

MARCH 2026

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HALE & WOODGREEN

Community & Parish Magazine

www.halevillagehall.co.uk/magazine



Cosmos watercolour: Sarah Orchard

*The Community Magazine for Hale and Woodgreen.
2 villages found in the New Forest, Hampshire. UK.
Published every month except January*
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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME, PREFERABLY BY

EMAIL to: haleandwoodgreen@aol.com

or haleandwoodgreen@aim.com

We welcome your feedback and ideas for future issues

**The deadline for the April 2026 issue of the magazine is
Monday 16th March.
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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Account name Hale and Woodgreen Magazine,

Sort code 30-97-41 Account number 76595460.

Alternatively, you may post your donation in the locked letterbox at Hale Village Hall or hand it in at Woodgreen Community Shop. Cheques should be made payable to Hale and Woodgreen Magazine.

If you are a taxpayer, we may be able to claim Gift Aid tax relief on your donation. Please email us for a Gift Aid form.

If you prefer to save paper and not receive the printed magazine, please email **haleandwoodgreen@aol.com** and we will email you a PDF version instead.

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

“Cosmos watercolour” 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



HALE AND WOODGREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2026 PROGRAMME

- Tue 10 Feb** **Gardeners' Question Time & Evening Social**
Hale Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Ask local experts for horticultural advice to those tricky gardening questions. Come along to our first meeting of the year for a drink, catch up and to discuss those challenging gardening problems.
- Wed 4 Mar** **Talk: "Ponds and Water Plants"**
Ray Broughton
Woodgreen Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Ray first trained at RHS Wisley in the mid 1970s, and then taught horticulture for over 40 years, including 12 years locally at Sparsholt College. He is a knowledgeable and respected expert speaker.
- Sat 25 Apr** **Spring Plant Sale**
Woodgreen Village Hall, 11 am to 1.00 pm
A wide selection of local nursery and home-grown plants at competitive prices. Please drop off donations between 9 am and 10.30 am.
- Tue 19 May** **Talk: "Winning at RHS Chelsea"**
Katherine Crouch
Hale Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Katherine is a renowned designer from the South-West, having won numerous horticultural accolades - BBC Gardener of the year & decade and Chelsea gold!
- Sun 21 Jun** **Outing: Cerne Abbas Open Gardens**
This year, Cerne Abbas is holding its 50th Open Gardens event. Herrington Coaches are booked for the excursion to the village and 20+ gardens to view. We anticipate leaving here around 11 am, returning early evening.
Price TBC. **Please book & pay ahead.**
- Sun 5 Jul** **Children's Workshop**
Woodgreen Village Hall, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm
An opportunity for children to enjoy creative activities in preparation for entering our annual show competitions. Lots of crafty fun and delicious refreshments.
Please book ahead.
- Sat 18 Jul** **Annual Show**
Woodgreen Village Hall
Celebrating local horticulture at its best!
Entry forms to be returned by Tuesday, 14th July. All entries to be staged 9 am to 10.30 am. Public opening at 2 pm, prize-giving at 4 pm.
- Wed 9 Sep** **Local Outing (self-drive):**
West Green House, RG27 8JB
The National Trust's West Green House Garden, Hampshire, is a series of walled gardens surrounding an 18th-century house. Rediscovered in 1993, over the last three decades, there are now beautiful new gardens, follies and structures restored for future generations.
- Tue 13 Oct** **Talk: "An Introduction to Permaculture - Learning from Nature to Design for Resilience and Abundance"**
Milly Carmichael
Hale Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Milly studied horticulture, worked as a gardener, and holds a master's degree in public health. She is passionate about learning from nature and gardening, with soil health and wildlife in mind.
- Mon 9 Nov** **Talk: "Creating a Downland Garden"**
Robert Harvey
Woodgreen Village Hall, 7.30 pm
A photographic illustrated talk tracing the development of Robert's Wiltshire garden, from a bare field to acceptance in the National Garden Scheme. He discusses the practical and aesthetic principles that give structure and unity to formal lawns and borders, wildflower meadows and ponds, trees, fruit and vegetables.
- Tue 8 Dec** **AGM, Christmas Social Evening**
Hale Village Hall, 7.30 pm
AGM, Christmas social evening, and entertainment with an American Supper. Please bring a dish to share!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

£10.00 PER MEMBER, TO BE PAID IN JANUARY

PLEASE PAY BY BANK TRANSFER IF POSSIBLE.

Account Name: Hale & Woodgreen Horticultural Society

Sort Code: 30-97-08

Account: 01306094

Reference: House Name or Number & Street

If you are uncomfortable making an online payment, please let us know how you would like us to collect your subscription.

ENTRY TO TALKS FOR GUESTS: £5.00.

CONTACT DETAILS

David Mussell (chairman): davidmussell@icloud.com

Sue Harris (secretary): sue.harris114@btinternet.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HWHorticulturalS

Website: haleandwoodgreenhorticulturalsociety.org

Hale and Woodgreen Horticultural Society
Annual Show - Saturday 18th July 2026



Flower Arranging Classes

All classes to be viewed and judged from the front.

An exhibit is plant material in all its forms, fresh or dried, with or without accessories. No artificial plant material allowed.

NO FLORAL FOAM TO BE USED

this includes Agra wool, Sideau and Floral Fibre/Renewal

- **'Sweet Treats'** a PETITE exhibit not to exceed width 25cm, depth 25cm, height 37cm. Staged on open tabling covered with a pale grey cloth (provided).
- **'Enchanted Garden'** an exhibit not to exceed width 50cm, depth 50cm, height optional. Staged on open tabling covered with a pale grey cloth (provided).
- **'Holiday Cheer'** an exhibit to include one or more accessories, plant material to predominate. Not to exceed width 50cm, depth 50cm, height 75cm. Staged in a pale green niche (provided)
- **'Rumble in the Jungle'** an exhibit featuring foliage (no flowers). Not to exceed width 50cm, depth 50cm, height optional. Staged on open tabling covered with a pale grey cloth (provided).
- **'Flying High'** an exhibit for MEN ONLY, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Concorde, to include cut flowers. Not to exceed width 50cm, depth 50cm, height optional. Staged on open tabling on an off white cloth (provided).



Ponds & water plants

Ray Broughton

Woodgreen Village Hall

7.30pm

Wednesday 4th March

Refreshments available

Members free, visitors £5

Potted histories... Henry VIII (part 1)

The monarchs in this series have been explored in about 5-600 words each. No space for more, and at a readable font size. One monarch each month, landing on your mat. To be read, consumed, challenged, ignored. Your choice. History distilled as interpretation, sometimes fact.

But Henry VIII? How to do justice to him and his 6 wives? Kate, Anne, Jane, Anne, Kate and Kate again. Room for only a few words each? Each hard-done-by Queen condensed and condemned to a few lines. Surely not! And how about Henry himself? Love him or loath him, surely he is one of the most significant historical characters of all time, deserving of more space here. Second son: the spare, who unknowingly perhaps launched the exploitation of much of the known world at that time. England starting the long journey from second-tier nation to top-spot?

The minds and bodies of Englishmen also freed from foreign religious domination; moreover redistributing the immense wealth of the times, accumulated by the Church over generations in return for prayers and a leg-up into heaven. Wealth returned to the society it had been taken from. Henry pocketing not a little for himself, to fund the victorious wars he craved. Ambitions thus far unquenched. Popes now forever relegated to footnotes in our history, no longer issuing never-to-be challenged edicts. The turning point from the inward faction-fighting that condemned England after the Norman Conquest of 1066, now able to focus on the external world. The Tudors together challenging the might of Spain and France. Surely Henry has to go down as one of the most significant monarchs of all time? A game changer, like it or not.

And what of his right-hand man? "Crum". You can't write about one without the other. Cynical, corrupt and manipulative, or pioneering and principled? The greatest commoner of all time? Rising from the gutters of Putney to be second only to Henry himself. Earl of the Realm, Knight of the Garter, Vice-Gerent, unequalled administrator; laying the foundations of the modern British State, and putting the country on the road to democracy. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury reporting to him in the newly reformed religion; Henry and all successive monarchs established at its head. The Bible rewritten and made available to all in the English tongue. A copy in every church, and somehow introduced against the wishes of Henry. The Nobility, always top-dogs now seething that they must doff their caps to this ruffian from the lowest of classes. Trouble ahead.

"Henry? Think Trump but with better clothes". (Quote: Diarmid McCullough, eminent historian of this era, in a recent lecture in Winchester Great Hall). Let's see... David Mussell.

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TalkAbout

Thursday March 5th 2026

10:00 for 10:30 am

Finished by 12 noon

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About the books

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Where to purchase them

These novels are available from bookshops, and Amazon. Or come along to the craft fair at Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall on March 7th to get your signed copy.

To keep up to date with the action sign up for my monthly newsletter on my website www.carolcoleauthor.com

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Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our February talk was by March Heighway on “Wings over the New Forest” covering the period from 1784 to 1960 but excluding the Second World War because it would require another talk in its own right.

In 1784 Jean Blanchard who flew his hot air balloon from Chelsea to Romsey; the event is depicted in a painting of Pyewell House, Lymington. This was the first recorded flight in our local area and over 100 years passed until the early 1900s when local inventors tried designing flying machines. These included Richard Balston who unsuccessfully focussed on Leonardo Da Vinci’s sketches, Charles Rolls who made over 200 balloon ascents, and Edwin Moon who built a kit aircraft for flying attempts at Ower Farm and Moonhills near Beaulieu.

Beaulieu (Bagshot Moor) became a private flying school (the second in the UK) before the First World War, run by Drexell and McCardle; they eventually went bankrupt due to other schools being started in more populous locations. The exposed nature of the site led to destruction of the expensive aircraft by high winds. The site was taken over by the RFC and aircraft such as Avro 504 and Sopwith Camels were used there. The site was dismantled in 1919 but the village Hall is actually the only remaining building and BEAULIEU can be seen in white letters on the ground. Preceding this, in 1913 the seaplane/flying boat station at Calshot was opened by the Royal Naval Air Service.

Lord Montague was a great proponent of aviation and realised the application to warfare; he was instrumental in warning of the threat of air raids and during WW1 small concrete plinths were laid during WW1 to mount height and range finding apparatus, with a built-in telephone to communicate the information to defences. These can still be seen in the forest.

During the evolution of British aviation, wealthy people and organisations often set targets with prizes if achieved: in the 1920s the Schneider trophy for the fastest seaplane was a prestigious competition. The government departments failed to see the potential of this for aircraft development so Lady Houston gave £100,000 to Supermarine based at Woolston to achieve a win and obviously develop the knowledge to build fast aircraft. That sum would be the equivalent of £7m in 2023 so this was no mean donation. The know how so attained enabled Supermarine to design and build the Spitfire, the mainstay of the RAF in 2WW and Britain’s most produced aircraft.

Our next talk is Romans in the Avon Valley by Salisbury Museum Director Adrian Green. The talk will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 7:30pm in the Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall. Visitors are welcome and entry for non-members is only £3.

There is a change of talk for the 7th April which will now be Helen Roberts talking about the Fovant Badges, with a particular interest in the Australian aspects.

REDLYNCH & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 03 March 2026 – 7.30pm

“Romans in the Avon Valley”

**A presentation by
Adrian Greene from Salisbury Museum
Relating to the Roman history of Downton,
Cranbourne, the New Forest and Salisbury**



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Hale Parish Council Update

Hale Emergency Plan

There has been much government emphasis in recent years to help communities become more resilient in the face of natural and man-made disasters and to have emergency plans in place to act upon such disasters. This was highlighted recently by storm Chandra; although Hale was not significantly affected many local villages were, some being cut off completely by flooding. Hale Community Emergency Plan is available on the parish council website under "Regulations"; please do have a look and familiarise yourself with the document. There is also a hard copy in the information phone kiosk at Hatchet Green. If you have any questions or would like a copy emailed please contact the clerk at hpcclerk@gmail.com.

Maintaining Ditches and Watercourses at your property

A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows, either year-round or only periodically. Watercourses are classified as either an 'ordinary watercourse' or 'Main River'.

'Ordinary watercourses' that are not part of a Main River include streams, ditches, drains, pipes, culverts etc. through which water flows.

Landowners with watercourses on or adjacent to their land are called 'riparian landowners' and have a responsibility to maintain these watercourses. The ditch/watercourse needs to be kept in a good condition such that the proper flow of water is not being impeded and it is functioning as an efficient drain. If you are a riparian owner and consequently responsible for maintaining a ditch it would be appreciated if you could help manage flood risk in the area by maintaining this ditch/watercourse and keeping it clear.

If you need to make any alterations to existing ditches or require further help and advice, please visit [Flood and water management | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/flood-and-water-management) or contact the Flood and Water Management team at FWM@hants.gov.uk

SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALLS.

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Hosted by the Woodgreen Village Hall committee raising funds for the village hall. Registered charity number 1189784

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

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2025/26

Yearly membership is just £12.00 per person - giving you access to 6 films, held over 6 months.

Reduced to £6.00 for the remaining dates

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

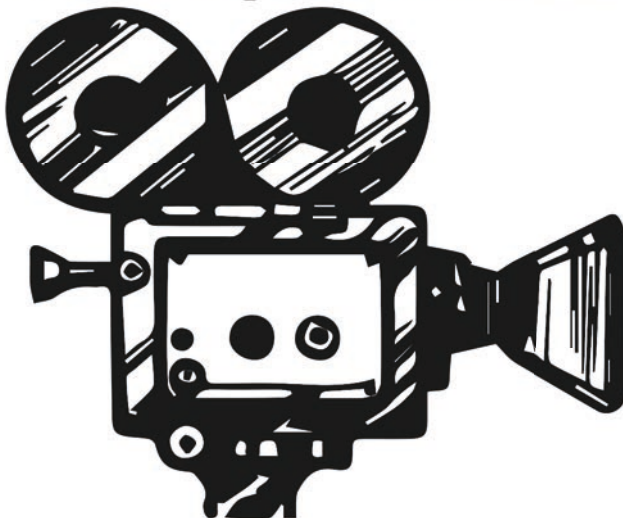
March 6th 2026 @ 6.45pm [film starts 7.30pm] - Horror

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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What's going on

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Bookings & enquiries call; 01725510050



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



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



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



Tuesday March 3 - Downstairs - Hale Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Friday March 6. - Main Hall - Film Club 7pm
To join visit - www.halevillagehall.co.uk/filmclub

Thursday March 19 - Main Hall - Vegetable Club Meeting - 7.30pm

Saturday March 21 - Main Hall - Hale Local Produce Market & Cafe
9am - 12 noon.

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Art Club - 10am





Pilates - 9.15am

Dog Training - 11am & 12.15pm

Yoga - 7pm



Wednesday March 11 - Afternoon Tea, book & jigsaw swap
2.30 - 4pm

Sunday March 15 - Three Cane Whale live folk band in
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Wednesday March 18 - WI Meeting talk -Silvertime Estate Planning
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BOOKWORM



MURDER IN THE NEW FOREST

BY CAROL COLE

Are you a reader who enjoys a good murder mystery? And are you a reader who does their best to solve the mystery before the end of the book, but fails miserably? Well then, this book is for you! No I never solve the mystery, though I read my share of crime novels, favourites being those by Richard Osman, Rob Rinder, the Shetland series and others by Ann Cleaves, to name but a few. I now have to add Carol Cole to my list of favourites and I think you will enjoy her writing.

'Murder in the New Forest' by Carol Cole was recommended to me by a friend and so I duly bought it from Amazon. The title means it is set in the New Forest, obviously where I live, so that immediately caught my attention, and I wasn't disappointed to find that it is actually set in Hale and Fordingbridge, the area where I live and walk my dog. Even the road I live in was mentioned! Of course poetic license is common in the book to preserve anonymity but that doesn't distract from the mystery at all.

The main character, DI Callum Maclean, is newly arrived from Glasgow to his post in the New Forest. Before he can unpack or find somewhere to live he has to attend an apparently tragic fatal accident. Fortunately his new side-kick DI Daisy Donaldson is quickly on the scene. She is able to explain how things work in the new forest and to help him with his very first murder there, which of course was what it turned out to be. Daisy explains the meaning of the words such as 'verderers', 'agisters' and 'commoners' and he soon gets accustomed to the roaming ponies and the cattle grids. Callum obviously has a past, some of which the reader learns throughout the book, but he keeps his personal life close to his chest. Daisy and the other characters come to life as the book progresses, with their different personalities and tales to tell, bringing the book to life.

Although not living here now, Carol Cole grew up in Hale, and is very familiar with the surrounding countryside. This is obvious in the wonderfully detailed descriptions of the New Forest and its characters and brings the novel to life. There are many twists and turns along the way, causing the reader to suspect a variety of different people of being guilty. I'm hoping that the main characters will be in the second and third books of the series. I can't wait to read them and I'm hoping there will be many more mysteries for me to try to unravel.



Our Hale Village Hall Library/Cafe (Meeting on a Tuesday afternoon, 2-4) was lucky enough to receive a visit from Carol Cole and her husband a few weeks ago. For me it was very special to hear how she had come to write the series of books. She brought some copies of her books to the library for you to borrow too.

Anne Mangan

For information see page 13



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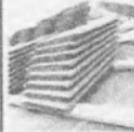
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Spring Production 2026 Bringing a touch of 70s nostalgia with the girls!

As spring progresses, our rehearsals are gathering the momentum of a proverbial Mad March Hare, and we are enjoying working on some cracking scripts for our next performances! Our spring production this year consists of two one act plays (and a monologue!) set in

the 1970s and performed by all female casts. The first, *Bus Stop* by Rae Shirley, is a comic take on a seemingly endless wait for the bus to arrive, when conversations revolve around village gossip, varicose veins and a portion of chips! You won't look at a bus queue in quite the same way again! The *Nannie*, a witty little monologue by George Melly harks back to simpler times and concludes the first half.



In the second, the wryly humorous *People Like Us* by Cherry Vooght, three women take a seaside holiday in a caravan who face the increasingly looming topics of loneliness and independence as their years advance.



Both directed by Lloyd Perry, we hope you'll enjoy these two great stories set in the unsophisticated 1970s, yet with themes that still resonate today.

Tickets, costing £12 each, will be available at the end of March for our performances beginning 7:30pm Wednesday, 13th May, continuing each night until

Saturday, 16th May. Please look out for their release on our social media (Facebook or Instagram) or on fliers and posters throughout the parish!

Find out more about us!

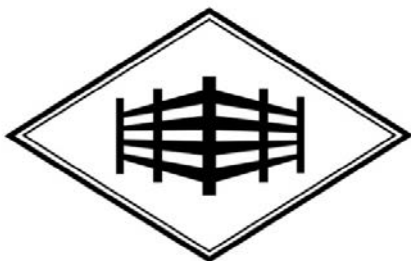
We are always looking for new friends to join us, whether that is performing on stage, doing something backstage such as costume or tech, helping seat the audience as front of house during performances, or by coming along to a performance itself.

If you have ever been tempted to get involved, please do get in touch with us via our website, email info@redlynchplayers.co.uk or message us on our Facebook or Instagram. Pages. We would love to have a chat with you!

Please see our website for recent reviews, how to buy tickets and past productions: www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

We post lots of regular updates, news and photos on our Redlynch Players Facebook and Instagram pages [@redlynchplayers](https://www.facebook.com/redlynchplayers). Why not follow us?

Ali Silver, Chair of Redlynch Players



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Parish Chests

Visiting Breamore the other day, I could not resist the opportunity to explore the remarkable Saxon Church. Amongst the other treasures there, I was fascinated to see a beautiful example of a parish chest. It always amazes me that these ancient wooden items have survived so well.

Parish Chests are sturdy wooden boxes used by the church to store important or valuable items. These could include church plate, registers of births, marriages and deaths, church wardens accounts, vestry minutes, tithe records, and alms for the poor.

It was always thought that some of the oldest chests were those dug out of one solid tree trunk. However, recent dendrological research, has shown that dug out chests were being produced as late as 1700. They had the advantage of being extra secure because it minimised the joints that would be a security weak spot. At Wimborne Minster there are three chests including a dugout chest dating from Saxon times with six locks. This is said to have contained relics such as pieces of the Lord's cross, and Thomas of Canterbury's hair shirt and blood. Some chests are made of thick wooden boards nailed together or wooden panels clamped between wooden uprights. These panelled chests minimised splitting of the wood due to shrinkage. The most common type of chest is one heavily reinforced by iron bands which gave maximum security.



An interesting feature of almost all chests is that they have three separate locks. This is a security feature to ensure that the chest could not be opened unless three key holders were present. These were usually a clergyman, a church warden and a member of the community. Some chests had hidden bolts or dummy decoy locks as extra security.

Chests were constructed using oak or elm and occasionally pine or deal. All of them were designed to be heavy and difficult to move. They also had to be dry and safe from vermin so occasionally you will see that they are raised off the floor on wooden feet. In the 1170s King Henry II decreed, after he had done penance for the murder of Thomas Becket, that chests should have slots in the top so that people could donate alms to finance the crusades. Some chest had slots in them to receive alms from donors who were then granted the remission of their sins. In 1282 the Synod of Exeter decreed that chests should only be used to store valuables and not for the collection of alms. However, this was reversed in 1308 by pope Clement V.

Chests were often located near the high altar so they were protected by the rules of sanctuary. Other types of chests can be seen in Winchester Cathedral where mortuary chests containing the remains of medieval bishops and royalty are positioned high up near the high altar. A more common different type of chest is a semicircular cope chest. Copes are traditional vestment originally designed to protect the priest from the elements. More recently they became highly decorated vestments that were used in special services and processions. The cope chest meant that the garments could be kept safe and free from folds. As well as some conventional parish chests, Salisbury Cathedral has a good example of a cope chest. The notice about this tells us that the lid is so heavy it takes three people to lift it and that it is the only surviving medieval semi-circular cope chest in England.



The next time you are able to visit a church do look out for parish chests. As well as the ones mentioned in the article local examples are in St Andrews Church, Rockborne, St Nicholas Church, Edmondsham and St Thomas's Church, Salisbury.

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Riddle: A man goes out for a walk during a storm with nothing to protect him from the rain. He doesn't have a hat, a hood or an umbrella. But by the end of his walk, there isn't a single wet hair on his head. Why doesn't the man have wet hair?.

Answers appear overleaf.



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March WORDSEARCH The Answers

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Roofer	Tanner
Chandler	Weaver

Riddle:

Because the man is bald.



Join the Stars Appeal's Walk for Wards in support of Salisbury Hospital

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, is inviting the community to lace up their walking boots and take part in this year's Walk for Wards.

The free annual sponsored walk around the Wilton Estate, which attracts thousands of participants every year, takes place on Sunday, July 5. Walkers can take part to say thank you to a ward or department at Salisbury District Hospital that has cared for them or their family, or in memory of a loved one.

Entry is free and includes lunch as well as admission to the Wilton House gardens and the adventure playground. Walkers must register in advance at www.starsappeal.org

Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant and Stars Appeal Ambassador Dr Gail Ng said: "Every day, I see the difference Stars Appeal funding makes to patients at Salisbury Hospital from state-of-the-art equipment such as the MRI scanner to the dedicated children's facilities, which help make a child's time in hospital far less frightening. By taking part in Walk for Wards you will be helping the Stars Appeal to continue making a real difference to the care we are able to provide at our hospital."

There are four routes to choose from including the family friendly 3k or 5k walk or the more challenging 10k or the 15k, which is back by popular demand.

Money raised at Walk for Wards helps the Stars Appeal towards its goal of raising £2million this year to fund projects helping thousands of patients, their families, and staff across Salisbury Hospital.

The President of the Stars Appeal, The Earl of Pembroke, added: "Walk for Wards is a fantastic day out for all ages and a wonderful way to show your support for our hospital while raising vital funds for the Stars Appeal. I encourage as many people as possible to join us for our flagship sponsored walk and experience the extraordinary atmosphere of the day, alongside the beautiful setting of Wilton House. Bring your family and friends along too. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 5th July for an event not to be missed."

Walk for Wards is held by kind permission of Lord Pembroke and Lady Pembroke, sponsored by Salisbury Reds, with support from Wilton and Salisbury Rotary Clubs who marshal the event, and many other local people and organisations.

Andrew Sherrington, Salisbury Reds general manager, said: "Stars Appeal is our official charity partner - and we're keen to help raise as much awareness as possible for this very worthy cause. Many of our team members have close links to the charity and this is a great chance for us to support its work. "The Walk for Wards event is a fantastic family occasion - giving local people the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Wilton Estate, and to raise funds in the process. I can't think of a better way to enjoy a Sunday this summer, than to spend it in support of Stars Appeal - and I'm looking forward to joining everyone there this July."

Walkers are asked to sign up in advance and commit to raising at least £20/£50 sponsorship per person (route dependent) for their chosen ward or department. To register for free or for more information go to www.starsappeal.org/event/walk-for-wards/ or call 01722 429005.

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room
on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm.**

25/26.135 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), JohnClarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Stewart Hall (SH), Guy Rafferty (GR and Pete Skinner (PS).

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor and 3 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Mark Flannigan (MF)

25/26.136 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.137 Minutes of previous meeting held on 13/01/2026.

25/26.137.1 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.

25/26.137.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Steels Drove - AJ will talk to residents regarding the secureness of the gate.

Grit bin - A new bin has been installed at Castle Hill.

Castle Hill view point- No reply has yet been received from FE regarding the cutting of trees to maintain the view. AJ will chase up.

25/26.138 Public Participation: Three members of the public spoke in opposition to the current planning application 25/01477FULL.

25/26.139 Report by New Forest District Councillor:

New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Review Public Consultation - The consultation runs until 20th March and all parishioners are advised to comment. There is a drop in event in Fordingbridge on 13th Feb between 1pm and 7pm and other events in the NFDC area. The review includes proposed sites for development around Fordingbridge totalling nearly 3000 houses.

25/26.140 Planning: The following applications were discussed:

Case Number	25/01477FULL
Proposal	Alteration (flue) to existing agricultural building
Site	Land adjacent Millersford Copse, Land at Millersford Bottom, Fordingbridge, SP6 2QY

Councillors unanimously agreed to recommend option 4 Refusal. This application seeks permission for a flue to facilitate a woodburning stove, Woodgreen Parish Council do not believe that a woodburning stove is required in an agricultural building and could prove a fire risk to such a building which would often house highly flammable materials.

Previous alterations to this building, although allowed under permitted development, appear to indicate a move to the barn becoming a habitable space and the addition of a flue (for a woodburning stove) would seek to add to this process.

Case Number	26/00061CONS
Proposal	Prune/Reduce down 1 x group of Conifers trees.
Site	Windrush, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgree, SP6 2BQ

Case Number	26/00047TPO
Proposal	Fell 1 x Sweet Chestnut Tree (tree is part of W1 of TPO 0069/05)
Site	Newton Lodge, Upper Densome Wood, Woodgreen SP6 2QU

SH 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.

25/26.141 Meetings Attended:

NW Quadrant Meeting 19th Jan JC and HD attended -

Forestry England representatives updated councillors on the new car parking charges, 16 pay terminals will be installed in the New Forest and 10 people will be employed to travel around the other car parks to monitor them. Users will have 24 hours to pay for their parking. Local people can become members of *Forestry England* for £96 per household to access unlimited free parking. Displaced parking - there was a suggestion that parish councillors might help monitor and manage this and it was unanimously agreed that this was the responsibility of FE and not a parish council issue to manage or resolve.

NFDC - All properties within the cattle gridded area can leave their food waste bins for collection within their boundary.

National Grid - National Grid will be returning to refurbish the second half of cables on the pylons (the first half was done in 2024). National Grid manages a grant fund to support the local area (details can be found on the National Park website).

25/26.142 Forestry England Parking charges: The parking charges being brought in April 2026 have been preceded by ditching works to alleviate verge parking, some of which has been carried out from Woodgreen to Godshill. The parish council were not informed of these works and will write to FE to outline their concerns regarding the result, for example horse riders are now forced to ride on the road.

25/26.143 Speed Indicator Devices: Two speed indicator devices have been purchased and are ready for use when Hampshire Highways have installed the corresponding posts. A CIL grant will cover the majority of the costs.

Roger Penny Way - Godshill Parish Council have produced a report to discuss installing SIDs along Roger Penny Way. This will be submitted to the Verderers Court. Woodgreen PC unanimously agreed to support this proposal in principle.

25/26.144 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :

Broken gate at the top of Steels Drove - This has been reported to HCC as it is a Public Right of Way.

Lengthsman - The next Lengthsman visit will be 16th Feb, jobs will include replacing dragons teeth and emptying the green bin at the cemetery and clearing footpaths.

Pot holes - All pot holes and road issues have been reported to HCC Highways. The large pot hole on the road to Breamore has caused much tyre damage and this will be added to the reporting process.

25/26.145 Improvement of walk/cycle path along roadside (to Breamore): SH proposed the installation of a walk/cycle way from Woodgreen to Breamore to aid the many walkers/cyclists who regularly use this route. This would involve a gravel path on the verge from the Cattle Grid to the Great Bridge. SH has liaised with Cllr Richards and will begin making enquiries about how to proceed with such a project; the availability of grants will then be investigated. All councillors supported and unanimously agreed to proceed with this project.

25/26.146 Review of cemetery maintenance contract: The parish council are very happy with the current cemetery contractors agreeing that they provide an excellent service and value for money. It was unanimously agreed to continue using Cutting Edge as the cemetery maintenance contractors.

25/26.147 Annual Parish Assembly: The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 22nd April in Woodgreen Village Hall. The format will follow previous years with a cheese and wine reception at 7pm followed by formal talks. Village representatives will be invited to present reports along with District and County Councillors and Suzy McNulty will present information regarding the newly reformed Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group.

25/26.148 Grant applications: Two applications were received - one from the Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group and one from Make Memories Better. It was agreed to award the allocated £200 budget for 2025/26 to the Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group (via the SCAS charity).

25/26.149 AGAR Assertion 10 - Assertion 10 is a new part of the Annual Governance and Accounting Report which all parish councils must adhere to; it aims to improve GDPR and data protection procedures. The current Woodgreen PC website meets the new criteria, as do the councillor emails (all .gov.uk). An IT policy must be in place and will be drawn up for ratification at the next meeting.

25/26.150 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £15,085.12 as at 03.02.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,498.47 as at 03.02.2025.

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 - January	444.90		Standing Order
British Gas	Reading Room costs	13.32		Direct Debit
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		Direct Debit
SLCC	Membership	84.32		BACS
HMRC	PAYE (Oct to Dec)	17.50		BACS
ELAN City	Speed Indicator Device	6438.67	1073.11	BACS

25/26.151 The following correspondence was noted.

For information (previously circulated) -

- 20/01/26 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary - Close of government consultation and next steps.
- 21/01/26 Hampshire Police - Road Safety summit.
- 22/01/26 National Park Authority - January Newsletter
- 24/01/26 Godshill Parish Council - Discussion report on SIDs along Roger Penny Way.
- 26/01/26 NFDC to deliver 50 more shared ownership homes.
- 29/01/26 NFDC to launch an improved customer service system.
- 30/01/26 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - January Newsletter
- 02/02/26 NFALC - Minutes from the meeting held on 26th January.
- 03/02/26 HCC - report form Nick Adams-King
- 03/02/26 NFDC - Free workshops to help New Forest businesses stay resilient.

Consultations:-

- New Forest District (outside the National Park) local Plan Review Public Consultation.
- Parishioner email *The PC will approve a response at the next meeting*,
- 25/01/26 Parishioner email regarding village parking issues. *AJ will reply*.

25/26.152 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

Wessex Internet- The parish council has been informed that following a review by Building Digital UK (BDUK) the contract for Wessex Internet to install full fibre broadband has been paused. No further information is known at this time.

Fire extinguishers - The fire extinguishers will be serviced along with the village hall on March 3rd . JC to action.

Play Matters - Play Matters have informed the parish council that the proposed play area will cover 330sqm, this has been amended for the planning application.

Next meeting - NFDC Local Plan Review Consultation,

Next meeting Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm



HALE 100 CLUB

Raising funds for Hale Village Hall

Please join!

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

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society (FEFAS)

Our AGM was well attended by the current & new members, followed by a floral demonstration by Liz Pelley entitled 'Les Design'. Indeed, Liz's floral designs gave us lots of tips and ideas for creating stunning designs with clever use of household items or garden pieces. This was her last demonstration as NAFAS demonstrator – we were honoured to host her final demonstration with a bang!

We look forward to welcoming you to our March meeting 2nd March – a floral demonstration by Michael Bowyer, entitled 'Herald the Spring'. Do expect to be inspired as well as entertained by his highly creative designs and his theatrical performance! Refreshments from 7 pm followed by a demonstration at 7.30 pm. Do join us and bring your friend(s)! Non-members are welcome (£10 door fee including refreshments).

All meetings/events are held at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Woodfalls (SP5 2LD). A full programme for 2026/27 is now available from the weblink <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2026a> 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: forestedgeflower@gmail.com

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

View full programme for 2026/27: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2026a>

Upcoming meetings:

2 March	Michael Bowyer 'Herald the Spring'	7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)
13 April	Demo & Do with Heather (Spring has sprang)	7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)
11 May	Practical with Martina 'Competition work'	7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

HALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - Poem For March

Dreadful Menace by Milly age 11



I am the devil of torture
The one who comes for you
The haunting breeze throughout your hair
The one whom makes you blue.

I call mountains to surround you
Trees to craft things dark
Forming black clouds overhead
And I will take your spark.

Not you nor any other
Will take my reigning place
The one who's never wrong
The force you cannot face.

The weaker storms before me
Stood strong and tall and brave
But now I reign among you
And you cannot be saved.

Watch now as i take you on
One to take in my stride
You are one more to defeat
And now you cannot hide.



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SEEDY SUNDAY

This is an opportunity for current or prospective gardeners and like-minded people, to enjoy an afternoon with an environmental theme. You can pick up – or swop – surplus seeds and plants. There will also be stalls from local eco-conscious organisations and individuals such as Littleford Farm Flowers producing natural seasonal flowers locally; Wildlife – swifts and how to encourage local nesting; Recycled yarn – crochet, knit or weave? Tool sharpening offers the chance to bring your tools and get them ready for spring and Katie sculpts garden ornaments from recycled wire. There are activities for children too and there is FREE ADMISSION!

To enjoy this afternoon on 22nd of March from 2 – 4pm, just pop along to Downton Memorial Hall where there is also tea and yummy cake to be had. The Downton Green Network welcome you all and hope to see you there.

Seedy Sunday, 22 March Downton Memorial Hall, 2-4pm

The heart of Seedy Sunday is the Seed and Plant Swap. You can either bring along unwanted seeds and plants to swap or 'buy' for a donation. In addition the event hosts several stalls from eco-conscious organisations and businesses. These include:

MoreVeg

Sell seeds in small quantities, meaning lower prices, and less waste. Seeds come with full organic certification (no use of synthetic chemicals/ fertilisers supporting soil health and biodiversity).

William Wright Tool Sharpening

Bring your gardening tools along to keep them in tip-top condition, ready for the new season.

Local Gifts and Products

From Littleford Farm Flowers, A Tail of Yarn, Wire Garden Sculpture by Katie, Grow Your Own Cards and others.

Wildlife

Information about swifts and what you can do to encourage these birds to nest locally.

Keeping Bees

Information and advice from a local beekeeper.

Local Organisations and Charities

Including Downton Baptist Church community garden (produces food throughout the growing season which feeds into the Community Larder), Downton Primary School, Downton Moot and Downton Millennium Green.

Children's activities

Stone painting and seed planting.

And, of course, refreshments with home made cakes.

Downton Green Network



FORDINGBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY

FAURÉ REQUIEM

Cantique de Jean Racine • Pavane

also works by

Jean-Philippe Rameau • César Franck

with an optional free pre-concert talk at 6.30pm

Saturday 7pm
28th March 2026

St Mary's Church
Fordingbridge SP6 1BB

Music Director: Nigel Edwards

Soprano: Amy Carson

Bass: Tim Dickinson

Organ: Graham Scott

Edwards Ensemble

Leader Marcus Broome

TICKETS including a free drink in the interval
£15 advance • £18 at the door • Free for 18s and under

Available from:

ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral
or locally at Caxton Decor in Salisbury St.
Fordingbridge



fcs

FOR MORE INFORMATION

01425 656348

facebook.com/fordingbridgechoralsociety

www.fordingbridgechoral.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1199533

Words

Hello, my name is Michael. Thank you for reading this article.

In the first five words you know my name, and I am grateful to Zoe in the Parish Office for reminding me that it's time I put pen to paper, or index fingers to my keyboard. But the writer can only imagine the reader! Are you alone, with a partner, in a family? At home, travelling, in a rest home or hospital? We read in a variety of ways, places and times.

Words spoken or written are our vital means of communication. Glancing at a ten-pound note reminds me of the words of one of our most famous local authors, Jane Austen: "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading".

While having every sympathy with someone whose sight is failing, and many of us are now wearing specs, books, magazines, newspapers and correspondence are daily at our fingertips. Like me, you may have several books "on the go" or awaiting your reading. It's been quite a surprise to learn of sales of Bibles growing by 100% in recent years, and numbers at churches of many denominations are increasing.

Why is this? Maybe it's because there is so much uncertainty in the world, the media, and so, in our homes. People are asking whether there are any certainties left? We find people sitting alone in an empty church, walking alone in the countryside, and on enquiry, find they are seeking God, or at least a meaning in life.

Despite the number of new Bibles being bought, there are many lying unread in our homes. Given years ago to mark a baptism, confirmation or marriage they remain unopened and, frankly unattractive with small unintelligible print with words and phrases that need translation!.

The Bible is a unique book, still the best-seller. In fact 66 books in one cover, written over hundreds of years by a variety of authors. Do you fancy having a go? Luke wrote two of the books, after a great deal of research: "I have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught".

Much had been written about Jesus Christ. Now Luke sets out the good news of His life, and in his second volume, the activities of Jesus' followers.

Could I encourage you to read this part of the Bible? There are free copies available at the back of our churches. Please just take one to keep – and read! We are here to try to help you if there are things you don't understand. Happy reading!

Revd Canon Michael Anderson.

Fordingbridge Choral Society

This Spring we are bringing some renowned, well loved and ever lasting pieces of classical French music to the beautiful setting and acoustically brilliant venue of St Mary's Church in Fordingbridge. We the Fordingbridge Choral Society are holding a Concert on Saturday March 28th starting at 7 pm when we will be performing pieces by Faure (his ever popular Requiem, Cantique de Jean Racine and Pavane), also Rameau and Cesar Franck. Please come along early at 6.30pm as there will be a free and informative talk on the lives and careers of these truly great composers to set the scene before the Concert begins. We will be accompanied by the very experienced and talented soloists Amy Carson (soprano) and Tim Dickinson(bass) with Graham Scott at the organ, and orchestration by the Edwards Ensemble all under the musical direction of Nigel Edwards. Ticket prices are £15 in advance and £18 at the door with under 18's free. The tickets can be obtained locally at Caxtons Decor in Salisbury Street in Fordingbridge or on ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral . If you need more info/details please contact our Secretary on 01425 656348 or visit our website www.fordingbridgechoral.org.uk or Facebook. The ticket price includes a free interval drink. It promises to be a wonderful event and get us all ready for the warm and drier months to come of Spring. Why not come along we'd love to welcome you. Thanks Colin Burt (F.C.S. Member)."

Church Services during March

Sunday 1st March 10am-Holy Communion @ St Mary's Church, Hale (SP6 2RF)



Sunday 8th March 10am-Holy Communion @ St Boniface, Woodgreen (SP6 2AJ)

Sunday 15th March 10am-Mothering Sunday Service @ St Mary's Church, Hale

Sunday 22nd March 10am Morning Service @ St Boniface Church, Woodgreen

Sunday 29th March 10am- Palm Sunday Service. **We meet at the Community Shop at 9.45am to process to St Boniface, Woodgreen**

Holy Week-Tuesday 31st March-Service of Compline at St Boniface @7pm (A short reflective Service)

Other Events

Friday 27th March **Community Coffee Morning** @St Boniface, Woodgreen 10.30-12noon and **CAMEO** Friday from 12-2pm in Woodgreen Village Hall. Suggested donation of £3 for a lovely bowl of home-made soup and a roll and a warm welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 18th April

Inside St Mary's Church, Hale

From 2-4pm

'Hale Harmonies'

Join us for an afternoon of light music performed by 'Quintessential Woodwind Quintet' and guests 'The Flute Group'

(Tickets will be available from Mothering Sunday (March 15th))

From Woodgreen Community Shop, AVCMS Charity Shop, High Street, Fordingbridge or from Lynda Warne, 07799 542707 or Revd.Ruth Crosland 07855 210769

Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Candlemas Capers Concert, an amazing £940 was made! (for the third phase of repairs to Hale Church roof)..It was fun and lovely to see you all!

Many thanks and blessings from the Church family of

Hale & Woodgreen Churches

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