

The Villager

November 2015 Volume 44 No 10

The community newsletter for Mapledurwell, Up Nately, Newnham, Nately Scures & Greywell



GREYWELL'S 'LIVES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR' COMMEMORATION

Remembrance Weekend Timetable of Events at Greywell Village Hall, The Street, Greywell, Hampshire RG29 1BZ

Saturday 7th November

- 09.30 Village Hall opens – static display. Greywell's 'Lives of the First World War'
- 10.00 to 16.30 A series of interactive presentations by David Platt, WW1 Expert and Member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides. (Tea & Coffee biscuits will be available during morning and afternoon intervals)
- 10.00 to 11.00 Introduction to World War 1; Timeline; significant actions; elements of battle; psychology of war
- 11.30 to 12.30 Soldier's Kit and equipment; formations; tactics; Somme 1st July 1916; 29th Div intentions and failure
- 14.00 – 15.00 WW1 Introduction - Especially for children and younger people
Uniforms, equipment and weapons of WW1; Life and experiences for young soldiers during WW1
- 15.30 -16.30 Tunneling and mining under the enemy lines; Captain Arthur Michael Durrant MC, Royal Engineers; The Battle of Loos 1915, Lt Kipling, Irish Guards
- 19.30 – 21.30 Showing of the film "My Boy Jack", (cash bar open)
The WW1 story of Rudyard Kipling's search to discover the fate of his son Jack, posted as 'missing in action' at the Battle of Loos in 1915

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News updates from Basingstoke foodbank

FOOD BANK INITIATIVE

Many of us read and hear about food banks in our country, and never quite believe perhaps that there is a need in our area. There are in fact two food banks in the immediate vicinity, namely Hart Foodbank, based in the Life Church Centre, Hook, and Basingstoke Foodbank, based in the Trinity Methodist Church on Sarum Hill in Basingstoke.

Donations in the form of any dried (not perishable) food are required, including toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, loo paper etc.

The need in both the Hook and Basingstoke centres is enormous, and the PCC have decided that as part of our parish mission (pMaps), we

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Diary dates

November

- 4 Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council meeting, 8pm Village Hall
- 7/8 WWI Commemoration events, Greywell Village Hall
- 11 WWI Commemoration event, Greywell Village Hall
- 13 Up Nately Coffee Morning 10am
- 13 Odiham Society Talk on Basingstoke Canal, 7.45 Cross Barn
- 14 Newnham Litter Pick, meeting 10am Church Path
- 14 Greywell Village Quiz, 6.30 VH
- 14 Hook Choral Society Autumn Concert 7.30pm St John's Hook
- 15 Basingstoke Choral Society -Handel's Messiah 7pm Anvil
- 17 Greywell Tea Pot Cafe
- 24 Maple Tea & Cake gathering 3pm
- 28 Greywell coffee and mobile library
- 28 Autumn Fair, Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall
- 28 Robert May's School Christmas Fair 11:30am - 2:30pm

December

- 5 Children's Christmas party Maple & Up Nately Village Hall
- 5 Christmas Market, St Swithun's 11am-2pm
- 7 Whitewater School Christmas Fair 5-7pm at Rotherwick Village Hall
- 12 Cinderella, Rowan Lodge pantomime.

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imcs@hotmail.co.uk

Mapledurwell & Up Nately

Next Up Nately Coffee Morning

on Friday 13th November from 10-12 noon at The Lodge, Blaegrove Lane, our first outing in that house! Everyone is welcome. Contact Juliet for more information on 768800.



Maple Tea & Cake gathering

Patricia Stubbs, Ashlea, Tunworth Road, will host the next Tea Party on Tuesday, 24th November at 3pm. All welcome but please let Patricia know by calling her on 323324.



Congratulations to our youngest Postie Tom on becoming a Dad to a bouncing baby boy!

Change of Editor

After 14 years of sterling work editing the Villager, Sue is handing over to Stephanie Webb. Sue has done a great job over the years and has got us used to a high standard of newsletter. Thank you Sue!

Please would you send articles etc to Stephanie by the 20th of the month so the Villager can be sent to the printers and then distributed before the end of the month. Please email Stephanie at StephanieWebbVillager@gmail.com or call on 07780 860401.

Harvest Thanksgiving Notice

How rewarding it was to have such a wonderful response to our Harvest appeal for tinned and dried food - and apples aplenty - for the homeless and needy families in Basingstoke. Thank you to everyone who responded so very, very generously. The Camrose Drop-in Centre and May Place Hostel were most grateful.

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL

TO HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact Caretaker Jayne Norman on 474432 or check out the website at www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com



Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28th November 10am - 1pm

Admission Free

An indoor market supporting local businesses, selling handmade crafts and other Christmas gifts

Homemade refreshments available

Mapledurwell Village Hall, Greywell Rd
Just off the A30 between Hook and Basingstoke.
½ mile from Conkers Garden Centre.

Fun for all ages!

Come and have a go on the Human Fruit Machine, Lucky Dip and Treasure Island

Raising money to help maintain the village hall.

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



Good old fashioned party games and a visit from Father Christmas

Saturday 5th December from 2.30pm to 4pm in the Village Hall

The Elves would like to prepare a small gift for each child before Santa's visit so please contact Janine Fisher on 07947 735225 or janinefish@gmail.com by the 28th November 2015 to reserve your ticket.

Please note that entrance will be by ticket only.

As we are not insured or qualified to be left in charge of your child please make sure you are able to stay as well.



MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No new applications

Applications Pending

15/03238/FUL (14th September). Elmwood, Heather Lane, Up Nately. Change of use of land and stables from equestrian to residential garden and store.

15/02829/LBC (11th August) Addison's Farm House, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Repair and replacement of downpipes/guttering and installation of insulation to original part of roof.

Applications Granted

15/02980/HSE (14th October reg 19th August) Kingfisher Tunworth Road. Erection of two storey rear extension.

Applications Refused

15/02281/FUL (22nd October reg 2nd July) Land Adjacent To Blaegrove House, Blaegrove Lane, Up Nately. Erection of a dwelling house, access, landscaping & infrastructure.



POLICE UPDATE

Dear all

We have recently seen an increase in criminal damage offences where 4x4 vehicles have been driving across growing crops while those inside search for hares, deer or rabbits using spot lamps or now more frequently 'infra-red night sights'. Recently a Game Keeper in Preston Candover had to put down a fawn that had been mauled three days before when criminals drove around the crop fields and apparently around the animal. The animal had escaped but was slowly dying a painful death until the Keeper saw it and put it out of its misery.

While some may say that this only affects farmers and landowners, we have to bear in mind that it is a further crime occurring in your Parish, and while such criminals are driving across the fields they will also be looking out for outbuildings, garages etc. We have a proven link between poaching & hare coursing and shed & outbuildings being broken into - we are all victims including our wildlife.

As such, thanks to my Sergeant, I was allowed to change my duties from working day shifts to working until 4am in an attempt to catch those responsible. Below gives a brief overview of what can happen and who is about in our area in the late evening / early hours.

On Monday night (19th October) at about 11pm, I stopped two 4x4s with six people on board in Ellisfield, collectively from Basingstoke, Newbury and Hook.

On Tuesday night towards midnight, I stopped a further two 4x4s at Hackwood Lane, Cliddesden, with three people on board, all from Basingstoke.

Several of the nine people have come to Police attention for various things including two of them being linked with burglary information.

On Wednesday I happened to come across a 4x4 parked in a gateway off the A30 at Andwell, as I looked at this vehicle four men with two whippets came across the field with a large spot lamp. The men came from Finchamstead, Yateley and Farnborough and had climbed the locked gates; two of the four have criminal convictions. I reported all four including a 15-year-old for summons to court for night poaching offences and both dogs were seized and will remain with us until we take further appropriate action, including asking a court to forfeit them to new owners out of county.

On Friday a suspicious 4x4 was reported to me, possibly a Suzuki Jeep (no other details known), using a spot lamp across fields looking for deer, hares or rabbits at Farleigh Wallop. Disturbed by the Night Security Officer, the vehicle made off at speed towards Farleigh crossroads and disappeared out of sight. Within a short while I received a further call from a Game Keeper reporting that he had seen an unknown small 4x4 (possibly a Suzuki) driving away from him at speed down the by-way from Winslade towards

Tunworth. The Keeper and I carried out a search but the vehicle had gone.

Later at about 11 pm, a Police dog handler disturbed two 4x4 vehicles one a light coloured Nissan Terrano and the other a Mitsubishi Shogun, but on seeing the officer drove at a high speed from the Greywell Road down the by-way alongside the motorway and through the Ford onto the A30 and disappeared, sadly we were unable to get a registration number.

And on Saturday 24th (today as I write) we had a man named John Cole offering tree work in and around Weston Patrick. Sadly Mr Cole had gone before I arrived to speak with him, but I will make further enquiries concerning his company. However I do recommend that anyone who wants any work done should contact Hampshire Trading Standards 'Buy with confidence'. Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service in conjunction with members of the scheme have produced a directory of approved businesses. Please visit <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk> for a full listing of approved businesses.

Later today I received a call direct from a Game Keeper in Newnham of two suspicious white Vauxhall Astra vans parked near his wood. Along with other officers I attended Newnham Lane and consequently found four men all from Surrey and outer London and their dogs. I have reported all for summons to Court for a poaching offence and we have seized all of their dogs which came to nine.

As such that's 11 dogs seized and eight men who I have summonsed to court in four days, I do feel it is important that we make this area hostile to criminals who as you can see will travel many miles to come to our area and commit crime.

Andrew Reid, Constable
andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Newnham & Nately Scures



Christmas Market

St Swithun's Nately Scures
Saturday 5th December
11.00am until 2.00pm



Christmas Cards & Gifts • Hot Food & Drinks
Christmas Wreaths & Trees • Cards & Calendars
Stalls around & inside the church • Local produce & crafts





NEWNHAM LITTER PICK

The date we have all been waiting for is Saturday 14th November, meeting in Church Path At 10am. Judging by the amount of litter in the Village let us hope we have a good turnout on the day. Any questions Please phone John Broughton 762 490.



Newnham Clubroom is for hire

Please visit newnhamclubroom.org.uk for availability, booking and further information. Prices from £12 per hour inclusive. Tables and chairs may be borrowed for use at your own venue for £3 and 50p respectively – hirer collects. If you can't find what you're looking for please call Rosemary on 07435 782 122.

Newnham & Nately Scures

Parish Planning Applications New Applications

15/03669/LBC (21st October)
Tylney Lodge, Ridge Lane,
Newnham. Amendment to
planning consent 14/03448/LBC
for demolition of existing extension
and erection of replacement
extension.

CHINEHAM SEWAGE WORKS

15/03425/CMA and 15/03426/
CONS Thames Water Utilities
Ltd, Sewage Disposal Works,
Whitmarsh Lane, Chineham.

Construction of an Enhanced
Sludge Digestion Scheme with
anaerobic digestion and thermal
hydrolysis for the processing of
indigenous and imported waste
water sludge. Please note the
decision of this application is made
by Hampshire County Council.

County Councillor Elaine Still has
responded to the application as
follows:

She says: 'As the local member
I have called the planning
application - in which means it
will have to go to the regulatory
committee to be decided rather
then on delegated powers by
officers. 'Whilst in principle I don't
have a problem with a State of
the Art Anaerobic Digester I do
have grave concerns regarding
the site for this application.

'More heavy vehicle movements
on the already over congested
A33. Odour, noise and possible
additional pollution of the River
Loddon also concern me.

'I believe that many other sewage
works in other areas were ruled
out from expansion because of
complaints about existing levels
of odour. I don't believe this
was considered as a factor for
Basingstoke as it is seen there are
few houses within the immediate
vicinity of the works.

'However, the new emerging local
plan has identified sites for many
hundreds of new homes to be built
very close to the sewage works.
'I therefore object to this planning
application.'

Cllr Elaine Still, Loddon Division

HART EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

On 24 September Hart District
Council agreed an approach to
help encourage the redevelopment
of brownfield sites.

Approach for encouraging
brownfield development in
advance of the adoption of a new
Hart District Local Plan

The report is available on the Hart
District Council website on the
Local Plan Updates page

[http://www.hart.gov.uk/council/
news/local-plan-latest-updates](http://www.hart.gov.uk/council/news/local-plan-latest-updates)

Would you like to help deliver the Villager?

**We are in need of someone
to be the delivery
co-ordinator for
Newnham/Nately Scures/
Up Nately.**

**You will need a car to
deliver to 10 households
once a month.**

**If interested contact Nigel
Downes (762376) or
Robin Howard (762299).**

**Grateful thanks to Peter
Brown** from the Villager and
from the residents of Newnham
& Nately Scures for his 15 years
spent delivering the Villager on
their behalf. Many thanks to Nigel
Downes for covering the deliveries
in the short term.

A very warm welcome
(belatedly) to Christopher and
Jennifer Pomroy (and their parrot
Denzil) who moved into Railway
Cottage in May 2015

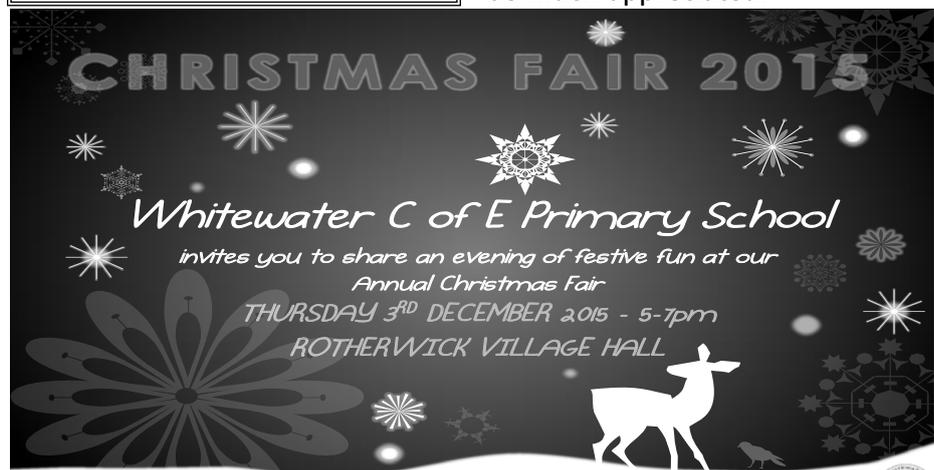


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should be helping this worthwhile
cause. To this end, we will be
putting a large plastic box in each
of our churches from November
1st for anyone who feels they
can contribute, and they will be
collected on a monthly basis and
taken to both these centres on
alternate months.

We currently contribute to the
Camrose Centre (organised by
Patricia Stubbs) during Harvest and
Lent, and we will only distribute
food collections for Camrose during
those periods, and not to the food
banks.

If anyone wants to discuss
further, please feel free to
contact Michael Van der Gucht
(michael.vandergucht@gmail.com)
or Monica Wardrop (monica.wardrop@xerox.com),
who can help further. Your support
would be much appreciated!



Greywell



Coffee & Mobile Library... Saturday 28th November

The Mobile Library will be outside the Village Hall from 10am-10.30am. Coffee from 10-11am.

THE TEAPOT CAFE



will be open from
3pm on **Tuesday 17th November**

Parish Planning Applications

Applications Pending

10/01670/CON (12th Oct) Manor Farm Buildings. Minor changes to plot 1 ref 15/01305/NMMA and 10/01670/MAJOR (conversion of farm buildings to 5 dwellings and erection of 3 dwellings).

15/02342/HOU and 15/02343/LBC (listed building consent) (29th September) Royal Oak House, Hook Road. Removal of pool house, partial demolition and rebuild of single storey link; erection of a first floor extension, and a garden room within the landscaped grounds, with associated internal/external works and landscaping.

Awaiting decision

15/01097/PRIOR (7th May) Greywell Hill. Proposed non-load-bearing agricultural building designed in accordance with BS5502 22:2003 plus A1:2013 Agricultural Specification, CE Marked to Execution Class 2.

Greywell Hill Estate LOGS

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GREYWELL'S 'LIVES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR' COMMEMORATION



Remembrance Weekend Timetable of Events
at Greywell Village Hall, The Street, Greywell,
Hampshire RG29 1BZ

Sunday 8th November

- 10.30 Village Hall opens
- 10.45 Villagers assemble outside Village Hall
- 10.50 Introduction, unveiling and dedication of the new memorial.
By Air Commodore Mike Barter CBE
- 10.55 The names of the fallen. By Air Commodore Mike Barter CBE
- 10.58 Last Post
- 10.59 The Exhortation. Read by Richard Glover
Followed by
The Laying of the wreath. By Air Commodore Mike Barter CBE
- 11.00 The Silence
- 11.02 Reveille
- 11.03 Everyone invited inside the Village Hall
Dedication of the Poppies Memorial. By Air Commodore Mike Barter CBE
'In Flanders Field'. Read by Richard Glover
Introduction of the static display. By Air Commodore Mike Barter CBE
- 11.10 Greywell's 'Lives of the First World War' Display and Background
showing of 'Voices of the Great War'
This combination of rare archive footage and oral testimony
creates a poignant and unique film that links the forgotten
voices of an entire generation of First World War survivors.
- 11.15 Tea/coffee/biscuits and cash bar open in the Village Hall.

Wednesday 11th November

- 10.45 Village Hall opens
- 10.50 Dedication and blessing of War Memorial by Rev. Jane Leese
- 10.55 The names of the fallen, followed by the Exhortation
- 11.00 The Silence
- 11.05 Tea/coffee in the village hall



The Odiham Society Friday, November, 13th, 2015

HEROES AND VILLAINS OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL

Speaker: ROGER CANSDALE, Author of guide books on the Canal and the Society's Press Officer. The talk focuses on some of the people who, for various reasons, good and bad, caused the canal to survive.

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Greywell



VILLAGE HALL

To hire the Village Hall please contact isabel.pound@hotmail.com or alibarbar@aol.com. For Marquee hire (Greywell residents only) contact mike@cmburnside.fsnet.co.uk. The Committee also hires out tables, glasses and a spit roast for Villagers' use.

VILLAGE QUIZ

Saturday 14th November, Doors open at 6.30pm, Cash bar and light supper £25 (inc supper) per team of four or let us know if you wish to join a table. Please reserve your place with Joy MacAndrew at the Old Chapel, Deptford Lane or Giles Blagden at 3 Dorchester Way.

ENGLISH STROKES FOR ENGLISH FOLKS: Hampshire's Lead on Devolution

from article by Jonathan Glen, County Councillor for Hook & Odiham

One of the issues taking up a lot of news time lately is the Government's initiative to transfer more legislative and financial power to the local authorities.

The County Council has recently sent a letter to the Chancellor submitting our bid for devolved powers on behalf of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It points out that Hampshire is indeed the cradle of the English nation, as it was Alfred the Great who welded England into one country from Winchester, his capital.

The Hampshire and the Isle of Wight population is approximately 2million, it has an overall economy worth almost £50bn. It is the South East of England that pays more into the Treasury in net terms than any other part of the country, including even London.

IBM has their European HQ and laboratories in Hampshire. Southampton is the capital of the cruise industry and with 80% of British cars exported – more are exported through Southampton than any other port. Portsmouth is hosting the Americas Cup whilst Farnborough is home to the International Air Show and the shop window of our aero space industry. We have 4 universities in the county, including Southampton University, one of the top 100 in the world and at the forefront of developments in the aeronautical and IT industries, including a world class oceanography centre.

Our target is, through more devolution and a combined authority, to add £3bn to our economy to come up to the average level in the south east.

Devolution to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area, with more local control, would mean infrastructure more likely to be provided at the right time and the right place, more houses could be built where people want them, whilst we protect the parts of the environment local people value. For instance, we could accelerate housing delivery and increase supply by targeting more appropriate housing for older generations, thereby releasing more family homes for families. All that would be easier if local people had more confidence and trust in local plans, and were confident the necessary infrastructure would be in place. Better coordinated economic activity would bring growth and prosperity

If you would like to discuss anything in this article or any other county council related matters, pop into next the county council surgery at Inclusion Hampshire, Dickson House, London Road, on Saturday 7th November between 2pm and 4pm. For an appointment please ring 01256 760800; if urgent please ring 01962 846441 and leave a number where you can be contacted.

Deptford Lane Ford Project

It has taken nearly two years to gain approval from all the authorities and to put the plan into operation. However, this autumn, a second round of clearance and planting has transformed the neglected patch of land that used to be the river ford on Deptford Lane, Greywell.

A team of twelve volunteers turned out on 12th September to clear weeds and dig out silt from the base of the old ford in order to shape a river fed pool. Two weeks later on 26th September, volunteers planted over 300 native species of water margin plants and wild flowers.

The project has been championed throughout by Dr Paul Howe, the Bio-diversity Officer at Hart District Council who generously provided most of the plants and came to assist with planting. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust were consulted over the project and advised on the plant varieties, following approval from the Environment Agency and Natural England. Hampshire County Council Highways Department granted a 'Cultivation Licence' as the ford is technically still part of the highway.

Much work will be needed to maintain and improve the area, so a programme of weeding, wild flower and bulb planting will continue for the next few years. Even so, we hope to see some wild flower colour and other life there next spring, thanks to all the hard work from the volunteers.



Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'
www.united-parish.org.uk

From the Parish Registers...

Holy Baptism

October 25th at St Mary's Mapledurwell: Samuel and Phoebe Evans-Hill

October 31st at St Mary's Mapledurwell: Matilda Maclean

We welcome them into the family of the church.

Funeral Services

October 6th at St Nicholas', Newnham: Kathleen June Skinner of Rowan Lodge

October 9th at St Swithun's, Nately Scures: Audrey Gary

October 21st at Basingstoke Crematorium: Shirley Rolfe of Crossways Nursing Home

We send our love and sympathy to their families.

Mid-Week Holy Communion

The midweek communion service in June will be on Thursday November 19th at 11.00am at The Dower House, Greywell. We share in a traditional service of Holy Communion, with a chance to discuss the Bible reading and to offer our own prayers – and then we enjoy coffee, cake and conversation before we go home! Please do come along. If you would like a lift, or for more information, please call Revd Jane (765547).
St Mary's Greywell

Special Church Services this month:

Remembrance Sunday

November 8th. At 10.50am we have the traditional service, this year being held in St Stephen's, Up Nately at which we shall read out the names of the fallen from each of our villages, lay wreaths and offer prayers and hymns as we commit ourselves to work for peace in the future. This is always

a very emotional service, much appreciated especially by the older villagers who remember only too well the reality of being at war. Please do join us.

And that same day, at 3.00pm, we have '**In Loving Memory**' in Greywell church. This is an opportunity to remember before God our own loved ones who have died. All those for whom we have taken funerals this last year will be invited, but if you would like any names read out and a candle lit for someone who is dear to you, then please pass the names to Jane in advance of the service.

United Parish Service for the 5th Sunday in November

This month we shall be worshipping together on November 29th at 9.30am for a Family Communion Service. Young and old are welcome as we come together to celebrate Advent Sunday

Christingle Services:

We begin our round of Christingle services in Greywell on November 29th and follow with one at Newnham on December 6th and Mapledurwell on December 13th – all at 4.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, but especially children, as we remember the love of Jesus the light of the world – with the help of juicy oranges, sweets and raisins and candlelight! The collection at these services will be given to the work of The Children's Society.

Diary Dates in November

- 11 Wednesday 8.00pm Benefice Council Meeting at St Swithun's**
- 15 Sunday 2.30pm Holy Baptism at St Swithun's**
- 24 Tuesday 8.00pm Newnham VCC**
- 25 Wednesday 8.00pm PCC meeting**

Church Services

November 1st

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Nately Scures
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Greywell

November 8th United Parish Services

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
10.50am	Service of Remembrance	Up Nately
3.00pm	In Loving Memory	Nately Scures

November 15th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Greywell
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Family Communion	Up Nately
11.00am	Matins	Nately Scures

November 22nd

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
9.30am	Morning Prayer (sung)	Up Nately
9.30am	Morning Prayer (said)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Morning Service	Greywell

November 29th United Parish Services

9.30am	Family Holy Communion	Mapledurwell
4.30pm	Christingle Service	Greywell

St Mary's Greywell - Please watch the noticeboards and village website for weekly updates on venue of services due to the heating being updated.

From The Rectory

Up Nately, RG27 9PL 01256 765 547
reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk



Dear Friends

One Saturday morning in October I became very aware that I am getting old! I had been summoned to the Doctor's, along with a stream of other senior citizens, to have a flu jab! This was the first time I have been eligible for one, having just reached the age of 65. What an organised procedure it was as we were instructed to take a seat, bare our arms, relax, little scratch, slight sting and off you go! All over in a few moments and hopefully flu free for the coming winter.

A few days before that I took the train to London as I had been invited to support the work of Lambeth Age UK at an event in the gardens of Lambeth Palace. It was a lovely opportunity to see the Archbishop's gardens even though they were not at their most colourful at that time of year. As I booked my train ticket I produced my Senior Rail Card and got a significant reduction in the fare I had to pay. I have a bus pass too – although that's not very useful living in Up Nately. But you wait until I am retired and back in Basingstoke – I shall be using it all the time!!

It is wonderful to see so many young families coming to live in our villages, bringing new life and new ideas to our communities. But I am also delighted at the number of people in their 80s and even 90s who are living active and fulfilling lives, maybe a little slower than they once were, but still able to enjoy the company of family and friends, to get out and about and to share the wisdom of their experience. They call me 'a mere youngster' at 65 – but I hope that I am given enough years more to become as wise and as content as many of them seem to be.

Of course I spend enough time in the nursing homes in this parish and visiting the elderly to know that some people aging brings many

frustrations, frailty and loneliness. I know that some lose their independence and feel vulnerable and powerless, a burden on their families. I know that health issues can be a big concern and that it is not easy or comfortable to face one's own mortality. And I know the guilt that almost always comes for younger family members when they can no longer cope with the demands of an aging relative and it is necessary for them to go into residential care. These are big emotional issues that we all have to face up to at some point because nothing can stop the ticking of the clock and the passing of the years.

I wonder what sort of old lady I shall become! I am heartened by some words in the Bible, in the Book of Proverbs:

'Grey hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life'

and also

'The glory of youths is their strength, but the beauty of the aged is their grey hair.'

However old you are, may God bless you!

With my love

Revd. Jane Leese

Bishop's Appeal

The Bishop of Winchester has put out an appeal to support refugees from Syria and victims of flooding in Myanmar which is one of our Anglican Link partners. The United Parish is making a donation but if you are interested in finding out more and or want to donate yourself you can use the following link. <http://www.justgiving.com/teams/winchesterdioceseappeal>

Villager Contact Details

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Harvest Festival Thank You

The Mead in Odiham were really grateful for all the produce and other food items donated at this year's Harvest Festival. The church looked resplendent for this. Afterwards there were drinks and Harvest lunch in the Village Hall when 22 adults and 3 children sat down to a delicious meal which raised £190 for the Friends. Thank you to all contributors for making the weekend a success.

ARE YOU ABLE TO GIVE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO A YOUNGSTER IN SOUTHAMPTON WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE GO WITHOUT?

Scratch (Southampton City and Region Action to Combat Hardship) is a charity which provides services to relieve the effects of hardship, disadvantage and poverty for individuals and families living in Southampton and the surrounding area. Southampton is the largest city in Hampshire and in the Diocese of Winchester and is a thriving city in many ways, not least because of the ever increasing number of cruise operations. It is though a city of contrasts with some people still living on the edge and needing help. As a Benefice we have tried to support Southampton in different ways over the years.

The charity provides good quality furniture and household items to families in need, and even tins of paint so that parents can decorate their homes and make them as comfortable as possible. At Christmas they provide toys and gifts for youngsters who would otherwise not have anything to open on Christmas morning.

If you're planning to come to one of our services over the Christmas period, would you be able to bring a wrapped toy with you? If so, please attach a label marked 'girl' or 'boy' (or both) and an age, and we will get these gifts to Scratch.

Supporting this Southampton based charity is something that some parts of the Benefice have given to at Christmas for many years, just not yet in the United Parish.

Many thanks, and every blessing

Revd Linda