's death, further part-made kneelers came to light in her loft. Lyn Boswell, from St Mary's Greywell, has kindly completed those unfinished kneelers, and they look beautiful – she has done a fantastic job.

To mark their completion, the Evensong at St Swithun's on May 3rd will be a service of rededication celebrating the amazing work put in by Merv and Lyn.

After the service there will be refreshments – a cheese and wine tour in the Tea Barn. Please do come and join us as we celebrate at 5pm on Sunday 3rd May. All welcome.



EASTER SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

St Swithun's Nately Scures 11am. United Parish Good Friday Reflection Service of music, readings, reflection, prayer and silence.

EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

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), a less traditional service, suitable for all ages, and there will be Easter egg painting from 10.30am.

No service at St Nicholas' Newnham on Sunday 12th April.

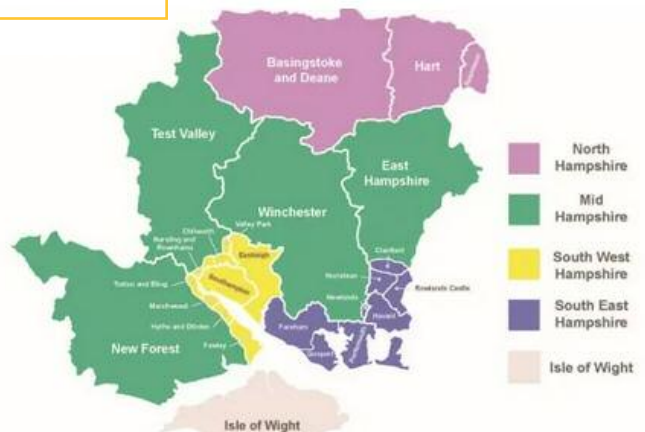
DECISION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

by Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government announced 25 March confirming a five-unitary solution including a Northern Hampshire Unitary comprising BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor. Elections to new shadow unitary councils will be in May 2027 with 01 April 2028 being the vesting day.

NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



MARCH winners are
Trudy & James Rankin – £100
Nigel Bell – £50
Melanie Christopher – £25.



NOTES FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Preceded by a public meeting with Council Leader, Cllr Paul Harvey, and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure, Cllr Andy Konieczko.

Water Infrastructure Capacity and Government Housing Targets (see following page.) Our experience of the Environment Agency is that the people who do the work are brilliant – absolutely committed – this is where we want to take the issues to. But recognise the lack of resources.

The NPPF is changing yet again – the new Framework as based on the December 2025 Draft will be adopted as early as this summer. It seems we will lose our ability to make our Local Plan more ambitious; the NPPF draft version doesn't allow for requirements above national Government guidelines. All feeds into Government's wider scheme to remove decision making from local planning authorities.

Local Government Reorganisation (See previous page.) 'Wish to keep numbers of councillors the borough currently has; want to keep the local connection. Need to understand what 'Neighbourhoods' will mean... to be an ongoing conversation with Parishes.'

Rights for Rivers Ward Cllr Kate Tuck gave an update on Rights for Rivers (see opposite). Sadly this is not legislated, but it does raise their profile. We are backing our local chalk streams; the borough is supportive and active in local water testing; pulling together all publically available data; building evidence. Looking now for Parish Councils to support with their own declarations.

Question from Water End Concern raised re unauthorised works at the field beside Water End Park. The issue has been taken up by ward councillors and planning enforcement, but residents are really worried about what will happen. Cllr Harvey noted will follow up on this, please continue to keep in touch with ward councillors.

Parish Council meeting

Owen's Farm To thank everyone from Hook and Newnham for the many and detailed responses. There are presently holding objections from HCC Highways Development Planning and the Environment Agency.

Bus shelters HCC grant awarded to replace four A30 bus shelters.

To record thanks to County Cllr Elaine Still for grant funding for the Green and the N901 event.

RIGHTS FOR RIVERS BDBC Cabinet of 10 March 2026 agreed:

'To adopt the declaration on the Rights of Rivers and note the actions taken to date, including embedding protection and enhancement of the water environment into key strategies and into the emerging Local Plan.'

And further noted: The Rights of Rivers declaration is helpful in providing the Council's formal view on the importance of water courses in the Borough which will help to inform and guide key strategies in the future. The declaration highlights the need to protect and enhance water courses through the various strategies and actions in the control of the Council alongside those duties that rest with others.

DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION

Declaration on the Rights of the Rivers in the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane

Humans depend on our rivers to provide clean water for drinking and sanitation, fertile soil, and regeneration but rivers also support an extensive diversity of species and ecosystems and play a vital role in the functioning of the Earth's continuous water cycle. Rivers are also one of the largest natural carbon-transport systems on our planet, moving land-based carbon to be stored in the oceans and providing temperature regulation functions.

This Council recognises that rivers are vital to the ecological health, cultural heritage, and future sustainability of Basingstoke and Deane. In the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, these waterways also include our globally rare, ecologically fragile and irreplaceable chalk streams. The Borough contains the springs and headwaters of the River Loddon and River Test as well as important tributaries of the Itchen and the Kennet. Rivers and the wetlands they create give many communities a sense of place and identity. Many towns exist in their place because of a river. Despite this, rivers across the UK, and here in Basingstoke and Deane, face increasing pressures from pollution, over-abstraction, habitat degradation, and climate change. Communities increasingly demonstrate that they care for their rivers and concern grows for the poor state of our rivers' ecological health, which increasingly impacts public health.

To address these growing threats and to uphold our responsibilities to future generations, this council resolves to formally recognise the Rights of Rivers, drawing inspiration from the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers.

1. The Right to Flow – to follow natural and seasonal flow patterns.
2. The Right to Perform Essential Functions within its Ecosystem – to sustain the hydrological and ecological processes that underpin the health of the waterways and landscape.
3. The Right to be Free from Pollution.
4. The Right to Feed and Be Fed by Sustainable Aquifers and other freshwater sources – to be replenished by, and to replenish, groundwater systems without unsustainable depletion.
5. The Right to Native Biodiversity.
6. The Right to Regeneration and Restoration – to recover from damage, including through active protection, remediation and investment in habitat restoration.

This Council therefore declares that:

1. The intrinsic rights of rivers within the jurisdiction of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will be acknowledged.
2. It will work with community groups, river trusts and environmental experts to identify and support the practical recognition of these rights.
3. It will support local initiatives and citizen monitoring efforts that protect and restore river health, such as citizen science water testing, riparian buffer planting, natural flood management and creating wildlife corridors.
4. It will embed river rights principles into council policies, where appropriate, particularly those concerning planning, development, land use, water quality, water management, and biodiversity.
5. It will commit to Council projects and strategies taking account of the principles of Rights of Rivers and chalk streams taking appropriate measures to protect these ecosystems and delivering enhancements where possible.
6. It will advocate to national and regional bodies, including the Environment Agency, the adoption of river rights frameworks and enhanced protections for our chalk streams and freshwater ecosystems.

Mapledurwell & Up Nately



A fun-packed evening of jazz at the Village Hall in aid of the United Parish. With thanks to James Gwynne for organising and hoping to follow with a further event in the autumn



The Bluestone Bills played 60s pop classics, bluesrock, country and rock 'n' roll, followed by Jazz Club X

A further call for a volunteer to take up the vacant post as treasurer for the United Parish of five churches which comprises St Mary's Mapledurwell, St Stephen's Up Nately, St Swithun's Nately Scures, St Nicholas' Newnham and St Mary's Greywell. Expressions of interest please to cat@moretolife.church

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00539/HSE and 26/00540/LBC (Validated 13 March) Eastrop Farm House, Heather Row Lane. Removal of conservatory and erection of a single storey side extension. Alterations, internal and external. Erection of greenhouse.

26/00455/FUL (Validated 03 March) Eastside, Frog Lane. Conversion of outbuilding from ancillary residential accommodation to a single self-contained residential dwelling (use Class C3)

26/00085/LBC (Refuse 11 March) Mead House, Heather Row Lane. Removal of five existing windows and installation of five new windows.

25/02579/ROC (Pending 27 October) Bridgeway Mansion, Heather Lane. Relief of conditions – 1 Approved Plans; 3 Details of Materials; 5 Landscaping; 7 Brickworks Docks; 14 Visibility and 16 Front Enclosure – of BDB/74968 (Erection of one dwelling following demolition of piggery buildings and barn).

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 (Scheduled for decision by Development Control Committee of 08 April) Land North of Parrotts. Four detached new dwellings, garages, access, parking, amenity space etc.

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.

PLANNING APPEAL

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

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00132/26/TCA (Validated 12 March) The Old Post Office, Kembers Lane. T1 Ash tree, fell to ground level. T2 conifer, fell to ground level. T3 holly, reduce height from 8 to approx 4m and reducing width from 4 to 2m.

T/00095/26/TCA (Validated 07 March) The Old Chapel, Tunworth Road. Conifer (T.1) Reduce height by approx 3m to height of hedge. Oak (T.2) Reduce height by approx 3m, 20% thinning, sever ivy. Three Beech Trees (T 3, 4, 5) Reduce height and shape by approx 3m, 20% thinning. Ash (T.6) A small group of trees; take off lower branches over garden shed, 20% thinning. Hazel tree/shrub (T.7) Reduce by 3m, reshape and balance.

T/00066/26/TCA (Approve 01 March) 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.

DEVOLUTION – HAMPSHIRE & THE SOLENT COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY

On 16 March 2026 a statutory instrument (SI) was presented to Parliament, which will legally set up the Hampshire & the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) and define its initial responsibilities and how decisions will be made. An Interim Chief Executive, Dr Ruth Adams, has been appointed, with temporary staff to fill key roles including Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer to ensure legal operations.

This legislation will transfer significant powers from central Government to the HSCCA, giving it strategic controls over local matters including transport, housing, regeneration, public safety, adult skills training, health and wellbeing and the environment. Local councils will still be responsible for day-to-day service decisions in their communities.

The first tier authorities, Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, are working together to finalise the operational framework for the HSCCA, including drafting its constitution. The HSCCA is expected to be legally established this summer 2026, with the first Mayor elected for a four-year term in May 2028.

UP NATELY NEWS

Coffee gathering in Up Nately will be on 1st May at Blaegrove Cottage, 10-12. Call Amanda for information 07799 564957.

Enjoy reading? Then make your way to St Stephen's church and check what you can borrow from the bookcase by the organ, or leave books for others to read. These should fit on the shelves, no larger books please.

MAPLEDURWELL ALLOTMENTS

All plots at the Frog Lane allotments are now taken but if you are interested for the future please contact colin.mandunpc@gmail.com to join the waiting list.

AN INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 7.30PM

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall

refreshments provided

Updates and discussions on issues relating to the parish and the wider borough with BDBC Council Leader, and Ward Councillors.

Borough issues will most likely include housing numbers, water infrastructure, our rivers; the future of the Emerging Local Plan, the new NPPF, and Local Government Reorganisation.

All residents of Mapledurwell & Up Nately are warmly invited. Please take this opportunity to discuss, question and share views.

Wine & crisps as always... Please make a diary date.



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING NUMBERS AND THE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

LETTERS FROM THE BDBC COUNCIL LEADER AND HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE

The March Villager featured a letter from the BDBC council leaders focussing on the shortfalls in Thames Water's capacity to deal effectively with current demand on the sewage system and the devastating impact on our rivers. Concluding that:

'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.'

GOVERNMENT HOUSING TARGETS, WATER SUPPLY CAPACITY AND THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

A comprehensive Water Cycle Study from JBA Consulting was published in November 2025.

A further letter from BDBC council leaders concludes that:

'Its findings cannot be ignored...

'The Government's updated National Planning Policy Framework... requires the council to plan for 1,152 new homes every year during the new Local Plan period to 2042 – a total of over 21,000 dwellings. This represents a 40% uplift on previous housing figures.

'The majority of this planned growth falls within South East Water's 'Water Resource Zone' encompassing the east of Basingstoke & Deane. South 'East Water has told us that they

' "...would not be able to accommodate any level of growth in excess of our current WRMP24 [Water Resources Management Plan 2024] forecast assumptions".

'This effectively puts a cap on the amount of development that can take place in our borough.

'A new strategic transfer pipeline from Surrey Hills service reservoir towards Basingstoke is not expected to be completed until 2033 – meaning the infrastructure gap will remain for nearly a decade.'

This is not a future risk – it is a present reality

'The Environment Agency has classified Basingstoke & Deane as an area of serious water stress.'

The Water Cycle Study also references the impact on our globally rare chalk streams.

'The storm overflow performance across the borough tells its own story. The Water Cycle Study found that 10 out of 12 storm overflows in Basingstoke & Deane are currently operating above the threshold requiring investigation.

'We're speaking to the regulators to get them to take this seriously.'

Extracts from letter from BDBC Planning Policy Manager

UPDATE ON DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (2024-2042) POST-REG 18 CONSULTATION

'The Council recently completed a consultation on a Local Plan Draft Spatial Strategy (Regulation 18).

'The process has brought to light significant issues concerning the provision of the strategic infrastructure required to support the higher level of growth now required by Government. In particular, the capacity and resilience of the borough's water supply system has been brought into question.'

'The Draft Water Cycle Study commissioned last year as part of the Plan-making process raised questions about South East Water's ability to provide a resilient supply of fresh water to parts of the Borough.

'Reg 18 responses from the Environment Agency and Natural England have reinforced and strengthened these concerns.

'The council now needs to work closely with South East Water and the regulators to fully understand the implications of the emerging water supply constraints for the borough and for the draft Plan.'

'The council remains committed to restoring a plan-led system for the borough. **Once the full scale of the work needed to resolve the issues is understood, the council's Cabinet will need to agree a new timetable for the Local Plan.'**

Church Notices

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

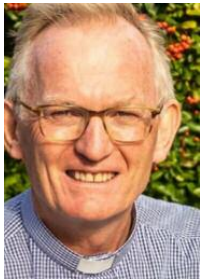
www.united-parish.org.uk

www.moretolife.church

From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes: Norman Gary at St Nicholas' Newnham on March 23rd

Funeral: Carol Bulpitt at St Nicholas' Newnham on March 27th.



FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

The Hope and Joy of Easter

As I travel around our churches and villages, spring is beginning to appear across the North Hampshire Downs, and something quietly wonderful is happening.

The days are growing longer, gardens are beginning to stir, and signs of life are appearing where winter once seemed to have the final word. Finally we're seeing buds open, birds return, and the world is feeling somehow full of possibility again!

Easter arrives right in the middle of this season of new life – and that is no accident. At the heart of Easter is the astonishing claim that Jesus Christ, who was crucified on Good Friday, rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. The first Christians didn't describe this as a symbol or a nice idea. They spoke about it as something that actually happened – something that changed everything.

For them, Easter meant that death did not have the last word. Darkness did not win. Hope was not an illusion. And that matters far beyond church walls.

We all know that life can be difficult. Alongside moments of joy there can be grief, anxiety, disappointment, and questions about the future. Sometimes the world itself –

especially at the moment – can feel uncertain or fragile. But the message of Easter speaks right into that reality.

The resurrection of Jesus tells us that God has not abandoned this world. It tells us that love is stronger than death, that forgiveness is possible, and that new life can begin – even when things seem beyond repair.

Christians believe that Easter shows us something profound: that there really is more to life. More than what we see, more than what we achieve, more than the limits of this present moment. Through Jesus, God opens the door to a relationship with him that brings forgiveness, purpose, freedom and lasting hope.

That's why, for Christians, Easter is the most joyful day of the year.

But Easter is not only something to remember – it's an invitation. An invitation to explore who Jesus is, to ask questions about faith, and perhaps even to discover that the hope of Easter could be for you too.

Across the North Hampshire Downs Benefice – our network of 12 local churches – we would love to welcome you to one of our Easter services. Whether you come regularly, haven't been to church for years, or have never been before, you will find a really warm welcome. Come and discover more to life!

With best wishes, Chris
Revd Chris Dudgeon, Rector

North Hampshire Downs Benefice – our network of 12 local churches in Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, Odiham, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

chris@moretolife.church
www.moretolife.church
01256 702918

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

North Hants Downs MU

At our meeting in March, we agreed to make a donation to the Child Contact Centre in Popley.

This is a Mothers' Union project which supports families where the relationship between the parents has broken down and provides an opportunity for the parent who no longer lives with their children to spend time with them and build a relationship.

The centre is run by volunteers who ensure that the children are welcomed and safe and provide support for the parents. We are looking for additional volunteers for the Contact Centre, and if you are interested, please do call me.

We were delighted to hear that Bishop Kelly, Bishop of Basingstoke, has been appointed as Bishop Ambassador for Central Mothers' Union and we would like to wish her well in her new role.

The first Monday in April is Easter Monday - so instead of our usual branch meeting we will meet for tea in a local café. There is also a diocesan meeting in St Gabriel's church in Popley on Monday April 20th from 10am to 2pm, and all are welcome to come and hear about our work.

If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy at
suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com
or 01252 845011

CHURCH SERVICES APRIL INTO MAY

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 Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion

9am St Swithun's Nately Scures, BCP Holy Communion

11am St Nicholas' Newnham, Family Communion

11am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 12 April 9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said)

(Please note: no service at St Nicholas' Newnham)

Sunday 19 April 9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion

11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service

Sunday 26 April 10.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said)

11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship

Sunday 03 May 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion

11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship with Baptism

5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Kneeler Rededication Evensong



Helen Chatfield
Children & Youth Outreach Pastor
More to Life network of Churches
North Hampshire Downs Benefice

KIDSZONE

Hi everyone,

Easter is one of the most joyful celebrations in the Christian year. There are chocolate eggs, bright flowers, and happy songs in church. But do you know why Christians celebrate Easter?

Because Easter is the story of hope. Sometimes the world can feel a bit scary or sad. You might hear grown-ups talking about wars or problems in the news. In places like Ukraine and parts of the Middle East, many families are living through very difficult times. Some people have lost homes, some have had to move far away, and others worry about loved ones who are in danger.

It can make us wonder: Is there any hope? That's exactly the kind of question people were asking on the very first Easter.

On Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross. His friends were heartbroken. They thought everything was over. The wonderful teacher who had healed people, welcomed children, and spoken about God's love was gone.

Imagine how dark that day must have felt. But the story didn't end there! On the third day, some women went to Jesus' tomb and discovered something amazing. The stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.

Jesus was alive! That moment changed everything. The sadness of Good Friday turned into the joy of Easter morning. When Jesus rose from the dead, he showed that:

- Love is stronger than hate,
- light is stronger than darkness,
- and hope is stronger than fear.

That's why Easter is such good news for the whole world. Sometimes hope isn't just something we feel – it's something we do.

You're probably aware that young people in Odiham and the surrounding villages have been showing exactly what Easter hope looks like in real life – maybe you were even part of it in school!

Instead of feeling helpless, local young people decided to help. Together with their Ukrainian friends they organised

concerts, fundraising events and activities to raise money for a charity called Pickups for Peace.

Their goal was amazing: to raise money for their fourth vehicle to send to Ukraine – and they've only gone and done it! That's what hope looks like in action.

Young people who could have said: 'There's nothing we can do.' instead said: 'Let's help.'

And together, they made a difference.

Want to See Their Story?

If you're curious to hear from some of these young people themselves, ask a grown-up if you can watch the short video made by The Diocese of Winchester. In the video, some of the young people talk about why helping Ukraine matters so much to them and why they wanted to raise money for another vehicle. You can find it here:

www.facebook.com/share/v/1anU6mCaWM/?mibextid=wwXifr

It's a great reminder that even young people can bring hope to the world.

The Easter story reminds us that God can bring light out of the darkest places. But God also invites us to share that hope with others.

You might not be able to send a vehicle to another country – but you can still make a difference, and here's your Easter challenge!

- Write a kind note or draw a picture for someone who feels lonely.
- Help a neighbour or family member without being asked.
- Pray for people who are living through difficult times.
- Raise money for a charity that helps people in need.
- Be a friend to someone who feels left out.

Every small act of kindness is like a tiny Easter light shining in a dark, scary world. Remember: when Jesus rose on Easter morning, he showed that hope is stronger than anything.

And the wonderful truth is this: You are never too young to share that hope with the world!

God bless and see you soon!

Helen



Atlantic Salmon
© Linda Pitkin_2020VISION



ATLANTIC SALMON'S LONG JOURNEY BACK TO THE RIVER ITCHEN

Atlantic salmon have one of the most remarkable life cycles in the natural world. Born in the clean gravels of rivers like the Itchen, these powerful fish travel thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean before returning, often years later, to the very same stretch of river where they began life.

For 1000s of years this migration has been part of the natural rhythm of the Itchen. Each year young salmon head out to sea, growing to adulthood in the North Atlantic before navigating their way back to the chalk streams of southern England. Their return is one of nature's most extraordinary journeys, guided by instinct and an ability to detect the unique chemical signature of their home river.

Atlantic salmon are among the most recognisable fish in British rivers. Adults returning from the sea are powerful, streamlined fish with silvery flanks, dark speckles along their backs and a forked tail built for endurance swimming. Some can grow over a metre long. During the spawning season their appearance changes as they adapt to freshwater, often darkening in colour while males can develop a distinctive hooked jaw.

After returning from the ocean in winter, females dig shallow depressions in clean gravel known as redds, where they lay thousands of eggs. Redds appear as lighter patches of gravel with a shallow dip and mound. The eggs remain buried in the gravel until they hatch in late spring. However, these nests are fragile and easily damaged by disturbance in the river such as wading, wild swimming, paddling, and dogs entering the water. Any activity that disturbs the riverbed can crush the eggs or compact the gravel around them, cutting off the oxygen they need to survive. Members of the public can help protect this

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THE CLUBHOUSE HOSTS ART & OPERA

Thursday 7th May 2026

Art Preview 5pm - 7pm

Opera 7pm - 9:30pm

An incredible evening hosting Suzie Horsey Art Preview & 'Love & Lust' Operatic Performances with Candover Brook sparkling wine & canapés.

Art Preview: £10 (members complimentary)

Opera: £45 (members) £55 (non members)

To attend both: £45 (members) £65 (non members)

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th May 2026

Exhibition continues, enjoy the opportunity to peruse the collection at your leisure & speak to the curator.

Palmers Bar & Orchards Cafe will be open all day serving drinks, breakfast, lunch & nibbles.

www.barnsgrove.com/whats-on/

continued from page 7



The Wildlife Trusts

vulnerable stage in the salmon's life cycle by keeping to the riverbanks and staying out of the River Itchen.

Atlantic salmon are uniquely adapted to their home rivers. Chalk stream salmon populations are genetically distinct, shaped over thousands of years by the conditions of the rivers they return to. The River Itchen is one of only six chalk streams in England that still supports wild Atlantic salmon.

However, their numbers have fallen dramatically. In 2022, just 133 adult salmon were recorded returning to spawn, and numbers remain critically low. This decline has prompted conservation organisations including Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, to launch the Itchen Salmon Delivery Plan, a coordinated effort to restore habitats, improve water quality and remove barriers to migration.

hiwwt.org.uk/news/urgent-action-launched-save-endangered-atlantic-salmon

If you would like to help support the Trust's conservation work please consider joining from £2.25 a month.

hiwwt.org.uk/join-today or call 01489 774408.



CROSS BARN THEATRE, ODIHAM

17th April 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*

Doors open at 1900, Film starts at 1945. Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available. Tickets £7.50. at

www.thecrossbarn.org.uk

North Warnborough & District Garden Club Next meeting with plant stall Thursday 23rd April at 2.10pm. Speaker Wilf Simcox on 'Growing Soft Fruit'. Visitors are always welcome for £3 for a first visit. www.nwdgc.org.uk

HOOK CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 18th April at St John's Church, London Road, Hook.

The ticket price of £20 includes a complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice. Tickets from website hookchoral.co.uk, by phoning 07957 293641, or on the door.

ODIHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL

1st to 3rd May Join us for a joyful celebration of music for all ages and interests. Features cherished classics and hidden gems, by outstanding musicians at All Saints' Church Odiham: Festival Chamber Concert on Friday 1st May at 7.30pm
Come and Sing *Poulenc Gloria* on Saturday 2nd May from 10am - 3pm (concert 3pm)

Wind in the Willows Family Concert on Sunday 3rd May at 1pm
Festival concert – Redemption and Rebirth on Sunday 3rd May at 7pm
For more details and tickets visit www.odihammusicfestival.co.uk



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