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Parish Magazine

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Letter from the Ministry Team

I'm struck by how close the dates are this February for Valentine's Day (Sunday 14th) and Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 17th), and there is a link between the two – but what is that link?

I remember my earliest encounters with Valentine's Day at primary school, when there was always great excitement about whether one would receive a Valentine's card – sent by a mystery admirer, and preferably in a bright red, scented envelope!





St Valentine himself was a priest in Rome, who was martyred in 269AD, reputedly for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century, and for performing weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to

marry. He is commemorated on 14th February each year, and the way in which he demonstrated and shared God's love with others, even to the point of giving his life for them, has led many to send cards to loved ones on that day.

Ash Wednesday is also a powerful reminder of God's love for us. This February it takes place three days after Valentine's Day, and marks the beginning of Lent, a period of forty days of self-examination, penitence, and preparation for Easter. The forty days remind us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan, at the start of his ministry which ended with his dying on the cross on Good Friday.

When we are able to meet together to worship on Ash Wednesday, we mark the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads, as a reminder of Jesus' death, and of the love that he shows for each one of us.

In John's first letter in the New Testament, we read: 'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.'

And so we see this link between Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday – in that they both speak so richly of love – and, in particular, God's love for us.



As we approach these two events this February, let's remember that even though we are still in lockdown, and the storm of this pandemic continues to rage around us, God is with us in the midst of it all. He loves us so much that he died on the cross for us at Easter. He rose again and is

with us today, removing our fears and anxiety, and giving us his peace. In Isaiah, God says: 'For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand, and says to you: Do not fear; I will help you.' As a simple prayer today, let's thank him for his love, place our hand in his, and ask him to fill us once again with his love and his peace. With every blessing,

Rev'd Chris Dudgeon, chris@moretolife.church

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

Nigel Taylor at St Mary's Upton Grey on 21st January

CHURCH NEWS

Worship and events in February

Because of the worsening Coronavirus situation, all PCCs in our Benefice took the decision to suspend public worship in our churches for January and February to limit any risks to our church members and to the wider community.

We will continue to provide a traditional online service at 9.00am on Sunday mornings (and available after that time). You can join this service at www.moretolife.church/news-blog.

There will also be a live Informal Service via Zoom at 11.00am on Sunday mornings. Please email chris@moretolife.church in advance if you would like to join this service and he will send you the Zoom ID and Passcode details.

Lent is almost upon us and so our thoughts turn to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Our Youth Pastor, Helen Chatfield, will host a Zoom pancake fiesta at 4.00pm on Tuesday 16th February. The Zoom codes to join Helen are: Meeting ID 872 4655 4118 and Passcode 987654.

Using the same Zoom codes, you can also join Helen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4.00pm for Fun@4 (games, crafts and Bible activities), and on the first and third Sundays at 3.30pm for Messy Church.

Our online Ash Wednesday service is at 7.30pm on 17th February – do please join it at www.moretolife.church/news-blog.

During this time our church buildings will be open for funerals as and when required, and we continue to open at specific times of the week for private prayer and reflection. The information is on the website, but for quick reference here are the times for each of our churches:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Greywell	-	-	10.00-3.00	-	-	-	10.00-3.00
Herriard	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Long Sutton	-	-	-	9.30-5.30	-	-	9.30-5.30
Mapledurwell	-	-	10.00-3.00	-	-	-	10.00-3.00
Nately Scures	-	-	-	-	-	9.00-6.00	9.00-6.00
Newnham	-	-	11.30-3.00	-	-		11.30-3.00
Odiham	-	-	9.00-12.30	-	-	9.00-12.30	
South Warn	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.30-3.00
Tunworth	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Up Nately	-	-	9.00-5.00	-	-	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00
Upton Grey	-	-	9.00-5.00	-	-	-	9.00-5.00
Weston P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Churches open for private prayer

* St Mary's Herriard is available for private prayer - please contact the Herriard Estate office during working hours (telephone 01256 381275)

** All Saints Tunworth is available for private prayer on the same basis as before Covid

Telephone based church services

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.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Police Report from PC Andy Reid

Dear residents

As is customary, I will update you with the state of crime reported in each of the parishes in the area of this magazine for 2020. However, before doing so, I wish to update you on a series of crimes that have taken place in the parish of Herriard.

On January 7th, at lunchtime, a white Ford Transit tipper registration MK08OUH was seen in Bagmore Lane where the driver was seen to call on houses asking about scrap metal. Along with having a good look at houses, he also asked about who owned a van parked nearby and a local wood yard premises. The next morning at 3.00am, a vehicle was heard near the same cottages. When disturbed by a resident the vehicle made off. However later that day (8th), it was reported to me that outbuildings had been broken into at two premises in that area. Also on 7th, a resident of Tunworth heard someone on his driveway and he looked and challenged two men who ran off. From my enquiries I have established that a silver Honda CRV vehicle registration BD51 CWK was seen in the area at that time. Two hours later, it was chased by Police from the scene of a farm burglary at Selborne, Alton. I continue to urge all residents to remain vigilant and keep your property secured. It is vital that you report any suspicious incidents seen. If you spot either of these vehicles, please let me know immediately.

The following figures for reported crime relate to the 22 parishes of my former area which covered 75 square miles. (You may recall that, as of 2014, my area increased considerably to cover as far as the Andover border). In 2020 where generally crime fell across the area, this was due to COVID and the initial lockdown; we know this as, prior to March, crime was rising in every month compared with the same period in 2019. The highest reported crime of 2020 was that of criminal damage (CD) which was mainly fields of growing crops and farm property damaged by poachers. 62 sheds, garages and other outbuildings were broken into (Non Dwelling Burglaries or NDB), a reduction of 19 on the 2019 figures. House burglaries fell from 5 to 2, the lowest recorded since 2014. Interestingly, assaults increased from 21 in 2019 to 31 in 2020, most being of a domestic nature. Crimes such as harassment, blackmail etc are categorised as 'Other Crimes'. Those involving theft of/from vehicles are recorded as Vehicle Crime (VC). In summary, seven parishes saw an increase in reported crime, eleven saw a decrease and four had the same amount in both years. Two parishes had no reported crime at all.

Parish	2019	2020	Reported Crimes	
Upton Grey	23	16	4 x NDB 4 x CD 1 x Other Crime 4 x Thefts 1 x DR 2 x VC	
Herriard	41	32	8 x NDB 14 x CD 3 x Assaults 2 x Thefts 5 x Other Crimes	
Tunworth	9	6	6 x Criminal Damages	
Winslade	12	4	2 x NDB 2 x Criminal Damages	
Weston Patrick	9	12	8 x NDB 1 x Assault 1 x Thefts 2 x Other Crimes	
Weston Corbett	2	2	2 x Non dwelling Burglaries	

The following table shows reported crime figures for the area covered by this magazine:

Finally, I have had a further reported incident of sheep worrying, this time at Winslade, where a dog off the lead was found chasing sheep and bit into several, causing one ten-month-old lamb a considerable wound requiring treatment. Further action is underway against the owner and person in charge of the dog at the time. May I yet again warn ALL owners of any dog to please keep your dog under proper control and ideally on a lead when near farm livestock. With the current lockdown in place, people are walking more with their dogs which is good. But this is the third time I have had to deal with a sheep-worrying incident in as many months. So please keep to designated footpaths and keep your dog under close control; enjoy the countryside but follow the Countryside Code. Please also remember if a dog is found worrying livestock on agricultural land the farmers do have a lawful right to shoot that dog. Please do not put you, your dog or the farmers in that position.

Andrew REID, Local Constable PC 3746, Tel: 01256 389050 Mob: 07768:776844 email: andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police

Farming News

Here at the dairy, work in the Winter months is pretty routine. By 21st December the last of the heifers were brought in from the fields and tucked up in the barns for winter. Now that the grass has stopped growing and the fields are wet, the heifers would damage the grass, meaning growth would be inhibited in the spring if we left them out. On a murky, cold January morning when the heifers have been fed and bedded with fresh straw in the barn, they run around kicking their heels letting you know how happy they are to be there.

In 2019 we installed four robots to milk the cows. The robots are fixed units that the cows take themselves to when they want to be milked (not

chirpy humanoids that walk around with a bucket trying to catch a cow to milk). We used to herd the cows to the milking parlour three times a day to get milked but now they take themselves to the robots whenever they want. The 220 cows being milked at the moment are averaging 3.3 milkings per cow per day. It's all very relaxed and chilled. The cows also have sand beds in the barn to make them as comfortable as possible and we've never seen cows sleep so deeply.

The main bulk of the cows' ration is made up of home-grown grass silage, maize silage and straw. We analyse these, then our cow nutritionist formulates a diet incorporating such products as rape meal and minerals. This provides the cows with a balanced diet aiding them to produce milk of the right quality that ARLA, our milk buyer, requires. In addition, we also feed the cows an 18% protein nut in the robots while they're being milked.

ARLA's target is to become carbon net zero from cow to consumer by 2050. Here on the farm we are already trying to get as much from renewable sources as possible. Our milk cooling and heating system is a good example (you might have to bear with me on this....!): Water we use on the farm comes out of our bore hole at about 10/12 degrees, this passes through a ground-source heat-pump which provides our house and office with all its heat and hot water. This process chills the bore hole water down to about five degrees where it then travels along pipes to the dairy. The water at five degrees is passed around a pipe cooler which has fresh milk from the cow pumped through a pipe in the middle. The milk leaves the cow at about 38 degrees and as it passes through the pipe cooler, the water chills the milk and the milk heats up the water. We then need a small amount of extra cooling to get our milk down to the four degrees we store it at and just a small amount of heating to get our water temperature up for washing all the pipework. All electric during daylight hours comes from our solar panels.

This is one example of how we are trying to produce food economically, profitably and sustainably. Joe Ives

How the Parish Magazine works

Bev Bridgman, Upton Grey Parish Clerk, has urged me more than once to write about our brave Parish mag team of volunteers. Jane Hanbury, too, said when she first joined us as Distributor that she had no idea so much effort went into this great journal!

So here goes... I do the advertising, and generally coordinate the mag production. We have four editors who rotate month by month, one from each of the four parishes. They are Tess Chevallier, Ian Lansley-Neale, David Shearer, and Sheila Stranks. They collate/edit the material and send it by a strict deadline to the printers, so that you receive your mag before the end of the month. If you don't receive it in time, you could have a reproachful word with your local distributor!

Editing the mag is a tricky, demanding job, something of a jigsaw puzzle, fitting in the material sent. The editors work in multiples of four pages. This is the reason why a piece sometimes has to be omitted or shortened, and why late submissions make the job even harder. We also have to be aware of general editorial matters such as copyright. Photos and logos don't always look good in black and white but we do our best.

Before the mag goes to the printers, Nick Willmer and I proof-read it for accuracy. Nick coordinates the organist rota for most of the Benefice and also, now that our vicar has no office staff, assembles the church material, not easy at the best of times. He has an excellent eye for detail, fortunately. He is also our technical adviser and solves weird problems that sometimes occur with illustrations, for example.

Our treasurer, William Maughan, is an efficient and vital support. Capable Jane Hanbury delivers the mag to the sub-distributors in all the villages, who also play a vital part. Jane also sends out the postal copies to those who have moved away but miss us all so much they still subscribe. Rory Vereker collects the 580 mags from the printers and helps with distribution in emergency – heroically, he delivered to the Bidden Road/Hoddingtons on his bike when the November drainage works blocked the road by the pub.

We have about 100 advertisers, many of whom (but not all!) pay on time when they receive their bills. Their subs mean that we do not have to charge for the magazine. So we are self-supporting, earning enough to pay the printers (excellent Treloar Print) and are also able to make a generous donation towards the Youth Pastor's salary. But, as times are hard, it would still be a great help if you could recommend a trusted local tradesman or local businesses who might like to advertise. It would also be tactful if you tell our advertisers that you read about them in this magnificent publication.

To contact any of the mag team, please do use our general email uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Again, despite the UG email address, we must emphasise that the magazine encompasses several parishes: Herriard/Winslade, Tunworth, Weston Patrick/Corbett and Upton Grey, and even stretches to Powntley Copse.

Finally, of course, a big hand goes to all our contributors. Without them there would be no magazine. Susie Vereker

UPTON GREY NEWS www.uptongreychurch.co.uk www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club Draw

The 100 Club draw for December was won by H Rosen (1st prize) and M Haynes (2nd prize).

New Lengthsman

Many thanks to George Hillier for carrying out duties as Lengthsman in Upton Grey for so many years. We are all very grateful for his hard work. Gordon Hunt has now kindly taken over the role. He writes:

Hi, I'm Gordon Hunt. I have been appointed as the Parish Lengthsman and I will do my best to keep the Parish looking in good order. My role includes checking that footpaths, stiles and roads are in good order, litter-picking, maintaining benches, playground equipment, and liaising with County and Borough councils and Highways Agency.

I was born in Upton Grey went to the village school and have worked here for all but five years when I worked at Herriard. I have lived in Weston Patrick and Upton Grey, apart from two years when I lived in Eversley.

I'm looking forward to meeting lots of people on my rounds and if you see any problems please contact me on my mobile 07831 567341

Gordon Hunt

TEA@3 January 2021

Dear Friends, we were expecting to be back together again by now and meeting up as usual – sadly that is not going to happen! We hope you managed to have a good Christmas and meet up with some with your family and friends, if not all of them. 2021 is going to be a challenging year for all of us but, if everyone sticks to the rules, hopefully things will be looking up by Easter and we will all have had our vaccinations!

Please remember that if you are feeling down or in need of a chat, we are here and would be glad to talk to you and help if we can in any way. Stay safe, and let's hope we will soon be together again scoffing sandwiches, scones and cakes and drinking tea to the manner born!

Barbara 862627 Jill 862131 Viv 862455

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Post Office closed

Thank you from St Mary's Church

We should like to thank everyone who has made a donation over the past year to the Upton Grey PCC in support of St Mary's Church and its work in the local community. Your contribution is hugely appreciated in this difficult time for us all, including the Church.

St Mary's is self-funding and continues to rely on the generosity of local residents. Your donations are indispensable in ensuring that St Mary's continues to play an active role at the heart of our community. Generous donations were received over Christmas even though church attendance and collections were lower than normal.

We are also most grateful to our regular, planned givers for their generosity and steadfast support. Planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme or by standing order helps to provide St Mary's with a stable and predictable source of income essential for planning ahead.

We were unable last year to hold the Upton Grey Church Fete, our main fund-raising event, and very much hope to hold it this year on Saturday 12th June. Please put this date in your diaries!

With all best wishes for the year ahead.

Simon Butler, Geoffrey Yeowart, Sarah Barnes

Safari Supper

We are sad to take this decision but we are going to postpone the Safari supper, originally scheduled for March, to more sociable times! Let's hope we can all get together this summer instead. Julia and Viv

Upton Grey Bridge Club

Due to the current lockdown, the Upton Grey Bridge Club is closed and will not reopen until better times return, which, in effect, will most likely be September 2021. In the meantime, Bridge online does provide a way of keeping your skills up to date. I hope that we can all get together again in the autumn. **Peter Haynes**

Upton Grey Open Gardens Charity Event

I hope to organise another Open Gardens in Upton Grey, preferably the first week of June when the roses are out. If you are able to take part or would like more information, don't hesitate to contact me; I would be happy to let you know the format. It would be wonderful to have some gardens that have not been opened before. **Margaret Haynes**

One answer to lockdown – send a card to show you care

We are all living through a most difficult time and sometimes it is hard to keep going. We need something to encourage us and support us. So here is a suggestion. Let's send a card to someone we know in the village to lift their spirits, to let them know that we are thinking of them and sending words of comfort and hope.

It's always a pleasure to get something through the letter box especially when it's a card we can put on the mantelpiece or on the bedside table to be reminded of a friend who cares. So, to get started, if you live in Upton Grey, you will find two cards in this magazine and you are invited to write a message and send them to friends you cannot visit just now. The act of actually writing a card can be highly enjoyable and you could use other cards which lurk in a drawer somewhere for the same purpose. When you receive a card, pin it up and enjoy both the picture and the warming knowledge that it was sent to you by someone who cares for you and your wellbeing. With every good wish, **Simon, Jill and Millie**

Have an Old Computer? Help a Hardworking Student!

With remote learning now in full swing, it is more than ever essential for children to have a computer at home – and if possible (it is likely that there will be competition for use from a parent or sibling) more than one!

This is just a reminder about Lions Club's scheme to recycle old computer equipment to support deserving students and school-children.

Do you have a spare computer or computer equipment that we can collect from your doorstep? If so - or if you have any queries - please contact me. I can arrange to collect from you, and the team will then clear it of data, recycle it and deliver it to someone who can really benefit from your generosity. Many thanks.

Alison Barker (Cleves Lane, Upton Grey) alison12345@btinternet.com 01256 861745 Hart Lions Club (Charitable Trust number 1035726)

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS www.herriard-pc.gov.uk https://www.facebook.com/herriardexservicesclub Herriard Village group on http://www.Facebook.com

Herriard Garden Club

Winter flowering plants for the pollinators in your garden In Britain we have 270 species of bees, just under 250 of which are solitary bees and also 24 different bumble bees. While not all bees behave in the same way in winter, honey bees retreat to their hives and form a winter cluster to stay warm.

On a mild, sunny winter's day they come out to forage for food, so they need winter-flowering plants to stay alive. Here is a list of some of the best species you should plant in your garden which are a magnet for bees, so they do not go hungry. Most on the list smell amazing: *Winter Honeysuckle (Lonicera Fragrantissima)*: creamy flowers and red berries when flowers are finished; *Sarcococca*: cream flowers, smells similar to vanilla with berries; *Mahonia*: scented yellow flowers plus berries; *Winter jasmine*: yellow flowers. There are also several winter *Clematis Cirrhosa* including Wisley Cream, Freckles and Winter Beauty, *Hellebores*, *Cyclamen, Aconite* and *Snowdrops*. Galanthus navalis single flower snowdrop is best for maximum pollinator benefit.

Bedding Plants such as winter pansies are of no use; they either have no nectar or pollen or the bees cannot access it.

So please go and purchase at least a couple of these plants for your garden, not only to enjoy their beauty but to see the bees flying around enjoying their feast on a winter's day. I have nearly all these plants and they are a feast for the senses – with their scent, the sight of their beautiful blooms and the sound buzzing from these grateful pollinators.

Patricia Pegg

Recipe: Chicken in Sundried Tomato Sauce

Ingredients

4 Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts (cut into strips, optional)

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper

¹/₂ tsp chilli powder

2 tsp olive oil & 2 tsp butter

¹/₄ cup of chicken stock

2 tbsp (about 6) oil packed sundried tomatoes (cut into strips)

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup double cream.

Optional: Dijon mustard and 1 cup basil (chopped)

Method

Season Chicken with spices and sauté in a pan with the butter and oil for about 4 minutes on each side until cooked through. Remove to a plate cover with foil and keep warm.

Pour stock and tomatoes into pan and reduce liquid by half.

Add cream and cook for about 4 minutes until thickened slightly.

If using, stir in Dijon mustard and basil.

Pour over chicken and serve with vegetables of your choice

Note: I use the oil from the oil sundried tomatoes and if you are using dried packed tomatoes rehydrate first by straining them under running water which will also remove most of the salt used to preserve. If using dried packed, increase the stock slightly. **Patricia Pegg**

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Cub Leader – Odiham

2nd Odiham (Town) Scout Group is urgently seeking a cub leader or leaders to help run the busy Odiham Cubs. There is already admin support in place, so it would require a couple of hours a week to run the group which takes place on a Tuesday evening (currently on Zoom). Cubs are aged 8–10 years. If you think you could help keep this valuable group going, please contact Rob Friend at chair@2ndodihamscouts.org.uk

Walking in Hampshire

Are you fed up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Hampshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – www.walkinginengland.co.uk – one for each county in England) 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, www.walkinginengland.co.uk email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

National Gardens Scheme – Hampshire



Well, here we are again... This pandemic does seem neverending. With the increase of cases still happening, despite this latest lockdown, and the Government advice to 'stay at home', we have taken the decision to close any of our gardens which were opening before the end of January. This situation will be reviewed on a two-weekly basis. The

website ngs.org.uk will have all the-up-to-date details of any openings, and the facility to pre-book tickets.

Visitors will, eventually, be very welcome to our gardens, but it is imperative that everyone helps to ensure that government guidelines are adhered to. I would list the regulations, but by the time this is published they could be out of date.

Hopefully these regulations will not last very much longer, and we will be able to get back to welcoming our visitors, whether they have prebooked tickets or not.

In Hampshire, our first gardens currently planning to open are the 'snowdrop gardens' in February. This year we have two:

Little Court Winchester SO21 2PU

Opening: Sun & Mon 14th/15th February: 2.00–4.00pm, Admission: £5.00: children free.

Refreshments: Home-made teas in the village hall

Bramdean House, Alresford SO24 0JU

Opening: 21st February: 2.00pm to 4.00pm:

Admission: £7.50: children free

Refreshments: home-made teas

Entry to all the above gardens is by pre-booked tickets only. These are available from our website, www.ngs.org.uk for a timed entry slot. We automatically restrict numbers for each garden, depending on that garden's size and visitor capacity. This system worked very well for us last year, once we were allowed to open. We just didn't expect to still be using it again, as a condition, in 2021, although we will still be using the pre-booking system as an option, once we get back to some sort of normality. If you have any problem with booking your tickets, please feel free to contact me.



Looking forward to a rapid roll out of the vaccination for us all. Keep well and keep safe

Pat Beagley (Publicity), National Garden Scheme, Hampshire, pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Mothers' Christian care for families North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union has a theme for each year, and for 2021 our theme, so relevant in this difficult year, is 'Rebuilding hope and confidence'. Our February meeting will be an introduction to our theme led by Christine Clode and held via Zoom.

I'm glad to say that our local Mothers' Union projects are still active. The Sunflower Café cannot meet in the Vine Church at present, but we keep in regular touch with our families via telephone calls, and Zoom sessions. In December we delivered Christmas bags to each of our clients, with mini Christmas cakes and puddings, knitted tree-decorations and other small items. These are all greatly appreciated by our families who often feel very isolated because of lockdown. The Child Contact Centre in Popley is also still open, though with reduced numbers of families, and we are running Zoom sessions for those families who cannot attend in person.

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.

From Basingstoke Council: Support available during lockdown

Support will continue to be available for vulnerable residents during lockdown. This group is advised to stay at home at all times, unless for exercise or medical appointments, and not to attend work, even if they are unable to work from home. We are encouraging such residents to use priority slots provided by supermarkets for shopping, prescription delivery services and support from family and friends.

However, residents who do not have this support are being encouraged to register for help by calling the Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline on 0333 370 4000 as a central point. The helpline is open Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm, 9.00am to 4.30pm on Fridays and between 10.00am and 3.00pm at weekends. This will be regularly reviewed. Hampshire County Council will then work with BVA and the local hubs to deal with the majority of requests for support.

There are a number of local and national charities continuing to provide support on issues such as mental health, loneliness and domestic abuse. For more information, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/support-services-covid19

Other County and Nationwide Support and Help Contacts

- Samaritans: This is confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair. Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline). Website: <u>www.samaritans.org.uk</u>
- Citizens Advice: for advice about money & benefits, call Helpline on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. This a free call from Citizens Advice, however your service provider may charge.
- Domestic abuse: Hampshire Domestic Abuse 03300 165112
- Red Cross free helpline 0808 196 3651

Scarecrow trail

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) are excited to announce the dates for the next Chineham and Sherfield Park Scarecrow Trail Summer 2021! The event will take place over the first week of the school holidays, 24th–30th July, with map sales available over the first weekend. Please look out for details on our Facebook page (see below) on how to vote for this year's theme and how to sign up to be an entrant.

We would welcome volunteers to help with the planning, organisation and execution of the event. Virtual meeting will take place on Thursday 18th February at 7.00pm. If you have skills to offer or time available to help us run this event, please get in touch!

BDDF's services

Our weekly seated exercise for mobility and wellbeing; and Friday Teabreak club; are both free and take place online. Our Walking Club will resume once it is safe for us to do so; as will our courses to help people use their personal IT devices.

Disability Awareness Event BDDF are preparing to host our annual Disability Information & Awareness Day virtually this year.

Disability Signposting Services. Have a disability related issue or question? Don't know which way to turn? We will do our best to point you in the right direction, just let us know.

Get in touch & Keep up to date Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email info@bddf.org.uk or via Facebook Messenger. Paper versions are available by post if you do not have internet access. (call 01256 423869).

Keep up to date by liking our page on Facebook @BDDForum, Insta @BasingstokeDisabilityForum, via our website www.bddf.org.uk, or tweet us @BDDForum.

Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees

Watching for Lapwing, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Lapwing, green plover, peewit, tewit – this bird of many names is a spectacular sight in winter. You don't always have to go far to spot lapwings, as in winter their numbers increase in Britain as they flock in from the colder continent. You can see them on farmland and grassy areas in wetland sites (like estuaries, lakes and reservoirs) at this time of year, roosting, balanced on one leg, with their heads tucked away or feeding on invertebrates.

The flight of lapwings is unusual and can be described as 'floppy'. Their large, rounded wings move slowly, feathers spread and showing flashes of the white underneath; the slow wingbeats can make them appear to float and is a very recognisable feature of the lapwing. Springtime flocks dart and zigzag, these amazing aerial displays confuse predators as their flight and mixed colouring make each bird hard to focus on.

At first glance their plumage may look dark and dull but look a little closer or watch it catch the light



and you will see the iridescent sheen of greens and purples. Both males and females have a crest on their heads, although the male's is longer and showier. Their other names of peewit and tewit relate to their call. Lapwings often call as they fly, the calls can sound a little robotic.

Around 140,000 pairs breed in the UK, some will remain here over winter but many more arrive as their numbers more than quadruple in the winter. As they are not breeding it is a good time to look for lapwing on the coast. They may be joined in their flocks by other wading birds or starlings, taking off together as dusk settles to find a safe place to roost.

Unfortunately, these fascinating birds are declining, and are now redlisted by the RSPB. Changes in farmland practices have been a big factor in their decline as nests fail and food is increasingly scarce. Lapwing nest on the ground, meaning their eggs and chicks are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. There are some positive trends however. On nature reserves and other sites that are managed for wildlife there has been recent increases in lapwing populations, as more pairs manage to successfully raise chicks. It is hoped that with careful management of the land they may once again become a common bird of our countryside.

Claire Thorpe, Communications Officer – Publications & Media Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Claire.Thorpe@hiwwt.org.uk, 01489 774400, 07469 855839

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

12th June Upton Grey Fete

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Workshop Cleaner/Assistant, F B Design Cabinet Makers, Herriard F B Cabinet Makers, Herriard Park, require a workshop cleaner/ assistant – a part-time role of approximately two days per week, with hours to suit both parties. The job requires a clean driving licence, common sense, and ideally an interest in woodworking with basic practical skills. Call David Forrest 07764 187960 01256 381855.

Crofts dog grooming

Based in Herriard, providing one-to-one dog grooming services for all breeds. I am fully qualified with a passion for all dogs big and small. For more information, please visit www.croftsdoggrooming.co.uk or contact me directly 07572259410, harriet@croftsdoggrooming.co.uk.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP HOURS

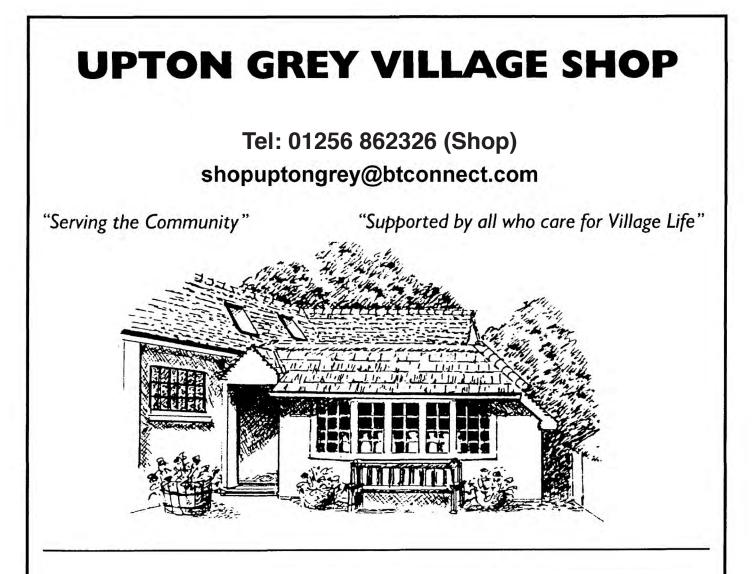
8.00am–6.00pm Mon–Sat 8.00am–1.00pm Sun

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the March issue is 15th February

Please send news and contributions to **uptongreymagazine@gmail.com**. March's editor is Ian Lansley-Neale. Your editor this month was Tess Chevallier.

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.



THE VILLAGE SHOP

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday: 7am - 7pm Saturday: 7am - 6pm Sunday: 8am - 1pm

RANGE OF GOODS

Special range of Cheeses Fresh Bread & Vegetables daily Fresh Meat & Fish to order Range of Wine & Spirits Home Cooked Food and Delicatessen Dry Cleaning & Shoe Repairs Newspapers Home Delivery Service The Post Office has permanently closed

Temporary Shop Opening Hours during restrictions

8am – 6pm Mon to Sat

8 am – 1pm Sun