

The Villager

April 2025 Volume 54 No 3

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



BC Gardening
Maintenance
Ben Christian
07502 229175
Benchristian20104@gmail.com

All gardening work plus small engine (mower, strimmer etc) maintenance and repair; mole trapping



AN INVITATION TO
THE PARISH ASSEMBLY
FOR NEWNHAM, NATELY
SCURES AND WATER END
ON MONDAY 7TH APRIL

NEWNHAM CLUBROOM FROM 7PM

Refreshments available; 7.15pm start

- PCSO Andy Jones, will stop by to say a few words;
- Pete West for HIWARG (Hants & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group) will talk briefly about their work on the Newnham Green ponds.
- Al Richmond will give an update on proposals and work in progress for the Newnham 900 Celebrations;

Plus questions, discussion on the above and open session for other issues and questions.

Please save the date, and rsvp if you get chance, to give an idea of numbers.

clerk.newnham@gmail.com 07515 777060



ST SWITHUN'S, NATELY SCURES
**PALM SUNDAY DONKEY
PROCESSION 10.30AM**
EVERYONE INVITED

Please come and join us in the procession on Palm Sunday 13th April with a donkey from Miller's Ark. Palms also provided

- Bring your own big leaves if you wish to
- bring your voices to cheer loudly
- bring any flags or anything to wave.



The procession will be followed by the United Parish Family Holy Communion, led by the Benefice Rector Revd Chris Dudgeon.



VE DAY 80 PARTY!

Monday 5th May 1pm - 5pm



SPECIAL WARTIME MENU
Corned Beef Hash topped with a Fried Egg
Beef Casserole with Stout, Mushrooms, Dumplings & Mash
Hominy Pie - Creamy Leek, Potato & Cheddar Pie with Shortcrust Pastry
All with Braised Red Cabbage & Vegetables (subject to rations availability)
Apple Crumble & Custard | Warm Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream | Spotted Dick & Custard

With the amazing **STEPHANIE BELLE** singing wartime songs

£50 BEST DRESSED CASH PRIZE!

ENTRY : £10 pp
Book now at
<https://fienta.com/80-year-ve-day-theme-party>

80
VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

Water End Park, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BB

Mapledurwell & Up Nately

Malcolm J W Douglas 18 July 1948 – 28 December 2024

As many *Villager* readers will know, Malcolm Douglas died just before the New Year at the age of 76. The Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held in All Saints' Odiham. The large number of his friends attending showed how much loved and appreciated he was by our whole community.

It was especially poignant when his two sons Rob and Jamie and his daughter Rosie came to pay their tributes. They captured the particular awareness that we were listening to the life of a man who had absolute faith in God, who had no fear of death, and who throughout his life had not only been a brilliant father but had unobtrusively encouraged and prayed for those he felt might benefit from his support.

Malcolm and Camilla met when he was at Oxford and they were married in 1973. Perhaps his heart was not really into the realms of corporate business and finance to which he initially applied himself. It was in the later stages of his career that he and Camilla created the opportunity of working together on their own dynamic enterprises such as Positive Parenting and Grobrain. Their Christian tenets were, and for Camilla still are, key to those of us in our many walks of life who have been touched by their ability to inspire these beliefs.

Malcolm was adamant that 'This Life Isn't It' and we shall duly be fulfilled and at one with our Maker. His passing offers a renewed opportunity to advocate this. <https://www.youtube.com/live/BFDACBRHRbo>

For those who would like to hear the recording of the Service of Thanksgiving it can be accessed on www.youtube.com/live/BFDACBRHRbo

NOTES FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Present – Parish Councillors, Clerk and Footpaths Warden.

Tennis court resurfacing

Cleaning (pressure washing) and moss/weed treatment 27 January; patching/repair work 14 March. Painting for April, weather dependent.

Village hall grounds – Some good work completed with thanks to recent visits from Community Payback teams:

An excellent job clearing detritus from kerb-side around the Greywell Road entrance, along the old road and around the Village Hall – the accumulated soil and leaf litter has been temporarily piled in heaps, one trailer-load so far removed;

Cutting back smaller branches overhanging the old road;

Clearing leaves from playground;

Cleaning playground equipment, car park barrier and blue gate as far as possible; brushing down the pavilion;

Inroads made into clearing the accumulated soil and vegetation from the old car park.

Future visits to complete the car park clearing and spread new gravel.

Trees in new car park – Lower branches overgrowing parking spaces have been cut back. Fencing and post repairs still pending.

Highways and drainage

Tunworth Road (South). Highways sent out contractors to clear the roadside grips above Greys Farm scheduled for 14 and 15 February.

Good news that the contractors came out and did two days' work. These grips will be logged on the HCC system and allocated a clearing schedule (probably once every three years if we're lucky). But at least they're on the system.

The not-so-good is that Highways don't have funding to allocate more budget and time. Contractor spec for grips is apparently a standard 'clear a metre channel to the ditch'. There's no provision for anything different – eg as here where there are roadside banks without continuous ditches. Holding areas (grip dishes) were historically dug into the verge and bank to take and soak away water from the highway – sometimes for several metres length and depth. And are Highways' responsibility.

So with two days' work the task is only begun. Parish Lengthman will continue as much they can but again hours are limited.

With heavy rain overnight 21 February, the road was again flooded at the corner by the holding pond

PARISH ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 7.30PM

Mapledurwell Village Hall, with BDBC Council Leader, Cllr Paul Harvey.

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

Discussions with Cllr Harvey will include progress of the Local Plan Update and Local Government Reorganisation.

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



TENNIS COURTS

are due all being well to be repainted Monday 7th April and will be closed from Mon to Wed 9th.

Notice – Village hall recreation ground and local footpaths

A REMINDER TO PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

'The amount of dog poo left at the recreation ground is now getting to a ridiculous level. This includes outside the playground gate and in the middle of the pitch.'

Local villagers should not have to, as they are doing,

- come out in the morning and clean up after other people's dogs
- plus collect golf balls as these are a choking hazard for dogs.

'Also so much dog poo is left in the farm fields on the footpaths. Please be aware that this is so very harmful to the grazing sheep.

'Please could we be more respectful of our beautiful village.'



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

24/02283/ROC (Pending 04 October)
Nunnery House, Tunworth Road.
Variation of con 13 of 21/00427/FUL (Erection of four-bed dwelling etc) to change from septic tank or cess pit to water treatment plant. For decision by Development Control Committee of Wednesday 09 April.

24/02002/FUL (Pending 18 September)
Nunnery House, Tunworth Road.
Demolish barn and one new dwelling. . For decision by Development Control Committee Wednesday 09 April.

24/01354/FUL (Pending 24 June) The Gamekeepers. Laying of 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; the hardstanding also to serve as additional parking; provision of 4 No. low-level, bat-friendly downlighters within the landscaped margin. (Reduced scheme to 21/01777/RET)

24/00756/FUL (Pending 16 April) Land North of Parrotts, Greywell Road. Four detached new dwellings, garages, access, parking, amenity space etc.

23/02103/FUL (Refused 25 February)
Land at Twine Rose Cottage, Heather Lane. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of residential dwelling with garage. Now taken to Appeal, see below.

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

PLANNING APPEALS

APP/H1705/W/25/**3362558** APPEAL IN PROGRESS Land Adjacent To Twine Rose Cottage, Heather Lane. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of residential dwelling with garage. (Refused BDBC 25 Feb 2025.)

APP/H1705/W/24/**3347575** APPEAL IN PROGRESS Brockwell Paddock and Stable, Andwell Lane. Erection of three dwellings and landscaping. (Refused BDBC 18 Jan 2024.)

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00156/25/TCA (Validated 31 Mar) Hill Cottage, Greywell Road, Up Nately. T1 Oak - Reduce in height by 5-6m to suitable growth points and shape to balance to leave a finished height of 16m with a crown spread of 12m.

T/00153/25/TCA (Validated 24 Mar)
Mapledurwell Bungalow, Tunworth Road. T1 Leaning Acacia tree: thin crown by 30% and reduce height by 2m leaving a finished height of 7m.

Plus SAVE THE DATE: Thursday evening 8th May we will be running a decorative fused glass workshop.

NOTES FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING continued

Highways and drainage cont

Frog Lane by allotments – The under-road culverts have been rodded a few times to keep water flowing as best as we can via the ditches and through the chalk stream. (Another recent incident of water running down the middle of Frog Lane!)

Frog Lane potholes reported to HCC.

Blocked gully at the Frog Lane / Greywell Road junction has been fixed by HCC and water no longer runs across the junction.

The Highways email address roads@hants is to be discontinued as from 14 April, further distancing Parishes from Highways officers. Requested this be reconsidered.

Chalkstream water level has been very high and has flooded the central island taking away a lot of the brushwood edging. Next job will be to make up some more wood bundles (faggots) from tree cuttings. It's good though to see a strong water flow and some areas are silting up nicely away from the main flows.

Noting that plastic waste and cans are regularly cleared from the river.

Allotments Tree works 24 Feb to remove branches from and make safe the fallen tree; also clearing pathways.

Tasks pending: allotment gate (south) awaiting new post; more scalplings for car park and opposite entrance; allotment shed needs new decking and fascia timbers (summer job).

Devolution consultation see p5, also: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/devolution

The regional Combined Authorities with elected Mayor do not replace their constituent councils which will continue to provide services in the same way (until the advent of Local Government Reorganisation).

Local Government Reorganisation again see p5, also www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils

BDBC's preferred option includes a 'Northern Hampshire' Unitary with BDBC, Hart & Rushmoor. The three district areas comprise c£400K population; BDBC population is c185K.

Newnham & Nately Scures

NEWNHAM 900 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



SUNDAY 15 JUNE

A Church Path commemorative walk from Hook to St Nicholas'.

A Special Church Service with the Bishop of Winchester 3-4pm.

EVENT ON THE GREEN

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Fete, attractions, reenactments plus medieval-style banquet.

There will be a full update from the 900-Team at the Parish Assembly, Monday 7th April in the Clubroom.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Green event survey. PLEASE if you haven't yet done so, contact the Newnham 900 team, either directly or via clerk.newnham@gmail.com

PARISH ASSEMBLY MONDAY 07 APRIL

Newnham Clubroom
All ages welcome
7pm for 7.15 start

Agenda

7.15pm Chairman's welcome, then (all being well), a few words from local police officer PCSO Andy Jones.

7.30pm Presentation from Pete West of HIWARG (Hants & IoW Amphibian & Reptile Group) re Newnham Green ponds; any questions to follow.

8/8.15pm Newnham 900 presentation from Alan Richmond with questions and discussion.

8.45pm Open floor for any topics / questions (we may be able to answer during the meeting or may need to give a further and later response)

Meeting close – aiming for 9 - 9.15pm with thanks to all



ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM

EASTER
SUNDAY
**20th April at
10.30am**

**EASTER EGG
DECORATING**

followed by family Holy Communion



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/00554/ADV (Validated 19 March)
Basingstoke Country Hotel. Regularisation of the display of 12 no. signs – comprising 2 no. internally illuminated totem signs, 8 no. internally illuminated post signs and 2 no. non illuminated post signs.

25/00548/FUL (Validated 07 March) Land adjacent to Blackstocks Lane) Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping.

25/00486/HSE (Validated 03 March) Tally-Ho, Newnham Road. Demolition in part of rear flat roof aspect, erection of single storey extension with new crown roof to both, exterior sauna, window replacement, pond, landscaping and exterior hot compost system.

25/00187/ROC (Grant 27 March) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of con 1 to include boot room and changes approved under 24/02561/ROC, removal of con 17 and additional information to satisfy con 2, 3, 14, 15, 16, and 18 of 24/00715/FUL for 1no. dwelling with garage, landscaping and a new access (part retrospective).

24/02978/ROC (Pending 20 Dec) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of con 1 and discharge of con 4 of 22/02643/FUL (1 no. dwelling with landscape and parking); addition of rooflights dormer window, additional rooms in roof, changes to elevations & site layout (part retrospective).

24/02797/FUL and **24/02798/LBC** (Pending 29 Nov) Newnham House, Ridge Lane. To form a separate dwelling with extension to the Coach House plus amenity space, car parking etc.

24/00882/LBC (Pending 16 April 2024) Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row. Demolish south entrance porch, changes to fenestration; new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to conservatory, replace glass roof with tiled. Internal / external alterations.

23/02722/FUL (Pending 02 Nov 2023) Land East Of Keepers, London Road. Three new detached dwellings with new access, parking, drainage, landscaping.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00104/25/TPO (Pending 21 Feb)
11 The Baredown, Nately Scures. 2 Oak, take two branches on each back to trunk.

T/00100/25/TCA (Approve 18 March)
Newnham Hill, Crown Lane. G1 – 11 Ash Trees with advanced Ash Die Back, fell. A line on Elms are being planted as replacement.

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

NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



March draw results are

£100 – Melanie Christopher (12)

£50 – Claire Eales (15)

£25 – David Hodson (56)

Thanks to Angela Downey for drawing the numbers. Carolyn Bell



JOINING THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell.

Dear all, The Church Electoral Roll is updated every year, then every sixth year (this year) the Church of England asks its churches to renew their Church Electoral Rolls meaning everyone on the existing Roll has to also re-apply.

I would really strongly encourage you all to sign up to the electoral roll for the United Parish because

1. It shows the 'powers that be' (Diocese of Winchester) that people care about their little local church
2. It engenders community and being part of a community is well evidenced to be beneficial for mental health
3. Being on the Electoral Roll gives you the right to speak, comment or ask questions should you want to at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which this year is on Wednesday 30th April 6pm in Greywell Village Hall.

Criteria: You need to be – 1. Over 16; 2. have been Baptised; 3. live in the parish or be a regular churchgoer. (You don't have to come to church to be on the electoral roll – but from my point of view that would be amazing if you all chose to!)

For further info & application form see

<https://parishresources.org.uk/the-pcc-as-a-charity/apcms-and-electoral-roll/>

Applications need to be in by 14th April. If you email them to me at debbie@moretolife.church and I will sent them to Jeff Ford who is collating the Electoral Roll for the United Parish.

So please do sign up and show your support, Revd Debbie Veel

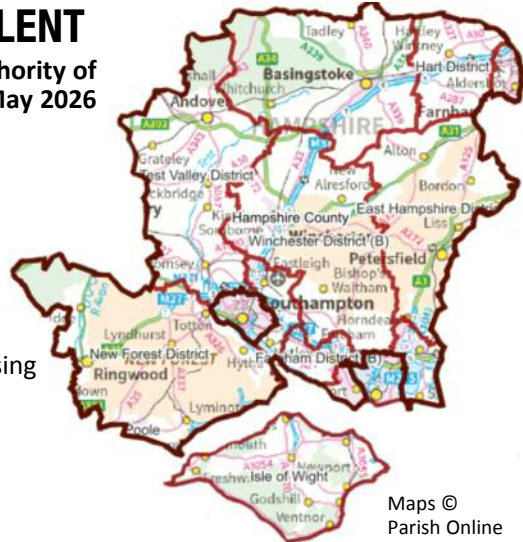
DEVOLUTION FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE SOLENT

The new regional authority – Combined County Authority of Hampshire and the Solent – with a Mayor to be elected in May 2026

Public consultation to Sunday 13 April
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation

The Mayor and constituent members will have governance of this region which has a population of over two million.

The new Authority will have a seat on the Council of Regions and Nations; will have access to long term strategic funding; will have strategic responsibility for – transport and local infrastructure; housing and strategic planning; economic development and regeneration; environment and climate change; skills and employment support; health and public service reform; public safety, eg Police & Crime Commissioner functions, fire and rescue authority functions.

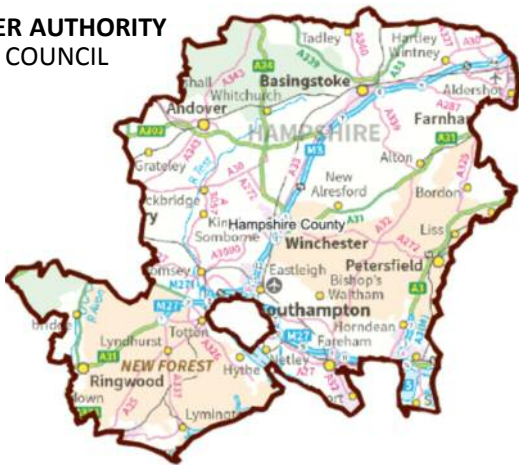


Maps © Parish Online

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

THE CURRENT TWO-TIER SYSTEM WITHIN HANTS COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

FIRST TIER AUTHORITY COUNTY COUNCIL



County Council responsibilities include (not exclusively) education, social services, libraries, trading standards, public transport, highways, waste disposal and recycling – for the whole County area

SECOND TIER AUTHORITIES BOROUGH /DISTRICT



District and Borough Councils' responsibilities within their own authority areas include planning and building control, housing, street cleaning, waste and recycling collection, licensing, leisure facilities, etc

THE CURRENT UNITARY COUNCILS

Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the Isle of Wight Council are each separate Unitary authorities within their own right, outside the area of HCC.



The Unitary Authorities are responsible for delivering all services within their area

PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Government requires that all existing Councils within Hampshire and the Solent be reorganised into Unitary Councils; the existing two-tier system will be abolished and existing smaller unitaries (in most cases) will be expected to join with other councils. Government preference is for unitaries of c50K population.

Not all 15 Councils in Hants & Solent are as yet in agreement re unitary arrangements and so, for Government's deadline for initial proposals of 21 March, they have submitted a joint 'interim plan' to this effect, with 'guiding principles' including on financial viability. Except everyone is in agreement that the Isle of Wight should remain an independent single Unitary.

It seems likely there will be three or four mainland Unitaries and that BDBC will be with Hart with Rushmoor in a 'Northern Hampshire' Unitary. Whether a fourth council will join?

Timescales

- 26 Sept 2025 (request for extension to 28 Nov 2025) for full proposal to Government on Hants unitary organisation.
- May 2027 – Shadow elections for new Unitary Councils.
- May 2028 – New Unitary Councils take over.

Church Notices

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

From the Parish Registers

Funeral: Janne Barker at St Stephen's Up Nately on March 10th



FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

A few days ago, I heard a sound which always lifts me, the sound of geese flying over my house. At this point I am reminded that the season is changing and Spring is on the way. There is nothing more beautiful than to look into the sky and see the geese flying in a V formation, especially when there is a large group.

This is not the only sign of Spring though. The snowdrops have been flourishing for a while, daffodils are opening, the primroses are filling the churchyard grounds like a carpet and the buds look ready to burst open on trees. As I drive down the country lanes I know that very soon the bare branches of the hedgerows will explode with green.

The emotions felt in Spring are joy, hope and expectation. As one looks forward to the longer days and the promise of Summer ahead, this prompts a response in us. For some it is the joy in the wonderful creation that surrounds us, the reassurance of the patterns of the seasons, and for others the reminder of new life given by God in creation.

It is good to take time out to look at our wonderful world, to step aside for a short time from our worries and the fears of what is happening in our world, though they are very real, and focus on God.

It is very natural that, as we look at all that surrounds us, we should spend time thanking God for all the joy, hope and expectation that we experience, not just in nature but in life too. Mark Stibbe in his book *Drawing near to God* suggests that our daily prayer should begin at the 'gates of thanksgiving' as we thank God for all the blessings in our life.

CHURCH SERVICES APRIL INTO MAY

Sunday 06 April 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship
5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong

Palm Sunday 13 April

9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said)
11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, United Parish Family Communion, preceded by Donkey Procession at 10.30am

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7.30pm All Saints' Odiham, Benefice Holy Communion with Tenebrae

Good Friday 18 April

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

Easter Sunday 20 April

9am St Stephen's Up Nately BCP Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion
11am St Nicholas' Newnham, Family Communion

Sunday 27 April 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said)
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship

Sunday 04 May 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship
5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH TENEBRAE

The name Maundy Thursday comes from the word *mandatum*, 'commandment'. In John 13.34 we read that Jesus said to his disciples at the Last Supper: *'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'*

It contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

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

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

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

This season of Lent is a time for reflection, and perhaps one thing we may pay attention to is spending time thanking God for all he gives us before we rush into all the requests that are on our minds as we pray. We live in a world where little attention is given to thanks, and yet feedback is sought everywhere. This is often interpreted as an opportunity for criticism – things should be quicker, cheaper, easier – and rarely as a chance to thank those who have provided a service or goods.

As we stand at the gates of thanksgiving each day, our feedback

to God should be one of thanks for the new life we observe in Spring, the spiritual, emotional and material blessings we experience and for the love that he pours on us each day.

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Suzanne Newcombe
St Mary's Herriard with Winslade



Helen Chatfield
 Youth Outreach Worker
 More to Life network of Churches
 North Hampshire Downs Benefice

KIDZONE

Hi everyone,

I'm hoping that, by the time you read this, it will be warm and sunny and you will have had plenty of time to play outside in the garden!

This month we are going to think a bit about gardens and even build one together! I wonder if you've ever made an Easter Garden? Basically they are a model, which can tell the Easter story. They're loads of fun to make and can help us remember what happened on Easter weekend.

Firstly, let's remind ourselves of the story! Scan the QR code, or follow this link:



https://youtu.be/4VtcF_fOoWY?si=GzjhLCTOL-ZnZl2v

Now, let's grab a few bits and build a garden. Remember these are just ideas. Now you know the story, you can use your creativity to make the garden individual to you!

You may need:

- A shallow tray or box. Any size is fine, but I find A4 paper size or a bit bigger is perfect. You could even make it directly in a corner of your

garden at home – just ask permission first!

- Some soil or sand. It's always fun just to get outside and have a dig, but if that isn't possible, compost from the garden centre or even sand works fine.
- A small, circular jar or plantpot.
- Stones (including one large enough to cover the opening of the jar).
- Some sticks and string.
- Grass, moss, small plants (ask permission! I don't want you to pull up Granny's favourite roses!).

Let's get started!

Firstly, let's add the soil to the tray. It would be great if the soil could cover the whole tray. Place the pot/jar on its side in one corner and then use some more soil to cover it to make a bit of a hill. This is the empty tomb. Lash together two of the twigs to make a cross to place behind the tomb. You could make three, if you wanted, to also represent the two criminals who were crucified on either side of him. Use the moss/grass and plants to cover the soil and make a garden. If you do it soon enough, you could try planting grass or cress



seeds on the soil, so it will grow in time for Easter. You could make a path through the garden leading to the tomb if you wanted! Place the large stone to the side of the opening of the tomb, to represent the stone that was rolled away. You could even place a folded white tissue to represent the grave clothes, if you wanted, or a lego figure to represent the angel who spoke to the ladies, who found the empty tomb. Use your imagination!

As you build the garden, why don't you try to remember the story, tell it to your grown up, maybe even think about how the characters were feeling at the time. We'd love to see how it goes. Send us a pic on email at youth@moretolife.church.

See you next time!
 Helen



North Hampshire Downs MU

It was very humbling to be commissioned by Bishop Philip to my new role of Diocesan President for Mothers' Union during Evensong at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday March 9th. I will be supported by a lovely team of members from around to Diocese who are taking up leadership roles within Mothers' Union and it was so encouraging to see so many people coming to support us for the service. I hope that in the coming months we can continue to make a difference to the lives of the families that we support.



Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th April at 7:30pm at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre, when we will explore some Lent resources and plan for activities later in the year. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com or 01252 845011.



Photo:
Amy Lewis

THE CHARMING CHAFFINCH

Helen Skelton-Smith, Communications Officer, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust

The chaffinch is one of the UK's most common birds, with an estimated population of over six million breeding pairs in summer.

Throughout winter, chaffinches gather in large flocks, often made up of birds that have migrated from continental Europe, arriving from late October onwards. Those seen alone or in small groups within suburban gardens are more likely to be year-round residents.

As early spring approaches, these winter gatherings break apart as males establish territories and search for a mate. Males put on a lively courtship display, singing to attract a female while performing fluttering flights and spreading their tails to show off their vibrant plumage. Once paired, they remain monogamous for the season, the female will build a well-hidden nest using moss, grass, and spider silk.

The males are especially striking, with pinkish underparts, bluegrey caps, and rich chestnut backs. Females are more subtly coloured in shades of brown, giving them excellent camouflage.

Male chaffinches learn their songs rather than being born with them, and different regions have distinct 'dialects.' Their song, a rapid, descending 'rain of notes', becomes more prominent as spring approaches.

Chaffinches can be seen in woodland and hedgerows, and prefer a mix of dense trees and open areas, perfect for searching for seeds. They often forage beneath trees, using their strong beaks to crack open fallen seeds.

While chaffinches are primarily seed-eaters in winter, they shift their diet in spring and summer, feeding on insects to nourish their young.

If you'd like to encourage chaffinches into your garden, sunflower seeds and mixed seed blends are ideal, especially in winter when natural food sources are scarce. Although they will happily visit bird tables, they do not feed openly on feeders, preferring to hop about on the ground and under hedges instead.

For more information see:
www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/finchesand-buntings/chaffinch

NEVER TOO LATE FOR A NEW CHAPTER!

One of the positive things about working part time or being retired is having more time. More time to focus on personal priorities – whether it's hobbies, self-care, or unfinished projects. Taking on new challenges can be a little daunting but also very rewarding and fun!

u3a
learn, laugh, live

ODIHAM DISTRICT

One of our most senior members, whose next birthday is closer to 100 rather than 90, is returning to Canada! He popped over here 18 years ago during which he was a founding member of our Philosophy Group. The group presented him with a T-shirt appropriately emblazoned with a bust of Socrates at their March meeting. Professor David Gallop finished his time over here with a flourish by having a letter printed in *The Times* in early March regarding how Plato showed in two of his works an 'uncanny insight' into Trump's mentality.

Over-60 members have taken the opportunity to enjoy our new Language courses, appreciating being able to access them in the local area rather than travel to evening venues. With the summer term approaching, this the perfect time to brush up on the rusty holiday vocab!

The new Short Walks group is ambling along introducing members to new paths in and around the Odiham area. This group is ideal for getting out into the fresh air and making new friends however map reading is at an early stage!

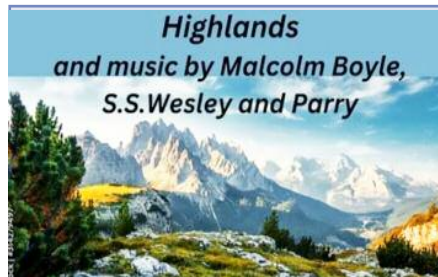


Our new Events group had a Hit with their Music Quiz focused on popular music from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. It was a sellout, as members remembered Thursday TOTP and the evening was rated... 'Oi'll give it foive!'

And finally, one of the Craft and Chat members has always wanted to knit a jumper, she may have waited nearly half a century to get started but the finished item was worth it.



To find out more, please visit our website.
<https://odiham.u3asite.uk/>



Highlands
and music by **Malcolm Boyle,**
S.S. Wesley and Parry

Hook Choral Society Spring Concert
on Saturday, April 26th, 7.30pm
St. John's Church, London Road, Hook
Tickets £15, £13.50 for four or more
<https://www.hookchoral.co.uk/event-details/spring-concert-2025>
tel 07957 293 641.



CROSS BARN
ODIHAM – FILM /
THEATRE FOR
APRIL AND MAY

25th April Film, *Conclave*
16th May Film, *Maria* (2024)
23rd May Film, *A Complete Unknown*
Doors open at 7pm for 7.45 start.
Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream.
<http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk>

NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Next meeting Thursday April 29th
North Warnborough Village Hall,
from 2.10pm, talk at 2.30pm.

Speaker Richard Ramsey from
Withypitts Dahlias.

We look forward to welcoming new
members. Visitors welcome for £3.

www.nwdgc.org.uk

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE STORIES & PHOTOS of local interest to the

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