

# The Villager

March 2025 Volume 54 No 2

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



**PARISH  
ASSEMBLY**  
**MONDAY 7TH APRIL**  
7PM IN THE CLUBROOM



**To all residents of Newnham  
Nately Scures & Water End...**

**Please join us for an hour-or-so of updates and discussion on Parish matters, with free wine, beer, nibbles – and soft drinks, tea and coffee.**

Speakers:

Al Richmond on proposals and work in progress for Newnham 900 Celebrations;

Pete West for HIWARG (Hants & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group) on their work on Newnham Green.

Plus open session for questions on any local issues.

Please save the date, and please send a quick text/whatsapp/phone call/email to give an idea of numbers.

*clerk.newnham@gmail.com 07515 777060*



THE UNITED PARISH  
**Sunday 23rd March 4pm**  
(weekend before Mothering Sunday)  
**St Swithun's Nately Scures**  
**A Reflective Service**  
for those who do not feel able to join traditional Mothering Sunday services

This will be a quiet reflective service for those who do not feel able to join in with traditional Mothering Sunday services. Whether you have lost a child through accident, illness, injury or before/at birth, or indeed whether you had a difficult relationship with your own mother or do not know your birth mother. It's a day to pause, reflect, and honour the unique journey of motherhood.

Please do join us at 4pm on Sunday 23rd March at St Swithun's Nately Scures. St Swithun's is a beautiful, intimate church, ideal for reflective services. You are very welcome even if you have never been to church before.

There will be tea and cake after the service. Please note, this service will not be suitable for children.

*Blessings, RevDebz*

## APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Joining the electoral roll for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell can be a demonstration of support for your local churches..

*continued page 5*

## GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DEVOLUTION FOR HAMPSHIRE

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation)

On 05 February 2025, Government confirmed that 'Hants and the Solent' is one of six areas accepted for Priority Devolution. The new authority will be known as '**Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority**'.

This new Combined Authority will cover 'greater Hampshire' including the areas of Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, and the Isle of Wight.

**Below a snapshot of the function and makeup of the proposed new Authority as detailed in the Consultation Document**

Combined County Authorities do not replace their constituent councils which continue to provide services in the same way (until the advent of Local Government Reorganisation).

**As a Mayoral-level Combined County Authority (MCCA)** Hampshire and the Solent will receive devolved powers, functions, funding and investment for:

- Strategic leadership
- Local growth plans
- Transport & local infrastructure
- Skills & employment support
- Housing & strategic planning
- Economic development & regeneration
- Environment & climate change
- Health, wellbeing & public service reform
- Public safety including Police & Crime Commissioner plus Fire & Rescue Authority functions.

Also the Authority may introduce a **Mayoral Precept on council tax**.

The English Devolution Bill will implement the 'Devolution Framework'.

The 'First tier' councils of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council will be the **constituent councils** of the MCCA.

**The MCCA will have five constituent members**, two appointed by HCC, and one each from the other three constituent councils. **The Mayor will be directly elected** by local electors across the four constituent council areas. The first mayoral election will be 07 May 2026, for a four-year term.

**The Mayor will appoint a deputy Mayor** from among the constituent members.

**Constituent members may appoint up to five non-constituent and associate members** to support delivery of their work programme.

**Non-constituent members** will be representatives of an organisation, for example a District/Borough Council, local NHS Trust, the Police & Crime Commissioner, or a local registered provider. **Associate members** are named individuals who can provide experience or expertise.

**Mayor and the five constituent members will be the decision makers** and automatically have voting rights. **Non-constituent members may be awarded voting rights**; associate members may not.

A Mayor's office will be created but the **Combined Authority will not employ staff**. Services will continue to be delivered via the current council structure until the changeover to a Unitary council structure in April 2028

*See Local Gov Reorganisation, page 3*

# Mapledurwell & Up Natley



## QUIZ NIGHT FUND RAISER FOR CITIZENS ADVICE BASINGSTOKE

With our wonderful quizmaster Steve

**Wednesday 2nd April, 6.30pm for a 7pm start**

Mapledurwell Village Hall. £30 per table for a team of 6 max

Licensed cash bar available, bring your own snacks, please remember to bring cash for the raffle.

Please joint us for this local charity fundraiser.

To book your table, please email [suesmart2001@yahoo.com](mailto:suesmart2001@yahoo.com)



## CURRY NIGHT WITH BINGO!!

**Saturday April 26th 6.30pm for Eyes Down at 7pm**

Mapledurwell Village Hall

£15 Includes CURRY MEAL, ONE BINGO CARD AND a free DABBER! Great Prizes. Cash for bar and cash needed for extra bingo tickets.

For tickets contact Sue (7495367169) or Heather (7552506898)

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



## Monkey House Nursery School

are very pleased to say that we once again have been graded Good by Ofsted in our latest inspection. We pride ourselves in offering a very special place where children can make progress in all areas giving them a love for learning that is essential at the start of their life long learning journey.

The inspector noted: 'There is a clear ambitious curriculum in place

understood by all staff. This helps the children to develop a range of skills and experiences. Children are motivated to learn as they explore the well-considered learning environment... Children are motivated, curious learners.'

She also stated that 'Partnership with parents is strong at this setting. There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.'

If you'd like to know about this very special place please contact Nickie on 07778 031691 or email [monkeyhousenurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:monkeyhousenurseryschool@gmail.com). We would love to show you what we offer in the heart of your community.

## HARE COURSING SENTENCING GUIDELINES CONSULTATION

The Sentencing Council is conducting a public consultation around sentencing guidelines for those convicted of hare coursing offences.

As part of the consultation, they are keen to hear from anyone with an interest in sentencing for these offences, which includes victims and their families, as well as other interested parties. Beyond the harm done to animals, hare coursing activities often involve criminal damage to land and property, and aggressive and threatening behaviour towards residents.

See the Sentencing Council website: consultation closes on 25 April 2025.

[www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/publications/item/hare-coursing-sentencing-guidelines-consultation](http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/publications/item/hare-coursing-sentencing-guidelines-consultation)

From Jack Backwell, Police, Corporate Communications Officer, Hants & IofW

## Next Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 19 March, 7pm, Village Hall meeting room, all welcome.

**Diary Date PARISH ASSEMBLY  
Wednesday 21 May, 7.30pm.**

## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**25/00304/HSE** (Validated 26 February)  
6 St Stephens Close. Erection of part first floor/two storey side/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 09 April.

**24/02002/FUL** (Pending 18 September)  
Nunnery House, Tunworth Road.  
Demolish barn and one new dwelling.

**24/01354/FUL** (Pending 24 June)  
Gamekeepers. Hardstanding for access to the cesspit, for dray lorry deliveries; also to serve as additional parking; plus 4x low-level, bat-friendly downlighters within 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 outbuilding; new dwelling with garage.

**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.

## APPEAL IN PROGRESS

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

Kevin Curtis

Carpenter & Joiner



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## UP NATELY COFFEE MORNING

A warm welcome awaits you at Netherby Cottage, Up Nately, 10-12 on Friday 7th March, coffee, chats and fun. Call 01256 760216.

## FIVE LANES END

### TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION Seasonal and temporary closures to vehicles with four-plus wheels.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up between Hampshire County Council and landowners dated 10 Feb 2025.

### 'PURPOSE: Trial imposition of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTR) restricting access for vehicles with four or more wheels from the complex of Byways Open to all Traffic known as Five Lanes End.

'Subject to Byways Management Agreement Code of Conduct, incl:

- Participants will provide the barriers used to facilitate the closures and remove and replace them at the instruction from HCC within 24 hours of a request.
- Barriers will be placed in position to allow 1.5m wide clear, flat access for users of the byways not excluded by the TTR.
- All parties agree that barriers will be confined to agreed locations, as set out in map – schedule 1.
- The Winter Closure TTR will run from the adoption of the agreement until 01 May 2025 and again from the 01 November 2025 to the 01 May 2026, unless the period of closure is reduced or extended due to prevailing weather conditions.
- Summer Closures of the byways will be triggered by the issuing of a Yellow Weather warning from the MET Office for rain in the area. This is likely to be for a period of five days and will require all agreed routes to be closed following contact from HCC.'

Start date: 19 Feb 2025.

This is a first pilot for Hampshire; if successful and made permanent, could be a model for others.

The Pilot was achieved by landowners working with County and Parish Councillors (Upton Grey Parish Council supported by Mapledurwell & Up Nately and Greywell) and HCC Countryside Services Officers.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is not part of the Devolution process, the two are separate concepts and processes. However Government has chosen to link requirements for LGR with its Devolution agenda.

Local Government Reorganisation involves replacing two-tier council systems with new Unitary Councils (and combining smaller existing Unitaries).

Government's anticipated benefits are: improved efficiency, enhanced accountability, and better service integration.

See BDBC website [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils)

Government has set out its criteria for new Unitary Authorities including:

- They should include a population of at least 500K, although there may be exceptions to this if the new structures make sense for a specific area.

B&D is c185K population; discussions are ongoing with all Hants Councils.

Current timetable

- Outline proposals for new Unitary Authorities to be submitted to Government by 21 March and final proposals by 26 September 2025.
- Final proposals will be considered by Government in early 2026.
- In 2027, shadow Unitary Councils to be formed.
- New Unitary Councils will take over from 01 April 2028.

Ref update from Hart DC

- No decisions have been made – but it is most likely Basingstoke & Deane and Hart will be together, and Rushmoor has to join with Hart. These three district areas jointly comprise c400K population. Whether this acceptable to Government or whether an additional district (East Hants?) will need to join the group?
- There is no time for consultation before 21 March – and no requirement from Government – but Hampshire councils will consult later in the Spring.

## NEW NPPF AND LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The recent call for sites ended officially on 17 February.

BDBC Cabinet meeting of 11 February confirmed it will not be possible to continue with the current Local Plan Update process.

To proceed under transitional arrangements requires 80% of the new standard method housing figure, and Reg 19 consultation by 12 March. Following the call for sites, there is insufficient time for officers to prepare the evidence base for additional housing sites.

Thus the process will go back a stage with a new Regulation 18 consultation to be published in the Autumn. This will include a new spatial strategy for the higher housing numbers.

### Updated Local Development Schedule

- Further Reg 18 Consultation to comply with NPPF of Dec 2024  
*Autumn/Winter 2025*
- Reg 19 Consultation on proposed Submission Draft Plan  
*Summer 2026*
- Submission to Secretary of State (Reg 22)  
*Winter 2026*



## POLICE TEAMS ACROSS THE COUNTY TARGET RURAL CRIME HOTSPOTS

Police have been conducting proactive operations

in the county to target rural criminals – most recently with an operation overnight on Thursday 27 February in the north and east of Hampshire.

Our rural and wildlife crime specialists in the Country Watch team often team up with other police units for operations such as this.

Offenders will typically exploit the darker evenings in winter to target fields, isolated communities, and rural estates to commit crimes such as burglary, hare coursing and poaching.

A number of vehicles and individuals were stopped and searched out in isolated rural areas, however no offences were identified.

Deterrence is key to keeping rural communities safe, and we're pleased that there were no calls for the teams to deal with any criminal activity whilst the high visibility police presence was in place throughout the night.

*Continued back page*

# Newnham & Nately Scures

## ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM ANNUAL LENT LUNCH

**Monday 24th March 12-2pm** at Waratah House, Ridge Lane (new house next to Tithe Barn).

Please join us for a light soup and bread lunch. **Donations invited for the Community Food Link in Basingstoke.** A wonderful charity which collects and distributes surplus food from supermarkets.

For catering purposes, please let us know you are coming by contacting Trudy Rankin 07975 957960 [trudy@rankinfamily.com](mailto:trudy@rankinfamily.com)

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 25 March, 7pm** in Newnham Clubroom, all welcome.

**Diary Date Parish Assembly**  
**MONDAY 07 APRIL 7pm** Clubroom.

## APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

*Continued from front page...*

The ecclesiastical electoral roll is for all the United Parish (UP); technically the five churches of the UP are no longer Parish Churches in their own right.

The UP electoral roll is updated every year, then overhauled from scratch every six years (this year) with all those on the roll needing to re-apply.

For further info & application form see <https://parishresources.org.uk/the-pcc-as-a-charity/apcms-and-electoral-roll/>  
Completed forms to be sent to [jeff.ford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeff.ford@hotmail.co.uk)



**CLUBROOM HIRE** Wifi available  
<https://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/>

To book tel 07802 972722 or email [bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk](mailto:bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk)

Supporting the Air Ambulance Service with a recycling station now sited in the Clubroom car park.

## CLUBROOM 'HANDYMAN'

The Clubroom is looking for someone interested in a paid 'handy-man' role. Thinking this would be a local tradesman, or possibly retired person, with some availability to take on maintenance and repair tasks as they arise.

Please get in touch if you are willing to undertake minor jobs such as replacing door locks, attending to guttering problems and the like...  
Contact details above.

## NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



February draw results are  
£100 - Lisa and Chris Bingham (5)  
£50 - Anonymous- (46)

kindly donated to the church  
£25 - Kate and Marcus Jefferson (23)  
*Thanks to Su Turner for drawing the numbers and congratulations to the winners.* Carolyn Bell

## NEWNHAM GREEN PONDS

### POND MANAGEMENT REVIEW

*Report from Hampshire & Isle of White Amphibian & Reptile group (HIWARG) of 22 January for Parish Council meeting*

#### Background on how HIWARG can help

As volunteers, HIWARG can offer advice and manual support for some types of tasks. We have public liability insurance so are covered for our volunteer events, but do not have indemnity insurance that commercial ecologists would have. This means that we can take on low risk manual management of some sites, but if vehicles, large scale habitat management or protected species licences or mitigation is needed, then the services of a commercial ecologist are required.

A HIWARG member's licence to survey for great crested newts (GCN) does not cover for supervising works of any kind which again would require an ecological consultant.

*Pond management options at Newnham Green:*

#### 1. The main pond (Newnham Green North Pond)

This is a difficult pond to work on as there are two conflicting legal restrictions. As well as the presence of GCN and their levels of protection, there is also a scheduled invasive species *Crassula helmsii*.

i The presence of GCN mean that, for low impact manual work, we need to carry out any tasks when either the pond is in a dried out state or when GCN are less likely to be encountered; Gov.uk recommend between the start of November to the end of January, but if GCN are found then the work must stop, unless covered by a site licence supervised by a commercial ecologist.

ii. The presence of the invasive non-native *Crassula helmsii* means that we need to tackle this when the pond is dry. This works well if we can muster enough volunteers and the pond is dry in the summer, so we can avoid GCN and tackle the plant. Unfortunately we had scheduled work in August 2024 but heavy rains at the start of the month raised the water levels above the *Crassula*, ending our plans for the year. We will plan again for this task in the coming summer. It would be very beneficial if we can encourage residents to join in on the activity, for which I can provide guidance etc.

#### 2. The pond by the Crossroads (Newnham Green South Pond)

This pond is very shallow, has a lot of willow growth and has had low levels of GCN breeding in the past. HIWARG can offer to manually clear the accumulated silt and leaf litter within the recognised government guidance between November and January.

As thankfully there is no *Crassula* in this pond, we can work on the pond even if water is present, however if we encounter GCN at any point we would need to cease the activity as per government guidance. To use machinery, or for the works to continue with minimum interruption, would need the services of a commercial ecologist, who can apply for a conservation licence and will be able to proceed under the terms of the licence.

#### 3. The third pond by Tithe Barn (Newnham Green East Pond)

This pond doesn't currently need much maintenance, but we can monitor over the year should you need any help with this in the Autumn/Winter.

Pete West, Amphibian Officer, HIWARG, <https://groups.arguk.org/hiwarg>

## OLD SKOOL NEVERLAND FESTIVAL MOVES ON

The Old Skool Neverland Festival has been moved to a new location for Summer 2025; it will not be held in Old Basing.

The License 23/01138/PREMN was surrendered by ATL Hospitality and Events Ltd in October 2024.

## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**25/00187/ROC** (Validated 30 Jan) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of con 1 to include boot room and changes approved under 24/02561/ROC, removal of condition 17 and additional information to satisfy conditions 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** (Validated 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, elevational changes and change to site layout (part retrospective).

**24/02813/LBC** (Grant 27 Feb) Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane. Replacement front door and door frame.

**24/02797/FUL** and **24/02798/LBC** (Validated 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) 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** (Validated 21 Feb) 11 The Baredown, Nately Scures. 2 Oak, take two branches on each back to trunk.

**T/00100/25/TCA** (Validated 20 February) Newnham Hill, Crown Lane. G1 – 11 Ash Trees with advanced Ash Die Back, fell. The crowns are significantly diminished and have become unstable. A line on Elms are being planted as replacement.

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

**HART LOCAL PLAN** will be five years' old on 30 April at which point it will be subject to new NPPF and new standard method and so lose its land supply. Any planning applications from now onwards will be considered as if no land supply, as decisions now, if appealed, will be considered by Inspector after 30 April.

## NOTES FROM JANUARY'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation** brief discussion on Government requirement and County etc Priority Devolution request for Hants & Solent Combined Authority.

**Budget & Precept 2025/26** Agreed a Precept request of £13,614 which equates to £50.97 per Band D household, annual increase of £1.18.

(Noting this will be halved for Band A, and double for Band H.)

Following some years of increasing the Precept to rebuild reserves, this achieved, the Parish Council is able to allocate some funding to projects, eg support for Newnham 900.

### Parish Councillor vacancy

following resignation of Chris Alliston. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Chris for his contribution; he will continue to liaise with the Parish Council in his roles as Footpaths Warden and Clubroom Secretary.

**Newnham 900** Agreed the Parish Council to officially lead on the event. Noted that permission has been sought and received from the Earl of Malmesbury for the main Green event.

The 900 Committee is compiling a comprehensive Lottery funding application, comprising a wish-list for events and attractions, and a linked application for restoration of, and a lasting memorial to be located in, the Oppe garden. The scale of the event will much depend on the outcome.

A Survey Monkey request has been circulated to all in the Parish, who can be reached electronically, seeking feedback, expressions of interest.

**St Swithun's** is deemed by several sources to be 850 this year, but has advised it does not wish to engage with a joint celebration this year; perhaps a separate future event.

**Parish Assembly** agreed for Monday 07 April, 7pm in the Clubroom. Speakers will be for Newnham 900; HIWARG (Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group); with updates Local Plans for both BDBC and Hart, and on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

**A30 drainage works at Water End** *Parish Cllr combined reports* Works scheduled for six weeks took two months and 17 days. Not well planned with subcontractors. Long delays waiting for a water pump while the road closure was in place.

There was no communication from Highways with the Iron Bull throughout. The impact on the pub is

felt to have been unnecessarily negative due to delays, positioning of barriers, and the full time closure of access between A30 carriageways.

**Bus shelter** by Andwell Lane has side window installed with thanks to Parish Lengthsman; awaiting a new seat. The bus shelter sign to be relocated to the highways signpost.

### Highways & flooding update for December / January

- Some water lying at Newnham Road ponds but not covering the road.
- (Flooding covering Ridge Lane further into Rotherwick – passible.)
- The 30mph sign coming into Newnham on Ridge Lane has been replaced / re-erected by HCC.
- Newnham Lane corner near Webbs Farm, water lying over half the road. Noted not usual, a danger if freezes. To monitor, report to HCC website.
- Water End Lane continues to flood due to blocked ditches and grips along the east-side field boundary. Not addressed by Highways during A30 works, to refer to Parish LM.

**Parish Lengthsman** visit December. Cleared ditch by Old School Road, Foster's Business Park entrance where track is adopted highway; dug out the holding ditch in Network Rail verge on Newnham Road.

Summer task to widen Green ditch inside corner of Newnham Lane; in early June to strim Church Path – Newnham FP3 and onwards into Hook. (If LM scheme continues.)

**One x Standard Elm** *Ulmus Fiorente* planted on the Green (with support from Earl of Malmesbury). Supplied by the Hampshire Forest Partnership.

Ponds update, Jan meeting with HIWARG (Hants & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group).

**Newnham Green ponds** North (main pond) Ongoing work to counter the invasive *Crassula* thwarted last year by wet weather. To remove the *Crassula* it as to be dry, as any fragment left will disperse in the water and create a new plant.

Pond (south) (by crossroads) to commission ecologist feasibility study/ management plan for restoration project; advice from HIWARG, funding with thanks to County Cllr Elaine Still from her devolved budget. See *HIWARG management report facing page*.

**Local Plan** position for both BDBC and Hart noted, ref Dec 2024 NPPF and standard method housing figures.

# Church Notices

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

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

<https://www.moretolife.church>

## From the Parish Registers

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Timothy Neame, at St Mary's Greywell on February 14th



## FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

In our national life and public discourse we have become used to a growing fragmentation. We hear a multiplicity of competing voices all calling for their own preferment or privilege, often over and against anyone who would dare to disagree with them. Finding common ground for discussion it seems has become more and more difficult as notions of community, or 'being in it together' are increasingly undermined. I think it is true to say that in a small village community such as ours this is far less pronounced than in the larger communities of towns and cities, but still, prevailing culture has an impact on us, even if relatively minor.

I suggest we need to rediscover the first person plural, or the 'we', if we are to live well with one another, both our immediate neighbours and the other citizens with whom we share this island. In this we might look at the family, however constituted, as an example of the importance of the 'we'. In a well functioning extended family there will be numerous opinions, conflicting ideas and even factions. But in this happy and well functioning family there is a shared investment in staying together as a unit, looking out for and loving one another. At the heart of this commitment lies the belief that there is something more important than each individuals own opinion or desires – that something is the family, the collection of relationships whose welfare and future they are all equally invested in.

Of course a simple abstraction from the level of the family to our national life is impossible – the bonds that connect parents and children, siblings, grandparents etc are different to the

bonds that connect strangers who by a twist of fate happen to co-exist on the same piece of land at the same time. But, there are some lessons to be learned from the domestic sphere that might improve the quality of our national life.

The collective life of our nation needs to rediscover this sense of 'we' – we need a resurgence of the first person plural to allow us to navigate disagreements, come to shared understanding, and live well side-by-side as we belong together in a shared home. I would go so far as to say that a rediscovery of this sense of 'we' is essential for the future flourishing of our nation.

In the record of the Gospels, Jesus says relatively little about how his followers are to relate to the nations in which they lived, short of a couple of well-known pronouncements about living peaceably under authority and giving dues to those who claimed them – memorably Caesar when it comes to cash.

Contra to some more radical interpretations of Jesus teaching, he seemed to have no desire for his followers to be the cause of huge political upheaval – instead it seems he encouraged them to belong fully to the communities of which they were a part and to live peacefully under the systems which governed their lives. This it seems was due not to lack of interest in the politics and structures of the day, but because it was in the midst of these structures and communities (however temporary) that the kingdom of God would be revealed in the lives of those who professed to follow him.

You see one of the great callings of the church is to be a demonstration of

## CHURCH SERVICES MARCH INTO APRIL

**Sunday 09 March** 9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion  
10am St Nicholas' Newnham, 1662 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 16 March** 9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion  
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service  
11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, 1662 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 23 March** 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said)  
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship  
4pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Reflective Service

**Sunday 30 March**  
9.30am St Stephen's Up Nately, Mothering Sunday Family Service  
10am St Nicholas' Newnham, Mothering Sunday Family Service  
11am St Mary's Greywell, Mothering Sunday Family Communion  
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Mothering Sunday Family Service

**Sunday 06 April** 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion  
11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship

the importance of the first person plural in the name of Jesus. To be a community of 'we' in which individuals of all ages, backgrounds, experiences and preferences can find a sense of belonging which is genuinely transformative, anchoring life and bringing joy. This is good in and of itself but it also points to a reality beyond, namely that in living together, navigating differences of opinion and ceaselessly and resolutely continuing to love each other, we demonstrate and make manifest something of the character and life of God. We bring heaven to earth as it were.

As recent news reports make clear, the church doesn't always get this right and indeed it sometimes gets it profoundly wrong, however, it keeps trying because the first person plural matters as an expression of the fullness of life which Christ offers.

Rev Simon Butler

**The Table**  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

North Warnborough Village Hall

Generally held on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.  
March dates are Sundays 9th & 23rd

From **5PM**

Contact Matt at [matt@moretolife.church](mailto:matt@moretolife.church)



Paul Dadd  
Children and Youth Pastor  
[paul@moretolife.church](mailto:paul@moretolife.church)

# KIDZONE

## Journey through Lent



Hi everyone

The last time you heard from me was in December during the season of Advent. I now have the privilege of sharing with you at the beginning of another significant season in the church calendar, Lent; the time leading up to Easter.

On the eve of the first day of Lent we traditionally celebrate Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. But what do pancakes have to do with Lent and Easter?

Well, Lent is a season of 40 days (actually it's 46, but we don't count Sundays!) and it ends with Easter Sunday and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally for Christians these 40 days have been a time of fasting (not eating) and living more simply.

Christians do this to remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert after he was baptised and before he started travelling around telling and showing people about God. During that time in the desert Jesus went without food. He fasted (read about it in *Matthew 4*). Now while most Christians don't stop eating altogether for 40 days, traditionally they have stopped eating some foods, in particular fatty, rich foods like butter and eggs.

That's why on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent starts, it has been tradition for people to use up all the remaining fatty foods in their homes, and pancakes have been the best way of doing that. Throughout the history of the church great festivals would have been held where the whole village or town got together. On that note, if you are reading this before March 4th we would love to see you at our Pancake Party at All Saints' Odiham.

For Christians, the purpose of giving up stuff and living more simply over Lent is to create more time to reflect on how you are living and to make more room for the things that make you more human and alive: love, forgiveness, generosity, hospitality... (the things that Jesus typified). If you and your household would like to be more intentional in practicing these things over Lent, there's a great resource which you can access using the QR code below or visit [flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/02/lent-ideas-for-families-printable.html](http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/02/lent-ideas-for-families-printable.html)

Whether you observe Lent in any particular way this year or not, may you know the immense love and kindness God has for you as shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

And, in turn, may you find yourself giving and receiving more love and kindness to and from others.

Paul



## BENEFIC NEWS AND EVENTS

### Upton Grey 'Get OWT' (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

We launched a new pre-schoolers group in late January called Get OWT – Get O(ut) W(ith) T(oddlers). The idea is simple, it's a toddler group based around being outdoors and exploring and enjoying all that the natural world has to offer. The group meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at St Mary's Upton Grey Churchyard. In January we made bird feeders, drank hot chocolate, watched nature, sang songs and generally 'let nature nurture our little ones'.

**Messy Church** is restarting on Wednesday March 19th in Upton Grey Village Hall. It's a fun-packed hour and a half for primary-aged children with crafts, music, food and a bible story, running from 3.30 to 5pm.

### Herriard Youth Hub

Sunday evenings are busy for our village youth, now that the brand new Herriard Youth Hub has started up. The first one was on Sunday 2nd February, and the young people learnt to juggle, ate pizza and had a go at pool. The Herriard Hub is such a fantastic venue, and we are so grateful that the committee have made it available for us. There is so little for our young people in the villages, so we hope that this will become a space where young people from 11-18 can feel relaxed and welcome. If you know of a young person you think might enjoy this group, please do encourage them to come along, or contact Helen Chatfield on [youth@moretolife.church](mailto:youth@moretolife.church).

**Odiham Thursday evenings** The Youth group on Thursday evenings at All Saints' Odiham has expanded to include children from school year 4 and up. The younger ones meet at 4.30pm, with the older ones joining them at 5.30 for a relaxing meal together, then a session just for the older ones from 6pm to 7.30. This is a safe place where everyone is welcome and no one is judged. Come and feel part of the family!



### North Hampshire Downs MU

In January this year I became Diocesan President for Mothers' Union in this diocese. On Sunday March 9th I will be commissioned, along with other Diocesan officers for Mothers' Union, during Evensong at Winchester Cathedral. I am hoping that many of our members will join us for what I am sure will be a wonderful service.

Mothers' Union is focussed on supporting families, particularly those who are in difficult circumstances. Our local branch runs the Sunflower Café in partnership with the Vine Church to support those living with dementia and their carers.

Mothers' Union also run a Child Contact Centre in Popley to support families where the relationship between the parents has completely broken down. This project enables the non-resident parent to spend time with their children in a safe and welcoming environment. We are looking for volunteers to help with both of these projects – if you want to find out more then please get in touch with me.

If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on 01252 845011 or [suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com](mailto:suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com)

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## POLICE TARGET RURAL CRIME

Inspector Cath MacDonald said: 'We're starting to see a steady decline in reports of offences such as poaching and hare coursing but we know these criminals are still active in Hampshire and over the county borders.

'These offenders relentlessly target and intimidate people who live and work in rural areas, and these crimes can seriously impact their livelihoods.

'The Country Watch team tracks and monitors the nature of crimes being reported to us, and map the hotspot areas so we can target our patrols and operations. This continues as the seasons change, and offenders change tactics or switch their focus.

'As such, we will continuously carry out proactive operations to prevent offences occurring in the first place.

'We need your support, however. We need the crime reports and intelligence from you so we can get a clear picture of the harm being caused, the individuals involved, the types of vehicles being used, and the areas being targeted. Tell us everything you know, including any suspicious people or vehicles operating in your locality, or damaged and burnt out vehicles abandoned in rural areas.

'The more we know, the stronger our intelligence picture and our ability to disrupt the people involved in crime.'

**If you have information about crime or suspicious activity in your area, please report this to police on 101, or via the report tool at [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)**

Alternatively, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their anonymous online form at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

Dial 999 if a crime is in progress, or in the event of an emergency.

**If you are a member of DISC you can use this platform to report to the police. If you have a business connection to the rural and wildlife environment, you may be eligible to be a member of DISC. Please email [discreports@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:discreports@hampshire.police.uk)**

To keep up-to-date with what police are doing in your local area, subscribe to Hampshire Alert. You will receive timely updates on crime prevention advice, crime alerts and witness appeals specific to your local area. [www.hampshirealert.co.uk/](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/)

Jack Backwell, Police, Corporate Communications Officer, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

## MEMBERS DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES!

We are all guilty of thinking something should be done or sorted out .. and then look around for someone else to deal with it! One of the many advantages of the u3a is when something does need doing, there are usually other members around to help. Our u3a is run very much on the principal of a mutual self-help group.



ODIHAM DISTRICT

An example of this was the formation of the Short Walks group. A number of members, for a variety of reasons, felt they needed a shorter walk than those undertaken by the Walking for Pleasure and Nordic Walking groups. So they gathered together for a cup of coffee and planning session in the Bel and the Dragon and the rest, as they say, is history.



Meanwhile, Wine Group 2 undertook research into non-alcohol and low-alcohol wines as part of their 'slightly damp' January. As the u3a has no wish to cause this publication any grief with the purveyors of these beverages, it suffices to say that they were not well received. Apparently a recent article in *The Times* stated that when you strip out the alcohol, it affects the flavour. However, the wine group were happy to report there were some acceptable low(ish) alcohol wines including a Prosecco, a Sauvignon Blanc and a Val de Loire Malbec – to be had.

And what a difference Pickle Ball has made! From a casual conversation in Spring of 2023, through the first trial sessions in September 2023, involving just eight players, playing fortnightly, our group has now grown to include 50 registered members playing on a weekly basis. The participants are from all the local u3a's and provided an excellent opportunity to swap ideas across the local branches.

If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. To find out more, please visit our website. <https://odiham.u3asite.uk/>



### ODIHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL BEFRIENDING SERVICE

NEW VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY FOR 2025.

For information or an application pack, please contact: Tina Birch, Befriending Manager on 393609 or [befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk](mailto:befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk)

### NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Next meeting Thursday March 27th North Warnborough Village Hall, from 2.10pm, talk at 2.30pm.

Speaker Barry Newman on 'The Modern Kitchen Garden'.

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

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

### BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

with Croyden Philharmonic Choir  
**Sunday 30 March, 7.30pm**  
**Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke**

To book: [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)  
or 01256 844244

**A SEA SYMPHONY**  
Toward the Unknown Region  
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  
Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes  
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Basingstoke Choral Society  
Croyden Philharmonic Choir

Conductor  
David Gibson



Docklands Sinfonia

Sunday March 30th 2025 at 7.30pm  
The Anvil Basingstoke RG21 7QR  
Tickets: The Anvil Box Office: 01256 844244  
or [www.anvilarts.co.uk](http://www.anvilarts.co.uk)

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE STORIES & PHOTOS of local interest to the Villager** Editor Susan Turner 07515 777060 [su.newnham@gmail.com](mailto:su.newnham@gmail.com);

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