

The Greywell Gazette Spring 2023



'It was like living in a Castle' - a Ukrainian Family in Greywell - See Page 3

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Welcome to Greywell

A warm welcome to the following people who have moved into Greywell in the last few months:

Phil Risby and Kate Daniel
Annette Flay
Mike and Antonia Hussey
Ewan and Hetti MacLeod
Quentin and Eve Rubens

Apologies if we have missed anyone - let us know and they can be included in the next edition of the Gazette.

The Editors

The Spring 2023 edition of the Greywell Gazette has been produced by Paul and Vivien Harrison. David Millard has volunteered to edit the next one.

Past editions of the Gazette are available on the village website www.greywell.info as is more up to date information of what is going on in the village.

A Ukrainian Family Find Refuge in Greywell

At the beginning of 2022 the Sokolov family, Oksana, Misha and their four children, Alvina (14), Melissa (12), Teddy (10) and Eldar (2) were living happily in Kyiv with no idea that later



that year they would end up living in a small village in Hampshire. Oksana and Misha are originally from the Donetsk region and were living in Donetsk until 2014 when the first Russian invasion took place. Feeling uneasy, they moved to Kharkiv where they have relatives until 2018 when Misha (who is a lawyer) got a job as Head of the Legal Department for a big coal mining company in Kyiv.

The invasion of February 24th was a huge shock for them and was extremely frightening. They lived in central Kyiv in a block of flats and for four nights they slept in the car park

underneath their building. They did not know what to do, but as the shops and pharmacies emptied, and they realised that the Russians were only 20 minutes from their flat, they decided they would have to leave. They had only two hours to pack some essential belongings and left everything else behind, including Misha's grandmother who was sick and unable to travel. They fled on the 28th February with some friends to a hotel in Vinnytsya, their car journey taking 10 hours instead of 3 because of the soldiers' check points and chaos along the road.

Here they stayed for two days before making the decision to go to Turkey, where Oksana's mother and father live. They went by car rather than by air because of the children's pets - a rat and a lizard! The journey through Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria took a gruelling 4 days. They lived in Turkey for 3 months, the longest they were able to stay without a resident's permit. It would have been difficult and expensive for them to stay in Turkey and in addition they didn't speak Turkish. So they looked into other options and found out about the UK's 'Homes for Ukraine' programme.

A Ukrainian woman who has lived in Farnham for 20 years gave them support and advice and the Odiham Youth Pastor, Helen Chatfield, helped to connect them to James and Sally Malmesbury of Greywell Hill House. After meeting them on Zoom they were invited to come and live in Greywell.

On the 25th May the family flew to the UK, sadly having to leave their beloved pets behind. It was their first time here and their first impressions of Greywell were that it was very beautiful and peaceful. They loved Sally and James' house ('like a castle') and the views of the English countryside and wildlife. It was a bit overwhelming at first, having to cope with so much change, but the couple found the local people very helpful and friendly and they got lots of support, especially from their hosts, in order to find out about schools, doctors etc.

The children were soon at school at Robert May's School and Mayhill Junior School in Odiham. They find the work there more interesting and varied than at their old schools and also they get less homework! The teachers have been very supportive and their English has improved dramatically. Misha was able to carry on with his job working remotely although he still has to go back to Ukraine about once a month. Oksana, who was a photographer in Ukraine, has found a part-time job working for an events agency, doing creative work including some photography.

The Sokolov family lived with Sally and James for 7 months. They enjoyed living in the village and love the old houses and pretty gardens. They found out about traditional English countryside activities like hunting. Oksana joined a dance group started by Madelaine Kear for Ukrainian ladies, and later a Zumba class which she also ran. Although their hosts said they could stay as long as they wanted, in September the Sokolovs decided to look for their own house, as they felt that

it was unfair for Sally and James to have a family of 6 living with them for too long.

It was hard for them to find rented accommodation because they have no credit history in the UK, but eventually they found a nice house in Basingstoke with a small garden, and they moved in in December. It was unfurnished but once again the people they had met rallied round and helped them to fill it with furniture.

It was very emotional for them leaving Greywell. Sally and James had been like parents to them and had been so kind and supportive during their stay. They had opened up their

home to them and helped them find their feet in a new country.

The family would like to stay in England, where they all feel settled, safe and happy, and the children's future is bright. They have no

desire to return to Ukraine, even after the end of the war because if they went back they would always be worried that it might happen again. And they will never forget the warm welcome, support and love they received in the village of Greywell.

Parish Council

Lodge Farm – Planning Application

As yet there has not been a full planning application submitted for the proposed warehouse development at Lodge Farm. In the last edition of the Gazette we recommended residents did not, at this early stage of the pre-application process, need to make individual comments to Hart as they would not be considered. It remains the case that in the event of a full application being submitted, your Parish Council (PC) will give guidance on what action residents may wish to consider.

In December 2022, the Principle Planner at Hart District Council published a summary of a pre-application meeting held with the developer in October 22. The full document (entitled ‘Decision’) can be read at the following link:

<https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RDVQ0GHZ0GB00>

You may have seen in the latest edition of the ‘Villager’ an extract from the above document which, in isolation, could give the impression that the proposal will not be supported by the Planners. It is true that overall the pre-application meeting led to a robust response from the Planners and exposed a wide range of issues which will make things difficult for the developer. However, the reason developers spend time and money on a pre-application meeting is to assess what challenges they face and then adjust their plan of attack. Informed sources judge they will regroup and the considerable amount of further work they will have to undertake may well mean a full application may not surface until next year.

Greywell Boardwalk

You may have noticed that over the last year or so there have been an increasing number of maintenance issues with the boardwalk. The boardwalk is now used extensively by walkers - many of whom discovered the lovely village of Greywell during lockdown - and it is starting to show its age. Thankfully, maintenance of the boardwalk is not the responsibility of the PC as this rests with the County Council.

The good news is we have recently been informed that the Hampshire Rights of Way Team have secured funding to replace the ailing Boardwalk from Greywell Mill to the opposite end near the Church. The plan is to undertake the work over the Spring/Summer with help from the team’s volunteers. Clearly, the work will take a number of months and will involve the closure of this section of Footpath 3.

Flooding on Hook Road

Many of you will be aware of the flooding problems on Hook Road – roughly from the junction with Woods Lane to beyond the Village boundary on the way to the dual carriageway. For some time, the PC has been pursuing work to improve the flow of rain waters through the drains and ditches on this section of road. Last year we were informed by Hampshire Highways that the work had been completed during the Summer; however, we have since argued that the work could not have been completed as the flooding issue persists and we did not notice any road closure associated with the ‘alleged work’.

In early March, we were successful in setting up an onsite meeting with the Assistant Highway Manager for North Hampshire. The manager was very helpful and quickly assessed that indeed significant work was required to unblock the road drains and clear certain ditches. He promised to take immediate action to place work orders and request permission to close the road. He was careful to not make a firm promise on timescales; however, he was determined to get the work completed by the end of the summer.

And finally....

Spring is just around the corner and we all look forward to the Village blooming – the PC would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Daniel Gallop for his fantastic support in cutting the grass on the green in front of the Pumping Station and the area up to and around the Bridge.



Road Safety

On Tuesday 7th February, the Road Safety Group held the promised meeting in the village hall. A total of 32 attended on a cold and frosty night which was a great turn out. We are aware that a significant number of villagers would have liked to attend but were unable to do so.

Nick Kavanagh and Richard Cole provided background information, options and recommendations on the night. The slideshow is on the Greywell website ([Road Safety \(greywell.info\)](http://greywell.info)) for those who would like to see the detail but in summary 3 proposals were made:

1. That the village supports the 20 mph policy of the Parish Council and would like Parish Council to lobby Hampshire County Council (HCC) to accept an application from Greywell to change the limit.

Background ... A sub-committee of HCC has issued a report recommending 20 mph be adopted on all new developments and large regeneration projects. It is however silent on existing communities and streets. A final decision is planned for July 2023 and there is a brief period of time when we can try to broaden the recommendations. The “20’s Plenty for Us” has asked Parish Councils to do this and our Parish Clerk has indicated she will re-iterate support provided in February 2022.

2. That the village would like to replace the entry signs to the village with more attractive gateways to make it clearer that speed should be moderated.
3. That the village would like to procure a mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be sited at various locations in the village to encourage compliance of speed limits and to provide data to help identify where the hotspots are.

30 out of 32 attendees supported the 20 mph proposal; all 32 attendees supported the gateway and SID proposal.

There was a brief discussion on moderate pinch points and whilst a majority indicated support there was also a significant number who had concerns. It was agreed that this should be considered in future and not form part of the supported proposals at this time.

To progress any of these initiatives, we will need to request a HCC consultation which will cost £250 and is expected to take place within 6 - 8 weeks of the request.

Richard confirmed at the meeting that he and Anita will now step down from the group so that Richard, as a Parish Councillor, can represent this issue without any conflict.

The proposals are on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting to decide how to take these proposals forward. To contact the Road Safety Group please use the following email address: Greywell_road_safety@yahoo.com



Latest Update!

On 22nd March, the Village Gateways and Speed Indicator Device proposal was approved by the Parish Council. It was agreed that Richard Cole would lead this project for the Council and he would set up a small working group to see the project through. To set expectations, we understand that it has taken South Warnborough 2½ years to achieve a similar project - we will aim to be quicker!

Brave Greywell put up fight against mighty England

8 - 10th September 1862 - Greywell Cricket Ground

1,500 fans watched 22 men from Greywell Cricket Club put up a brave fight against England. The touring England X1 gave Greywell a sporting chance by allowing them to double their playing numbers. But the England team, full of star players like John Wisden, John Lillywhite and Robert Carpenter were too tough an opposition in the end.

Put in to bat Greywell made an awful start. Although England's Henry Frere was born in Odiham, he is now perhaps the best bowler in Hampshire and played for England. He bowled Captain White for a duck in his first over. But Greywell recovered and a fantastic 32 from Holmes put them back in the game. Sadly the Reverends Walters and Chute got no help from above and only added 2 more. The three Mulford Brothers used their strength to try to add more runs but Greywell were all out for 133.

In their reply England started well. The openers Idderson and Grundy put on 40. The partnership was broken by Greywell's star bowler, Stubberfield (who surely must be from Yorkshire? Ed).

The score card and stumps from this historic match are on display in the Village Hall.



But then entered the great Robert Carpenter. WC Grace said of him "he may be safely placed as one of the finest of our great batsmen". And fine he was, scoring a magnificent century including many boundaries to the delight of the 1,500 spectators. Although they had already passed Greywell's total England continued their innings. But John Wisden and John Lillywhite were clearly focused on future business plans (books and kit) as their partnership was ended early by Stubberfield (final figures: 6 wickets for 102).

England's total was a well deserved 222. Thank goodness for Greywell that Stokes was injured.

St Mary's Church

Since last writing we have commemorated Remembrance and celebrated Christmas as the pictures show. Many thanks go out to the St Mary's flower team and Lambert family for the beautiful decorating. It was great to gather with so many of you for our Carols and Christmas Day service.



Spring Cleaning has begun (thanks too to the cleaners) and the following 'Carol for Greywell' has surfaced again. This note was attached:

'The text of this hymn was found at the back of the church cupboard. It probably dates from the period between the wars. It can be sung to the tune of the hymn 'New Every Morning'

Here are some of the verses. Note - when the village hall was built it was called The Reading Room.

Carol for Greywell

The fields, the trees, the birds and bees

Are some of our Lord's treasures.

Our Mill and river running near,

What beauty for our pleasure.

The Lodge, the Hill, the park and wood,

Nature at its best so good.

Those lovely walks in glades so green,

Oh what beauty to be seen.

Houses along our village street,

Familiar faces we know and greet.

The Reading Room, the cedar tree,

The 'Fox' and Deptford Lane you see.





This is our village oh so dear,
Its name is Greywell, do you hear?
We come to church to greet today
Our new born Saviour in the hay.
Thanks, thanks, thanks be unto Thee
For he was born for you and me.
If anyone would like a full copy of the carol then do get in
touch with Libbie Bromfield.

Dates for your Diaries

Hope to see you at the following:

Good Friday – 11am Reflection Service 7th April –
St Swithun's Natley Scures

Easter Day - 9.30am Family Service 9th April

Churchyard Tidy up – 22nd April morning

Coronation Weekend Service – 11am Morning Service 7th
May

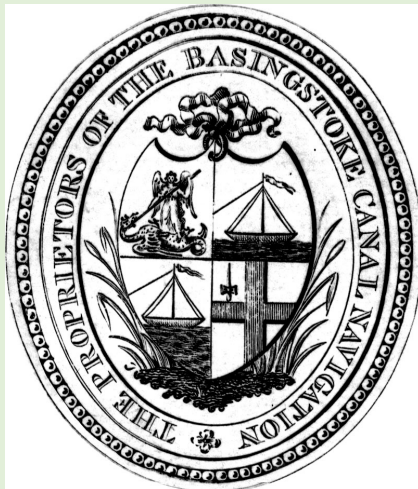


Never Invest in Canals

Just look what happened to the Basingstoke canal

- * Basingstoke canal authorised in 1778 during “canal mania”. Company sold 860 shares costing £100 each.
- * The construction contract was awarded to **Mr John Pinkerton** in 1788 and the canal (37 miles long) was finished in 1794, running from Basingstoke to Chertsey.
- * Workmen on the canal were paid in trade tokens. These were exchangeable at a number of public houses in the area.
- * Canal cost 50% more than the estimate of £73,918 to build.
- * Trade to London was mainly malt, flour and timber. Trade from London was coal and groceries. Main local traffic was timber and chalk.

Seal of the first Basingstoke Canal Company



'Legging it' through the Greywell Tunnel



- * Canal suffered a number of setbacks. Banks near Greywell collapsed 6 weeks after the canal was opened and there was a blockage by ice in the winter.
- * Road transport became serious competition in the 1820's. In 1810 it was twice as expensive to send goods by road. By 1822 there was no difference and road was faster and offered door to door delivery.
- * London and Southampton Railways Act was passed in 1834 and work began at Winchfield that year. Once the railway was completed trade on the canal slumped further.
- * The Basingstoke canal company went bust in 1866.
- * Between 1866 and 1923 the canal was owned by a number of “Speculative” companies. There seems little doubt that many of those involved did so with the intent of defrauding investors.
- * Stability returned in 1923 when the canal was bought by Alexander Harmsworth. He had set up a successful pleasure boating business at Ash Vale and a yard where barges were built and repaired. He supplied Woking gas works with coal and shipped timber to London until 1949.

- * In 1932 there was a roof fall in the **Greywell Tunnel** which led to the complete blocking of the canal 20 years later.
- * Harmsworth sold off parts of the canal beyond Basingstoke. The wharf at Basingstoke was sold in 1936 and is now Festival Place.

The canal as it was in 1913



- * Harmsworth died in 1947 and his family put up the canal for auction. There was one bid for £8000.
- * The new Basingstoke Canal Company had around 12 paid employees. One of these was a lengthsman called Mark Hicks who had worked on the canal since 1884. He lived in a cottage next to the Chequers bridge in Crookham where he hired out boats.
- * Hicks continued working on the canal until his death in 1966. He was in the Guinness Book of Records as the person with the longest employment in one job.....**82 years!**
- * The state of the canal continued to decline and there were lots of technical problems. In September 1968 a bank burst where the canal

passed Farnborough airfield. The airfield was flooded on the eve of the famous airshow.

- * In 1973 the canal was bought by Hampshire County Council to prevent further decline.
- * **The Basingstoke Canal Society** was formed and restoration commenced in 1974.
- * A job creation scheme was formed in 1977 and there were many Volunteering groups. Their efforts gradually returned the canal to life. The John Pinkerton was able to navigate the whole of the Hampshire length by March 1984 and reached Woking for the first time in 1988.



- * The Basingstoke Canal was officially reopened by HRH the Duke of Kent at a ceremony at Frimley Lodge on the 10th May 1991.

So in summary - never invest in canals. But do thank the Basingstoke Canal Society and all their volunteers for the canal which is a major benefit of village life in Greywell.

Thanks to The Basingstoke Canal Society for their book 'A History of the Basingstoke Canal' which we used for this article and is available to purchase. www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk Copyright S&HCS Ltd 2013

Village Hall Events

The VH committee is sponsoring the Coronation celebrations, kindly organised by Richard Cole, on the May Bank Holiday weekend - see page below.

Village Clean Up - morning of Saturday 22nd April

Greywell Safari Supper – Saturday 24th June

Open Gardens and Art Exhibition – Saturday 1st July

A chance to open your garden or to exhibit art and pottery in the Village Hall. Details to follow.



The Village Hall continues to host regular weekly Yoga and Zumba classes and welcomes enquiries for other events. Booking requests can be made on the Greywell Village website: <https://greywell.info>

Film Night is on the third Saturday of the month.

Saturday 15th April: 'The Menu' (2022)



An obsessive foodie (Nicholas Hoult) and his last-minute date (Anya Taylor-Joy) travel to a remote island to eat at an exclusive restaurant where the chef (Ralph Fiennes) has prepared a lavish menu, with some shocking surprises.

Buy tickets on <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/greywell-film-night>

The Greywell Village Cafe will be open at the village hall on the following dates; there is a £2 donation to cover the costs and donation to the village hall.

Coffee - Tuesday 11th April at 11 am

Tea - Wednesday 10th May at 3 pm

Coffee - Tuesday 13th June at 11 am

Tea - Thursday 20th July at 3 pm

The King's Coronation



Following last year's successful celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Greywell will be looking to once again come together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Planning is underway by the Village Hall Committee with ideas being developed. The action will take place on the Coronation Weekend in May but prior to that there will be a competition to design a celebratory 'Coronation Mug'. Further information on this to follow shortly.

The main event will be "The Big Lunch" on Sunday 7th May which will be held in James and Sally's garden at Greywell Hill

House. There will be a Jazz band playing as we eat a picnic lunch. There will be games and another Bake Off competition (so we can have cakes to eat!) and we will reveal the winner of the Coronation Mug competition. Each household attending the picnic will be eligible to receive a mug.

We have also arranged for Berry Brothers and Rudd to run a Gin Tasting on Friday 5th May and we plan to have another Tennis Tournament.

You may have noticed that a Lime Tree was planted in Church Meadow about 50 metres along the footpath from the one we planted for the Queen. This 2nd tree will have a plaque placed in front to celebrate the coronation.

Please note that all activities are for residents of Greywell, their families and friends.



Village Directory:

Parish Council

Chairman: Mike Barter

cllrbarter@greywell.info

Clerk: Beverley Bridgman

parishclerk@greywell.info

Village Hall

Chairman: Paul Brennan-Benson

pbbenson@me.com

Treasurer: Mike O'Neill

mjmoneill@gmail.com

Church www.moretolife.church

Vicar: Rev. Matt Bianchi

matt@moretolife.church

Church Libbie Bromfield

Warden: libbie@bromfield.org.uk

Fox & Goose

Landlady: Chris Mikolajewski

01256 702062

foxandgoosegreywell@gmail.com

www.facebook/greywell

Village Email List

Manager: Karen McCaffrey

karengreywellvillage@gmail.com

Hart District Council

Councillor: John Kennett

01256 862203

John.kennett@hart.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council

Councillor: Jonathan Glen

Jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk