

# PARISH MAGAZINE



*St. Mary's, Herriard*



*All Saints', Turworth*



*St. Lawrence, Westcott Parlick*



*St. Mary's, Upton Grey*

January  
2024

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Benefice Office		admin@moretolife.church
Youth Pastor	Helen Chatfield	youth@moretolife.church
Pastoral Care Minister	Suzanne Newcombe	suzanne@moretolife.church

### Church Wardens

Herriard/Winslade	Fiona Ives	07867 973266
	Adrian Spruce	07976 967059
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Upton Grey	Sarah Barnes	01256 861164
Weston Patrick	Clare Davies	01256 862762

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### Parish Chairperson

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Tunworth	David O'Donnell	07831 631455
Upton Grey	Charles Holroyd	01256 862127
Weston Patrick/Corbett	Peter Stemp	07470 251008
Winslade	John Raymond	01256 381203

**PCSO Andy Jones** (andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) Telephone 101

### Neighbourhood Watch

Herriard	Rebecca Wills	herriardnhw@btinternet.com
Upton Grey		
Powntley Copse	Jill Burry	jill.burry@btinternet.com
Tunworth	Sarah Whitcombe	swhitcombe@hotmail.co.uk
Weston Patrick/Corbett	David Don	davidtwdon@gmail.com

### Parish Magazine

Editors	Tess Chevallier	01256 862636
	Sheila Stranks	01256 862465
Church Editor	Nick Willmer	07860 300888
All editors' email:	uptongreymagazine@gmail.com	
KidsZone	Helen Chatfield	youth@moretolife.church
Treasurer	Simon Clough	simon.clough@hotmail.co.uk
Advertising & Production	Susie Vereker	01256 862365
	uptongreymagazine@gmail.com	
Distribution	Jane Hanbury	01256 862681

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

### Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

2023 was a particularly difficult year for the world. Using the words of Queen Elizabeth II from 1992 and of Kofi Annan in 2004, it was very much an *annus horribilis*. Not least because of humankind's inhumanity to each other. Month after month the news media were full of brutal images of fighting, killing and war. Whether it was in Israel and Gaza, or Ukraine. This is not to mention Central Africa, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia or Sudan. The list seems endless.



Often it feels as though the world is going in exactly the wrong direction. We want to love and be loved and yet we so often hate. We want to share the possessions we have and yet we hoard things to ourselves. We want peace and yet we make war. We want a better world but do nothing about it.

The New Testament Greek word *metanoia* means exactly that, to turn around and go in the opposite direction. It also points to a complete change of heart and mind. It is used 58 times in the New Testament, so it is a very important idea.

We all long for 2024 to be an *annus mirabilis* – a wonderful year – a year of miracles. That's what we mean when we wish each other 'A Happy New Year'.

John Donne's poem 'No one is an island' reminds us that the whole of humanity is connected to each other. Actions large and small in other parts of the world impact on me here in North Hampshire, whether I realise it or not. Likewise my own actions, large and small, ripple out into the wider world. If the world needs to change so do I. If I want the world to change I need to change first.

The *metanoia* of the world begins with me. Half-hearted New Year Resolutions won't do it. I need to turn round, to have a complete change of heart and mind. St Paul in his letter to the Romans knew all about this struggle to change. 'I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate I do' (Romans 7:15). Somehow each one of

us needs a miracle on the inside to help us become the people we were made to be.

The wonderful Christmas carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' describes this miracle perfectly and even offers us a prayer to use:

*How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His Heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.  
O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.*

The miracle of Christmas is to let the Christ child enter in and to be born in our hearts to give us the new start we so need. It's a miracle not just for Christmas but for the New Year too. A miracle that begins with individuals but which offers hope for the whole world.

Wishing you a very happy *annus mirabilis* for 2024.

**The Revd Gillian Wilton**  
Vicar, Long Sutton & South Warnborough

### FROM THE REGISTERS

**Baptism:** Arabella Spice at St Mary's Herriard on 26th November

**Memorial Service:** Nicola Franks at St Mary's Upton Grey on 30th November

### CHURCH SERVICES

#### Sunday 7th January

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion  
10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion  
5.00pm Herriard – Evensong

#### Thursday 11th January

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

#### Sunday 14th January

10.00am Herriard – Family Service (with Baptism)  
10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship  
10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion  
5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

#### Thursday 18th January

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

#### Sunday 21st January

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

#### Sunday 28th January

9.00am Tunworth – Family Service  
10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship  
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)  
5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

### CHURCH NEWS

#### Coffee & Cake

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

- Coffee and Cake in the church porch, All Saints Tunworth, at 10.30am on Thursday 4th January.
- Coffee & Cake Drop-in at Upton Grey Village Hall, 11.00am–1.00pm on Monday 8th and 22nd January.
- Coffee morning at Weston Patrick Village Hall, 11.00am–12.30pm on Wednesday 24th January.

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](mailto:sam@moretolife.church) or [joanna@moretolife.church](mailto:joanna@moretolife.church), or call the benefice office on 01256 703791



## KidsZone

Happy New Year everyone!

The morning of the first day of every year my family have a bit of a competition. We see who will be the first to give that day's greeting. This has definitely had its disadvantages, when in previous years one of the girls has run in super early in the morning, 'Happy New Year! Happy New Year!' and immediately won – and woken us all up at the same time...

Now, however, you are reading this and don't get the option to shout out to me, so I am able to get ahead of you and win. A Happy New Year to you!

I wonder, what will make this year a happy year for you? We can probably all find specific things in our own lives. Some serious, some a

bit funny. But let me give you some general ideas to get you started.

First, let's take this word Happy, and instead of writing it across the page let us write it straight up and down.

**H** stands for **Helpful**. You know, you cannot have a happy year unless you are helpful. Give it a try – you'll be surprised at what a difference it will make. And how great it is when people are helpful back!

**A** for **Active**. I want your year to be full of activity. I pray you will be able to skate and slide downhill in the snow this winter, and that you will enter into all the spring and summer sports with enthusiasm. That you'll dance as if no-one was looking and always give something a go.

**P** for **Playful**. All work and no play is no fun. Of course we all have some responsibilities, at home and at school, but, sandwiched in with the work, make sure you have time to have loads of fun and don't ever lose the joy of being playful and not taking yourself too seriously.

**P** for **Purposeful**. What do I mean by this? Well, when you do things, do them for a purpose. Time flies by, and we have often not done the things which were important to us. When you are about to do something, have a think about why. Is it going to help you or help others? Will it change things for the better...?

**Y** for **Yourself**. This year, remember to be the very best version of yourself. It can be very easy to slip into the trap of trying to please others. Be yourself. Be happy with who that is. Be the best that you can be!

Have a great January and see you next time!



**Helen Chatfield**  
**Youth Pastor**  
[youth@moretolife.church](mailto:youth@moretolife.church)  
**07540 140228**



## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

### Farming news

It's wet mid-December and I'm sitting in the warm, dry cab of the JCB, listening to Radio 5 live on a Saturday afternoon as yet another League Two football match is cancelled because of a waterlogged pitch. Five matches in total. We managed to keep 40 in-calf heifers out in the fields until 6th December by which time they had eaten all the good grass and were beginning to poach the ground, so they had to finally come into the barns. With all the wet weather we've had, we were fortunate to keep them outside that long. They were very pleased to come in as they had spent the previous week looking over the fence into the new barn at their cohorts tucked up warm and dry making their very noisy, discontented feelings heard for anyone who would listen. It has been such a wet difficult year.

So, all the cows, heifers and calves are in the barns for the winter. Our 250 milking cows are fed every morning by Simon using a tractor and mixer wagon. He uses the JCB to load the mixer wagon with a predetermined blend of grass silage, maize silage, straw and other goodies like oilseed rape meal and minerals. This giant blender then mixes the exact amount of ingredients, not too little and not too much so it's over processed. We want the mix just right so that every mouthful a cow has over the course of the next 24 hours consists of the same ingredients. Basically, so she cannot 'sort' the food. The ration is worked out by Vicky, our nutritionist, depending on how our grass silage and maize silage has analysed. In 2023 the silage yields were good, but quality was not because of the lack of sunshine. So generally, energy, protein and sugar levels were below usual values. This unfortunately means we have to buy in more 'straights' (other feeds) to compensate for the shortfall. For example, we are now adding cane molasses to the mix every day to up the sugar level of the ration because of the low levels in the silage. We are trying to produce as much milk from home produced feed as we can so buying in extra feed adds cost to the ration. We did have a glimmer of hope on the low milk price we're receiving at the moment though, an additional 1€cent/litre for December milk. So about 89pence/litre. We are still selling milk at below its cost of production but at last the milk price is very slowly heading in the right direction.

We have about 30 calves to feed with milk twice a day at any one time and an additional 230 weaned youngstock to feed and bed up every day so the winter months are very routine but very busy. Between Sally,

Ric, Craig, Simon, Philip and myself we manage to get it all done, some days are longer than others though! The mechanisation certainly helps, with robots milking the cows and pushing the feed up and a robot in the new barn sucking up the cow dung and depositing it in the slurry lagoon. But it's the hard work and dedication of our team that is by far the most important ingredient in our farm mix. That cannot be understated.

Wishing them and you all a very happy 2024 with the perfect

balance of  and  ..... 

**Joe Ives**

### News from Long Sutton C of E Primary School

It has been such a busy term at school but also a very successful and enjoyable one! We welcomed two Ofsted inspectors into school back in September. The inspection process was intense and fast-paced but the many strengths of our wonderful school shone through, with the overarching headline being that 'our school continues to be good'. As well as being able to evidence all the 'good' requirements from the Ofsted framework, the inspectors concluded that our core Christian values of love, courage and hope 'ooze through the school' – this was the absolute highlight for me, as our values drive everything we do in school. The full report can be accessed via our website (see below for link).

The next exciting event was the launch of our new school website. Governors and staff have worked hard to create the new site, which provides a wealth of information about our school. Do take a look: [www.longsutton.hants.sch.uk](http://www.longsutton.hants.sch.uk)

We have enjoyed many wonderful events and learning experiences over the term, too many to mention them all! Highlights have been:

- supporting the Long Sutton Village Coronation project by planting many, many bulbs at the site along The Street
- composing and recording a school song called 'Hope, Courage and Love'
- Harvest Festival in Long Sutton church, along with becoming a 'pop-up food bank donation station' for the Alton Foodbank
- musical performances at 'Tea@3,' Long Sutton Christmas lights ceremony and our school 'Carols Round the Tree' concert
- a magical nativity performed by our youngest children!

Thank you to everyone who bought a PTA Christmas tree or raffle ticket. Along with the Christmas Fair itself, these were great fundraising opportunities for the school.

Finally, as many of you are already aware, I am leaving Long Sutton C of E Primary School at the end of December 2023. It has not been an easy decision to leave such a wonderful school but the time has come to move on and seek new professional opportunities. It has been a privilege and a joy to lead the school and get to know so many of you from our three catchment villages of Long Sutton, South Warnborough and Upton Grey, and beyond. The village school is in a great place and the first class staff team will continue to serve the children, families and wider community with love, courage and hope as they move onto a new chapter. The Governors are busy recruiting for a new Headteacher but in the meantime our very capable leadership team will be taking the reins and I know the school will continue to flourish.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2024.

**Hannah Inglis (Headteacher)**

## UPTON GREY NEWS

[www.uptongreychurch.co.uk](http://www.uptongreychurch.co.uk)

[www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk)

[facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity](https://facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity)

### December UGVH 100 Club winners

1st prize (£100) Wills

2nd prize (£40) Darke

We will be organising the 100 Club for 2024 in the New Year so please do continue to support our Village Hall or look out for details of how to join in the 100 Club. Thanks! **Sam Clough 07766 663511**

### T@3

We have enjoyed several pleasant afternoons over the past year talking to friends over a traditional afternoon tea. Many thanks to those who have invited us into their homes and gardens - please invite us again - we had such a good time. The proceeds of the fun raffle we hold each time have now been donated to Crisis at Christmas.

The next T@3 will be held on **Thursday 15th February** at Barn Cottage, Weston Road. Please ring much nearer to the time to say if you are coming and whether you would like a lift. We look forward to seeing you. **Jill Lestrille (862131), Barbara Anderson (862627) or Viv Anscombe (862455)**

### St Mary's Church Pipe Organ

We are delighted to announce that the new Pipe Organ has been installed in St Mary's and looks magnificent and sounds wonderful. We are most grateful to all those who so generously donated to the appeal or gave of their time to dispose of the old organ - which resulted in the creation of many wooden artefacts from the reclaimed wood.

The new organ will be a lasting legacy for the church and dedicated:

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED LATE SOVEREIGN

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH (1926 – 2022)

The Pipe Organ will be blessed on Sunday 7th January at 10.00am as part of the main church service and you are all warmly invited to be part of this celebration. **Frances and Geoffrey Yeowart**



## Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

**Monday**

**8th & 22nd January**

**11.00-1.00**

**All welcome**



St Mary's Upton Grey  
[www.moretolife.church](http://www.moretolife.church)

### **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](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 or Vivian Raven 862278**

## HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

[www.herriard-pc.gov.uk](http://www.herriard-pc.gov.uk)

[www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk](http://www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk)

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

### Christmas 2023 – 400 nightlights or so later ...

Thank you to everyone who came along to St Mary's Herriard with Winslade to experience the magic and wonder of Christmas.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have worked so hard to make all the services happen - from our Advent Carol Service, Christingle (in aid of The Childrens' Society), Carol Service to our Christmas Day service - such a lot of work goes into each and every one.

Thank you to our bell-ringers for welcoming us into Church, to Rose our organist for playing so beautifully, to our readers, to everyone who helps decorate the Church so magnificently, for the contributions of food and drink, and to everyone who comes along and helps fill the Church with Christmas cheer!

None of this happens though without the Clergy - so a massive thank you to Simon and his team, to Helen our Youth Pastor for all the thought and fun she put into our Christingle service, and in particular to Suzanne for the many hours of planning, for all her help and support, and then in leading the services so thoughtfully and brilliantly.

Highlights? Every single service was so special, bringing the Christmas message alive - but the 11-year-old helping his 93-year-old Grampa was a particularly poignant moment.

**Fiona Ives**

### Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group

The lunch group will meet on **Friday 26th January** from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Herriard Hub.

### Herriard Village Hub

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 22nd January** at 7.30pm. Please come to have your say on how the Hub moves forward in the future.

**Tracy Crawford**

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**Quiz Night 25th November 2023**

Friday the 25th November was quiz night at The Hub in Herriard. Organized by Debbie McGowan and Charlotte Knight, the proceeds are going to the local Children's Christmas party fund. Together with the entry fee, a generous raffle – which offered many bottles of spirits, flowers, chocolates, and a meal for two donated by The Crown, Alton – raised over £400. A further £50 was generously donated by the Parochial Church Council.

Seven teams competed for the honour of being Brain of Herriard. The Baltic Cruisers took an early lead with a perfect 10 in one round and 9/10 in their Joker round. Despite a valiant effort by The 3 Parrots to catch them, The Baltic Cruisers held on to their lead and won with 85 points to The 3 Parrots in second place with 80.

The evening was well supported and there was lots of positive feedback which will help to make the next quiz even better.

Many thanks to The Hub for waiving the fee for the hire of the function room.

Thank you for completing the feedback sheets. These will help us make improvements for future quizzes etc. Debbie and Charlotte would like to organize another fund-raising evening at Easter and would like your opinions on what that should be. Would you like another quiz night, an evening of bingo or something else? Any suggestions would be appreciated and we will do our best to arrange whatever would appeal to the majority. There is no reason why we can't have a variety of events provided we get sufficient support. As before, all proceeds will be used for the benefit of Herriard. Thanks in advance for all your suggestions.

If you like to be kept updated on the next village quiz event, please look us up on Small Changes, Big Causes on Facebook page, or please contact Charlotte tel: 07464 973267 or email [quiznight2023@gmail.com](mailto:quiznight2023@gmail.com) to be added a mailing list further event.

**David McGowan**

on behalf of Debbie and Charlotte

## WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Weston Patrick Village Hall hosted a fun and financially successful Race Night run by Chief Bookmaker Andy Davies and Head Jockey Clare Davies. They organised a brilliant evening with much hilarity, making a fantastic £1,500 for the care of our Church and supported by the majority of the village.

Our next coffee morning will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 24th January 2024. Come along for coffee, cake and chat. All welcome in the Village Hall from 11.00am.

The first Church service at St. Lawrence in the New Year will be Holy Communion at 10.00am on 14th January led by Linda Scard, followed by Evensong on January 28th at 5.00pm. Morning Worship will be held on 11th February at 10.00am, and then Bishop David will be attending our church on February 25th for Evensong.

The Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett Home Group is due to re-start on Thursday 11th January. Please contact Linda Scard: [linda@moretolife.church](mailto:linda@moretolife.church) for further details.

**Coffee Morning**  
Weston Patrick Village Hall  
**Wednesday**  
**24th January**  
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each month  
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## TUNWORTH NEWS

### **Coffee & Cake: Thursday 4th January, 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 6th January, 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 Wednesday evening at 8.00pm for one hour, to study Bible passages and Biblical themes. The next dates are **January 10th and 24th**, studying the Letter to the Hebrews. We meet at The Orangery, Hackwood Park. If you would like to know more or to join, then please contact Gabrielle.

### **Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group**

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. We have superb soup, with bread and cheese and it is a **FREE LUNCH**. The next date is **Friday 26th January**. Anyone from our four parishes is welcome. If you would like to know more then please contact Mark.

## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

### North Warnborough and District Garden Club

We look forward to welcoming our members to our first meeting of 2024 which will be held on Thursday 25th January 2.30pm in the North Warnborough Village Hall. On this occasion we will welcome Geoff Hawkins who will talk to us about House Plants. The competitions will be 1. A green arrangement and 2. A spray of a flowering shrub.

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



### Celebrate 2024 by doing something new!

Shake off those post-Christmas blues by taking up a new activity! It could be indoors or outdoors, sitting down or moving around, but if you've been meaning to do it for some time ... why not do it now!

The u3a movement has a lot to offer. At national level there is a website that offers a wealth of activities to all members across the county such as:

- collaborative projects, e.g. mapping popular walks, capturing memories of the 50's, Birdtrack (tracking garden birds);
- a varied programme of free online events e.g. tips on Family History research, famous artists, live cookery demos;
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- a monthly podcast and a YouTube channel.

At local level, our Odiham District u3a now offers over 60 activity groups. So, not sure what to try? How about:

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- ✓ **Exercise:** Dancing, Pilates, Cycling, Walking, Ball Games.
- ✓ **Literature:** Poetry, Books, Play Reading, Creative Writing.

With the exception of our five Wine Tasting Groups and MOTO (members on their own), our activities take place during the day on weekdays in local venues such as The Cross Barn and the Cricket Club in Odiham.

If you would like to know more, please visit our website: [www.odihamu3a.org.uk](http://www.odihamu3a.org.uk) (or see the next page for photos).





## National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

Decisions!!

Do I start with the great news OR the great news!!!!

Firstly, we have just received the results of all our efforts and the generous support of our garden visitors for 2023: The National Garden Scheme is donating £3.4m to our beneficiaries – this is a record breaking amount. If you are interested in reading more about our beneficiaries and the sums they will be receiving, this can be found on the NGS website [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

The second piece of great news is that The National Garden Scheme is to have a show garden at the 2024 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** in May. Designed by eight-times RHS gold medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, sponsored and fully funded by Project Giving Back, the garden will exemplify the joy and associated health and wellbeing benefits of garden visiting that have been at the heart of the National Garden Scheme since 1927. Following the show, the garden will be relocated to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to become part of the garden of a new Maggie's Centre for people undergoing cancer treatment.

Now we start all over again with our fundraising for 2024. As always we start with our Snowdrops & Spring bulbs, and this year Hampshire has five gardens opening during this season:

**Chawton House** Chawton, Alton, GU34 1SJ

Opening Sunday 4th February, 10.00am to 3.30pm.

Admission: Adults £6.00, Children £4.00. Cashless payments available.

Light Refreshments.

15 acres of listed English landscaped gardens with an abundance of Spring flowers.

### New for 2024:

**Woodend Gardens** (comprising two gardens) Woodend Road, Crow, Ringwood, BH24 3DG.

Opening Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th February, 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Admission £8.00, children free. **Cash only.** Light Refreshments.

Trolls Mead (a 1-acre garden with year round interest) AND Hollyhurst (a 2-acre garden of mature trees and Spring bulbs).

**Little Court** Crawley, Winchester, SO21 2PU.

Opening Sunday/Monday 11th/12th February and 18th/19th February, 2.00-4.30pm.

Admission £5.00, children free. **Cash only.**

Home-made teas in Village Hall.

Popular naturalistic garden, especially exciting in Spring.

**The Down House** Itchen Abbas, SO21 1AX.

Opening Wednesdays 14th & 21st February, 1.00-4.30pm (pre-booking essential). Admission £10.00, children free, includes Home-made Teas.

A 2-acre Winter green of note - appeared in several Garden Magazines - with a plethora of Spring bulbs.

**Bramdean House** Bramdean, Alresford, SO24 0JU.

Opening: Sunday 25th February 1.00-3.00pm.

Admission £6.50, children free. Cashless payments available.

Home-made teas. A 5-acre garden with carpets of Spring bulbs.

Wishing all a Happy New 2024 and Happy Garden Visiting.

**Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity)**

**National Garden Scheme - Hampshire**

### Charity Dinner & Quiz Night, 1st February at 7.30pm

Zoe McLaren is running the TCS London Marathon on Sunday 21st April 2024 supporting **Mencap**. **Mencap** is a charity that makes a difference to the lives of people with a learning disability.

**The Dinner & Quiz Night** takes place at **The Restaurant, Basingstoke College of Technology**, Basingstoke RG21 8TN.

- Guest Speakers (Mike Gratton, former 1983 London Marathon Winner and Bronze Medallist 1982 Commonwealth Games, and Neil Proctor, Fitness and Spinning Instructor and Course Director for The Basingstoke Half Marathon and 10Km Road Race)
- Bar
- Charity Raffle
- Prize

There will be a Welcome Drink on arrival followed by a 2-course dinner. The ticket price is £28.50 per person (booking fee applies) with up to six in a team. For more information and tickets visit: <https://CharityDinnerQuiz-01Feb24.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Swifts - spectacular visitors that need our help

The skies of our parishes are now quiet. Nearly all the Swifts that hurtle overhead in early summer, thrilling and exhilarating us with their speed and screams, leave the UK in early August. It will be May before they return from Africa.

Swifts are supreme flyers, perfectly adapted to a life in the air. They sleep, feed and mate on the wing. They only land to breed. When a Swift chick fledges, it will spend the next three to four years in constant flight. Swifts do not land on the ground or perch on buildings, trees or cables. They have short legs and small feet with sharp claws that are perfect for clinging to vertical surfaces, but unsuitable for perching.

Swifts eat flying insects. These insects are most numerous between May and August. That determines how long Swifts can spend in the UK as they need huge numbers of these insects to feed their chicks. Unlike Swallows and House Martins which can have two or three broods of chicks during the summer, Swifts have just a single brood of usually two young.

2000 years ago, Swifts nested in holes in trees or in cliffs. Now that is rare. Swifts are entirely dependent on buildings for nest sites. They look for small gaps high up where they can access a flat space to nest, such as under tiles or eaves. The nest is invisible from outside. Modern building techniques mean that houses built in the last 30 or so years rarely have any gaps, so most Swifts nest in older buildings. Thousands of nest sites are lost each year when buildings are demolished, or renovated, or when plastic soffits and fascias are installed. Swifts are faithful to their nest site, so once a pair find a site, they will return to it every year. If they return and find their nest site has been destroyed or is inaccessible, they may not breed that year unless a new nest site is available nearby.

Swifts are in catastrophic decline. In 27 years from 1994 their population has declined by 62% in the UK and by 70% in the South East, including Hampshire. Loss of nest sites is the overwhelming major factor. House Sparrows and Starlings are also experiencing steep declines. They too rely on buildings for nest sites.

Preserving existing nest sites and providing new nest sites is crucial to reverse the decline of Swifts in the UK. Thousands of new nest sites are needed to halt the decline. Hampshire Swifts is a charity set up in 2016 with the aim of stopping the downward trend of this special bird



and increasing their numbers. We give advice on all matters related to Swifts. We supply and install swift boxes - £40 for a single box, £75 for a double box. We advise on creating permanent homes for Swifts using Swift bricks. We work to persuade local councils and developers to help Swifts by installing Swift bricks in new homes at an average rate of one per dwelling.

How can *you* help Swifts? Preserve existing nest sites, put up nest boxes, encourage your neighbours to put up nest boxes, record where they are nesting on the Hampshire Swifts survey website (<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/swift-survey>), and write to your local councilors about the importance of making the installation of Swift bricks in new developments a condition of planning approval.

Swifts are amazing and beautiful birds. The sound and sight of them racing, screaming over our rooftops is exhilarating and an essential part of summer. Let's make sure that continues.

**Tim Norriss, Trustee of Hampshire Swifts**

Our website is <https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/>

(for advice or if you're interested in having swift boxes on your house)

### Fresh start - Is there something you just can't stop doing, even though you want to?

Why not try a course called Fresh Start, which is designed to help you tackle a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet addiction, shopping compulsions, binge drinking, soft drugs, etc – in fact any habit which once might have brought you comfort or fun but is now spoiling your daily living.

Fresh Start is a 9-week course run by Harvest Church, Alton. It's based on principles from the Bible and the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by 1-to-1 coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their habits. And it's free and completely confidential. See <https://harvestchurch.uk/fresh-start> After previous local courses, a man tackling a porn addiction said, 'I'd like to thank you ... for putting on the Fresh Start course and helping me achieve my goals ... I am very grateful for the work you did with us'. Another, tackling a gambling addiction, said 'I was gambling to excess and constantly worried and anxious over money. I am now happier and am getting my priorities right ... I can never say THANK YOU enough times as I never thought I could beat this addiction'. A woman now in recovery from alcohol addiction said 'I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't come on Fresh Start'.

The next course will start with an Introduction session on Wednesday 31st January 2024, at 7.30pm, at Alton Maltings, led by Mark and Anna. If you, or anyone you know, needs a fresh start, register for the course by calling Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or [freshstart@harvestchurch.uk](mailto:freshstart@harvestchurch.uk).

### **Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust – Winter sleepers – the hibernating habits of European Hedgehogs, Bats and Hazel Dormice**

As the temperature drops for winter you may have observed a change in local wildlife as species adapt to cope with the colder weather. Some species will avoid the unfavourable conditions through migration and others grow thicker winter coats, but a handful of Britain's wildlife will tough out the cold weather through hibernation.

Hibernation is a process of a prolonged period of inactivity that allows animals to survive when food is scarce, and the weather is harsh. To prepare for hibernation animals will build up a reserve of body fat by eating as much as possible in the lead up to winter, before retreating to somewhere safe where they will enter a torpid state. Once settled, almost all of the animal's bodily functions will either completely stop or slow down significantly, the body temperature will cool, and breathing and heart rate will slow down. For example, a bat's heartrate will slow to an astonishing four beats per minute but can reach 1,000 bpm when flying. This reduces the amount of energy its body must burn to survive.

There are only three UK mammals that truly hibernate: bats, Hazel dormice and European hedgehogs.

Dormice and hedgehogs hibernate right through the winter by developing enough brown body fat (fat reserves they can utilize during prolonged periods of sleep), which they build up by eating fat and sugar-rich foods. In some cases, they can increase their own body weight by over 30%.

As omnivores (an animal which eats both plant and animals) hedgehogs are not picky eaters. These iconic creatures will feast on anything from fruit and insects to beetles and frogs and will reach a weight of 500-700 grams. Hedgehogs are also not fussy when deciding where they will overwinter. Some will build their own nest from dead leaves and twigs, whilst others will happily take shelter under a pile of logs, your compost heap or under a garden shed. Be careful when moving piles of leaves or wood over the winter as there may be a hibernating hedgehog underneath.

In the woodlands, dormice will gorge on a menu of nuts, seeds and berries, building up vital energy reserves. Dormice construct insulated nests hidden in hedgerows and thickets, where they retreat for hibernation.

During autumn, bats are especially active in hunting and finding a place to overwinter. Bats are unable to dig or build their shelters so have to look for the right spot. They like to roost in veteran trees that are hollow as well as man-made structures. You might find them wedged into holes in an old brick wall or in the roof of your house, but old barns and abandoned buildings are also favoured spots.

For more information on mammals, visit Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/mammals>

**Helen Skelton Smith**

**Communications Officer – Publications and Media**

Helen.Skelton.Smith@hiwwt.org.uk, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire, SO32 2DP



*Hibernating Hazel dormouse (c) Danny Green*

### SMALL ADS – January

#### Game meat for sale

Partridge breasts (10 per pack) – £7.00. Pheasant breasts (6 per Pack) – £8.00. Pigeon breasts (10 per pack) – £5.00. Advance ordering required for venison please. Venison haunch £10 per kilo. Venison loin/steak £20 per kilo (£10 per 500g). Diced venison £10 per kilo. Contact Robert 07557 054844.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk), or contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or [bookings@herriardvillagehub.co.uk](mailto: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 – JANUARY 2024

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

#### JANUARY DATES

7th Jan	Sun	Blessing of new organ, St Mary's Upton Grey	10.00am
10th Jan	Wed	Tunworth Home Group	8.00pm
11th Jan	Thur	Weston Patrick/Corbett Home Group restarts	
22nd Jan	Mon	Herriard Village Hub AGM	7.30pm
24th Jan	Wed	Tunworth Home Group	8.00pm
26th Jan	Fri	Herriard & Tunworth Lunch Group, Herriard Hub	12noon

#### ADVANCE DATES

15th Feb	Thur	T@3, Barn Cottage Upton Grey	3.00pm
27th Feb	Tues	Lent Course begins, All Saints Odiham	7.30pm
16th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	
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 February issue is 15th January 2024**  
Please send news and contributions to [uptongrey\\_magazine@gmail.com](mailto:uptongrey_magazine@gmail.com). Your editor for January was Sheila Stranks with Nick Willmer (Church). For February your editor will be Nick Willmer .

# UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFE

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