

PARISH MAGAZINE



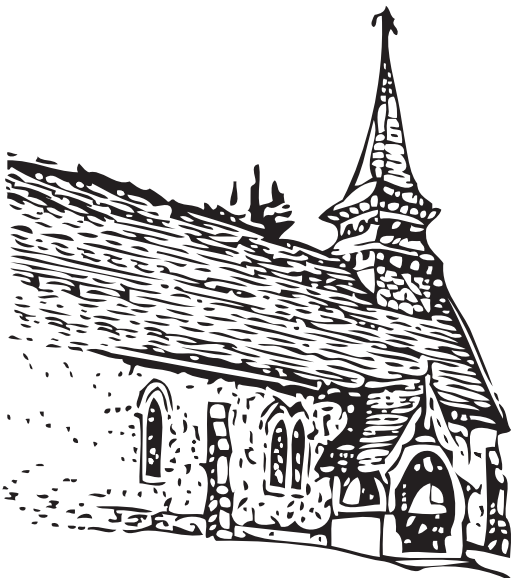
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All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westonzoyland

March
2023

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

From the Benefice Ministry Team

Jeremy Paxman in his book 'The English – A Portrait of a People' described the English as doers rather than thinkers:

'Once upon a time the English knew who they were... They were polite, unexcitable, reserved, had hot water bottles instead of a sex life: How they reproduced was one of the wonders of the modern world. They were doers rather than thinkers, writers rather than painters, gardeners rather than cooks...'



For myself I recognise that I always want to do things. I like to get things done! Unlike the Scots, the English rarely want to grapple with philosophy or complex ideological ideas – we tend to be concerned with making things work – or making them work better. Particularly if we have a farm or a school or a hospital or a business to run.

And yet, once in a while, my attention is grabbed by a philosophical concept or writer. A few years ago a friend introduced me to the work of the Danish theologian/philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855). One of his ideas caught my notice:

'Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.'

Lent is a moment in the year when we do exactly that. We continue to live life forward in anticipation of the joy of Easter, but we also spend time in reflection looking back on the life we have lived and the way we have lived it.

How is 2023 unfolding for you? How have the past few year been for you? Have they been good? Difficult? Non-years? Have you felt able to rise to the challenges of Covid? Felt empowered to play your part in the world? Or have you felt that you have just been a spectator or a victim – merely reacting to events – positive and negative?

Lent is a moment in the year when we have the opportunity to look back on life and to begin to make sense of it. How is your Lent going so far? Even if you feel that so far Lent 2023 has passed you by, it is never too late to start.

For a good number of years I have managed to spend some time in retreat. Some years my retreat can last a few days. Other years it is just a day. Other years it is just a morning. I take my Bible and a pile of books.

I read and write and I pray. Weather permitting, I love to go on long walks as I reflect on the events of the last year. I always return home from every retreat refreshed, re-energised, and with lessons from the past to help me live more wholly in the future.

In the busyness of life, taking stock – looking back – can feel like something of a luxury. And yet time spent during Lent understanding life backwards is actually an investment in living life forwards. How might you make some space this Lent to look backwards? A few hours spent alone at home or away or walking in a favourite place might just make all the difference. A few hours spent alone reflecting on the past might just reveal the very important lessons you need to live life more wholly in the future. Or join one of our lent groups. Why not mark out some time in your diary right now? With love and prayers.

The Revd Gillian Wilton
Vicar, Long Sutton and South Warnborough

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th March

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Thursday 9th March

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 12th March

9.00am Herriard – Morning Worship

10.00am Upton Grey – Family Worship

10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion

5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 16th March

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 19th March

9.00am Tunworth – Mothering Sunday Family Service

10.00am Herriard – Mothering Sunday Family Service

10.00am Upton Grey – Mothering Sunday Family Service

Sunday 26th March

9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer

10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship

11.00am Herriard – Family Service

5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

CHURCH NEWS

Lent events

Across the four churches there is a combination of Lent courses and Lent lunches.

- Upton Grey has a number of Lent lunches in individual houses – and a final lunch alongside the March 27th Coffee & Cake drop-in event at the Village Hall (see below).
- Weston Patrick has a Lent course with the Revd Linda Scard on Thursday evenings, Upton Grey has a Lent course at the Vicarage starting on Wednesday 1st March.
- Herriard and Tunworth are running a joint Lent course with a series of lunches at the Herriard Hub (RBL Hall).

Please see the notices in the Upton Grey, Herriard, Tunworth and Weston Patrick News sections of this magazine.

Upton Grey Coffee & Cake Drop-in – Monday 13th & 27th March

The St Mary's Upton Grey 'Coffee & Cake Drop-in' events are twice a month, and the next two are on Monday 13th and 27th March in Upton Grey Village Hall. Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat – plus the option of soup and a roll. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up.

The standard timing is **11.00-1.00**. But on the second of the March events (March 27th) Coffee & Cake will be from 11.00 as usual, then from 12 noon there will be the last of the Lent lunches.

Mothering Sunday – March 19th

On Mothering Sunday (March 19th) there are Family Services at Tunworth (9.00am), Herriard (10.00am) and Upton Grey (10.00am). You will be very welcome at any of those services.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

March Farming News

We have a dreaded farm inspection this afternoon, one of many each year. I'll let you know how we got on at the end of this article. This audit is by our milk buyer, Arla, and is focused on animal welfare. The inspector will go through all our cattle medical records, medicine inventory, foot scoring charts (we regularly foot score every cow to spot lameness), body scoring data (are our cows too fat? Too thin?), visual appraisal of cattle housing, feed store, general cleanliness and much, much more...

In many ways it's a very good thing because it makes us look at our cattle and farm as a whole with fresh eyes. It also helps Arla go to their customers; you, me, the supermarkets and prove that their milk and dairy products are produced to the highest animal welfare standards of any country in the world.

We do get an awful lot of inspections though. As well as the Arla audit above, we have: -

- Red Tractor, Assured Combinable Crops for our arable, which check fertiliser and spray applications, corn storage, soil quality and everything associated with our crop production.
- Red Tractor, Dairy and Beef which checks medicines, cleanliness, animal welfare, fertiliser and spray application.
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones for nitrogen and dung application and timings to protect watercourses.
- Basic Payment Scheme to check we are growing what crops we say we are in each particular field.
- Countryside Stewardship to check we are growing our nectar and winter bird food plots in accordance with the scheme rules.

I've probably forgotten a few but you get the picture. You can also see from the above that there is a certain amount of overlap between completely different inspections. It's very frustrating and time consuming to be going over the same things to a different inspector when, if we've conformed to a set of rules for one inspection that should be sufficient for another you'd hope.

Some of these inspections are booked, some are spot checks with no warning. We once had a spot check to make sure all our cows, heifers and calves had ear tags that matched their cattle passports. (Every cow in the UK has a dedicated number for life which you can see on her ear tags and

corresponds to her passport). The inspector was on farm for three days matching every one of our 600 head of stock to their passports. We were all fine but that was three days of my life written off!

The other stress about these inspections is hoping that you get an inspector that actually understands farming. The last Red Tractor dairy inspector we had looked at our milk bulk storage tank and asked me “what do you keep in there?”. I knew then that I was in for a very long afternoon! As long as I don’t end up doing what one hot headed farmer did and dunked the unfortunate inspector in a water trough because he didn’t agree with him. I think that farmer failed his dairy audit.

So home made cake in the dairy office, tea, coffee and clean mugs ready, lip firmly bitten and fingers crossed...

...and relax. Dairy audit over and no inspector was unceremoniously baptised! We passed with only a few minor non-conformances; one tiny hole in the dairy roof, a broken bar on the bottom of a gate and a couple of screws sticking out of a feed trough. That’s the level the inspectors burrow into - and they have to find something wrong don’t they? We’ll rectify those tomorrow. The pleasing thing was, and most importantly, she commented that our animal welfare and dairy hygiene were outstanding. A credit to our team. So, a sigh of relief, a cheeky beer tonight and await the next inspection...

Joe Ives

UPTON GREY NEWS

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Please support the Upton Grey Village Hall 100 club 2023/4

The UGVH Committee would like to thank Brian Thrussell for the many years of running the 100 Club, which raises vital funds to maintain our Village Hall. He is now stepping down and handing the reins over to Sam Clough. Now is the time to sign up for another year of 100 Club, for just £24 for the year you have a monthly chance to win £100 or £40. The 100 Club is the principal fundraiser for the Village Hall contributing to the maintenance and running costs. This year we'd really like to replace the kitchen to make it an even more useable venue. If you haven't already joined the 100 Club, we encourage you to do so, for those already subscribing, please continue! It's a worthy cause with the chance of winning your donation back.

The 100 club works like this: all entries are put in a pot every month: half the money goes in prizes, with an award of £100 – hence the name. The second prize is usually around £40. The other half of the money goes towards the running costs of the village hall. You are welcome to buy as many numbers for the monthly draw as you like:

First Prize: £100 Second Prize: c. £40

Each entry (or number) costs £24 for 12 monthly draws. You can make payment by cheque to: Upton Grey Village Hall Committee. Cheques can be left in Wayside Cottages post box (next to the shop). If you can pay by Bank Transfer our account is Upton Grey Village Hall Committee, Sort Code 09-01-51, Account No: 86355505. Please add your name and Post Code. You can also pay with cash to Wendy Stanway, Sam Clough or Brian Thrussell (please put your details on the envelope!).

Thankyou!

Sam Clough, sam_a_clough@hotmail.co.uk

Village Hall 100 Club – February Draw

First Prize was won by V. Shedden (£100) and Second Prize by B. Stewart (£40).

Sam & Brian

Lent Lunches: 28th February to 24th March

There will be a series of Lent lunches around Upton Grey. The lunches will follow the previous pattern of soup and cheese, will start at 12.30 and conclude by 2.00pm. Guests are asked to telephone the hostess at least 48 hours before the lunch date so that she has notice of numbers which may be limited by the available space. The programme is:

- Tuesday 28th February. Barn Cottage, Weston Road, UG.
Jill Lestrille 01256 862131
- Thursday 2nd March. Christmas Cottage, Weston Road, UG.
Viv Anscombe 01256 862455
- Tuesday 7th March. The Old Post House, Bidden Road, UG.
Frances Yeowart 01256 861218
- Wednesday 22nd March. The Butts, Church Street, UG.
Val Buckley 01256 862460
- Friday 24th March. Pond House, UG.
Sarah Barnes 07890 897451

There is no charge for lunch, but please give generously to the charity chosen by the hostess. This is a lovely opportunity to see friends and meet new ones and have a thoroughly good time.

**Coffee and Cake drop in
plus Soup and a Roll!**

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday 13th March 11.00-1.00

Monday 27th March 11.00
followed by Lent Lunch at 12.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

Final Lent Lunch – Upton Grey Village Hall Monday March 27th

On Monday 27th March, following Coffee and Cake at 11.00 there will be a Lent Lunch (starting at 12) of home-made soup, bread and cheese. Everyone is welcome and there will be a collection for a charity based in Ukraine. Offers of help would be most welcome - please ring **Jill Lestrille** on 01256 862131

Lent Course

The benefice has a number of groups studying the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2023 - "Failure" by Bishop Emma Ineson. The Upton Grey group is at the Vicarage, starting on Wednesday 1st March. To join the group please email **simon@moretolife.church**.

Upton Grey Duck House – Part 2

Following on from "Part 1" in last month's magazine, Michael, Dima and Petya continued with the construction of the duck house only to face their biggest challenge so far, would the base float? Thankfully, when testing the base on Jo and Patrick Adair/Symington's wild life pond, it passed with flying colours. Buoyancy was further tested with the added weight of a very brave Martin Hume!

By the end of January the duck house was finished, and on a Saturday afternoon in early February onlookers gathered to cheer on the launch. Would the fully completed duck house capsize and sink? With great relief the launch went as planned, ably facilitated by our "launch master" Roger Clark.

Hopefully the duck house will be to everyone's liking, especially the ducks and not forgetting the moorhens.

Finally, grateful thanks go to Jane Hanbury for getting this project off the ground, and not forgetting everybody else who helped in so many other ways.

Nikki Sproule





Pipe UP for St Mary's Church: Personalised Plate: UP10GRY

Here is your chance to be the proud owner of a personalised Upton Grey number plate! Take part in this unique Silent Auction with offers being accepted until March 14th.



Email your name and address to: fullstop23@gmail.com with the amount you would like to bid. Highest offer wins. Proceeds in aid of the Pipe UP appeal for St Mary's Church – the fundraising appeal for the new replacement church pipe organ which will commemorate the reign of our late Queen Elizabeth. Due to be installed in April... Thank you for your support!

Frances Yeowart
francesyeowart@outlook.com

Upton Grey News by Email

After many years of keeping the village informed by email, George and Ray Hillier have decided to step down. They have done an amazing job and we are all very grateful. Jane Hanbury is taking over and will create a brand-new list of addresses. If you would like to join the new list, please email: ajhanbury@btinternet.com

Superfast Fibre Broadband: Update from 14/02/23

I am informed by Openreach that they are very close to completion of this project but that they have come across a blockage in a duct that effects 10 properties in an area bounded by and including Upton Grey House, Westfield Cottage, Manor House, The Old Butts and Cemetery Lane. They have a provisional date with the council of early May to clear this but they hope to bring it forward.

Roger Clark

Rosy Hardy, Chelsea Gold Medal Winner speaking 11th April

Rosy Hardy, winner of 24 RHS Chelsea gold medals and founder of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, will join us on 11th April at 7pm at Upton Village Hall for a practical introduction to seasonal flowering herbaceous perennials. Learn about plant attributes, growing conditions and plant combinations and ask questions from one of the UK's leading plants-women. £12 PER TICKET TO INCLUDE GLASS OF FIZZ. Tickets available from the shop from 13th March, or **Jane Hanbury** on 01256 862681

Spring Show: Upton Grey Horticultural Society: Sat 15th April 2023

New to the area and wonder what this is all about? We hold a small Horticultural Show in Upton Grey Village Hall, Church Street. This is a village show for villagers (and not for professional people in a particular field) and exhibits are judged accordingly. You'll need to pre-enter your intention to exhibit so we know how much table space to prepare for each class. You bring your exhibits to the village hall on Show Day morning when they will be judged. In the afternoon, the show is open to everyone to come along and see the exhibits and there's tea and cakes, a raffle, and a Grand National sweepstake. You then take your lovely exhibits home. There's even prize money for children and awards for various classes.

Soon it will be time for the brochures to be popping through your mailbox and for you to be thinking what classes to choose to enter. A flavour of the classes for adults to exhibit are cookery, preserves, photography, artwork, daffodils and other spring flowers, and rhubarb. For children, we have Lego, drawing, colouring, and a collage. If you have your own hens, then there's a class for their eggs. There's a small entry fee for adults but FREE for children.

We very much welcome entries from these villages only: Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Nately Scures, North Warnborough, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Upton Grey, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick and Winslade.

If you and your family can enter that would be absolutely fabulous. Oh, and by the way, to swell the children's entries we do encourage exhibits from villagers' grandchildren who may not live in the area. For more information, please contact **June Hunt, on 01256 862719**.

Save the Date: Summer Show, Church Meadow, Upton Grey – Sat 12 August 2023.

Coronation events (May 6th-8th)

A number of events are being planned in the village to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, so please 'save the date'. Based on the success of the Jubilee weekend, and in line with the Palace Plans, we're hoping to host another Barn Dance on the evening of Saturday 6th May, and on Sunday 7th May a Celebration Church service followed by a Big Picnic Luncheon. All events will be free and very family-friendly! More details will follow in next month's magazine, but if you'd like more information before then please contact **Sarah Barnes (01256 861164) or Millie White (07557 793237)**.

Tennis Dates for 2023: April and August

Junior Tennis Coaching Week: Easter: Tues 11th - Fri 14th April

Sessions start from 9am 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 Odiham tennis club. The youngest children have the first session, which is 45 minutes and then there are several more groups, largely grouped together by age. The age range is roughly 3.5 up to 16/17-year-olds. The cost is £16 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 the 1st of April 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

Summer Junior Tennis Coaching Week: Mon 7th - Fri 11th August

Mon 7th - Fri 11th August UG Junior Tennis Coaching 9am-12.45pm

Save the Date! St Mary's Church Fete - Saturday 10th June 2023

The Fete is being held in the gardens of Sherborne Cottage, Church Street, Upton Grey from 2 – 5 pm (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Nick Ralls). The village fete is in aid of St Mary's Church and is being held on Saturday 10th June at 2 pm. Save the date for this annual village bonanza and social. We are very grateful to Nick and Rosie Ralls who have kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful spacious gardens at Sherborne Cottage. With lots of stalls selling tantalising goodies plus teas, ices, raffle, Punch & Judy, Pimms, side shows and wood working, what more could one need for an afternoon of entertainment and chat? All in aid of our beautiful St Mary's Church. If you would like to be involved or help in any way, then please contact Frances Yeowart: mobile 07774163217 or email: francesyeowart@outlook.com. Thank you, **Sarah and Frances**

Save the Date: Upton Grey Harvest Supper, Saturday 7th October

Upton Grey Harvest Supper - Saturday 7th October. Please make a note in your diary. Further info to follow!

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St Mary's Upton Grey and the new Organ Fund

I am now the proud temporary owner of a beautiful coat rack, made by Richard Anscombe from oak in the old organ at St Mary's, Upton Grey, which I shall pass on to my younger son. We lived in Upton Grey for ten years and were welcomed by many people in the village on our return from Africa. Our sons went to the C of E village school and its headmistress, Miss Powell, set the children a project about the church. I wish I had kept the booklet she produced. Our children participated in many church activities, including harvest festival and the Christingle service, which my younger son narrowly missed due to setting fire to his hair. Viv Anscombe and I were in the small choir, organised by Alan Colchester, in which we sang at Christmas and Easter services. I particularly remember the lovely bass voice of David Ince, the vicar.

I can picture some lovely weddings, with the bride and groom departing in style in the bucket of a tractor on one occasion, moving Easter services and funerals, and the Queen's Jubilee in 1977. They were happy days, and my son Michael was so upset when told we had to move (my husband had a new job) that he threatened to chain himself to our front door. We shall maintain our historical links with the village; our niece and family live in Herriard, and my grandsons now have school friends here. I hope the new organ is a huge success, and that people will donate generously towards it - by buying the commemorative coat rack.

Judy Rawlinson

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/herriardexservicesclub>

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

Herriard Litter Pick: Sunday 5th March

Herriard Parish Council are organising the annual litter pick on Sunday 5th March between 11-1. Starting at Herriard Village Hub car park we will provide hi vis vests and litter pickers. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The bar at the Hub will be open from 1-3 for cold refreshments, tea and coffee. Come and join in to help clean up the verges whilst walking around our lovely village. **Thanks, Gill Hill**

Easter Bingo: Saturday 1st April – Herriard British Legion Hall

Easter Bingo is from 6.30 for a 7pm start at Herriard Ex-Services Club, Herriard Village Hub. Raffle and filled roll £1 each at half-time. Contact Jenny on 0780 1238200 for further information and to book a table.

Many thanks, Jenny Falconer

Stepping-down from the Editorial Team after 18 years

Ian Lansley-Neale is stepping-down from the Parish mag editorial team, due to other commitments. We would very much like to thank him for all his hard work during the last 18 years. As well as being a good source of Herriard news, he always brought his own special flavour and inspiration to the overall magazine editing role!

Herriard and Tunworth Lent Events 2023

Herriard and Tunworth Churches are running a series of joint lunches at the Herriard Hub (RBL Hall) during the season of Lent this year. The dates are:

24th February

3rd March

10th March

17th March

24th March

31st March

Please come and join us for a soup and bread lunch at 12 noon, followed by a short discussion (we will be following the Archbishop's Lent Book of 2023 "Failure" by Bishop Emma Ineson) finishing at 1.30pm latest. Tea and Coffee will be supplied. All are welcome.

TUNWORTH NEWS

Please see the notice above about the joint series of lunches with Herriard.

WESTON PATRICK NEWS

Lent Course

If you would like to join a Lent Course in Weston Patrick on **Thursday evenings** starting 23rd February 2023, please contact **Revd Linda Scard:** linda@moretolife.church or 01256 703294.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union



We were very grateful to the RAF for allowing us to use the Chaplaincy Centre for our meetings. We held our AGM on Monday 6th February at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre and enjoyed a Bring and Share meal. You will read elsewhere about our local projects – the Sunflower Café and our Knit 'N Natter group which are both doing well.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 6th March**, again at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre, but the subject of the talk is still to be arranged. Later in the month, on **Tuesday 14th March**, Mothers' Union members from around the diocese will meet at St Gabriel's Church in Popley, Basingstoke, for our Diocesan Information Day when we will be discussing how Mothers' Union can adapt to meet the challenges of the modern world. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on sue@the-murphys.me.uk or 01252 845011.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club: 23rd March

We look forward to welcoming our Members to our February Meeting which will be on Thursday 23rd March in the North Warnborough Village Hall at 2:30pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Andy McIndoe whose Talk is entitled "Beautiful Bulbs". Our Competitions will be:

1. A Vase of Spring Flowers
2. Five Varieties of Narcissi.

For further information about our Club, please visit our website at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>

Luminosa's Spring Concert: Message of Light and Hope: March 25th

Sergei Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* is a haunting cornerstone of the choral repertoire, and an overwhelming listening experience. Alton-based choir, Luminosa, is delighted to be performing this work, along with Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and Michael Higgins' *O Salutaris Hostia* at All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm. The *All-Night Vigil* is an incredible work, and arguably Rachmaninov's finest achievement, written within two weeks during the First World War in early 1915. He was looking to write something more introspective than usual: not for liturgical use but as a war benefit concert.

The *All-Night Vigil* asks the congregation to contemplate the light of the coming dawn as emblematic of Christ's resurrection. Rachmaninov followed the church's tradition of basing ten of the fifteen sections on chants, with the remaining five being more free form. In particular, the 'Kiev' chant resonates most poignantly today. The whole work is full of exquisite harmonies, ranging from top soprano to bottom bass, full of light and shade: a radiant masterpiece. The first performance took place in March 1915, when it was warmly received by critics and audiences alike. However, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the rise of the Soviet Union, led to government condemnation of sacred music. Consequently, no other composition marks the end of an era so completely as this quiet, reflective and deeply moving work.

The concert will also feature Luminosa Chamber Voices who will perform Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Written in 1997 following the death of his mother, this beautiful work explores music's power to preserve and remember, and the depth of human capacity to love. Lauridsen presents sacred Latin texts in five movements with luminous shifting harmonies, perfectly expressing a timeless sense of serenity. Michael Higgins will provide sensitive, atmospheric piano accompaniment. Luminosa is also honoured to be performing his exquisite *O Salutaris Hostia* (an arrangement of Elgar's *Nimrod*) which he composed during the Covid lockdown.

Conducted by their dynamic artistic director, Rebekah Abbott, Luminosa will perform this exceptional music with the textual variety and sustained luxuriance of sound for which Luminosa is now well known. There will be also a surprise addition to the concert experience which will enhance the evening's message of hope and light.

If you love choral music and appreciate compositions that lift you from the mundane, you should not miss Luminosa's spring concert at the beautiful All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm. Generous support from Luminosa's sponsor, Hattingley Valley Wines, allows tickets to be available at just £15 for adults (under 12s-£5), available on Ticketsource www.luminosamusic.com

Basingstoke Choral Society Concert: Bach: Saturday 1st April

Basingstoke Choral Society continue to celebrate their 75th season with a performance of the finest of all choral works, Bach's B minor Mass. This setting of the Latin Mass is the greatest of Bach's achievements, and many would say the epitome of Western music. We are joined by Croydon Philharmonic Choir and the Hanover Band to perform this musical extravaganza at The Anvil on Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm. Our conductor

is David Gibson, who has recently celebrated 40 years with Basingstoke Choral Society. Don't miss this important event in the cultural life of the town! Tickets begin at £15; discounts for under 16s and students. anvilarts.org.uk Anvil Box Office: 01256 844 244

We're a friendly choir and are always delighted to welcome new members, so please come along to our rehearsals on Wednesday nights at The Vyne School. Check out our website www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk or follow our Facebook page.



Foreign Coins and Notes for Prostate Screening: 13th May OCH

We are collecting foreign notes and coins cluttering up your home in our Odiham, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing Charity Shops. This is a joint project that will share the proceeds between Odiham Cottage Hospital and Hook & Odiham Lions (covering Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney). All Lions proceeds will help fund the next Lions' Prostate Cancer Screening session at 10.00am Saturday 13th May 2023 at the Odiham Cottage Hospital. Please see the Lions website for more details hookandodihamlions.co.uk



Thriving in the winter months!

The chilly weather has not dented our members' enthusiasm! Our new groups are all thriving with Social Cycling enjoying their second outing with a mix of 'normal' and e-bikes.



Meanwhile, in the snug of the Bel and Dragon; the Beginners Bridge group is proving so popular with ‘slightly older’ dogs learning new tricks that it’s already full until members “graduate” to the regular bridge group! Also indoors, the Investment group are poised to meet for the first time with high hopes of making a fortune or at least understanding why they lost one – but fortunately its only on paper so no real money, only ego’s will be hurt during the sessions.

Our new wine group, Wine Group 5, based in North Warnborough, enjoyed sampling wines from South Africa courtesy of members returning from holiday. And continuing with the theme of entertainment, our MOTO group celebrated the beginning of the Year of the Rabbit at the King’s Chinese restaurant in Odiham. We wish everyone a belated ‘Kung hei fat choy!

And we can’t finish without sharing this photo from our new Jamming Session group who are making amazing music together!



Finally, we are pleased to say we have reached our target to buy, plant and care for one hundred trees thus creating our very own Odiham District u3a copse in the new u3a Woodland of 10 000 trees in the Brecon Beacons. The woodland marks the 40th Anniversary of the u3a in the UK and is located on the side of the Sugar Loaf, on some 16 hectares of exhausted agricultural land.

Our revised Annual Programme is now up on our website although some groups are so new, they have yet to be included!

Contact: membership@odihamu3a.org.uk

Our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/home>

National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

The NGS Yellow County Booklet is now available. This year we have incorporated the IOW at the back of the booklet. This is delivered directly to Libraries and can be found in most Garden Centres and many local outlets. Keep a lookout! Details of all our Open Gardens are available on the NGS Website. ngs.org.uk. After the Snowdrop Festival, this is now the commencement of our Annual Fundraising in earnest. It always seems like a challenge to match the previous years' totals, but with the support of our amazing volunteers, and our loyal visitors, we are going from strength to strength, after the knock back of Covid.

Beechenwood Farm Hillside Odiham RG291JA

Opening: Every Wednesday - commencing 29th March to 8th June from 2pm to 5pm. Also, by Arrangement. This gives the visitor a more private and leisurely visit. Admission: £5.00 children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/8569>. 2 acre garden in many parts. Wander through the woodlands with drifts of Spring bulbs. Rose pergola with pots of Spring bulbs - and so much more.

Old Thatch & Millennium Barn, Winchfield RG27 8DD

Opening: Sunday 10th April 2pm to 6pm - note one day only! Admission: £4.00 - combined children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/20927>. This is your typical chocolate box garden, with borders brimming with colour and pots round every corner. 5-acre garden bordering the Basingstoke canal (unfenced) Arrive by John Pinkerton narrow boat or pick up a boat shuttle at the Barley Mow wharf. OR arrive by car... Look out for the donkeys - if you don't see them, you will certainly hear them. Happy Garden Visiting. Best Wishes.

Pat Beagley (Publicity) pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Citizens Advice Hart Outreach Project

It may be difficult for people to get to the Citizens Advice Office in Fleet. They have therefore opened an outreach project with venues across the Hart district. We would be very happy to come and give a talk to any local groups to let them know of the type of advice we can provide. Please contact us to arrange either individual help or to request someone to come and talk to your group.

Call 01252 878435 or email outreach@citizensadvicehart.org.uk. Many thanks in advance.

Caroline Sutton, Outreach Adviser at Citizens Advice Hart

King's Coronation Saturday, 6th May 2023

The National Association of Civic Officers have published information about the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May and provided details about some of the national events that will be taking place over that weekend. The coronation itself will take place at Westminster Abbey on the morning of Saturday 6th May. Sunday 7th May will be the day for a Coronation Concert staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle and a Coronation Big Lunch will take place on the same day. The Big Lunch is being organised by the Eden Project and downloadable resources will be available from www.coronationbiglunch.com. The bank holiday on Monday 8th May will be focusing on volunteering and The Big Help Out is aimed at encouraging people to try volunteering in their local area. Further details can be found using the links below:

<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64349942>

Reporting potholes

After a mild but wet autumn, the hard freeze before Christmas has undoubtedly did more damage to relatively fragile road networks. Please do report potholes using the following link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Time to get walking again!

With spring on its way we start to think about getting out walking in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hampshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants> has loads of walks to download and print, free, as well as books of walks, details of walking groups in the county and much more. Whether walking on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris, john@walkinginengland.co.uk

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

Early bloomers hint at spring – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

As the light creeps slowly back into our evening skies, the very first spring flowers brave the frosty ground, providing the earliest of hints that sunnier days lie ahead.

Perhaps the first floral sign that spring is edging ever closer is the appearance of the humble snowdrop. This elegant little plant may be seen peeping over the frosted soil of woodlands, churchyards or gardens as early as January and can continue to flower until March.

Their dainty (yet deceptively hardy) nodding, pure white flowers have often symbolised innocence, purity and hope. In fact, in Yorkshire, it was customary for village maidens to gather bunches of snowdrops and wear them as a symbol of their purity on February 2nd, which was Candlemas – or otherwise, the feast of the Virgin Mary.

Despite its long history in the UK, however, the snowdrop may not actually be native to our shores; they were not recorded as growing wild here until the late 18th century. Nevertheless, it has certainly become naturalised from garden escapees, and white snowdrop 'valleys' can now be seen across the country.

Another delightful flower that you may find on a late winter walk is the primrose. The name 'primrose' comes from the Latin 'prima rosa', meaning 'first rose'. This is very apt, as this resilient little plant can flower as early as December in mild years. Look out for their pretty, creamy-yellow flowers in woodland and grassland habitats.

Primroses are also one of the main foodplants for the caterpillars of the threatened and extremely rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly, which is only found in England.

Since Victorian times, April 19th has been known as 'Primrose Day' in honour of the late Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Primroses were his favourite flowers and they duly grow near his statue in Westminster Abbey and by his grave at Hughenden in Buckinghamshire.

Lesser celandines also bring a welcome splash of sunshine in early spring. Keep an eye out for their bright and buttery blooms growing along hedgerows, in parks and even in graveyards from March through to May. Their happy, star-shaped yellow flowers typically open in the sunlight.

As one of the first spring flowers to bloom, the low-growing lesser celandines provide a valuable nectar source for early insects. Despite its name, lesser celandine is not a close relative of greater celandine – it is actually a member of the buttercup family.

Find out more about local wildlife at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's website, www.hiwwt.org.uk

Jake Kendall-Ashton
Senior Communications Officer (Publications & Media)
Jake.Kendall-Ashton@hiwwt.org.uk

Snowdrops are one of the earliest plants to bloom, offering a nectar boost to bees
(c) Jonathan Oakley



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 Royal British Legion Hall, Herriard (RBL Hall / Herriard Hub) 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, contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or email bookings.herriardrblhall@gmail.com.

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 – March 2023

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

MARCH DATES

2nd Mar	Thu	Lent Lunch, The Old Post House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
5th Mar	Sun	Herriard Litter Pick, RBL Hall	11.00am
6th Mar	Mon	Mothers' Union, RAF Odiham Chaplaincy Centre	
7th Mar	Tues	Lent Lunch, Christmas Cottage, Upton Grey	12.30pm
11th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	7.15-10.15pm
13th Mar	Mon	Coffee and Cake, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
14th Mar	Tue	Mothers' Union, St Gabriel's, Popley	
22nd Mar	Wed	Lent Lunch, The Butts, Church Street, Upton Grey	12.30pm
24th Mar	Fri	Lent Lunch, Pond House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
25th Mar	Sat	Luminosa's Spring Concert, All Saints Odiham	7.00pm
27th Mar	Mon	Coffee & Cake then Lent Lunch, UG Village Hall	11.00/12.00

ADVANCE DATES

1st April	Sat	Easter Bingo, Herriard British Legion Hall	6.30pm
1st April	Sat	Bach B Minor Mass, Anvil, Basingstoke	7.30pm
11th Apr	Tues	Talk by Rosy Hardy, Village Hall, Upton Grey	7.00pm
11-14 Apr	Tue-Fri	Junior Tennis Coaching Week, Upton Grey	9.00-12.45
15th Apr	Sat	Upton Grey Spring Horticultural Show	
6-8 May	Sat-Mon	King Charles III's Coronation	
13th May	Sat	Prostate Screening, Odiham Cottage Hospital	10.00am
10th June	Sat	Upton Grey Fête, Sherborne Cottage, Upton Grey	2.00pm
7-11 Aug	Mon-Fri	Junior Tennis Coaching Week, Upton Grey	9.00-12.45
12th Aug	Sat	Upton Grey Summer Horticultural Show	
7th Oct	Sat	Harvest Supper, 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	10-12noon

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the April issue is 15th March.

Please send news and contributions to uptongrey_magazine@gmail.com. Your editor for April is Nick Willmer.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP

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shopuptongrey@btconnect.com

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"Supported by all who care for Village Life"



THE VILLAGE SHOP

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