

Hill & Valley



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

Dear friends,

One of the statements of faith we may hear this December is *'it's coming home!'* I am sure it will hopefully be said a lot and more feverishly towards the 18th December when the football men's world cup final takes place in Qatar.

The story of that first Christmas is about when God in a baby came 'home' and became a human being in Jesus Christ. At our Carols by Candle Light Service in our beautiful church, we will hear the words from St John's gospel, *'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'*. That is the good news of our faith; Christ's light will never go out, He has come to be with us and will never leave us.

Advent is a season of waiting in faithful anticipation that the light will come and will cut through deep darkness as God punches a hole in time and space and enters the world as a baby who we come to celebrate at Christmas. I am often asked what relevance does this two thousand year old story of the birth of Jesus in the Middle East have to do with our modern human living today? I don't find it hard to answer that one...

Human nature has never changed; we love and are loved, we enjoy community, shared culture, food, creative music and the arts and so on. This is all good, yet one cannot dispute the propensity within our broken humanity to hurt others, dishonestly take that which is not ours, cause injury, offence, hatred and war, even desolate our worlds resources. This is the darkness referred to in John's Gospel. The light of Christ at Christmas is relevant to all peoples, in so far that if we live by His light, the world will change for ever.

True faith brings forth deeds, and where churches get involved in their communities, inspired by the love of Christ, they make a huge difference. Christianity in action brings peace and hope and comfort to all in distress and challenges oppressive constructs. As we prepare once again to sing the wonderful carols and hear the beautiful story of the nativity, let us remember Christ is born for us all. It is a timeless message, and one that can change every life for the better. He's coming, he's coming home!

A very happy Christmas from us all at the Vicarage.

David

The Reverend David Roche
Area Dean and Priest in charge



Old Christmas (and a Happy New Year)

“About forty-five years ago, when I first settled in the village, a friend inquired, *‘What kind of folk live at Bourne?’* whereupon I replied, *‘The people generally live in thatched houses, and keep old Christmas.’*”

Joseph Stevens was writing about the villagers of St Mary Bourne in the early 1840s, when he came to be their doctor. Neither observation was particularly complimentary: thatched cottages displayed the general poverty of the village; keeping ‘old Christmas’, that it was behind the times, having failed to register the calendar change of 1752. In that year, Britain had officially lost 11 days to bring its Julian (Old Style) calendar into line with the rest of Europe's Gregorian calendar (New Style) and so into better alignment with the solar year.

If the message didn't get through to remote country areas, or the people thought it fake news, or simply decided not to comply, then in the rest of the 18th century, those still following the old calendar would actually be celebrating their Christmas Day, 25th December, on everyone else's 5th January — hence ‘old Christmas’.

In February 1800, the Julian calendar had another leap year but the Gregorian did not, so ‘old Christmas’ now fell on 6th January (New Style), which is the Feast of the Epiphany. So those celebrating ‘old Christmas’ in 1842 were in fact 90 years behind the times. But, by a remarkable coincidence, this now aligned them with the Eastern Orthodox churches of Greece, Russia etc., by whom Christmas is celebrated at Epiphany. So in their error, the old Christmasser folk at Bourne were actually more correct in their celebrations than the enlightened thought them.

A lapsed member of the Guild of Clock-Watchers (MC)

Services in the Parish Churches

December 2022 & January 2023

All Zoom details are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

Sunday 4th December - Advent 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

Wednesday 7th December

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Midweek Communion</i>
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Sunday 11th December - Advent 3

All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	<i>Benefice Communion with Bishop David</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	6.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	4.00pm	<i>Christingle Service</i>
St James', Woodcott	no service	



Zoom service at 10.30am from All Hallows

Sunday 18th December - Advent 4

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	11.00am	<i>Carol Service</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30pm	<i>Mattins</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Crib Service - 7.00pm</i>
St James', Woodcott	4.00pm	<i>Crib Service</i>



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

Thursday 22nd December

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	<i>Crib Service @ the Pavilion</i>
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Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Nicholas', Longparish	4.00pm	<i>Crib Service - 11.00pm</i>	<i>Midnight Service</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	11.30pm	<i>Midnight Service</i>	



Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.15am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

Sunday 1st January - New Year's Day

Church of England on line

Sunday 8th January - Baptism of the Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	no service	

Home Zoom service at 10.30am

Wednesday 11th January

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Midweek Holy Communion</i>
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Sunday 15th January - Epiphany 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>

Zoom service at 10.30am

Sunday 22nd January - Epiphany 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Family Praise</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
St James', Woodcott	No Service	

Wednesday 25th January

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	<i>Midweek Holy Communion</i>
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Sunday 29th January - Presentation of the Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Candlemas All Age</i>
St James', Woodcott	No Service	

Church of England on line

For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact the Church Office Administrator: ☎ **01256 893573**
brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535
revd.davidroche@hotmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:
☎ 01264 738211
dodie.marsden@gmail.com

• For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

• **Methodist Minister** for our parishes:
The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or **rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk**

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

We celebrate with their families and friends the baptisms of

Imogen Epis at St Nicholas'

Elliot Major at St Nicholas'

Rosanna Cotter at St Nicholas'

Finn Dundas at St Peter's

Funerals

"Into God's loving care we commit you ..."

We offer our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of **Muriel Slade**

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.



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The Community Library - Club Room
Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 12.30

Village Shop 100 Club

A Big Thank-You to All who support the 100 Club!

November 2022 - 100 Club Draw:

£50 - Ed & Fenella Barry-Walsh **£20** - Ruth Widén

£20 - Marion Scull **£10** - Lesley & Ian Sarsen

Application Forms to join the 2023 Village Shop 100 Club are now in the Village Shop. £25 gives you 48 chances to win a monthly cash prize + an extra £50 draw at Christmas. Payment by cash or debit card only please. All proceeds in support of our Village Shop.



Coffee at The George Inn

All ages are welcome, from all the villages,
 to a social coffee morning at

The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 13th December & 10th January
at 10.30am

£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact
 Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.



SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

St Mary Bourne Village Centre

Doors open 6.30pm - Eyes down 7.30pm

Tea and Coffee available or bring your own drinks & snacks

Donations of Raffle prizes much appreciated

All profits to McMillan Cancer Research

More information from Vicky Pettit at the Village Shop

Village Scrap Book.

I am taking over the role of compiling the scrapbook. This is a record of events and represents a social history of the village.

I will try to attend as many village events as possible but to be successful I will need help from others i.e. photos/ written accounts.

This could be passed on electronically via facebook messenger or materials can be passed to me to scan.

Together we could produce a truly memorable record.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Jeanette Davies

A big thank you to Sue Dixon for compiling the scrapbook in recent years.

Contact Jeanette Davies: daviessmb@aol.com
 07730 44330

'Family Theatre' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



60 minutes - for children 4 to 104 years

Bumblefly, Forestforge and Mischievous Theatre

Brrr! You'd better wrap up warm and be ready to laugh, cry, and be astonished for this brand new retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's chilly tale. An exciting, inventive and mysterious saga with a teeny helping of mild menace, a number of talking animals, a witch, a chatty river, the odd robber, a horde of snow-bees, a super-granny, a beautiful dangerous Queen, a frozen boy, a courageous girl and a lot of snow and ice; brrrr! With quirky storytelling, a tune or two, the odd puppet, and a huge drift of snowy surprises, be ready to be intrigued and delighted. A tale that shows how goodness, kindness and honesty will save us all in the end.

Brrr! It's the Snow Queen, an inventive production filled with all the mischief and mayhem you have come to expect from us.

Friday 16th December - 6.30pm

Doors open 6pm

All tickets: **£5** - children under 6: **free**

Please reserve all tickets in advance by email

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Refreshments and Licensed Bar

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

The St Mary Bourne Village Centre team wishes all hirers and supporters a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

We thank you for your continued support in 2023!

The Lunch

Our next village lunch is on **Wednesday 14th December** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, starting to serve at **12.30pm** as usual. This will be our traditional Christmas Lunch which includes a glass of sherry, carols from the school choir and a superb raffle. Returning to the third Wednesday of the month, our first lunch of the New Year will be on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**. If a lift is needed, please contact Chris on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.

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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



PG 13 • 1 h 51 m

A fast living, cynical London music executive (Daniel Mays) heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss (Noel Clarke) into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen (led by James Purefoy). He becomes the ultimate "fish out of water" as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families (including Tuppence Middleton) who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he's drawn deeper into the traditional way of life he's forced to re-evaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.

Tuesday 17th January - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£6** at the door

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Film: 21st February 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

St Mary Bourne Flower Show 2023

Saturday 29th July



Being Seen...

Winter months present a serious hazard to all road users with reduced visibility due to shorter days/longer nights and bad weather conditions. Road safety organisations recommend that pedestrians wear **reflective strips** (or something white) and carry a

torch so they can be spotted by motorists on unlit country roads & lanes.

Stay lit and don't get hit!

**OPENING 1ST DECEMBER!!
RIBBON CUTTING
3RD DECEMBER!!**



Can you believe it??? We are beyond excited to introduce you all to your new Community Shop and Café. We open on 1st December from 8am but will have a proper ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30am. We hope that you love it and are as proud of it as we are..., this really is a project that was built by the community and is an absolute

testament to what a strong community we are and what we can do when we come together.

So here is what The Boundary offers:

- A **small café** which serves hot and cold drinks, smoothies, cakes and buns, sandwiches, salads and soups.
- A **convenience store** selling a wide range of everyday items including bread, milk, papers, eggs and a wide range of groceries.
- An **eco-area** selling a range of produce with zero packaging. This means you can bring your own containers and fill up with just the right amount of produce for you and your family.
- A range of **local produce** from honey and chalk stream trout, to local meats, breads, quiches and pies, chocolates and gifts.
- **Dry Cleaning** service.
- **Post Office counter** offering cash withdrawals, PayPoint for Gas and Electric bills, bill payments and mail.
- **Delicatessen counter** offering freshly made salads, olives and antipasti.

Christmas order forms are available from the temporary shop and will be at The Boundary too but hurry! Order forms must be completed by **Wednesday 8th December** so there is not long to make sure you have everything you need for Christmas Dinner without fighting the hoards in the supermarkets!

As usual, our turkeys are from Turners in Overton who in turn get them from Walters Turkeys in Reading and our mince pies and Christmas puddings are from lovely Oaktracks in Charlton Down, so not only would you be supporting one local business by ordering from us but three more too.

As well as food for Christmas, The Boundary will also have a range of beautiful gifts and stocking fillers, gift wrap, Sellotape and packaging..., everything you need to make your Christmas stress free and local.

And when the New Year comes and January and February seem dark and bleak, come on down to the cozy Boundary for a lovely coffee and cake. Our friendly local staff will greet you with a warm smile and good chat! We'll introduce you to them all properly over the next few months.

Lastly, it only remains for us to wish you **a very Happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year**. Twenty - twenty two was a challenge, but we made it. Twenty - twenty three will be better - we have a fabulous community space and each other.

Warmest wishes *Lara and the Team xx*



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Christmas rubbish and recycling

For the first collection after Christmas **only**, B&DBC will collect extra rubbish sacks left by your grey bin.

They will always collect extra recycling as long as it is inside a clear bin liner. Please ensure that cardboard is flattened and no bigger than 1m by 1m.

Wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your grey waste bin.

Collection days will not change over the Christmas break but the **Friday 30th December collection will be changed to Saturday 31st December.**

There will be a two week break for garden collections. They will stop after Friday 23rd December and will resume Monday 9th January 2023.

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycling



Latest Recommended Posting Dates

Allow plenty of time for posting. Post items and gifts for Christmas early, particularly for International deliveries.

2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For - Monday 19th December

1st Class, 1st Class Signed For, Parcelforce Worldwide express48 - Wednesday 21st December

Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed, Parcelforce Worldwide express24. expressAM⁺ - **Thursday 22nd December**

Royal Mail Special Delivery by 1pm with Saturday Guarantee - **Friday 23rd December**



Lower Wyke Farm Solar Park

Following the Community Consultation Event on 22nd November

in St Mary Bourne Village Centre, if you have any further questions, concerns, or feedback about the proposed local Solar Park development in the parish, please contact Borough Councillor **Sam Carr** on ☎ 07474 273573 or write to him:

cllr.samuel.carr@basingstoke.gov.uk .



A big thanks to Chris Philips for giving the Repair Café the use of a room in the George Inn on the first Saturday of every month. It has now become a firm fixture for

many to get their precious items mended, from gluing ornaments to mending a chewed USB cable. Also repairs to a baby alarm, DVD player, an uplighter and air fryer. All done whilst enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and a chat.



St Mary Bourne United Charities with St Peter's Community Fund may be able to help if you live in the parish and know someone struggling with financial worries. Please contact Ruth Widen - ☎ 01264 738250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com for more information in complete confidence.



Light Touch Any Old Wood?

Due to concerns about the danger to trees from having dead wood around their trunks the log piles at the lake have been moved.

Sadly, we had to evict several toads, frogs, a tiny water shrew and a whole family of bank voles. Hopefully the tiny mammals managed to relocate before succumbing to the many downpours.

The wood has not been wasted. There are now three log piles and two dead hedges along the empty stretch of the lake. This is a small start in mimicking the natural world where lying dead wood is essential for slowly releasing nutrients into the ecosystem. The fashion for many years has been to keep nature tidy discouraging biodiversity and a healthy environment. Log piles are simply a stable undisturbed formation with plenty of wood touching the soil so that insects and microbes can move in to start the process of breaking down the wood to make homes for all sorts of minibeasts.

These then attract small birds, hedgehogs, voles, newts, frogs, and toads to feed and shelter. In turn this attracts larger birds such as owls and kestrels. Dead hedges are a quicker way to protect and nurture a healthy protective environment for wildlife. Two rows of stakes enclose a long thin pile of branches ideally rotten at the bottom and with leafy fresh branches higher up. This provides most things a log pile does, but faster and can also shelter winter butterflies and lacewings for example. Another advantage is that each winter's fallen wood can be added along with any pruning's to restore the height of the hedge and reduce or even remove the need for bonfires.

Caroline Hoyes



★

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

AT THE

WHITE HART IN STOKE

In aid of
Citizens Advice Test Valley

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 8P.M
FOOD FROM 7P.M

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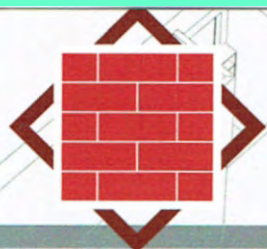
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SBV Top Tips

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Heat loss

- Borrow the Thermal imaging camera from SBV to spot the worst issues: email

nikcross@rensmart.com .

- Draught proofing around windows and doors can save around £60 pa.
- Put a chimney balloon in an open chimney when out of use to stop heat going up the chimney.
- Bare glass is a major source of heat loss so use thick curtains with fleecy interlining, or ready-made thermal tight weave linings to hook on the inside, or even another pair of curtains hooked on the inside to double the insulation.
- Tuck curtains in behind radiators, make sure they overlap all sides of the window, close them all at night.

Energy

- Carry out an energy audit on your appliances: <https://www.hugofox.com/community/sustainable-bourne-valley-15360/energy-audit/>
- Advice on energy saving: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home>
- Grants of up to £25,000 available from: www.warmerhomes.org.uk .

Food

- When boiling a kettle for a cuppa, put the remaining hot water in a thermos for use later.
- The remaining heat in an oven after cooking can continue to be used for further cooking/warming.
- Defrosting items in the fridge is better, particularly for meat, and reduces the energy used to keep the fridge cool.
- See the leftover recipes on the SBV website <https://www.hugofox.com/community/sustainable-bourne-valley-15360/leftover-recipes/> and email some of your own to sustainablebournevalley@gmail.com .

Katie Dixon



Redd Alert: Spotting Spawning Salmonids

Stroll along a chalk stream in winter and you might see a wildlife wonder in progress. At this time of year, the cool, clear, oxygen-rich water is alive with amorous brown trout and salmon. As the females get busy building their nests, the males compete for the chance to be their spawning partners.

To create a nest, or 'redd', a female turns on her side and flexes her body. This directs the flow towards the stream bed, forming a hollow and sweeping away the finer sediment. She lays her eggs in this hollow, the victorious male fertilises them, and she covers them over with a layer of gravel.

This process can take several days, but the result is a dip followed by a slight mound just downstream.

A freshly made redd is easier to spot, since the disturbed patch is a lighter colour than the area around it. As sediment and algae accumulate, the redd gradually becomes less visible.

Of course, not every breeding attempt will be successful. Moreover, a female may start forming a redd to test a spot's suitability, only to abandon the site upon finding a better option. Beyond this natural uncertainty, however, there are other factors that make the odds less favourable.

Barriers like weirs and dams can be impassable for some fish, which isolates them and limits their space for spawning – you might see redds crowded together in the vicinity of these obstacles. In dry weather years, low water levels can leave redds exposed, putting the eggs at risk of dehydration.

Excess sediment can fill the gaps between larger pieces of gravel, thereby preventing water from flowing through them. This deprives a redd's eggs of oxygen, which is crucial to their development. Dredging can remove gravel from a stream bed entirely, leaving only fine sediment behind.

To ensure healthy wild fish populations, we must keep our chalk streams in good condition. The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is improving spawning habitats on the Test and Itchen headwaters; explore our projects at www.hiwwt.org.uk . Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. *Sophie Evingar*



Photo Credit: Linda Pitkin/2020VISION

Online Talk - Environmental Impact of Septic Tanks 26th January - 7 to 8pm



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Ali Morse, Water Policy Manager for The Wildlife Trust

uncovers the impact of off-mains drainage. When improperly managed, these systems can cause environmental and financial problems for rural communities. Learn how to keep your system safe and efficient, while also protecting our precious chalk streams.

Book your free ticket at www.hiwwt.org.uk/events .

Postcard from Binley November

Well, this laptop and I have been staring glumly at each other for an hour now. The rain is sheeting down outside and the quiet stillness that pervades around Binley on a wet Wednesday morning is now being broken by Southern Water digging up the lane again by the Strongs' place. Good grief, they've only just filled the hole back in but apparently a navvie left his shovel down there last week and he wants it back. And now the builders next door are throwing heavy objects into a skip. This isn't helping my creative mood. My neighbours, Renée and Helen moved away after twenty years here (nothing to do with me) and I always found it quite exotic having a Canadian and a Kiwi composer living next door. A southerly summer's breeze would often carry with it the drawl of the Rockies or the tinkling of piano music which was charming.

But our new neighbour, Tamara is equally exotic and has great plans for the old place including turning one of the outbuildings into an open art studio. We are a cultured bunch here in Binley and I'm looking forward to getting in there and knocking out a couple of watercolours or perhaps inviting Kate Vernon down from Upper Binley to sit with me at the potter's wheel and help recreate that famous scene from 'Ghost' with me playing the Patrick Swayze role. Dream on, I hear you say. But I find November to be a particularly uninspiring month, the threat of Christmas hangs above me like the sword of Damocles and there is nothing but doom and gloom on the radio and television. The odd thing is I'm perversely enjoying it and have become the most accomplished pessimist. In truth I have turned into precisely the sort of miserable old git I used to avoid like the plague. Weird how things turn out.

I don't know if you've ever driven down a lane and found yourself travelling at exactly the same speed as a sparrowhawk in front of you? It has happened to me more than once and the last time was just a couple of days ago. The sparrowhawk was at bonnet height and maintaining a steady thirty when without warning a frog started hopping across the lane ahead of us. Barely breaking stride (or flap) the bird seized the frog mid-hop and banked right over the hawthorn hedge to my right. I'm not sure why I'm telling you this, but it got me analyzing fate. Right place right time, wrong place wrong time. The minutiae between life and death.

At the age of 93 my mother who is half blind and deaf and by her own admission sitting in God's waiting room has finally relented and got herself a cleaner. The young lady in question is Polish and goes by the name of Stelli Cebula which translated means Stella Onions. Great name for a cook not so much for a cleaner. But I was there to witness her debut, and what threw me straight away when she arrived was the fact, she didn't make a beeline for the kettle but launched straight into a cleaning frenzy that saw her running from room to room. The whole thing was done in under an hour and she disappeared out the front door leaving behind her the heady aroma of Vim and Mr Sheen. We wandered around open mouthed as the old place sparkled around us like Fingal's Cave. And then it dawned on me. Were we seeing the demise of the traditional British Char Lady? We had one when I was a boy, Mrs Hedges was her name and she was a fierce old bird, stout of stature, a bri-nylon housecoat wrapped around an ample bosom, saggy tights (I said, "saggy tights"!), a turban around her head with hair rollers peeping out the front, and always a

nourishing fag welded to her bottom lip. She would arrive at 8am on a Friday morning and we would spend the previous hour frantically tidying the place up. Pieces of toast that had been welded to the bedroom carpet for six days would be scraped up, rancid socks that hung from the light fitting would be slung in the laundry basket and so it would go on.

Her arrival would be announced by a wracking smoker's cough and the shuffling of carpet slippers up the path.

Her first hour would be spent with my mother in the kitchen keeping the teapot hot and bothered, smoking and listing her various ailments before moving onto the sherry around 11.00, but the point I'm trying to make is, these old school cleaners, ironers, gardeners and dog walkers provide a social service to what are often elderly and sometimes quite lonely people. They may be the only point of human contact that day that person may have, and I worry that we are losing that ability to take our time and interact on a human level with others. I find this emphasised far more now as we approach Christmas, so do try to not only hug a granny but give her a little of your time too. It cost nothing after all. And a Merry Christmas to you all.

Nick Anderton



Go Star Gazing in December and January

8 Dec - Full Moon - known as Cold Moon.

8 Dec - Mars at Opposition - The red planet will be at its closest approach to Earth & its face will be fully illuminated by Sun. This is the brightest time of the year

to view, and it will be illuminated all night long.

13-14 Dec - Geminids Meteor Shower - The King of Meteor Showers. Best shower producing 120 multi-coloured meteors per hour at its peak. Best view from dark location after midnight.

21 - Dec Solstice - first day of winter in northern hemisphere.

21 Dec - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation - Best time to view Mercury as it will be at its highest point above horizon in evening sky. Look for planet low in western sky just after sunset.

21-22 Dec - Ursids Minor Meteor Shower - 5 to 10 meteors per hour. The nearly new moon will leave dark night skies for what should be a good show.

23 Dec- New Moon - best time to view galaxies and star clusters as no moonlight.

3-4 Jan - Quadrantids Meteor Shower - up to 40 meteors per hour at peak. Best view after midnight.

6 Jan - Full Moon - Wolf Moon.

21 Jan - New Moon - best time to observe galaxies and Star clusters as dark skies.

30 Jan - Mercury at its Greatest Western Elongation. Best time to view Mercury as it will be at its highest point above horizon in morning sky. Look for Mercury low in eastern sky just before sunrise.

Please try to minimise light pollution & protect our dark night skies by reducing outdoor lighting. This benefits wildlife, environment & humans like.

Remembrance Day - 13th November 2022



Year 5 & 6 in Sycamore Class painted these stones red and black and then wrote the names of all the men who died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars on them. Included are some not on the War Memorial but were noted by Lady Portsmouth when she sent a list to the School in 1920.

The children then, imagining themselves as one of the soldiers, wrote a letter home. They had been told the battle was going to start in an hour so all the men should write home before they climbed the ladder and went over the wall to fight the Germans. *Dodie*



Dearest Mother and Pa,

Currently I am in Belgium. I would like to tell you where but due to protocol I am not allowed to. Yesterday we had a shower of shells and a gas attack. Luckily, I got my mask on in time. Sadly, my best friend Arthur did not. I miss you lots. But I WILL come home.

Dear Mum

I hope everything is ok at home. I'm currently in France. It's be so tough. We've been pushed back by the Germans. And we are running low of food and water as well. My best friend Roger was shot and I couldn't do anything about it. I'm scared, Mum. I want to come home. I'm one of only a few in my regiment left. Send my love to the family and just remember, whatever happens I love you so much.

Dear Mum,

At the moment we are in the middle of a big conflict. The Germans are pushing us back. I really miss you but I am still alive and I am helping Frank get back to health. We all have lice and rats run everywhere, up and down the trench. I am scared because in an hour we are going over the wall of the trench and we are going to charge, hoping to get into the German trench. I am tired and anxious about everything. I love you so much and hope to see you soon.

Dear Mum,

I am in France but I can't tell you exactly where. I hope you are doing good with Fred, my best dog. They told us we are coming home soon but they didn't say when. Mum don't forget I love you and Dad. I want you to have a great Christmas.

My friend Gregory (your favourite of my friends) caught some terrible disease that they told us was spread by rats. I have learnt there are more ways to die in war that just being shot.

I have heard a rumour that there is going to be a big push. I'm scared but want to get out of the trench. I don't know if I am going to make it, but I wanted to tell you that I love you.





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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman

clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 14 NOVEMBER PLANNING

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to:

- Removal of garage doors, insertion of a bay window, and replacement porch at **River Cottage, Forton**;
- Repairs to internal stair flight at **The Old Curacy, Longparish**;
- Tree work at **The Cottage, Longparish**.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

The PC welcomed Emma Palmer to the meeting. Mrs Palmer is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. Joe Edwards from Middleton Estate briefed the Council on tree works that the Estate is planning throughout the village.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

<http://www.longparish.org.uk/images/vds/2003-LongparishVDS.pdf>

The Village Design Statement is a supplementary planning document devised by the Parish Council and adopted by Test Valley Borough Council in 2003. The VDS is guidance for residents undertaking development or carrying out alterations and exists to preserve the special features and character of Longparish, whilst ensuring that properties are fit for modern living. The PC has started the process of reviewing the contents of this useful document and is seeking volunteers from the community with an interest in planning, architecture, history, and conservation to assist us with this task over the coming year. If you would like to join the Working Party, please contact the Clerk.

OPEN SPACES

A small team of volunteers turned out to participate in Village Clean-Up Day on **Saturday 29 October**. In a slight change to the norm, work began in the afternoon. The stream was cleared out, leaves were cleared away at the village hall, and the bus shelters were tidied up, amongst other tasks. The Parish Council is very grateful to Jo Clare for organising the event. Thanks also to the volunteers, to Mick Blocksidge and Karen-Marie Dinesen. Volunteers were treated to refreshments at The Cricketers Inn afterwards.

Following the recent storm, the PC has been advised that a number of trees in the village hall car park require some additional maintenance. The Parish Council plans to have trees in the cemetery assessed to see if tree work is required there as well. The Clerk is sourcing quotes for repairs to the cemetery fence.

The Parish Council has engaged Dean from Handy Dad Ltd to carry out small repairs and maintenance tasks around the village. If you see something that requires attention, please notify the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 12 December**.

Parish Council Meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcomed to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman, or on any matter as part of the Period for Public Speaking.

Chairman: Mr Peter Hull - Tel 07747 328760, or email peter.hullpc@longparish.org.uk

Clerk: Miss Sally Lawman - Tel 01264 738716, or email clerk@longparish.org.uk

Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website
<http://www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council/pc-minutes.html>

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

There will be no meeting of the Longparish Gardening Club in December, but we wish everyone a **VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and look forward to re-enrolling for 2023 on

Tuesday, 24th January at 7pm at Longparish Village Hall.

New Members welcome from within the Hill and Valley Parishes. Others welcome as guests.

Any queries please to Rosie Lowry
01264720325 rosie@yewcottage-longparish.com
Or Marion Bell 01264720205



Autumn Tidy up

A big thank you!

It was great to see so many volunteers out helping to keep Longparish beautiful on the 29th of October for the Village Autumn Tidy.

Everyone, kids, and adults concentrated on the stream opposite the playground, hopefully you will notice the water now.

A special thanks to Collard for the use of the skip, Mick on the tractor scooping up and The Cricketers for the Refreshments.

Spring Tidy date to follow.

See you there, Jo

LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2023!!!



There will be no organised litter pick in December.

Next Litter pick is on Friday **13th January 2023**. Make it your New Year Resolution – a regular litter

picking session followed by free coffee at the LCA Coffee Shop alternating between the Cricketers and the Plough.

Meet behind the Village Hall at 9.15 am, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags. For more information Tel **Christian Dryden 720 398**



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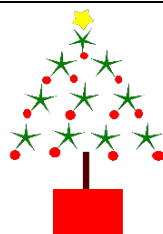
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The Greening Campaign gives advice and support to communities so that they can take meaningful action to reduce their environmental impact. For more information on the Greening Campaign please see: <http://www.greening-campaign.org/>



Phase 1 of the Greening Campaign was all about inspiring the community to be active in the fight against climate change and how small changes by individuals, when added together can have a big impact on saving energy and reducing carbon emissions.

The results of the collected Pledge cards in May showed us that together LONGPARISH could save 38.456 tons of CO2 equivalent of 38 hot air balloons if everyone put the money, they saved from making these small changes into a pot, the community would save a total of £20,125 or the equivalent of £287.50 pa per household.

If you haven't already, try the small changes on the Pledge card or look for others on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

NEXT EVENT - RETROFIT to make ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

Tuesday 24th January 2023 Drop in between 6.30-9.00pm
The River Room, The Plough

We have lots of information from the Sustainability Centre to help you improve the energy efficiency of your house as well as experience from residents who have already started out on making small changes to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

- There will be a demo of solar panels and thermal imaging camera. See residents own pictures using the thermal imaging camera. Available to borrow.
- Exchange ideas – every house is different and what works for one house, may not be the right solution for your neighbour.

Find out if you are eligible for a grant to improve the energy efficiency of your house,
<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/news/2022/oct/funding-now-available-to-make-homes-more-energy-efficient>

If you would like to be involved in Greening Longparish in any way, please do get in touch email green@longparish.org.uk

Carolling this Christmas

Carols by Candlelight at St Nicholas' Church on **Sunday 11 December 6pm.**

The Plough **Saturday 17 December 7pm**

The Cricketers **Friday 23 December 7pm**

With Longparish Choir
New members always welcome. For details of the Choir email Cathy.yelf@sky.com

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

Friday 16th December 12 – 2.30pm

We are holding the Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall, please let us know, (if you haven't already), if you would like to come, as numbers are limited. Priority to regular members. £5 pp

27th January 2023 - New Year Friday Lunch Club

To book for either date ring **Andrea 720 457**

Boxing Day Entertainment

Meet at 11am on Boxing Day at the school for the **Great Longparish Santa Dash.** The Santas will dash to The Cricketers. There will be prizes for the winner and the best dressed Santas and dogs.

Longparish Mummers



will be back on Boxing Day with two performances of their 20-minute traditional folk play. There are wonderful costumes and lots of action with a great battle between King George and the Yorkish Knight.

The first show will be at **The Cricketers at 11.30.** The pub will be open from 11 am

so you can get a drink before the play. Please join in as the Mummers then parade down the main road to **The Plough for the second performance at 12.30.** Bring your own instruments and join the throng! Does anyone have a big bass drum?

There will be a collection in aid of Mityana and the Andover Food Bank at each venue. Please bring cash!

BINGO NIGHT

Tuesday 6th December
7:30 pm

Longparish Village Hall

Doors open at 6:45pm

For a prompt 7:30 start

Refreshments available

If you have anything suitable for a raffle prize, please bring it along.

All profits go to Andover Food Bank
For more information, please contact
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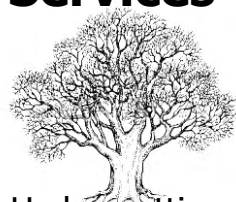
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Longparish Little School

We want to thank everyone who came to our fundraising pumpkin competition. We were so pleased to see all the wonderful entries. Thank you

to Jeremy and Maggie Barber for having the very difficult job of being judges.

The children have enjoyed exploring the pumpkins, chopping them up to see what was inside. They made some delicious pumpkin soup and pumpkin bread.

We had a visit from Shelby the tortoise to help us find out about hibernation. We made Shelby a lovely cosy house to live in. We gave her a bath and



fed her some of her favourite foods.

As part of our eco school award, we were talking about how we can help our planet.

The children helped by doing some litter picking using the litter pickers kindly lent to us from the parish council. We have also adopted a polar bear. We have been finding out about how global warming has meant the ice is melting and the polar bear will have nowhere to live unless we help to protect it. We have also been talking about Remembrance Day and how we say thank you to the armed forces for keeping us safe. We made a special wreath that had poppies on as well as some photos of family members who have served and that we would like to thank. We took the wreath to the church where Dodie helped us sing our thank you song.

Learning nursery rhymes is a very important part of how a child develops so we have been taking part in National Nursery Rhyme week. We have been learning some new songs alongside Robins class from big school, so we can perform them for our families in our concert.

Our spaces for September 2023 are filling fast so if you would like to book a visit to look around, please phone 01264 720455

If you would like to see some photos of all the exciting this we do at Little School you can go to our website www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk or our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup>



Friends of Longparish School

Buy a Christmas gift for the school. We are working with the school to top up the library books. If you would like to donate, please consider purchasing a book from our Amazon Wishlist.

View the list at <https://tinyurl.com/5n6bzcnu>
Thank you for your support.

Christmas Lunch

Our friends at Bere Mill Butchery in Whitchurch are supporting FoLS this year, making a 10% donation every time a Longparish School supporter make a Christmas food order.

Order at www.beremillfarm.co.uk and include 'Longparish School Parent' in the customer notes.

Christmas shopping on Amazon?

The easiest way to support FoLS! Just sign up to AmazonSmile and they make a donation every time you shop. Sign up at smile.amazon.co.uk

A magical afternoon

This year Professor Potty and The Amazing Alvan from Magic Party HQ will be entertaining the children at our annual school Christmas party. They will enjoy a festive afternoon of magical fun. Thank you for your support this year, which has allowed us to fully fund this celebration.

Visit our new website at www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish or follow us on Facebook at fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool
Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)

Barton Stacey WI



As we approach Christmas we will be celebrating - a meal in the Swan Inn in the village at our December meeting.

January will help us all with what often happens in January - we clear our cupboards and tidy up a little. With that in mind, we have invited Susanne Spencer along to explain the Kon-Mari method of decluttering! Our meetings start at **7:30** on the last Thursday of the month in the **Barton Stacey Village Hall SO21 6QL**.

We will be serving the refreshments at the Church Christmas Fair, on **December 3rd** in the Village, so do come and have a cuppa and find out who we are and what goes on in the WI!

Anyone interested in learning more about our WI are invited to join us at one of our meetings or By contacting us bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk or phone **07817 483936**.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Happy & Healthy Christmas.

P.J.ROPER

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Longparish Primary School

Pupil voice in schools means a whole-school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all children and young people. It means placing value on what children and young people tell school staff about their experiences. Not only is it about the adults listening, but it is also about developing the oracy skills in our children.

We do this in many ways in the classroom. Our children are great at not just giving an answer in class but explaining how they got their answer. They also have plenty of opportunities to speak publicly – be it within our Collective Worship, Church services, celebration assemblies or plays and performances.

They also have a variety of roles and responsibilities within the school. Many of these roles have been filled over the course of this term.

In order to become a 'House Captain' those Year 6 children who wanted to apply had to speak to the children in their Houses and explain why they should vote for them. Once appointed, the first thing they did was to get all the children in their Houses together to 'teach' them about who their house was named after. We have four houses here: St George, St David, St Andrew, and St Patrick.

Our Librarians have taken it upon themselves to choose a suitable 'book of the month' for each year-group. They stand up in collective worship and tell the school about each book chosen and why it is so good.

This month they recommend the following:

Year R—Tiddler by Julia Donaldson

Year 1—The Bumble Bear by Nadia Shireen and Supertato by Sue Hendra

Year 2—The Faraway Tree Collection by Enid Blyton

Year 3—The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd and Famous Five by Enid Blyton

Year 4—Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl

Year 5—Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

Year 6—The Week at Worlds End by Emma Carroll

Our School Council met with the Headteacher recently and suggested a cake decorating competition for Children in Need. We had Jon Holmes from The Plough come over to judge the cakes and the school council children presented the winners with a prize in the Collective Worship. The school councillor also created a box for children to put in suggestions for how we can improve our school.

Finally, our Peer Mentors have been doing a brilliant job of supporting children during playtimes

as well as making sure children are safe in the school by not running in the corridors. Not only is all this empowering for the children, but it also creates a shared ownership and a greater community spirit.

Mark Ward
Headteacher

LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

We welcomed new runner, John Fradgley to the November run. As often happens the first time, John underestimated his ability. Starting with an estimated handicap he comfortably finished in first place.

But you don't get a trophy off an estimated handicap so, our winners were Mark Curtis in second place and Jo Clare in third. Well done! Commiserations to Andy Smith who was heading for victory but had to pull up, injured, a few hundred yards from home.



Zachary holds our winners' hands aloft!

Thanks very much to Maggie Barber, Pauline Brownlow, Zachary Moore. Andy Smith and David Gould for helping and to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on **Sunday 11 December**, starting later than usual at **10am**. It's our Christmas edition. Santa hats or even full fancy dress will be welcome and there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. New runners are always welcome. You don't have to be fast. Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us.

Jeremy Barber
01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Have you noticed the Hidden Flamingo? It has been sneaking into the more recent Hill & Valleys. The flamingo can be found sneaking around in pictures or text on the Longparish Pages.

Good news from

Christmas is coming and with it comes our Christmas menu. Whether you'd like to book for a group of up to 24 in the lovely River Room or a table for two, please give us a ring on **01264 720069**.

And if you'd like an excellent gift idea then please ask about our **Gift Vouchers** - available at the bar.



We love getting feedback. Both from customers in The Plough and across all review platforms. It confirms that we keep achieving the 3 things we strive to achieve

- Warm and friendly welcome ✓
- Great food & drink ✓
- Excellent service ✓

After being open and serving food for one year now, we have gained 58 five-star reviews from 61 Tripadvisor reviews. We've also managed to climb into the top 10 Andover restaurants, putting us up there alongside some fantastic businesses.

Long may it continue 🍷🍷🍷

Due to our ongoing success, we are actively seeking a second full time chef to join us in the kitchen.



One of our aims was to get into the Good Beer Guide and after a year of trading, we're in! To celebrate we'll be holding our very first **meet the brewer** evening on **Friday 9th December from 7.30pm** and what better way to start by welcoming one of the UK's finest breweries, Timothy Taylor's. Who knows we might even have a few goodies to give away!

On **Saturday 17th December** the Big Man will be visiting for **Breakfast with Santa** (booking essential). And in the evening, we'll be welcoming the Longparish Choir **at 7pm** for **community carols** with mulled wine and mince pies. Please come and sing.

Our **Christmas Quiz** is back on **Thursday 22nd** December from **7.30pm**. £5 entry per team (max six people), with every team guaranteed to win a prize.

Due to unprecedented demand, we'll also be bringing back **THE TIN FOIL CHALLENGE!**

Steve, Lucy and the LCPL Committee



The Cricketers Inn

Hello all! What a fabulous Autumn we are having, you are enjoying the new menu, and our ever-changing specials board – we are as busy as ever and as always thankful to all our lovely customers and their continued fantastic patronage.

The nights may be drawing in, the weather cool and damp – but there is always a log burner or two roaring in our warm cosy pub!

The awards and great reviews keep rolling in too – The hard work of our fabulous team has brought us a Good Food Award for the second year running, and we are also in the Good Beer guide yet again, for our changing and well-kept cask beers – which we wouldn't have managed without your continued support – Thank you – from all at the Cricketers Inn.

Our normal hours.

Monday – Thursday 11am-3pm & 5.30pm-11pm

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 11am-11pm

Food Served daily 12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-8.30pm Monday – Saturday
12pm-3pm & 6pm-8pm Sunday

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS 23rd December – 1st January inclusive

Open 11.30am – 11pm daily

Food Served daily 12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-8.30pm (8pm Sunday)



Christmas Menu

3 Courses £34

Served Lunch and Evening Daily,
1st December – 24th December



Starters

Roasted butternut squash and red pepper soup, rustic bread
Smoked salmon with a beetroot and walnut salad, sourdough toasts

(v) Wild mushrooms served on granary toast with a fried quail egg

Homemade Venison and cranberry pate, rustic bread, and apple chutney

Main Course

Pan fried Salmon fillet, served on a potato rosti, hollandaise sauce and green beans

(v) Pearl barley roasted vegetable tomato risotto

Pan fried Pheasant breast served on a potato rosti with a wild mushroom sauce, roasted roots, and creamed spinach

Roast turkey crown, roasted roots, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, sausage meat stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, Brussel sprouts and gravy

Dessert

Christmas pudding and brandy sauce

Goosey chocolate bomb with vanilla ice cream

Orange sorbet, served in a hollowed-out orange

Mini Stilton and Barber's mature cheddar cheeseboard

AN AUTUMN WALK

I started from home as usual with my trusty companion. Travelled down the back path, we saw a **Jackdaw** on a chimney and some very quiet **House Sparrows** at Arthur's.

As we turned left at the shop, we observed it was quiet, only a **Robin** on the fence singing. Robins are one of a few birds that sing all year. Opposite the shop, there were a lot of **Rooks** and more Jackdaws in front of Longparish House.



Finding nothing else, we continued on, we noticed a couple of **Goldfinches** fly over, surprisingly since we don't see many of them lately.

Turned right into the Cleeves and a **Red Kite** flew over and a **Chaffinch** was perched in the Holly. Farther along our walk I spied a flock of **Long-tailed, Great and Blue Tits** in the hedges beside me. We stopped at the bench seat, well what was the bench seat, and found a **Moorhen** and some **Gadwall Coots** upriver. Continuing our walk by turning left, we saw a **Buzzard** in the distance and a flock of **Wood Pigeons** flew out of the trees. At Vale Farm we could see a couple of **Skylarks** across the field and a **Cormorant** flying around with its eye on Nick's fish. At the lake there were more **Gadwall Coots** and a **Little Grebe**. On we went, we spotted a couple of **Blackbirds** foraging in the leaf litter and a **Great-Spotted Woodpecker** climbing up the side of a tree. Turned right at the ford, but we found nothing so on we went to the trout farm. At the trout farm a lovely variety of birds were found, **Herring, Black-headed Gulls** and **Great Black-backed Gulls, Canadian Geese, Tufted Duck, Mallard, Little Egret, Carrion Crow, Pied Wagtail, Pheasant** and two **Meadow Pipits**. Turned right onto Lower Mill bridge where a pair of **Swans** were down river, and a **Jay** flew across the river noisily. As we went on, a small flock of **Greenfinches** flew over. We turned right again and in the yew tree at Tudor cottage were **Mistle Thrush, Redwing** and a **Fieldfare** all devouring the berries. A small flock of **Starlings** flew over and back to the shop. Back up the path **Collared Doves** sat on the wires and a **House Martin**. That is the latest I've seen one. We returned home having seen over 40 different birds. I hope you enjoyed our walk.

Chris Bowman

Books by Bookworm Eight Grumpy Old Men

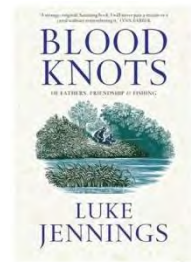
I have been a member of a book club for 10 years. There are eight of us, definitely men only. We meet every 2 months reading 6 books a year. Our meetings in each other's houses consist of lunch cooked by the host, strictly not by his wife, followed by discussion of the latest book. We have now read 60 books. The books are chosen in turn by members of the group. Our meetings usually last two hours and discussion of the

book (not too intense) gets squeezed into the last half hour. It is accepted that the book chooser must have read the book. He presents a short summary of why he chose it and what he got out of it before opening up the discussion. Generally, the group is diligent about reading the book. Occasionally members confess to having given up on it and one of our members gave a very lucid analysis after confessing that he was short of time and just read the first and last page of each chapter. For readers of this magazine, I have picked out some of our memorable reads and will do the same in subsequent issues of Hill and Valley if reader feedback is favourable.



This acknowledged masterpiece is an intriguing fantasy about 5 generations of a Colombian family over 100 years of turbulent S American colonial history. The memorable quote among many is 'and it rained for 4 years, 11 months and two days'

Our first book. A wonderful biographical tale about fishing, growing up, human relationships and much more. 'A haunting and beautiful book'



Said to be 'one of the greatest novels ever written' Set against the doomed splendour of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, The Radetzky March tells the story of the celebrated Trotta family, tracing their rise and fall over three generations. 'Rich, epic and profoundly moving.'



If you would like to be given more books read by the Eight Grumpy Old Men, please tell the editor: Angie Curtis hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk

Longparish Cricket Club is still very active over the winter months addressing ground enhancement and Club development issues. The Club's Chairman, Mark Benzing, has resigned and we hope to appoint a replacement at the AGM at the end of February.

The Club would like to thank Mark for his huge contribution to the Club during his time as Chairman, most notably the successful net replacement project, and wish him all the best for the future.

To continue building on the Club's strong youth development ethos, a couple of senior players will be undertaking additional coaching courses over the winter. There are also plans for pavilion Improvements before the start of the outdoor season.

If you attended our Christmas Quiz, we hope you enjoyed it and thank-you for your support.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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WEATHER – OCTOBER 2022

Total rainfall for month	105mm	4.13in
Total for 2022	502mm	19.76in
Total for 2021	917mm	36.10in
Max temp (on 22 nd)	21C	70F
Max night temp (on 4 th)	16C	60F
Min temp (on 10 th)	-1C	30F

Four inches of rain this month helped fill the river, but we had 6.5 ins last October, so in spite of all the rain, we are still short of water !

John Smail

LADIES' COFFEE MORNINGS

December's coffee morning will be hosted by Clare Read on Thursday 8th from 10.15am at Hurstbourne Priors House.

January's coffee morning will be hosted by Denise Bradley on Wednesday 18th from 10.15 am at Mistletoe Cottage.

All ages welcome!



For more information or offers to hold a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel: 892665 or email: sbsorby@hotmail.com).

SAFARI SUPPER – 4th MARCH 2023

CHRISTMAS IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS



We warmly invite you to join our Christmas celebrations in Hurstbourne Priors in the week leading up to Christmas.

Sunday, 18th December at 11am a traditional Carol Service in St Andrews Church – with readings and carols. There will also be an activity for the children. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The School House by kind invitation of Andrew and Hannah Ross.

Thursday, 22nd December at 4pm – Carol singing outdoors on the Recreation Ground. Join us at the Pavilion to sing your favourite Christmas carols, followed by refreshment. If it is raining, we will gather in the Church.

Christmas Day, 25th December at 10.30am – Christmas Communion in St Andrews Church.

We warmly invite you to join us – you will be most welcome!

Ann Orr and Fenella Williams
Churchwardens

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HURSTBOURNE PRIORS MAY FAIR 2023


BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY MAY 1st

Please save the date so that you can help make our main annual fundraiser for our Village a successful day.

Following confirmation that May Day (May 1st) will be a Bank Holiday as well as the May 8th Coronation Bank Holiday, the May Fair Team has already begun planning the 2023 May Fair.

Hurstbourne Priors May Fair is a popular annual event that raises funds for the Village Hall, St Andrew's Church and the Recreation Ground by attracting an enthusiastic attendance from the surrounding area (in 2022 there were about 900 cars).

Look out for details of our annual Big Breakfast and Pancake Race in the February issue of Hill and Valley. You can join in the fun and find out about how you can help with preparations in the run up to the Fair and on the day itself.

We are looking for new members for our May Fair Team and would welcome you (especially if you have recently moved to the village) to help organise Hurstbourne Priors May Fair 2023 to ensure its success and keep Hurstbourne Priors such an attractive place to live

For further information or to contribute ideas, please contact

Jim Vyse 07970 533764 or email:
hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com

Please put 1st May 2023 in your diary now!

Your village needs ewe!



WHITCHURCH SILK MILL


Christmas at the Mill

There's plenty going on at the Mill in the run-up to Christmas:

- Our Mill shop has an eclectic range of gifts, from children's toys to locally made preserves and gin to beautiful silk scarves and jewellery. We also have unusual Advent calendars and Christmas decorations, so do pop in; we're sure you'll find plenty to tempt you.
- If you're searching for a unique present, pieces from the 'Art Textiles' exhibition (see below) will be available to purchase.
- Our popular Christmas Market in the grounds of the Mill is on 3–4 December and will feature high-quality local exhibitors offering a range of tempting seasonal treats of an edible, practical and decorative nature. Free entry, 10.30am–4.00pm each day.
- The Christmas Market is much bigger this year, and we'll be very busy with preparations for it on 2 December, so with regret we've cancelled our plans to open The Weavers' Arms that evening.

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We are the UK's oldest working silk mill, a gem of industrial heritage on the world-famous River Test, and for more than 200 years have drawn power from the river via the waterwheel to wind silk on our historic winding frames. The rest of our historic and energy-intensive machinery is powered by electricity. We have taken steps to save energy wherever we can but we have reached the limits of these efficiencies and need help to keep weaving and retain what makes our Mill special. You can help us by becoming a Heritage Champion and enjoy the following benefits:

- Lifetime Friends Membership
- Free admission to the Mill for you and one accompanying guest

To find out more please contact Sue Tapliss, Mill Director, on 01256 892065.

Claim a 50% Discount with a 'Winter Pass'

Escape to Whitchurch Silk Mill on the banks of the River Test in beautiful rural Hampshire this winter. We are offering 50% off our standard admissions until 1 February 2023 and your ticket will automatically be valid to use as many times as you like in the time period of the offer. Winter is a stunning time to visit, as the long shadows draw across the face of the Mill building. There's plenty to see and do: discover the Mill's story, see our weavers weave silk as their forebears have done for centuries, test your own skills on our hands-on looms, and enjoy the café's refreshments either indoors or in the sun at our outside tables.

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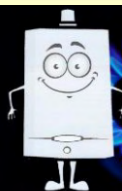
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Combine a visit to the Mill with a walk along the Mill Trail, passing five historic mills between Whitchurch and Laverstoke, and taking in picturesque scenery along the banks of the River Test. Bombay Sapphire and other attractions are nearby, too.

Weekday Deals at Our Café

Come for lunch at our riverside café on Tuesday–Friday between 11am and 3pm and enjoy our special deals on specified menu items such as two jacket potatoes and two hot drinks for £15, or £9.50 for tea and cake for two. This offer runs until 12 February 2023.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

ANDOVER FOODBANK

The Andover foodbank would like to say a huge thank everyone who has so generously donated to this year's Christmas Gift Box Appeal. We are currently distributing the boxes to our partners in the community who will then hand them out to local children in need – a total of 1200 boxes!

For any Christmas food donations, please could you get them to us by 2nd December. Thank you.

If you shop online, please consider registering with Give As You Live. Select us as your charity and we get a small sum each time you shop. There are over 6000 retailers signed up to the scheme, so you have plenty of choice with your Christmas shopping!

Visit www.giveasyoulive.com for more detail.

For more information visit our website at www.andover.foodbank.org.uk.

Thank you so much for your support. These items make such a difference to families in our local community.

Jenny Lelean, Andover Foodbank

WORDS OF THE MONTH



At the risk of repeating my self I offer you *SCURRYFUNGE* (a hasty tidying of the house before visitor arrive) as it is so seasonal and also *CONFELICITY* (pleasure in another's happiness).

And I reintroduce *DECACUMINATE* in the context of taking the top off a bottle in order to pour a drink and toast everyone's good health. The word can be related to removing the top from all manner of items so could also be horticultural.

Barbara Carrodus



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meets every other month on the final Wednesday at 6.30 in the Village Hall and the next meeting is on 25th January 2023.

All Parishioners are very welcome to attend. You do not need to give any notice, however, if there is a particular item which you would like to discuss and which you feel it would be beneficial for the Councillors to look into prior to the meeting, please contact either the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman, on richard.waterman150@btinternet.com or Clare Read, Chairman, on clareread@aol.com or 07711 917375. Minutes from previous meetings are available to view on the Parish Website.

TUFTON FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

Work continues on the replacement of the Tufton Footbridge and it is still, despite the dreadful weather, on track to re-open in January next year.

The remnants of the old bridge have now been removed, along with the original piers. All the waste materials have also been removed. The first pair of new piers has been constructed and the temporary dam structure that was needed for this has been removed. The dam has now been re-installed on the south bank to allow construction of the second pair of piers.

The next stage is to install the steel beams. Once this work is completed all the plant machinery can be removed and any ground disturbance made good. We hope to have a picture of the finished and re-opened bridge in February's Hill and Valley.

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council

COMMEMORATIVE BENCH FOR HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

We are very pleased that the new commemorative bench has been delivered to the Recreation Ground. The village has a history of purchasing such benches and the Parish Council had ordered one to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee earlier this year. Following Queen Elizabeth's death, it was agreed that the bench should commemorate both her Jubilee and her incredible life.

We hope that the bench will be enjoyed by residents and visitors for many years to come.



Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council

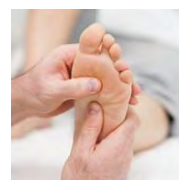
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THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Restoring confidence in the quality of English rivers – the Challenge for and the Role of the Environment Agency

with Alan Lovell
Chairman of the Environment Agency.

Monday 16th January 2023 at 8pm
King Edward VII Memorial Hall,
Upper Clatford, SP11 7QL.

We are privileged to live in the Test Valley, which includes 85% of the world's unique chalk streams, rightly described as "national treasures". Yet in The River's Trust 2021 report on "The State of our Rivers", only 14% are in good ecological health, and none meet the chemical pollution standards.

Alan will explain the role of the Environment Agency and how it will address the challenge in restoring the environmental integrity of these unique chalk streams.



Tickets cost £12.00 per person. You can scan the QR code to buy your ticket, or purchase them from Clatford Village Store & Post Office, Greenfield Farm Shop or Abbotts Ann Village Store.

FESTIVE BIN COLLECTION

Christmas can mean extra rubbish. Therefore, for the first collection after Christmas ONLY we will collect extra rubbish sacks left by your grey bin.

It is also an opportunity to recycle as much as you possibly can. We always collect extra recycling as long as it is inside a clear bin liner. In dry weather you can leave extra cardboard next to your recycling bin. Please ensure it is flattened and no bigger than 1m x 1m.

Wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your grey waste bin.

Collection days will change over the Christmas break – the usual collection day for Hurstbourne Priors of Friday 30 December will be on Saturday 31 December.

Unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 2 January 2023. There will be a two-week break for garden waste collections over the festive period. Collections will stop after Friday 23 December and will resume on Monday 9 January 2023.

HALLOWEEN FUN



St Mary Bourne

- 1 Dec** 8am - 'The Boundary' Village Shop opens
3 Dec 10.30 - 'The Boundary' ribbon cutting ceremony
3 Dec 10am to 12 Noon - 'The Repair Café' - The George Inn
10 Dec 8pm - Christmas Quiz - White Hart, Stoke
13 Dec 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
14 Dec 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre
16 Dec 6.30pm - 'Brrr! it's THE SNOW QUEEN' - Village Centre
17 Dec 6.30pm - Christmas Bingo - Village Centre
7 Jan 10am to 12 Noon - 'The Repair Café' - The George Inn
17 Jan 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
10 Jan 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
18 Jan 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre
17 Jan 7.15pm - 'The Film' - FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS - Village Centre

Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library** - Village Centre Club Room

Longparish

- 6 Dec** 7.30pm - Bingo - Village Hall
9 Dec 7.30pm - Meet the Brewer - The Plough
11 Dec 10am - L2SOTM Race - Cricket Ground
11 Dec 6pm - **Carols by Candlelight** - St Nicholas' Church
12 Dec 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
16 Dec 12 Noon to 2.30pm - **Friday Lunch Club** - Village Hall
17 Dec 7pm - Carolling - The Plough
22 Dec 7.30pm - Christmas Quiz - The Plough
23 Dec 7pm - Carolling - The Cricketers
26 Dec 11am - Santa Dash - Longparish Primary School
26 Dec 11.30am - Longparish Mimmers - The Cricketers
26 Dec 12.30pm - Longparish Mimmers - The Plough
13 Jan 9.15am - Litter Pick - Village Hall
24 Jan 6.30 to 9pm - Greening LP - Retrofit to make Energy Efficient Homes - The River Room, The Plough
24 Jan 7pm - Gardening Club - Village Hall
27 Jan 12 Noon to 2.30pm - Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall

Hurstbourne Priors

- 8 Dec** from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee - Hurstbourne Priors House
18 Dec 11am - **Carol Service** - St Andrews Church
22 Dec 4pm - **Carol Singing at the Pavilion**
18 Jan from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee - Misteltoe Cottage
25 Jan 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
4 Feb 4pm - **Piano Recital** - St Andrews Church

Stockbridge Music

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Christmas Oratorio

Bach Christmas Oratorio, Part Five

Saint-Saëns Oratorio de Noël

Andover Choral Society

Westminster Chamber Orchestra

St Mary's Church, Andover

Saturday 3rd December, 7.30pm

Tickets £15, available from choir members

and from The Lights box office on

01264 368368

Andover Sunday Markets

11th December 2022

18th December 2022

10am to 2pm - High Street

Front cover painting by Alix Baker (Bremridge)

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: helenford62@hotmail.co.uk

Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk

Longparish Community Hall: During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

Copy date for the February 2023 Hill & Valley edition: Wednesday 18th January 2023

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.

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Websites

* Hill & Valley pages on-line

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Longparish:

Parish Council: www.longparish.org.uk *

St Mary Bourne:

Parish Council: www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk *

Village Centre: www.stmarybourne.co.uk

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