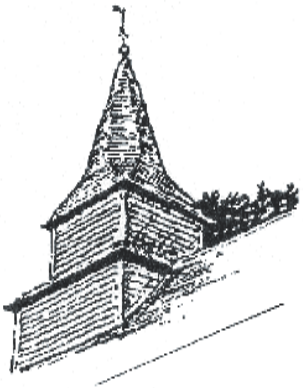


VILLAGE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2026





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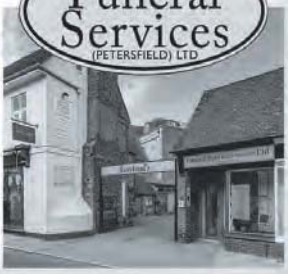


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WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

1st(Sun)	First Sunday Funday *(see page 4)*	10.15am
2nd(Mon)	Yewlian Meeting in Priors Dean *church (page 4)*	7.00pm
4th(Wed)	Messy Church at St John's Greatham	3.30pm 5.30pm
11th(Wed)	Greatham Parish Council meeting *(page 8)*	7.30pm
15th(Sun)	Rosemary Foundation Christmas Market at Churcher's College, Petersfield *(see page 18 for details)*	10am - 1.30pm
16th(Wed)	Greatham Village Hall Meeting *(page 7)*	7.30pm
28th(Sat)	EHGC/HEN Festive Workshop in Empshott Hut *(see page 6 for details)*	10am - 1pm
28th(Sat)	Scottish Reels Evening in Empshott Hut *(page 13)*	7.00pm

Dec

5th(Sat)	Christmas Fair at Hawkley V Hall *(see page 5)*	11am - 3pm

ARTICLES FOR THIS MAGAZINE should be emailed to the editor, Carol Ashby, carol_ashby@hotmail.com BEFORE the 17th of each month. Early articles are always very welcome!

POSTERS/FLYERS advertising events - contact details
It would be very helpful if these could always include a phone number so that those who do not use computers, email, online banking, online booking forms etc. can reserve tickets for these events. Many thanks, Carol

A DIGITAL COPY OF THIS MAGAZINE is available on the village websites each month. Empshott is included on the Hawkley website.
www.greatham-hants.org.uk www.hawkley-pc.gov.uk
On the Greatham website you will find it under Village Information.

NB The next issue will be a **Joint December/January** one so please send all copy for both months to me before the 17th November. Thanks, Carol

The Parishes of Greatham, Empshott & Hawkley with Priors Dean

Benefice Incumbent - The Reverend Richard Wharton
richardjwharton@outlook.com tel: 07972 099230
Readers: Elizabeth Hawkins 01730 827502 Paul Goddard 07837 651579

Church Officers

Greatham		
Churchwardens	Kay Thorpe	07976 744484
	Simon Lewis	01420 538557
Treasurer	Stephen Hedicker	01420 538310
Secretary	Carole Rudd	01420 538160
Church Hall booking	Carole Rudd	01420 538160 07818 401853
Empshott		
Churchwardens	Helen Sinclair	01420 538289
	David Tucker	01420 538242
Treasurer	Verity Tucker	07596 108566
Secretary	Carol Ashby	01420 538386
Hawkley with Priors Dean	**email: hawkley-priorsdean-churches@outlook.com**	
Churchwardens	Neil Chrimes	01730 827992
	Tom Wilkinson	07742 110468
Treasurer	Alex Wilkinson	07948 965786
Secretary	Molly Keer	01730 827696
Treasurer (PD)	Carolyn Fair	carolyn.fair1@gmail.com

Village Hall Bookings

Greatham	Pat Slivkin 07876 132846 contact@greathamvillagehall.co.uk
Empshott	Sarah Walker 07771 990403 empshotthut@gmail.com
Hawkley	Lya Gavin 07399 143415 lilya.marischa@gmail.com

Parish Councils

Greatham Chairman	Ron Lafferty 07779 136979 ron.lafferty@greatham-hants.org.uk
Greatham clerk	Sarajane Bartlett 07873 891351 clerk@greatham-hants.org.uk
Hawkley & Empshott	David Caukill 01730 827227 chair-hpc@outlook.com
Hawkley clerk	Katherine Horton 07866 443350 clerk-hpc@outlook.com

Parish Magazine Editor Carol Ashby 01420 538386 carol_ashby@hotmail.com

Clubs & Societies & other useful numbers

Hawkley Cricket Club Chairman	Charlie Butcher 07771 922900
2025 Club Chairman	Ed Peel 07837 682960 edpeel@mac.com
Greatham Flower & Produce Shows	Tricia Porter 01420 538447
Empshott & Hawkley Gardeners' Club	Sue Atkins - chair 01730 827106
Membership Secretary	Allen Horton alhort@outlook.com
Hawkley Good Companions	Elizabeth Hawkins 01730 827502
Hawkley Handbells	
Greatham TotsStop	Kat Kripena 07842 289664
Greatham Village Allotment Assoc.	Andrew Lowton (chairman) 01420 538161
Greatham Amicable Charity Trust Secretary	Sarah Bettin 07721 646831 sarahbettin70@gmail.com
Greatham Village Playground	clerk@greatham-hants.org.uk
Greatham Nursery School 01420 538893	Greatham Primary School 01420 538224
LUPIN (Liss Voluntary Driving Scheme)	07935 887308
Meals on Wheels	07775 858159

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Local websites - www.greatham-hants.org.uk www.hawkley-pc.gov.uk

MINISTER'S PIECE

My father-in-law, John, would now be 97, if he were still with us. He died in 2011 and, among many other things, I was asked to help in preparing his funeral, including giving the tribute and a reading.

John was not a religious man, but he had a sense of everything happening according to a timetable and embraced the seasons both as a gardener and an avid supporter of Arsenal Football Club. He knew there was a time and a season for everything, and so we chose (and slightly abridged) the first 8 verses from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, helpfully subtitled as 'A Time for Everything'.

As I write this piece, I look back over the hot, dry summer, which brought challenges on the allotment and in the garden, let alone leading services in a woollen cassock on some of the hottest days. But things change. Our early morning dog walks are now darker and colder. We have started putting the allotment 'to bed' for the winter, harvesting the remaining crops, removing the old tomato vines, courgette plants and the runner bean canes. The ground is being covered with a layer of compost and then membrane, which will, hopefully, deter the weeds.

Our bees have stopped their frantic foraging and, while still active, they are now preparing for winter. They are compacting into nest balls around their queens and the drones have been given their marching orders, surplus to requirement as they now are. And if our dog Polly's coat is anything to go by, the winter season ahead might well be a cold one. The trees on our daily walks with Polly and her doggy-sister Rosie struggled with the hot weather but are now adjusting to the cold misty mornings, painting their canopies with a riot of autumn colours... there is, indeed, a 'Time for Everything', demonstrated by the progress of the seasons as we approach the end of another orbit of the Sun.

Another trip around the Sun marks another year for all of us. A year older and, perhaps, wiser, we come to measure our existence by the seasons and the passage of the years.

While we might think of this rhythm of life as inevitable, but not entirely predictable, we are reminded that there is a time for everything and that changes happen with the seasons and the years... including new life.

'A time to be born...'

Around the time you get to read this piece, I will either be pacing up and down, or celebrating the arrival of our newest grandchild.

And I know John will be incredibly proud of her. Paul Goddard

First Sunday Funday On **1 November** there is Sunday Funday at Hawkley – perfect for families with young children. At the 10.15am service, children will be especially welcomed at the start of the service before going across to the Village Hall (with a parent) for a time of fun, craft and exploration. They return in time for communion. All are welcome.

YEWLIAN MEETING at Priors Dean The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday 2nd November.** A short reading followed by 30 minutes of silence to meditate, to pray, to think. All are welcome.

EVENSONG AT PRIORS DEAN

Now that the clocks have changed, Evensong, on the third Sunday of each month, will be at 5.30pm and not 6.00pm.
Do join us for this beautiful end to the day.

DO YOU PLAY THE PIANO OR THE ORGAN?

If yes, would you like to play for our very friendly and appreciative congregation at Priors Dean Church?
We would love to hear from anyone who would like to have a go at playing to accompanying singing, even if you are 'rusty' or have not tried this before.
We have two services a month and would be grateful for whatever level of commitment you are able to give. If you might be interested in helping either regularly or occasionally, please contact either Richard Wharton (07972 099230, richardjwharton@outlook.com) or Jane Wyman (01420 511306, jane.wyman@sillina.com) to chat about it.
We look forward to hearing from you!

Greatham Community Christmas Day Lunch

You are warmly invited to join a number of local individuals and families from Hope Church at Greatham Primary School for a Christmas Day roast lunch, with drinks, music and festive tombola from 12:30-3pm! There is no charge, although donations are very welcome if you would like to contribute. Transport can be provided for non-drivers.
To book your place, please contact Ben Cornell before 14 December:

 07535 433611  benc@hopechurch.life

Please do spread the word and let anyone know who you think might like to join in.

Hawkley

Village Hall

Christmas Fair

Saturday 5th December
11am - 3pm

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Greatham Community Hub

Steady progress has been made over the last few months!

We funded pre-planning advice from South Downs National Park, and have received their report. This is the first step towards getting planning permission for the café and shop. We've had a quote from a local traffic consultant for a traffic and parking report and survey.

We've also continued to work in collaboration with the Village Hall Trustees to get the specific site agreed for the hub. We really appreciate this shared commitment to see the café and shop succeed - our next step will be a site meeting with the Trustees.

We are currently planning a spring fundraising event, but for the progress of the community hub to continue, we are asking for donations to help with further start-up costs, which include:

- Planning advice and permissions
- Utilities and ground surveys
- Car park and traffic survey
- Cost of becoming a Community Benefit Society

We'd be very grateful for any donation you can make: £5, £10 - it all adds up! **A huge thank you to those who have already donated**.

You can donate through our GoFundMe page here: **bit.ly/greathamhub** or the website **greathamhub.com** or with the **QR code** above

Thank you from all of us on the Greatham Community Hub Team
Email: greathamhub@gmail.com **Facebook:** @GreathamCommunityHub

EMPSHOTT AND HAWKLEY GARDENERS' CLUB

The club's last event of the year will be a **festive decoration workshop**, jointly with members of the Hangers Environmental Network (HEN), at Empshott Hut on **Saturday 28 November**, 10am to 1pm.

We hope this will be a fun event, sharing ideas for decorating our homes, our Christmas trees and table arrangements. After some demonstrations of different types of decorations, there will be plenty of time to try out some ideas for yourself. Refreshments and all materials will be provided but please feel free to bring from home, any plant, fabric or natural materials, or any objects, such as candlesticks or small / candle wreath rings you particularly want to use. (Door wreaths will not be included in this event.)

This workshop is open to EHGC and HEN members and their families free of charge but we ask for prior booking before 22 November by email to Sue Atkins - ehhortsoc@gmail.com.

You are invited to a

Live Nativity

in Greatham

(performed by Adults)

Saturday 12th December
Performances at 4pm and 6pm

Please park at Greatham School
& follow directions to the Venue

Festive Refreshments afterwards -
Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate &
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Outdoors - please dress appropriately!

Free! Please book using this link
tinyurl.com/GreathamNativity2026

You are warmly invited to Hope Church Christmas Day service at Greatham School at 10am and also the Christmas Lunch afterwards.
To book lunch email benc@hopechurch.life

GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

The next meeting of Greatham Village Hall Trustees will be held on **Monday 16 November** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you have any issues you would like the Trustees to discuss please contact us by email at carolerudd@greathamvillagehall.org by telephone 07818 401853 or just by leaving a letter in the village hall letter box. Carole Rudd, Trustee

Greatham Parish Council Report for Village Magazine

The Parish Council met on 14 October and discussed a wide range of issues affecting the village and local community.

Members received updates from both District and County Councillors. Concerns were raised regarding a troublesome dog reported to have bitten a member of the public, with further enquiries and liaison with the Police Community Support Officer ongoing. Councillors were also reminded that various grant opportunities remain available for suitable community projects.

A report was received from Hampshire County Council following recent highways visit to the village. While a full update is still awaited, speeding remains a key concern. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting incidents through official channels as evidence is needed to support future traffic-calming measures. The Parish Council also received a further update on proposed village speed reduction works, including new 30mph road markings, edge-of-carriageway lining and the possible installation of additional traffic-calming features.

During public participation, residents drew attention to maintenance issues on Snailing Lane, including overgrown vegetation, blocked kerbs and speeding traffic. Concerns were also raised about litter along the roadside between Greatham and Liss Forest. The Council hopes to organise a community litter pick in the coming weeks and welcomes volunteers who would like to assist.

Preparations for Remembrance Day are progressing well, with village poppy displays now being installed and wreaths ordered for both the Parish Council and St John's Church.

Councillors approved the purchase of the village Christmas tree and festive star, helping to ensure the village remains brightly decorated over the festive season. Arrangements for this year's Christmas Carol event were also discussed. Following detailed consideration, members agreed not to hold the event at the Old Church and will continue discussions regarding alternative venues, including St John's Church and the village green.

The Council approved the purchase of a replacement defibrillator and agreed a revised budget for the installation of a new village flagpole. Members also noted improvements at the Village Hall, including new lighting, flooring and entrance enhancements.

An update was received from the Community Hub Group, which continues to progress plans for a new community facility. Discussions are ongoing with the Village Hall trustees, and additional funding opportunities are being explored.

The next meeting of Greatham Parish Council will be **Wednesday 11th November 2026** at 7.30 pm (a minutes silence will be held before the meeting commences).

Sandra Humphrey, Parish Clerk

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SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Services at Empshott and Priors Dean are in traditional language (Book of Common Prayer)
Services at Hawkley and Greatham are in modern language (Common Worship)

1 November - All Saints *1 John 3: 1 - 3; Matthew 5: 1 - 12*

09.15	Empshott	Holy Communion
10.15	Hawkley	Holy Communion with Children's Activities
11.00	Greatham	Holy Communion

8 November - Remembrance

08.45	Priors Dean	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45	Empshott	Service of Remembrance
10.45	Hawkley	Service of Remembrance
10.45	Greatham	Service of Remembrance

15 November - 2nd before Advent *1 Thess 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14 - 30*

09.15	Empshott	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15	Hawkley	Holy Communion (CW)
11.00	Greatham	Holy Communion (CW)
17.30	Priors Dean	Evensong (BCP)

22 November - Christ the King *Ephesians 1: 15 - end; Matthew 25: 31 - end*

09.15	Empshott	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15	Hawkley	Holy Communion (CW)
11.00	Greatham	Morning Worship (CW)

29 November - Advent Sunday *1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24 - end*

10.30	Benefice Service at Hawkley

EVENSONG AT PRIORS DEAN

Now that the clocks have changed, Evensong, on the third Sunday of each month, will be at 5.30pm and not 6.00pm.
Do join us for this beautiful end to the day.

This year's **Reith Lectures on BBC R4** are being given by Robert Macfarlane whose writing about many aspects of the natural world have been illuminating our understanding for several years now. The lectures begin on October 19th but will all be available on BBC Sounds.

He is arguing that a belief in human superiority has brought us to the brink of planetary catastrophe: we need to recognise and celebrate our place in the whole web of life.

In early 2025, HEN initiated **Our Own Place** - a WhatsApp group for sharing photos of our local natural world, as our own way of deepening our knowledge and achieving that celebration. **We are delighted to announce that we have now created a calendar from the many postings and this will be on sale in time for Christmas!** Look out for it at the Hawkley Christmas Fair on December 5th and at other venues to be decided.

On Saturday October 17 a group of volunteers (all ages) raked and reseeded our wild flower patch at the foot of the Hawkley cricket ground. HEN initiated this project two years ago - take a look next Spring and see how we're doing!



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WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 7:30PM - QUIZ NIGHT
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 8PM - HALLOWEEN PARTY
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 9:30AM - COMMUNITY DOG WALK
FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 8PM - OPEN MIC NIGHT
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 8PM - 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY
THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 6:45PM - PAINT & SIP EVENING
WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 7:30PM - QUIZ NIGHT
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 3PM - LIVE MUSIC BY MEGAN LOUISE VOCALS

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MUSEUM BY MOONLIGHT: Penguin Light Trail at Gilbert White's House, Selborne

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Follow our penguins on a magical family adventure through the museum, including the Oates galleries. Enjoy fun hands-on activities, children's crafts, stories of the Antarctic explorers and, of course, lots of lights!
DATES: Thur 3 Dec, Fri 4 Dec, Sat 5 Dec; Thur 10 Dec, Fri 11 Dec, Sat 12 Dec; Thur 17 until Tue 22 Dec
OPENING TIMES: 4pm – 8.15pm with entry timeslots;
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COME and SING with Alton Choral Society

A brief early history and an invitation to join us

From Victorian choral union roots to wartime concerts and community music-making

Alton Choral Society has its roots in the flourishing choral movement of Victorian Hampshire. By 1871 an Alton branch of the North Hants Choral Union was already bringing local singers together, and records from 1870–71 show that organised music-making in the town was well under way before the Society itself was reported as newly established in January 1872.
From the start, the Society reflected the life of the town. Supported by familiar Alton names from business, medicine and local church circles, it gave concerts in the Town Hall, Assembly Rooms and parish church, drawing on large choruses, visiting soloists and the great sacred works of Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn and others. Women, too, became increasingly visible as performers, officers and conductors. By the First World War the Society was singing not only for pleasure but for charitable causes, and by the 1920s its winter rehearsals continued a proud local tradition that had begun more than fifty years before.

That same spirit of community music-making continues today…..

Alton Choral Society Today Today, the Society presents four main concerts each year, including the sell-out *Wonder of Christmas* concert at Alton Maltings, *Music for an Autumn Afternoon*, *Reflective Music for Good Friday*, and *Music for a Summer's Evening*. In the last year alone, its concerts have raised more than £3,200 for local charities.
Its repertoire remains broad and welcoming, ranging from Bach, Fauré and Gilbert & Sullivan to popular musicals.

Whether you are an experienced singer or simply enjoy choral music, Alton Choral Society is always pleased to welcome new members.

To find out more, please get in touch:
Email: welcome@altonchoral.org.uk
Visit our website: www.altonchoral.org.uk Call: 07715 771489

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Group spaces still available

Our new annual programme of events for 2026-27 started in September, and we have over 85 different interest groups to choose from such as Art, Dance and Fitness, Games, History, Music and Wellbeing. We also arrange excursions, classical concerts, monthly films and talks, plus a coffee morning and weekend activities. Over 60 of our groups have spaces available for you to join. Please see our website for full details. Depending on what you would like to do*, our membership fees range from £10 to £65 for the year ahead. You may join online via our website or by completing a membership application form that is available from the Alton Community Centre.

Most of our activities take place at the Alton Community Centre, and we do have some outdoor activities such as cycling and walking. Our monthly talks and coffee mornings are open to everyone.

Copies of our Annual Programme are available from the Alton Community Centre, Alton Library, the Curtis Museum and Alton Assembly Rooms. If you would like to find out more about a particular group, then you can contact the Group Leader via our website. For general membership enquiries, please contact the Membership Secretary at alton.u3a.members@gmail.com.

* Subject to a space being available in the group. Please check with the Group Leader first before joining.

Visit our website at:

alton.u3asite.uk

Registered Charity no. 1035164

Energy Alton AGM 2026 Energy Alton is a community charity that provides free energy saving advice. On 1**9 November** we are holding our AGM at the Assembly Rooms in Alton at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Following the AGM, there will be a screening of the film POWER STATION.

POWER STATION follows two people who decide to try something extraordinary: turning their London street into an energy-generating community. It's a story about neighbours, money, ambition, setbacks, creativity and what happens when people start talking to one another about what might be possible. For more information, please visit our webpage. There will be light refreshments and time for discussion after the film. Everyone is welcome to attend. www.energyalton.org.uk

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm 01420 82802
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

ALLEN GALLERY UPDATE
The Allen Gallery in Alton will reopen in early 2027 with revitalised galleries, a welcoming community space and fresh ways to experience the nationally and internationally important ceramics collection. As part of the project, Hampshire Cultural Trust is pleased to offer a range of **volunteer roles** at the gallery, from welcoming visitors to the venue and supporting cafe and front desk operations, to offering guided tours of the collections or helping with community workshops and events. To find out more about these roles email alton.museums@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk.

CURTIS MUSEUM UPDATE
Over the summer Alton Town Council and East Hampshire District Council have confirmed interim funding support for the Curtis Museum, our town's dedicated local history museum. The venue was placed at risk of closure following a significant cut in funding to its operator, Hampshire Cultural Trust. A community campaign, led by the Curtis Museum Community Partnership, was the catalyst for conversations which ultimately secured £30k of interim funding for the Museum.
A new Joint Management Committee has been formed and launched a community survey in September, which has gathered just under 600 responses, sharing local views on the importance and potential of the Museum. The results will be available by the time you read this. Thank you to everyone who took part.
A consultation workshop was set up in mid September, bringing together councillors for the town, local groups, organisations and residents to consider the future of the Curtis Museum. Informed by initial results from the survey, the workshop developed a wide range of potential ideas to make the Museum more attractive to visitors, more relevant to the local community and to increase funding. We look forward to keeping you updated.

ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER

For younger visitors-
Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons
We're travelling back 2000 years to the Roman invasion of Southern Britain. Our resident Roman, Marcus, and our resident Briton, Cedric, are recruiting. Choose your side and train with them if you have what it takes.
Continues throughout the Autumn term.
Dotty the Dodo has a new Autumn Facts Trail to follow. Until 28th November. FREE.

TALK organised by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery -
The Importance of Mediaeval Women, Part 2. Continuing Caroline Stapleton's fascinating talk. Thursday 12th November. 7 for 7.30pm in **Room 7, Alton Community Centre**.
Free to Friends, £2 for guests. Tea/coffee provided.



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