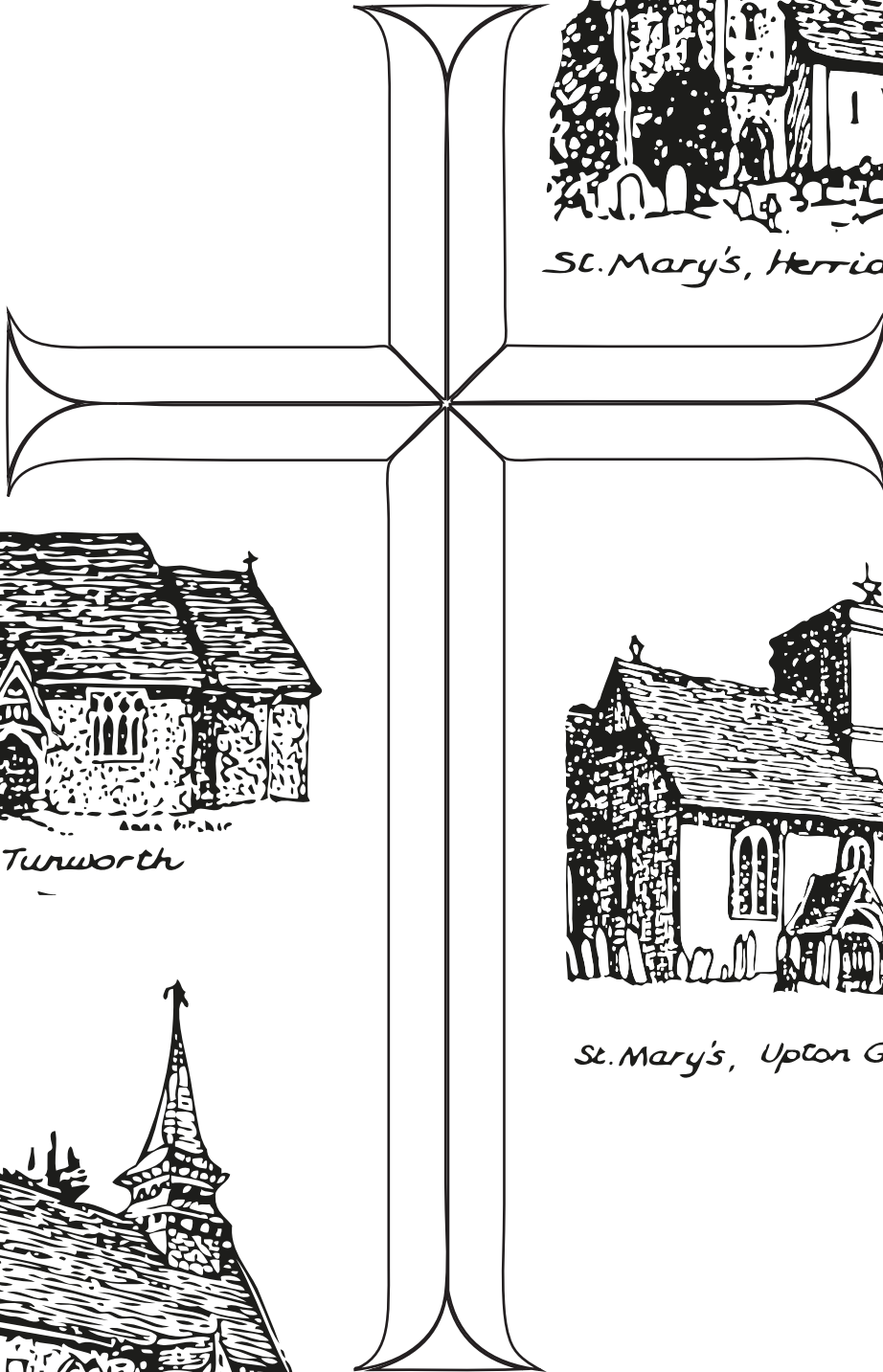


PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Weston Patrick

**February
2022**

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – February 2022
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

From the Benefice Ministry Team

I'm writing this on the 12th day of Christmas. Somewhat disappointingly, I didn't receive a gift of twelve drummers drumming from my true love, although I have to admit I'm not sure what I'd have done with them if I had! Our Christmas decorations came down today – as is the tradition – and were put away for another year, and suddenly the house looks very bare. In the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts until Candlemas on 2nd February and in many parts of the world Christmas trees are left up until then. I suspect my tree would be devoid of all needles by then and looking very sorry for itself!



The 12th day of Christmas falls on the eve of Epiphany, and on the next day, 6th January, we celebrate the Epiphany, the revelation of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. It's a special date in the Christmas story as it's when we celebrate how a star led the three Magi – also known as the Wise Men or Three Kings – to the baby Jesus, bringing with them their gifts fit for a King. Their visit is very significant as it reveals that Emmanuel – God among us in Jesus Christ – came not just to be King of the Jews but to be the saviour of all peoples of all nations. This king, the Messiah, would bring God's justice and peace to the whole world, and indeed at the end of Matthew's gospel Jesus commissions his followers to go out and make disciples from every nation.

For many of us 1st January is the day to make New Year's resolutions, but I've long abandoned this. All too often the commitments I made were all around chocolate and calories and I would cave in after about three weeks. Some years ago I wondered if it would be more meaningful if I were to wait until Epiphany when all the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas is over and the fridge is emptied of all the delicious Christmas and New Year leftovers. I wondered if I'd then have the space and time to think about some more meaningful resolutions: resolutions not centred on me but centred on my commitment as a disciple of Jesus in my day to day living, and on how I can use my time and whatever talents God has entrusted to me to play my part in making the transforming love of Jesus known to others.

Epiphany may be just the time to bring to God the gift of a renewed commitment to our lives lived in Christ. At our first Sunday service after Christmas we said together the Methodist prayer – said each year at a special Covenant Service – which celebrates all that God has done for us, and we in turn affirm that we give our lives and choices to God. The prayer is a wonderful way to commit ourselves afresh at the start of a new year and is an important part of my Epiphany (rather than New Year) resolutions:

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering *;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*

* Note that in this prayer the word ‘suffering’ is used in the sense of ‘patiently enduring’ - the opposite of ‘doing’. We’re not inviting God to inflict pain on us!

Happy New Year to all. May God bless us richly in 2022 and in turn may we may be a blessing to others.

**Reverend Canon Linda Scard,
Assistant Minister, North Hampshire Downs Benefice**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

Calvin Nicholson and Felicity Hewitt-Dutton
at St Lawrence, Weston Patrick, on December 10th

CHURCH NEWS

Church Services

Sunday 6th February

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion

11.00am Upton Grey – Morning Service

Thursday 10th February

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 13th February

9.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

11.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion

5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 17th February

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 20th February

9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer

11.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Sunday 27th February

9.00am Tunworth – Family Service

11.00am Herriard – Morning Service

11.00am Upton Grey – Morning Service

5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

Services online or telephone based

With some parishioners not in a position to attend church services, the streamed services are continuing. Most services from All Saints, Odiham, are live-streamed (and then available online afterwards) – see the website www.moretolife.church for details.

In addition to streamed services, the Church of England has established ‘Daily Hope’, a telephone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England. The line, which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind.

Private prayer

In this group of four churches, St Mary’s, Upton Grey, is open every day – generally in daylight hours. St Lawrence, Weston Patrick, is open Monday–Saturday (and Sunday if there is a service), usually from 9.00am to 5.00pm though times may vary. St Mary’s, Herriard, and All Saints, Tunworth, are available for private prayer on the same basis as before Covid.



KidsZone



Hi everyone!

I don't know about you, but the Christmas holidays is always a great time to snuggle up with a hot chocolate and watch movies! My favourite one this winter was *Encanto*, the new Disney movie. Have you had a chance to see it yet?

I don't want to give out any spoilers, but it's about a huge family in Colombia, and each of the people in the family has a special gift. On the outside, everything looks perfect. They are a happy family and everyone gets on with doing what they are good at. But then comes my favourite song, *Under the Surface*. Luisa has the gift of being super strong, and on the surface always seems to have everything sorted and in control.

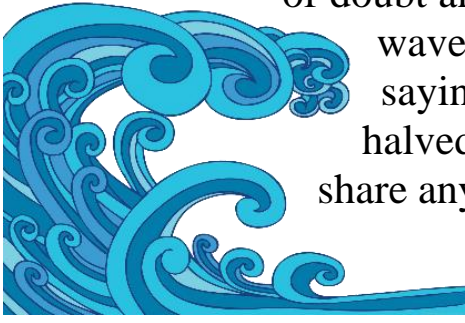


She even sings '*I'm the strong one, I'm not nervous, I'm as tough as the crust of the earth is*'. But underneath the surface it's a different matter. She thinks people only love her because of what she does and because she is so strong. She even sings '*I'm sure I'm pretty worthless, if I can't be of service*'. And this puts so much pressure on her shoulders, because she thinks she has to live up to who everyone else thinks she should be.

Why don't you take a moment to scan this QR code and hear the song for yourself? (*I'm aware some Grandparents share this piece in the Parish magazine with Grandchildren and have asked me about these QR codes... If you have a modern smart phone or tablet you should be able to open the camera and point it at the QR code and Hey Presto!)*



We all sometimes worry we're not good enough... worry we won't be clever enough to pass our test, fast enough to get into the team... it's natural. But worrying about not being good isn't good for any of us. It can make us anxious, sad and full of doubt. In the Bible it says being full



of doubt and worry is like trying to walk through stormy waves – you'll never get anywhere! There's a saying that says 'a worry shared is a worry halved'. So why don't we think about how we can share any worries we have?

Obviously, one good way of sharing your worries is to find an adult you trust and tell them what you're worried about – they can give you advice and be there for you. Another great way of doing this is to make yourself a worry jar.

- Find a jar or any container, and decorate it if you like.
- Write your worries on pieces of paper. Fold them up and put them in the jar, and close the jar.
- Choose a time with a trusted adult (not just before bed!) when you can open the jar and share your worries.
- Set a 10-minute timer, and when it finishes close the jar to put your worries away.
- When you've stopped worrying about something, enjoy ripping that worry up and throwing it away!

Hope this works for you – and remember you can always get in touch with me at youth@moretolife.church if you want to chat about something that's worrying you! See you next time!

Helen Chatfield,
Youth Pastor, youth@moretolife.church, 07540 140228



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Police Report from PCSO Andy Jones

Officers have arrested four men following reports of poaching near Upton Grey. We were called just after 9.00pm on Thursday 6th January to reports that a vehicle had been spotted acting suspiciously on Bidden Road. Officers attended the scene and found catapults, ball bearings and head torches after conducting a search of the local area. Officers also found a quantity of dried blood and what appeared to be pheasant feathers inside a vehicle. Four men were arrested at the scene.

A 36-year-old man, from Carshalton, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing on land at night and taking/destroying game.

A 35-year-old man, from Mitcham, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing on land at night and taking/destroying game.

A 30-year-old man, from Hersham, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing on land at night and taking/destroying game.

An 18-year-old man, from Carshalton, was arrested on suspicion of trespassing on land at night and taking/destroying game. They all remain in custody and our enquiries are ongoing.

The Police helicopter was dispatched from RAF Benson and the area was totally surrounded without the criminals knowing their every move was being monitored. A special thanks to the local gamekeepers and Farmers for reporting this and their assistance in this apprehension.

The incident was reported as follows in the Hampshire and IoW news:

Police helicopter took just 19 minutes to locate four suspects arrested last night in Basingstoke for poaching offences.

A police helicopter crew had a busy night supporting local forces in their fight against rural crime – assisting in the arrest of 13 people in two separate incidents and proving its value in night-time searches.

Just two days after the Government's announcement to introduce tougher sentencing and improved police powers to tackle hare coursing, crews from the National Police Air Service's Benson base were successfully deployed to support local forces responding to reports of rural crime.

Chief Inspector of NPAS Operations, Warren Pitman, said: 'The ability of our helicopter crews to search large areas very quickly, with the added advantage of lighting and thermal imaging equipment to assist at night time, makes them a valuable resource, especially when working in rural areas. Our officers are able to directly communicate with officers on the ground, and live-stream their video footage into force control

rooms. This combined effort means that it is difficult to evade detection. We are pleased to be able to support forces across England and Wales in their drive to combat rural crime.'

At around 10.30pm on Thursday 6 January 2022, the NPAS Benson crew were informed of reports of poaching in the Basingstoke area of Hampshire. Within nine minutes of taking off, they arrived at the scene and located a suspect vehicle. After a quick search of the nearby area the Tactical Flight Officer directed officers from Hampshire to the location of four suspects, who were detained. They were arrested on suspicion of trespassing on land at night and taking/destroying game. Total air support tasking time was 19 minutes.

The same evening, the crew were asked to support officers at Thames Valley Police in a suspected hare coursing incident. Nine people aged between 16 and 30 were arrested. A number of dogs were also seized. Total air support tasking time was one hour and 45 minutes.

Theft from vehicles remains on the increase within the rural areas in general. Previous advice from Police was not to leave anything of value in your car and certainly not on display when leaving your vehicle unattended.

We are seeing a new trend and that is criminals are smashing rear boot windows and lifting up the parcel shelf to have a quick search for items which may be of value or interest to them. Local Police have reviewed the advice and suggest, if practical, to consider the removal of your parcel shelf when leaving the vehicle in rural locations. The thought behind this is that if criminals can see the whole of the car is empty the hope is that they won't even bother targeting the car. The Police understand this not ideal and we are working behind the scenes to tackle this increase.

Your local Beat Officer is always willing to chat whether this be online via TEAMS, in person or over the phone. Please feel free to get in touch direct if this is something you would like.

Andy Jones,
Basingstoke Rural South Neighbourhood Policing Team,
PCSO 13301; email: andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.pnn.police.uk;
Tel. 101; Mobile 07775542021

Andrew Roberts Talk

A quick note of thanks to all who kindly bought tickets for the George III talk in Upton Grey village hall. It was a very well-attended and successful evening, raising considerable, much-needed funds for Tunworth Church.

James Whitcombe

Farming News

All is quiet on the Arable farm at this time of year and it is a relatively relaxing feeling this year, as all the autumn-sown crops have been planted and are now coming up and showing a green tinge across the fields. I looked back at my last article and it was pre maize harvesting. Looking back now I was very optimistic! After the crops looked well through the summer, and the weather being relatively kind through the early Autumn, could we have been in for the dry maize harvest that we always pray for?

But it was just too good to be true! After being held up with several frustrating breakdowns on the bagging machine (this is what the maize is stored in, once harvested) and the weather deciding to break, it delayed the last crop to be harvested. Having said that, the contractor did a great job in cutting the maize and was very patient. We got the last field cut, and harvest was finished on 24th October. After the last two very wet autumns we were due a dry one and, after the early rain, November was relatively dry – which meant we could plant the last of the wheat into reasonable conditions and even the last fields drilled are coming up now minus the odd wet corner. As I write this in early December, the only jobs we have pressing are to wash off all the equipment and to service it before the spring planting begins. Also we will be starting to trim roadside and field hedges now we have given wildlife a chance to feed off of any fruit or nuts found in hedgerows. On the jobs list as well is finishing off building some field-gate barriers to block gateways from unwanted poachers!

Thank you to everyone that has visited our small shop in the farmyard at the weekends. It has been great to be able to sell produce from the farm to our friends and neighbours in the parish. Dad has even made some bread from home-grown wheat that we had milled into flour.

Wishing everyone a happy New Year from all of us at Hyde Farm.

Will Cheyney

UPTON GREY NEWS
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YOUR VILLAGE HALL



This is your invitation to join the 100 Club to support the Upton Grey Village Hall, a Registered Charity.

It works like this: all entries are put in a pot: half the money goes in prizes, with a monthly award of £100 – hence the name. The second prize is usually around £24. 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. £24

Each entry (or number) costs £24 for 12 monthly draws. Why not set up an annual standing order? Or you can transfer your annual payment of £24.00 to: Upton Grey Village Hall Committee, Sort Code: 09-01-51, Account Number: 86355505. Please give your surname and postcode as reference. Numbers will be allocated when subscriptions are received. Please email c@roline.biz for your number.

The village hall is available for hire by contacting Elaine Lewington at em.lewington@hotmail.co.uk

TEA @3 - February

Sadly, because of the situation with Covid, we decided we should cancel our tea in January but we are hoping to meet up on Thursday 17th February. We are very grateful to Annabet and Peter Chapman who have kindly offered to host our tea then at Westfield, Greywell Road.

If you would like to join us then, it is important that you let one of us know, so please get in touch in good time so that we have an idea of numbers. We hope to see you! Many thanks,

Barbara 852527 Jill 862131 Viv 862455

Upton Grey Bridge Club

We had a good start to our season with 15 people attending our first session in the Village Hall.

We play bridge on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month starting at 7.30pm. It is a very social occasion and we always welcome new members – we had four of you starting this season.

Our February sessions are on 14th and 28th February and, if you would like to join us, then please contact Roger Clark, 01256 862 776, rogerclark@btinternet.com for more details.

Upton Grey & District Horticultural Society – Spring Show

Saturday 9th April – reserve the date in your diary! We hope to see the return of this lovely community event and put something together for villagers and friends to take part in, dependent of course on what Covid-19 rules are at the time. The much scaled-down show will be put on by a small group of enthusiasts in the village hall. We will keep you up to date through the various village channels of communication.

Do I hear some of you ask ‘Is the Summer Show going to return?’ If we were to organise a show (we’ve not discussed or even looked at a date), it will be put on by a small group of enthusiasts and will also be very much scaled-down and, again, dependent on Covid-19 rules. It grew like topsy over the years, becoming a victim of its own success, and eventually there were not enough people to manage it. Watch this space!

June Hunt, Upton Grey & District Horticultural Society

Superfast Fibre Implementation

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, I have no update from Openreach. As predicted, they did not meet their end-of-December implementation forecast. As soon as I have any updates, I will communicate them via George’s email distribution system.

Roger Clark

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LOGS – see Tree work

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See also under Gardens

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London Half Marathon – 3rd April 2022

This year's London Half Marathon is being held on Sunday 3rd April and Emma Hailstone, our son Philip's fiancée, whom you may have seen running around the village, is taking part. I am setting a competition to guess her time in running the half marathon and there will be a competition form in the village shop. The cost is £2.00 a guess and all the proceeds will go the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. So please take part and have a go. The nearest guess will win a bottle of Prosecco! The charity will be very pleased to have funds as they have not had any for the past two years due to the pandemic. Many Thanks

Margaret Haynes

Open Gardens in Upton Grey – 12th June 2022

We are also planning to have Open Gardens in Upton Grey on Sunday 12th June, 2.00pm–5.00pm, when there will be ten gardens open to the public. Tickets will be available from mid-April, both from those taking part and the village shop. The proceeds will also go the JDRF. Further details to follow. Hope to see you there.

Margaret Haynes

Save the Date - Safari Supper, Saturday 5th March

Dear Villagers, we need you!

Upton Grey's Safari Supper, now in its 31st year, is going to be held on Saturday 5th March. It will begin with starters at 7.15pm, move on to a main course at 8.15pm, then to dessert and cheese at 9.15pm and finally end up at our Village Hall for coffee or tea with everyone who has taken part. We hope lots of you will join in the fun and offer to host one of the above courses for at least two couples to raise funds for St Mary's Church. This year we are going to introduce an online form for the event so be prepared to obtain the link for this via George's village email or by contacting us directly from January onwards. Closing date for entries is 19th February. Cost for taking part is £15.00 per person. Let's keep up this great village tradition.

Vivian (theraven5@yahoo.co.uk)

Julia (julia_harker@btinternet.com)

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS**www.herriard-pc.gov.uk****<https://www.facebook.com/herriardexservicesclub>****Herriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>****Herriard Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7th March 7.30pm**

We will be holding the next Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 7th March at the RBL hall in Herriard. An agenda will be on the Herriard website and Herriard village Facebook page in the week prior to the meeting. Herriard residents are warmly welcome to attend. The RBL bar will be open from 7.00pm until the meeting starts.

2021 Poppy Appeal

A huge thank you to Pat Pegg for organising the 2021 RBL Poppy Appeal collections, all the street collectors and businesses allowing a box on their counters. This year the total raised in the parishes was £2,157.41.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Poppy Appeal which helps our servicemen. **Herriard, Lasham & District RBL branch**

Herriard Gardening Club

As I write this in early January, the temperature outside is 1°C with blue skies and sunshine. Mid-winter gardens look monochrome and scruffy round the edges but cold weather is a good thing for gardens; it's a time of dormancy and rest.

Apples, pears and plums need a period of cold weather in order to come into growth in spring. A process known as vernalisation, reduced daylight hours, induce the trees to go into a dormant state. Deciduous trees are also dormant and waiting for temperatures to rise to burst into growth and bloom. Pruning of apple and pear trees should happen when the trees are dormant between November and early March to promote a healthy shape, encourage flowering and ensure good fruiting.

Herbaceous perennials stop growing in winter and all top growth dies back. Cold weather gives herbaceous plants a chance to convert starch to sugars. They store carbohydrates they make from water and CO₂ in their roots as starch. The onset of cold weather triggers enzymes in the root to convert the starch back into sugars. They are then ready to send up new shoots in spring. This process, sparked by cold weather is also the reason why a number of winter vegetables such as parsnip, taste better after they are exposed to frost.

You can keep the dead leaves of herbaceous plants over winter to provide homes for wildlife and cut them back in spring. Penstemons

benefit from the protection of old stems from frost to protect the crown. Leave pruning these and other borderline tender plants until the risk of frost has passed.

Biennials such as wallflowers, sweet Williams and aquilegias also need a period of cold weather to produce flowers the following spring. The same goes for flowering bulbs which need different weather conditions throughout the year to produce flowers the following spring. The cold weather stimulates stem growth on flowering bulbs.

Some seeds require stratification or cold treatment in order for them to sprout. Seed stratification, or embryonic dormancy phase is the process whereby seed dormancy is broken in order to promote germination. Conditions in nature are mimicked, so the period in the ground over winter can be reproduced by placing seeds in a fridge for ten days on moist kitchen paper in a ziplock bag, then taken out and planted. Check which seeds require cold treatment.

So while we tend to spend far less time in the garden in winter, it's a good time to reflect, plan the coming year's vegetable crop rotations, prune fruit trees and look forward to the first spring bulbs appearing now the days are getting longer. Enjoy your garden.

Herriard Gardening Club has also had a winter break with Omicron being so prevalent. We hope to start meetings again soon. **Gill Hill**

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Befriending Service – new volunteering opportunity for 2022

Odiham Cottage Hospital's Befriending Service is a volunteer-led service run and managed by the Hospital and covers the areas of Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing and surrounding villages. Our clients are those who have become lonely and isolated due to living with a long-term health condition, or are receiving palliative care. The service recruits, trains and supports volunteers who, on a weekly basis, visit people in their homes or provide befriending via the telephone. All clients are referred to the service through their GP practice, community health team or another medical professional. We are currently recruiting new volunteers to be Befrienders for the service. For just two hours a week, you can make a real difference in someone's life within your local community. For more information or an application pack, please contact: Una Tilt, Befriending Manager, on 01256 393609 or email: befriending@odihamcottageshospital.org.uk, Thank you.

The Winter/Spring update to our Annual Programme is now live!

If the last two years have taught us all anything, it is the need to be both flexible and to stay positive. The current upsurge in the Omicron mutation has again brought both these qualities to the fore.

On the one hand we have issued an update of our Annual Programme both to reflect changes in some groups' plans and to set out our plans as we move out of these winter months. Indeed, the new front cover, using a photo by one of our members, really captures the idea of looking forward to the promise of spring and summer to come.

Looking forward is very much the theme of this update and of our plans for the coming months. These include;

- Two new groups. The Garden Appreciation Group and Tai Chi for beginners.
- A possible new group called Social Cycling, plus other ideas still in the incubator. If you have ideas why not have a chat to Gill Harden. She can be reached at groups@odihamu3a.org.uk
- Our link up with the Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club. All members of the u3a are now honorary members of the Cricket Club and with your u3a card you get 5% off at the bar! This link is the first fruit of our thrust to strengthen our links with the local community, throughout the area where our members live.

Yet at the same time we have also had to adjust some current activities at short notice. For example, we have decided to move our Monthly Meeting on February 2nd to a 'zoom only' format. This will be a talk by SeaCity Museum: Southampton, Gateway to the World,

Some groups have also decided to revert to zoom this month but others have felt happy to meet. Thus, one wine group enjoyed sampling red wine one evening, while nearly 40 members of the walking group started the new year with a gentle stroll around Hook. One of the members introduced the walkers to such fascinating spots as Policeman's Walk (a name surely worth investigating!), a suburban house with Roman remains in its back garden, and a dead tree carved into a totem pole and bearing a plaque with four lines of poetry.



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Alton Cardiac Rehab: ‘Get off the couch, Before it’s too late’

Like most of us, you probably know you need to keep fit – but just why is it so vital? And what sort of exercise should you be doing – how often, how hard and for how long? Perhaps you feel you are fit already – but how much exercise are you really taking? What are the consequences of our increasingly sedentary lifestyles?

The book ‘Get off the couch, Before it’s too late’ by Hugh Bethell explains exactly how exercise affects our bodies and its crucial role in preventing and treating many of the conditions that beset us as we advance in age – obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure and more. At a time when the previously steady increase in life expectancy across the nation has stalled and the period of poor health and dependency at the end of life has lengthened, it is a wake-up call for every one of us, young or old, to understand the importance of an active lifestyle.

The Covid pandemic has thrown a stark light on the vulnerability of those who take too little exercise. Most of those who have become very unwell or died have been overweight, unfit and/or suffering one or more degenerative diseases of old age – all the long-term results of being inactive.

You can buy the book from Amazon, Waterstone’s or Oxley’s in Alresford (RRP £14.99). It is also available from Alton Cardiac Rehab Centre at £12.00 which includes a donation to the Charity.

North Warnborough Gardening Club

We plan that our February meeting will be on Thursday 24th February in North Warnborough Village Hall at 2.10pm for a 2.30pm start. We will be joined by Mark Dobell whose talk will be ‘Climate Change through a Gardener’s Eyes’. Further information about the Club can be found on our website which is at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>

Visitors are very welcome to join us. We are a friendly Club whose Members share an enthusiasm for gardening.



Mothers' Union has a theme for each year, and for 2022 our theme is 'Transformation – Now!'. After the restrictions of the past couple of years, Mothers' Union nationally has had to change the way it works and supports those in need that we are aiming to support.

I'm glad to say that our local Mothers' Union projects are still active. We held a Christmas party for our Sunflower Café families in the Elizabeth Hall in Hook, when we were entertained by a ukulele band. We also provided Christmas gifts to each of our families, which was greatly appreciated. We are now delighted to be back in the Vine Church now that its refurbishment is finished.

Both of our Child Contact Centres in Basingstoke are now open for face-to-face sessions, although with Covid precautions in place, and reduced numbers of families. We are still running occasional Zoom sessions for those families who cannot attend in person (perhaps because they have to isolate).

Further afield, we were asked to provide 40 Christmas presents for prisoners in Winchester Prison to send to their children. This contact is important for both the prisoners and their families, especially after a time when family visiting has been so restricted.

We expect to have a meeting on Tuesday 15th February, but the details of this have not yet been finalised. 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.

Introduction to Odiham Book Exchange

Odiham Book Exchange is open Monday & Thursday, 2.00–4.30pm and Saturday, 10.00–12.30pm in the Bridewell, the Bury, Odiham (the former Hampshire County Council Library).

How does it work? Bring up to six books (your own, or returning Book Exchange books) to exchange for up to six of your choice. There are no due dates and no fines!

We have a large range of high quality books, constantly updated: For adults: fiction, audio books and large print; for children: picture books, stories, activity and information books; for teenagers: a huge selection of young adult fiction.

Odiham Book Exchange coffee and cake

We love books at Odiham Book Exchange and would like to share some of our favourite titles with you in February!

Do come and pick up a surprise book, handpicked by our volunteers. We'll provide a brief synopsis of the book so that you can be sure it will be something you'll enjoy.

The Book Exchange will host an informal 'book club' on Tuesday March 15th at 10.30am. Come and join us to chat about your book over coffee and cake!

How to identify the UK's five owls – Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust

Owls are among our most captivating birds and, with a good view, are easily distinguished from other UK birds. But how to tell one owl from another? Here's a guide to the UK's five resident species:

Barn owl

A very pale, slender owl, typically white on the underparts and golden-brown with grey markings on the upperparts. It has a white, heart-shaped facial disk with dark eyes. Usually seen over grassland or farmland at dawn and dusk, it can also be seen at night or even during the day. Its call resembles eerie squeals and a shrieking 'shreeee'.

Tawny owl

A mostly brown owl with a large, rounded head. Slightly larger than a barn owl and usually seen in woodland. Plumage is mottled brown but can vary from greyish to reddish brown. In flight, it shows broad, rounded wings and flies with quick wingbeats in long, straight glides. The tawny's rich vocal repertoire includes a short 'ke-wik' contact call and a quavering 'hoo, hu-hooo' advertising call.

Short-eared owl

A sandy-brown owl similar in size to a tawny, but with longer wings. It has a streaked breast, but a pale, un-marked belly with thick dark barring on the tail and piercing yellow eyes. In flight, it shows long, narrow wings that are slightly longer and slimmer than long-eared owls, with black wingtips. It flies with slow wingbeats and wavering glides. Males perform display flights at breeding grounds, giving a fast series of deep hoots and short, quick wing-claps. Other calls include rapid, rasping barks when alarmed.

Long-eared owl

This streaky brown owl looks very similar to a short-eared owl but has darker feathers and less of a yellow hue. The facial disk is buff with a well-defined blackish border and white 'eyebrows' extending towards the beak. It has deep orange eyes and long 'ear-tufts' atop the head. In

flight, it's tricky to tell from the short-eared owl: it has slightly shorter and more blunt-tipped wings, with fine black barring on the wingtips and no white trailing edge to the upper wing. Males advertise with deep, soft hoots without inflection given every few seconds, while females have a more nasal call.

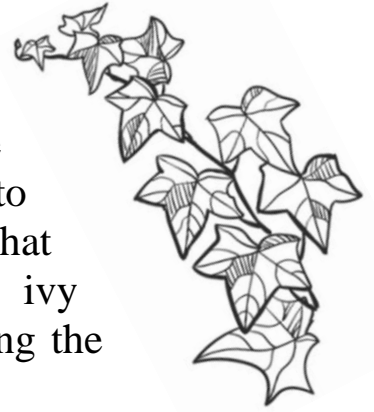
Little owl

A small owl with a flattened crown. The upperparts are dark brown with whitish streaks and spots, with whitish underparts featuring bold brown streaks. Facial disk is greyish brown with prominent whitish 'eyebrows' giving a stern expression. Eyes are yellow. It flies with a fast, bounding flight like a thrush, and hunts by swooping from perches, but it will also run across ground to pursue prey. The little owl's various calls include a fast 'chi-chi-chi' alarm call, a low-pitched hoot and a mewling call.

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Barn owl © Tony Matthews



The importance of Ivy

Ivy has an image problem. For decades, people have believed that ivy damages buildings and is a parasite to trees with little wildlife benefit. It is common to see that well-meaning farmers and gardeners have cut down ivy stalks at the base of trees with the intention of protecting the host tree. But this is a mistake.

It is a very common belief that ivy ‘strangles’ the tree it climbs, hastening its demise. However this is not the case – Ivy is not a parasitic plant and does not directly affect the health of its host tree. The only way in which ivy can damage trees is by competing for natural light. But this usually happens only if the host tree is already in a state of decline, as most healthy trees create too much shade of their own to allow ivy to outstrip them. Only in the case of an already diseased or dying tree, the ivy’s more vigorous growth allows it to smother the tree, causing it to become top-heavy and hastening its fall. This is an advantage in woodland habitats in that it allows light to the ground below, enabling new trees more quickly to take its place.

Before removing ivy from trees, please remember the enormous benefits for wildlife that ivy provides. The dense mass of foliage and intertwining stems around the trunks of trees give shelter for birds’ nests and daytime roosts for bats. In Autumn, ivy flowers provide pollen and nectar for butterflies, bees, wasps and flies. Over winter, ivy protects woodland soils from full snow cover and frost. This enables ground-foraging birds such as blackbirds, robins, dunnocks and thrushes to continue feeding and gives shelter to small mammals and insects. The berries, which ripen in spring, have a high fat content and, provide birds with an invaluable early energy resource.

As a result, it should rarely be considered necessary or appropriate to remove ivy from naturally growing trees. Only with ornamental trees or clipped hedges can it become a genuine problem. Please remember, though, that if you do decide to remove ivy from your trees or hedges, do so in late summer or autumn, when birds will no longer be nesting and before bats begin to hibernate.

Incidentally – if you want to research this yourself online, make sure you look at English websites only. English ivy is an alien species in America, is therefore harmful to some indigenous species, and consequently gets a very bad press! Google: ‘benefits of ivy for wildlife’ to find multiple articles about its many useful properties, e.g. <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/news/favour-ivy-why-its-brilliant-wildlife>

SMALL ADS FEBRUARY**Game meat – Breasts only**

Partridge (10 in pack £5.00). Pheasant (6 in pack £5.00). Pigeon (10 in pack £5.00). Venison by order. Contact Robert 07557 054844

HALLS FOR HIRE

(Subject to government guidance and local constraints)

Upton Grey Village Hall, for hire from £10 per hour (discounts possible for regular users). Functions, meetings, parties, private and commercial. Full kitchen facilities, central heating and sound system, chairs, tables, crockery and cutlery available. Contact Elaine Lewington on 01256 862894.

The Royal British Legion Hall, 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, contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or email bookings.herriardrbllhall@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 – FEBRUARY 2022

All events remain subject to cancellation following Government advice, and restrictions on events and public meetings resulting from Coronavirus. If in doubt, please check with the organisers before attending an event.

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

FEBRUARY'S DATES

14th Feb	Mon	UG Bridge Club, UG Village Hall	7.30pm
17th Feb	Thu	Tea@3, Westfield, Greywell Road	3.00pm
24th Feb	Thu	North Warnborough & District Garden Club	2.10pm
28th Feb	Mon	UG Bridge Club, UG Village Hall	7.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

1st Mar	Sat	Pancake Party, All Saints Odiham	
5th Mar	Sat	UG Safari Supper	7.15pm
7th Mar	Mon	Herriard Parish Council Meeting, RBL Hall	7.30pm
15th Mar	Tue	Book club coffee morning, Bridewell, Odiham	10.30am
9th Apr	Sat	Spring Show, Village Hall, Upton Grey	
12th Jun	Sun	Open Gardens, Upton Grey	2.00pm
19th Jun	Sun	Platinum Promenade, Upton Grey	
29th Oct	Sat	UG Autumn Festival, Bonfire, Fireworks	6.00pm

REGULAR EVENTS

2nd & 4th Mon		Upton Grey Bridge Club	7.30pm
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

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

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

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com.

March's editor is Ian Lansley-Neale. Your editor for February was Tess Chevallier.

Please note: we are re-introducing our Regular Events section of the magazine (see above). Please let us know of any regular events that need to be added.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP

Tel: 01256 862326 (Shop)

shopuptongrey@btconnect.com

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