

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk

April 2022

This bumper 40pp issue marks the return to something like normality with the prospect of village fetes, open gardens and Jubilee celebrations to look forward to. Meanwhile, the news from Ukraine fills our heads with the terror and destruction of war, reminding us how lucky we are, and that such peaceful pleasures are not to be taken for granted. Amidst all the horror, the bravery of the Ukrainians is inspiring, the response of ordinary people throughout the UK has been amazing, and it's heart-warming that hundreds of thousands of people across the planet are reaching out to support the people of Ukraine in every way they can.

Tessa Youell

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team Lesley Chin, Anna Cockram, and Tessa Youell. Thanks also, to our distribution coordinators Michael Payne and David Fellowes, and our distribution helpers. Also, to Tim Whiteside, our 'What's On' Coordinator and Stephen Macdonald our Chairman and advertising manager.

We are a group of volunteers supporting our community. To help us please submit your copy to 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 for any copy – articles or adverts – **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.

The editors reserve the right to omit, amend or condense any item submitted for publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily shared by the editors or the magazine team. Any article printed in this magazine may be reproduced on the Chilbolton or Wherwell websites. Contributors who do not wish their material to be published on the village websites must specify this at the time they submit their article.

Magazine Advertising

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Services – April 2022	<i>St Mary the Less, Chilbolton</i>	<i>St Mary's, Crawley</i>	<i>St Catherine's Littleton</i>	<i>St Stephen's Sparsholt</i>	<i>St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell</i>
<i>This information is correct at the time of going to press but please check on the website (www.downsbenefice.org) for up-to-date information.</i>					
Sunday 3rd April – Passion Sunday					
Holy Communion		10am			
Morning Prayer	10am				
Café Church in Church Room – Karis Kids			4pm		
Monday 4th April					
Toddlers' Easter Service			10am		
Sunday 10th April – Palm Sunday					
Palm Sunday Holy Communion with Donkey Procession			10am		
Palm Sunday Service with Donkey Procession				10am	
Palm Sunday Service	With Wh				10am
Thursday 14th April – Maundy Thursday					
Holy Communion with Washing of the Feet				6pm	
Friday 15th April – GOOD FRIDAY					
Easter Garden		10am			
Good Friday Meditation	With Wh		12 noon		3pm
Sunday 17th April – EASTER SUNDAY					
Easter Sunday Holy Communion	10am		10am	10am	
Easter Sunday Family Service		10am			10am
Sunday 24th April – The Second Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion - BCP					8am
Morning Prayer			10am		
Morning Worship				10am	
Wednesday 27th April					
Midweek Holy Communion			10am		
Friday 29th April					
Signature Holy Communion			10.30am		

Dear Friends,

‘Look! I told you once already. Didn’t you listen? Do you want to become His disciples too?’ (John 9: 27)

This strident question comes from the mouth of a man healed by Jesus from the blindness which had afflicted him since birth. We find the Pharisees questioning him relentlessly about what had happened. Their incredulity was born out of jealousy – all around them there had been signs and stories of people being set free from the impediments of their lives in Jesus’ miraculous healing gift. In this instance, the man in question had been begging at the entrance of the Pool of Siloam, an important and safe source

of pure spring water for the people of Jerusalem. John's gospel tells us how Jesus chose to heal this unnamed man so that 'the power of God could be seen in him.' (John 9:3) I find it wonderful how this previously obscure individual, 'invisible' in the eyes of his community, was able to stand up to the relentless jibing from the Pharisees so soon after having his entire life turned around by Jesus. It's why I'm choosing this text as we celebrate Easter.

In the midst of an industry which brings us more sugar coated confectionery and chocolate eggs than could ever be good for us, the true message of Easter can often become obscured. But this man brings it back into sharp focus. Blind since birth he may have been, but listen to the sharp acuity of his focus now. His response to the Pharisees is scathing: '*Look! I told you once already. Didn't you listen?*' How much more do I have to tell you before you believe me?

How guilty of being like the Pharisees are we, I wonder? Do we go along with the flow from Lent to Easter Day, knowing how the story of Jesus' death by crucifixion will end happily ever after, so leaving us free to concentrate on entertaining family and friends over the Bank Holiday weekend? Have we become inured to the enormity of Jesus' death in atonement before God for our sins? Do we even think much about the message of salvation which bursts from the tomb as Jesus invites us to share with Him the joy and felicity of eternal life?

The man healed of a congenital blindness brings us a searching spiritual question this Easter. '*Do you want to become Jesus' disciples too?*' His truth is to testify that, even though he doesn't have the first clue as to why Jesus chose to heal him, what he does know is that Jesus could only have performed such a miracle by being the Son of God. In the same way, nor do we need to know all the answers in order for us to share with our friends and family how Christ is at work in our lives! All we need is the conviction that we couldn't survive the physical, emotional and spiritual battles we face without Jesus being with us. By His glorious resurrection, Jesus has set us free from the bonds of death and has given us the gift of eternal life. Just as Jesus healed the blind man of Siloam so that God's power could be seen in him, so we must trust that He will also use us to help others to believe in Him too.

This Easter, resist the temptation to limit the gifts you offer your loved ones to hollow chocolate eggs. Instead, invite them to come and taste the gift of eternal life which is sweeter and more nourishing to our souls than anything else in heaven or on earth!

Jax
Revd Jax Machin, Rector of The Downs Benefice

Prayer

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your people with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A year late but just as fun... don't miss out!

Chilbolton Auction of Promises

to raise funds for the fabric of the church

Friday 22nd April

at

7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start

Chilbolton Village Hall

Auctioneer: David Smith

**Bring a picnic supper and share with your friends
Free nibbles. Licensed Bar**

**Details from (& promises to!): Lesley Kent, 01264 860584
or Neil Bowen, 07740 200691**

Catalogues available in advance at the Village Shop & Pub

***If you can't be there,
make your advance bids through Lesley or Neil***

Lent Soup Lunch



Tuesday 12th April at 12:30

at

St Mary-the-Less, Chilbolton

Come and enjoy a soup lunch among friends and share some short prayers for Lent and Ukraine.

Booking not essential but would be helpful for catering purposes.
Please contact Lesley, Tel: 01264 860584 or email:
charlotte@cjnash.com

All Welcome!



EASTER LILIES IN WHERWELL CHURCH

We are delighted that we will, once again, be purchasing some lilies with which to decorate our lovely Church at Easter. Anyone wishing to make a contribution should contact Phyllis Harding who has kindly offered to collect the donations. Please pass the names of any loved ones that you wish would remember at this time to either Phyllis or Jo. A card with the names of the loved ones will be placed in the Church.

This year, in view of the awful recent events, any surplus money from the purchase of the Lilies will be donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee/British Red Cross in support of the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

With many thanks, Jo Baughen

Feed the Andover Food Bank – Update Support for the Ukraine appeal

Sadly, more than ever, your support is needed now, with unemployment figures and household expenses increasing alarmingly. If you have not donated anything recently, please consider donating now.

Donations of Easter Eggs would be very much appreciated as every year the Food Bank tries to ensure that every child will receive one.

Suggested items to donate:

Tea, coffee, milk,
Fruit squash, biscuits, crisps
Tinned vegetables, meat, and fish
Pasta sauces
Tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding, jelly, instant whip
Bathroom, kitchen, and toilet cleaning products
Washing-up liquid dish cloths, scourers, bin bags
Detergent, fabric conditioner
Hand sanitiser, soap, shower gel, deodorant, baby wipes, toilet rolls
Tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner
Cat and dog food, poop bags

Please do also consider supporting the ongoing local and national initiatives for donations of cash, medicines, clothes, food, and personal hygiene items for Ukraine refugees.

Donations can be dropped off at Chilbolton Stores or at either of the monthly village coffee mornings. Please do contact me if you need any food donations picked up or if you would like to make a cash donation.

Information regarding setting up a Standing Order to benefit the Food Bank or to Gift Aid a donation can be found on their web site at:
Helping Local People in Crisis (andover.foodbank.org.uk)

A big thank you to Beryl Lawrence for her help in co-ordinating the collection of donations from Chilbolton, and to Nicky for having the collection box outside the shop.

*Jane Andrews: Tel: 01264 860635 or 07730 412393
email: flyjohndrews@aol.com*

PARISH OF ST MARY-THE-LESS, CHILBOLTON

A meeting for the Election of Churchwardens will be held in Chilbolton Parish Church on Wednesday, 6 April 2022 at 5.00 pm

To be attended by:

- (i) all persons whose names are entered on the church Electoral Roll of the parish; and
- (ii) all persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in Chilbolton Parish Church on Wednesday, 6 April 2022 at 5.10 pm

For the election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows:

- (i) to the Parochial Church Council - up to 9 representatives
- (ii) to the Deanery Synod - 2 representatives

For the appointment of Sidesmen and the Independent Examiner or Auditor

For the consideration of:

- (i) a report on changes to the electoral roll since the last annual parochial church meeting
- (ii) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally
- (iii) the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2021 immediately preceding the meeting audited or independently examined
- (iv) a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
- (v) a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod, and other matters of parochial or general church interest

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and such persons only) are entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.

Should you wish to attend these meetings please either contact Wendy on 860237 or email her at wendyandrews875@btinternet.com by 4 April 2022.



BLUEBELL WALK at WHERWELL

Sunday, 24th April 2022

Starts 10am Wherwell Village Hall

**The Management Committee of the Colonel Jenkins
Memorial Hall
invites you to join the Annual Bluebell Walk**

on

Sunday, 24th April

Tickets on sale from 10am

**The guided tour leaves from the Village Hall shortly
thereafter
taking in the beautiful bluebell woods of Harewood Forest.**

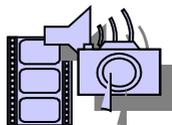
**Cost £3 per Adult and £2 per child,
includes a bowl of hearty soup and bread,
or children's lunch back at the Village Hall after the walk**

Small children and dogs on lead are WELCOME

Fingers crossed for Spring Sunshine

We Look Forward to Seeing You There

Come to the Movies!



CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

‘West Side Story’(12A)

Starring Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler, Josh Andrés Rivera,
Ariana DeBose and David Alvarez

Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance.
Their romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks
-- two rival gangs vying for control of the streets

Friday, 1st April - doors open 6.45 pm

Tickets £5.00 - In advance **NO BOOKING FEE!**
Or £6.00 - On the door (subject to availability)

Wine, beer, orange juice and choc ices will be on sale

To book your ticket, please ring Beryl LAWRENCE on 01264 860618
or E-mail dlaw@davidlawrenceassociates.co.uk

SAVE THE DATE
WHERWELL OPEN GARDENS
Sunday, 26th June, 1pm – 5pm

The Management Committee of the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall invites
you to tour 10 Open Gardens

The gardens range from traditional cottage gardens through to larger modern
planting schemes, with some of the gardens bordering the River Test.
Whatever your interest in gardening, there is something to delight and inspire
you in Wherwell.

Entry by Programme at £5 per person,
All proceeds going toward the care and maintenance of our Village Hall.
Come and join us for Tea, Coffee, and Cakes,
After the tour stop in for Pimms!
Thank You for Your Support
We Look Forward to Seeing You There

It was composting week 15th – 21st March

Did you know?

An average British family can save £720 a year if they stop throwing food in the bin.

Around 40% of the average dustbin contents is suitable for composting.

A few composting tips for beginners:

You need 2 types of materials – Green and Brown, at a 50:50 ratio. If you add them at the same time they naturally mix together and work to their full potential in the composting process and reduce, or eliminate, the need to turn.

Green: high in nitrogen and rot down very quickly which makes them good ‘activators’. They kick start the composting process.

Examples: Grass clippings, nettles, fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags/leaves, used coffee grounds, manure from cattle and poultry, egg shells, comfrey and nettles

Remember! If you’re vegetarian or vegan, you will need to be selective about the above

Excessive greens can result in unpleasant odours. If the ratio of greens is particularly high, sludge can seep out of the bin. If the airflow is too limited, it will interfere, perhaps even stop, the composting process

Brown: provide structure and airflow; act as a sponge, absorbing excessive moisture as it has little or no sap/water content; high in carbon; will take a long time to compost on their own.

Examples: Hedge cuttings, twigs and sticks no more than 1cm diameter, shredded paper, scrunched newspaper, empty toilet and kitchen rolls, cereal boxes, egg boxes, straw bedding from herbivorous animals, sawdust, shredded tough woody material

Remember! If you are concerned about toxicity, you’ll need to consider ink on cardboard, etc

Excess Brown materials can slow or stop the composting process. The denser the materials are, the longer it’ll take.

Get to know your compost heap

Are the materials appropriate to compost? Remove those that aren’t.

Does the mix look right? You should see browns and greens in roughly equal proportions.

Does it look too wet or too dry? It needs to be damp. If it’s too dry, sprinkle water over the heap. If it’s too wet, turn and add scrunched up newspaper. Cover to prevent rain from getting in.

Are there any strong unpleasant odours? There should be no strong smells. If there are, turn the compost and add brown materials. Unpleasant odours could also be caused by inappropriate material such as meat or fish.

What not to compost:

- Dog or cat faeces, including litter tray waste, as bacteria will not break down in the composting process and can cause severe health conditions, nor will the process kill any parasites that may be present
- Human faeces and urine, for similar reasons to above. Diluted human urine can be used as an activator at home with no health or hygiene issues
- ANY cooked food, including fruit and vegetables. Cooked food can attract rats and other vermin
- Raw meat and fish, including dead animals, which will attract rats and other vermin, including foxes that will travel to raid your bin
- Liquids such as oil, gravy, milk and soft drinks, which could attract vermin and may affect the composting process
- Glass, plastic and metal
- Glossy magazines and junk mail, because they sometimes have a thin layer of plastic that will not rot down. Recycle rather than compost
- Ash from coal or coke fires because they are high in sulphur, which can disrupt the composting process and poison the soil
- Seeds, weeds and plants with diseases. Many seeds, some weeds and diseases are resilient enough to survive in a standard compost heap. Surviving seeds will germinate when the compost is used, making more work and taking nutrients from your plants

Referencing Hampshire County Councils 'Smart Living' initiative where there is lots of information on how to prevent waste, save money and help the environment.

Go to: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/smartliving>

WE NEED YOU....

Covid interrupted activities planned by the Greener Villages for Wherwell and Chilbolton. We're ready to regenerate interest and get active again. Would you like to join the subgroups for Biodiversity, Food, Water, Waste, Energy or Transport, please contact us at greenvillages@scirum.co.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

For future events please follow us on Facebook @greenvillages



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

This is your chance to work for
Fuller's country/village pub of the year!

We are hiring: Cleaners, KP's, Servers, Chef de partie,
Kitchen assistants, Assistant Manager, & Head Chef



**Drop your CV in or send an email to:
mayfly.manager@fullers.co.uk**

Mayfly
Fullerton, Nr Stockbridge
Hampshire
SO20 6AF
01264 860283



Applicants must be 16 years or older

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL -MARCH 2022

The parish is aghast about the invasion of Ukraine. We record our thanks to Sean Sheldrake and James Weir for organising collection of clothing, bedding and supplies for Ukrainian refugees. Several deliveries have been made to Poland already. When you receive the magazine things will have moved on and the outcome appears bleak. Our prayers go out to all Ukrainians in this dreadful time.

The Parish Council met on Monday 7th May when plans for the tree planting ceremony which is part of our Queen's Green Canopy initiative and the Wessex River Trust presentation of their proposal for changes to the bank and course of the Purleygig branch of the River Test stream were finalised. These events were well publicised and a good turnout of villagers is expected on 26th and 27th March.

The pedestrian crossing at West down and footpath to the kissing gate on West Down is now complete apart from the correction of white lines and white lines to be put in Winchester Street that should be completed soon. The kerbstones that have been an eyesore for many months have been re aligned and replaced with lower kerbs so that this area is much improved and safer. Hampshire County Council has made a grant of £500 towards the planting of further trees for the Green Canopy initiative and news is awaited regarding our application for funding of an outdoor tennis table to be located at the memorial playing fields.

For the moment the re layout of Cow Common gravel area is on hold until a response is received from Natural England regarding the various questions that have been raised in public meetings and elsewhere including parking and signage. No decision has yet been made as to whether a gate will be installed at the cattle grid.

The Parish Assembly will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 25th April. This is an annual event and this year we have decided to ask what residents of Chilbolton would like with regards to

- a. Village Events
- b. Community Emergency Plan
- c. Village Facilities.

This is an opportunity for residents to express their views for improvements and changes to our village in short and longer term so that the PC is able to prioritise these. Some may be included in our response to the new Test Valley Local Plan 2040.

The recent power outage during storm Eunice and the need to protect vulnerable residents, should something like this happen again, focused the need for a permanent emergency action group to open the village hall as an emergency centre, provide hot food and drinks a warm place and arrange

transport for people with mobility issues. We will discuss this under (b) at the Parish Assembly.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Fiona Barrie for her contribution to our village as a councillor and chair of the parish council, and also to David Griffiths for standing in as acting Chair.

Tony Ewer

New Website for Chilbolton Parish Council



Chilbolton Parish Council has launched a new website to provide a more user-friendly focal point for information and communication with villagers and visitors. The new site can be accessed at

<https://chilboltonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Up until last year both Chilbolton and Wherwell Parish Councils used the Community Website to communicate and archive all relevant information for public access. However, this is built on out-of-date technology, lacks clear ownership and is difficult to maintain, meaning that much of the information was rarely visited and not actively curated.

CPC has now followed the example launched by Wherwell PC in January 2021 (<https://wherwellparishcouncil.org.uk>) and has set up a much more interactive website to access information and key documents, share views, report incidents, and contribute to village projects and activities.

We will continue to work closely with the Parish Magazine, Webmaster, and relevant social media pages to ensure village communications are aligned. The Community Website will now revert to being a simple gateway to the two dedicated Parish Council sites as well as supporting other local groups.

A number of people have contributed to this big step forward but CPC would particularly like to thank Maureen Treadwell, Andrew Flanagan, Susanne Hasselmann and Mandy Denyer, our Clerk who will maintain the site going forward.

Why not take a look and leave us your feedback or suggestions?

David Hall, Chilbolton Parish Council

ClrHall.ChilboltonPC@hotmail.com Tel: 07813-455069

WHERWELL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION 200 CLUB

Wherwell Playing Fields are run and maintained by a dedicated committee of volunteers. In addition to being used by Wherwell cricket and football clubs, several other sports clubs and the school use the facilities. The facilities are also available to local residents and many families enjoy the use of the children's playground.

After a two year break and with the increasing cost of maintaining the Playing Fields, we have decided to restart the **WPFA 200 Club**.

The annual subscription will be £15 with a total of 30 prizes a year. Every month there will be two £25 prizes with additional £50 prizes in March, June, September and December. There will also be additional prizes of £100 and £250 in December.

The first draw will be at the end of April so if you would like to support the Playing Fields so please contact us as soon as possible.

**John Andrews on 07730 412394 or email at flyjohnandrews@aol.com
Sean Hutton on 01264 860443**

Discover the gardens of the best surviving example of an 18th century Cottage Orn  set above the River Test.

Visit the enchanting Walled Garden with chalk cob walls, traditional kitchen garden, peony walk, rose arbour & orchid house.

Explore 14 acres of countryside, riverside walks and charming Alpacas, Topiary Dragon and Peacock Garden.

New for 2022 is the Oriental Garden-to be opened in 2023.

Honesty Tearoom at Houghton Lodge Gardens

Hot and cold drinks, pastries, cakes, tarts, biscuits and hot and cold seasonal dishes are served daily.



Houghton Lodge Gardens

Open: 11am - 5pm Mon - Fri,
10am - 5pm Sat/Sun/Bank Holidays

Admission: Adults £10.50,
Children £5.50 U3 FREE)

(Admission is not required for
visiting the tearoom)

Plenty of parking.
Dogs welcome on short leads

For more information www.houghtonlodge.co.uk

We Clean Ovens so you don't have to



Hello, I'm Greg, your locally based oven cleaning specialist. Why not let me clean your cooking appliances back to their best? I'll have your glass gleaming, shelves sparkling and an immaculate interior, leaving you free to enjoy your valuable leisure time this year.



All models cleaned to perfection
Range and AGA specialist
Quality results every time
Local, national, affordable



01264 563464 | ovenenu.co.uk/oven_cleaning/andover

Call now to book your oven cleaning appointment!

PLANT SALE

Longstock Garden Club

Sale of Annuals, Perennials, Vegetable & House Plants



SATURDAY 7th MAY

from 9am to 2pm

Stockbridge High Street - Next to Town Hall

Finding Elfrida

by Rosemarie Martin nee Lockyer

<https://NewPages.Etsy.Com>

The original wicked stepmother

As the legend goes, in 963 King Edgar did slay his best friend Earl Athelwold, deep in the heart of Harewood Forest, where the monument now stands.

'The lady Elfrida did not want to be just the wife of the Kings best friend, it was a crown that she favoured. In the late 900s Queen Elfrida did reside at Wherwell Abbey. Finding Elfrida is True history, within a fictional book, which includes both real, and fictional characters. Yes, it's been done before, but this is my version. Queens, Witches, and Vampires all residing together in and around Wherwell, Chilbolton, and Harewood Forest.'

"Please my wife, you have to help me." Athelwold begged.

"Help you?" Elfrida asked in a whisper.

"He cannot see you for what you are."

"And what am I? Some trinket that you now own?"

"No. You are the most beautiful woman in England."

"I know." She replied as she turned her back on him.

Chilbolton and Wherwell Gardening Club

Tuesday 19th April 7.30pm-9.30pm

Chilbolton Village Hall

HERB WORKSHOP



Come and enjoy an evening dedicated to herbs

Find out how to grow herbs in your garden,
look at some interesting recipes and try lavender shortbread.
Bring a suitable container and plant up some small herb plug plants
(Compost will be provided)

Free to members, non-members £3, teas, raffle

Wherwell History Group – Spring Talks



April 15th at 8pm

Kathleen Osgood

***From the Test to the Merrimack:
17th Century Puritan Migrations
from Wherwell***

Zoom presentation from Vermont, USA

Prompted by research into her family's English origins, Kathleen Osgood has discovered more than 100 ancestors from the River Test valley who emigrated to the New World, starting with John and Sarah Osgood from Cottonworth, who left the UK with five children in 1638. Their stories intertwine in fascinating ways, connected by marriage and ideas of free will and Puritanism. Expect some fascinating anecdotes about the Reverend Stephen Batchelder and the De La Warres, along with the Osgoods and Fowlers and Abbotts.

Kathleen Osgood is a comparative literature scholar with work among northern native peoples. Retired now, she has taught for the University of the Arctic and The Center for Circumpolar Studies. KatiO lives with her husband Paul at Ravencroft in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

**The Graffiti in
Salisbury Cathedral**

'The Walls that Talk'

May 20th at 8pm

Stephen Dunn

in Wherwell Village Hall

History Group talks are free to members. Membership subscriptions are paid per calendar year - £15, starting in January. Guests are welcome (£4 per talk). To make a booking, enquire about membership or download the programme for 2022, please visit our new website at www.wherwellhistory.com

PLEASE NOTE: April talk 'venue' is Zoom (NOT Wherwell Village Hall)

DIARY DATES

Weekly Bingo WHG Club	Every Monday & Saturday	7.30pm
Monday Movers	Every Monday	1.45pm
Short Mat Bowls CVH	Every Tuesday	2.00-4.00pm
West Down working party	Every Tuesday	2.00-4.00pm
1 Movie : West Side Story	CVH	6.45 pm
1 Wine Tasting	Black Chalk	10.00am –6.00pm
2 Wherwell Coffee morning	WVH	10.30 am
2 Open Day	Black Chalk	All day
2 Bexley Choir	Chilbolton Church	7.00 pm
4 Chilbolton planning/ Parish Council	CVH	6.00 & 6.30 pm
6 <i>AD hoc advert deadline</i>		
6 Election of Church Warden	Chilbolton Church	5.00 pm
6 Annual Parochial meeting	Chilbolton Church	5.10 pm
9 Janet's Quiz	WVH	7.30 for 8.00 pm
10 <i>Copy deadline for April</i>		
12 Lent Soup Lunch	Chilbolton Church	12.30 am
12 Wherwell PC	WVH	7.00 pm
14 COSC	CVH	6.30 pm
15 Wherwell History Talk	Zoom	8.00 pm
16 Chilbolton Coffee Morning	CVH	10.30 am
16 Annual Easter Raffle	HGC	9.00 am
19 Chilbolton Planning meeting	CVH	6.00 pm
19 Chilbolton Horticulture	CVH	7.30 - 9.30 pm
22 Promises Auction	CVH	7.00 for 7.30 pm
22 Stockbridge Cinema	STH	4.00 & 7.30 pm
23 Open House Coffee Morning	HGC	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
24 Bluebell Walk	WVH	10.00 am
24 Simon's Quiz	HGC	7.30 for 8.00 pm
25 Annual Parish Assembly	CVH	6.30 am
27 Stockbridge Cinema	STH	4.30 & 7.30 pm
May		
7 Longstock Plant Sale	next to STH	9.00 am - 2.00 pm
7 Choral society	Chilbolton Church	7.30 pm

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – April

Fri 1 st	Black Chalk winery are inviting local residents to an exclusive opening day - 10am - 6pm where you can get a sneak peek as well as 20% off everything! (event on Sat) 01264 860440
Sat 2 nd	Andover Chamber Choir are singing at the church of St Michael & All Angels, West Andover (Colebrook Way) at 7.30 pm (further info 01264 771285 Veronica)
Sat 2 nd	Bexley Phoenix Choir Concert 7pm St Mary the Less Church, Village St, Chilbolton SO20 6BQ (01264 860 584)
Sun 10 th	Reginald D Hunter – comedian and a well-known face of primetime television shows such as Live At The Apollo is performing at the Theatre Royal Winchester 8pm
Thurs 14 th	Lionel: the music of Lionel Richie - Malcolm Pitt delivers a powerhouse and breathtaking performance in this high-octane show celebrating the music of Lionel Richie and the Commodores. Andover Lights 7:30pm
Fri/Mon 15 th /18 th	Visit a garden at Crawley (nr Winchester) SO21 2PR 2pm – 5pm https://bookings.ngs.org.uk/
Sun 17 th	Visit a garden “Terstan” in Stockbridge SO20 6DW 2pm – 5pm https://bookings.ngs.org.uk/
Thurs 21 st	Family Easter Panto – The Wizard of Oz – Anvil at Basingstoke Box Office: 01256 844244
Fri 22 nd	Chilbolton Auction of Promises to raise funds for the fabric of the church - 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start Chilbolton Village Hall Auctioneer: David Smith
Sun 24 th	Bluebell Walk – Wherwell Village Hall 10am start
Fri 29 th 8:00pm	Paul Merton's Impro Chums @ Theatre Royal Winchester https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/paul-merton
Fri 29 th 8:00pm	Shaparak Khorsandi: IT WAS THE 90s – A famous and talented comedienne who has performed at the Apollo and is now performing at the Andover Lights
Farmers' Markets	
Romsey - First Sunday of every month 10am - 3pm	
Winchester - Second and last Sunday of every month 9am -2pm	
Andover - Third Sunday of every month (March to December)	
Plus... Andover Market for All Seasons – every Friday 8:30am - 1pm	



Chilbolton Village Events

At its recent meeting, Chilbolton Parish Council discussed the way forward for village events in 2022/3. The village fete will return on 25th June 2022 (yay!) and various activities are happening throughout the year to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In the light of this, we have decided not to reschedule the Big Village Party this year. Anyone still holding tickets for the event postponed last July can now request a refund by e-mailing me at:

CllrHall.ChilboltonPC@hotmail.com.

Of course, if you prefer, you can donate your ticket monies to support the ongoing programme of improvements to facilities at the War Memorial Playing Fields – just let us know.

Going forward, we would like to seek input and ideas from the village for community and fundraising events in 2023. In discussion with representatives of the Parish Church Council, we are already exploring ideas such as a revival of Chilfest, a Real-Ale Festival, a Pop-Up Cabaret, dinners and quizzes. What events would you like to see happen in Chilbolton this coming year?

To get your creative juices flowing, please join us at the **Chilbolton Annual Parish Assembly Monday 25th April 2022 at 6.30pm Chilbolton Village Hall**. In addition to **Village Events**, we will also be discussing improvements to **Village Facilities** and reviewing our **Community Emergency Plan** in the light of recent experience during Storm Eunice.

We do hope you will join us to have your say and shape the future of our beautiful village.

David Hall Chilbolton Parish Council
CllrHall.ChilboltonPC@hotmail.com 07813-455069

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS



AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW YOUR OWN

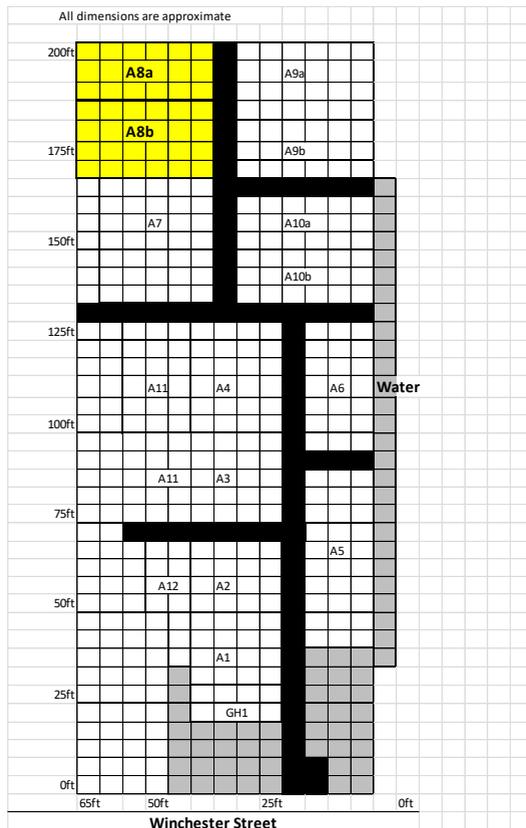
TWO allotment plots are available for Chilbolton residents, at very reasonable annual rents:

Plot A8a is c. 42 sq.m at an annual rent as of 1 April 2022 of £14.40 and

Plot A8b is c. 56 sq.m at an annual rent as of 1 April 2022 of £18.90.

If you are interested in taking on one or both of these plots please contact Mandy Denyer, Parish Clerk, on chilboton.clerk@hotmail.co.uk

If no Chilbolton resident is interested then the plots will be made available to Wherwell residents from June 2022.



Nest Boxes for Swifts



Model 30 box



Minstead box

Numbers of Swifts declined 53% across the UK between 1995 - 2016. Because they rely on eating insects, Swifts can only live in the UK for a short period in summer when insects are plentiful. Swifts migrate south to Africa in August and return to the UK in the following May.

Swifts are very loyal to their breeding sites and usually return to the same nest site year after year. Unfortunately, this is when problems may arise as Swifts require gaps and holes in buildings through which they access their nest. This behaviour makes Swifts vulnerable to house renovations such as new fascias and soffits, replacement of wood with plastic covers or cavity wall insulation which blocks up the access holes they need. If a Swift nest site has been covered up or destroyed then the Swifts probably won't breed that year.

The good news is that Swifts will nest in artificial Swift boxes or Swift bricks. But, it may take them some time to colonise new nest sites and there is no guarantee they will do so. By installing Swift boxes on existing houses, churches or offices we can provide alternative nest sites. Or if you are building a new home or an extension then you can consider installing integral Swift bricks into the structure.

Hampshire Swifts (<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>) provide two types of boxes. 'Model 30' made from external/marine ply and coated with Roxil waterproof coating. It has a sloping white plastic top so that predators cannot perch on top and the overhang gives some protection to the box from the elements. The 'Minstead box' is a bespoke nest box made of softwood and stained with 'Sadolin'. Because it has a flat top it is only suitable for fixing under horizontal eaves over 225mm wide overall. This box is a joint venture between Hampshire Swifts and the Minstead Trust (who benefit from sales of this box).

Alongside encouraging local provision of nest boxes, there is a national petition <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-swifts> to Council Leaders and the Housing Minister requesting that all UK house builders should install Swift bricks in all new-build homes and giving incentives for retrofitting nest boxes in older properties.

Andrew Flanagan

From Diamond Jubilee to Platinum Jubilee: Andover Trees celebrates 10 Years of Harmony Woods

Monday 7th March 2022, Andover: Local environmental organisation, Andover Trees United, celebrated a decade of tree planting at Harmony Woods, the new community woodland it initiated in the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The organisation has now accomplished its founding aim to enable 10,000 children to plant 10,000 trees in 10 years and will be celebrating this in the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Celebrations began on Thursday 17th March 2022 with an 'End of the decade' ceremony at Harmony Woods. Children and teachers from participating schools and community volunteers were joined by the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq., and Test Valley Mayor, Mark Cooper, in a procession through the wood with flag waving and story-telling. The children planted their final trees and the proceedings culminated with the planting of an Oak tree to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee.

The ceremony replicated that of the first Oak tree planted in Harmony Woods by the then Mayor of Test Valley Dorothy Baverstoke, on Monday 26th November 2012. Children from participating schools all planted their trees alongside this oak in what was then a muddy field with the majority of the houses which now make up the Augusta estate yet to be built.

Wendy Davis, founder and project leader said: "We are thrilled that children are coming together once more to put the last of their trees in the ground 10 years later! The children who are attending will act as ambassadors for the 10,000 children who have planted over the last decade."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been part of the journey and there will be lots of opportunities over the coming months for everyone to join in the celebrations of this milestone."

Throughout the remainder of the year the organisation is delivering various projects that align with the 10 year celebrations including an exhibition at Chapel Art Studios (25 June - 23 July) of their *One Ash* project <https://www.andovertrees.org.uk/one-ash> which focuses on sustainable forestry and celebrates our wonderful Ash trees, now suffering the devastating effect of the Ash dieback disease.

Wendy explained: "When we began back in 2012 the planting of Ash trees was prohibited in the UK due to the spread of dieback disease. More is now known about how the disease is spread and the moratorium has been lifted so we were delighted that, as part of our celebration on the 17th, we added to the wood young Ash trees grown by volunteers from seed gathered from a single Ash tree in Glastonbury. Ash Trees have a particular significance to our town as the name Andover is derived from its pre-Saxon name *Anderferas* or place by the Ash Tree Waters."

The organisation will be announcing further details on celebratory projects in the next few weeks.

Tree planting and maintenance of the wider Diamond Wood will be ongoing but the area set aside for the children is now complete. The organisation is now launching its next phase where it will be working closely with TVBC and other landowners to find new sites where the children of Andover can continue to gift trees to their community. If you have land suitable for tree planting and would like to help Andover Trees United to continue tree planting with local school children, please get in touch.

About Andover Trees United

Andover Trees United is a volunteer-led group and registered charity working in partnership with schools, local authorities, businesses, specialist environmental organisations, artists and other creative practitioners to promote conservation and improve access to natural wild spaces.

<https://www.andovertrees.org.uk>

Facebook / Twitter / Instagram / LinkedIn: @andover_trees

St Catherine's Church, Littleton, Winchester

Anna Chaplain

(P/T 16 hours per week, 3 years fixed term)

St Catherine's Church serves a semi-rural population on the edge of Winchester. An important part of that service is our ministry to the older members of our community and their families and carers, including those living and working in the nursing homes situated within the parish. We are seeking to develop this ministry further by the appointment of a part-time, paid Anna Chaplain.

The Anna Chaplaincy is a pioneering role offering spiritual support to older people and their relatives and carers. It supports the wellbeing of people of all faiths or none, and encompasses a wider role within the community as an advocate and champion of the contribution older people make to society. At the same time, it encourages the wider church to celebrate and cherish older members of the congregation, as well as other members of the community.

The successful candidate will work in collaboration with the Rector and Ministry Team as well as the network of Parish Visitors for the parish and the wider Downs Benefice. He or she will also be part of the growing Anna Chaplaincy network, part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF).

It is an occupational requirement for the person appointed to be a professing and practising Christian (Equality Act 2010).

For an application pack please contact: office@downsbenefice.co.uk

To apply, please submit cv and covering letter. Closing date for applications: 11th May 2022. Interviews to be held on: Wednesday 25th May 2022



Andover Choral Society

Andover Choral Society welcomes you once more to an evening of glorious music. This time, we're singing **Mendelssohn's verse** to one of history's greatest characters, Saint Paul. Rarely performed, and with a huge spectrum of choral challenge, ACS will provide you with an evening of pure joy at St Mary's Church, Andover, on **Saturday 7th May** from 7.30 p.m.

Our Musical Director, Peter Ford, has adapted an otherwise lengthy and imposing work into one more suited to everyday enjoyment. With a specially commissioned orchestra, Westminster Chamber Orchestra, and professional soloists, this reduced adaptation will encourage other, particularly smaller, choirs to bring Mendelssohn's fabulous oratorio into their scope.

The performance combines operatic drama with romantic idealism, at the same time revering past masters such as Bach and Handel. This Oratorio of Saint Paul is so well renowned it has been described as utter perfection and how music, drama and art can all come together to create a perfect balance of intrigue and beauty. ACS will provide you with precisely that.

We welcome new members to join us rehearsing at Rookwood School on Wednesdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm and aim to produce two concerts annually.

Check out our website: www.andoverchoralsociety.org.uk or contact our chairman, Frances Lynn, on lynncf35@gmail.com.

Dementia Survey

We need your feedback to help shape dementia support in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Dementia Support – Hampshire & IOW is a new charity that has been set up to respond to the needs of local people living with dementia and their family carers, by providing **emotional support, information, and signposting**. They are conducting a survey to find out more about the dementia support available in Hampshire and would really appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to complete a short survey.

Click here to take part: <https://forms.office.com/r/ny4kydV4uw>

Thank you!

Simon's Sunday Quiz

24th April 2022

7.30 for 8.00pm == Admission £2.50



Cash Prizes

Teams of up to 6

**Light Buffet
included**

Tables **MUST** be reserved **IN ADVANCE**
-- phone Andrew (01264 860 560)

Janet's Bingo – everyone welcome

every **Monday and Saturday 9th April**

8pm start – doors open from 7.30pm



Saturday 16th April at 9pm

Annual Easter Chocolate Raffle

Saturday 23rd April, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Open House Coffee Morning

*Come and visit Wherwell Home Guard Club -
see what facilities the Club can offer.*

Admission free



Club facilities include: Snooker Table & Bar Billiards (Mon, Wed, Sat.)
75-inch TV, Table Football & Pool Table (except Bingo Evenings)

at **Wherwell Home Guard Club**

The Old Hill, Wherwell, SP11 7JB, 01264 860 314

**Newly decorated Meeting Room available for hire. Seats 60.
Licensed Bar optional. Enquires to Sue on 07557 051 041.**

Stockbridge Cinema

Friday 22 April
4.00pm and 7.30pm

West Side Story (12A)

Steven Spielberg's 2021 adaptation of the 1957 musical explores forbidden love and rivalry in New York City. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance and their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks - two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.

Wednesday 27 April
4.30pm and 7.30pm

Spencer (12A)

The marriage between Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumours of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the Queen's estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game, but this year, things will be profoundly different.

Information common to both films:

Showing at **Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE.**

Tickets can be purchased online (£6.00 incl £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£1.80 charge per telephone *booking* in addition to the online ticket price). Visit our website for more details. Drinks and Ices will be on sale with payment by debit or credit card.

Please wear a face covering (unless exempt) when not seated.

‘WALKING HAMPSHIRE’S TEST WAY’

by Malcolm Leatherdale

The long-distance trail and 15 circular day walks.

The book was first published in 2018 by Cicerone Press Ltd. It took me about two years to complete including many enjoyable miles of walking! One of the reasons for undertaking this project was that I wanted to share the fun of walking in central Hampshire with others and to encourage them to put one foot in front of the other which apparently yields many benefits both physically and mentally. Living in Chilbolton half way along the Test Way (TW) also meant it was too good an opportunity to pass up!

For some the magic of the River Test is all about fresh water fly-fishing but for others it is simply the lure of a sparkling river famously described as ‘gin clear’. The Test flows majestically the 40 miles (65km) from its source in the hamlet of Ashe near Overton in north Hampshire to the edge of Southampton Water.

There is though, so much more to this land of vibrant green – its variety of landscape, gently sloping tree-clad hills, the occasional remnant of a former water meadow or chalk grassland – all set against a backdrop of a fascinating history and geology. Add to that the vast array of wildflowers, plants and wildlife inhabiting the various Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – including Chilbolton Cow Common – and it is not difficult to understand the attraction of a place that so completely defines pastoral England.

Chalk streams are a very rare breed among the various types of river that can be found on our planet and of the 200 or so chalk streams worldwide 160 are in England. Such streams naturally occur in those areas where chalk is the main geological feature laid down during the Cretaceous period 145 – 66 million years ago. In the chalk stream league the Test is renowned.

The TW begins at Inkpen Beacon in the North Wessex Downs at a height of 280m. It is astonishing to think that at one time this area was at the bottom of a warm and shallow tropical sea.

The TW long distance trail of 44 miles (71km) is described in some detail and is divided into eight stages finishing at the Eling Tide Mill close to the New Forest. The book also includes 15 circular day walks of between 4 and 8 miles. All the stages and day walks are accompanied by Ordnance Survey maps so it would be quite difficult to get lost!

There is a lot of history reflected in the book including the story of the alleged murder in Harewood Forest of Athelwold, the reputed first husband of the ‘femme fatale’ Elfrida of Wherwell, who subsequently married King Edgar in 964 CE to become the first ‘proper’ queen of England. One of the walks describes the route from Longparish to Athelwold’s monument at

Deadman's Plack in Harewood and back again to Longparish. Eight of the walks start and finish within a five mile radius of Chilbolton or Wherwell.

The book is now in its second edition and is available at Broughton Crafts in Stockbridge and Waterstones in Andover and also from Amazon.

Malcolm Leatherdale

Barcoded Stamps – a new innovation from Royal Mail Group



Following a successful national trial, unique barcodes will be added to all our regular 'everyday' Definitive and Christmas stamps. Each barcoded stamp will have a digital twin and the two will be connected by the Royal Mail App. The unique barcodes will facilitate operational efficiencies, enable the introduction of added security features and pave the way for innovative services for our customers.

Definitive stamps are the stamps that will be very familiar to most people. They feature the profile of HM The Queen. The barcodes match the stamp colour and sit alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line. The new barcode is an integral part of the stamp and must remain intact for the stamp to be valid.

Non-barcoded stamps will be phased out, but will remain usable until 31st January 2023. Customers are encouraged to use all their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme. This scheme will start on 31st March 2022. Forms will be available via a variety of channels, including local Customer Service Points and the Royal Mail website. Customers will be able to use a Freepost address. Further details will be announced shortly. You can visit the Royal Mail website for the latest news:

<https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps>



Recipe of the month



Traditional Easter Biscuits

These Easter biscuits or cakes as they were sometimes referred to originated from the West Country where they would be given as gifts or served to friends with tea on Easter Sunday

Ingredients:

4 oz of butter

4oz caster sugar

2 oz currants or mixture of chopped
candied peel and currants

8 oz plain flour

1 tsp. Mixed spice

1 medium size egg beaten separated.

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees.

Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy.

Add the beaten egg yolk with the flour and the mixed spice and dried fruit. Mix well to a stiff dough.

Allow to 'rest' in the fridge for 20-30 minutes and then roll out to a thickness of approx ¼".

Cut into rounds with a 3" fluted cutter and place on a baking sheet.

Bake for 10 – 15 minutes until slightly risen and a pale golden colour.

Remove from the oven and brush with beaten egg white and sprinkle with caster sugar.

Return to the oven for a further 5 – 7 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack, store in an airtight tin.

From Jane Brown's Kitchen

Note from editor:

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

April

According to the Gregorian calendar, **April** is the fourth month of the year. It was originally named after **Aphrodite**, the Greek goddess.

Many poets and authors have talked endlessly about the lushness of the month of April in their publications, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pablo Neruda, T.S. Eliot, and Mark Twain. It's such a pleasant month that most poets can't help its influence seeping into their work. The warm sun, cool breeze, temperate climate, and bloom of flowers, uplift anyone's spirits.

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England—now! *Robert Browning*

April Birth Flowers: Daisies and Sweet peas



The Daisy

The daisy stands for innocence, purity, and true love, while the sweet pea is a way to say goodbye, send good wishes, or merely convey a thank you.

The daisy is actually made up of two flowers. The centre eye—or disc floret—is a collection of tiny florets, while the ray floret (the petals) radiate from the centre, resembling the Sun. Because a daisy is made up of two flowers that work in perfect harmony, they have long been a symbol of true love. Daisies belong to the aster family (Asteraceae). Each colour of the daisy represents something different. The white daisy is a symbol of purity and innocence; yellow means joy and friendship; pink represents affection; and red is a sign of love and romance.

According to an old Celtic legend, when an infant or child died, the gods would cover the child's grave with daisies to cheer up the parents.

In Norse mythology, the daisy is the sacred flower of Freyja, the goddess of love, beauty, and fertility. In turn, the daisy became a symbol of motherhood and childbirth, and of new beginnings. Daisies are a common gift for new mothers.

A Roman myth attributes the creation of the daisy to the nymph *Belides*, who turned herself into a daisy to escape the affection of Vertumnus, the god of gardens and seasons. The Latin word for Daisy, *bellis*, is derived from the nymph's name.

It was once thought that a daisy in a bouquet was a sign of one's ability to keep a secret or given between friends to emphasise the keeping of a secret - the daisy means, "I'll never tell."

"Daisy" has been used in many phrases over time. "Fresh as a daisy" means someone has had a good night's rest; "oopsy daisy" or "whoops-a-daisy" is said after a mistake or blunder.

Daisies have been linked to the Virgin Mary, given their representation of love, innocence, and new beginnings.

Daisies have long been associated with medicine. Teas made from daisies are used to treat coughs, bronchitis, and inflammation; wild daisies have been applied to the skin to treat wounds or disease.



The Sweet Pea

The sweet pea (***Lathyrus odoratus***) Native to Italy and the Mediterranean region is part of the Fabaceae family and is related to beans and other legumes. While it is not a crop pea, it is a close relative. It's also commonly confused with the everlasting pea due to its similar look. While sweet pea has been used in some areas of the world for medicine and food, it is considered toxic to humans and animals, unlike its edible garden pea relatives.

Sweet peas were first discovered in southern Italy in the late 1600s by Francis Cupani, a Sicilian monk. Cupani is said to have sent seeds from the sweet pea to Dr Casper Commelin, a botanist in Amsterdam, and Dr Robert Uvedale, a teacher and plant enthusiast in England, which began its spread around Europe.

In the language of flowers, a bouquet of sweet peas is a way to say goodbye or thank you for a lovely time. It can also mean blissful pleasure, good wishes, kindness, gratitude, and friendship.

Some English gardeners refer to them as the “Queen of the Annuals.”

In France, the flower has long been a traditional gift for brides, providing good luck on her wedding day and in the marriage.

At one point in time, it was worn for strength or to reveal the truth. Sweet peas were also worn in pockets to provide a fragrance to clothing.

In some cultures, the sweet pea was thought to have magical properties.



Birth Stone: Diamond

Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe, natural diamonds date back billions of years. **The diamond** is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

April Showers and Other Weather Sayings

“April is the kindest month. April gets you out of your head and out working in the garden.”

“Her laughter sounded like April showers, like whispered secrets, like glass wind-chimes.”

“Spring is made of solid, fourteen-karat gratitude, the reward for the long wait. Every religious tradition from the northern hemisphere honours some form of April hallelujah, for this is the season of exquisite redemption, a slam-bang return to joy after a season of cold second thoughts.”

“A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew, A cloud, and a rainbow's warning, Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue - An April day in the morning.”

“Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers.”

“April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.”

“If it thunders on All Fool’s Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.”

“Sweet April showers, do bring May flowers. April comes in with his hack and his bill, And sets a flower on every hill. April cold and wet fills barn and barrel.”

Vernal Equinox and April Fools’ Day

There is speculation that April Fools’ Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

History of April Fools’ Day

April Fools’ Day, also called **All Fools’ Day**, in most countries the first day of April. It received its name from the custom of playing practical jokes on this day—for example, telling friends that their shoelaces are untied or sending them on so-called fools’ errands.

Although the day has been observed for centuries, its true origins are unknown and effectively unknowable. It resembles festivals such as the Hilaria of ancient Rome, held on March 25, and the Holi celebration in India, which ends on March 31. April Fools’ Day is celebrated on Friday, April 1, 2022.

There are variations between countries in the celebration of April Fools’ Day, but all have in common an excuse to make someone play the fool. In France, for example, the fooled person is called *poisson d’avril* (“April fish”), perhaps in reference to a young fish and hence to one that is easily caught; it is common for French children to pin a paper fish to the backs of unsuspecting friends.

In Scotland the day is Gowkie Day, for the gowk, or cuckoo, a symbol of the fool and the cuckold, which suggests that it may have been associated at one time with sexual license; on the following day signs reading “kick me” are pinned to friends’ backs.

In many countries newspapers and the other media participate—for example, with false headlines or news stories, such as:

In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees.

In 1985, *Sports Illustrated* writer George Plimpton tricked many readers when he ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 miles per hour.

What stories can you share?

Anna Cockram

POLICE NEED MORE BEARS!

The following information was recently published in the Andover Advertiser. No crimes have been committed but Hampshire Police are searching for knitters! Police investigating incidents of domestic abuse have found that it really helps to break down communication barriers with children when they have been given a knitted teddy by the investigating officers. Keen knitters have supplied the police with the teddies but now more are needed.

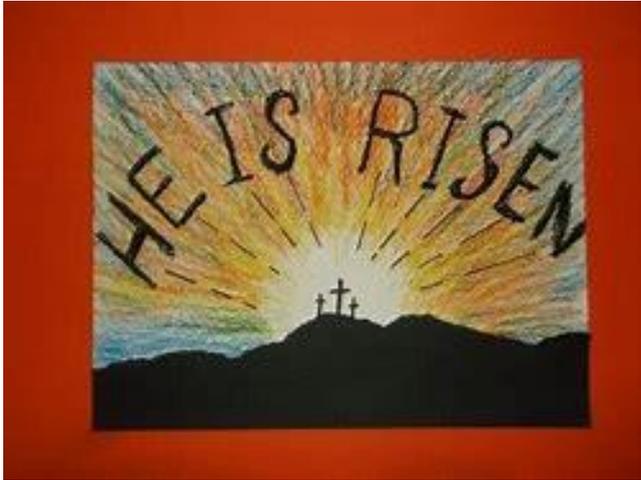
Detective Sergeant Adam Merrick says that these bears really do help to provide comfort for young children who have been involved in or have witnessed abuse. Not only do the bears reassure them which makes it easier for the investigating team to talk to them but they can help to distract them when the officer is trying to talk to their parents

Full information on how to knit the bears can be found by visiting <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/hampshire/news/bobbybuddiesknittingpattern.pdf>

Jane Andrews



Easter in The Downs Benefice



Sunday 10th April – Palm Sunday

Littleton – **10am** – Palm Sunday Holy Communion with a Donkey Procession

Sparsholt – **10am** – Palm Sunday Service with a Donkey Procession

Wherwell (with Chilbolton) – **10am** - Palm Sunday Service

Thursday 14th April – Maundy Thursday

Sparsholt – **6pm** - Holy Communion with Washing of the Feet

Friday 15th April – Good Friday

Crawley – **10am** – Easter Garden

Littleton – **12 noon** – Good Friday Meditation

Wherwell (with Chilbolton) – **3pm** – Good Friday Meditation

Sunday 17th April – Easter Sunday

Chilbolton – **10am** – Easter Family Communion

Crawley – **10am** – Easter Family Service

Littleton – **10am** – Easter Family Communion

Sparsholt – **10am** – Easter Family Communion

Wherwell – **10am** – Easter Family Service