

# Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

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## July 2020

While restrictions are easing, shops and cinemas are opening, for many of us the great outside feels a safer bet. For lovers of nature, there are fascinating articles on the cuckoo and the red kite, a celebration of dragonflies and damselflies, and two great walks - one around Broughton by Mike Dangerfield, and another around Chilbolton in the series by David Griffiths. Also by David, is his final report as Chairman of Chilbolton Parish Council. After the second of two long stints, he must be one of the longest serving CPC chairmen, if not *the* longest. We're indebted to him for all his hard work, and for keeping us informed and entertained by his monthly reports. Thank you David!

*Tessa Youell*

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team – Lesley Chin, Anna Cockram, Tessa Youell, and to Ed Treadwell our distribution coordinator and all our distribution helpers. Special thanks to Tim Whiteside, our 'What's On' Coordinator.

We are a group of volunteers supporting our community. To help us please submit your copy to [cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk) **no later than the 10th of the month** for inclusion in the following month's magazine. It is important that your articles are submitted in MS Word using an A5 template and font Times New Roman size 11. For adverts for local events, please keep to half of an A5 page and please don't create any fancy formatting as this causes setting problems - MS Word text with clip art inside a border is fine.

If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Magazine Chairman, Stephen MacDonald, on 01264 860246 to arrange for your article to be typed by one of the team.

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**The Downs Benefice**  
**The Reverend Jax Machin, Rector**



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 email: [revdjax@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:revdjax@downsbenefice.org.uk)

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 The Benefice Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

**ST PETER AND HOLY CROSS, WHERWELL**

Churchwarden	Pam Prince	4 Manor Cottages, Fullerton	01264 860 441 <a href="mailto:w.prince04@tiscali.co.uk">w.prince04@tiscali.co.uk</a>
PCC Treasurer	Nigel Waters	Bramshill, Fullerton Road Wherwell, SP11 7JS	01264 861 326 <a href="mailto:nigel.waters@sky.com">nigel.waters@sky.com</a>

**ST MARY THE LESS, CHILBOLTON**

Churchwarden	position vacant		
PCC Secretary	Wendy Fakes	<a href="mailto:wendyandrews875@btinternet.com">wendyandrews875@btinternet.com</a>	01264 860 237
PCC Treasurer	Michael Payne	<a href="mailto:michael@mipayne.f9.co.uk">michael@mipayne.f9.co.uk</a>	01264 860 296

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Dear Friends,

*‘With man, things are impossible, but with God all things are possible.’  
 (Matt 19: 26)*

In the last few months there have been terrible personal tragedies as the coronavirus has taken hold across the country. Many people have died. Families have been separated in unexpected ways. Nurses, doctors, and others who care for the sick, elderly and vulnerable have had to isolate for weeks or months from those they love. Grandparents have been unable to be with grandchildren - particularly upsetting if they are little ones – in our case our two-year-old grandson and twin eight month old granddaughters. Not to be able to pick them up and give them a cuddle has been hard – but necessary. On the economic front, businesses have been forced to close, and

some will never re-open. There will undoubtedly be many people who will lose their jobs and incomes as a result of the lock down and the resultant recession. All may appear dark, with no end in sight.

But I want to offer hope in all this, despite how dark it may seem at the moment. 1968 was the year of the Hong Kong virus epidemic – a sister coronavirus to this one. Over one million people worldwide were estimated to have died then – more than one hundred thousand of them in the USA – and deaths then were certainly less rigorously counted than today. We are not there now, and we hope never to be, and we now have the real possibility that a vaccine can be developed, given the medical advances since 1968. Strangely, I don't remember the 1968 epidemic, although I was then 20 years old. It may be because I was in my second year at university and had other things to focus on. I wish I could say it was my studies, but most probably it was pubs, girls and parties! But my point is, it did pass. And we did all move on.

Now look at some of the good things which have been born from this tragedy. The polluted air in many cities around the world, which has been killing huge numbers of people for decades, has cleared remarkably quickly – a demonstration that climate change is not the inescapable disaster which has been forecast. It is not too late to put it right if we act collectively and with determination.

In our Communities we have seen unprecedented acts of kindness between individuals, and wonderful collective action from volunteer groups looking after and protecting our vulnerable people. Nikki and her team in Chilbolton Stores have epitomised what the Community in action can do to help others - but it goes further than that. In all this we have had the chance to appreciate the fundamental value of our Community. We have also had time to appreciate the beauty of the natural world around us - in our daily exercise, perhaps to hear the skylarks and see the red kites above the Downs, notice the rabbits on Martins Lane and in the Observatory fields, and discover the bee orchids in Chilbolton churchyard.

But most all, we have been talking to each other. I have stopped to talk to people who previously I might have seen in passing, but that was all - and I know many of you have done the same. And our lives are richer for it. We have a wonderful community in our two villages, and these troubles have brought us closer together. We must not forget this lesson. Collectively we have tremendous power, and we must ensure our politicians know what we demand of them to protect and improve our world - for us, for our children, and above all for our grandchildren. So, as Jesus tells us, if we live through his values of love, **'all things are possible with God!'**

*Andrew Kent, B.C.M. Lay Minister, The Downs Benefice*

**A Prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus**  
Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BRYAN COX, AMRAES, IENG  
(1937 – 2020)

Chilbolton lost one of its former leading lights early in May when Bryan Cox sadly succumbed to the crippling illness which had kept him in constant pain and out of circulation for the last five years. Born on a large estate in Hertfordshire, where his father was the farm manager and his mother the housekeeper, he went to Stanborough Grammar School in Welwyn Garden City and from there became an apprentice at the De Havilland Aircraft Company in Hatfield. As a specialist in wing design, in particular wing-tip design, he played a major role in the introduction of several milestone aircraft including the Comet, the Trident and, later on, the Airbus 300 series, which is still in use today. By then De Havilland had been sold to Hawker Siddeley, which became part of British Aerospace in 1977. At the time of the merger Bryan was Chief Wind Tunnel Engineer and he stayed on in that role until the Hatfield plant was closed down in 1990, when he chose to take early retirement.

Bryan and Carol were married in 1993 and decided they needed a complete change of lifestyle. Having grown up on a farm, and always enjoyed the countryside, Bryan had no difficulty persuading Carol to exchange Hertfordshire for Hampshire and they were both very happy when they finally found the home of their choice in Drove Hill, one of the first private housing developments in Chilbolton.

Bryan had always been a keen amateur badminton player and quickly found he was in the ideal place to indulge his love of fly-fishing and photography. He quickly earned a reputation with a rod, and as a committee member of the Fly Dressers' Guild, and within a month of his arrival in the village he accepted an invitation to join the Parish Council. By the end of the 1990s the focus of local government had started to shift towards the parish councils, in particular in planning matters.

Early in 2001 Chilbolton was approached by Test Valley Borough Council to pilot the introduction of Village Design Statements, with a view

to accelerating the planning process. These were intended to be comprehensive summaries of the information on which future local planning decisions would be based, and would obviously require a good deal of research and drafting.

As Chairman of the Parish Council at the time I asked for volunteers to help produce the document and Bryan immediately came forward. It took two years of hard work before the Chilbolton Village Design Statement was finally accepted, in 2003, and became the blueprint for the other parishes in the area.

Without Bryan Cox it would not have been possible. He took all the photographs, drew all the maps, proof-read the text and 'kept his head when all about him were losing theirs and blaming it on us'! (Apologies to Kipling!)

He stayed on with the Parish Council until declining health forced him to resign in September 2005, after serving for 12 years. During that time he served on the Planning Committee and the Common Committee, where his measured and pragmatic approach endeared him to all his colleagues. Bryan simply shrugged off adversity. His gentle smile could defuse any conflictual situation and he lost no opportunity to say how grateful he was to live in Chilbolton. Very few people knew him but he was a very special person in his own way and will always be remembered fondly by those who were privileged to call him friend. Our thoughts go out to Carol and their children, Tony and Nikki, at this difficult time.

*Graham Kelly*

### **Chilbolton Village Hall**

The hall is closed for the time being but maintenance and cleaning is being continued so that when the Covid 19 matter is over we can get our activities back to normal.

The Electric Winding machine and new carpets for our Carpet Bowling Group will be delivered during June. Thank you to Parish council, Test valley BC and Hampshire CC – Cllr Andrew Gibson who all supported this project with funding.

We are always looking for new members of the management Committee so this might be a good time to contact us and find out what is involved. The hall is a registered charity established for the enjoyment of local people.

*Tony Ewer, Chairman of Management Committee, June 2020*

# Would you like to.....

- ✓ Be part of a valuable village activity
  - ✓ Freshen up your IT skills
  - ✓ Work in a friendly team
  - ✓ All without huge commitment

**Then you would be an ideal member of the magazine team!**

## Where do we need volunteers?

Role	Type of person it suits
<b>Content Manager</b>	Enjoy exchanging emails with people in the villages
<b>First Editor</b>	Enjoy reading, improving and formatting articles

### What's the commitment?

A few hours a month **just three times a year**, with full training and shadowing provided before you 'go live'

### Who's on the team?

Currently twenty-three of us – a mix of full time employed and retired from both villages, all with an active interest in village affairs

### Do I need a computer?

You need a computer with an email account. Familiarity with Microsoft Office helps with the editing roles, but no more than you'd use for home or work. Everyone shares their expertise

### Is there a social side?

Yes - when you're working on an edition, that month's production team meets to discuss any issues. At Christmas we have a party. It's a good way to meet lively, like-minded people

## What next?

If you're interested, **call or email me** and I'll put you in touch with a current team member who'll give you more detail on the role and help you decide.

*Stephen MacDonald (Mag Chairman)*  
*smacondonald500@btinternet.com or 860246*

## Ray Blazdell

The magazine is sad to report that Ray Blazdell passed away on Sunday 21st June at home in Wherwell. His devoted wife Sue and family were at his side. Ray was a hugely respected member of the local community and a gentle man whose legendary keyboard skills and wonderful voice entertained many people. He was a dedicated organist at St Peter and Holy Cross Church, a long-standing member of the Community Magazine team, an accomplished tenor in The Wherwell Singers, a trusted treasurer and an enthusiastic bell ringer.

Village life will no longer be quite the same. Our thoughts are with Sue and his family.

A full obituary will follow in the August magazine.

*Stephen MacDonald, Magazine Chairman*

### **BROUGHTON WALK** (approx.4 miles – 2 hours)

*Broughton is a Large and interesting village hidden away in the Hampshire countryside. Once it was busy enough to support six farriers and today still has two pubs, a church, a community shop and a primary school.*

*Broughton is just off the B3084 road, which links the Wallops with Romsey. Parking in the village is quite restricted, so I would park in Buckholt Road, which is off the B3084, just past the Football ground.*

**1. Firstly** head back to the **B3084**, cross the road, keeping left of **Village Millennium** sign on the **Pound**. The sign was made by Jeremy Turner a woodcarver and depicts various aspects of the village. One of the side pieces reflects the fencing that would have surrounded the Pound when it was used to collect stray animals and the other the Wheelwrights shop, which was adjacent to the Pound.

**2.** Carry on down **Queenwood Road**, until you get to a pathway on the left.

**3.** Follow this pathway, which opens up to some housing, keep going straight. You will come to a small play area on your left, carry straight on, you will see the **village allotments** on your left. This path will then bend to the right and will be at the back of the **Doctors Surgery**.

**4.** You will then come to a road, turn left past the Surgery Car Park and turn left along **School Lane**. This leads up to the **B3084**.

**5.** At the Junction, cross the road and turn right and walk along the grass verge in front of a row of houses.

**6.** As the road bends right and starts descend, go left along a chalky track, initially between houses and then between hedgerows. In front of you will be **Broughton Down Farm**.

7. On reaching the farm, join a grass track and turn left. The farm will be on your left, the hedged footpath narrows as you climb, in front of you will be **Broughton Down**.

8. At the end of this track, which joins in with another, go through the gate on your left. Next will be a short climb, to your right will be a pathway, which will take you through a small valley, follow this path until you reach the end (it is worth turning around at some point to take in the view towards **Middle Wallop** and also the **Test Valley**).

10. Now turn right, up a short climb and in front of you will be an Information Board which tells you about this area and its wildlife.

11. There will be a gate by the board, go through this and turn left along a chalk pathway. Follow this pathway until you come to a crossroads of tracks turn left taking the **Clarendon Way** track, you will have fields either side of this track.

12. Follow the **Clarendon Way** track until you meet another track, turn left and follow this wide track down the hill.

13. At the bottom of the hill, you will meet a road, this is **Buckholt Road**. At this junction you will see some sculptures, titled Animal, Vegetable and Mineral. It was inspired by the organic shapes of the countryside, particularly the cut stalks of corn at harvest time. It is made from Kilkenny Limestone by Roger Stephens a local sculpture. Follow the road down passing **Church Farm** on your right, to where you have parked.

*Mike Dangerfield*



## CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

On 1st June 2020 Chilbolton Parish Council “met” at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Moya Grove “attended”. There have been some changes to CPC. Firstly, I would like to welcome Sue Larcombe who was co-opted as a councillor to replace Ian Brain who resigned. I am sure she will be an asset. She proved her worth during the preparation of the Chilbolton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Secondly, at the meeting I resigned as chairman and George Marits resigned as vice chairman due to the increased pressure of his work. I would like to publicly thank George for his support of myself during my most recent stint as chairman. He also proved an effective chairman of the important Planning Sub-Committee and of the Flood Action Group. The parish owes him a considerable debt of gratitude. I have recently found combining the roles of chairman of CPC as well as chairman of the Open Spaces Committee (COSC) a bit too time consuming so I am delighted that David Neudegg has agreed to take over as chairman of CPC. I wish him well. I am now the vice-chairman of CPC and I remain chairman of COSC. In these roles I will continue to serve our community to the best of my ability and will do my best to support our new chairman.

The Coronavirus Support Group have continued their excellent work. Particular thanks are due to Nicky Bond.

Our meeting was dominated by discussing what I think can rightly be described as a crisis over Chilbolton Common. Due to a number of factors, not least the wonderful weather, the common has become too popular with the public. While most visitors have behaved well, there are just too many of them. There was little sign of social distancing. It has to be said that a minority have behaved badly. We do not like defacing our beautiful common with notices but it was regrettably necessary to try and curb unacceptable behaviour and to remind visitors that the common is an SSSI and an important one at that. Moya Grove made this point emphatically to CPC during our meeting. It should not be treated as a beach or a playground or a place for teenagers to drink to excess, indulge in rowdy behaviour. and leave their litter strewn around. That reminds me to mention those public-spirited villagers who clear up after these people. You know who you are and I say a “big thank you” to you.

Those who live on the common should not have to endure repeated obstruction of their access by selfishly parked cars and the bushes adjacent to their properties used as lavatories. Having said that I am not sure how much good notices do. I wonder how many people read them and, if they do, take any notice? The widespread ignoring of the Wildlife Area signs is a case in point. The banks of the Purleygigg Stream are particularly important for the

flora and fauna they sustain. This is where the public wish to sit and picnic and this is going to be hard to stop. Would more notices with a clearer message to “Keep Out” help? Maybe. We will have to try and see what happens.

We have made changes to the area where cars are parked which are intended to help keep the access to the dwellings on the common clear and to better organise the parking. George Whitefield has done an excellent job. The number of spaces is about the same. So far, so good but the changes have yet to be tested on a really busy day. Some people have suggested to me that we should “close the common”. I do not see how we could legally do this. A bridleway (part of the Test Way) runs right across it. We are not entitled to obstruct a right of way. We can close the area where we permit cars to park but this will not solve the problem of excessive numbers of people. When we closed it recently, while we did work to the gravelled area, the crowds were just as big. Cars were parked in the pub car park; all along the village street and up Drove Road. Some were parked at the top car park on West Down. Parking that obstructs a highway is surely something the police should deal with? It seems that similar problems were experienced elsewhere in the Test Valley but that is no consolation. We will be considering what further action we can take at the next meeting of COSC. We are alert to the possibility of the common’s SSSI status being reviewed if the overuse of it continues. At the moment Natural England are being understanding.

The War Memorial Playing Field is being maintained with fortnightly cutting. It is being well used. We have taped up the play equipment to try and prevent its use as per government instructions. The tape is being removed on a fairly regular basis. This is another example of some people taking no notice of notices when those notices try to prevent them doing something they wish to do.

I am happy to report that all rights of way are passable. The southern section of the Mark Way has recently been cleared by the Lengths Man. The Test Valley Farm path could do with a trim. Maybe I think the person who has been trimming the Little Drove Path?

Well, that’s it. Next month David Neudegg will be writing to you. I wish you all an enjoyable summer despite the difficult situation we are in.

*David Griffiths Vice-Chairman*

### **Church Services Update**

As of going to press, no services are yet possible. However, our parish churches are slowly opening. Please visit The Downs Benefice website for updates: [www.downsbenefice.org](http://www.downsbenefice.org)

## **Wearing a Face Mask – robust science or common sense?**

Is there any science behind wearing a face mask? Apparently, not a lot. But there wasn't much science behind lockdown, or social distancing. It was just obvious that it would be effective. It can take years to gather data on effective public health measures, but meanwhile, we can apply common sense. As Professor Trish Greenhalgh, from Oxford University, explains: "Face coverings aren't 100 percent effective, but they're not zero per cent effective either. I've seen evidence that a double layer of cloth is between 60 percent and 90 percent effective in stopping the spread of viral-laden droplets coming from the wearer, and also that the same mask is up to 50 percent effective at stopping virus particles getting to the wearer. You can argue about the exact percentages, but overall, if everyone wears a face covering when they're at close quarters, transmission is going to reduce dramatically."

A much wider discussion of this subject was written by Dr. Ellie and published in the *Mail on Sunday*, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020:

### **Don't stress about how to wear your mask!**

In April, I started wearing a face mask - or rather, a cloth face covering - when out and about, and I suggested that if everyone did the same, we'd get out of lockdown sooner and possibly see off this virus for good.

Earlier on in the pandemic, medical consensus was that mask-wearing didn't help protect people from getting Covid-19. So, my new stance must seem something of a U-turn. But, as I find myself pointing out quite often at the moment, while our understanding of how to tackle this new virus is developing rapidly, there are still grey areas and unanswered questions. And that's why, based on evolving evidence, guidance sometimes has to change.

At first, we believed that hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, social distancing and self-isolation for those showing symptoms were what was needed to slow the spread of the virus. All remains true, even today. However, since late March, there have been growing calls in the scientific community for face masks, or cloth coverings, to be made part of the mix.

The reason is simple. We now know that one reason Covid-19 spreads rapidly is because people become highly infectious - expelling large amounts of the virus in tiny droplets of moisture ejected from their mouth and nose - before symptoms begin and they know they have it. It's not just coughs and sneezes. Speaking and even breathing is enough to send thousands of these microparticles out into the air. And that is where face coverings become vital. They create a physical barrier that blocks the droplets - it's called source control. If everyone wore masks, some scientists argued, then it would help further slow the transmission rate of the virus and mean we could all get back to a normal life sooner. It is now mandatory to wear a face covering on public transport - not doing so could land you with a fine.

On the whole, I think the public is on board, but there are some who are resistant to the idea - even quite cross about it all. It's just not very British to wear a mask, I suppose. It might feel a bit ostentatious, and many of us don't like to make a fuss. It also means a shift in thinking: a mask isn't worn to protect the wearer, but so you don't inadvertently infect other people. This is an act of altruism, in a way. But a study published last week suggested that without face coverings worn in public, social distancing will not be enough to stop a second wave of the virus.

I would, however, like to make one point: they need to be worn over the mouth AND nose. I've seen a fair few people with their nose popping out of theirs. This defeats the point. There also seems to be a trend, mostly among younger people, to wear the mask under the chin. Completely pointless, you might as well not be wearing it.

There are still many scientists who remain unconvinced by masks. The major concern is that face coverings might do more harm than good - that if used incorrectly, and fiddled with, they could become contaminated with the virus and the wearer could essentially catch Covid-19 from the mask itself. People often have questions about how to correctly put on and take off a mask, how often it should be washed and at what temperature. There's also much debate over whether you should line a mask with a coffee filter or paper towel.

My answer is: don't overthink it. A face covering is there to stop the moisture that naturally sprays out of the nose and mouth, and that's it. A scarf or an old T-shirt works absolutely fine - medical masks are for healthcare workers and other frontline staff. Double-layer cloth is better and a paper towel or tissue between the layers can catch the moisture from your nose and mouth and keep the mask dry. Wash it at the end of the day, or do what I do and carry a few. It's the soap that kills the virus, should there be any on the mask, not the heat.

If you don't want to make your own, charities are selling lovely ones online. The main thing is to find something that's comfortable, so you keep it on. And it really isn't more complex than that. Some experts argue that wearing a mask might make some people less likely to wash their hands or stick to social distancing. But I feel the opposite. My mask reminds me that we're still in the middle of a global pandemic. It stops me touching my face and makes me and people around me even more aware of social distancing - people jump out of the way.

In reality, if we don't all get on board and stop trying to find fault where there is none, we risk missing a golden opportunity to get out of this mess once and for all.

*From an article by Dr Ellie Cannon, the Mail on Sunday,  
supplied by Andrew Flanagan*

## Cuckoo Migration – tracking with satellites

I always enjoy hearing the first cuckoo in Spring. The ‘traditional’ date is 14th April (St Tiburtius Day) as celebrated in Rudyard Kipling’s Cuckoo Song. This year, the first cuckoo was heard very late.

It may come as a surprise to be told that the UK has lost over half of its breeding cuckoos during the last twenty-five years. The breeding population in Hampshire is now estimated to be about 300 pairs.

Populations of many UK breeding migrant species are declining, however, there is little known about the mechanisms of these declines. Climate change is causing the timings of the spring season to change and there is evidence that many migrant species are not advancing their arrival times sufficiently to track the earlier spring. There is also some suggestion from previous studies that there are constraints in the migration timing of species wintering in or beyond the humid zone in Africa.



Cuckoos have a crafty breeding strategy. Instead of building their own nest, they use the nests of ‘host’ birds, such as dunnocks and meadow pipits. When a female cuckoo finds a suitable nest, and the hosts aren’t looking, she removes one of their eggs and lays her own egg in its place.

The young cuckoo hatches after only 12 days and quickly pushes the hosts’ eggs or babies out of the nest. After 19 days it leaves the nest, but the hosts continue to feed it for two more weeks, by

which time it has grown much bigger than them.

Adult cuckoos are among the earliest of our summer visitors to leave. They have no need to help rear their young, so they are free to go. Most leave the UK during June. Young cuckoos leave later, when they are fully fledged. They never see their parents.

The British Trust for Ornithology has been tracking cuckoo migration since 2011. These new technological advances show that cuckoos spend the winter months in Central Africa. They take a different migratory route in autumn to their spring journey and places to stop off to rest and feed - in both Europe and Africa - are important parts of the cuckoo’s migratory journey.

Typically, a cuckoo spends nearly 50% of each year in Africa, 15% in the UK and the remainder on its migratory route. Exactly where in Africa

cuckoos choose to over-winter depends on an abundance of food sources (e.g.: hairy caterpillars) which is influenced by habitat, climate and human land-use.

The BTO website has plenty of information about tracking cuckoo migration, including an introductory video on YouTube [HERE](#). A male cuckoo weighs between 100g to 140g. The tracking device weighs 5g and is deemed too heavy for fitting to most female cuckoos because they are typically 10g lighter than male birds.

On their project page you can track individual cuckoos on a daily basis. I chose, at random, a cuckoo called 'PJ'. Here are extracts from his log:

May 3<sup>rd</sup> (2019) at King's Forest, north of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

July 3<sup>rd</sup> leaves Suffolk, moving south

July 4<sup>th</sup> arrives near Bilbao (Spain) close to the French border

July 27<sup>th</sup> leaves northern Spain

July 29<sup>th</sup> central Algeria

July 31<sup>st</sup> pauses in Niamey

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> arrives northern Nigeria

Oct 24<sup>th</sup> moves into Cameroon

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> moves into Congo

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> moves south into Angola

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> leaves Angola, retraces route to Cameroon via Congo

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> (2020) leaves Cameroon, flies west to Togo

(and deviates from retracing his route through Nigeria and Algeria)

Feb 29<sup>th</sup> arrives further west in Cote d'Ivoire

April 10<sup>th</sup> moves north into Mauritania

April 17<sup>th</sup> arrives in Spain near Madrid

April 24<sup>th</sup> arrives in France near Bordeaux

April 25<sup>th</sup> arrives in UK near Petersfield

April 27<sup>th</sup> arrives back at King's Forest, Suffolk

Thus 'PJ' spent 9 or 10 weeks in Suffolk, 7 weeks in Nigeria and nearly 7 weeks in Angola, his furthest destination in South Africa. You can track the movements of 'PJ' and other cuckoos [HERE](#).

*Andrew Flanagan*



## **What's Happening at The Boaz Project?**

When the lockdown was announced we had to stop all our members, adults with learning disabilities, from coming in. This was to protect them from the virus. Like us, the members find it hard to understand why we can't see each other. Please pray for peace for them.

Since then most of the staff have been put on furlough. The manager Stuart Palmer, Jen Carter, Johnny Norris and Sally Ratcliffe were kept on. They look after the hens, process the eggs, keep in touch with the members and are sorting strategies with the Trustees to safely reopen the site. Jen looks after our finances. Johnny looks after the hens at the weekend. Our lovely volunteers are writing to members regularly to keep in touch and our tearoom has been turned into a sorting office! Our eggs are still being sold at Barton Stacey stores, thanks to Lisa and Kevin.

The volunteers were asked not to come in. The four sheep have been rehomed to people who knew about lambing and could look after them properly. The four ewes have since all had lambs. Our guinea pigs went on holiday to our admin lady who has two children who love having them to stay. Most of our growing area has been covered over. It is very sad as Andy, our gardener, was getting ready for our open day and the greenhouse was full to bursting with plants. These have since been farmed out to volunteers to grow and enjoy.

Please could you save your egg boxes for us, as there seems to be a shortage of cardboard boxes, especially 6 egg ones. If you have any spare craft kits or bits and pieces that we could deliver to our members, or jigsaws (50-500 pieces) they would be very welcome. Let us know and we can pick them up from your driveway (distancing of course).

Thank you!

*Sally Ratcliffe, [sally@boazproject.co.uk](mailto:sally@boazproject.co.uk)  
01962 761749.*

*Website: [www.boazproject.co.uk](http://www.boazproject.co.uk)*

*Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/boazproject.co.uk/>*



## **Local businesses update on their services**

### **Peak Electrics**

Peak Electrics remain open for business and are here to help and support the community with their electrical needs, being mindful of any guidance issued concerning COVID19.

### **Chilbolton Chair Company**

Having reopened, we're working successfully whilst ensuring we maintain the health and wellbeing of our customers, team and suppliers.

We are continuing to receive enquiries, provide quotes, book in work and arrange fabric samples to be sent direct to customers. All our suppliers are now open and UK fabric supplies are back to normal.

In the interest of social distancing, we are offering virtual consultations to discuss current quotes, orders and future projects. Our team have been fully trained and prepped in hygiene protocols, wearing gloves and using alcohol-based gel at all times.

Thank you for all your support, please remember we are here to support you in any way we can, and your safety is our priority at all times.

## **Chilbolton Neighbourhood Development Plan (CNDP)**

### **Progress Report**

The formal consultations are all now complete and the Government appointed Examiner completed her report on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Examiner accepted most of the CNDP but there are a number of modifications that are required to ensure that the NP meets all the statutory requirements and conforms to EU, National and Local Planning Policy.

The working group is busy with these changes. Whilst there are not many changes, the impact on the CNDP document is not insignificant, mainly due to changes in placement of sections, changed wording and page numbering so with the present restrictions on meeting this is taking some time. This editorial should be complete during June after which Test Valley will need to review to ensure that the Examiner's modification have been carried out correctly.

The Government has cancelled all referenda until at least May 2021 due to Covid 19 problem but Test Valley are able to authorise the CNDP and issue a Decision Statement. Once this is published the plan will have 'significant weight' in planning decisions. When the CNDP has been approved in a referendum the Community Infrastructure Levy on new buildings will increase from 15% to 25% and be available to the parish council for local priorities.

*Tony Ewer, Chair of working group, June 2020*

## What's On...Time In – July

As I'm sure you will have guessed, What's On has changed format. It may change back to how it used to be, but until then and like so many other things we've all had to adopt a different way of thinking about what we do and how we spend our time!

Below are a few website addresses where you can book to plan days out, watch events online and even pursue your hobbies.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/> Hampshire NT locations are fully booked but if you want a day out and don't mind travelling further afield, there are several locations in Wiltshire. Pre-booking essential, you will be turned away if you just turn up.

<https://ngs.org.uk/> National Garden Scheme has started re-opening many of their gardens on a strictly pre-booked basis. All gardens that are re-opening will be listed by region on a weekly basis. Please check each week to see the new gardens that have been added or sign up to their newsletter.

<https://www.whathifi.com/> Live streaming rock, opera, ballet, classical music. Whether it be musicians, bands, actors, opera singers or DJs, people are taking to the internet to live stream performances, concerts, DJ sets and even mini-festivals.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/> Here you will find a schedule of live services. Click on an entry to begin viewing the service.

### Joe Wick's mini workout series (5 minute)

- Marching on The Spot
- Star Jumps
- Low Sprint Shuffle
- Squats
- Climb the Rope



## Chilbolton Pre-School – Learning Through Play

I write this article the day after we reopened our fabulous Pre-School. Although Pre-School has been closed since 20th March, lots of work has been going on ‘in the background’ and online. The team have been in contact with the children via Facebook and our online Tapestry system and we have been sending out daily activities, bedtime stories and crazy videos to make the children laugh. We have so enjoyed receiving photos of what the children have been up to whilst they are at home with their families.

After lots of policy and risk assessment writing, we have opened our doors to welcome back some of our children. We will be operating with small groups who will stay within their own ‘team’ and our sessions will be filled with learning through fun and laughter. We are setting up as many activities as possible outside in the fresh air and will be utilising the field as much as possible for walks, games and water fun.

Sam will be in charge of our Forest School sessions for this half term and all children will get the opportunity to visit this fantastic area at least once a week. May we please extend our thanks to Andover Men’s Shed for our amazing new mud kitchen – the children absolutely love experimenting with the natural materials they can find and making yummy mud pies for us all!

Thanks also to one young gardener for planting seeds and selling his little plants – profits of which have been donated to us.

May we take this opportunity to extend special thanks to the following:

- The Pre-School Team for ‘pulling together’ through these strange times – and for helping to get the setting ready to welcome the children back.
- Will Williams, who covered an amazing 130km on his bike and raised £642 to be shared between Wherwell Primary School and Pre-School.
- Alex & James Gilbert-Asher for their energy in completing their sponsored run/cycle and raising approximately £800 for us.
- Melanie and her twin sister Samantha, for organising a ‘Scentsy’ raffle which raised over £1000 for us.
- Go Fund Me – we would like to thank everyone in our fabulous community who has already donated to our online ‘Go Fund Me’ fundraising page. We are still in need of funds to continue with running costs to take us through to September and if you would like to donate the link is - [gf.me/u/x2u4c6](https://gf.me/u/x2u4c6)

On behalf of us all at Pre-School - please stay safe and look after each other.

*Clarey Gibson, Deputy Manager, Chilbolton Pre- School*

## WALK 2: TEST VALLEY FARM LOOP via West Down

Abbreviations: Turn right **TR**, turn left **TL**, straight on **SO**, footpath **FP**, bridleway **BW**.

Distance: about 2.6miles (3.2k)

Time: about 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

The walk starts at the **Abbot's Mitre Public House**.

1. Leave pub and **TR**. Walk along village street about 100 yards.
2. **TR** up gravel track. This is Cart Lane and is indicated by a finger post with a cart at the top of the finger! Walk up the track with houses on both sides. It soon becomes a path between trees. Walk up the hill. At the top the path widens to a broad grass path along the edge of a field on your left. Look back and to your left and admire the view. Continue along this path until you reach an obvious junction and the gates to Hunts (John Deere dealers).
3. **TR** and walk along a permissive FP. You will see agricultural machinery on your left. Continue along a wide path until you reach a gate. Duck under a wooden bar. You are now in **Drove Road**.
4. **TR** and walk down Drove Road until you see a gap in the hedge on the left marked by finger post saying **Permissive Bridleway**. NB. At this point there is a dog poo bag dispenser and a dog poo bag disposal bin.
5. **TL** and walk along this grassy track which runs parallel with **Little Drove Road**. Continue **SO**. There are several gaps in the hedge on your right. The one you should take is about two thirds of the way along this path where a high leylandii hedge starts. There is also a telegraph pole on the right.
6. **TR** and go through the gap. Immediately on your left you will see a fingerpost pointing to the left.
7. **TL** and follow this narrow **FP**. Shortly you will see **Test Valley Farm** on your right and a hedge on your left. (If you **TR** through a gap too early, just turn left and walk along the road until you see the fingerpost on the left. Ignore the fingerpost on the right.) Walk along this path until you come to a junction of paths.
8. Ignore the paths going to your left and **SO**. **TR** You are now in **West Down Nature Reserve** (managed by Chilbolton Parish Council). Part of the reserve is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Walk through some trees until you came to a post and rail fence. Ignore the path on your left and go **SO** through the gap in the fence. Ignore a grass path to your right and walk diagonally left along an obvious grass **FP**. Shortly you will see an old, single bar gate to your left. Go around this. Cross the concrete road and go **SO** (don't turn left or right along the concrete road).

9. Ignore the path to your left which heads into woodland (Ivy Farm Wood). Veer to the right following an obvious grass **FP**. You will see a **Nature Trail** post on your right. Follow the obvious grass path across a field. Head for a gap in the trees which allows a fine view across the **Anton Valley**. Pass a metal bench to your left and head for a wooden gate dead ahead. (Ignore the paths to the right and to the left). Go through gate. You may find cattle grazing here. They are Red Devons, also known as Ruby Reds. They are pretty and docile. They are used for conservation grazing.

10. Go **SO** ignoring the paths to your right and left. Slightly to your left you will see the Mayfly Road Bridge and the Recycling Centre at the bottom of the slope. The path you should take bends to the right. You will pass a bench on your right. You are now on the **Test Way**. Continue along this obvious path. You are now walking parallel to road leading to Chilbolton (Coley Lane). You can see it below you and to your left.

11. Continue **SO** along this ridge. You will pass a couple of **Nature Trail** posts. Look for gaps in the trees to your left and you will be rewarded with fine views. Just after passing a metal bench on your right the path goes **SO** downhill. You will see a cattle pen in front of you and to the left of this is a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and **TL** to follow the **Test Way** (way marked) along the verge.

12. When you reach the road **TL**. Cross the road and almost immediately **TR** (signposted). You will see the Coronation Tree with a bench underneath it commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There is a fine view of the River Test.

13. After a few yards **TR** along a narrow path. You are still on the **Test Way**. You will see some attractive water gardens on your left and the Watch Cottage estate on your right. Follow this path until you reach a pedestrian gate. Go through it. You have reached the **War Memorial Playing Field**, gifted to the Parish Council in memory of those from Chilbolton who gave their lives in the Second World War. If you have a dog, please put him/her on a lead.

14. You have a choice. You can either:

- carry **SO** in the direction of the pavilion and exit the playing field by a gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Here there is a dog poo bag dispenser and a waste bin. Go through the gate and onto a wide gravel track with the Old Cottage on your right;
- or
- veer to the left. You will see a large metal roller. Head in that direction. Just beyond it to the left you will see a pedestrian gate. This is the route of the **Test Way**. Go through it and **TR** and follow the narrow path through trees. It emerges onto a wide gravel track with the Old Cottage in front of you. **TL** onto the track.

15. You have now reached **Chilbolton Cow Common** a Site of Special Scientific Interest. You will see the Old Cottage beside you. Follow gravel track as it bends to the right in front of the cottage.

16. Shortly, you will see a tarmac road ahead of you (Joys Lane) with a gate and a cattle grid as it enters the Common. Before you get to the cattle grid **TL**. There is a dog poo bag dispenser and waste bins.

17. Walk along the wide gravel track and through a gateway. You will see three houses in front of you. The centre one is the Old Inn. About half way to the Old Inn you will see a grass path heading off diagonally to your right. It leads towards a small bridge over the Abbot's Stream. Cross the bridge and go through the gate. Please make sure you close it. A narrow path goes between gardens to the left and the right. Follow this path. You will come to the village street and the **Abbot's Mitre** is in front of you.

That's the end of the walk. I hope you enjoyed it.

*David Griffiths*

### **FEED THE ANDOVER FOOD BANKS UPDATE**

A big thank you again to everyone who has donated to our campaign to Feed The Food Bank. It is really good that so many people continue to donate food, money or both regularly.

Sadly the requests for help from food banks continues to grow with the number of people becoming unemployed being announced almost daily.

**If you can please consider buying at least a couple of items from the list below for the food banks whenever ordering your shop on line or visiting the supermarket.**

The following items are always in demand:

Long life fruit juice and milk

Pasta and rice

Sauces for pasta

Tinned vegetables including potatoes, baked beans, and spaghetti

Tinned meat and fish

Tinned fruit, custard, and rice pudding

**If you prefer to make a cash donation or to set up a standing order please contact us as we have gift aid forms available. Many thanks for all your donations - your continued support will be very much appreciated.**

*Jane Andrews: 860635 email: [flyjohnandrews@aol.com](mailto:flyjohnandrews@aol.com)*

*Sue Filmer: 860599 or Jo Neudegg: 860042*

## How do you remember the summers of your childhood?

For Laurie Lee they were: ‘flower-crested, heady, endless days – a remote valley filled with the scent of hay, jazzing wasps, blackberries plucked and gobbled, and games played until the last drop of dusk.’ He captures the very essence of England’s golden season.

*Selected from the book **Cider with Rosie** by Laurie Lee*

### Summer's Melody

Rippling crystal waters shine like silver to reflect summer's glow.  
Soothing and calming in rhythm, echoing its lyrical flow.  
Magical music of nature, a symphony of splendid delight.  
Skies like blue oceans in paradise, birds soaring to grasp full flight.

Gentle swans glide gracefully, elegant yet proud and strong,  
Birds and bees in unison, the joyful hum of nature's song.  
Rolling summer meadows shimmer, like jewels in Mother Nature's crown.  
Embellishing fields of emerald green draped in its golden gown.

Light sweet air blows softly, scented by sweet cherry blossom in bloom.  
Delicate, pretty petals lifting to dance in harmony with summer's tune.  
The sounds and scents of summer, its melody light and free.  
Sands of gold that glisten, embracing waves of a warm and whispering sea.

*Edel T. Copeland*

**Can you capture your childhood summer memories and share them in our village magazine?**

I have always loved dragonflies and damselflies – they seem to have a fairy like quality – so fragile, light and vibrant but so difficult to photograph they barely stay on one stalk or flowerhead for more than one second.





## Dragonflies and Damselflies

Over ponds and fresh water streams they hover  
Above verdant reeds and white water lily pads  
Yellow waterlily buttercups and golden flag iris  
Atop pretty daisy-like crowfoot and floating frogbit  
Like sparkling sapphire helicopters,  
Purple amethyst aeroplanes  
Dazzling in the sun  
With eyes of brilliant topaz  
Wings flashing fluorescent emerald light  
A-glittering and a-gleaming  
In their jewelled flight  
Barely landing before they flit away  
These beautiful bejewelled treasures  
With wings of iridescent shades  
Chasing, skimming under azure blue skies  
Glistening and glinting in the sun.  
Here since ancient times  
Populating our watery shores  
Have you noticed them  
These glimmering artistic creations in the sky?

*Anna Cockram*

### Do you know **The Difference between a Dragonfly and a Damselfly?**

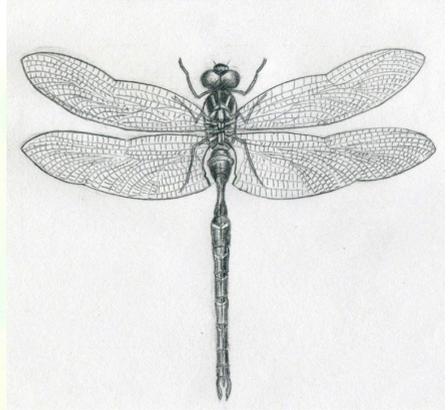
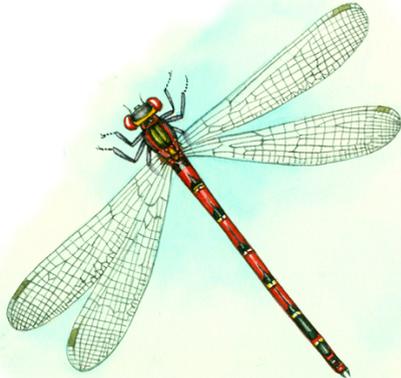
**Eyes:** Dragonflies have much larger eyes than damselflies, with the eyes taking up most of the head as they wrap around from the side to the front of the face. The eyes of a damselfly are large, but there is always a gap of space between them.

**Body Shape:** Dragonflies have bulkier bodies than damselflies, with a shorter, thicker appearance. Damselflies have a body made like the narrowest of twigs, whereas dragonflies have a bit of heft.

**Wing Shape:** Both dragonflies and damselflies have two sets of wings, but they have different shapes. Dragonflies have hind wings that broaden at the base, which makes them larger than the front set of wings. Damselflies

have wings that are the same size and shape for both sets, and they also taper down as they join the body, becoming quite narrow as they connect.

**Position of the Wings at Rest:** Finally, you can spot the difference when the insect is at rest. Dragonflies hold their wings out perpendicular to their bodies when resting, like an airplane. Damselflies fold their wings up and hold them together across the top of their backs.



Which one have I drawn?



## Thoughts on the subject of Worry

As a Reiki Practitioner, and also from working with mindfulness, there is one small word that pops up and is an area of focus for my daily practice, and which is always a challenge. That word is “Worry”.

In these exceptional times we are all prone to worry. Could be about work; our businesses; money; our health and that of those we love; the list is endless. But worry can cause stress which can result in both physical and psychological harm. It can lower our immune system and therefore actually make us more susceptible to illness. We all need to be mindful and watch out not only for ourselves but those around us. Look for changes in behaviour; even over or unusual jolliness can be a mask for distress. I know it is easy to say “don’t worry” but in truth it is very hard. The quote below from the Dalai Lama has its origins way back in history, in fact the earliest reference I have found so far goes back to Shantideva, an 8<sup>th</sup> century Indian Buddhist.



*“If you can solve your problem, then what is the need of worrying?”*

*“If you cannot solve it, then what is the use of worrying?”*

So what can we do? Well we all have to find our own ways to de-stress that don’t harm our health. Doing things that make us happy from just sitting listening to the birds or music; watching or joining with children playing; reading a book; crafting/modelling of any type; chatting with friends and family; going for a walk; yoga; and gardening (which is well known to be very good for reducing stress and helping ease depression) are just some ideas.

On worry: to share problems and concerns can also help put our worries in perspective. I remember a lovely phrase from my parents and grandparents “A problem shared is a problem halved”. It is so true; talking through problems and concerns is great and often we find solutions and unexpected help right in front of us. If you want to talk to someone but don’t feel able to talk to friends and family, there are lots of services available such as the Samaritans. I trained as a Mental Health First Aider just over a year ago and I am fortunate that through Mental Health England I can access a list of organisations and support groups which may be of interest to help people. The main thing is to keep talking.

*Gwen Picco*



## Recipe of the month

### Cheddar Curry



Do you want to use up old cheese and sample a very tasty dish?  
Serves 4

#### **Ingredients**

1oz butter  
1 chopped onion  
1 oz plain flour  
1-2 teaspoons curry powder  
half pint chicken or veg. stock  
salt and pepper  
2 level tablespoons sweet chutney  
1 oz sultanas  
6oz cheddar cheese cubed  
4 oz long grained rice cooked

#### **Method**

- 1 Start cooking rice.
2. Melt butter in saucepan, add onion and fry until golden brown.
3. Add flour and curry powder, stir.
4. Gradually add stock, stir well so that it doesn't go lumpy. Heat until sauce thickens.
5. Add salt, pepper, chutney, sultanas and cheese. Mix well.
6. Serve hot surrounded by freshly cooked rice.

*Jenny Seddon*

#### **Note from editor:**

*Please send in your recipes to [cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk). If not published in the same month as submitted, they will appear in later issues ☺*

## Electric Vehicle Charging Points - A Guide by Steve Picco

### Unlike hybrid vehicles, an electric vehicle (EV) uses only batteries

Last year there were 93,000 EVs on UK roads and it is estimated this will increase to 1 million by 2022. The Government has drafted legislation requiring all new properties to be fitted with an EV charging point, so it is possible that having one may increase the value of your home, if overseas statistics are replicated in the UK.

A Government grant is available, via the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), of 75% of the installation cost up to a maximum of £350, but to qualify for this Homecharge Scheme you must either own the vehicle (new or used), have registered use of one, e.g. a company car, or have an EV on order.

You must also have a designated off-street parking place and the charging point must be installed by an OLEV approved installer.

There is also a Workplace Charging Scheme with different requirements.

Full details on the grant schemes can be found on the OLEV website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles)

If you do not meet the above requirements you can still install an EV charging point. However, you will not be eligible for the grant.

### Can you plug in an EV anywhere? The simple answer is yes

You can charge using a proprietary charging cable fitted with a 13A plug. This is not ideal, and It is VERY slow (around 12½ hours)! Regulations also require you should use a dedicated circuit for this purpose.

EV Charging Point	
Size	Approx charge time from flat
3kW	11 hours
7kW	4½ hours
22kW	1½ hours

The better option is to install your own **EV charging point**, either in your garage, or outside. They communicate with the vehicle for safety and efficiency and come in several sizes. The table shows a rough idea of the recharging times.

The 22kW charger is only suitable for properties with a 3-phase electricity supply, which very few have. Otherwise you will need a new supply installed by the local electricity network distributor, with all the additional cost involved!

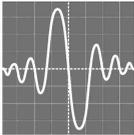
In reality, your EV battery will almost never be completely flat, so the charging time will be reduced proportionately. If you consider most charging takes place overnight, even 11 hours becomes a more practical proposition.

It is also worth noting that topping-up a battery for just an hour with the 7kW unit would give around 20 miles additional range, whilst the 3kW unit would give around 9 miles (exact figures depend on the vehicle).

Modern EV charging points come with a range of features, for example the ability to programme when and how your vehicle is charged, thereby enabling you to maximise access to cheaper electricity or use free energy via solar panels whilst still ensuring your EV is ready to go when you need it.

For full details on the options available and whether your property is suitable contact your locally OLEV approved installer, of which Peak Electrics is one (please see our advert below).

*Steve Picco*



**Peak Electrics**

OLEV accredited



## Electric Vehicle Charging Points

OLEV government grant available



myenergi

pod POINT

We are proud to be accredited by myenergi and Pod Point

**Tel: 01264 861484**

**Text: 07850 213800**

**e-mail: [steve@peakelectrics.co.uk](mailto:steve@peakelectrics.co.uk)**

**[www.peakelectrics.co.uk](http://www.peakelectrics.co.uk)**



## St Peter and Holy Cross church, Wherwell Graffiti Survey summary Part 2

(Part 1 was published in the April 2020 Magazine)

We were kindly given access to the **belfry area**, and on our first visit were even treated to a demonstration of the Ellacombe Chiming Apparatus. Such areas are always a good source of graffiti, left by generations of bell ringers. Here, there were traces of names left on the plaster surfaces, though many are now very worn and illegible. **R Young** left his name here three times in the 1920s, and other legible names included **R Penney**, **Spratt** and **F Hallett**. All the names found are listed as an appendix to this article.

The most productive areas for graffiti were the **wooden organ casing** and the pews. Many names are recorded on the organ, many left by those who had to pump it during services, hence the exhortation “Keep on pumping”! Some people added dates. One was **Denis Harding**



who carefully carved his name on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1939. Sadly, this gentleman had died a short time before our first visit, so he would have been about age 12 when he left his mark. Some people whiled away their time listing animals, or left lists of dates or references to the order of service. Others drew caricatures, made scurrilous remarks, or dreamt of racing cars.



The pews, which must be part of the original fittings of the church, dating to mid nineteenth century, provided a wealth of interesting graffiti. The earliest



dated names were **Thomas Rogers** 1872 and HW 1885 on Pew 1, and a palimpsest of names and patterns on pew 4 appeared 19<sup>th</sup> century in date stylistically. Caricatures, possibly of parishioners, abound. Was **J. Claydon**



the pipe-smoking figure drawn next to his name? There are glimpses into everyday life, including some charming depictions of ladies' lace-up boots on pew 16, and a surprising number of sailing ships.



Some pew ends have names written on them, suggesting these pews were for the use of particular families. The names are very worn now, but **Mill**, **Smith** and **Carter** can still be discerned at the ends of pews 3, 4, 12 and 13.



## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks go to Andrew Flanagan who helped arrange our visits and provide access to the belfry and to the end of the south aisle. We would also like to thank David Etchells for the introduction to the church's history and copies of articles, and all the kind folk who made us so welcome, providing refreshments and the benefit of their knowledge and enthusiasm for this historic building.

*Karen Wardley, Co-ordinator, HMGP  
October 2019*

## **Names appearing as graffiti at Wherwell church**

### **The Belfry**

F Hallett, R Penney 1927, Spratt, R Young 1922, 1923, 1927

### **South aisle**

F Goody, A Trim

### **Organ Casing**

G. Barnes, Butler, S. Colman, Jimmy Goddard 1 Sept 1939, John Goddard 1 Sept 1939, D Harden, Denis Harding 1 July 1939, A Hayes, D Hayes, J Holdway, P Horne, Alan Kelly, Keith Miller 1 Sept 1939, Marion Miller 1 Sept 1939, C Norris 1939, E Nutley, F Sandom, EB Smith, Tom Stagg, H Trim

### **Pews**

Family names at pew ends: Carter x 2, Mill, Smith

Other names:

M Brown, J Claydon, HB Cole, L Collins, W Drew Fullerton, Fuller, C Hawkins, Fred Jakes, George James, A Keates, George Laisley, W Park, K Parker, Charles Perry, George Robbins, Thomas Rogers 1872, S Sandom, Terrager, HW 1885, Samuel Watton, R Wright

NB: There are many sets of initials which were also recorded and many more names are abraded or faint, but might be decipherable with more time and study.



## **JULY IN THE GARDEN**

*High summer in the garden, a time for the gardener to reap the benefits of all the hard work of earlier weeks and months*

I do hope that you are able to do just that. Hopefully we have had some rain but if drought looms make sure pots and special plants are kept watered. It seems wise now to conserve as much water as you can and collect any rain in water butts.

Roses and flowers need deadheading to ensure maximum flowers and to continue the display. A visit to the garden centre should fill any gaps in the borders. I did hear they are concentrating on producing late bedding plants for this purpose.

Weed growth should be slowing now but any weeds should be pulled out to stop them setting seed. Keep the weeds down by continuing to hoe the vegetable plot and flower borders.

The vegetable plot should be producing well now. Most vegetables taste better when they are young so harvest as soon as they are ready. Remember the more you pick crops such as courgette, beans and tomatoes the more will be produced. Shallots can be lifted, and if dried out in hot sun will keep for a year. Lovely new potatoes can be lifted as soon as the tubers are large enough to eat.

It is important to water regularly and runner beans in particular need a lot of water to produce long, stringless beans. Keep sowing salad crops for succession and now is a good time to sow a late crop of carrots, beetroot and spinach beet. Pick leafy herbs in the early morning of a hot sunny day, hang up in small loose bunches to dry for winter use.

Enjoy Summer in your garden.

*Jenny Seddon*

## **THE RED KITE**

I was sitting on a wall waiting for my car to be repaired in Andover today and looking north towards Newbury, when high up, indeed very high up, I guess about 500 to 700 feet, I saw a Red Kite circling on its own, quietly. That in itself was strange for several reasons. Firstly it was higher than I have ever seen a Kite or for that matter a Buzzard, secondly it was alone as so often you see them in pairs and thirdly it was not calling; its call is shrill - like someone whistling for their dog. I often wonder about people, what do they do, why are they doing things and where are they from and so I thought... why is the Kite flying too high to be able to see carrion, or a likely source of food. I concluded that it was flying for the sheer pleasure of doing so. I know, or at least I am told, that all hawks have amazing eye sight but in

the Savanna of Africa or the wilder parts of South America I can understand hawks flying high, and indeed I have seen them as they are looking for large dead carcasses, but here in Hampshire, the Kite lives mainly on small birds, rodents, worms and carrion and small mammals too. I would have thought flying so high would serve no purpose.

The Red Kite is one of the success stories of re-introduction. For since man having killed all the Kites in England by the early 1930s, there were only two breeding pairs left, both in central Wales, then reintroduced into the Chilterns, around Ink Pen Beacon in 1989 and in Galloway, Scotland at the same time. By 1992 Kites as reintroduced birds bred for the first time. The Welsh Kites were protected and by 1992 there were around 80 breeding pairs and now considerably more.

In Shakespeare's time, the Venetian ambassador to Elizabeth's court reported that London was full of crows and Kites and they were a menace. But this was a time when cattle, sheep and pigs and even geese were driven into London, some from Hampshire, slaughtered on the street and the offal thrown into the Thames or left for the dogs, the crows and the Kites. Indeed, the Kite was protected in medieval times by Royal Decree as it was recognised that it served a useful purpose and maybe because it was a beautiful bird and elegant in the skies.

Then, in a time of cleaner cities and better shot guns and poisons, the Kite and many other similar birds were exterminated. When their numbers diminished, their value to taxidermists and egg collectors increased, until the last Kite was killed in England in 1871, and in Scotland in 1879. Game keepers and estate owners believed that Kites would take game birds but this happens very rarely, so I am told. In my 1921 book of birds of the British Isles, the Kite is not mentioned nor in an earlier Victorian book.

I am told Kites range over an area of about 2 square miles. I have watched at close quarters a pair on the River Loddon which nested 25 feet off the ground in an old tree. It is unusual for Kites to nest so low down and so near people but the nest looked like it had been used for several years judging from the colour of branches forming the nest. As trout fishing is a seasonal activity starting in May I guess the nest by that time is probably almost empty of chicks. Certainly the one I watched for almost a day in late May, when the fish were looking at daytime TV, I could see three chicks about the size of small chickens and hear them screeching at their parents.

Usually red kites first breed when they are two years old, although exceptionally, they can successfully breed when they are only one year old. Like most hawks they are monogamous and the pair-bond in resident populations which is probably maintained during the winter, particularly when the pair remain on their breeding territory. For migrant populations the fidelity to a particular nesting site means that the pair-bond is likely to be

renewed each breeding season. The nest is built by both sexes and they might take over the nest of a buzzard. The nest I watched was an untidy pile of sticks and twigs. As is common with birds, the eggs are laid at three-day intervals. The clutch is usually between one and three eggs but four and even five eggs have occasionally been recorded. The eggs are mainly incubated by the female, but the male will relieve her for short periods while she feeds. The male will also bring food for the female. Incubation starts as soon as the first egg is laid. Each egg hatches after 31 to 32 days but as they hatch asynchronously, not at the same time, a clutch of three eggs requires 38 days of incubation. The chicks are cared for by both parents. The female broods them for the first 14 days while the male brings food to the nest which the female feeds to the chicks. Later both parents bring items of food which are placed in the nest to allow the chicks to feed themselves. The nestlings begin climbing onto branches around their nest from 45 days but rarely before 48–50 days and sometimes not until they are 60–70 days of age. The young spend a further 15–20 days in the neighbourhood of the nest being fed by their parents. Only a single brood is raised each year but if the eggs are lost the female will relay. Raising a family for a pair of Kites is quite an undertaking and requires a huge amount of food.

The maximum age of a kite recorded is 25 years and 8 months for a ringed bird in Germany. The longevity record for Britain and Ireland is 23 years and 10 months for a bird found dead in Wales in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

The three largest populations (in Germany, France and Spain, which together hold more than 75% of the global population) declined between 1990 and 2000, and overall the species declined by almost 20% over the ten years. The main threats to red Kites are poisoning, through illegal direct poisoning and indirect poisoning from pesticides, particularly in the wintering ranges in France and Spain, and changes in agricultural practices causing a reduction in food resources. Other threats include electrocution, hunting and trapping, deforestation, egg-collection (on a local scale) and possibly competition with the generally more successful black kite.

We are so lucky that the Red Kites likes to live in where a mosaic of open countryside exists, including farmland and scattered patches of woodland for nesting and roosting, this is the Hampshire we live in and love. Having killed and then rescued this beautiful bird from extinction, we are privileged to be able to watch it fly above us purely for its own pleasure, or that is what I think it was doing today.

*Alan Crisp*



## To All Magazine Contributors

We are eternally grateful for the regular contributions provided by villagers for the magazine each month. However, we would be even more grateful if the submissions were all provided in the A5 Template format.

If you are a contributor and already doing this – thank you! If not, please ask the magazine Content Manager to email you the template next month before you copy and paste your submission into it. Many thanks.

*Stephen MacDonald, Mag Chairman*

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Flood Advisory Group	Terry Gilmour	860507
Horticultural Society	Sheila Evans	860697
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### **Coronavirus Helplines:**

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