

Nursling & Rownhams

# Village News



*Nursling Mill by John Dabell*

**17<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**14 August 2020**

A Newsletter for all in the Parish of Nursling and Rownhams

## Editorial

We have now arrived at our penultimate online edition of the Village News. Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. Our last online edition will be on 28<sup>th</sup> August, deadline noon, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Thank you, John Dabell, for the beautiful photograph of Nursling Mill. If you have never been to the Nursling Mill/Testwood Lakes area, you really should go. Park in Mill Lane if you are feeling lazy, or in Church Lane and walk along the path by the canal to Mill Lane, turn right and you will shortly find the Mill and a pretty stretch of the River Test which you can view from the bridge. If you keep walking on the footpath between the pony fields for about 5 minutes, you will arrive in Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve.

There are some interesting articles to read this month, including another historical three-parter from Charlie Cochrane, this time featuring Isabella Beeton; Jon Sims provides another of his quirky observations and Advik Bhandari proves in his reports that being in the cubs has never been more exciting!

We have some lovely nature photographs in the Wood Report, from Jon Sims' overseas adventure and from Gemma Davis with an update of the deer in Home Covert. It was good to hear again from Sunny Dayz and the Toddler Group and other local groups, although it is sad that some of these groups are unable to meet at present.

Please note that the address for submissions for both the online and paper editions of the Village News is [editors.villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:editors.villagenews@gmail.com).

We hope you enjoy your read!

*The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the editors*

## Twinspire News



Our church buildings are currently closed except as outlined below. But as a church family, we continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities.

**Each church will be open for private prayer only on Wednesday mornings.** Inevitably there are lots of guidelines to follow and only the main body of each church is in use. Please see the website for guidance.

**Join us on Facebook** at 10am on Sunday mornings for our live streamed service.

See the links page on our website <https://twinspires.org.uk/links.html> for details and links to our other services and midweek events.

If you wish to contact the church office the best way is via email [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk) or you can leave a phone message on 8073 8293. The phone is checked daily.



You might like to share the **Daily Hope** freephone number with anyone you know who finds it difficult to access online Christian resources: **0800 804 8044**

CORONA VIRUS

HELP NEEDED?

HELP OFFERED

CALL/TEXT SARAH ON 07887 420656

## 21<sup>st</sup> Romsey Taurus Cub Pack: It's Quiz Time!!!

This meeting was just too good for words. It started with the Leaders waiting for everybody to get on to the meeting. Then they asked us to get ready for the quiz with a paper and pen. Read on to find out how fun this quiz was...

The quiz had a variety of questions; some were easy and others were tricky. To start off the quiz, we did something interesting. We had to think of a team name and think of a jingle. After that, the quiz began. There were quite a few categories. My favourite



category was the Lego figures. The Leaders screen shared 10 pictures made of Lego. We had to say who the Lego figure was and where it was from. We got 2 points for each answer which was correct. The other categories were music, television theme tunes, wonders of the world, and a few more. The family with the most correct answers was 'The Wizards'. There is no way any meeting can beat this, or can a meeting beat it?

### The Last Meeting of the Term

This meeting was downright the best meeting ever! Our first face-to-face meeting in months!!! We had to take a water gun and had

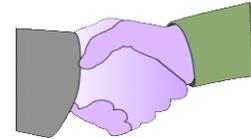


plenty of fun for the next forty minutes. After we had finished the water fight, the Leaders told us to listen carefully. Bagheera told us that he had badges for some of us. He gave me 14 badges and quite a lot to some other Cubs. Then he said that there were some Pokemon cards for people who collected them generally. After that, Akela said that he had prizes for the people who found all 35 things in the Treasure Hunt. He gave a massive Haribo packet to me and to some others. Then everybody went home and a few of us collected some Pokemon cards.



I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Leaders for these meetings. They will never be equalled. Here's a humungous thank you to all of the Leaders for giving up their time to conduct such wonderful meetings. Have a lovely summer! *Advik Bhandari*

## Nursling, Rownhams & District Retired Men's Fellowship



Gentlemen! Sorry to advise you that due to safety considerations relating to Covid19, the Fellowship will not be resuming weekly meetings in October. We are obviously hoping a vaccine and other measures will be developed which will allow us to resume our meetings while protecting members' wellbeing. In the meantime, stay safe.

If you need more information contact Mike Cooper (Chair) on 0770958 7520 or Ian Cliffe (Secretary) on 02380 731537  
**We look forward to advising you of good news in the future.**

---

## Nursling and Rownhams History Group

Due to the current situation our AGM on 10 September in the Village Hall will not now take place. Members will be contacted individually.

*Julie Gundry*

### **Defibrillators**

If you come across someone who is not breathing or breathing erratically, the most important thing is to call 999 and start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). If you are on your own, do not interrupt the CPR to go and get a defibrillator. When you can, send someone else to find one. Once the defibrillator is open, all you have to do is follow the spoken instructions. You will find your nearest ones with public access located outside:

**Village Hall in Nursling Street**

**Community Centre in Horns Drove**

It is there for anyone to use on someone in cardiac arrest. The 999 operator will tell you the code to gain access to the equipment. The machine gives clear spoken instructions. You do not need training to use one.

Once in position, the defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm. It will not deliver a shock unless one is needed.

For more information see <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/nation-of-lifesavers/using-defibrillators>

## Horns Drove Wood

Mid-June 2020 – Mid-July 2020

Having missed three conservation days due to lockdown we decided to hold one in July, as it is easy to maintain social distancing in the wood. Eight of us did a number of jobs which had accumulated during the lockdown. We cut up two dead trees which had fallen on to the path. Someone had entered the wood and removed our traffic cone – which had prevented people falling down a hole left by a fallen tree. In the process they had damaged our new fence so we reinforced the fence with holly and silver birch branches, hopefully it will deter any further incursion. The silver birch had been felled by the tree surgeon having been considered unsafe. The traffic cone has been retrieved! Rubbish was collected and some plant protection enhanced.



We saw wood avens, figwort, honeysuckle, pignut and other species in bloom. Many of the trees have finished flowering and are setting seed. We have seen deer frequently including a pair during the conservation day, also seen were squirrels, a wood mouse and a small grass snake under the reptile sheet and mini beasts included wood lice, spiders, slugs, bees, worms, ants and hoverflies. Not many butterflies were seen – noted speckled wood, meadow brown, small white and red admiral. Two lesser stag beetles have been released in the wood, having been found in or near people's houses.



20 species of birds were seen, heard or observed flying over, the most notable being a pair of young goldcrests seen near the gate after everyone else had left the wood on conservation day. A robin comes to be fed whenever the wood is visited.



We welcome volunteers to help us look after the wood and will welcome you on the first Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm. Please bring your own gardening gloves and wear stout shoes. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 02380 736766.

*Pam Ward, Sue Lambert, Selwyn and Jan Capstick and the volunteers.*

## Sunny Dayz Report



Wow! Isn't the warm weather beautiful? 🌈☀️

At Sunny Dayz we are now enjoying our summer holiday after a slightly extended term.

It has been a wonderful time back, working with many of our children. I have said many times before but would like to say again, how fantastic the children have been, adapting to the changes in circumstances and following new rules and regulations. We have a big belief that situations need to be explained with complete honesty, on a level that the children will understand completely. It was obvious that the parents had already explained to the children that there would be differences, also giving feedback to say that the children just feel as happy and welcome as they did before lockdown. Our hopes had been achieved.

Our end of term celebration went really well, enjoying a few songs together, before presenting each child with their bookbags for their new 'Big School!'



A big thank you to Reverend Graham for joining us in our celebration. Thank you also for your wonderful feedback. It is always a pleasure for you to join us! And we hope to see you more in the future when it becomes more possible.



The newest addition to our Sunny Dayz Family, 'Sunny Bunny' is enjoying being looked after by our children and their families. Again, lovely feedback saying what a great opportunity, experience it is for the children without having the responsibility permanently!

**Happy Holidays Everyone!!**



**NURSLING AND  
ROWNHAMS  
TODDLER GROUP**



Toddler group is currently closed. We are hoping to reopen on **29<sup>th</sup> September**, using the appropriate government guidelines.

Hope to see you all soon!

Open every Tuesday from  
9.30AM – 11.30AM, term time only  
at Nursling & Rownhams Community Centre, Horns Drove,  
SO16 8AH.

We welcome parents, grandparents, carers,  
Babies and children up to the age of  
5 years old.

We have a lovely wide selection of toys and activities to keep  
them all entertained, so pop along and join us.

No need to book!

Only £2 per visit per family (1 adult/2 children)  
Children under 12 months £1 (1 adult/1 under 1)

**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Tammy Wale – 07873 504152 / 07868 247936

Alternatively, please see our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Nursling-and-Rownhams-Toddler-Group-170372686348395>

## STAYCATION

The whole idea of a staycation has never been more popular as we are all encouraged to seek pleasures in places close to home. One of our regular contributors took these photos on his recent trip to the Isle of Wight.



*Ducks near Yarmouth*



*Kestrel at Alum Bay*



*Cows (not Cowes) on Tennyson Down*



*Humming Bird Hawk Moth*

*Photos credit: Jon Sims*

## Mrs Beeton – The Untold Story, Part 1

Let me introduce myself. My name is Beeton. Isabella Beeton. You may have heard of me because of my most famous publication, *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*, which was an enormous success. Dear Samuel, my husband, has been a successful publisher with a notable eye for business and he steered my journalistic career with a practiced hand. My articles for *The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* proved popular and if they weren't completely the product of my own experience or imagination, I was simply acting upon advice received from friends and others. I didn't have too much time to spend slaving away in a kitchen learning every single detail of the trade.

Did I steal these recipes? That accusation has been levelled at me and my reply is this: can anyone say they have the absolute ownership of how to make batter pudding or maids of honour? Some of these dishes go back to time immemorial and were we to say that only the originator of a recipe is allowed to publish it, that would mean many a book of good, plain cookery would be practically empty. As Samuel might say, we were simply acting as many before us had collating rather than creating.

And as I said in the introduction to my most famous work:

*I must frankly own, that if I had known, beforehand, that this book would have cost me the labour which it has, I should never have been courageous enough to commence it.*

That might be more a case of neat penmanship than adherence to the truth. I have known plenty of labour in my life, which isn't simply a reference to my bearing young Samuel, God rest his little soul. I've known hard and dangerous work - as dangerous as childbirth - and compared to that, writing a cookery book was a simple thing. I've never lacked for courage, either. I've needed it on plenty of occasions in my life.

You see, it's fairly easy, as long as one has a degree of wit and guile, to make the words you've written have two meanings. A surface connotation that appears to be one thing and a deeper,

hidden message which is the important part. Let me quote from my book:

*The white Aylesbury duck is, and deservedly, a universal favourite. Its snowy plumage and comfortable comportment make it a credit to the poultry-yard, while its broad and deep breast, and its ample back, convey the assurance that your satisfaction will not cease at its death.*

A simple discourse on the matter of a good quality bird for the table? That's what you were meant to think and it wouldn't hurt you in any way to take it at face value. Aylesbury duck is a lovely bird, an ornament to any meal so well as the method of cooking does justice to the excellence of the meat. Inspect the text more closely, though and you'll find more than you bargained for.

*Tea, sand, road, sea, now.* All of those are present in that little paragraph, as are shortened versions of names. *Dan. Stan.* You can find much more if you have an inkling of what you're looking for and that's the fundamental point. What's contained therein might appear to be either accidental - the simple juxtaposition of everyday words - or meaningless. Who is Dan and why should sand or sea matter? But if those words and names hold a significance to the reader, then you can communicate important messages in an apparently innocent way.

I'm not the first person to have used such a method.

You can have messages hidden in a communication and to be revealed by taking the first letter of each line, or every first word after a piece of punctuation. Not the best way of avoiding being read by anyone used to such subterfuge, but useful to get past someone with less of a suspicious eye, such as an employer who might have reason to see what you've written. The sending of information, both hidden and open, has happened as long as people could write, I would imagine. Was the first Post Office not a place to read correspondence coming into the country? And is not scripture itself full of stories that would have had a second, deeper meaning?

Now, you might ask what point there is in hiding messages in a book, given that once published they are set on the page forever, relaying their secret once and incapable of change. But perhaps you forget that my publishing career started with those articles for *The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*. The book itself was made up of supplements to the magazine, so when they were originally published, they'd have had a more immediate and timelier message to pass on. One that could be purchased from a reputable source and read in public or over the breakfast table in a respectable household.

That was one of the beauties of the plan: no need for subterfuge. The other advantage was spreading the information to the maximum amount of people, all at the same time. Were I reading this account, the next question I'd ask myself is why anyone should *want* to communicate in this way? Only, naturally, I wouldn't ask myself any such thing, as I know the answer.

You no doubt think of me only in terms of, "Mrs Beeton, who wrote that book." Perhaps you'll have heard of those accusations that we stole the recipes from other people or heard the sad story about my miscarriages and the death of our small children. I won't deny that our efforts to raise a family weren't sorrowful. Some people have sought to blame Sam, making the most horrible allegations about him and his associations, but they don't know the half of it. Not about Sam and not about me.

In a way, I'd already fulfilled the role of mother, helping to bring up all my half brothers and sisters. Those were happy days, even though my early years were tinged with sadness. I still miss my father, even though my stepfather was a kind and decent man. He made my mother very happy and our days in Epsom were full of laughter and joy. Going to school in Heidelberg was a great adventure, too. I learned French and German, both of which proved vital in my work, and many skills a young lady should possess, which have been equally useful.

It was through my schooling that I met Samuel - his sisters also were attending the establishment - but that's not the only way my life was altered by being in that place at that time. I sang in the choir as a passable alto and a Mr Murchison occasionally patronised our events. No, he wasn't some roué, looking for impressionable young ladies whose affections he could bend towards him. He had quite another profession in mind for intelligent women who could speak several languages and had a sensible head on their shoulders. Looks were less important than plain common sense.

After consulting the head of the school, Murchison approached me with a tentative proposition. Would I be interested in serving my country? I was young, adventurous, patriotic and not afraid of hard work: looking after all my half siblings had taught me resilience, patience, and old-fashioned guile, so the answer was an obvious one. Yes, Mr Murchison, I would. Little did I realise then what adventures I'd be caught up in, nor just how important Mr Murchison was. But I get ahead of myself.

*Charlie Cochrane*



*Hurst Spit with laid up cruise liners in Poole Bay beyond. Credit:Jon Sims*

## Deer in Home Covert

Hello, I am Gemma Davis. You may remember my photographs of the deer from a few editions ago; well here's a little update on the deer family. There are 3 babies (that I've seen) and they've been growing so much! I first spotted them in late May and a friend who works with deer estimated that they were a few weeks old. So now it's over 2 months later and they've grown into such confident lovely little deer. This photo was taken on July 16th around Home Covert Woods, when I found it just alongside the footpath (the other side of a fence I might add, I wasn't right next to it) and it just stared up at me, like it was asking for its photo to be taken! I'd been revisiting for weeks and hadn't seen them again, so to see both Dad and little one in the space of 3 days was lovely! I dread to think how many hours I had spent trying to see them once again!

For those that might be interested in the technical details, I shot this at 1/1000th of a second at ISO 320 and f/6.3. If anyone ever sees someone out with a big camera and wonders if it's me, please say hi! I'm always happy to talk about what I'm shooting or point out what others might miss by walking past. Lockdown really has brought nature and wildlife to the forefront and with little ones like this deer and I hope as many people as possible can enjoy them! *Gemma Davis (PhotosByGemma)*



## Crabwise

'Morning, Colin.'

'Morning, Chris. Same old offerings, eh?'

'Yeah, same old, same old. You'd think they could come up with something different. I mean, I like bacon as much as the next crab but there must be alternatives.'

'Never seems to be,' said Chris. 'I suppose bacon doesn't go soggy and fall off the string.'

'How about chicken?' said Colin. 'I like a bit of chicken and that doesn't go soggy. At least, not the stuff they chuck in the harbour, Friday nights. Tough as old boots, even with the breadcrumbs. And I've had a few old boots in my time.'

Chris's pincers twitched involuntarily.

'Nah, I don't like fast food. No challenge there. Too easy. Now bacon on a string, there's a bit of an adrenaline rush to bacon on a string. See how much you can chew off before they start hauling you up.'

'Yeah, I like teasing them a bit,' said Colin. 'Hang on until I'm just breaking the surface and then, Plop! Makes the kids howl, that does.'

'Indeed,' said Chris, 'got to make them work for it. Make it too easy and they get bored and then, bye bye bacon!'

'Seen anything of Malcom recently?' said Colin.

'No, keeps himself to himself these days. He's becoming a bit of a hermit.'

'Shame really,' said Colin, 'he used to be such fun. He needs something to bring him out of his shell.'

'It's all a matter of drive and ambition,' said Chris. 'It's like Kenny. Said he's had enough of hanging around here with the kids. Taken himself off to the fish dock.'

'Can't see the point of that,' muttered Colin. 'Not going to go up in the world round there, is he? More of a sideways move really. Still I suppose that's only natural.'

'Have you seen those new buckets?' said Chris, subtly changing the subject.

'The really big ones with some weird looking cartoon crab picture on the side?'

'I know,' said Colin. 'Real luxury jobs. I shared one with a nice little fiddler called Cora last week. Lovely eyes, if a bit wayward, and beautiful legs. Well, six of them were. Sidled up to her and asked if she fancied a dance and she turned me down flat. Said she had ten left feet.'

'Embarrassing or what?' said Chris.

'Yeah, I turned red as a .....

'Lobster?'

'I was trying to avoid the word.'

'Really? Why? Harmless enough, your average lobster. Relatively straightforward compared to some of the crabs I could mention.'

'I know but, well, they're not like us, are they?'

'Kind of, they are. Crustaceans, ten legs, two claws.....'

'Yeah but not like us really? Wouldn't want to bring one home to meet your mother.'

'Where do you pick up these ideas?' said Chris in astonishment.

'Your mother ejected you and a murky cloud of several thousand siblings seconds before she completely lost interest in you all.'

'Yeah but I expect she would want me to mate with one of our own. Start hanging around with lobsters and who knows where you might end up.'

'Probably in one of those basket things. Nice big, juicy lumps of fish in them but you never see anyone again if they go for it. Bacon may be a bit boring but at least we get chucked back in.'

'Yeah, and I quite like an afternoon in a bucket. You get a good look at people.'

'Funny creatures. Wonder what they taste like?'

'I've heard that they are a bit bland. And you have to get inside those clothes they wear.'

'Yeah, they're probably better not dressed.'

More stuff like this in 'A Curious Sense of Wellbeing'  
jonsims@live.co.uk

## **Tommy Cooper Hour**

My pen can write underwater. It can write other words too.

Karl Marx is well known as a philosopher, but no-one ever mentions his sister, Onya, the inventor of the starting pistol.

I work as a waiter. The pay isn't great but it puts food on the table.

Do you know what really makes me smile? Facial muscles.

My girlfriend said we would have less arguments if I wasn't so pedantic. 'Fewer arguments,' I said.

Did you hear about the new café called Karma? There's no menu. You just get what you deserve.

## **16<sup>th</sup> Edition General Knowledge Quiz answers**

1. A nautical mile (= 1.15 miles)
2. Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers
3. In the ear (it's the stapes)
4. The Balearics
5. The Shining
6. Wimbledon, the French Open, the US Open, the Australian Open.
7. La Manche
8. Paul Eddington
9. Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Scafell Pike
10. Naples