

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott Patrick

August
2023

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – August 2023
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

I have at home a rather old and battered book, to be fair the reason it came my way was because it was battered. When my father worked for the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Castle Mr Fishpool, the Duke's steward, who was going to dispose of it, thought Dad might like the book for "Your boy". So it came home; admittedly as I was four at the time I had to grow into it but when I did I got a great deal of pleasure from it.



The book in question, published in 1886 written by the Rev Forbes Winslow, is "The Children's Fairy Geography". Inside the cover it is inscribed "Gwendolen C Maxwell from her affectionate mother". Gwendolen Constable-Maxwell was to marry the 14th Duke of Norfolk, which is presumably how the book came to be at the castle. It takes two children Ethel (the author's daughter) and Jack on a series of make believe journeys around Europe so there will be need for packing, or dressing in the dark by candlelight. Sometimes they will travel by steam boat or steam train but when there is a distance to travel then they will go by wishing carpet or with the aid of electric boots.

The journey begins in England, "What are the English like?" the author asks "I think they are very nice people" although he qualifies that later "Of course there are many naughty people in England". Writing for the August magazine I found myself thinking about my old book because August is the month in which many organisations take a break to recharge the batteries for a fresh start in September. It's a time when we think about holidays even though the days when works closed down for a fortnight in August are long gone.

To go with holidays, papers recommend books to take away with you – it may even be the opportunity to read the book you've been meaning to read since you were given it at Christmas, perhaps something to deepen your understanding, increase your knowledge, hopefully to challenge your perceptions rather than feed your prejudice. Books can take us on adventures, to distant places, to encounter all sorts of people, take us out of ourselves and the everyday world.

For a bargain you could do worse than the bible; nearly seventy books within its covers. Like Ethel and Jack you'll be off on a voyage of discovery – sublime poetry and prose, even one of the greatest love poems ever written – you'll plumb the depths and scale the heights – weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice.

You'll find simple age old stories which seek to explain why things are as they are. You'll travel with a people on their journey to become the people of their God, hear them castigated when they get it wrong and people known as prophets lay on the line how it should be. You'll read stories of high adventure and derring-do as well as stories of veniality, corruption, cowardice and betrayal. You'll meet a man and, like the people of his time, find yourself asked the question "Who is this?" "What manner of man is he?" You'll travel with people who took the good news about who he was across the known world of their time without regard to their own safety and you'll see what a mixed reception they got. You'll see how people of his time and soon after sought to explain just who he was and the difference he could make to life.

You'll but it's time to go get my electric boots – happy journeying whatever you read!

Alan Hoar
Licensed Lay Minister

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding: Lucy Rosen and Alex Dowle at St Mary's Upton Grey on 24th June

Baptism: Holly Conran-May at St Mary's Upton Grey on 2nd July

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th August

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
6.00pm Herriard – Evensong

Thursday 10th August

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 13th August

9.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion
6.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 17th August

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 20th August

9.00am Herriard – Morning Worship
9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
5.00pm Upton Grey – Evensong

Sunday 27th August

9.00am Tunworth – Family Service
10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
11.00am Herriard – Family Service
5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

CHURCH NEWS

New members of the Clergy Team



We are fortunate in the North Hampshire Downs to have a wonderful ministry team comprising Clergy, Lay Readers, Youth Pastor, Pastoral Care Worker, Administrators, and many lay leaders. Our remarkable team has recently grown with the addition of two Curates who were both ordained in Winchester Cathedral on July 2nd.

Rev Mark Ruffell will be serving his Curacy in the village of Tunworth and contributing to the wider life of the benefice in various ways. **Rev Debbie Veel** will be serving her Curacy across the benefice and taking a particular pastoral interest in the village of Newnham.

It is always a joy to welcome new members to our team and both Mark and Debbie bring significant gifts and experiences from which we will benefit. Please do pray for Mark and Debbie as they begin ordained ministry.

Rev Simon Butler (Benefice Rector)

Coffee & Cake

All Saints Tunworth, St Mary's Upton Grey and St Lawrence Weston Patrick are continuing with their regular coffee/cake sessions. The August events are:

- On **Thursday 3rd August at 10.30am, All Saints Tunworth** have Coffee and Cake in the church porch.
- Coffee & Cake Drop-in at **Upton Grey Village Hall, 11.00am–1.00pm on Monday 14th and 28th August.**
- Coffee morning at **Weston Patrick Village Hall, 11.00am–12.30pm on Wednesday 9th August.**

Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up. All ages welcome!

Curious about faith?



Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At each Alpha session you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

We have three courses starting in September and October:

Tuesday evenings, Upton Grey

simon@moretolife.church

Wednesday lunch, North Warnborough

matt@moretolife.church

Wednesday evenings, Odiham

chris@moretolife.church



Expect songs... Expect games... Expect crafts...

Expect silly costumes...

But most of all, expect bucket loads of rootin' tootin' laughter!

**All of this, to teach us about the wonders of God, and how we can learn
from him each and every day.**

Years R - 6 (limited creche places available for younger siblings)

Monday 7th - Thursday 10th August

1pm - 4pm

Church Meadow, Upton Grey

(£20 for 4 days)

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

August Farming News

August on the farm means harvest time. Although as I write this, there are persistent showers floating around and it isn't feeling very summer like, I hope that by the time you are reading this we are well underway with our combinable harvest. I say combinable as we have already started harvest, in a round about way. Our Hybrid Rye was forage harvested in the last week of June. This is to supply the Anaerobic Digester (AD) plant in Herriard. The forage harvester cuts the plant off near the bottom of the stalk and chops the whole plant up into small pieces roughly 10 mm long. This is so when it is fed into the AD plant, it can be digested efficiently. Much like a cow. Yields were a good average and some that we are pleased with, which hopefully bodes well for the rest of the harvest. Our first crop to be harvested will be the Oil Seed Rape. But before all the excitement starts, it is every farmer's least favourite job that needs to be done first. All the grain stores need to be cleaned. Which is a very dusty job but must be done to ensure that there is no contamination, either from previous crops or bugs and mites that may have found their way into the stores over winter. We use an industrial sized air compressor and vacuum cleaner for this. It doesn't take very long usually and will all be done in a couple of days, at least this year the weather is slightly cooler, so it is marginally more bearable.

We also have been giving all the machinery a quick once over to check everything is all mechanically sound and ready for the busy months ahead, as a breakdown on a nice sunny day can be quite frustrating, especially if it's going to rain the next day!

It sounds odd as we haven't started this year's harvest yet, but planning for next year's harvest has already started. Our cropping plan is in place, making sure that there is a good rotation of crops to prevent any soil disease, which can happen if the same crop is grown year after year in the same field. We are planning to plant our Oil Seed Rape (OSR) in early August so in reality it's not that far away! All weather dependent of course. We will be utilising some of the by-product from Herriard AD plant in the form of digestate as well. This will help to get the OSR off to a good start and away from pests like pigeons and flea beetles. Also, we will be trialing a new method of 'companion cropping'. We will plant 2 types of clover (Crimson & Berseem). These will grow underneath the canopy of the OSR, as well as a crop called buckwheat, this will grow

away quickly but killed off by a frost. Which hopefully is when the OSR is a larger, stronger plant. Our grain drill (planter) has the capabilities to plant all of these in one pass, so it saves us having to drill them all separately. The idea is that the buckwheat grows quickly to help disguise the OSR from pests. The clovers have different properties which will complement the OSR as well. The idea is that a multi species crop will support a wider network of soil biodiversity which will aid the main crop that we are trying to grow. There are more and more of these trials going on in the commercial arable farming world and I'm looking forward to seeing more of it and potentially implementing it into our farming system.

The chicken are laying well and enjoying the grass field that their mobile house is sat in. This means we can move their house around the grass to make sure they don't over trample/eat the pasture too harshly. These hens are just about to finish their productive laying cycle and egg numbers will start to drop off in due course. So, these hens will soon be heading off farm and over to a re-homing company. We will then have a full deep clean of the house and make sure everything is disinfected, ready for the new hens to arrive at a nice clean house.

As always, we thank all the locals for your patience during the harvest period. It can be very stressful, and we appreciate your understanding. It is our results day and hopefully all our efforts over the past year will be worthwhile.

Will Cheyney

Long Sutton Primary School - Governor Vacancy

Our local Primary School is a well-regarded, vibrant and caring place of learning which serves Long Sutton, Well, Upton Grey and the surrounding area. We are inviting interest in the opportunity to join our purposeful and committed team of governors, ('skilled and ambitious', according to Ofsted) working for the development of our school.

Governors are entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent; and ensuring the safeguarding and welfare of pupils. In addition, as Governors of a Church of England Controlled school, we uphold and promote the ethos of the school which is firmly based on distinctively Christian values.

It is not necessary to be local, or even a churchgoer. It is absolutely essential to support the Christian distinctiveness of the school, to support its aims and to have the time to prepare for and attend meetings, and to carry out other duties. Excellent training is provided by Hampshire Governor Services.

Our Governors enjoy contributing to an enthusiastic team and well-run organisation, learning about education and gaining new skills. If you are interested in joining us, or just wish to explore what it means to be a school governor, please get in touch for a [no obligation] conversation about the role.

Sally Francis, Chair of Governors, Long Sutton Primary School
E: sallyfrancis2007@gmail.com, Tel: 07966 499595

UPTON GREY NEWS

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www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club

Congratulations to July's 100 Club draw winners: £100 Owen, £40 Swaine. It's not too late to join the 100 Club for a monthly chance to win £100, please contact Sam_a_clough@hotmail.co.uk for details.

Summer Junior tennis coaching week: Mon 7th – Fri 11th August

Sessions start from 9.00am and are 45 minutes long. The coach will be Andrew Ridgers, who has been leading the tennis coaching for many years. He is very experienced and highly regarded and makes the sessions fun for all. He also coaches at the Odiham Tennis Club. The youngest children have the first session, which is 45 minutes, and then there are usually four more groups, largely grouped together by age. The age range is roughly 3.5 up to 16/17 year olds.

The cost is £16.00 per child, whether your child is able to attend all the days or not. We are able to keep this low due to the continued and much appreciated support from the Upton Grey Educational Trust.

In the event of bad weather, the sessions will be cancelled. Please email Susannah Livingston Booth on: slivingstonbooth@gmail.com with your child/children's name(s), age(s), and your contact details.

Payment should be made by 1st August 2023 by Bank Transfer to Upton Grey Village Tennis Court. Bank Details are Sort Code 30-93-32, Account No: 02410908 or alternatively you can pay by cash to Susannah Livingston Booth at Redwing House, Cemetery Lane, Upton Grey, RG25 2RD.

Upton Grey Horticultural Society - Summer Show - Saturday 12th August

Just to remind you of this lovely summer community event taking place in the Marquee in Church Meadow, (opposite St Mary's Church), Upton Grey.

We would love some help on the Friday to set the show up in the marquee. Saturday also - particularly in the morning and at the end of the afternoon. If you can help, please let me know soon, as currently being such a small group of volunteers, we will be struggling to do this.

Brochures listing all the classes available for adults and children to enter will be coming soon to your mailbox. They will also be available in Upton Grey and South Warnborough shops. Adults' classes cover anything from flowers, plants, preserves, baking, handicraft, art, photographic, to fruit and veg. Children from Lego, photographic, painting/drawing, collage, craft, to baking. There will be a closing date for you to tell us what you are going to enter to make sure we have plenty of room to display your exhibits. All exhibits will be judged for what they are as this is not a professional exhibitors' show.

You'll need to be a resident of Upton Grey, Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Nately Scures, North Warnborough, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick, or Winslade, to enter. If you've grandchildren living outside your village, then they can enter too.

In the afternoon we've various things going on in the field including a raffle (fabulous prizes), artisan stalls, a dog show, classic cars, and an ice cream van. And of course, you can see the exhibits in the Marquee. Even if you're not exhibiting, we'd love to welcome you and your family and friends. No entry fee!

If you have any questions, or perhaps you're able to help on either day, then please contact me on 01256 862719. Any help would be very much appreciated. **June Hunt, for Upton Grey Horticultural Society**

Rain or Shine Theatre Company *Comedy of Errors* Sunday 13th August at 4.00pm in Church Meadow Upton Grey

Rain or Shine Theatre Company in association with Upton Grey Drama Group return again this time with their new production *Comedy of Errors* on Sunday August 13th - gates open for picnics at 3.00pm, the performance starts at 4.00pm.

Tickets can be bought via this Ticketsource link:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/hampshire/church-meadow/the-comedy-of-errors-at-church-meadow-upton-grey-hampshire/e-ebopye

£10 for adults and children 11years & over (children under 11years will be FREE)

Please bring your own chairs/rugs/picnics/drinks, and the Flower Show marquee will be there if it's raining or shade is needed.

For further information please email: UptonGreyDrama@gmail.com

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday

14th & 28th August

11.00-1.00

All welcome



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LOGS – see Tree work

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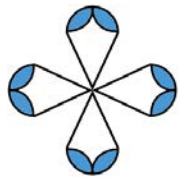
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Elvis McGonagall in Upton Grey Village Hall, Saturday 18th November

Elvis McGonagall, the award-winning comedian-cum-performance-poet, returns to Upton Grey in November. Those of you who saw him six or seven years ago will recall an evening sparkling with wit, laced with inventiveness and overflowing with laughter. It was a night to remember! Those who weren't there are in for a treat. Bring your friends and family, pin back your ears – and prepare to laugh!

As well as a wonderful evening of entertainment, this is a **major fundraising event for the village hall**, so please put **Saturday November 18th** in your diaries.

More details to follow, but if you have any questions, please go to www.elvismcgonagall.co.uk – or ask me. (Recommended for 12 years and above.)

Hugh Chevallier (862636)

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk

Herriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>

Sunday 20th August – 9.00am Morning Worship

We are delighted that **Rev Debbie Veel** (see “Church News” near the front of this magazine – Debbie was ordained in Winchester Cathedral on 2nd July alongside Tunworth’s Rev Mark Ruffell) will be taking our service on Sunday 20th August. This will be the first service that Debbie will take in the Benefice so please do come and support her as she begins her ministry.

We have got to know Debbie during our Lent Course and our Friday Lunch Group, and she has already helped lead a service at St Mary’s when she was work-shadowing Amber. She already feels like part of the team!

Debbie lives in Basingstoke, has been worshipping at St Mark’s Kempshott for 20 years and has been a Licensed Lay Minister there since 2013. She did her first year of training at the Church Mission Society in Oxford, and her final year has been with the Winchester School of Mission.

We very much look forward to welcoming Debbie to St Mary’s in her new role as an ordained minister, and we very much hope you will be able to join us.

Fiona Ives (Churchwarden)

Herriard Parish Council Meeting - Monday 21st August at 7.30pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Herriard Village Hub. Open to all residents of Herriard who are welcome to join Parish Councillors informally in the bar beforehand and for the meeting at 7.30pm.

The agenda will be posted on noticeboards, Herriard Facebook page and website prior to the meeting. If you are concerned about any issue in Herriard, please come along and have your say in the open forum part of the meeting.

Gill Hill

How biodiverse is your Churchyard?

In a recent Weekly Newsletter from the Diocese of Winchester that was one of the headlines!

The Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Kings Somborne, had recently decided to undertake a Wildflower Meadow Trial to encourage biodiversity in their churchyard.

Having recently downloaded a bird identification app we left it recording and identifying the bird song from the step of St Mary's as we prepared the church ready for our BCP Holy Communion service at 9.00am.

Here is a list of the birds it identified in those 20 minutes or so: Wren, Blue Tit, Sparrow, Collared-Dove, Great Tit, Nuthatch, Starling, Greenfinch, Wood-Pigeon, Robin, Goldcrest, Firecrest, Jackdaw, Swallow and a Long-Tailed Tit. We have many beautiful trees around the churchyard so it's a great habitat for birds but we had not expected this!

Next on our list is a survey of what's growing in the churchyard. Watch this space - and we hope this has inspired you to find out what birds you can hear from your back door step!

"We are called, as Christians, to care for the wondrous creation God has provided."

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Weston Patrick & Weston Corbett held their Summer BBQ in the “not quite” summer weather on the 15th of July. The plan had been to hold it in the garden of The Old Rectory, but for those of you in the district on the 15th you will remember the wind howled and the rain made periodic appearances. A quick change of venue to the Village Hall was agreed and a great night was had by all. Much needed funds were raised for our beautiful Church, St Lawrence and for the Friends of St Lawrence, and all enjoyed a wonderful BBQ, a lot of chat and laughter. Enormous thanks to all involved in making the event a great success.

We have a regular coffee morning on the second Wednesday of each month at 11.00am in the village hall. All welcome.

Our church services are held on the second Sunday of the month at 10.00am, and on the fourth Sunday at 5.00pm with our amazing choir.

Coffee Morning

Weston Patrick Village Hall

Wednesday 9th August

11.00-12.30

Then on the second Wednesday
of each month

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All ages welcome!



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www.moretolife.church

TUNWORTH NEWS

On Sunday 2nd July **Mark Ruffell** was **ordained Deacon** in Winchester Cathedral, and is now leading services as an Assistant Curate at All Saints Tunworth and around the Benefice.

On **Thursday 3rd August** at 10.30am we have **Coffee and Cake** in the church porch.

On **Saturday 5th August**, from 9.00 to 10.00am, All Saints Church Tunworth will hold its second **prayer hour**. If you would like to join us in prayer or would like to ask for prayer, please contact Mark Ruffell.

The **Tunworth Home Group** will meet from 8.00 to 9.00pm on **Wednesday 7th and 21st August** (please contact Gabrielle Knights for further details).

On **Friday 25th August** at 12.00noon the **Herriard & Tunworth Lunch Group** will meet at The Herriard Hub (please contact Fiona Ives, Amber Beresford or Mark Ruffell for further details).

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

From Our Local Councillors – Community Grants

As your elected Borough Councillors, we have a small pot of money ranging from £250 to £2,000 (or £3000 if we pool our allocation), available to award to locally based community groups or charities in our Ward of Basing and Upton Grey. These awards are governed by strict criteria detailed in this link <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants>.

Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, Cllr Sven Godesen and Cllr Kate Tuck would love to hear from you if your group or charity is interested in seeking a small grant by **no later than Saturday 30th September 2023** by email to cllr.kate.tuck@basingstoke.gov.uk with a brief outline of your reasons to be selected as the chosen groups for us to support **prior** to submitting the formal application. Sadly, not every application will be successful.

We really look forward to hearing from you and your group and to learning about your deserving causes and the benefits you provide to our wonderful community. Please spread the word. Best Wishes.

Cllr. Onnalee Cubitt, Cllr. Sven Godesen and Cllr. Kate Tuck



Cakes please!

Mothers' Union will be holding our usual stall at RAF Families Day on Friday 18th August. The service personnel and their families really appreciate this outreach, and our stall is very popular so please can you support us by baking for this event. We would love any donations of homemade cakes, but please don't include nuts or fresh cream. If you are going to be away at that time, then perhaps you could make a cake early and we can store it in a freezer until it is needed. Last year we ran out of cakes shortly after lunchtime and had nothing to offer the display team when they came to see us. If you don't have time to bake but would like to contribute to this event, then we are happy to take shop bought cakes. If you have a cake for RAF Families Day, then please contact Sue on 01252 845011 or Carol on 01256 702609. Thank you so much for your support.

Earlier in August, we will be celebrating our founder, Mary Sumner, on 9th August, and the Worldwide President, Mrs Sheran Harper, is flying in from Guyana to join us for a range of activities

including prayers at the Cathedral in the morning and a service in Old Alresford in the afternoon. We are really looking forward to meeting her.

We do not have a branch meeting in August but will meet again on Monday 4th September. We are very grateful to the RAF Padre for allowing us to meet at the Chaplaincy Centre at RAF Odiham. If you would like more information about the activities of the Mothers' Union, please contact me.

Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or sue@the-murphys.me.uk.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

The Club does not meet in August, but we look forward to welcoming our members once again at our September Meeting which will be held on Thursday 28th September at 2.30pm in the North Warnborough Village Hall. For further information about our Club, please visit our website at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>



Time for something new?

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our **Open Day (Thursday 10th August at 2.00-4.00pm in the Elizabeth Hall, Hook)**, to discover all the different activities that the u3a offers its members!

The Open Day gives all our groups, at the last count 57, covering lots of different areas, the opportunity to show what they get up to. Our groups, which are all run by members for members, will each have their own space. In addition, it is a social gathering giving everybody a chance to meet up, share gossip, tea/coffee and cake.



If you are interested in exploring the possibilities that our vibrant community offers its members, you are most welcome to drop in and meet us and see if there is something to tempt you in our new year which begins in September.

If you would like to know more about us, please visit our website. www.odihamu3a.org.uk



National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

In June the President of the National Garden Scheme, Dame Mary Berry, joined guests at a garden party at cancer support centre, Maggie's in Oxford, to celebrate the next stage in the two charities' partnership.

The National Garden Scheme is aiming to raise £1 million over 10 years to support people with cancer on top of the £420,000 that the gardening charity has already donated to Maggie's.

The event was hosted in the garden of Maggie's Oxford, which was designed by Pip Morrison, and has recently received funding from the National Garden Scheme for updates and improvements.

Since 2018, the National Garden Scheme has donated £420,000 to Maggie's through our Gardens and Health funding programme. This generous support has enabled Maggie's to create beautiful gardens at its centres in Leeds, Southampton, and Oxford, and improve gardens at Maggie's Newcastle and Maggie's Cheltenham. The ongoing 10-year partnership will help the charity with the upkeep of current centre gardens and provide new gardens at upcoming centres, including Northampton. By visiting our stunning gardens you too can help us to support Maggie's and all our other charities.

Church House, Trinity Hill, Medstead, Alton GU34 5LT

Opening Saturday/Sunday 5th/6th August, also open by arrangement at a time and date agreed with the owners. (To end of September.) 01420 562592. Admission £5, payment by cash or card. Refreshments: Home-made teas. A colourful 1-acre garden, set within a wide variety of mature trees and shrubs. Long, sweeping, colour themed mixed borders give lots of ideas for planting in sun and shade. Contrasting features and textures throughout the garden are enhanced by interesting sculptures. Espaliered fruit trees, a woodland area, small greenhouse, and roses in different settings all contribute to this much-loved garden.

Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity)

National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Nature's best nests - the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

When we picture a bird's nest, we tend to think of a bundle of twigs high up in a tree. In most cases this is fairly accurate, but some species are much more inventive. If no suitable trees are available, birds can find alternative accommodation in the strangest of places.

Shelducks, long-tailed tits, cuckoos and goldeneyes are four brilliant nest builders with unconventional but effective approaches to homemaking.

Very few people see shelduck nests because they are usually underground in rabbit burrows! The female lines the floor of the burrow with plants and fluffy down feathers to make it cosy before laying her eggs, and the male stays close at hand to escort his partner on feeding trips. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust nature reserves around Portsmouth are ideal places to spot shelducks as they are mainly found in coastal areas.

Long-tailed tit nests are masterpieces of engineering. They are like big, oval bubbles of moss, hair, spiderwebs and lichen, with a single hole to squeeze in and out of. The male and female build the nest together - a process which can take over three weeks. They usually lay six to eight eggs but can produce as many as 15! Luckily the nest is stretchy and can expand to accommodate the growing chicks.

Cuckoos don't need to build nests - instead, they sneak their eggs into the nests of other birds. When the rightful owner leaves her nest, the female cuckoo races in and lays an egg of her own, and when the cuckoo chick hatches, it pushes out the other eggs or chicks. This way, when the unsuspecting mother bird comes back with a beak full of goodies, the cuckoo chick can take all the food for itself.

Tree nesting might not seem odd for a bird, but how often do you see a duck perched on a branch? Goldeneyes are dainty diving ducks that lay their eggs in tree cavities. They line the nest with feathers to make it nice and comfortable, but when the ducklings are just a day old, they have to jump out to follow their mum to water.

Of course, lots of our feathered friends make their nests in hedges as they provide a good form of safety for eggs and chicks from predators. Whilst it is not illegal to trim garden hedges during the peak nesting season, it is a criminal offence to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust advises to avoid cutting hedgerows from March – September and to delay any maintenance work till January or February,

as winter and autumn berries provide a valuable food source for birds like redwings, blackbirds and fieldfares.

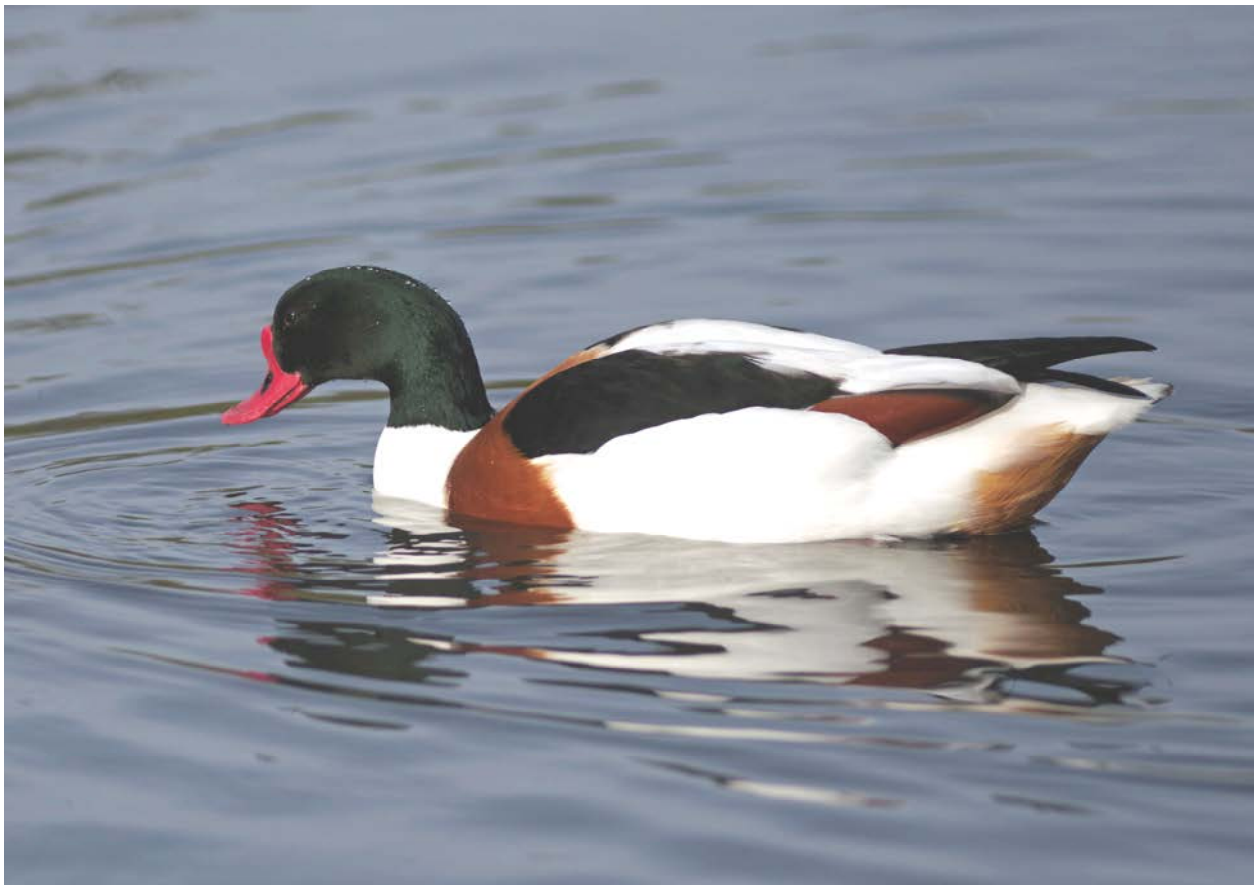
For more information about how to protect bird nests please visit Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website:

<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/blog/hiwwt/protecting-nest-generation>

Helen Skelton Smith

Communications Officer – Publications and Media

Helen.Skelton Smith@hiwwt.org.uk, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
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Shelduck (c) Gillian Day

SMALL ADS - AUGUST

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17 Market Street, Alton GU34 1HA, Tel 0781 6351477 One to one appts available evenings. Email ajmill@btinternet.com

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £12 per hour. Tables and chairs are also available to hire. There are kitchen facilities, including china, cutlery & glasses, central heating, sound system, stage and disabled access. If you don't know the hall, we would be happy to show you round. To book, or if you have any questions, please contact Jane Hanbury 01256 862681 email: ajhanbury@btinternet.com.

The Herriard Village Hub, Herriard available for hire: wedding receptions, functions, parties, meetings, and events. Fully licensed bar, full kitchen facilities, garden, tables, chairs, sound system, disabled access, central heating, pool table and darts. To reserve, please see booking form found at www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk, or contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or bookings@herriardvillagehub.co.uk.

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – August 2023

NB: All Church Services are listed under CHURCH NEWS near the front of the magazine

AUGUST DATES

7-10Aug	Mon-Thu	Holiday Club, Upton Grey Church Meadow	1.00-4.00pm
7-11Aug	Mon-Fri	Junior Tennis Coaching Week, Upton Grey	9.00am
12th Aug	Sat	Upton Grey Summer Horticultural Show	1.30pm
13th Aug	Sun	Comedy of Errors, Church Meadow, UG	4.00pm
21st Aug	Mon	Herriard Parish Council Meeting, Village Hub	7.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

7th Oct	Sat	Harvest Supper, Upton Grey Village Hall	7.30pm
28th Oct	Sat	Upton Grey Autumn Festival	6.00pm
18th Nov	Sat	Elvis McGonagall, Upton Grey Village Hall	

REGULAR EVENTS

Each Mon/Thu	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	2.00pm
Each Sat	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	10.00am
Each Mon	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	10.00am
Each Tues	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00pm
Each Thu	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, Hub, Herriard	10.00am
Every 1st Thurs	Coffee & Cake, Tunworth church porch	10.30am
Every 2nd Wed	Coffee Morning, Weston Patrick Village Hall	11.00am
2nd & 4th Monday	Coffee Morning, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

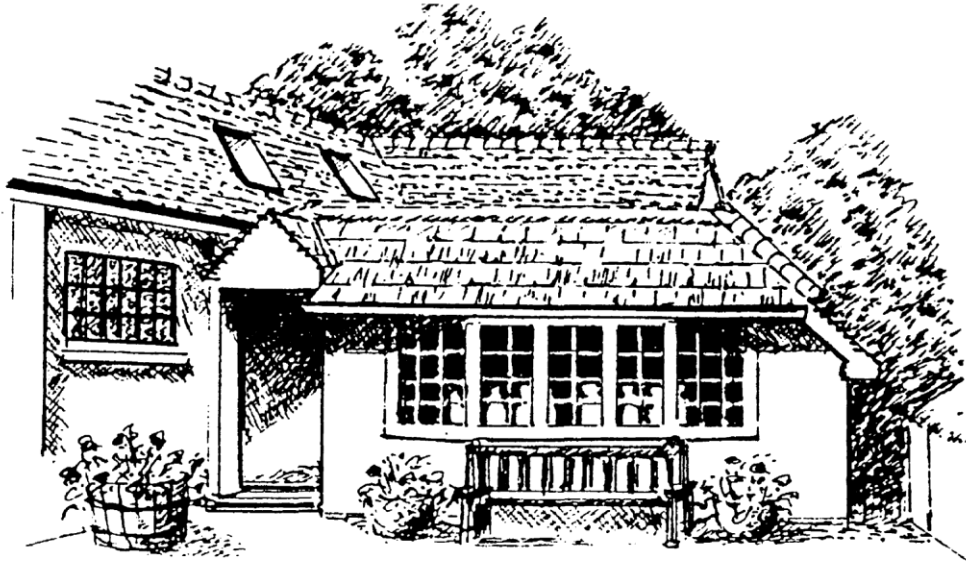
Please note that the copy deadline for the September issue is the 15th of August. Please send news and contributions to [uptongrey magazine@gmail.com](mailto:uptongrey.magazine@gmail.com). Your editor for August was Sheila Stranks with Nick Willmer (Church). For September your editor is Tess Chevallier (with Nick Willmer - Church).

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