

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Weston Parvich

February
2023

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

From the Benefice Ministry Team



For many of you this will be your first Parish Magazine of 2023, so on behalf of the ministry team may I wish you all a very Happy New Year. May this be a year of good health for us all, and the year which sees the end of the devastation in Ukraine, sooner rather than later.

I'm writing this on the twelfth day of Christmas, or Epiphany, the day when we celebrate the arrival of the three Wise Men in Bethlehem and through them the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles. Lewis and I have just taken down all our Christmas decorations and put them away. You've heard me say before that I don't make new year's resolutions on 1st January when the fridge is still full of delicious leftovers. No point in starting the diet until all that's gone!

Robert Louis Stevenson said "new beginnings are always delightful, the threshold is the place to pause". I'm not sure is true for everyone. New beginnings, full of promise though they may be, are often close to endings which may have been painful. They always mean change, and there's something in most of us that makes us hold onto old, familiar, comfortable things, like keeping new Christmas slippers "for best" because the old ones are just too comfortable to throw away, however shabby.

But the threshold is the place to pause – a place of promise. In biblical terms, it marks something holy, a place where God is. We stand at the beginning of a year, a new threshold where we shall find God. We don't have to take God with us into the new year, God takes us with him. That's what Christmas is about. Emmanuel, God with us. We don't have to cling on to Christmas, Christmas is never over, God is with us always. Pause at the threshold to remember that God's love is new every morning.

How do we respond to the amazing love and generosity of the God who gave us Jesus? The Wise Men responded by offering precious gifts to the Christ-child. What precious thing do we have to offer? The most precious thing we have to offer is ourselves and that's what God longs for us – that we give ourselves to him. As the carol puts it:

"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart."

On another subject completely, I've just finished writing a short talk for a moment of reflection outside the Civic Offices in Basingstoke on

Holocaust Memorial Day. On 27th January each year people of all nations across the world reflect on a world scarred by genocide, with a shared understanding that the more we learn about the past the more we're able to empathise with others today to take action to create a safer future. This year's theme is 'ordinary people'. As we continue to learn from all that happened since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in occupied Poland on 27 January 1945, now 78 years ago, what can we ordinary people do to create a world in which all are able to flourish?

Every blessing.

Revd Linda Scard

FROM THE REGISTERS

Thanksgiving: Peter Romer-Lee at St Mary's Upton Grey on
15th December

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th February

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship

Thursday 9th February

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 12th February

9.00am Herriard – Morning Worship

10.00am Upton Grey – Family Worship

10.00am Weston Patrick – Morning Worship

5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 16th February

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 19th February

9.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer

10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd February

7.30pm Odiham – Benefice Ash Wednesday service

Sunday 26th February

9.00am Tunworth – Family Service

10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship

11.00am Herriard – Family Service

5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

CHURCH NEWS

Coffee & Cake Drop-in – Monday 13th & 27th February

The St Mary's Upton Grey 'Coffee & Cake Drop-in' events are now twice a month, and the next two are on Monday 13th and 27th February in Upton Grey Village Hall. Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat – plus the option of soup and a roll, and please note the **newer time of 11.00-1.00**. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up.

Upton Grey Lent lunches

It is excellent news that the Lent lunches are restarting this year - please see the article in the Upton Grey News section of this magazine.

New bell ringers sought for St Mary's Upton Grey

Please see the article in the Upton Grey News section of this magazine asking for new bell ringers, with the particular aim of having a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to join the nationwide campaign for every bell tower in the country to ring in the new King at his coronation in May – 'Ring for the King'!



KidsZone

Hi Everyone!

I wonder if you are just a little afraid of the dark? To be honest, most of us find darkness a little bit scary. We can't see where we are going or we imagine all kinds of things in the dark corners...

Did you know that there are places called International Dark Sky Reserves? These areas are naturally dark at night and free of light pollution. This makes them some of the best places in the world to view the beauty of the night sky. We even have a site near us in the South Downs! And this is a really good time of year to visit a Dark Sky Reserve and experience the beautiful side of darkness.



You may not have a chance to go to one of these reserves, but maybe you could go on a walk at night with a parent, or simply stand outside together and look up at the night sky?

I wonder if you can think what might be the benefits of being in the total dark?

The most obvious benefit of darkness is that by limiting our sense of sight we make our remaining senses stronger. Suddenly we can hear rustlings, wildlife calls, the sound of the wind and our breathing. Try it! We begin to smell the countryside, both its pleasant and unpleasant odours! Some people feel like they can almost touch the darkness, it's so thick.

Another benefit of immersing ourselves in darkness is that we improve our chances of meeting nocturnal wildlife. In the countryside near us owls and bats may swoop across our path. Deer may be disturbed, often pausing for a moment to stare at us before plunging into the undergrowth. None of these would be seen in bright daylight.

Another benefit of total darkness is that it enables us to see more. Only from a dark location can we begin to get a sense of the vast expanse of space. There are the individual stars that form groups that we call constellations. There is the huge blanket of stars that we call the Milky Way. We may see a meteorite, even a meteorite shower. If we're really lucky, we may even catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights.

Only by placing ourselves in darkness can we get some sense of how vast space is, and how tiny Earth is in comparison. That's why the Bible says, 'When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and stars that you have set in their places, what is humanity, that you think of him and her, human beings, that you care for them?' (Psalm 8.3-4). How awesome that the God who cares for the moon and stars also cares for us?!



So, we may feel a bit scared about being outside in total darkness, but if we can gather our courage, it's definitely an experience that's worth having! Why don't you make the most of the clear skies and marvel at the moon and the stars and how amazing is the God who put them all in place?

See you next month!

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



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming news

As we kick start the new year on the farm, I always like to look ahead with optimism about what may lie ahead for the year to come and what challenges we may face. January is usually a quiet time for us arable farmers but, with the chicken, we have routine jobs of feeding and collecting eggs. We will be starting hedge cutting imminently now that the leaves have dropped. We also have our annual crop assurance inspection. This will give us the Red Tractor stamp that you will recognise from food packaging on British produce in the supermarkets. This inspection is to make sure that we are complying with regulations to make sure our crops are grown to the highest standard which awards us the Red Tractor stamp.

We also have had grain lorries starting to move grain out from our stores now and hopefully have the majority of grain off farm by April. We also use a syndicate grain store on the edge of Micheldever called Trinity Grain, as we don't have enough barn space to store all of our own grain. They store, monitor and sell the grain on our behalf at a cost price to us. Because they are a collective of farmers they can get better bargaining power with larger amounts of grain which is useful for the smaller farms that don't have the same capacity.

Coming up in February, I've been invited by our regional NFU director to attend the NFU conference at the ICC in Birmingham. The event this year is called 'Feeding a Changing World'. It will be interesting to hear from various different speakers about how our industry is going to evolve. I've been lucky enough to have been invited a couple times before. This will be the third time and each time there has been a different secretary of state, and a different issue at the forefront, just when we need some stability... Last year's conference was aimed at how we are going to grow flowers and plant trees, creating a 'greener' landscape. When I hear of mass housing estates and large solar panel farms being erected I think what we are doing is certainly a lot 'greener'. The problem is that there is a perspective that farmers are destroying the local habitats and the fall in different species is solely down to 'commercial' farming, I wonder if they take into account all the farm land which is now housing. Also farming and looking after the environment go hand in hand, and have done since the start. If we don't look after the soil and our surroundings it's only going to have a negative effect on food production. All the farms around us have wild flower plots and winter bird food plant mixtures in less productive areas, I personally see a great deal of wildlife whilst out in the tractor, which shows that farming and a 'greener' landscape coexist and

work together, not against each other – which is essential, especially as food security has been highlighted since the Coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine war.

Other jobs we have coming up will be performing calibration tests on our fertiliser spreader and sprayer to make sure they are mechanically sound and are working as they should be, so that we can apply our fertiliser and sprays as accurately and efficiently as possible, especially when the cost of fertilisers and sprays have jumped up to eye watering prices. It won't be long until we start to venture out into the fields but not before we get a change in the weather.

Will Cheyney

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

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday 13th & 27th February
11am – 1pm

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

UPTON GREY NEWS

www.uptongreychurch.co.uk

www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

UGVH 100 Club January Draw

The first Prize of £100 was won by C. Butler-Adams.

The second Prize of £40 was won by F. Macpherson.

In the past year we have paid out £1,400.00 in prizes. This year, starting in April, Sam Clough (07766 663511) is taking over as organiser, and will be sending out renewal reminders later this month.

Sam Clough (07766 663511) & Brian Thrussell (01256 862819)

Lent Lunches

It is three years since we last marked Lent with a series of lunches around Upton Grey. Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February and it would be great to have a lunch each week until Easter. If anyone would like to host such a lunch, please get in touch with me so that we can organise a calendar. The lunches will follow the previous pattern of soup and cheese, will start at 12.30pm and conclude by 2.00pm. Guests are asked to telephone the hostess at least 24 hours before the lunch date so that she has notice of numbers which may be limited by the available space.

The first lunch will be held on *Tuesday 28th February* at (my house) Barn Cottage, Weston Road (862131) and a full list will appear in the March issue. All are welcome. In addition to lunches held in people's homes, it is hoped to hold one lunch in the village hall – date to be announced.

Tuesday 7th March, hostess: Frances Yeowart (861218) The Old Post House, Bidden Road.

Friday 24th March, hostess: Barbara Anderson and Sarah Barnes, Pond House (07890 897451)

Thank you so much.

Please note that no charge is made for the lunch but donations are invited for a charity of the hostess's choice.

Any questions ? Please ring me, Jill Lestrille, 862131

Date for your diary – Talk by Rosy Hardy

On Tuesday 11th April Rosy Hardy will be in the village hall to give a talk on garden plants. Rosy has won 24 Chelsea gold medals and is founder of Hardy's Cottage Plants so we are lucky to have her here.

Details to follow in next month's magazine.



St Mary's Church
Upton Grey

more+
North Hampshire Downs Churches

Safari Supper

Saturday March 11th
from 7.15pm -10.15pm

Host one course and enjoy
a 3 course dinner around the
village

In aid of St Mary's Church,
Upton Grey

£15 per person

Please book by Saturday 25th
February

Booking form being sent via Neighbourhood Watch
or email:

Viv Raven and Julia Harker
(julia_harker@btinternet.com)

Safari Supper

The Safari supper is planned for Saturday 11th March this year. Following on from the success of the online form last year, we will use this method again this year. If you have any queries or difficulties with the online form, please email either myself (theravenfive@yahoo.co.uk) or Julia Harker (julia_harker@btinternet.com)

For those of you that are unfamiliar with Safari Supper, it is a three-course meal where you travel around the village to different houses, hosting one course, with two other couples as guests. The evening starts at 7.15pm, and there is an hour for each course, ending in the village hall for coffee and tea for all participants.

It is a really fun evening and a great opportunity to meet other villagers. The cost is £15.00 pp in aid of St Mary's Church.

Here is the link to the online form to fill out; closing date for entries is 25th February: <https://forms.gle/wzPa9jcA2nAYfVxW7>.

We hope to see lots of you this year, and would love to see some new faces too.

News from the Upton Grey Shop

Don't forget to support the Shop. When you collect your newspaper, buy a few things as well. You know it makes sense.

Fresh coffee and croissants and fresh-baked loaves available from the new oven. Extra fresh fruit and vegetables on Fridays. Bargain chicken pieces in the freezer at the back, only about £1.80. Ready meals too.

Note: The Shop will be temporarily closed for building works in mid-February. Please check social media for updates.

Save the date – Upton Grey Fete

The Upton Grey village fete in aid of St Mary's Church will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 2.00pm. Save the date for this annual village bonanza. We are very grateful to Nick and Rosie Ralls who have very kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful spacious gardens at Sherborne Cottage. More news and requests later in the year! Thank you.

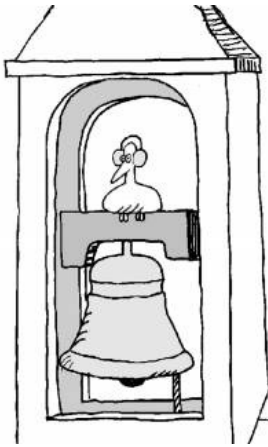
Frances Yeowart 861218

TEA@3 - February 16th

Our next tea is on **Thursday 16th February** at 3.00pm and Maureen Deere has kindly offered to host it at her house, **Hazeley, Weston Close**. We hope you will join us to welcome in the New Year – please let one of us know if you would like to come and we can arrange a lift for you if you need one.

Barbara 862627, Jill 862131, Viv 862131

St Mary's Upton Grey – New bell ringers sought for ‘Ring for the King’ – May 2023



You may have heard the bells chime out on a Thursday evening and enjoyed the sound, and now there is another chance (since our last ‘welcome to the bell-ringing tower’ evening) for anyone in the parish to see what bell ringing is all about.

We are aiming to have a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to ring in the new King at his coronation in May. Nationwide, the aim is to have every single bell tower in the country ringing in King Charles III under a campaign called ‘Ring for the King’.

What is involved in ringing in Upton Grey?

- We practise on Thursday evenings for about an hour and are hoping to ring for some Sunday services for half an hour.
- It is a lovely ‘mindful’ activity.
- Everyone can do it; no – you don’t have to be strong, fit or musical (just able to walk about 30 stairs to the bell ringing room).
- It is open to all ages over 10 years old – children welcome
- Everyone will be supervised by experienced ringers and initially have group starter lessons (in a ratio of 1 to 1).
- All can go ‘at their own pace’ in terms of learning.
- We often go to the pub after practices and have fun with ringers’ outings to other towers, quizzes and an annual dinner

If you would like to have a go, please contact Michael (tower captain) and Rachel (tower secretary) on uptongreybells@gmail.com if you are interested in coming along to see what it’s all about. **Rachel Dulai**

‘Pipe up for St Mary’s!’ organ appeal

The existing pipe organ at St Mary’s Upton Grey has come to the end of its useful working life, and the PCC have found a better-quality, more attractive replacement instrument which will fit in the same space in the church. While funds have been secured for 50% of the cost the PCC is now raising funds for the outstanding amount.

If you are able to contribute any amount, your generosity would be much appreciated. A memorial book of donors will be held in the church to record the names of donors and their dedications, which could be an ideal way of remembering a loved one or a special event. The organ will be dedicated to HM Queen Elizabeth as a tribute to our late sovereign.

If you are able help, please contact Frances and Geoffrey Yeowart, Tel 01256 862218 email: francesyeowart@outlook.com

Upton Grey Duck House – Part 1

Sadly, having succumbed to the elements, the original duck house on the village pond has had to be removed. It is planned that soon after this article appears in print there will have been a new duck house made and launched in its place. Nevertheless there is a short story to tell.

The late and lovely Fred Humphries, who worked in Herriard and lived in Basingstoke, made the old duck house when he retired. It was commissioned by the WI some 27 years ago. At one time he did all his joinery, by hand, in a single garage. The larger items were assembled outside, but only on a fine day!

The tradition continues today with Michael Sproule, who lives in Upton Grey, making a replacement duck house by hand, using a very limited space in his garage. The wood was cut and the larger parts put together outside, but only on a fine day!

On a dull November morning with Roger Clark standing in icy waters, ably assisted by village volunteers, the old duck house was removed from the pond. It did fall apart once on the grass, but it was helpful to see how it had been made. Plans were drawn up, and Michael started work in early December, helped by Dima and his cousin Petya from Ukraine. Dima lives with his mother and sister in Upton Grey.

Next month the final part of the story will be about completing the duck house and the fun of the launch.

Nikki Sproule

*Dima and Petya
at work*



Removal of the old duck house

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**

Herriard Parish Council will be holding their next meeting on 27th February at 7.30pm at Herriard Village Hub. The Parish Councillors invite residents to meet 1:1 before or after the meeting to discuss any matter that concerns them and to offer help and assistance. We are here to listen to you. An agenda will be posted at least seven days prior to the meeting on noticeboards and on the village Facebook page. There is an Open Forum where anyone can have their say. Come along and meet your local councillors and other members of our community. **Gill Hill**

Poppy Appeal – thank you!

This Letter is to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who every year go out in all weathers to help collect money for the Poppy Appeal.

Most of these volunteers have been collecting for several years and have never let me down. Without your dedication we would not be the success we are in donating to this important cause.

These volunteers cover Herriard, Tunworth and Lasham, and in total collected £1,935.08. Well done all of you!

We are not able to use contactless system, that is now available, because of the village location and the amount of people needed to collect from house to house.

The contactless collections as from end of December:

South Hampshire & IOW £152,009.48

North Hampshire £138,480.58

Contactless has made a huge difference to the appeal. **Patricia Pegg**

Jobs to do in the garden

It is time to prune deciduous shrubs and fruit trees before the sap starts to rise and bud start to form. Cut everything down that's dead, diseased or damaged on shrubs, and clear away soggy, collapsed stems from perennial plants. I leave the old stems of perennial plants that have hollow stems, as they are still housing lots of wildlife. This will not prevent the new growth coming through. When the weather warms up in March/April, I cut them down to ground level and leave this foliage in a safe place for a few months in the garden so any insects and pollinators who are not

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See also under Gardens

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ready to leave this safe protected plant can do so at their leisure (the old plant material can then be composted later in the year)

Roses (climbing and shrub) can be pruned during late winter when growth is just starting to resume, usually mid-February in the south.

Clematis need regular pruning as this encourages strong growth and flowering. This keeps the growth in check, if left unpruned they can turn into a tangled mass of stems with a bare base and flowers above eye level Clematis pruning can be confusing:

Group 1: Early blooming that flower on shoots produced the previous season. They require no regular pruning except the removal of flower heads or old and damaged stems after they have finished flowering. After a few years they may need training and thinning where necessary.

Group 2: Large flowering cultivators which flower in spring and summer on short shoots of previous year's growth. Without pruning in February you will have a poor display and a top-heavy plant. Trim away weak and damaged growth, cut stems to just above the strongest, highest bud. Prune again after the first flush of flowers to a pair of buds halfway down the stems, and they will flower again in late summer.

Group 3: Flowers from mid-to late summer. These late-flowering group are best cut back hard in February/March each year to a couple of feet from ground, they will then produce their current season's growth . If left they will be tangled and unproductive.

Never hard prune group 1 and 2, as doing this will result in a year of flowers lost. If you make a mistake do not worry they will grow back and give you a great show the following year. All clematis prefer full sun (some will tolerate semi shade) with their roots in the shade. So either place lots of stones/gravel at base or place a square/round terracotta or similar when you first plant these out which will do the job. They need plenty of water especially if grown in large pots and feed every two weeks with Miracle gro or any clematis/rose feed from early spring.

Clean your Greenhouse to remove moss and algae. This helps to prevent disease and pests and lets light in.

Check your stored bulbs and tubers for rot and ensure your Dahlia tubers have not dried out.

You can sow broad-beans now and place in an cold frame or unheated green house. The garden club use toilet roll holders to start these off and then plant out when the soil has warmed up by planting the holder straight into the ground which makes transferring easier and causes less damage to the plant roots (the cardboard will rot).

Cover rhubarb with a bucket or pot if you like an early crop,

Recipe: Swede, carrot, apple Mash

1 small swede about 400g peeled and cut rough 2 cm pieces
 400g carrots peeled and cut rough 2cm slices
 300g Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and roughly chopped
 40g butter
 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
 75ml creme fraiche
 Small handful parsley, leaves roughly chopped

Method

Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Cook swede and carrots for about 25 minutes, adding apples for last 10 mins.

Drain in colander and leave to steam dry (10 mins). Return the drained veg to the pan with some seasoning.

Add Butter, Mustard, and Creme Fraiche and mash well.

Heat through if necessary until piping hot.

Stir through Parsley and serve.

Patricia Pegg

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Ukrainian guests

On 6th January, while many of us were busy taking down our Christmas decorations, a small band of volunteers in Newnham were putting up decorations, wrapping presents and setting the table for 60 guests. It was almost time for us to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas Eve – or Holy Evening, as they call it in Ukraine. This evening was celebrated with food, drink and, of course dancing. For some of the Ukrainians, this felt like the first time they were truly able to relax and be happy, for some the memories of Christmases past and those left back home, meant the evening was very emotional.

“Thanks Geoff and Helen, for supporting us yesterday. The evening was wonderful and it was like we had a big family” (Ira)

“Geoff and Helen, thank you for yesterday. I felt at home, in familiar surroundings and surrounded by good company. This is the first time I have felt like this, since the first enemy bombs flew into our country on February 24th. We cried, we laughed, we danced. It was perfect!” (Oksana)

If you're wondering who Geoff is, he's the amazing Geoff Hawkes, who supports Ukrainians in so many ways and this evening provided us with a venue, drinks and even Christmas presents for the children. Thanks from all of us, Geoff!



Ukrainian families and hosts celebrating 'Holy Evening' together

More than 120 Ukrainian refugees (or, as we like to refer to them, guests) have made their temporary home within the benefice in the eight months since we first welcomed them into our community and into our homes. Some have been here over six months, and have now been supported by us, in collaboration with their hosts and the local authorities, into independent rented housing. Some have become an integral part of their host families and remain in their homes, a few have only just arrived or are on their way! This means that the support we offer has moved on from being predominantly finding hosts, to finding landlords who are happy to rent out to Ukrainians, facilitating access to English lessons and jobs and generally supporting our new friends as they become more and more integrated into our local community.

All the children who came into the area have found places in local schools, colleges and even nurseries – and a big thank you needs to go out to all the local educational establishments for their support and flexibility. It's no exaggeration to say that our area is the envy of many others, in that not one child didn't find a suitable school place. Our most recent support package in the schools has been providing a Ukrainian learning support assistant to go into Mayhill and Long Sutton Schools. Thank you to OCC and Upton Grey Educational Trust for your support in this. Nearly all our guests who are in a position to do so have found work, and others are working hard to improve their English, so that they can.

It has been such an honour and a joy to get to know so many beautiful, strong people from a country I'd barely heard of, and if you ever get the opportunity to join them for a meal, you will fall in love with

Ukrainian cuisine, but one highlight for me, as a youth pastor, has been the way Ukrainian young people have integrated into our groups, including our Thursday youth group, which is now 50% Ukrainian.

The teenage years are never easy to navigate, and trying to do that in a new country, without your usual support network and with the worry of what is happening to friends and family back at home, is particularly tough. To promote our teenage guests' wellbeing and provide them with a life-changing experience, we teamed up with Morning Star Trust in November to go on a sailing weekend between Portsmouth and The Isle of Wight. This was truly a time when these young people were taken out of their comfort zone and given responsibilities and opportunities which didn't allow them to dwell on worries at home for two full days.

“Thank you very much for this wonderful trip! I liked most when we got into a big storm and our boat glided over giant waves and we managed the sails ourselves! It was also very cool that we were busy all the time – I didn't even have time to get my phone! Chris, Jacob and Helen, I am even a little embarrassed that you made such an effort for us!” (Dima, 12)



The Portsmouth / Isle of Wight sailing trip

One final note – none of this could have been done without the support of the local community, in so many ways. Although we are not going out of our way to find new guests any more, we still have family members who are suddenly able to come, or guests who need new hosts, due to host ill health or that they have come to the end of their six months. Could this be you? If it is, we'd love to hear from you – please get in touch via my email youth@moretolife.church.

In the meantime, on behalf of all our guests, from 18 months to 87 years, thanks again for all your support already and God Bless.

Helen Chatfield, 07540 140228

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

Our February Meeting will be on Thursday 23rd February in North Warnborough Village Hall at 2.30pm. Our speaker will be Gillian Taylor, who will talk about her “Greenhouse Year”.

Our Competitions will be:

1. A Posy of Snowdrops.
2. Floating Hellebores

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

We love books at Odiham Book Exchange!

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We may need to close the Book Exchange at short notice again for building works at The Bridewell. Please keep an eye on your email, our Facebook page and the High Street noticeboard. We are unable to accept new book donations until works are completed.

Odiham Book Exchange is open Monday and Thursday 2.00–4.30pm and Saturday 10.00am–12.30pm in the Bridewell, the Bury, Odiham.

Basingstoke Choral Society’s next concert: Bach’s Mass in B minor

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 7.30 pm. 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.

Mothers' UNION North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union

Towards the end of last year, Mothers' Union was delighted to be asked to take part in the Angel Tree project again. This project supports prisoners and their families by buying Christmas gifts for the children of the prisoners. This Christmas, we provided selection boxes to be handed out to each of the children that attend the Families Day organised by Spurgeons in Winchester Prison in December.

The prisoners and their families were very grateful for these small gifts, which help to make Christmas a little less difficult for these families.

We expect to have a meeting on Monday 6th February at 7.30pm when we will have our AGM. The RAF have kindly agreed that we can use their Chaplaincy Centre for our meeting, and we are looking forwards to strengthening our links with RAF Odiham.

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.



Spring exercise!

Despite the inclement weather many of our members have been flexing their muscles. Our intrepid Nordic walkers enjoy weekly brisk and bracing outings along the canal or across Odiham Common. Whereas the Walking for Pleasure group, which meet twice a month, always follow a circular walk beginning and finishing at a pub. A recent walk took them from the Duke of Cambridge in Tilford, across Tilford Green, then on to Hankley Common before returning via Hankley Golf course to the all-important pub lunch.



U3a Nordic walkers, pausing on their brisk and bracing walk

Safe from the vagaries of the weather, our two table tennis groups meet at the Hook Community Centre. Here, they not only practise their forehand drive and backhand push, but also their chatting skills at Hartlett's Café afterwards.

If the little grey cells are not exercised, they grow the rust' – Hercule Poirot. What better way to exercise the grey matter than with a Study Day. Peter Medhurst, a familiar face to audiences of music societies, regional theatres and British festivals, is bound to inspire with his delivery of 'Music Inspired by Paintings and Paintings Inspired by Music'.

And not to forget social exercising which all our groups are very good at. However, the Wine Groups do appear to have this down to a fine art!

Have you been meaning to do something more adventurous in the New Year? Our revised Annual Programme is now up on our website with an at-a-glance description of all our groups – have a look and get in touch! Contact: membership@odihamu3a.org.uk
Our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/homed>



National Garden Scheme

As unlikely as it seems we are commencing another year of Open Gardens. 2022 saw the NGS donating another amazing amount to our charities. In early December the Trustees announced that, nationally, again we have topped the £3 million mark. A total of £3.11 million will be donated to our beneficiaries – all thanks to our many volunteers and garden visitors. The lion's share goes to our main nursing, care and health charities:

Marie Curie £450,000

Macmillan Cancer Support £450,000

Hospice UK £450,000

The Queens Nursing Institute £450,000

Carers Trust £350,000

Parkinson's UK £350,000

The balance goes to another ten charities. You can find details of all our beneficiaries on our website ngs.org.uk

As normal to kick off our Open Garden Season we start with our Snowdrop Gardens. Leading with:-

Chawton House, Chawton Alton GU34 1SJ

Opening: Sunday 5th February 10.00am to 3.30pm, Admission: £5.00 children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. Snowdrops and spring

flowering bulbs are scattered through this 15-acre listed English landscape garden.

Little Court Crawley Winchester SO21 2PU

Opening: Sunday & Monday 12th & 13th 19th & 20th February: 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Admission: £5.00 children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. This walled, sheltered naturalistic garden is worth visiting in all seasons, and is specially exciting in spring. Open by arrangement: From February to August: Contact Mrs A R Elkington 01962 776365 elksic@btinternet.com

Bramdean House Bramdean Alresford SO24 0JU

Opening: Sunday 19th February 1.00pm to 3.30pm, Admission: £6.00 children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas. Carpets of spring bulbs, especially snowdrops and a large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs giving year-round interest.

The Downhouse (by arrangement only): Itchen Abbas SO21 1AX

Opening: February to March for Groups of 10 plus. Admission: £10.00 Children free - Includes home-made tea. Contact: Jackie & Mark Porter 07814 958810 markstephenporter@gmail.com. A 2-acre garden laid out in 'rooms' overlooking the Itchen Valley, adjoining the Pilgrims' Way. In winter come and see the snowdrops, aconites and crocus, plus borders of dogwoods, willow stems and white birches.

Happy visiting, and best wishes

Pat Beagley (Publicity), National Garden Scheme, Hampshire

Make a Fresh Start in 2023?

If you, or anyone you know, wants to tackle a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction, shopping addiction, binge drinking, pornography, soft drugs, etc. – try Fresh Start. It's a free 8-week course, based on principles from the Bible and the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by 1-to-1 coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their dependencies.

A new Fresh Start course begins on Tuesday 7th February, 10.30–12.00am at Alton Maltings, led by experienced Fresh Start coaches Mark and Ruth. It's free and completely confidential. To enquire or sign up, call Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or email freshstart@harvestchurch.uk.

BDDF All About Financial Health

Do you have worries or concerns related to finances – either whether you’re accessing the correct benefits, queries about grant entitlements, knowing where to access free training courses, debt advice, or maybe you’re troubled over the current cost of living crisis?

BDDF invites you to attend an event we are hosting in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau on Thursday 23rd February. The theme is ‘All About Financial Health’. This will be a forum for local disabled people to come together to share their experiences on any financial issues arising whilst living and/or working in Basingstoke.

We hope by bringing together our members and local organisations you will get support with your individual issues. BDDF will be taking note of the most common issues and looking to escalate and raise awareness of barriers; we will share what we learn in a future newsletter to help our members who cannot attend.

Free tea, coffee & biscuits will be available.

As always we will need some volunteers to ensure the smooth running of this event – please do contact us if you able to assist on this occasion, we are always extremely grateful for all the hard work our volunteers do.

Date: Thursday 23rd February

Time: Please arrive from 10.00am for registration; the event begins at 10.30am. Event ends: 12.30pm

Venue: Oakridge Hall for All, Forsythia Walk, Oakridge Village, Basingstoke, RG21 5RG. Free parking available.

Please pre-book for this event so that we can monitor numbers attending, use the blue button below or email office@bddf.org.uk or telephone 01256 423869 (leaving your name and number of free tickets you require on the voicemail if call not answered).

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, www.walkinginengland.co.uk, john@walkinginengland.co.uk

A waxwing winter?

Waxwings are perhaps one of the most beautiful birds imaginable. Their buff colouration with flashes of yellow and red on the wings, elegant ‘eyeliner’ and silky large crest really make them stand out from the crowd. Part of a family of three species, the Bohemian waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) is the species native to northern Europe. The bird’s English name refers to how they travel in large nomadic groups (bohemian) and the red tips to their secondary wing feathers that look like seal wax droplets (waxwing).

But it’s not all about the looks. Their trilling ‘sirrrrr’ call sounds like a small ringing bell – perhaps akin to Santa’s sleigh dashing overhead – as flocks of up to 100 birds move from tree to tree.

Bohemian waxwings breed within the northern parts of Europe’s coniferous belt, often in remote, damp, mossy mature forests nesting high in pines. In winter, they escape the numbing temperatures of north-eastern Europe and western Russia and head west in search of more temperate conditions, feeding on fruit-rich trees including apple, rowan and hawthorn. During winter, a relatively small number of these starling-sized birds travel to UK shores; first seen on the east coast before spreading west and south from there.

Waxwings are referred to as irruptive, which means on occasion large numbers of the birds migrate beyond their typical range. Some years, hundreds of thousands of waxwings will land in the UK, often labelled as a ‘waxwing winter’. But why does this happen?

Waxwings are pushed away from their breeding grounds in search of food, and it's the yield of fruit trees that determines how far afield waxwings must travel. Most fruit trees of similar species bear fruit at the same time. This can result in a bounty of fruits in some years, and practically none in others. During years of bad yields, large numbers of waxwings will migrate large distances. Recent reports of poor berry crops in Finland and Sweden suggest an irruption is possible this year!

In Hampshire, waxwings are not seen every year – they are a rare visitor. However, when they do turn up, it might not be where you'd expect. The ASDA supermarket in Totton and Whiteley shopping centre in Fareham are common hotspots. These commercial areas often feature car parks planted with aesthetically pleasing, berry-laden fruit trees – and these always prove popular with waxwings. The last irruption in Hampshire was in the winter of 2010 when over 2,000 birds arrived. So, keep your eyes and ears open for these punk rock-looking birds during this winter and you might just get lucky enough to spot one!

Lewis Hooper, ecologist at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



The aptly named Bohemian waxwing can often be found feeding on berry-laden fruit trees in supermarket car parks (c) JonHawkins_SurreyHillsPhotography

SMALL ADS FEBRUARY

Game Meat. Breast only packs: Pheasant 5 per pack £6, Partridge 10 per pack £6, Pigeon 10 per pack £5. Oven-ready whole Partridge 2 birds for £4. Oven-ready whole Pheasant 2 birds £6. Venison to order (price on application). Contact Robert 07557 054844.

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £12 per hour. Tables and chairs are also available to hire. There are kitchen facilities, including china, cutlery & glasses, central heating, sound system, stage and disabled access. If you don't know the hall, we would be happy to show you round. To book, or if you have any questions, please contact Jane Hanbury 01256 862681 email: ajhanbury@btinternet.com.

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 – February 2023

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

FEBRUARY DATES

13th Feb	Mon	Coffee and cake drop-in, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
16th Feb	Thur	Tea@3, Hazeley, Weston Close, Upton Grey	3.00pm
23rd Feb	Thurs	N Warnborough garden club meeting, NWVH	2.30pm
27th Feb	Mon	Coffee and cake drop-in, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
27th Feb	Mon	Herriard Parish Council meeting, Village Hub	7.30pm
28th Feb	Tues	Lent lunch, Barn Cottage, Weston Road, Upton Grey	12.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

7th Mar	Tues	Lent lunch, Old Post House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
11th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	
24th Mar	Fri	Lent lunch, Pond House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
1st April	Sat	B Minor Mass, Anvil, Basingstoke	7.30pm
11th Apr	Tues	Talk by Rosy Hardy, Village Hall, Upton Grey	
15th Apr	Sat	Upton Grey Spring Horticultural Show	
10th June	Sat	Upton Grey fête, Sherborne Cottage, Upton Grey	2.00pm
12th Aug	Sat	Upton Grey Summer Horticultural Show	

REGULAR EVENTS

Each Mon/Thur	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, RBL, Herriard	10–12noon

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

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

Please send news and contributions to uptongrey_magazine@gmail.com. Your editors for February were Tess Chevallier and Nick Willmer (Church). Your editor for March is Ian Lansley-Neale.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP

Tel: 01256 862326 (Shop)

shopuptongrey@btconnect.com

"Serving the Community"

"Supported by all who care for Village Life"



THE VILLAGE SHOP

RANGE OF GOODS

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Shop Opening Hours

8am – 6pm Mon to Sat

8 am – 1pm Sun

Fresh Fruit & Veg market,

Fridays 8am-1pm