

The Greywell Gazette

Spring 2025



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Editions of the Gazette are available on the village website GreywellParish.gov.uk as is more up to date information of what is going on in the village.

Welcome from the editor

Hello and welcome to the 6th edition of the Greywell Gazette.

We review Parish Council matters over the last 12 months including the impact of the Speed Indicator Devices which have been in the village for 10 months.

In this edition we find out what past residents, Steve and Maddie Kear, have been up to in France.

The Greywell Road Safety Group provide an update on their fund raising for gateways.

There is also the usual update from the Village Hall Committee, Film Club and St Mary's Church

Happy reading,

Greywell Parish Council

Greywell Parish Council (GPC) Annual Review

GPC believes the Greywell Gazette is a great medium to bring residents up to speed on some of the activities the Council has been engaged in over the last 12 months.

Greywell is of course one of the smallest parishes within Hart District Council and as such the range of activity is comparatively small compared to say our immediate neighbour Odiham. Nevertheless, there have been some interesting recent developments of which some Villagers may not be aware.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Recent discussions surrounding Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) have been prevalent in the local news, yet confusion persists. It's important to clarify that Devolution and LGR are two distinct concepts that don't depend on each other.

- **Devolution** focuses on transferring powers from central government to local authorities, aiming to enhance local governance and decision-making capabilities.
- Conversely, **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** refers to the restructuring of the current two-tier system, (in our case Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council), into larger unitary councils.

This change is expected to improve efficiency, accountability, and service integration across these areas.

In our region, the Devolution proposal under consideration is the creation of a Combined County Authority led by a directly elected Mayor. This would cover the local authority areas of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, and Southampton City Council – it is proposed that the Combined County Authority would be formally known as Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority. The Mayoral election will take place on 7 May 2026.

At the same time, the Hampshire and Solent LGR involves 15 councils (County, Borough and District) collectively looking at a short list of unitary options. The Isle of Wight (IoW)

and the port cities of Southampton and Portsmouth are already unitary councils and the interim plan (agreed and submitted at the end of March) seeks Government confirmation that the IoW can remain a separate unitary authority in recognition of its unique position as an island. The final proposal may have 3-4 Unitaries across Hampshire, based on circa 500K residents per area.

This entire process is unfolding rapidly, which has raised concerns about whether decisions are being made with sufficient thoroughness and consideration. However, the Government is keen on quick resolutions rather than allowing bureaucratic delays. The final proposals are anticipated in the Autumn of this year, with new arrangements likely to take effect in 2027 or 2028.

While GPC does not have direct involvement in these processes, we are mindful of ongoing discussions about the potential for increased responsibilities for parish councils. However, given Greywell's size and lack of direct service delivery, this potential change is not expected to impact us significantly. Nonetheless, GPC is dedicated to monitoring these developments closely as they unfold.

The Fox & Goose Pub ('F&G') – registration as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

For many years GPC has applied to Hart District Council (HDC) for the 'F&G' (cover photo) to be registered as an ACV. Registration lasts for 5 years at which point any interested party has to submit a new application.

An ACV is a designation established under the Localism Act 2011, intended to help communities protect and preserve local assets that are deemed important to their social well-being. These assets can include a variety of properties, such as community centres, pubs, shops, and other facilities that contribute to the community's character and social cohesion.

If the owner of an ACV (in this case Punch Taverns) decides to sell the property, the community has the right to be informed and given the opportunity to bid for the asset before it is sold on the open market. This period lasts for 6 months, allowing time for the community to organize a potential purchase.

While being registered as an ACV does not prevent the owner from selling the property

to whom it wishes, it gives communities a chance to make a case to save it from redevelopment or conversion to something that might not serve the community well.

An ACV application requires a considerable amount of underpinning evidence to ensure a successful decision by the Local Authority. GPC completed their submission earlier this year and on 22 April, HDC accepted the application and the property will be added to the Council's list of Assets of Community Value. Punch Taverns has a right of appeal against the registering of the land, but this must be lodged within 8 weeks. Back in 2020 they lodged an appeal; however, after more evidence from GPC the appeal was rejected by HDC – fingers crossed Punch Taverns will not waste their money on lawyers a second time around!

The Green on Deptford Lane

For decades, GPC has taken responsibility for the grass area in front of the water pumping station in Deptford Lane.



There is a memorial stone on the green which states that the land became a part of Greywell on 1st April 1981; however, there has never been any formal evidence of ownership either in the Parish records or at the Land Registry.

Some years ago, GPC decided that ownership of the land should be pursued in order to secure the site from unintended actions or activity by third parties. At this point, the advice from other parish councils

was that the process, known as Adverse Possession, could take years and would involve the instruction of a solicitor. Without sufficient funds for prolonged professional legal support, the pursuit of Adverse Possession was put on the backburner.

In 2022, it was decided to attempt an application to the Land Registry without the use of a solicitor. Research confirmed this was permissible; however, the complexity of the process (with very poor supporting guidance) quickly highlighted why it is the norm to use an expensive legal expert!

After a lot of guess work and speculative assumptions, an application was completed, and in April 2023 the Land registry acknowledged receipt. At that time, online advice was that half of new applications were processed in just over 13 months, with the

rest taking considerably longer. In November 2024, GPC received a range of supplementary questions from the Land Registry and these were duly answered. Finally, on 13 January 2025, the Land Registry listed GPC as the Title Possessory for the land!

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Readers may have heard mention of the term 'lengthsman' and wondered what it entails.

The history of parish lengthsman goes back to the early 1900s when lengthsman, who lived in their parishes, were given lengths of local highway and tasked to keep their sections of road in good condition. Over time, with greater mechanisation and declining budgets the service began to fall

into decline and by the late 1960s had ceased to operate in Hampshire.

The decision by Hampshire County Council to introduce a modern version of that service, initially as two pilot schemes in the Meon and Test Valley areas, was made in 2011 and since then the scheme has proved effective and has grown to include many of Hampshire parishes. Greywell is included in the Scheme and is allocated £1,000 worth of labour per year from a centrally managed contractor. GPC tasks the contractor 4 times a year to carry out such tasks as: litter picking; clearance of grips (the cutting in the side of the road verge to allow water runoff from the road); cleaning road signs and cutting back vegetation around road signs. Although the Scheme is very popular with parishes, current budget constraints may of

course eventually lead to its discontinuation as a cost-saving measure.

Road Safety and Speed Indicator Devices

Last year Hampshire County Council approved sites for the Speed Indictor Devices (SIDs) to be located and in July the Parish Council took delivery and started to use them. HCC approved 7 locations for use to enable regular rotation over a 3 week period. The 3 week rule was subsequently relaxed which has allowed us to focus the use on 4 sites – Hook Road (inwards and outwards), Nately Road and Deptford Lane – those that we believe are most effective. The 3 sites we have chosen not to use (The Street and 2 in Hook Road) were because they were either ineffective when used or going to be intrusive to residents at night due to the brightness of the signs.

The SIDs have now been operational for 10 months and the data shows that they make a material difference in encouraging drivers to slow down to below the speed limit.

We have had over 230,000 vehicle movements across the two devices and 66% enter the village at below 30mph. That improves to 85% after passing through the SID recording zone

Comparing the percentage of vehicles entering the SID zone above 30 mph the number of vehicles leaving the SID zone above 30 mph, shows a 57% improvement rate.

The table also shows that we do have the occasional driver going through the village at ridiculous speeds but this is very rare. Data shows that less than 1% (1,425 vehicles) have entered the village at over 40mph.

Row Labels	Count	Peak Speed(mph)	Entry > 30		% improvement
			%	% Exit > 30 %	
Dorchester Way In	53,134	74	33%	17%	48%
Dorchester Way Out	32,346	74	45%	19%	57%
Nately Road	68,169	69	29%	14%	52%
Deptford Lane	45,026	76	41%	13%	69%
Hook Road Top	28,197	54	33%	13%	59%
Hook Road Bottom	3,869	42	1%	3%	-96%
Grand Total	230,741	76	34%	15%	57%

GPC would like to thank the Greywell Road Safety Group (GRSG) and other volunteers for supporting the movement and rotation of recharged batteries and for their continued efforts in raising funds for further initiatives. An article from them is included on page 9.

We look forward to receiving a proposal for further investment from GRSG for GPC and Hampshire Highways to consider.

Greywell Road Safety Group

Onwards and Upwards!



Mockup of Potential Gateway by Bethan Emerson

If you've shopped at Tesco in Hook you'll have noticed they have a guard at the door. Indeed, in response to the serious rise in shoplifting, guards at the door are a feature of supermarkets across the country. They don't totally prevent determined shoplifters but they make a difference.

It's the same with village gateways. Data from Somerset County Council and others suggest that gateways, preferably with a pinch point (even a visual one), can slow incoming traffic by between 3 and 5mph. Gateways are part of the solution because they clearly show drivers they are no longer on the open road. When they are reinforced with Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), the effectiveness is greater. And if there is the occasional presence of a Village Speedwatch group, all the better. The traffic calming effect is cumulative.

That's why our Village Gateways Crowdfunder site was launched at the beginning of the year to fundraise for 3 gateways and an extra SID. To meet the costs determined by Hampshire Highways, our target is £15,000. To date, including funds we can reclaim from Gift Aid, we have already raised just under £4,000. Around 20% of Greywell households have made generous donations and added their names to the growing list of supporters. A massive thank you to every one of them.

It's enormously heartening to let you know that almost enough funds have now been raised to buy and install our first gateway, or a third SID.

Like shoplifters, there will always be those who break the law. Drivers in a hurry will press on faster than is safe for people in the road; dogwalkers, children on bicycles, anyone out for a stroll. **For the GRSG, and the majority of**

villagers who answered our survey, doing nothing is not an option.

Many villages in Hampshire have decided that it's worth the cost of putting in gateways to protect their community environment. A couple of years ago, the bid to build a housing estate in the field between Greywell and North Warnborough was beaten off. However, the risk of another application remains, especially with the relaxation of planning restrictions. Taking action now to strengthen our traffic calming measures makes

sound sense.

As well as continuing to encourage support from villagers, the Greywell Road Safety Group is looking for sponsors locally. A

Greywell Road Safety Fund



 £3,317
raised so far
+ est. £495.50 giftaid

21

supporters

business we have approached in Odiham has been very receptive to supporting us, possibly with matched funding, and we are waiting to hear back from them.

Meanwhile, on we go! Please continue to use our Crowdfunder site to make your donations, or call us.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/greywell-road-safety-fund>

Thank you!

Greywell Road Safety Group: Chris Ashworth (07747 626095), Jennie McFarlane (07885 631200) or Nick Kavanagh (07950 417 450).

Letter from France

We left Greywell with a fully packed motorhome including an unimpressed cat and perplexed dog arriving at our property in France the afternoon of the 22nd of August last year.

It was hot and sunny and under the glaring light it was evident that after ten years of being away a lot of work was needed doing to not just the main house, but the three gites, the garden and the pool area in order to restore La Faye to its former glory. This was a move with no possibility of a return to Greywell or Cedar cottage, so we just had to get on with it and we were lucky to have visits from Greywell friends who either mucked in and helped or gave us huge encouragement and



reassurance in our ambitions of restoration and renovation.



We are pleased to report that our hard work is well and truly paying off and we are about to move into the main

house having already renovated the studio gite; this now liberates Maison Marguerite for holiday rental and at this very moment the pool is filling with water having been fitted with a new liner.

The garden and grounds are looking pretty amazing in comparison to the state we found them in, with superb views on to surrounding fields and distant copses.



We have expanded our chicken area to include breeds that lay dark brown and beautiful blue eggs for our guests and in time La Grange gite will be redecorated and will be open for bookings too. We can't thank our friends enough for their help in getting things done and moving things forward. If you are interested in visiting us or discovering more about our journey then look us up on www.giteholidaysinfrance.com or follow us on Instagram @giteholidaysinfrance



Steve (Strad) and Maddie Kear

Greywell Village Hall

I'd like to start by thanking Julie Large for the many years she has given to the village hall and Greywell Community.

After more than 10 years she has decided to step down from the committee. Supported by Steve, she has been responsible for many of the behind the scenes activities which are so important in making our events a success. We are very grateful for her contribution.

The last 18 months have been an exciting time for the Village Hall as we trialled new events including Burns Night, New Year Casino Evening and Six Nations Super Saturday. We also saw a

return of the Greywell Fireworks thanks to Richard Cole and Mike Barter which was an amazing success.

Along with our annual Quiz night, Safari Supper, Open Gardens, Xmas Craft Fair and Monthly Film Club events, the Village Hall made a small surplus on last year's overheads.

To maintain the number of events we hold, encourage participation and new ideas we would very much welcome new committee members to help out. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mike O'Neill.

Our AGM is on 15th May 2025 at 6.30pm and we hope to see you there, either as a perspective new committee member or just to give us feedback and suggestions on events.

Events Coming Up

Open Gardens, led by **Chris Ashworth**

Saturday, 14th June

Safari Supper, organised by **Anna Thing** and **Delia Peppercorn**

Saturday, 28th June

Village Garden Party & BBQ at the Malthouse (huge thanks to **Alex and Jo Macpherson** for offering their garden)

Sunday, 27th July

Village Fireworks

Saturday, 1st November

Christmas Craft Fair

Sat & Sun, 29th & 30th November

Village Hall Christmas Drinks

Sunday, 7th December

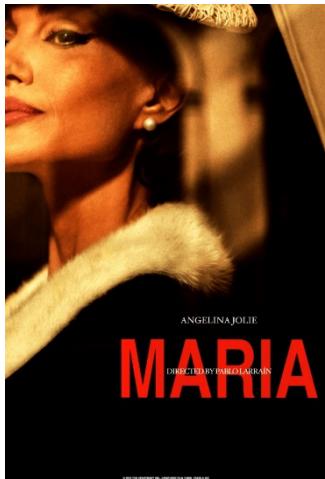
Thank you again for your continued support—your presence and enthusiasm are what keep the Hall thriving.

Enjoy the summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

If you'd like to get involved in any of these events, suggest new ideas, or raise any concerns, please feel free to contact me on **07988 513 270**.

Best wishes,
Paul Crichton
Chair, GVHC

The Film Club

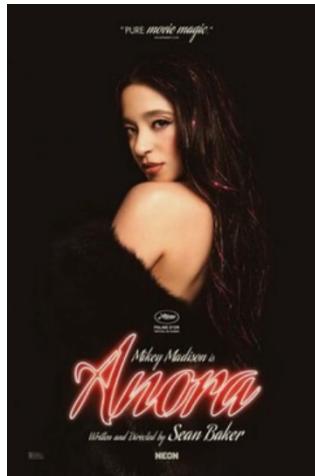


Maria

Saturday, 17th May

Starring Angelina Jolie - The tumultuous, beautiful and tragic story of the life of the world's greatest female opera singer, relived and reimagined during her final days in 1970s Paris.

forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world.



Saturday, 19th July – Anora
(Winner of 6 Oscars)

Anora, a young woman from Brooklyn, gets her chance at a Cinderella story when she meets and marries the son of an oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairytale is threatened as the parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled.



A Complete Unknown

Saturday, 21st June

This film will transport you back to the 60's.

In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar and

Thank you for your ongoing support.

St Mary's Church

The United Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell has undergone some staffing changes during 2024.

Revd Debbie Veel took on pastoral responsibility for St Swithun's, Nately Scures as of July 2024 and Revd Matt Bianchi became Vicar of All Saints, Odiham.

My family and I arrived from Brockenhurst after my deaconing at Winchester Cathedral on 30th June 2024 when it was my privilege and joy



to accept pastoral responsibility for St Stephen's, Up Nately; St Mary's, Mapledurwell; and St Mary's, Greywell.

Upon our arrival, Erika, the children and I were immediately made welcome by the communities we serve and we quickly settled into village life. Erika and the children generally attend the 11:00 services across our parish churches.

Heading towards Advent and Christmas, I had an accident on the 29th of November leaving me rather dependent in a wheelchair with legs in plaster after which some weeks in "moonboots" and on crutches followed. No effort or inconvenience was however too great for the parishioners who made it their business to get me to church with patience, warmth and kindness....and on time! (All 7 Christmas services)! What a wonderful time to be worshipping together in this ancient setting and to discern

God's will for his people in a practical way whilst offering mutual support and encouragement to each other.

With every blessing, Luke

Revd Luke Augustyn

Victory in Europe week

There were drinks outside the church at the start of VE week. Thanks to all children and adults of the village who decorated flags for the bunting around the village to commemorate VE80.



St Mary's bells rang out on the day itself.

Church Services are
1st Sunday of the month 11am
3rd Sunday of the month 9am
All welcome



The Book Exchange continues to thrive in the back of the church.

Libbie Bromfield - Church Warden.
libbie@bromfield.org.uk

Village Directory

Parish Council

Chairman: Mike Barter
cllrbarter@greywellparish.gov.uk

Clerk: Beverley Bridgman
parishclerk@greywellparish.gov.uk

Hart District Council

Councillor: Stephen Highley
stephen.highley@hart.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council

Councillor: Jonathan Glen
jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk

Village Email List

Manager: Karen McCaffrey
karengreywellvillage@gmail.com

Village Hall

Chairman: Paul Crichton
[whatsapp – 07988 513270](https://wa.me/07988513270)

Treasurer: Mike O'Neill
mjmoneill@gmail.com

Church www.moretolife.church

Vicar: Rev. Luke
luke@moretolife.church

Church: Libbie Bromfield

Warden: libbie@bromfield.org.uk

Fox & Goose

Landlady: Chris Mikolajewski
01256 702062

www.facebook/greywell