

DECEMBER 2025

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HALE & WOODGREEN

Community & Parish Magazine

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December on the Purlieu: Sarah Orchard

*Welcome to the Community Magazine for Hale and Woodgreen,
two lovely villages in the North West of the New Forest, Hampshire, UK.
This magazine is published every month except January.*

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We welcome your feedback and ideas for future issues

**The deadline for the February 2026 issue of the magazine is Friday 16th January.
Please send all entries by end of 15th.**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO KEEP THIS MAGAZINE IN PRODUCTION.

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Hale and Woodgreen Community and Parish Magazine is published by the the Hale and Woodgreen Magazine Editorial Team (HWMET) which is a sub-committee of Hale Village Hall New Forest (registered charity number 1175048).

Errors and Omissions are excluded and no responsibility is taken for submissions received for publication from third parties.

Terms of reference for the Community Magazine Sub-Committee can be requested via email at: halevillagehall@btinternet.com

Cover design by Sarah Orchard and David Keniston

“December on the Purlieu” by Sarah Orchard (advert top of page 32)

If available, cover paintings are for sale as framed and mounted; some come as a print and also in cards format@ £2.50;

Contact: email - sarahorchard1@icloud.com.

website: sarahorchardart.com

Potted histories... just how bad was he?

When Henry VIII died (sighs all around; by then you could smell his leg sores 3 rooms away), his son was crowned the sixth King Edward (conveniently overlooking several Anglo-Saxon kings of that name): rubbing salt into all the wounds the Tudors had inflicted on Richard III, the last Plantagenet, killed at Bosworth by young Edward's grandfather. Without any substantive evidence that we know of, it very much suited the Tudors to accuse Richard of murdering the fifth Edward in the Tower, alongside his brother Richard, to help justify their own even flimsier claim to the English throne.

It's all fully documented by William Shakespeare in his intense, compelling and utterly damning portrayal of the usurper, tyrant and monster that still holds sway today. Shakespeare had no new evidence to draw on and followed the sources of the day including Sir Thomas More. Royal propaganda and state censorship further compelled him, not to mention the King's shilling.

Richard only reigned for 26 months, precious little time to establish any form of reputation as monarch, and many kings before him had had shaky starts. The Wars of the Roses were hardly settled times from which to give being a king a go.

In fact Richard was devoted to his brother Edward IV, always loyal and a most able military lieutenant. Richard had great interpersonal skills and, as a younger son, was well educated and versed in the arts. He appealed to the allegiance of those around him and won their loyalty, patriotism and honour. He had a great sense of justice, especially towards the poor.

It all changed with brother Edward IV's death, and the takeover coup by his wife's family, the lowly Woodvilles. They now controlled Edward V and the future of the Government. Richard feared for his own safety and within a couple of weeks had staged a pre-emptive strike: executing the leading Woodville faction and moving the princes to the "safety" of the Tower.

It was then that Richard's support began to fall away. His ruthlessness was not followed up by the leadership necessary to keep the major factions on board. Executing the opposition was acceptable, the disappearance and possible death of the young princes was not.

His luck worsened with the death of his only son, and then his wife. He then proposed somewhat hastily to marry his young niece. Had he murdered his wife? Against rising opposition he quickly denied any intention to marry, but it was too late. Henry Tudor, who had spent most of his life exiled in France, and spoke little English, was now garnering support for an invasion. The French king lent him the money, and he and Uncle Jasper Tudor set sail from Normandy to Milford Haven. More joined as they marched across country for the fateful meeting at Bosworth. Two significant forces on Richard's side deserted him at the final hour; one to stand and watch, the other to actually move to fight with Henry.

Richard was brave to the very last, but was killed and stripped naked. His crown was found and placed on Henry's head. His body was then transported to a church in Leicester, which the planning authorities subsequently allowed to be replaced by a carpark.

How bad was he? Well, there isn't very much good to say about him, is there?

David Mussell

Lover Repair Café

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, IT'S TIME TO BRING THOSE BROKEN TREE LIGHTS AND NATIVITY FIGURES ALONG TO BE REPAIRED AT THE REPAIR CAFE. SO COME AND JOIN US, YOU MAY EVEN GET A MULLED WINE AS WELL AS A CUP OF TEA.



Ah! Memories of years gone by. On the left, a DIY Christmas Tree we constructed for the Saint Lawrence's Church Christmas event. We hope to create another one for this year, so look out for it.

Covid Christmas (on the right) – that was the last time Father Christmas paid us a visit.

I hope he is OK, because we want to send him a Wish Letter asking for an Additional Book Repairer, Seamstress and Wickerworker!!



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News from the Repair Cafe: - Our Christmas Opening Times:-

Wed. 24 th Dec (Christmas Eve): Drop-off / Pickup only	Fri. 26 th Dec (Boxing Day) – Repair Cafe Closed
Wed. 31 st Dec. (New Years Eve):– Drop-off / Pickup only	Fri. 2 nd Jan. –Drop-off / Pickup only
Wed.7th Jan. – Normal Service Resumes - Open as usual	



Just another reminder:
Our Helpers are waiting to get your Christmas Lights & ornaments up and working for you.
This chap on the right is one of the Three Kings repaired and ready to offer his Frankincense again this year. Have you checked that all yours are on order?



We are here to help you by repairing furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing, books and old treasures, so visit us at: **Redlynch Village Hall Wed. & Fri. Mornings from 10am to Midday.**

Or: 1st Sat. of each Month at Downton Baptist Church from 10am to Midday

Contact us at:- loverrepaircafe@gmail.com or downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com

Website:- www.loverrepaircafe.org.uk

TalkAbout

Thursday December 4th 2025

10:00 for 10:30 am

Finished by 12 noon

Cosmic Sparkle!

Entertainer: Robyn

Robyn delighted us last year with songs from her unique repertoire. Vintage, Swing, Jazz, Songs from the Shows, plus a little sassiness, they are all there.

Join us for this pre-Christmas feast of song, entertainment and mince pies!

**Woodfalls Methodist Hall, The Ridge, SP5 2LH.
Car park at rear.**

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**David and Sharon Barnett
are very happy to announce that,
after 36 years together,
they finally "tied-the-knot" on
30th October 2025, 3.00 p.m. at
Romsey Registry Office
(after all, we don't believe in rushing things!)**

Behind us:
Our Witnesses

L - Linda Heard
R - Pam Lewis



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Play area update

You will have seen updates on the progress towards a children's play area for Woodgreen in the Woodgreen Parish Council minutes. Summarising the key developments :

The proposed location of the play area will now be at the top of the field behind the Village hall, just below the footpath entrance from the road. This new location takes into account concerns raised during consultation with the Village shop, Village hall and some residents of Hall House. This location has been agreed by the PC, who own the land .

Planning permission is required due to change of use of the land. We are very pleased that WPC has agreed to submit the planning application on behalf of Play Matters, which saves 50% of the application cost. However, since 2024 there has been a requirement to submit a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report together with the planning application which has cost an additional £1200. Since the PC felt unable to provide any funds at this time, the Woodgreen Village Trust agreed to cover this cost via a loan, which will be paid back via fundraising.

We have applied for a CIL grant to cover the costs of building the play area ; we will know if we have been successful in December and how much we have been awarded. Meanwhile we are reviewing other grant sources, which can be applied for once planning permission has been secured.

Similarly we plan to kick off community engagement and village fund raising next year. We will start by hosting an information session with free tea and cake and various craft activities for children in the Village Hall on **January 10th from 10am until 12 noon**. We hope to see lots of you there and will welcome offers of help or fundraising ideas. We would like to involve as many local businesses as we can to help us too. As was the case for the village shop, it will require a community effort to build a community asset that we know many of you support. For those who still aren't so sure, come and talk to us so we can understand your concerns and hopefully alleviate them over tea and cake!

Play Matters

October Barn Dance in Hale Village Hall
Raising funds for two village schools in
Madagascar

We just wanted to write and thank everyone who supported our Barn Dance, donated or bought Vanilla from us!

With your support we have raised almost £3000 which will make a huge difference to pupils and teachers at these schools.

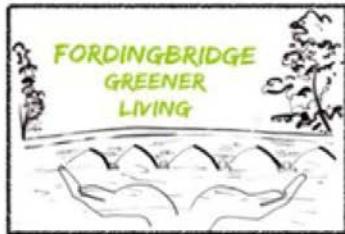
The Barn Dance was a huge success - the band "The Black Sheep" were fantastic and the village hall accommodated at least 60 people for supper and dancing! A great venue, kitchen was extremely well equipped and there was plenty of parking!



So thank you again for
supporting us!

Jane & Paul





News from Fordingbridge Greener Living!

Some 40 people attended Fordingbridge Greener Living's AGM to hear updates on their current projects, and to hear of exciting plans for the future of the group.

Reports were given on the work and progress of the Repair Café and Blister Pack recycling scheme; the Community Garden and its remit to provide education to young people on gardening skills; the Community Fridge which recovers food that would otherwise be wasted; the Recycling Shed and its range of recycling resources; an update on the Bathing status and water quality of the River Avon; the current status of the Ridan Composter and whether it will be still be used with the arrival of NFDC food bin collections.

The group has existed in an informal style since 2019, and the steering committee proposed to the meeting that it was now an appropriate time to look at formalising its status by forming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The main reason for this is for the acquisition of a Woodland in the centre of Fordingbridge in order to create a space for use by the community to learn about the wildlife present, how a woodland can be managed to optimise the opportunities for a diverse ecology and access a peaceful place for recreation.

This status would enable the group to apply to a range of sources of funding to develop the woodland, but also to expand some of the other projects already underway. Those present at the meeting agreed to pursue the option of becoming a CIO and a group will be formed to organise the application.

Anyone who would like to know more about any of the group's projects or can offer skills to help, please contact FordingbridgeGreenerLiving@gmail.com

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Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

Councillors Present: Cllrs Gemmell (Chair), Kyle and Lavis.

In attendance: The clerk, Tim Orchard (First Responder), Jacqui and Brian Hartas (Guardians of the Hale Defibrillator) and one member of the public.

25.92 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillors Donnell, Gillmon and Vickery.

25.93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011). None declared.

25.94 MINUTES

25.94.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2025.

25.94.2 Matters arising from the minutes.

Harry's Meadow – David Illsley (Interim Head of Planning & Place NPA) will attend the Hale PC meeting on Jan 6th to answer questions on Harry's Meadow. A representative of Harry's Meadow has also been invited.

Trees – Some tree work is still outstanding (dead wooding an area around Hatchet Green) and will be completed on November 5th.

25.95 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jacqui and Brian Hartas and Tim Orchard participated in discussion in 25.96

Rubbish and Recycling – The new scheme of wheelie bins has begun. There have been some issues with collections, particularly for those properties down tracks and it is advised to contact NFDC to resolve these. For residents living within the cattle grids all food waste bins should be left inside the gate so that livestock cannot access it. Any issues should be addressed to NFDC at 0238028 5393 or waste.changes@nfdc.gov.uk.

25. 96 DEFIBRILLATORS AND FIRST RESPONDERS - The defibrillator at Hale Village Hall has a replacement battery and is functional again, however it will require upgrading in the next year or two. Jacqui and Brian Hartas are the current guardians of the defibrillator; this involves checking it regularly and updating "The Circuit" with the information. There is no current ownership of the defibrillator and this needs to be addressed going forward. A new scheme of First Responders has been set up in Hale and Woodgreen; there are 5 volunteers, each giving 20 hours a month daytime cover. The First Responders require equipment, notably "Grab bags", for which they are currently fundraising. They will have access to some equipment and consumables from the South Central Ambulance Service. Discussion will continue on this matter over the coming months, currently Hale Parish Council will:

- Discuss with Woodgreen Parish Council to have a coordinated plan going forward.
- Investigate possible defibrillator hire options where ownership remains with the hire company.
- Support the First Responders going forward.

Hale PC would like to thank Jacqui and Brian for their continued work as guardians and to Tim Orchard and the other First responders for volunteering.

25.97 HALE AND WOODGREEN MAGAZINE – The magazine has been making a loss each year and requires funding to ensure its future. Currently only 20 % of parishioners donate towards the magazine which is delivered to every house in Woodgreen and Hale. Secured funding is required for the following year before advertisers can be confirmed. Hale PC unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to pledge £250.00 towards the Hale and Woodgreen Magazine.

25.98 NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Councillor Janet Richards was unable to attend.

25.99 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To consider the responses to the following applications.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 25/00921FULL

ADDRESS: Millfield, HATCHET CLOSE, HALE, SP6 2NF

PROPOSAL: Extension to outbuilding; covered area to connect dwelling to outbuilding

Due to the date for submission of comments this decision was made prior to the meeting by email.

2. We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Hale Parish Council would seek clarification from the NPA that the proposed alterations are within the 30% increase allowed as there have been multiple developments in the past few years. HPC are concerned that the proposed alterations to create a corridor between the garage and the house may lead to the joining of the two separate buildings.

Case Number 25/01049FULL

Proposal Roof alteration to form pitched roof over existing flat roof and installation of roof lights to form habitable accommodation at first floor.

Site Heather Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the plans would increase the floor space by over 30% and therefore would recommend Option 4 – Refusal. This was unanimously agreed.

25.100 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.

NW Quadrant 20th October - Cllr Lavis attended. The NPA would like to re-establish the Western Escarpment Conservation Group which was established in 2011 but has not been operational since Covid. Due to the new parking fees being introduced by Forestry England it was agreed that it would be beneficial to form a working party to monitor how this affects each parish. A representative is required from each parish (this does not have to be a councillor).

Forestry England reported – Deer patrols for the season are coming to an end, 1500 deer have been culled in the Forest. Signage for the new car parking charges will be kept to a minimum. Local people will be encouraged to join Forestry England which will cost £8.00 per month.

National Park Authority reported – The current quota for new houses in the National Park of 270 is not being met, with only 40 new houses per year. There is currently a National Park Local Plan Review which is open to all for comment. This will run until 19th December.

25.101 HALE VILLAGE SCHOOL CAR PARK LICENCE – A licence granted to HCC for the School staff and parents to use the Parish Council Car park is in place, this is reviewed every 3 years in line with RPI. The increase would lead to an annual sum of £1008, it was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept a lower rate of £950 for 2025/26, increasing to £1000 for the following 2 years.

25.102 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES - New sleeves have been installed in Tethering Drove and Ladies Mile. These hold removable posts which the Speed Indicator Devices can be placed on.

Solar panels – the solar panels ordered for the posts along Forest Road are too large and there is ongoing dialogue with the company to return or exchange them.

25.103 CLERKS REPORT:

Lengthsman and repairs - A new stock of dragons teeth to be used as replacements at Hatchet Green has been ordered and received from New Forest fencing at a cost of £238.80. At the next visit in January the Lengthsman will repair 2 benches at Hatchet Green. The wood for repairs (hardwood) has been ordered at a cost of £408.24.

Pylons – Work will begin on completing the refurbishment of the pylons (replacing the cables on the second side) in March 2026. Fisher German LLP have applied on behalf of National Grid to Defra for permission to carry out works on common land.

Roads - Hale Lane has recently had some repairs but any potholes should still be reported at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>.

Cemetery – Many thanks to Georgina Babey and Susan Witt who spent a morning tidying the cemetery garden and plan to plant bulbs for spring colour. Cutting Edge cleared the areas left over the summer for wildflower and cut the hedges. The Lengthsman did some clearing of the path during his last visit to keep it weed free.

Training –The clerk will attend a Digital and Data Compliance course on Tuesday 2nd December.

Trees - A resident reported some of the trees around Hatchet Green have branches pressing on the electric cables . This was reported to SSE who will remove the branches.

25.104 MEETING DATES FOR 2026 The dates for the meetings in 2026 will be January 6th, March 3rd, May 5TH, July 7th, Sept 1st and November 3rd. The Annual Parish assembly will be held on April 21st.

25.105 FINANCE

25.105.1

It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts for 25/26 and note the following balances - Community account £3,393.86, Commercial Instant Access account £6,520.17 and the 32 Day Notice Account £20,467.76.

25.105.2 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

A proposed budget was discussed and it was agreed to increase the precept by 10% from £14,100 to £15,510.00. HPC have successfully kept the precept at a steady level, over the last four years the 10% increase equates to a rise of less than 3% per year - including 2024 when the CPI rose by 11%. This has been inevitable following the increase in employer's NI contribution this financial year and calls for the Parish Council to have a role in defibrillator provision. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the budget and the increase in precept.

25.105.3 MONTHLY PAYMENTS - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
Amanda Johnson	Salary – October and November	N/A		Standing Order
New Forest Fencing	Dragons teeth	£238.80	£39.80	Bank Transfer
Sydenhams (reimbursed to A.Johnson)	Sapele wood for bench repairs	£408.24	£68.04	Bank Transfer (originally paid by credit card)
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – September and October	£190.00 for each month		Bank Transfer
HMRC	NI costs June - Sept	£118.71		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank fees	£4.25 each month		Bank transfer
ICO	Data Protection Certificate	£47.00		Direct Debit

25.106 CORRESPONDENCE - The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in *italics*.

03/09/25 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary – Update on the future of your council.

03/09/25 NFDC Waste and Recycling, Open letter from Geoffrey Blunden

03/09/25 HCC – Report from Nick Adams-King

15/09/25 NFDC Households in pannage areas asked to change food collections areas.

17/09/25 Forestry England Press release – 70 species of wildlife returns to New Forests restored heathlands

17/09/25 HALC Newsletter September 2025

17/09/25 NPA Art, Ecology and Imagination: New Forest Artist Residencies Return

17/09/25 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary LGR update

18/09/25 NPA – Latest news from the NPA

22/09/25 NPA – Pass the Pedall Sept 27th

22/09/25 Fisher German LLP – Letter of notification of Common Land Application.

23/09/25 NPA National Park Authority welcome new members

26/09/25 NPA New forest Walking Festival returns to mark 20 years of the National Park.

26/09/25 New Forest Association – September Newsletter

30/09/25 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – September Newsletter

01/10/25 NFALC Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September
02/10/25 Forestry England – Parking charges will help fund vital work to care for the New Forest.
02/10/25 NPA calls for FE car parking income to be reinvested into the New Forest.
03/10/25 Freshwater Habitats Trust –New Forest Waternews: September Review.
02/10/25 NFDC Helping New Forest get online with Click and Connect.
07/10/25 HCC Community Led Transport Engagement Session October 23rd.
10/10/25 NFDC Funding available to support community groups in the New Forest.
17/10/25 NPA – New Chair for New forest National Park Authority
17/10/25 NPA – Step into Autumn with New Forest Walking Festival
17/10/25 NPA – Have your say in New Forest National Park Authority resident's survey
21/10/26 NFDC – Road safety funding opportunity
22/10/25 Freshwater Habitats Trust – New Forest Waternews
27/10/25 New Forest Association – October Newsletter
Parishioner emails
28/09/25 Concern over proposed car parking charges by Forestry England.
19/10/25 Concern over proposed car parking charges by Forestry England.
24/10/25 Concern over increased parking in Tethering Drove.
26/10/25 Concern over current situation regarding the defibrillator at the village hall.

25.107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Website and IT – New rules come into force next year regarding GDPR, emails etc. The clerk will attend training in December and will look at how best to take this forward.

Harry's Meadow will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

25.108 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)



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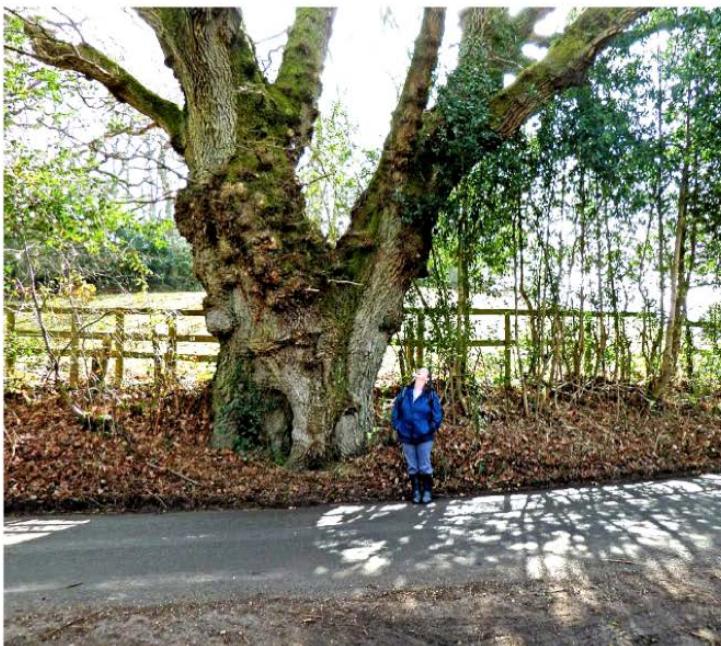
email: oandecarpentry@hotmail.co.uk

Hale's Ancient Trees

The New Forest is renowned for its Ancient and Ornamental woodlands and the Forest boasts hundreds of remarkable trees that have survived man and the elements for centuries. This year **National Tree Week is from Nov 27th to December 5th** and in Hale we have reason to celebrate as we've been blessed in recent decades with two tree wardens - Rosalind Pasmore, late of Hatchet Gate Farm and Frances Maynard who lived at Cuckoo Wicket, Hatchet Green, Hale until her untimely death in 2023. Rosalind and Frances recorded the location of eight of Hale parish's magnificent trees. Six of the eight trees they identified are recorded with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and some appear on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory.

Only one of Hale's trees is officially 'named' – The Galley Hunter Oak near Fishpond Bottom on the Hale Purlieu road. The others – 4 x oaks, 1 x beech, 1 x yew and 1 x black poplar – are scattered around the village. Each tree has its unique presence – even the rare black poplar, on the banks of the Avon near Cow Bridge, Moot Lane, which is now truncated at 12' high but, with a girth of over 7.25 m, still captures the imagination when it's mirrored in the river.

Frances arranged an Ancient Tree Walk (approx 6.5miles) for villagers in late 2014 and I walked the route again with my friend and Hale resident, Sally Raworth, the following spring. I took photos of all the trees, mostly with Sally alongside for scale (*see photo of Sally and The Galley Hunter Oak*), and have placed them, with directions and their OS grid references, in the Hale Parish History Archive ready for when the Archive is next on display in Hale Village Hall. In the meantime, if there is enough interest, I will organise another Ancient Tree Walk in the spring and/or send a photo sheet with grid refs and locations by email.



Georgina Babey
geebabey@tiscali.co.uk

HALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - AUTUMN POEMS

Lucy (Age 6):

The leaf blew off the tree
Soon the robin landed on the leaf



The scarecrow wears a hat.



Leo (Age 6):

Autumn is orange
Leaves are brown



Autumn is perfect
Birds are making nests
And the air is an orange blanket.

Millie (Age 6):

The leaves are falling from the trees
Birds are flying in the breeze

Autumn leaves are beautiful in the sky
We wave to them as they float by.

Our small school community has been rallying together after the sad news that thieves targeted our Federation minibus over the weekend — stealing all of its wheels. The minibus takes Hale children to Breamore for after school club and other school events

Thanks to the incredible power of community spirit and social media, we've already received donations of both wheels and tyres.

Local resident Andrew McLeod reached out to Pirelli UK and Micheldever group who kindly donated. We are so grateful to Andrew, Pirelli & Micheldever who stepped forward to help — your support means the world to us.

However, the Federation now faces new costs:

- ➡ The hire of a replacement minibus (estimated at over £1,000) while repairs are completed.
- 🔒 Additional security measures to help protect the school grounds in future.

Any donation — no matter how small — or even just sharing this appeal, will make a huge difference. Together, we can ensure our fantastic Federation continues to provide our lovely children with the best experiences and opportunities possible.

Thank you for standing with us 

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/breamore-primary-school-minibus-hire-after-theft?tk=MTc2MzI0MTc1MGJkZDkzZmUzY2Y3N2RjYzU4ZWY2YzIiZmRINzJiNTQ3YTImZWRmMzA%3D>

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The Woodgreen Village Trust

Some of you will already be aware of the Woodgreen Village Trust. For those who aren't, the Trust, whose full legal name is The Woodgreen Village (1984) Trust Limited, is a registered charity formed by Mrs Pat Hall and 11 other villagers who wished to provide a fund to be used for the benefit of the people of Woodgreen.

The Woodgreen Housing Trust (since dissolved) provided the initial funds, from the profit left over after selling land to the housing association that built Hall House. Over the years the Trust has received further donations and legacies, all of which has enabled them to provide help to local people and organisations, working across all age groups.

For a number of years, the Trust has been contributing to the cost of what is now called Appletree Careline. Appletree Careline is run by NFDC and they provide alarms to wear around the home, giving peace of mind in the case of a fall and enabling people to maintain independence at home. The Trust is currently supporting a number of elderly people in Woodgreen by paying the upfront cost of installation and activation of the system with the resident paying the monthly rental cost.

Examples of organisations that have benefitted from grants from the Trust in recent years include St Boniface, the cricket club, Village Hall, Village shop, Parish magazine and various community events for the Jubilee and Coronation.

This year the Trust has paid for plants for the Woodgreen Wildlife garden and a loan towards the cost of obtaining planning permission for a children's playground for Woodgreen.

The Trust has limited funds so new donations are always welcome.

If anyone has any ideas on worthy causes in Woodgreen that would benefit from a grant from the Trust, is interested in having a Careline alarm, wishes to find out about donating or would be interested in being a Trustee please contact the current Chair of the Trust, Annie Collins at annie.m.collins@outlook.com



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**12 to
2pm**

**Last Friday of
every month***

*except on December 2nd



**Seasonal
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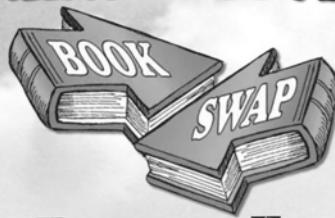
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**Ruth:
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WOODGREEN VILLAGE HALL AFTERNOON TEA



JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

Swap books, jigsaws, meet friends & enjoy
an Afternoon tea!



New Forest for Ukraine

At every Woodgreen Village Hall book and jigsaw afternoon I will be collecting donations for the New Forest for Ukraine charity. These afternoons run from 2.30-4pm every second Wednesday of each month. Tea and cake is available to buy.

The New Forest for Ukraine charity are in desperate need of :

Toiletries	Tins of food
Painkillers, etc	Socks
Torches and batteries	Candles
Hot water bottles	

Please support this amazing group if you can. Every small donation makes a difference. I will be dropping it off to the collection point at Hockeys farm shop.

They are also collecting larger items, so visit their website for more information www.newforestforukraine.org

Many thanks, Sue Harris

REDLYNCH & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 02 December 2025 7.30pm

**“The Duke of Monmouth – how his head was
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**MORGAN'S VALE & WOODFALLS
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2025/26

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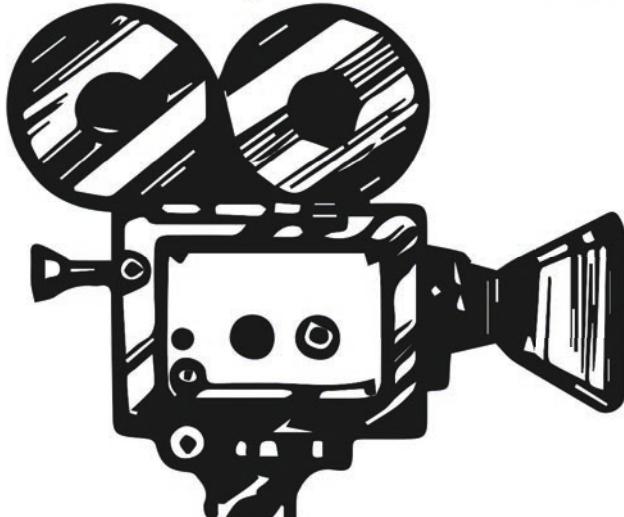
Guests of members are also welcome @ £4.00 per person per film.
There is a bar available on the night for beverages.

Dates for Film Night at Hale Village Hall are:

- Nov. 7th 2025 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Carry on
- Dec. 5th 2025 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Comedy
- Jan. 9th 2026 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Hitchcock
- Feb. 6th 2026 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Science Fiction
- March 6th 2026 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Horror
- April 10th 2026 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm - Comedy



If you would like to **become a member** - please visit:
www.halevillagehall.co.uk/filmclub



Each Film Member votes for one film from three choices.

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DEC 6th

7pm

at Hale
Village
Hall



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Christmas decorations
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Enjoy a nice pint or a gin "n" tonic in the Main Hall.
Please **follow** Hale Village Hall Facebook for future dates.

What's going on

halevillagehall.co.uk

email; halevillagehall@btinternet.com

Bookings & enquiries call; 01725510050

MON

Main Hall - Ballroom & Latin American Dance 5:45pm
Downstairs - Tai Chi class - 6pm & 7.15pm

TUE

Downstairs - Cafe & Library - 2pm
Main Hall - Dog Training - 6pm

WED

Downstairs - Tai Chi class - 10am
Main Hall - Table Tennis - 6:30pm

Save the date...

- Tuesday December 2 - Main Hall - Hale and Woodgreen Horticultural Society AGM - 7pm
- Thursday December 4 - Main Hall - Vegetable Club Christmas Get-together - 7.30pm
- Friday December 5 & - Main Hall - Film Club - 7pm. To join visit www.halevillagehall.co.uk/filmclub
- January 9
- Saturday December 6. - Main Hall - Wreath Making Workshop 1-3pm FULLY BOOKED
- Main Hall - Christmas Pub - 7pm All welcome!
- December 20 - Main Hall - Hale Local Produce Market
- & January 17 - 9am - 12 noon
- Thursday January 15 - Main Hall - Vegetable Club Meeting - 7.30pm

at your Village Hall?

woodgreenvillagehall.org.uk

email; info@woodgreenvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings & enquiries call; 07367 158208

MON

Yoga - 9.30am, 11am & 5.15pm

Craft Club - 1.30pm

TUE

Yoga - 9.30am, 11am & 3pm

Dog Training - 6.30pm & 7.45pm

WED

Art Club - 10am

THU

Pilates - 9.15am

Dog Training - 11am & 12.15pm

Gong Bath - 8pm (fortnightly from Sept 18 - March 2026)

Save the date...

Wednesday December 3 & 17 - Floral Cupcake Workshop - 6.30 - 8.30pm

Details on the village hall website

Wednesday December 10 & - Afternoon Tea, book&jigsaw swap 2.30 - 4pm

January 14

Wednesday December 10

- Women's Institute Christmas Party - 7pm

Friday December 12 &

- CAMEO - Come and meet each other in the
village Hall. All welcome! - 12 noon - 2pm

January 30

- Garrick & Etheridge Music Evening

Sunday December 14

in association with  Doors open 7pm

Christmas Day

- Church Christmas Lunch. Call 01425 653163 to book.

January 21

- Women's Institute Meeting - 7pm

Sarah Orchard - New Forest Artist



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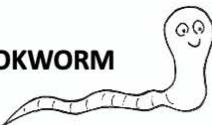
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Subscription is only £12 per year, for entry to the monthly draw. You may buy as many subscriptions as you would like. Half of the money raised is given in prizes and half to support your village hall.

Two cash prizes every month!

To join please contact Jacqui Hartas on 01725 510376 or jacqui.hartas@gmail.com

Join Hale 100 Club by 15th December to be included
in the Grand Christmas Draw



“Fever Pitch”, “High Fidelity”, “About a Boy” by Nick Hornby (Books & DVDs)

A smorgasbord for the festive season with a celebration of Nick Hornby books. He has a way about him, incisive and droll, but the context may not always appeal, so here is a choice, one of which might tempt a foray into another, and all from the **Hale Village Hall Library**.

First there is **Fever Pitch**, charting Hornby's spiral into football addiction. An irresistible lure, a virtual enslavement, anguish and heartache, the death knell for any relationship. Hornby seeks to exorcise his fervent passion by laying bare his soul. It's ludicrous and farcical and it is sure to strike a chord. Or maybe try the DVD - described as “A Riot!” and “Laugh out loud funny!” I wouldn't go that far, but it has got some strong performances – notably from **Mark Strong** as Hornby's beleaguered mate, and then the man himself, played by **Colin Firth** – Darcy of **Mr Wet T Shirt** fame, and he's pretty watchable, but far too handsome to play a downtrodden 1980's teacher in a grim London Comprehensive. Good looks aside the film re-creates the atmosphere of despair, longing and euphoria that resonates within the book, including obligatory swearing, but that is part and parcel of a match day experience.

Then **High Fidelity**, not autobiographical like **Fever Pitch**, but it's clearly personal; Rob owns a small, mostly vinyl, music shop that caters for the eclectic, and along with two oddball assistants he prides himself on their knowledge of the obscure and the banal, at least where pop music is concerned. It begins when his girlfriend ups and leaves, and what follows is an excoriating dissection of the male psyche. Rob's blinkered outrage is childish, and his boorish behaviour obvious to all but himself. I winced at some of the home truths; the petty male traits - of course women are aware of Man's inured immaturity and make allowances, as they would for a little boy. Rob's fragile ego slowly recovers on a journey of self-discovery to a feel-good finale. The DVD is a complete tragedy, set in the wrong country, Americanised and lacking any nuance, subtlety or style. To coin a phrase; “its total pants”! I'd avoid it.

About a Boy is also fiction, but it still bears Hornby's unmistakeable hallmark. The boy, Marcus, is nerdy, the awkward son of a new-age single mother. He is struggling to adapt to London life when he meets feckless playboy Will, who is attending a single parents evening on the lookout for a casual liaison. Marcus decides that Will is an ideal life-style coach and sets about inveigling his way into Will's life, initially by trying to set up his mother. Marcus and Will's developing relationship draws you in, it's a decent page-turner. The film, which is frothier, has Darcy's nemesis, that foppish Cad **Hugh Grant** as Will, and he's never been better; a performance so finely judged that the film is possibly superior to the book, and that's a rare thing.



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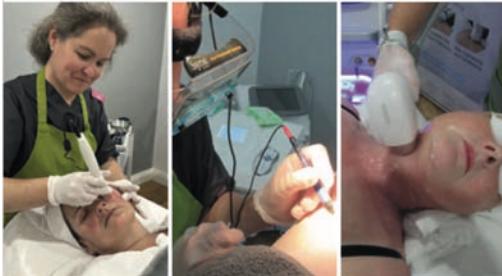
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Gong Bath
Woodgreen Village Hall

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November 13th, 27th
December 11th
January 8th, 22nd

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for booking & dates

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room
on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7.30pm.**

25/26.92 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH), Guy Rafferty (GR) and Pete Skinner (PS)

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Paul Cleary (Wessex Internet Regional Community Mger).

Apologies for Absence: Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor.

25/26.93 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.94 Minutes of previous meeting held on 14/10/2025.

25/26.94.1 Following a review of the minutes, it was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

25/26.94.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Forestry England (FE) - GR and JC will meet Helen Lynch from Forestry England on Thursday 13/11/25, they will discuss the management of the viewpoints at Castle Hill.

25/26.95 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

25/26.96 Wessex Internet: Paul Cleary (Regional Community Manager, Wiltshire) reported to the PC about the future installation of Full Fibre Broadband into the village. Wessex Internet has been awarded the contract for this area by the government and Woodgreen will be part of the Wiltshire project. The installation will be independent of the Openreach system which is installed in some parts of the village. Where possible Wessex Internet will use existing infrastructure such as poles and ducting, but access agreements will be made with landowners and in some cases, cabling will be installed underground. It is likely that the project will now be undertaken in Dec 2026 and a public meeting will be held prior to this in Woodgreen Village Hall facilitated by Wessex Internet.

25/26.97 Report by New Forest District Councillor: Cllr Richards was unable to attend.

25/26.98 Planning: The following applications were discussed:

Case Number	25/01193TPO
Proposal	Prune 1 x Oak tree (Tree is part of W1 of TPO 0069/05)
Site	Little Forest, Lower Densome Wood, Woodgreen, SP6 2BE
Case Number	25/01210CONS
Proposal	Pollard 1 x Oak tree
Site	Birch Holt Cottage, Brook Lane, Woodgreen, SP6 2AZ
Case Number	25/01254CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x dead Hawthorn tree
Site	West Winds, High Street, Woodgreen, SP6 2AU
Case Number	25/01257CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x Conifer tree
Site	1, Nursery Cottages, Hale Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2AL
Case Number	25/01271CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x Goat Willow tree
Site	3 Nursery Cottages, Hale Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2AL
Case Number	25/01280CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x Popular tree, Prune area of large shrubs.
Site	Windrush, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BQ
Case Number	25/01287CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x Poplar tree, Prune 1 x Oak tree.
Site	Grace House, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BQ

PS and HD visited all the sites and had no issues with the proposed works and therefore recommended to accept the decision of the National Park Authority Tree Officer. This was unanimously agreed.

25/26.99 Meetings Attended:**North West Quadrant Meeting- 20th Oct. JC and HD attended:**

Forestry England car parking charges will begin in April 2026 for all car parks in the New Forest; HCC will also bring in charges to their New Forest car parks. There is a concern that increased verge and road parking will occur due to this new policy and FE are digging ditches in many areas of the Forest to help deter this. Additionally, it is understood that there are discussions taking place with HCC to establish measures to prevent on-road parking, there is also discussion about restarting the Western Escarpment Group (which stopped prior to Covid) to discuss the impact of the new parking measures on the Western Escarpment villages. A representative is requested from each village (this does not have to be a parish councillor).

Gilly Jones, New Forest Roads Awareness campaigner will be presenting at the next NW Quadrant meeting. Councillors discussed possible approaches to reduce speeding and animal deaths throughout the Forest, these included the increased use of reflective collars, the introduction of “smart” collars with tech such as tracking facilities; the use of dash cams in vehicles linked to systems where this information can be easily uploaded and shared, and more responsibility by commoners to keep their animals safe.

Steve May - MF spoke with PCSO Steve May for updated crime information in the area - nothing to report.

25/26.100 Defibrillators: The Woodgreen defibrillator, situated at the Community Shop, will probably require replacement in the next few years. Woodgreen PC funds the consumables for the defib and reconfirmed responsibility and ownership for the defib on behalf of the parish.

A new team of 5 First Responders has been set up in Hale and Woodgreen and WPC will ask Suzie McNulty to the meeting in Jan to advise the parish council how this operates and to discuss timescale and costs for renewal of the existing equipment.

25/26.101 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches):

Lengthsman - The Lengthsman will be working in the village on 24th November; jobs will include replacing dragon's teeth, clearing the organic rubbish at the cemetery and clearing brambles at the bottom of Grace Lane.

Roads - Woodgreen PC continues to liaise with HCC regarding the installation of Speed Indicator Devices. NFDC owns a sleeve (to hold a post) which is outside Castle Rise however they will not authorise the use of this socket by WPC due to liability issues. It was therefore agreed to site a SID further down the hill on an existing signpost outside Orchard Close. This will require the purchase of a post extension at £250; this was unanimously agreed. WPC will discuss with NFDC the possibility of taking ownership of the sleeve outside Castle Rise.

Steels Drove - There is currently one padlock left on the gate at the top of Steel's Drove, AJ will check in with residents regarding the secureness of the gate.

25/26.102 Cemetery:

A second working party was held on Sun 26th October to tidy some older graves that are no longer maintained.

25/26.103 Hale and Woodgreen Magazine - The Hale and Woodgreen magazine is making a loss each year. A request for a £250 donation was unanimously approved and a pledge was made to transfer the funds when they are required. This will be factored into future budgets. The magazine would welcome more donations from parishioners.

25/26.104 Christmas Tree Festival: It was agreed to approve the purchase of a Christmas tree and any associated costs for entry into the Woodgreen Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St. Boniface Church. The festival will be launched at 11am on Friday 12th December during the festive Fair Trade coffee morning.

25/26.105 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £17,603.83 as at 03.11.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,114.78 as at 06.11.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure and current balances were noted and approved.

b. **Expenditure:** The following payments were approved.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - November	445.10		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - October	180.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		
R. England	Installation of benches	298.00		Bank Transfer

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
HMRC	Quarterly fees	31.71		Bank Transfer
NFDC (reimbursed to S.Hall)	Waste bags	24.00		Bank Transfer
ICO	Data Protection Registration Certificate.	47.00		Direct Debit

25/26.106 The following correspondence was noted.

17/10/2025 NPA - New Chair for the New forest National Park Authority
 17/10/2225 NPA - Step into Autumn with the New Forest walking festival.
 17/10/2025 NPA - Have your say in the New Forest National Park Authority residents survey.
 21/10/2025 NFDC - Road Safety Funding Opportunities
 22/10/2025 Rural Services Network - Training for Digital Landline Switchover.
 28/10/2025 HCC - Free Standard Tree Scheme
 31/10/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - October Newsletter
 03/11/2025 Flow Update
 03/11/2025 HCC - Report from Nick Adams-King
 05/11/2025 HCC- Budget consultation for 2026/27
 05/11/2025 Police and Crime Commissioner - survey on council tax funding for policing.
 05/11/2025 NPA - Local Plan Review - Have your say.

25/26.107 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

The SSE contract to supply electricity to the Reading Room ends on the 30th November, a new contract has been secured with British Gas which is significantly cheaper.

After the recent theft of the wheels from the Breamore School minibus, Andrew McLeod arranged for these to be replaced at no cost; many thanks to him for this.

Next meeting Tuesday December 16th at 7.30pm. - Budget and precept for 26/27 and Local Plan Review.

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)

Our November meeting was an ikebana workshop led by Miyuki who is an ikebana master of Ohara School. She gave us an insight into the art of Japanese flower arranging, followed by a demonstration of a couple of simple, yet elegant designs, 'Inclining form' and 'Moribana slanting style'. Everyone had a go at creating their own ikebana! You can view their ikebana masterpieces from the following link:<https://shorturl.at/cTrPL>

Please save the date on 8th December for a Christmas floral demonstration by Graham King. You will enjoy festive blooms, creative arrangements, and joyful inspiration to brighten your holiday season. Come relax, learn, and celebrate the magic of Christmas flowers together. Refreshments from 7 pm followed by a demonstration at 7.30 pm. Do join us and bring your friend(s)! Non-members are welcome (£8 door fee including refreshments).

All meetings/events are held at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Woodfalls (SP5 2LD). A full programme for 2025/26 is available from the weblink <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025> and on the notice board in the hall, and on our facebook group. We look forward to welcoming you!

Contact: Miyuki Griffin 07990 868351

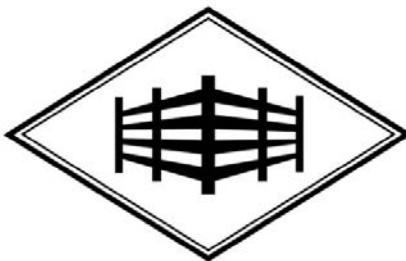
Email: forestedgiflower@gmail.com

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/forestedgiflower

View full programme for 2025/26: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025>

Upcoming meetings:

8 December 2025	Graham King Christmas Theme	7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)
NO JANUARY MEETING		
2 February 2026	AGM & Mini Dem. with Janet Newman	7.00 pm (6.30 pm refreshments)



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Recording Our Heritage

Fordingbridge Museum recently celebrated its silver anniversary. We wanted to give something to the town which would act as a lasting legacy of the event and came up with the idea of marking buildings of interest with green plaques.

This idea is not new. In 1863 Willian Ewart MP suggested, in the House of Commons, putting up plaques on notable buildings. Three years later The Royal Society of Arts (RSA) began a scheme to do just that. The earliest plaque to survive is one to Napoleon III in Westminster that was put up in 1867. The plaques put up by the RSA were chocolate brown with a decorative border. Not many of these survive but a good example is to be found on Dr Samuel Johnson's house in Gough Square, London. In 1903 the London County Council took over the scheme and formalised the selection criteria. They were followed by the Greater London Council and in 1986 English Heritage took over the erection of the plaques.

Early Plaques were of different colours and designs and shapes. Some were made of bronze, stone or lead and were sometimes coloured blue, brown, sage or terracotta. However, in 1938 the modern simple blue plaque was designed by an anonymous student at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. He or she was paid what seems like the measly sum of four guineas for it. The brown ceramic RSA plaques were made by the Minton factory. By 1921, blue was chosen as the colour that stood out best and these were made by the Doulton factory. Today the plaques are made by hand by Ned Heywood a potter in Chepstow. Whilst English Heritage runs the London blue plaque scheme, Historic England deals with the rest of the country.

Anyone can suggest a suitable building for a plaque and strict criteria are applied. These include, the plaque should be visible from the public highway, there should be no more than two plaques on a building. Any person honoured with a plaque should have been dead for at least twenty years. A panel of experts appointed by English Heritage for London or Historic England for the rest of the country, decide what plaques to authorise and where they are to go.

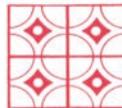
In Fordingbridge we have decided that the museum's plaques should be green to distinguish them from the Historic England blue ones. The four plaques we have put up so far commemorate a building rather than a person. One is on the museum building, another on the Victoria Rooms, a third on the riverside George pub and a fourth on the Old Quaker Meeting House in Roundhill. Putting up the plaques is not a straightforward process. Thorough research has to be done to ensure the wording on the plaque is accurate. The building's owners have to agree to the plaque and planning permission has to be obtained if the building is listed. Fordingbridge is full of buildings of historic interest and we would like to put up more plaques. However, they are expensive, so we are looking for sponsors to enable us to expand the scheme.



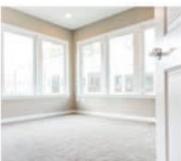
Fordingbridge Museum Manager, Jane Ireland said, "Our historic plaque scheme is a gift to the town from the museum in return for the support local people have given us over the last twenty-five years. We hope that the plaques will fascinate both locals and visitors alike and will be a permanent reminder of the cultural heritage that we all live with."

If individuals or organisations would like to sponsor a plaque they can contact the Museum on info@fordingbridgemuseum.co.uk or 01425 657850

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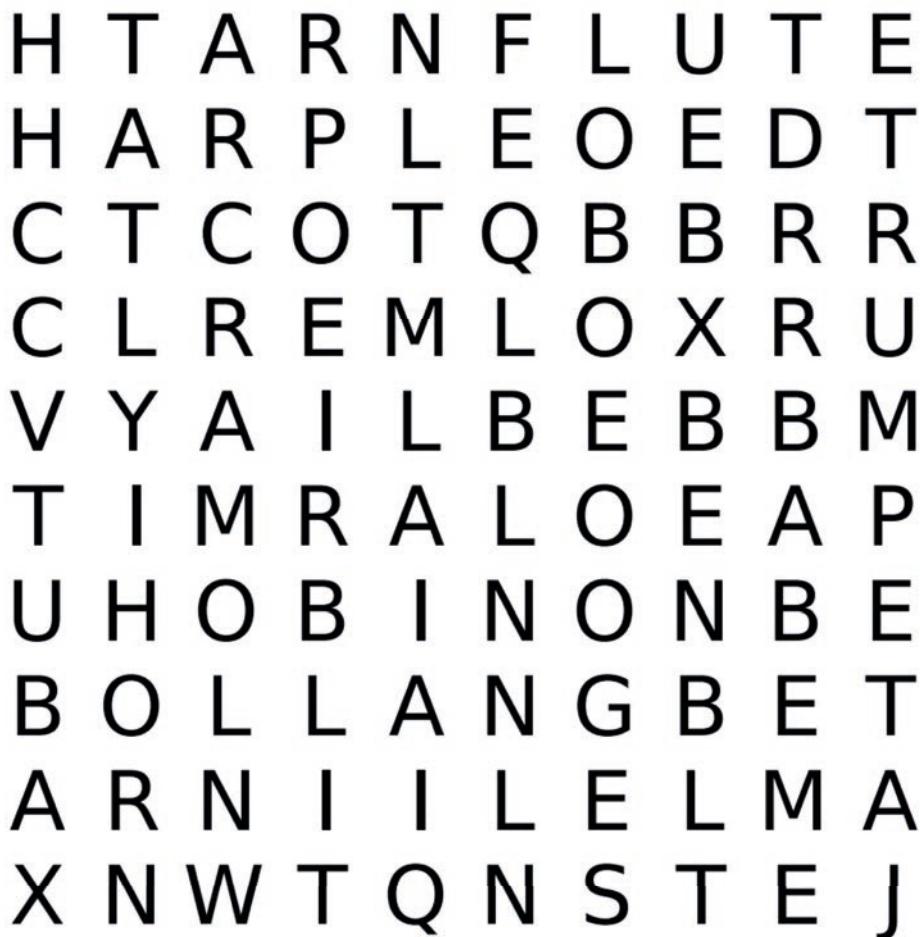
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The Orchestra Wordsearch

Find 12 “**Orchestra Instruments**” lost in the grid of letters.
They could be found up/down/along/diagonally and even in reverse!



Answers appear overleaf.

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night. Take these broken wings
and learn to fly. All your life, you were only waiting.
For this moment to arise.*

From "Blackbird" by The Beatles

Joanna Bell

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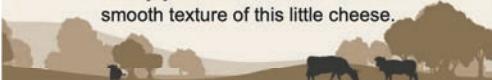


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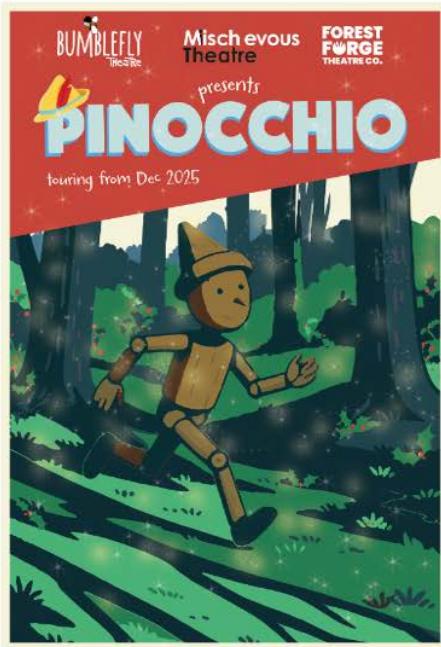
07739 090070 / 01725 514718

steveegford@aol.com

Pinocchio

Friday 9th January at Downton Memorial Hall, 6.30pm (doors open 5.45pm)

The Travelling Players (Forest Forge, Bumblefly and Mischievous Theatre) are returning with another thrilling festive show. This year, they bring their quirky storytelling, song, merriment, and mischief to the wonderful misadventures of Pinocchio—the story of a wooden marionette who longs to become a real boy.



With a nose that grows at every fib, Pinocchio is naïve, stubborn, thoughtless, and all too easily led. Join him as he falls in with the rascally Fox, gasp as he soars on the back of a pigeon, marvel as he is swallowed by a giant shark, doubt as he plants gold coins in the hope they will grow, and wonder as he is turned into a donkey... but will he ever become a real boy?

We promise live action, music, surprises, a puppet or two, plenty of laughs, and a thoroughly enjoyable, unforgettable adventure! ***For the whole family!***

Refreshments and licensed bar available.

Tickets: Adults £10, Children (under 16) £5, available from 1st December, from the Borough Cafe (cash only). Alternatively you can text either 07760 415818 or 07545 598887 giving details of tickets required (pay by BACS).

All profits will go towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall kitchen.



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A special Service to support the work of the Children's Society

As you read this I don't know whether you are a person of faith or not. I don't know if you have strong feelings for or against the institutional church or simply couldn't care less one way or the other. What I do know is that statistics do show a decline in church attendance as a Sunday activity. I guess this ought to be of concern for those who do attend church, not from some moralistic standpoint, but rather trying to fathom out, 'why'?

Good question, you say! Perhaps we need to distinguish between attending church and living with an awareness that life is spiritual. Christians can get very snooty and insulting about this so beware! I am inspired by the writing of an American writer on religion and culture-Diana Butler Bass. In her book, 'Grounded' she has this to say about the fall off in church attendance:

"Critics say this is happening because we are uncommitted, disloyal, or too lazy to get up on whatever Sabbath we celebrate. We do not understand community, or we like sports better than church. We are consumers more interested in getting our own needs met than in meeting the needs of the world. We are too busy. We are self-centred, lacking a moral passion for charity and social justice".

Maybe some of that fits; maybe not. What she goes on to say is that for her, and I guess many in our community with which I can resonate:

"We are heartbroken. Heartbroken by the fact that the faith traditions that raised us and that we love seem to be sleeping through the revolution....Many people have left organised religion because they experience too great a distance between the old structures and their experience of God."

The 'revolution' she talks about is about God who does not land up being so remote and other other-worldly so that we feel unconnected; and the world seen as the sacred dwelling place of that God who is 'the ground, the grounding, that which grounds us'.

What better time to reflect on this than during the Advent and Christmas Season and at the beginning of a New Year. Let this time be a time of bridge building. Where can God be found in this age? Always in loving relationship, always connecting us to each other, and connecting us to our deeper selves. We can expect to experience God as presence in and through the earth, in the rivers and seas and springs, in the air as we constantly inspire our moment by moment breath, with our families and neighbours, deep down in our family, national and spiritual roots, and in shared spaces. These are the dwelling places of God who is 'the ground, the grounding, that which grounds us'.

We will not need any special language but rather trust some our common sayings,

'Aha! Now I see...; and then the penny dropped...; it had the ring of truth about it; the colours of those trees are simply glorious; my heart missed a beat; I knew I was not alone; I felt at peace; what a beautiful person s/he is; I felt loved and wanted; thank you; I felt moved; I know s/he is the one for me;.....'.

Amongst the noise, fun and bustle of Christmas expect God to be there in the middle of it enjoying you and yours and the fun you are having. If you are alone, or in pain, or confused about what life is about, God is there. You may not recognise this presence for our God moves incognito, unrecognised among us.

For churchgoers this divine presence permeates our carol services, and in all our Christmas worship as we connect with one another and allow ourselves to know once more that humanity is blessed with a re-creation of the birth of Jesus Christ-Emmanuel, God with us; the love of God sharing our humanity in a vulnerable child. We shall not all experience this divine presence in the same way. There are many pathways to knowing and experiencing God.

Let these words of Diana Butler Bass ring loudly in our ears and thoroughly ground us throughout this Christmastide and throughout 2026:

"The spiritual revolution, finding God in the world, is an invitation to new birth, most especially for religion. There is no better place to start than in your synagogue, mosque, temple or church.

"And that new birth is happening. You can hear it as the earth groans for salvation, as poets and philosophers tell its stories, as scientists search the soil and the cosmos for life, as the oppressed, poor and marginalised push for dignity and economic justice. It is time for the church to wake up. There is nothing worse than sleeping through a revolution."

Yours in faith and love, John Towler



Studio Jamming is a photography and videography service based in the New Forest. The business card features a large, stylized 'S' and 'J' logo with a camera lens icon, followed by the website 'studiojamming.com'. To the right is a QR code with the text 'scan to visit my website'. Below the logo, the text 'Photography & videography in the New Forest' is written in a large, flowing font, with 'Events, celebrations, commercials, weddings & more!' in a smaller font underneath. At the bottom, a call-to-action box contains the text 'Contact Jamie to discuss your next project!' with an envelope icon and the email address 'jamie@studiojamming.com'. To the right of the envelope icon is a phone icon and the phone number '07799 543276'.

Advent, Christmas and New Year Church Services

Sunday 7th December (2nd Sunday of Advent) 10am-Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Hale (SP6 2RF)



ALSO Sunday 7th December at 3pm **Christingle*** Service at St Mary's Church, Hale (*a special Service to support the work of the Children's Society, when children of any age are especially welcome to make and take home your own Christingle Orange.) Followed by delicious Mexican Hot Chocolate!!

Sunday 14th December 10am-IONA (Celtic) Holy Communion at St Boniface, Woodgreen (SP6 2AJ)

Sunday 21st December 10am-Advent Carols and Readings at St Mary's Church, Hale



Wednesday 24th-Christmas Eve-Crib Service at 3.30pm @ St Boniface Church, Woodgreen-'Family Friendly Service' when we will build our Crib for Woodgreen

Also Christmas Eve-'Looking towards midnight at Bethlehem' **9pm start** in solidarity with the people of Bethlehem. A service of readings and music @St Boniface Church, Woodgreen followed by festive refreshments!

Thursday 25th December-Christmas Day at 10am @St Mary's Church, Hale- come and join in the family fun when we build our Crib for Hale, followed by Communion.

Sunday 28th December-Benefice/Parish wide Service at Hyde Church (SP6 2QJ) at 10am

Other Festive Events

Friday 12th December, Christmas Community Coffee Morning, including the launch of our Christmas Tree Festival (with a special tree to celebrate the work of Foodbanks!) **NB-donations are down!** @St Boniface, Woodgreen 10.30-12noon.

AND

FESTIVE CAMEO Friday December 12th from 12-2pm in Woodgreen Village Hall, by kind permission of the Village Hall Committee. Suggested donation of £3 for a lovely bowl of home-made soup and a roll and festive treats!

ALSO

WEDS 17TH DECEMBER CAROLS IN THE PUB, @ the HORSE & GROOM, WOODGREEN with our friends the Meraki Brass Band @ 7pm-Festive jumpers and cracker jokes welcomed!

CHRISTMAS DAY, CHRISTMAS LUNCH

After last year's wonderful Christmas Lunch, we are once again offering Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day at Woodgreen Village Hall, please get a booking form from Revd Ruth Crosland by 12th December

All welcome! Bring a friend, a neighbour, family or yourself? Mobile 07855210769 (Expected cost between £10-£15)

January Church Services

Sunday 4th January 2026-10am Epiphany Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Hale

Sunday 11th January 2026-10am Holy Communion at St Boniface, Woodgreen

Sunday 18th January 2026-Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, please check AVC for time and location

Sunday 25th January 2026-10am Morning Service @ St Boniface, Woodgreen

Sunday February 1st, 2026-10am Candlemas/Snowdrop Service with Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Hale

Candlemas Capers Concert

Sunday February 1st @ 2pm @ Hale House, by kind permission of Candida & Sloan Hickman

Returning this year by popular request!

Musical entertainment provided by Milford West Gallery Quire, a goodly company of singers, players and narrators who will help us to step back to previous times, brr, but with a warm welcome, and an amazing Raffle!!

Tickets £12 to include Mulled Wine & seasonal nibbles from Woodgreen Community Shop, ACMS Charity Shop, Fordingbridge High Street or Lynda Warne 07799 542707 or Rev Ruth Crosland 07855 210769

Finally a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported us both in our Churches and in our Community, during 2025 it was lovely to see you all..

And at Christmas...So many joys..... the wonder of the Bus Shelter Nativity, the sparkling of the Christmas Tree Festival, the fun of Carols in the Pub, the excitement of children at our Crib Services, the joy of Christmas in so many ways

The Church Family of Hale and Woodgreen wish you a healthy 2026!

CONTACTS

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www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk

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07553 728121

Hale email: hpcclerk@gmail.com

Woodgreen email: parish.clerk@woodgreen-pc.gov.uk

www.haleparishcouncil.co.uk

www.woodgreen-pc.gov.uk

AGE CONCERN VILLAGE AGENT

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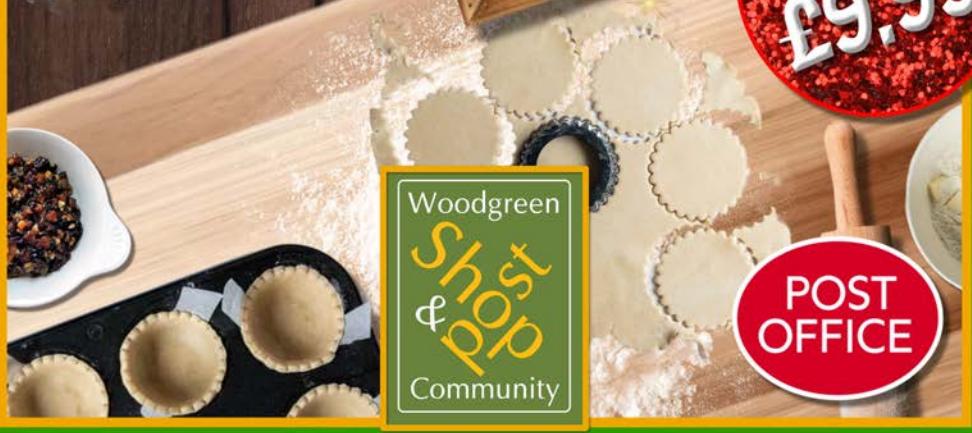
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