

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott Parvich

February
2024

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – February 2024
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

Mr Bates versus the Post Office

For many of you this will be your first Parish Magazine of 2024, so on behalf of the ministry team may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

For a number of Sundays last autumn our congregations around the Benefice were invited to reflect on how we might live out our lives as Christians, not just on Sunday mornings in church but also from Monday to Saturday, wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are. Our time together as a Christian community on a Sunday morning, as we pray, sing, listen to and reflect on scripture, is vitally important for our nourishment and growth as disciples of Christ. Equally important is how we live that out once we leave church and go back into the communities in which we live.

The Church of England has ‘5 Marks of Mission’, developed as a way of understanding what contemporary mission is about. One of them is: ‘To respond to human need by loving service’. In recent times there have been numerous instances of us all coming together as community to support the needs of others: welcoming into our villages our Ukrainian friends, setting up the Foodbank in Odiham, setting up the Book Exchange when the library closed, inviting people to share in a hot meal twice a month in North Warnborough Village Hall, and so much more. Whether the lead is taken by the church or by other groups in the community, we come together to respond to human need.

Another of the ‘5 Marks of Mission’ is ‘To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation’. As we all took down our Christmas trees and decorations many of us will have watched the TV programme *Mr Bates versus the Post Office*. I counted at least four people that I know personally represented on screen, and that will be true for many of you too. If ever there was an ‘unjust structure of society’ which merited transformation, it is these events, stretching over 20 years when 700 or more sub-postmasters and mistresses were prosecuted by the Post Office for false accounting and theft.



In some instances, what added to the distress for those concerned was the reaction of their local community. There was little time over four episodes to reflect the reaction countrywide, although a clear impression was presented of both positive and negative extremes. James Arbuthnot was our MP at the time and he took up the cause of Jo at South Warnborough. Jo was supported by a forensic accountant, resident in our Benefice. The then Vicar of St Andrew's church, just across the road from the shop and Post Office, went to court in Winchester to give a passionate character reference, accompanied by so many people from the village that the judge passed comment on the level of support for Jo. What was not covered in the drama series was the massive support, practical and emotional, given to Jo at the time by the people of South Warnborough who were doing what they could about this unfair and unjust situation.

This was a real example of a community in action, and indeed the whole campaign spearheaded by Mr Bates represents the power of community action in terms of commitment, participation, use of skills and talents, and love and kindness to others. It has taken far too long to resolve this miscarriage of justice which had such devastating consequences for so many. Happily the TV dramatisation seems to have catapulted this to front of mind of those who have the power to put right the injustices, and we can hope now that the right thing will be done in a short timeframe. Sadly there are some who are no longer here to be compensated but hopefully their families will have the satisfaction of hearing the good names of their loved ones restored.

Jesus said 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. May 2024 be the year in which the neighbours in Ukraine and Russia, and the neighbours in Israel and Palestine, find a way to live alongside one another in peace. May 2024 be a year when our communities continue to come together to 'respond to human need by loving service' and 'to pursue peace and reconciliation'.

The Revd Canon Linda Scard

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: Rafe Morris-Eyton at St Mary's Herriard on 14th January

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th February

- 9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
- 5.00pm Herriard – Evensong

Thursday 8th February

- 10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 11th February

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
- 10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
- 10.00am Weston Patrick – Morning Worship
- 5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Wednesday 14th February

- 7.30pm Odiham – Ash Wednesday Benefice Service

Thursday 15th February

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 18th February

- 9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
- 10.00am Herriard – Morning Worship
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship

Sunday 25th February

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

CHURCH NEWS

Lent Lunches and Lent Course

Lent Lunches are planned for Upton Grey, Herriard and Tunworth - please see details in the village sections of this magazine. A Lent Course 'Thoughts of God' will take place at All Saints Odiham in February/March - please see details on the next page.

Coffee & Cake

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

- Coffee and Cake in the church porch, **All Saints Tunworth**, at 10.30am on Thursday 1st February.
- Coffee & Cake Drop-in at **Upton Grey Village Hall**, 11.00am-1.00pm on Monday 12th and 26th February.
- Coffee morning at **Weston Patrick Village Hall**, 11.00am-12.30pm on Wednesday 28th February.

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

THOUGHTS OF GOD

Exile, truth, and the longing for home.

A Lent Course based on the film

The Man Who Knew Infinity

Join us over four weeks of Lent as we explore some significant Christian themes raised by the acclaimed film by Matt Brown which explores the contrasting lives of two Cambridge mathematicians G H Hardy and Srinivasa Ramanujan. Using the film as our base we will explore the Biblical themes of faith and exile, friendship with God, the longing for home and the nature of truth, as we wrestle with some of the fundamental issues of life, love and faith.

All Saints Church, Odiham, Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm

February 27th - Film Night: *The Man Who Knew Infinity*

March 5th - Life in a foreign land

March 12th - What is truth

March 19th - Bridging the gap and homeward bound

To book a place, please email sam@moretolife.church or joanna@moretolife.church, or call the benefice office on 01256 703791

Pancake Party

Come and join us at All Saints Odiham between 3.00 and 6.00pm on Tuesday 13th February for games, crafts, challenges and, of course, PANCAKES! £3 recommended donation per person. Come when you can - leave when you must!





KidsZone

Hi everyone!

I wonder, what does the word **'love'** mean to you? Do you think of husbands and wives on their wedding day? Or maybe your Mum or Dad? Maybe you think of your best friend? Or even your pet! There are so many different kinds of **love**, aren't there? And there are just some people (or animals!) who we find it just so easy to **love**...

But there are also people who aren't so easy to **love**, aren't there? I wonder, out of these three pictures, who you would find it easier to **love**?



Why do you think that is? Maybe one of the pictures, the person was being too mean, maybe one of the pictures they didn't look like you, maybe you felt sorry for some people, maybe one group was just like your friends from school...

This month, we think a lot about **Love** - well, it's Valentine's Day after all, isn't it! Jesus thought a lot about **love** too. In fact, the word **'love'** appears over 700 times in the Bible. God's **love** for us. Our **love** for him. Our **love** for on another... Did you know, that when Jesus was asked for a Super-quick version of the God's law, he just said **LOVE!** That is: **Love** God and **love** your neighbour. The problem is, who does he mean by neighbour?

Have another look at the pictures. Who do you think is your neighbour here? The bully? The person being bullied? The person from Africa who is hungry? Your friend from school... Jesus also says that it's really easy to **love** people who already **love** us, or who are kind to us. Everyone can do that! But your big challenge, he says to us, is to **love** those who we don't know or who it's hard to **love**. That's real **love**!

So, my challenge to you is to show real **love** this month - and to help you, there's a **'love your neighbour'** bingo card on the next page. Can you fill in the whole card before the end of the month? Bonus question: how many times can you see the word love in this article?

Leave a nice note for your sibling to find.	Invite your sibling to play a game with you.	Let your sibling borrow something of yours.	Help clean up after dinner.	Share a treat with a sibling.
Help put the groceries away.	Teach a sibling how to do something.	Tell a parent something you really like about them.	Help make dinner.	Leave a nice note for a parent to find.
Invite your sibling to play in your room.	Help your sibling pick up his or her room.	Draw a picture for someone in your family.	Let your sibling pick which TV show to watch.	Do someone else's chore for them.
Get someone else a drink.	Compliment whoever made dinner.	Say yes when your sibling asks you for help.	Read a story to or with your sibling.	Help clean up the yard.
Give someone a hug.	Make a snack for someone.	Compliment a sibling on something they did well.	Make a homemade gift for someone in your family.	Tell your sibling you love them.

Good luck!



Helen Chatfield
Youth Pastor
youth@moretolife.church
07540 140228



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming news

As we kick off 2024, the weather seems to have given us a break for the moment, 'Touch wood!' It won't be long until we are back out in the fields tending to the crops. But first we have 'red tape season' which is always fun...! This will be filling out and completing all the relevant documents and forms to show that we comply with all the regulations that meet 'red tractor' standards which you may recognise. The red tractor logo, on food packaging in the supermarkets, shows you as the consumer that the standards set out by red tractor have been met and the product is to the highest standard.

For us, as arable farmers, we will provide the records of how we grow our crops, which include what fertiliser we have applied, what crop protection fungicides have been applied as well as herbicides. We will also have to show that the machinery we use for these applications is up to standard and has passed its annual checks, much like an MOT for your car, we will also show how we store our grain.

It does go into quite a lot more depth, but I think I might bore you. It is largely common sense, but you must record that you are using common sense when carrying out our job. Having said this, I do agree with the standard, as this sets us apart from the rest of the world. The standards that British farmers produce food to is second to none, and it is something we are extremely proud of, but obviously this all comes at a price, which makes it very hard for us to compete with the price of lower standard produce. Hence, why a lot of farmers are diversifying their businesses to help subsidise food production.

The farming industry is like no other in the sense that we are price takers. We get told what we must pay for our inputs such as seed, fertiliser and sprays, but also we get told what we are going to get paid for our produce at the end. Now there are a few tactics that we can use, such as buying groups to help with purchasing inputs, also selling our grain through companies that trade in larger quantities of grain or syndicate grain stores, which can help to achieve better prices. After the last couple of years, not much could protect us from the volatility that we have seen around the world, and I know it's not just farmers suffering from that either, so let's hope to see some 'normality', whatever that is, for 2024.

The chickens are also enjoying the drier weather, giving them a chance to roam the field without getting soaked. Thankfully there hasn't been a resurgence of avian flu this winter, which is great, allowing them to roam freely all winter.

This dry weather is starting to give me itchy feet though, especially after the mayhem of Christmas and New Year's celebrations. We will hopefully be able to spread some fertiliser by mid-February, and hopefully we can start thinking about planting our barley later that month, weather-dependent of course. So, I will finish this month's piece just as Joe finished his. Hoping for an even balance of sun and rain this coming year.

Will Cheyney

UPTON GREY NEWS

www.uptongreychurch.co.uk

www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

January Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club winners

First Prize £100 RJ Clarke

Second Prize £40 Thrussell

Congratulations to this month's winners. It's almost time to renew/join the Village Hall 100 Club. It's a snip at £24 for 12 chances to win! Please get in touch with **Sam Clough on 07766 663511** for more information.

Upton Grey Ladies Group

Upton Grey Ladies Group meets every month, either for a pub lunch, theatre outing, garden or National Trust visit etc.

We usually meet during the first week of the month and most often on a Thursday. We number between 30 and 40 members and would welcome new members to join us.

On **Thursday February 1st** there will be a Coffee Morning at Christmas Cottage at 11.00am to firm up on our programme for 2024. This would be an opportunity for new members to see what is happening and if it appeals to you. So why not come along?

Viv Anscombe 01256 862455

T@3

The next T@3 will be held on **Thursday 15th February** at Barn Cottage, Weston Road. Please could you let us know if you are coming and also whether you need a lift. We look forward to seeing you.

**Jill Lestrille (862131) or Barbara Anderson (862627)
or Viv Anscombe (862455)**

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday

12th & 26th February

11.00-1.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

Lent Lunches

For some years now, we have enjoyed getting together to celebrate Lent with a simple lunch of soup and cheese. So far, three firm dates have been arranged and when the list is complete it will be circulated on our village news system.

There will be one on **Wednesday 28th February** at Barn Cottage, Weston Road (host Jill Lestrille 862131), one on **Wednesday 6th March** at The Old Post House, Bidden Road (host Frances Yeowart 07774 163217), and one on **Monday 11th March** in the Village Hall (host Suzanne Newcombe suzanne@moretolife.church). The timing of each lunch is 12.30-2.00pm.

There is no charge for lunch, but guests are invited to donate to a charity chosen by the host. Please let the hosts know if you are planning to come. Looking forward to a very sociable Lent. Any queries please ring me **Jill Lestrille (862131)**.

Safari Supper Saturday 16th March 2024

Last year, we welcomed some new faces to Upton Grey's Safari Supper, and we hope this year we shall see even more of you.

The Safari Supper is a hilarious opportunity to travel the village in aid of St Mary's Church and end up being very well entertained, fed and watered. It is a fun evening, not to be missed, where you provide one of three courses and move around the village for the other two. At the end of the evening of laughter and surprises everybody congregates in the village hall for coffee, after dinner drinks and tales to tell.

If you have a young family, you could request a starter course to give time for children to settle before going out. Just book a babysitter. If you are alone, why not team up with a friend and join the fun.

It's a fantastic way to meet new villagers and experience another flavour of Upton Grey. Put the **16th March** firmly in your diary. Please fill in the online form (link below) and make your payment via BACS by 2nd March. We will also send the link via the village email.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScv5fKoL75IYXGW9Jf2-Yh0yMQvb568n9XlhP1HWyLLUEuNEQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

We hope to see you there. Let's make 2024 a Safari Supper to remember.

Julia Harker 862975, Vivian Raven 862278

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk

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

Herriard Annual Litter Pick - Sunday 3rd March

Please meet at the Herriard Hub car park between 11.00 and 12.00 to collect your litter picker and a refuse bag. Children must be accompanied. Refreshments will be available for litter pickers after. Come along and help to keep our village free from litter.

Herriard Parish Council Meeting

Monday 4th March at 7.30pm at Herriard Village Hub. All welcome.

Herriard/Tunworth Lent Lunches 2024

**A simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese
followed by a short Bible study and reflection**

Venue: Herriard Hub

All welcome!

Time : 12.00-1.30

Friday 23rd February

Friday 1st March

Friday 8th March

Friday 15th March

Friday 22nd March



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All Saints Church, Tunworth**

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See also under Gardens

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TUNWORTH NEWS

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 1st February, 10.30am

On the first Thursday of the month we meet for Coffee and Cake in the church porch. Please do join us if you are at home and fancy taking a break from online work.

Prayer Hour: Saturday 3rd February, 9.00am

On the first Saturday of the month we have a Prayer Hour. We meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish. If you would like to join us or would like us to pray for a particular matter then please contact Mark.

Tunworth Home Group

The Tunworth Home Group usually meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at 8.00pm for one hour, at The Orangery, Hackwood Park, to study Bible passages and Biblical themes. If you would like to know more or to join, then please contact Gabrielle.

Herriard and Tunworth Lunches

The Lunch Group usually meets once a month on a Friday from 12.00 to 1.30 at the Herriard Hub, to look at a Bible passage with a focus on practical Christianity. During Lent there are lunches every week – please see notice back on page 12.

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Weston Coffee Mornings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, so on 24th January and then on Wednesday 28th February, from 11.00 am. Please do join us for coffee, cake, and chat.

We have **Morning Worship on Sunday 11th February at 10.00am** and then **Evensong with Bishop David attending on Sunday 25th February at 5.00pm**. Our wonderful choir will be singing at Evensong, and all are welcome to come along and join us.

Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett's Women's Home Group has now returned fortnightly, mostly on a Thursday evening although this can be flexible. This is an informal fellowship group exploring faith and how faith relates to our daily lives. Please contact Linda Scard for further details on 01256 703294 or 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

Also, a reminder to all that Weston Patrick have a defibrillator located in their Village Hall. If it is ever needed in an emergency, please knock on the door of any of the surrounding houses for the code or ring the emergency number by the Village Hall.

Coffee Morning
Weston Patrick Village Hall
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OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

**North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union**

For the past few years, Mothers' Union has supported prisoners in Winchester Prison by buying gifts for their children at Christmas time. This Christmas we provided selection boxes to be handed out to each of the children that attend the Families Day organised by Spurgeons during December. The prisoners and their families were very grateful for these gifts, which help to bring a bit of normality to the lives of these children.

In January we met for our usual Wave of Prayer service, and on **Monday 5th February** we will meet for our AGM. We will be losing one of our most active members, Jane Seymour, as she leaves us to move to New Zealand and wish her all the best in her new home. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact **Sue Murphy** on suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com or 01252 845011.

Films at the Cross Barn Odiham**February 16th**

National Theatre Live 'Dear England' (Joseph Fiennes) - £15.00

'Absolutely incredible! Joseph Fiennes delivers an impeccable Southgate, alongside a standout Will Close as Harry Kane, though the entire cast were faultless with their attention to detail and effortless portrayal of England's finest.' – Evening Standard

February 23rd

Film 'A Haunting in Venice' (Kenneth Branagh, Michelle Yeoh) - £7.00

'Stark and spooky, Branagh's third Poirot movie successfully adopts a whole new atmosphere. It's less exotic and edgier, more haunted; it's a tense, thoughtful, and satisfying mystery.' – Common Sense Media

Doors open at 7.00pm.

Performance starts at 7.30 (film) or 7.45 (NT Live).

Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available at all events.

Purchase tickets online at <http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk>

North Warnborough and District Garden Club

We look forward to welcoming our members to our next meeting on **Thursday February 22nd 2024** in the North Warnborough Village Hall at 2.30pm. Pip Bensley will return to speak to us again. The last talk Pip gave was most enjoyable. On this occasion she will present a talk entitled 'China'. February Competitions: A posy of snowdrops.

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings. Further information can be found on our website at: <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>.

The Jubilee Choir: Fauré Requiem, All Saints Church, Odiham Sunday 17th March at 6.30pm

Join the Jubilee Choir for a performance of the wonderful Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Fauré. Tickets are £15, free for those under 18, and are available from www.jubileechoir.com, Katharine Jane in Odiham High Street or Lynn Lymer on 07837 571708.



Variety is the spice of life!

At Odiham District u3a, our members now organise for other members, nearly 60 different groups. A new group for **Pétanque** has just started at Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club despite the chilly weather. After a good dose of fresh air, members are very happy to return to the clubhouse for a warmup around the log fire and a hot cuppa!



Creative Writing has been so popular that we have just started a third group; the groups share their stories and poems in our monthly newsletter. The **Jamming Session** group only started in January of last year but decided to jump in at the deep end and perform their first gig just before Christmas. Toe-tapping members really enjoyed their show at The Old School in Odiham.



Meanwhile the **Music for All** group prefer to listen, or watch, others perform. They take a different theme each month which has ranged from listening to Elgar to a piano recital given to an elderly elephant in a jungle setting!

And, as if having five wine groups wasn't enough, our **Science & Technology** group decided to find out about wine making. They listened to a talk about the start of the Itasca Wines business, their wine making and the creation of the vineyard and winery in Crondall. Needless to say, this culminated in sampling three wines, all in the interest of scientific discovery of course!



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

News from the Hospital

Well, it looks like the cynics who predicted we would never get a new hospital in North Hampshire are about to be proved wrong. Already the funds for construction have been allocated by the Treasury, based on a programme which has wide multi political party support. Now the public consultation has started. Normally such a consultation would last 12 weeks, but with the dead period of Christmas it was decided to make it 14, ending on Sunday 17th March.

So, what are the options being proposed for us to consider? Under all the schemes, there will be significant investment in the hospital at Winchester, however currently the A&E department will change to an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC). Whilst, at first, that might for most people seem a serious loss, these departments are designed to be able to deal with most non-life-threatening conditions, including items like broken bones. Then there would be a centralised advanced and specialist high trauma/accident centre sited in the new hospital, which would suggest a real gain; after all, in such emergencies naturally we all want the fastest and best treatment.

Now let us consider the three options being put forward for consultation, which of course are in addition to the refurbishment at Winchester.

Option 1

This is estimated to be the most expensive and difficult to undertake, as it involves re-development of the current site at Basingstoke. The site is already restricted, with little scope for the option to develop a health campus alongside it. Such a campus could have a long-term impact for local employment and investment. Projects of this nature are a project manager's nightmare, with constrictions of space, whilst not interfering with current operations. However, it does have the benefit of good local public transport, which will be increasingly important as the local population ages and becomes less capable in using private transport.

Option 2

A completely new hospital close to junction 7 of the M3, this of course being a greenfield site would be the easiest to build, and it would involve purchasing enough land for future expansion, as well as offering space for a health campus alongside. For those using their own transport it might well be best, but for those reliant on public transport especially from more distant locations and with any mobility issues, access could well be problematic. At the same time, outpatients, some therapies and

day care patients would continue to be treated on the present much reduced existing Basingstoke site.

Option 3

As for Option 2 but with the added benefit of a sixty-bed drop-down care facility. Whilst more expensive than option 2, as more refurbishments would be required to the existing facilities in Basingstoke, it is cheaper than Option 1. It is also less attractive in operating costs but obviously has the big advantage that in the event of the need in the future to create a major isolation area, using this facility would be much easier and quicker to establish. It is to be expected that we will have more pandemics in the future as we continue to travel more and live more closely together.

A major change that has already taken place has been to centralise much of the elective surgery into the Winchester hospital. The objectives here are to have a concentration of expertise, and to have dedicated theatres for these operations, which would not have disrupted schedules due to emergency surgery taking precedence. However, for those relying on public transport, either to attend themselves or to visit a patient, major issues are already coming to the fore. At the same time parking and access through the city have always been problematic.

Consultation Document: The full consultation document explaining in detail the three shortlisted options being considered can be viewed at www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk.

Other options have had to be ruled out either as too expensive, lack of land, or access and transport. Not only does the consultation document give details of the options but it also gives details of various events being held, at which local people can gain more insight and feedback their own observations. In addition, the document contains a link for feedback, with all comments and observations being treated as anonymous. These comments, on completion of the consultation period, will then be collated by an independent research company and fed back to the Trust for incorporation into the new hospital plan.

Keith Bunker, Former Trust Governor



National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

As we head into our 2024 fundraising season, I have produced a document listing all our Hampshire gardens, which open By Arrangement. These are gardens which open exclusively for groups of people - be it an organised club (Garden Club, u3a etc.) or simply a group of friends. These visits are arranged directly with the garden owner at a date and time which suits both parties, and the opening will be exclusively for your group, giving you a much more personal and leisurely visit, with time to chat to the garden owners. If you would like a copy of the document, please just drop me an email and I will send you one by return. Our first gardens opening in March are all open By Arrangement as well as on some specific dates.

Bere Mill, London Road, Whitchurch RG28 7NH

Opening Monday 10th March 12.00noon to 5.00pm.

Admission £8.00, children free. Cashless Payments available.

Refreshments: Home-made teas.

Also open by arrangement - February to September (contact the owners direct 07703 161074 or rupertnab@gmail.com).

This garden was built around early C18 mill on idyllic isolated stretch of the River Test, east of Whitchurch. The gardens have been built incrementally over 30 years, with extensive bulb planting; herbaceous and Mediterranean borders with magnolia, irises, and tree peonies; summer and autumn borders; a traditional orchard and two small arboretums, one specialising in Japanese shrubs and trees. The mill buildings were the original location of Portals who first sold bank note paper to the Bank of England from the mill in 1724 and there are interesting industrial and agricultural archaeological remains, including reconstructed water meadow structures.

Beechenwood Farm, Hillside, Odiham RG29 1JA

Opening Wednesday 27th March 2.00pm to 5.00pm and every Wednesday until 22nd May.

Admission £5.00, children free. Cashless Payments available.

Refreshments: Home-made teas.

Also open by arrangement – March to May (contact the owners direct 07944 162419 or beechenwood@gmail.com).

Opening for the 40th year, this 2-acre garden has many parts. Lawn meandering through woodland with drifts of spring bulbs. Rose pergola with steps, pots with spring bulbs and later aconiums. Fritillary and cowslip meadow. Walled herb garden with pool and exuberant planting. Orchard

including the white garden and hot border. Greenhouse and vegetable garden. Rock garden extending to grasses, ferns, and bamboos. Shady walk to belvedere. 8-acre copse of native species with grassed rides.

Little Court, Crawley, Winchester SO21 2PU

Opening Sunday 31st March 2.00pm to 4.30pm.

Admission £5.00, children free - CASH ONLY. Can pre-book online.

Refreshments: Home-made teas in Village Hall.

Also open by arrangement February to July (contact garden owner 01962 776365 or elkslc@btinternet.com).

This sheltered naturalistic garden is one for all seasons and is especially exciting in spring. It is mature and exuberant with contrasting areas, a traditional walled kitchen garden and free-range bantams. There are several seats throughout with good views, it is an oasis of peace and tranquility. Sorry, no dogs.

I hope you may be able to enjoy a visit to one of our early Spring gardens. **Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity) pat.beagley@icloud.com**

Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust – Is it a waxwing winter?

The waxwing is an undeniably beautiful bird. It's a touch smaller than a starling, with a pleasingly plump body. Its silky feathers are soft hues of grey, brown and apricot, with some stylish accessories. There's a bright yellow band across the end of the tail, white and yellow dashes on the wings, and a black patch on the throat and above the beak, which sweeps back through the eye and up, like the perfect winged eyeliner.

Waxwings are winter visitors, travelling here from Scandinavia when the food supply there runs low, typically residing here until early spring. Another big part of their appeal is that their arrival is never guaranteed. Some winters, we might only see a handful across the country. In others, there can be flocks of hundreds of birds. An influx like this is called an 'irruption'. These years are known as 'waxwing winters' and they don't come around very often.

It all comes down to berries. Waxwings love them. Poor berry crops in Finland and Sweden have apparently pushed waxwings much further than usual this year, and with a berry bonanza reported across the country this autumn, Britain looks set to enjoy its biggest 'Waxwing winter' for at least a decade.

In Hampshire, waxwings are not seen every year, they are a rare visitor. One of the largest irruptions in Hampshire was in the winter of 2010 when over 2,000 birds arrived. However, when they do turn up, it might not be where you'd expect.

One of the waxwing's endearing quirks is that they regularly turn up in urban areas, particularly the car parks of supermarkets and shopping centres. These commercial areas are often planted with ornamental trees with aesthetically pleasing, berry-laden fruit trees – and these always prove popular with hungry waxwings.

But it seems not all berries are equal in the eyes of a waxwing. Red ones appear to be the most in-demand, including cotoneaster, viburnum, hawthorn and particularly rowan. As stocks of these are depleted, they'll settle for orange or yellow berries, or white berries like mistletoe.

Waxwings are chatty and their pleasant high-pitched trills, which they use to call to each other with, provide one of the best ways to help detect them. Fittingly for a winter visitor, the sound is often likened to soft, jingling sleigh bells. For more information visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife trust website: www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds

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Waxwing_(c)Jon Hawkins_Surrey Hills Photography

Reporting/searching Highways and Utilities Issues

A reminder from our County Councillor, Juliet Henderson, of how best to report highway issues and those concerning utilities.

To report highway issues, use these links:

Potholes

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes

Tree/hedge problems

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Pavement problems

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving

Rights of way

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

For issues on National Highways Roads (Motorways, A31, A34, A303, A36, A3 etc)

<https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/>

Utilities issues

Southern Water

www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/works-or-issues-in-my-area

Wessex Water

www.wessexwater.co.uk/work-in-your-area

Electricity - SSEN (Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks)

powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack

Weather

Keep up to date with weather warnings via the Met office here:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings

SMALL ADS – February

Sofas For sale

Two reclining, two seater sofas, fabric material light fawn in colour, three years old £150 each ono. Please call 07788629576.

Cheam School Co-educational

Day, flexi and weekly boarding prep school for ages (3–13). Open Day: Friday 1st March 9.45am–12.30pm. Cheam School, Headley, Newbury, Berkshire, RG19 8LD.

01635 267822 registrar@cheamschool.co.uk, www.cheamschool.co.uk

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 – FEBRUARY 2024

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

FEBRUARY DATES

1st Feb	Thur	UG Ladies Group Coffee Morning, Christmas Cottage	11.00am
13th Feb	Tues	Pancake Party, All Saints Odiham	3.00-6.00pm
15th Feb	Thur	T@3, Barn Cottage, Upton Grey	3.00pm
23rd Feb	Fri	Herriard/Tunworth Lent Lunches start, Herriard Hub	12noon
27th Feb	Tues	Lent Course begins, All Saints Odiham	7.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

3rd Mar	Sun	Herriard Annual Litter Pick, Herriard Hub	11.00am
4th Mar	Mon	Herriard Parish Council Meeting, Herriard Hub	7.30pm
16th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	
17th Mar	Sun	Jubilee Choir – Fauré, All Saints Odiham	6.30pm
8th Jun	Sat	St Mary's Upton Grey Village Fete	

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 1st Saturday	Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.00am
2nd & 4th Monday	Coffee Morning, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
Every 4th Wed	Coffee Morning, Weston Patrick Village Hall	11.00am

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the March issue is 15th February 2024

Please send news and contributions to uptongrey_magazine@gmail.com. Your editor for February was Sheila Stranks with Nick Willmer (Church). For March your editor will again be Sheila Stranks (with Nick Willmer - Church).

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFE

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Shop Opening Hours

8 am - 6 pm Mon to Sat

8 am - 1 pm Sun