PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St Lawrence, Weston Patrick

September 2025

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – September 2025
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team



If you have ever spent any time in France or with French people you will know that traditionally the French have placed great value on good manners – this particularly includes how to say 'Hello' or 'Goodbye'. When you leave a restaurant or a shop, other diners or other shoppers will often say 'Au Revoir Monsieur/Madame' when you make your way to the door.

In the UK, we are much less attentive to these moments of transition. Some people are really good at saying 'Goodbye'. They know exactly what to say to or to do and the moment passes well and comfortably. But many can feel awkward and can struggle to know what to say. Some simply want to leave quietly. Others want to run away as quickly as possible.

Saying 'Goodbye' can be a celebration of good things that have happened. It can mark the end of a lovely evening with friends and family. It can mark the end of a holiday or a school year or the end of a job. It can mark moving house to another part of the country or even the death of a loved one. It can also mark the beginning of new opportunities or possibilities.

In many ways saying 'Goodbye' marks some sort of bereavement – an ending or the closing of a chapter. The more important the chapter in our lives, the more significant the bereavement. Bereavement can involve a sense of loss, failure, confusion, anger or resignation before a new way of being starts to emerge.

St Paul, the writer of so many of the New Testament letters, excelled at saying 'Goodbye'. Often the whole last chapter of his letters was dedicated to greetings, to saying thank you, to looking ahead to the future, and prayer for the glory of God and the extension of his kingdom.

Saying 'Goodbye' well can be really important. Not least because it enables us to make space for the future. Tip 7 of the book 'Seven Helpful Tips for Saying Goodbye' it says that '… saying goodbye well helps us to fully say hello to the New Thing.'

The Christian faith is very much an Easter faith – a faith of new beginnings – a faith of letting go of the old and taking hold of the new. This Autumn Gary and I will be saying goodbye to the North Hampshire

Downs Benefice. We will undoubtedly feel the sadness of the letting go and at times may struggle to know what to say. But at the same time we will be praying for new possibilities and opportunities for those who fill the space we leave behind in North Hampshire - for resurrection and for new life, to the glory of God and the extension of his kingdom.

Yours in the service of Christ Jesus

The Revd Gillian Wilton
Vicar of Long Sutton & South Warnborough

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral: Dawn Kemp at Basingstoke Crematorium on 22nd July
Baptism: George and Hugo Jervoise at St Mary's Herriard on 27th July
Wedding: Elliott Warman-Kebell and Sophie Whitehead at St Mary's Herriard on 9th August
Baptism: Mia Ellery at St Lawrence Weston Patrick on 10th August

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th September
9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
5.00pm Herriard – Summer Evensong

Thursday 11th September
10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 14th September
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion
10.30am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
6.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 18th September
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 21st September
9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
10.00am Herriard – Morning Worship
10.30am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion (Battle of Britain Sunday)

Sunday 28th September
9.00am Tunworth – Family Service
10.00am Herriard – Family Service
10.30am Upton Grey – Informal Service
5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

CHURCH NEWS

Ride & Stride, Saturday 13th September

hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

All four of the local churches will be open on 13th September for this annual national event. The day is an exceptional opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise travelling between the churches and have fun with friends and family. Participants can be sure that sponsorship money raised will be used for repairs and restoration to the churches and chapels of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Participants' sponsored journeys on Saturday 13th September 2025 can be to as many churches as they like (on foot, bicycle, scooter, horseback, canoe, bus or classic car!), exploring and enjoying the countryside from Sandown to Silchester, Fordingbridge to Farnborough. There are over 400 churches due to be open. Many will have church representatives present, many will be offering refreshments, some will have toilets open, and all will be delighted that participants are visiting.

In 2024, Ride & Stride in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight raised over £55,000 of sponsorship money (including Gift Aid). The sponsorship money helps to fund repairs to the historic fabric and features of churches as well as urgent repairs such as retaining walls in graveyards, leaky roofs and the installation of facilities to make Hampshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses of all denominations fit to serve local communities for future generations. Over the years a number of the churches in this area have benefited from generous grants.

To be involved as a 'Participant', please see: *hihct.org.uk/taking-part/*

Coffee & Cake

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

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

Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up. All ages welcome!

Parenting Teens

STARTS 16TH SEPTEMBER - 7.30 - 9.00PM
All Saints Church, Odiham

Are you navigating the ups and downs of raising a teen?

Whether you're cruising or just hanging on, this 6-week course, starting 16th September, is here to support you.

Join us in a relaxed and friendly setting, with food and drinks provided, as we share wisdom, practical experiences, and real conversations.



Let's help each other be the parents our teenagers need in today's world—while staying sane!

Explore ways to connect, learn from our teens, and grow in confidence through the joys and challenges of parenting.

Come along, be part of the conversation, and let's do this together!

Sign up here

Contact Simon or Cat for more information

simon@moretolife.church
cat@moretolife.church



Join us for St Mary's monthly Messy Church in Upton Grey Village Hall for craft, food, games and music

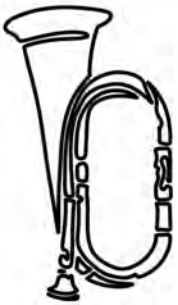
From 3.30-5.00pm. School years R - 6.

Weds 17th September
Weds 15th October
Weds 19th November
Weds 17th December

www.moretolife.church

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6 Sep

7pm Saturday

ODIHAM YOUTH FOR UKRAINE





£20 per person (£5 for children in full time education)

Join us for an evening of music from all genres, performed by local young people from England and Ukraine and to raise money for a 4x4 filled with humanitarian aid for Ukraine, through Pickups For Peace.

Tickets available at Katharine Jane Gift shop on Odiham High Street or online through this QR code.

All Saints Church, The Bury, Odiham.

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NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

This feels rather strange writing the farming article sitting in the garden on a beautiful, sunny mid-August evening when normally I'd be hauling grain, baling and stacking straw in between the showers. Instead, I'm one finger typing on my iPad with a glass of rose and reflecting on harvest 2025 which is done and dusted. (Certainly, plenty of dust this year).

Our harvest is very small when compared with our all arable neighbours but even so, finishing combining our wheat on the 27th July is our earliest ever. With all straw baled and hauled back to the farm and stacked in the barns we can enjoy the rest of summer at a slightly gentler pace than usual.

To make the most of our fertile soils, rich in organic matter from plenty of cow muck, we attempt to grow milling wheat which will give us the best return/acre of almost any arable crop…providing the quality makes the grade. Fortunately, the majority of ours this year has been grade 1 which will go for breadmaking. Given the stress the crop has been under because of the dry weather this year and the wet autumn last year when we planted it, I'm really chuffed with the 3.6 tonnes/acre (approximately 9 tonnes/hectare if you are younger than me) it has yielded. We were fearing much worse but as it turned out, not too much below the 4 tonnes/acre we'd hoped for.

Good dry straw is as important to us as the grain we sell. It's imperative to feed and bed our cows and young stock with the best straw without any mould or dirt in the bales. Being able to bale the straw right behind the combine because it has been so dry has been a real bonus. No extra cost having to turn rows to dry them out, no chasing around the fields with the baler trying to find straw dry enough to bale.

One small field we were baling in, behind Will's combine next to some houses in Herriard, was combined, baled and the straw bales stacked all within about an hour. Linton, who lives in one of the houses adjacent, commented next day that when he was a lad working on farms that that would have taken a good half day of blood, sweat and tears. We'd completed it in the blink of an eye whilst listening to podcasts! Harvest is not always this pleasant, so this has been one to relish. All in all, harvest 2025 has been very enjoyable.

The cows have carried on milking surprisingly well given the heatwaves they have had to cope with. Anything over 20 degrees and they

really don't like it. Our milking cows in the barns have been very thankful for the shade and we are exploring the possibility of installing fans above their beds to keep them cool in future hot spells. Their daily milk yield has stayed remarkably consistent although quality has dropped reflected in lower protein and fat content and any knock to their fertility will only become evident a few months down the line.

The milk price has been stable this year and it remains to be seen how supply dictates forward prices when some areas of the country have seen severe drought but other traditional 'dairy areas' like the West Country and Cumbria have seen reasonable rainfall meaning forage stocks are sufficient.

We hosted a group of Herefordshire dairy farmers at the farm last week and one of them was 'importing' a thousand tonnes of maize silage from Devon because he is already short of feed. That will be extremely costly. We've made two cuts of grass silage and are hoping to make a third next week which will mean we just about have sufficient to see us through the winter. It remains to be seen how much maize silage will be in the clamps after we harvest this September as the crop has suffered with the drought and maize makes up two thirds of the forage in our cow's diets. I've walked all the fields and guessing (whilst definitely looking on the positive side) that we will just about have enough to see us through to October 2026.

On an optimistic note, I think I've seen more swallows around the farm this summer than ever before. We try to leave as many of our old barn doors and windows open allowing them to nest and breed. They just don't seem to like modern structures and with many old buildings being converted for alternative uses, their nesting sites have been dwindling. So, it's lovely to see so many dive bombing the yards for insects and the young making their first tentative flights from the nests. It's not quite so lovely cleaning up all the bird poo in the sheds after they've flown though! It won't be long before they're lining the electric wires preparing for their long journey to the southern hemisphere as we head into Autumn.

Joe Ives

UPTON GREY NEWS
www.uptongreychurch.co.uk
www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk
facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club Winners
Congratulations to our August winners:
1st Prize (£100) Zoe Clark
2nd Prize (£40) Vorhees

It's never too late to join - please ask Sam Clough or Wendy Stanway for details at UGVH100@gmail.com

St Mary's Church: Change of time for the Sunday morning services
We're very fortunate that we have a service every Sunday at St Mary's in Upton Grey. For a while we've been meeting at 10.00am for each of our morning services.

From September onwards, in order to help ensure longer term service provision, we will be moving the Sunday service start time to **10.30am**. The service schedule will continue with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, Morning Worship on the 2nd Sunday, and a more informal service on the 4th Sunday.

We will still have coffee after the services on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays and on the 2nd Sunday of the month we will serve coffee and croissants before the service from 10.00am.

Messy Church
A reminder that Messy Church takes place most months in Upton Grey Village Hall - craft, food, games and music. For school years R to 6. From 3.30 to 5.00pm on **Wednesdays 17th September, 15th October, 19th November, 17th December**.

Battle of Britain Sunday at St Mary's Upton Grey: 21st September
2025 marks the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and, co-incidentally, the Centenary of RAF Odiham, our local RAF Station.

Battle of Britain Sunday falls on 21st September this year, and, to mark the occasion, the 10.30am CW Holy Communion service at St Mary's that day will be a special service to commemorate all those who fought for the freedom of this country during The Battle, and especially those who have served in the RAF.

All are welcome, and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Ride & Stride: Saturday 13th September
The church will be open on Saturday 13th September for *Ride & Stride*.

4th-Sunday Service at St Mary's Upton Grey: informal, accessible, and inclusive - plus chocolate digestives!
My name is Paul Birkbeck, and I have the privilege of usually leading the 4th-Sunday Service at St Mary's, Upton Grey. In the past, it has been called 'Morning Worship', but I am worried that the title may be putting people off, especially those who are not regular church-goers. So, in future, I am changing it to an 'Informal Service'. I am not woke - I am not even PC - but I can understand modern ideas.

What do I mean by 'informal'? Well, there is no ritual, pomp or ceremony, and it is not like a formal communion service. I do not wear a white robe, but I do wear a suit (when I was being trained, I was told you should dress for the part of service leader). The service is structured, so that you know what is coming and when to stand up and sit down, etc, but friendly and not formal. The service is short - not longer than 45 minutes.

As regards accessible, we do not use archaic language, and we keep things simple. My sermon is very short (about 5 minutes) and I do not indulge in high-falutin theological discussions - I am not qualified to do so. I just try to explain what a Bible reading means to us in the here and now in Upton Grey. I do preach from the pulpit as a gimlet-eyed little old lady told me that she wanted me up there so that she could look at me - and she wasn't the sort of little old lady you would argue with.

To make it inclusive, we involve people from the congregation participating, such as sharing their faith with us, and reading the lesson. Families and children are welcome, and the service is very suitable for people who are not familiar with church services, or who do not regularly come to church.

All are welcome, and we always finish with coffee and choccie digestives. What's not to like?

So come along and see why St Mary's has been a beacon of light in the village for more than a thousand years.

Two Trophies Currently Lost but Hopefully Soon to Be Found

In 2023, the Upton Grey Horticultural Society (our last Spring and Summer Shows prior to closing down) presented two trophies to two different winners and we have been unsuccessful in getting these trophies returned.

As the show entries were open to residents and grandchildren of residents in all of the local parishes, we hope we may be successful in locating them in this expanded search.

The Dog Show Best in Show winner was Sabi Lawrence with two dogs Creamy & Teddy. The Children's Class winner was Frankie-Rae Lipscombe.

If any reader can shed any light on the whereabouts of either of these trophies, we would be extremely grateful. Very many thanks.

June Hunt, Upton Grey Horticultural Society, 07747 303660

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday
8th & 22nd September
11.00-1.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

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Harvest Supper and Celebration

Join us for the annual **Upton Grey Harvest Supper** on Saturday 11th October, 7.00pm in the Village Hall - *Tickets £12.50 each from the Village Shop*

And for our **Harvest Celebration Service** at St Mary's Church on Sunday 12th October, **10.30am**. Please bring harvest gifts for our local Odiham food bank.

The service will be followed by a **Harvest bring and share lunch** at mid-day in the village hall. All welcome.

For more info email: **simon@moretolife.church**



HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS
www.herriard-pc.gov.uk
www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk
Herriard Village Group on http://www.Facebook.com



HERRIARD & WINSLADE

2025 HARVEST CELEBRATIONS



Our **Harvest Festival Service** this year is on Sunday 12th October at 10.00 am at St Mary's Herriard. Everyone is very welcome to join us and the Church always looks stunning with all the seasonal produce and flowers.

The Harvest Supper and Auction follows on Wednesday 15th October at 7 for 7.30pm. You do need to book your places beforehand. Please contact Gemma on 01256 381354 or Fiona on 07867 973266 (or email: fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk) before Friday 10th October. Auction prizes and offers of help with cooking are very welcome!

Ride & Stride: Saturday 13th September
The church will be open 9.30 to 12.00, with refreshments available.

North Hampshire Downs Churches – Herriard Youth Hub
The Youth Hub usually meets from 6.30 to 8.00pm on the 1st & 3rd Sundays, at The Herriard Hub.
For more information, contact Helen Chatfield, youth@moretolife.church

Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group
The Lunch Group usually meets once a month on a Friday from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Herriard Hub, to look at a Bible passage with a focus on practical Christianity. **The September date is the 26th.**

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Herriard Green: A Polite Notice

Uncontrolled dogs

Herriard Parish Council have had more than one complaint this year about off-lead dogs approaching dogs that are on a lead, causing both the animal and its owner fear and stress.

Incidents have involved the approaching dog(s) attacking the dog on lead and owners having to get in between to prevent injury or needing to pick up their dog to protect it. In the reports we have had, the owners were left with a degree of trauma. Can we ask that dog owners show respect to those who keep their dogs on a lead by calling their dogs back and restraining them, particularly if they know that an aggressive situation is likely. Some dogs are fearful of other dogs approaching them especially if there's more than one which looks like a pack.

For dogs kept on lead, a hi-vis jacket for nervous dogs can be useful to show others from a distance that it doesn't like being approached.

If your dog is known to be reactive and can be aggressive without control, call it back or keep it on a lead and maybe use a muzzle. It's not worth risking injury to another animal or its owner.

Dog fouling

We also have the age-old problem of dog fouling, despite signs and dog waste bins all around the park people still don't pick up after their dog. It is highly anti-social to leave your dog's excrement in a public place. PLEASE if you are one of the people who leave it behind, think again and keep this lovely environment clean and safe for others. It doesn't rot down quickly, is unpleasant for others to see and a health hazard.

Vandalism

The Parish Council have had to repair the benches around the Green several times after vandalism. It has got to the stage that we now have to purchase costly recycled composite benches to replace the wooden ones.

If you see uncontrolled dogs, people not picking up dog mess or vandalism at Herriard Green, please take photos and report it to Herriard Parish Council clerk@herriard-pc.gov.uk and/or the police.

Herriard Village Summer Drinks - 25th July 2025

Thank you so much to Philip and Lucy for hosting our Summer Drinks at Hydes Farmhouse, to the PCC for sponsoring the wine and soft drinks plus bringing all the delicious food, and to everyone who came along to help make it a thoroughly lovely evening. A big thank you also to Hydes Cyder for treating everyone – we must have drunk the barrels dry!

WEEKLY COFFEE MORNING IN HERRIARD

Weekly every Thursday at the Village Hub

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Do come and join us – everyone welcome !

Folk Music Night Cancelled!

The Herriard Village Hub wishes to inform you that the Folk Music Nights scheduled for September has been cancelled. We are excited to announce that these events will resume at the end of October with a brand-new line-up. For further details, please visit the Calendar and Event Info pages on our website at www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk as the date approaches.

In the meantime, we warmly invite you to join us every Thursday morning for Coffee, Tea and Cake at the Hub. Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for future events, and we would be delighted to host your bookings for any upcoming gatherings. Have a wonderful summer!

The Herriard Hub Committee

Herriard Prayer Group

If you or anyone you know would like to be included in our prayers, please contact suzanne@moretolife.church or fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk.

Foodbank at St Mary's Herriard with Winslade

We have a box in the Church for any food donations you would like to contribute. If you can't make our Sunday service, you can always leave donations on a Saturday/Sunday at the vestry door at the back of the Church. If you would like to sign up for the Camrose Centre's newsletter to keep up to date with the work the centre is doing and get an updated list of the many items they so desperately need, please visit www.thecamrosecentre.org. They also have an Amazon Wishlist – the list is regularly updated:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/printview/FY45O4AC8JKM?target=_blank&ref_=lv_pv&filter=persistent_all&sort=default

The Camrose Centre is a drop-in centre for anyone who is sleeping rough, homeless or vulnerably housed within Basingstoke and Deane.

TUNWORTH NEWS

Tunworth Home Group
The Tunworth Home Group usually meets once or twice a month on Wednesdays from 7.00 to 8.00pm at The Orangery, Hackwood Park, to study Bible passages and Biblical themes. **The September dates are the 10th and 24th.** If you would like to know more about the group, or to join, please contact Gabrielle.

Prayer Hour: Thursday 4th September 9.30am
The monthly Prayer Hour, which used to be held on the first Saturday of the month, is now on the first Thursday. We meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish.

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 4th September 10.30am
On the first Thursday of the month, we meet for Coffee and Cake in the church porch. Please do join us if you are at home and fancy taking a break from online work.

Herriard & Tunworth Lunch Group: Friday 26th September 12.00-1.30
The Lunch Group usually meets once a month on a Friday from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Herriard Hub, to look at a Bible passage with a focus on practical Christianity.

Save the Dates!

- On **Saturday 13th September** the church will be open from 9.00 to 1.00 for *Ride & Stride* - with refreshments available.
- On **Friday 3rd October** the Parish AGM will be held at the Shoot Lodge at 6.00pm, followed by the Harvest Supper which will be £10 a head - RSVP tunworthparishclerk@gmail.com.
- The Harvest service will be at Evensong on **Sunday 12th October** (6.00pm).

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Our next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 14th September at 10.00am and then Evensong on Sunday 28th September at 5.00pm along with our brilliant choir.

Reverend Linda Scard will be praying for our community in our church at 9.00am on the first Friday of every month and will be there on Friday 5th September. All are very welcome to join her but if you are unable to attend personally and would like her to pray for someone specific please contact her: Revd. Linda Scard on 01256 703294 / 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

Our Village Coffee morning will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, on 24th September at 11.00 am in the Village Hall. Adults and children, all welcome to pop in.

Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett's Women's Home Group welcomes any women who would like to come along. This is an informal fellowship group exploring faith and how faith relates to our daily lives. For more details or if you would like to join us, please contact Revd. Linda Scard on:01256 703294/07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

The Annual **Ride and Stride** for Churches will take place on **Saturday 13th September** 2025 and St. Lawrence will be open for any visitors passing by plus the use of the loo in the Village Hall.

Our **Harvest Festival** for Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett will take place on **Sunday 12th October** with a service at 11.00am followed by Harvest Lunch. Details to follow but if anybody would like to reserve a ticket for Harvest Lunch please contact: lesleydon6@gmail.com



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Free Tour of The Vyne Regency Exhibition Organised by the North Hants National Trust Centre (NHNTC)

The NHNTC is the local branch of the National Trust. We provide monthly talks through the winter, monthly visits to interesting venues through the summer and additional meetings for cream teas and a Christmas lunch – all for just £8 per person per year.

We are holding a recruiting event at The Vyne at 3.00pm on Monday 13th October. This will be a taster session in the form of free tour of their Regency Exhibition with the added treat of tea and cakes.

We have a limited number of places so if you are interested, please sign up by visiting our website – https://NHNTC.com and complete the form headed: **Monday 13th October 2025 at 3:00pm.**

Hugh Bethell



The Hampshire Medical Fund Art Show, Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th September 2025, Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford SO24 9TB
Please come and join us for the Hampshire Medical Fund Art Show 2025. The exhibition will run from the 22nd-25th September and, with support from Artiologie Art, showcases a carefully curated collection of art from a wide variety of artists, all of whom are generously supporting the charity.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club
Our meeting after the summer break will be on **Thursday 25th September** in the North Warnborough Village Hall. Doors open at 2.10pm for the talk at 2.30pm.

Our speaker on this occasion will be Everett Leeds talking to us about Clematis. Everett has been a President of the Clematis Society and has written several books on the subject.

We will have our usual Plant Stall and will be selling tickets for our Members Lunch in November.

Visitors are always welcome to our talks for a small charge of £3.00. For further information visit our website - https://www.nwdgc.org.uk

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union
Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, is remembered each year on August 9th. In this diocese, members celebrated with a special service in St Mary's Church in Old Alresford next door to Old Alresford Place where the first Mothers' Union meeting took place.

Mary Sumner's initial idea was just to support the mothers within her own parish, but this small beginning grew into a vision of a fellowship of women, irrespective of class, supporting each other and strengthening their communities. This was quite a radical idea in Victorian England!

This community emphasis can still be seen in today as members tackle some of the most challenging issues that they and their neighbours face. As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards ending poverty, ending inequality ending injustice.

Our members work at grassroots level in 84 countries around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

In earlier editions of this magazine, you will have read about the activities of the Sunflower Café which supports those living with dementia and their carers, and members also help with the Child Contact Centre in Popley, Basingstoke to allow estranged parents to meet with their children in a safe and welcoming environment.

Our local branch will meet on **Monday 1st September at 7.30pm** at the Chaplaincy Centre at RAF Odiham. If you would like more information about the activities of the Mothers' Union, please contact me. Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or email suemurphymubranch@outlook.com



An Invitation to Join Hampshire Harmony

Do you like to sing? Maybe you sing in the car, in the shower or just around the house. Maybe you have previously sung with a group and want to get back to singing after a few years. That's how a lot of us came to join Hampshire Harmony, and now our singing is going from strength to strength.

Come and join us at our free **Open Evening on Monday 29th September** at Carnival Hall. We are a vibrant, energetic and forward-looking **upper voice choir**, singing a range of diverse songs from folk and musical theatre to sacred and pop in 3-part harmony. We are gaining a popular reputation in Basingstoke.

Our fantastic MD, Clare Oliver, has taught singing for over 30 years and she brings out the best in the choir, leading us in a sympathetic manner, to attain her high standards.

Highlights of our 2024-2025 season were, singing at the Tower of London, winning two cups at the Fareham Festival and achieving an outstanding award. We sang twice at the Anvil this year, plus gave concerts at the United Reformed Church in Basingstoke and at The Costello School.

In the coming year, we shall build on our reputation, and we have been invited to be part of the Over-55s Forum Variety Show on 27th September at Queen Mary's College. We shall be giving our own early Christmas concert on November 29th, and the Mayor has asked us to sing at his Carol Concert on December 6th. Next year should bring another Festival appearance and summer concert as well as other events.

Although we have charitable status ourselves, we support other charities too. This year, we are working to raise funds for local cancer charity The Pink Place. Donations can be made via our web page.

September 29th is the best time to join us, when we start rehearsals for Christmas. Our next recruitment date will be January 5th, but you can contact us at any time. Please register on the website before you come along, so that we can have music ready for you. Hampshire Harmony. We look forward to welcoming any new, prospective members.



u3a learn, laugh, live Odiham District

September – even more happening at your local u3a!



Last year was definitely one to remember! We increased the number of groups to nearly 75, a 20% increase as our membership rose to over 840. This meant we could keep up with demand without restricting existing group sizes for our members. We introduced two new areas for us, Modern Languages and Group Events. In addition to our traditional trips to see Matthew Bourne's 'The Red Shoes' and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Christmas Cracker our new Events Team is arranging regular treats including quizzes, theatre evenings and even a murder mystery cruise.

Looking forward we are hoping to develop another new area, Health and Wellbeing as well as welcoming even more new groups such as Chess and Flower Arranging. Some groups are also splitting to increase capacity such as table tennis, which is now starting a third group.

Our annual **Members' Open Day, in August** was incredibly popular. Hundreds of our members, plus many of their friends, made their way to Robert May's School where more than 60 groups exhibited, explaining what makes their group special. As usual the stars of the show were the refreshments – the delicious cakes, the welcoming atmosphere and the easy chatter of members coming together for a catch-up!

And so, to September

As all our activity groups rev up for action, our first monthly meeting, September 3rd, is a talk by author **Philip Caine – Barrow to Baghdad & Back Again.** Philip explains how he came to write his factitious adventure / thriller novels (currently 7) all inspired by his ten years in the Middle East. Our guest talks take place on the first Wednesday of the month at the Cross Barn in Odiham.

To see the full programme of our Monthly Meetings and timetabled activities, please visit our website. www.odihamu3a.org.uk

The Dummer Fair 2025 Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th October

The Dummer Fair returns for 2025, one of the most successful charity fairs in Hampshire!

Taking place at Dummer Cricket Centre in Basingstoke on Wednesday 8th October and Thursday 9th October, the fair features over 90 stalls and a delicious café with lunchtime favourites. There is also plenty of parking on-site. As one of Hampshire's most successful charity fairs, every purchase makes a direct contribution to charity, helping to change the lives of disabled children and young people.

Our stallholders have a huge variety of items to discover, including natural skincare, high-end clothing, stylish homewares and delicious drinks and artisanal foods. With such an array of items, we are sure that you'll find something to kick off your Christmas shopping or treat a loved one (or yourself)!

Join us on Wednesday 8th October for a special preview night and a complimentary drink on entry.

Location: The Dummer Cricket Centre, Dummer, Basingstoke, RG25 2AR
Date and time: Wednesday 8th October 2025: 6.00-9.00pm
Thursday 9th October 2025: 9:30am-3:30pm
Pre-book tickets: www.dummerfair.org.uk

For more information, please contact The Treloar's Events Team: events@treloar.org.uk or see the website: www.dummerfair.org.uk

Foodbank

The Basingstoke Foodbank, together with Trussell, provides free emergency food and toiletries to local people in crisis within the Basingstoke and Deane area. Established in 2012, the foodbank operates through a voucher system with referrals from local agencies. It has multiple distribution points in Basingstoke and offers opportunities to donate food, volunteer, or contribute financially. For more details, visit https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/ Every egg counts.

Allen Gallery hosts Summer Exhibition celebrating ancient woodland





Images, L-R: Hangers Way 5 *watercolour on cradled birch panel by Mary Waltham.*
Ash Dieback 1 *etching on Somerset paper by Jacqueline Amies*

Ancient Woodland: A Celebration of Place is an installation by environmental artists Mary Waltham and Jackie Amies, inspired by the rich habitat of our rare and special ancient woodlands. It is on view at the Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church Street, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2BW **Saturday July 19th to Saturday September 20th**, 2025.

Inspired by and rooted in the ancient woodlands of our locality, the exhibition invites visitors to the Allen Gallery to be curious about these rare and special areas to which we are fortunate enough to have access.

According to the Woodland Trust "*Ancient woods are our richest and most complex terrestrial habitat in the UK and they are home to more threatened species than any other. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of fungi and invertebrates and specialist species of insects, birds and mammals.*" (Woodland Trust 2024)

These distinctive and often small tracts of woodland have been largely untouched by humans since before 1600 and cover just 2.5% of the UK. Ancient woods are a continuing record of centuries of interaction and interdependence between man and woodland, often containing remnants of archaeological features such as wood banks, pits and charcoal kilns. No surprise then that these woods are also home to rich and diverse myths and folklore.

In responding to these woodland habitats, the artists have used traditional media of paint, printmaking and photography, but with a twist. Paintings made with soil, and new ways to discover trees are among the

interpretations. A gentle woodland soundscape accompanies visitors while at the Gallery. Associated family activities and clay workshops will reveal some of the links between woodland resources and the gallery's permanent collection. There will also be a garden trail for visitors to enjoy.

About the artists: The artists who have created this work have visited and studied ancient woodland sites in the area, finding and sharing the riches that belong in Ancient Woodland ecosystems.

Mary's work reflects a powerful interest in the fragility of Ancient Woodland viewed through the eyes of both artist and scientist. She explores the unique character of ancient woodland that she visits regularly and communicates through a range of art disciplines including drawing, painting, and installation works. Mary often incorporates soil, bark, moss and wood directly into her work.

Jackie has responded mainly to the unique environment of Ashford Hanger, through walking, collecting, drawing, writing and photographing the biodiverse rich species that are found there. Then returning to her studio to reflect on the findings within this National Nature Reserve, work is created to encourage conversations and engage the viewer in a curious and re imagined artistic way, slowing down and observing to 'celebrate a sense of place' within this special and unique Ancient Woodland.

Workshops & Events: A programme of activities, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will accompany the exhibition, exploring some of the themes presented. There will be opportunities to learn more about some of the stories behind the Allen Gallery's permanent collections and some surprising connections with rural woodland sites and raw materials.

Visit the Allen Gallery website for events that will bring to life these stories through creative workshops, a poetry reading afternoon, a visiting handmade biodegradable photobook, and a 'meet the artists' session. For more information on the exhibition please visit www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/ancient-woodland-celebration-place

Hampshire Cultural Trust was established in 2014 to promote Hampshire as a great cultural county. We manage and support 24 arts and museums attractions across Hampshire, deliver county-wide outreach programmes that bring culture to local communities and care for 2.5 million objects relating to Hampshire's rich and internationally important heritage. We also deliver a diverse range of social impact initiatives targeted at those who are most vulnerable or disadvantaged and who would not usually have access to arts and culture. Our mission is to provide great arts, heritage, museums and creative programming, working

closely with local and national partners, placing communities, our collections and their stories at the heart of everything we do. To find out more, visit hampshireculture.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @HantsCulture and Facebook @HampshireCulturalTrust.

Cardiac Rehab Host a Night of Live Music in Alton

Local musicians from BandX and Blue-Eyed Soul will be jointly headlining a night of live music to raise money for local charity Cardiac Rehab at Alton Maltings on **Friday 26th September**.

Both bands will be performing a mix of popular covers and some original songs, and the evening promises to provide a great night out for anyone who enjoys live rock, soul and blues.

Cardiac Rehab are a local charity committed to providing specialist exercise programmes and health education to improve the health, fitness and well-being of people with, or at risk of developing heart disease. Money raised from the event will help the charity support more local people who could benefit from preventative exercise or rehabilitation.

Four Marks' Triple FFF brewery are providing their craft ale as part of a well-stocked bar also offering cider, wine, prosecco, and soft drinks. Advance tickets just £15 from https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/product-category/event-tickets/



SMALL ADS

Hayward Glass and Glazing: Work undertaken - broken windows, wood frame putty work, leaded glass, heritage glazing, Misted Double glazing, fitted mirrors, coloured/mirror splashbacks, glass for furniture/tabletops. References available. Contact Mark Hayward 07868703983. Find us on Facebook.

Cheam School: Co-Educational Day, Flexi and Weekly Boarding Prep School for ages 3–13. Open Morning Friday 10th October 2025, 9.45am to 12pm. Cheam School, Headley, Newbury, Berkshire, RG19 8LD 01635 267822 registrar@cheamschool.co.ukwww.cheamschool.co.uk

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £14 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 on 01256 862681
or email bookings@uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk
or visit our new website www.uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk.

The Herriard Village Hub, Herriard, available for hire: wedding receptions, functions, parties, meetings, and events. Fully licensed bar, full kitchen facilities, garden, tables, chairs, sound system, disabled access, central heating, pool table and darts. To reserve, please see booking form found at www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk or email bookings@herriardvillagehub.co.uk.

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2025

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

SEPTEMBER DATES

6th Sep	Sat	*Odiham Youth for Ukraine* concert, All Saints Odiham	7.00pm
13th Sep	Sat	Churches' *Ride & Stride*	
16th Sep	Tues	*Parenting Teens* course begins, All Saints Odiham	7.30-9.00pm
17th Sep	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
21st Sep	Sun	Picnic & Concert, Brick Kiln Cottage, Herriard	12.30-4.00pm

ADVANCE DATES

3rd Oct	Fri	Parish AGM & Harvest Supper, Shoot Lodge, Tunworth	6.00pm
8th Oct	Wed	Dummer Christmas Fair Preview, Dummer	6.00-9.00pm
9th Oct	Thur	Dummer Christmas Fair, Dummer	9.30am-3.30pm
11th Oct	Sat	Upton Grey Harvest Supper, UG Village Hall	7.00pm
12th Oct	Sun	Harvest Festival, Herriard Church	10.00am
12th Oct	Sun	Harvest Festival, Upton Grey Church	10.30am
12th Oct	Sun	Harvest Festival Service then Lunch, Weston Patrick	11.00am
12th Oct	Sun	Harvest Bring & Share lunch, UG Village Hall	12.00noon
12th Oct	Sun	Harvest Festival Evensong, Tunworth Church	6.00pm
15th Oct	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
15th Oct	Wed	Harvest Supper & Auction, Herriard Hub	7.00 for 7.30pm
25th Oct	Sat	Upton Grey Autumn Festival	6.00pm
19th Nov	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
17th Dec	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Each Mon/Thu	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	2.00pm
Each Sat	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	10.00am
Each Mon	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	9.30–10.15am
Each Thurs	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00–5.45pm
Each Thurs	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, Hub, Herriard	10.00am
Every 1st Thurs	Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.30am
Every 1st Thurs	Coffee & Cake, Tunworth church porch	10.30am
2nd & 4th Mon	Coffee Morning, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
2nd & 4th Tues	Upton Grey 'Get OWT', UG Churchyard	10.00am
Every 4th Wed	Coffee Morning, Weston Patrick Village Hall	11.00am

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the October issue is 15th September 2025.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editors for September were Sheila Stranks and Nick Willmer. The editors for October will be Sheila Stranks and Nick Willmer.

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