

Issue No. 267

# Hill & Valley

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS, LONGPARISH, ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

50p

April 2023

*Happy Easter*

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The new Tuckshop



Disan with great grandson



Jessica



The new clinic



The Dedication Ceremony

Dear Friends,

This month's editorial comes from Mityana, Uganda. I was away a fortnight, having had to cancel in Oct 22 because of an Ebola outbreak. Our Deanery has strong parish and school links with twelve parishes in Mityana. But also has links with more rural places.

**A new Tuckshop** was built with funds raised from the children at St Martin's, (East Woodhay). Last year a boy was killed when he crossed the road to buy something from the old one. We met his father this year and dedicated the new one to Isaac. **The new kitchen clay oven** which uses so much less wood than an open fire.

**The 88-year-old man, Disan**, is a retired lay reader in the church. This man looks after his **great grandson, Herman (9)** who does most of the cooking (only once a day). His parents left him soon after birth. My first world problems seem to fade into insignificance when I visit him. The gratitude for our gift of a small food parcel is humbling.

**The flower is of a Melaleuca tree** called a 'Be Still Tree' – a good reminder for me!! Prolific and beautiful flowers but inedible fruit. Underneath the flower is a picture of the **water dam** in a very rural place called **Mugungulu**. We put it in 5 years ago and it provides water for 200 households (1200 people) so they don't have to walk 3 miles to a pump.

The girl is called **Jessica**. She is one of the lay readers who has been sponsored. Her village is about 3½ hours from Mityana. We received money to build a clinic and we were there for the Dedication Ceremony (see the Bishop cutting, not a ribbon but gauze from the treatment room.) During the course of our 24 hour stop-over three babies were born. Since opening in September 2022 they have treated 56 cases of Malaria, 70 infections (respiratory, urinary and gastro) as well as delivering 10 healthy babies from fifteen surrounding villages. Amazing!

On the right are the new desks some St Mary Bourne children ran 5 km to fundraise for in a new double class room block at their link school of Makonzi. An incredible achievement.

*Rev Canon Dodie Marsden*



The new kitchen clay oven



Melaleuca tree flower



Mugungula water dam



New class room desks



Finally, you can never have too many pairs of crocs!

So, as we move from darkness to light in our Easter celebrations, it does me no harm to remember those who have to walk 3 or 4 miles with a jerry can to collect water, or perhaps think of a woman who now doesn't have to get to a hospital clinic more than 8 miles away on the back of a motor bike.

But most of all to remember a gift given to us at Easter. From dark to light, sorrow to joy, from despair to hope in the resurrection.

**A happy and joyous Easter! DM**

Services in the Parish Churches

April 2023

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

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Holy Week - Palm Sunday**

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Family Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday**

St Nicholas', Longparish	7.30pm	Holy Communion Benefice Service
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**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday**

St Nicholas', Longparish	2.00pm	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Meditation

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>**

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00am	Service of Light
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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - Easter Day**

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter 2**

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott		No Service
<b>Church of England Zoom Service Online</b>		

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

All Hallows', Whitchurch	9.30pm	Holy Communion
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**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Easter 3**

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	Songs of Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott		No service
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - Easter 4**

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Family Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott		No service
Whitchurch Millenium Field	4.00pm	Benefice Forest Service
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

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."*

**Florence Fletcher** - baptised in St Peter's on 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Funerals**

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

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

**Gordon Martin** - St Mary Bourne

**Jon Baxter** - St Mary Bourne

**Jo Clear** - Longparish

**LET US PRAY** - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email [stnbrightwaters@icloud.com](mailto: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

**The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 100 Club**

**February 2023 draw:**

£50 - Mary Read    £20 - Jane Cook  
 £20 - Jez Ahl    £10 - Diana Robinson

**The next 100 Club Draw: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**



**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 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am**

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



**EASTER LILIES**

The Easter Sunday flower arrangements each year traditionally contain many lilies donated by relatives and friends in memory of those in their thoughts at the Festival of the Resurrection. It is a gift symbolizing hope and beautifying the

Easter services with sight and scent. We also make a display of the names of those who are being commemorated.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a member of your family or a friend who has died, please deliver it to Eve Lind-Smith at The Cottage, High Street or to her personally by **Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the very latest.**

We ask for **£1** for each person remembered, in an envelope marked **Easter Lilies**, with the name(s) **printed** on the outside of the envelope or on a card inside. NOTE: only list the usual Christian name and surname rather than full names. *Eve Lind-Smith*

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Big Breakfast** in February. It was great to see so many people coming together to enjoy breakfast together.

We were really pleased to be able to raise nearly **£1,400** for the Andover Contact Centre.

There will be another Big Breakfast before the Summer so watch this space! Many thanks. *Jo Boxer and Karen Crofts*

**Stoke Village Fund**  
**Drinks**  
**and AGM**

**Monday 24th April**

**7:30pm The White Hart, Stoke**  
 (cash bar only)

- Everyone is welcome.
- Stay informed and get involved
- Discuss plans for the Coronation
- We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for future events in Stoke

**The Lunch**

Our next village lunch will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12.30pm.

All are welcome to enjoy our monthly light social lunch with the suggested donation still only **£3**. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738 110 by Noon on the Tuesday.

**April Fool?**

All Fools' Day has a value in society which tends to take itself too seriously, or at least where the ruling and middle classes do so. There had once been a season of 'licensed mayhem and misrule' near Christmas, when the servants briefly took over as masters. That waned over the centuries, but you can't keep a good thing down. Priding ourselves on the remarkable British sense of humour, we might be surprised to discover that in fact April Fools' Day seems to have been an import from continental northern Europe, where it was found from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Its flavour is neatly summed up by the French expression for one who is fooled on 1 April, 'poisson d'Avril' - April fish.

The first reference to it in English seems to be made by the Wiltshire antiquarian and folklorist, John Aubrey. In 1686 he wrote, '*Fooles holy day. We observe it on y<sup>e</sup> first of April. And so it is kept in Germany everywhere.*' An early prank was to send gullible victims to see the lions being washed at the Tower of London. Its observation became more closely circumscribed, with pranks only allowed before twelve noon and pranksters after that time themselves being ridiculed as April Fools. Nor could you do more than deceive others to make them objects of fun. This still had its power, especially if the deceived was of a higher social class or a pompous rival. Good fun for children-of all ages.

With the slim dividing line between scams, fake news and 'my truth' on social media, and declining tolerance for social mischief, we might be well-advised to take a specially sceptical line on anything we hear on the morning of Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. But being a sceptical person the rest of the year does not seem to lead towards great personal peace and happiness. We have to believe in something. That first Easter Day made real fools of many... *MC*

**Snowdrops...Snowdrops** - Now is the time to plant them. **£1** for good sized clump in aid of the Church.

Elizabeth Maclay ☎ 01264 738 229 or [elizabeth.maclay@sladengreen.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth.maclay@sladengreen.co.uk)



**Confirmation**

On Christmas Day, Bishop David gave an open invitation to all the adults to think about Confirmation.

These days it's very different from the last century (and the century before). If you would like to think about this and chat over a cup of coffee, with others please do get in touch. There will be time to think things through before 11<sup>th</sup> June (at 4pm) when the confirmation service will take place. *Dodie*





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## Village Centre News

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please find the 2023 Chairman's and Treasurer's report on our website

[www.stmarybourne.co.uk](http://www.stmarybourne.co.uk) .

The Village Centre is looking for new members on the management committee which meets quarterly, and the trustees usually have a couple of additional meetings, so there is not a large time commitment. **Joining the committee is a good opportunity to give something back to your community.** The current members have been on the committee for many years and some of us feel it is time to hand on responsibility for this community asset. It really is vital now that the next generation step up and get involved so that we have new candidates to become trustees before any of us is next up for re-election in 2025. Please email [smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com) .

**For your diary:** We are pleased to let you know that the Watermill Theatre's rural tour is back on the recreation ground in St Mary Bourne for the third year running with their production of **'Mansfield Park'** on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. Details in the May and June editions of Hill & Valley.



It's hard to believe that this time last year we were just launching our Community Share Offer to raise money for the extension to the shop to include the Eco area and Café... twelve months and look where we are. Next month will see our first Annual Members Meeting for all those who brought shares in The Boundary, and we look forward to welcoming you all. It's still not too late, if you would like to become a member. Shares are

£25 each and you only have to buy one to get a vote. All members, regardless of how many shares they bought get one vote.

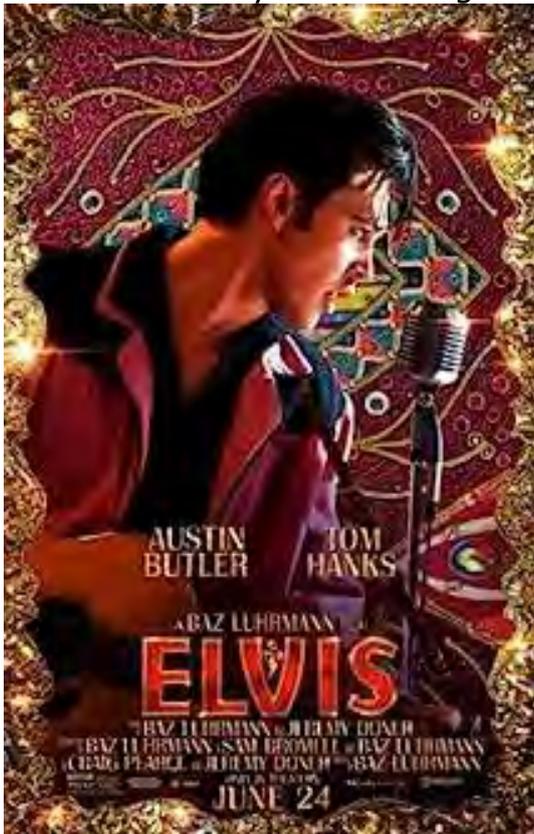
The Shop and Café has weathered the winter and is starting to emerge into the Spring sunlight. The decking is coming on and I hope will be finished by the time you read this. A MASSIVE thank you goes out to our amazing group of men who have built it. Oliver Madge, Ian Sarson, James Redfern, Andrew Shegog and Oscar Reid have all given up their free time to build this amazing space and we are very thankful to them for it!

The shop continues to be stocked with a mix of our value range and local produce. Fresh flowers arrive every Friday from the lovely Katie at Flora and Fauna. Fresh, local meat comes from Greenfields and Bere Mill Butchers; fantastic quality fruit and veg from Kenyons; delicious apple juice from Hill Farm; Summerdown Mint Chocolates... the list goes on.

We look forward to the King's Coronation in May and salute all of our amazing volunteers in honour of this. We have over 40 volunteers who all dedicate a small amount of time in the shop; either working behind the till, in the café, or helping to stack shelves. Every one of them is a huge asset to our community venture and without them The Boundary just wouldn't be the same. If you would like to join our happy family, please ask at the counter or email us at [theboundary@stmarybourne.org](mailto:theboundary@stmarybourne.org) . Full training is given, and you're never left on your own. We have regular meet ups, so you get to meet other volunteers. You get to help your community and have fun... it's a win – win!

So, here's to Spring, peeps and the long summer that hopefully lies ahead. We live in such a beautiful place, and this is just the right time of year to celebrate it. Wishing you a wonderful April! *Lara and the team xxx*

## 'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



P-G 13 • 2 h 39 m

Elvis follows the story of infamous rock 'n' roll star Elvis Presley seen through the eyes of his controversial manager Colonel Tom Parker. The film explores Elvis Presley's highs and lows and the many challenges and controversies he received throughout his career.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April - 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](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

[www.stmarybourne.co.uk](http://www.stmarybourne.co.uk)

**Next Film: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**Easter Opening Times**

GOOD FRIDAY 9AM - 1PM

SATURDAY 9AM - 4PM

EASTER SUNDAY CLOSED

EASTER MONDAY 9AM - 1PM

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER

P.S. We've everything you need for Easter including Easter Eggs, fresh local meat, fresh fruit and veg and lots more!



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## News and Views

### Parish Council Activities

**Annual Parish Assembly**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April - 19.30**  
**Village Centre Main Hall**

With spring almost upon us, it's time for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held. The purpose of the meeting is to let local residents hear from the parish council and other local activity groups. So this is an invitation to come along and hear what has been happening over the last year or two, and share some ideas about activities ongoing.

The meeting is also an opportunity for those within the parish to have a say on anything you consider important or valuable to the rest of the local community.

**The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all and refreshments will be available after the meeting.**

The agenda will be made available 7 days prior to the meeting, but please save the date / evening and come along to have your say or hear what the parish council has been up to.

### King's Coronation

Following the announcement that the Coronation weekend will take place between Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023, ideas and plans are currently being pulled together as to community events, and if anyone who like to get involved then please let us know. This maybe as part of the parish or within local hamlet communities.

Following on from the success of the Queen's Coronation last year, there will be a community picnic on the recreation ground for which grants are available. If anyone has any plans and is looking for some financial support, then please get in touch for more information.

### There's an election ahead

Following Kevin Noble's resignation from the Parish Council, due process has been followed and notification made available on the parish council notice board. B&DBC have now received more than 10 requests for an election and so this will now take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, as part of the wider council elections.

Anyone wishing to consider joining the election, please contact Max (as below) and more information will be provided. The choice of the next Parish Councillor will be in the hands of the parish community and so we will publish more information on anyone who wishes to stand.

Next parish council meeting:

**11<sup>th</sup> April - 18.30** Village Centre Club Room  
 Public more than welcome.

Annual Parish Assembly:

**11<sup>th</sup> April - 19.30** Village Centre Main Hall  
[www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk)

Copies of meeting minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or points to Maxine on [clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk). Facebook: Search for [www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage](https://www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage) - and like and follow to get updates, or pop along to the parish council office for a chat.

## Preparing to vote in the 2023 local elections

Local elections at our borough councils in Hampshire will take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.

This year, if you vote in-person at the ballot box, you will need to show an accepted form of photo ID at the polling station.

If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

If you are registered to vote by post you do not need photo ID.

If you are not yet registered to vote, you will need to do so by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April to ensure you can vote in the 4<sup>th</sup> May elections.

- You can go online to register - it only takes five minutes, and you'll need your National Insurance number
- You don't need to register for each election, but if you can't remember if you have registered to vote, you can check online
- If you can't register online, you can download a paper form

## Portals and Overton Mill, Heritage and Memories

Did you work at Overton Mill? Do you have relatives who worked there? If you didn't work at Overton Mill do you have memories of the impact of the Mill on village life?

If so, we would love to hear from you.

We are part of a group considering the effects of the closure of the Mill on the local community. Other subgroups are considering Environment & Ecology and Land Planning & Development, but our focus is on Heritage & Memories.

Working with Heritage Overton, our aim is to record the impact of the Mill on Overton over the last hundred years.

If you would, through your memories, like to help leave a record of Overton Mill and its legacy, then please contact us by email at [portalmemories@gmail.com](mailto:portalmemories@gmail.com) or at **67 Winchester Street, Overton, RG25 3HT**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Charles Cardiff, Valda Stevens, Chris Surtell*



St Mary Bourne Shop and Café Limited will be holding its **Annual Members' Meeting** at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May** in St Mary Bourne Village Centre.

The Management Committee will present the Annual Accounts and report on the performance of the business and plans for the future and on the state of the membership.

The current Management Committee was elected to serve for 3 years at the Special Members' Meeting held in January, so there is no need for an election at this meeting.

This meeting is for members holding shares in the Society only and if you are interested in becoming a member you can find further information at The Boundary or on the website (<https://stmarybourne.org/village-shop/the-boundary>).



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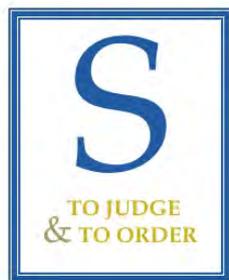
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## Light Touch Our Bright Waters

Winterbournes are unique to chalk areas and as intermittent streams they have unique species specially adapted to cope with periods of dryness. Ecologists call them "Cinderella" chalk streams because they are so often overlooked in favour of their more attractive perennial sisters downstream. In their dry phase they can look unattractive, weed filled or even dead, but research has shown that parts of the river which flow intermittently have a greater biodiversity than constantly flowing reaches.

They support a diversity of species depending on how much water is present; effectively treating the river as a 'time-share'.



For example, during the pool phase specialists like caddisfly larvae move into the temporary pools in the river. As those pools dry up mud beetles arrive to graze on the algal material left behind. Brown trout have adapted to swim to the upper reaches of the winterbournes during high winter flows, where they can find cool, clean gravel and less competition for spawning sites. As the waters recede during the summer, the adults and newly hatched juveniles move downstream. Other species have adapted to living in the same part of the river regardless of the state of flow. For instance, some specialist stonefly and mayfly nymphs are only found in the winterbournes and some beetles have evolved to inhabit river sediments which experience repeated inundation. The terrestrial plants and herbs that dominate the river in its dry phase provide habitat for pollinating insects, enhancing the productivity of nearby arable land, while the eggs of the water insects wait in the stream bed for the next wet period.

They are vulnerable to habitat damage. Cattle wading in the water erode the banks and cause clouding of the water removing light from the plants. The widening of the stream slows the flow allowing sediment to build up killing plants and insects. Then dredging might need to be done killing more of the dry bed inhabitants. Polluted water from roads being diverted into the river poisons wildlife, not to mention the occasional sewage outage causing nitrogen loving plants to take over and kill the beautiful water crowfoot. While over extraction can cause the upper reaches to become forever dry. The winterbournes are the powerhouse of our chalk streams. The moment they start to flow water species colonise and drift downstream to supply the whole river system with new organisms. They are an essential part of the landscape we live in, so let's cherish those dry stream beds and treat them with the respect they deserve.



## Stoke Litter pick

Stoke had an excellent litter pick on the 12th of March. Here are some of 28 who came to tidy the verges and roads. Huge thanks to everyone who took part.



### Top Tips for April

- Strimming in spring: Watch out for hedgehogs coming out of hibernation.
- Easter eggs: Buy chocolate eggs without plastic or foil, just paper wrapping or recycled egg boxes as holders.
- Bird feeders: Reuse plastic bottles and keep feeding the birds, but not whole peanuts (too big for hatchlings).
- Ink cartridges: Recycle by refilling.
- Recycled wool: Knit new jumpers from old or mend an old favourite.



### SBV dates for your diaries

SBV Annual General Meeting: **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm** at The George Inn.

Repair Café: Saturday **1<sup>st</sup> April** in the George Inn, 10 to 12 but not on Coronation Bank Holiday in May!

The Holiest Pants: Planting date Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, details next month.

## St Mary Bourne Cricket Club



With the excitement of the 2023 cricket season upon us (alongside some new nets beginning to be installed in the recreation ground) we are looking for some local sponsorship to push the club forward. You would be in great company with the George Inn kindly

sponsoring our cricketing match teas this season again.

We are also on the lookout for new members of all ages and abilities for our youth teams to our league team.

To contact us about this either please email [info@smbcc.co.uk](mailto:info@smbcc.co.uk) or message us on Facebook: [facebook.com/smbccricket](https://www.facebook.com/smbccricket).

Our upcoming fixtures are preseason senior friendlies (all home games). It would be great to see some new faces play as well as any support! **16th April, 23rd April, 30th April & 7th May.**

## Postcard from Binley

I was half listening to the wireless the other day when a forager came on to be interviewed who lived largely on roadkill. I expected him to be some hairy old hermit dwelling in rural obscurity somewhere like... well, Binley I suppose but in fact he was a retired accountant living in suburbia. Cheam I think, or was it Surbiton? I can't recall. But anyway, each day he'd be up before daybreak and head off from his world of clipped privet and pebble-dashed minds in to our Southern Counties to see what the night had left him.

He had his favourite ghoulish locations; the A3 particularly good for venison, the A271 for pheasant and so on. His delight at finding something still with a lingering pulse was even more disturbing, but then we found ourselves back at his home to examine the contents of his chest freezer. This is where radio wins hands down over television because your own imagination is taking you down the stone steps to his cellar, your mind is picturing the rusty old freezer pushed against a bare, damp wall and you inwardly gasp at the creak as the lid is lifted and the frozen cellophane rustles within. You couldn't pay me to watch a Test Match on the television, it's nothing more than organised loafing about but I wouldn't miss it on the radio because it is given life by the presenters; things other than cricket are discussed, it's painfully British and I love it. But back to Cheam where the conversation is becoming tedious as it inevitably does with accountants, retired or otherwise.

Suddenly, my ears prick up at the mention of "Badger ham"? Surely he can't be serious? But he is, and he hauls a frostbitten haunch from its icy home. Consulting my "Foods of olde England" recipe book I discover that Badger Ham was consumed widely in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was the centrepiece at an annual event at the Cow Inn in Ilchester where it was eaten as tradition insisted with penknives and no forks. It is said to be sweeter than pork but should be *"butchered in autumn when the beast has fed largely on berries and not in spring when its diet is mainly young rabbits and worms."* This is a great book and every household should have a copy. For instance, you could be forgiven for thinking a "Wigan Slapper" was a toothsome, tattooed lovely, murmuring sweet nothings in your lughole in a bus shelter on a wet Wednesday night in Lancashire? It is in fact a meat pie slung inside a sliced barm cake. So there! Reading on, I was disturbed to find "Nadger's Pie". My father always referred to nadgers as.... well, like this.

*"Dad, where's the dog?"*

*"At the vets with your mother having his nadgers off!"*

But I was relieved to see it is actually a pie of assorted chopped game and mashed potato, encased in short crust pastry and originating in Derbyshire's Peak District.

But enough of food, for there are far more important things we need to concern ourselves with. And I'm not talking about Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis or Sue Gray. This is serious. Toilet rolls are losing their cardboard innards. The heart of the bog roll is no more. Chalk up another victory for lettuce hugging sandal

wearers. The first shipment of Andrex has arrived at the house and I cannot tell you how my heart sank when I clapped eyes on them. When you get to my age you need things you can rely on. Toilet roll is one of those things. I want one that is firm yet giving. One that is soft yet unyielding. Most of us wrinklies can no longer trust a f\*\*t so this stuff is important to us. It's all about confidence. These are squidgy and I feel it's all going to end in tears.

NA

## Go Star Gazing in April

**6 April - Full Moon** - Moon will be located on opposite side of the Earth and the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. Known as Pink Moon by early Native American tribes.



**11 April - Planet Mercury Reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation from the Sun** - Best time to view Mercury as it will be at its highest point above the horizon in evening sky. Look for planet low in western sky just after sunset.

**20 April-New Moon** - Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. Best time of month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters as no moonlight to interfere.

**22-23 April - Lyrids Meteor Shower** - Average shower usually producing **20 meteors** per hour at its peak. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show.

When star gazing, allow about 10 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the dark. Please try to minimise light pollution by minimising outdoor lighting. This benefits wildlife, birds, insects, and mankind.

Rosie Shepperd

## CALLING ALL UNWANTED CHINA!

Have you got any unwanted China lurking around the house? We're collecting again for another Plate Smashing Stall for this year's Flower Show and Fête on 29<sup>th</sup> July. We'd welcome donations of any sort of China, especially plates and saucers but also chipped mugs, cups, teapots without lids or spouts etc. - anything you no longer want!

Do please leave any donations on our doorstep at Bourne House, St Mary Bourne or we will happily pick them up from you if it's easier - just call us on ☎ 01264 738 551.

With many thanks, *The Redfern Family*



## The Wonderful World of Water Voles

Have you ever walked by a chalk stream and seen a flash of fur? You may have been lucky enough to spot an elusive species – the water vole! These small mammals love the clear water and lush plant life that characterise chalk streams. While they are rather shy, staying quiet and still could reward you with another sighting; listen for rustling in the streamside undergrowth and the famous 'plop' of them diving into the water.

Water voles are known for the character of Ratty in 'The Wind in the Willows', and are often mistaken for their rodent cousin, the brown rat. Several features can help with this critter confusion: brown rats have a greyish hue, pointed muzzle, prominent ears, and hairless tail; water voles have a chestnut tint, short muzzle, small ears, and furry tail. Their way of swimming is another clue: if only the head is above water, it's probably a rat.

If you didn't get a good look, there may be other signs that water voles are present. They choose a special place for eating, so you might find plant stems nibbled at a 45-degree angle. You might also see a 'lawn' of shortened plants by the entrance to their bankside burrows. Another sign to search for is a latrine near the stream's edge; water vole droppings have a distinctive tic-tac shape, and can be green, brown, or purple in colour.

Once present throughout the UK, water voles have sadly become endangered in recent decades. Pollution and habitat loss have played a role, as has the spread of an invasive non-native species – the American mink. Originally introduced for fur farming, these voracious hunters can swiftly wipe out small mammal populations. According to one estimate, water voles have been lost from 97% of their former geographical range.

So, how can you help our furry friends? If you manage a chalk stream, leave a two-metre-wide margin of tall bankside plants, and do your habitat management outside the breeding season (spring and summer). If you walk your dog by a stream, keep them on a lead in places where water voles have been seen. In general, look out for American mink – you could even consider hosting a footprint raft or wildlife camera.

You can also monitor water vole populations in north and central Hampshire through the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme – contact [winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk) to learn more. Our work is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Online Talk: 'Water-Wise Gardening: Get Smart With Soil' 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7 - 8.30pm

Hear how to achieve healthy soil, and how doing so can help your garden to cope with dry weather. Learn top tips on avoiding the need for intense watering. Book at:

[www.hiwwt.org.uk/events](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events)



Photo: Terry Whittaker/2020VISION

Now is the time to start planning your vegetable and fruit entries.

This year's classes are designed to appeal to all. Courgettes, tomatoes, runner beans and rhubarb are some of the most productive and easy to grow. The supermarkets are struggling to supply so there's no better time to try self sufficiency! Early April is the time to sew courgette and tomato seed under glass. Alternatively wait until May when seedlings are available to buy from supermarkets and nurseries and plant them directly into the garden when the risk of frost has passed.

If you are moving, dividing or re-organising your garden please save your bits and pieces (preferably labelled) for the plant stall. We'd love to have them.

Do you have a small business that would like to take a stand on the day?

Please contact Richard Long for further information. [richard.long@chattertelecom.co.uk](mailto:richard.long@chattertelecom.co.uk)

## The Vitacress Charitable Fund



### Vitacress Committee looks to the future

The Vitacress Charitable Fund was established in 2003 for the benefit of residents of Longparish, Hurstbourne Priors and St Mary Bourne. Its aim is to help fund projects so people within those villages can take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities - as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health.

The Fund can give grants of up to 50% of the amount required for each individual project. Over the last twenty years the Committee has distributed around £50,000 across the three villages.

The charity has six trustees, two from each village, but several of them have now served for many years. There is a general feeling that it's time to encourage younger members of the three communities - those most likely to be involved in local activities - to join as trustees and gradually replace the older ones! It is NOT time consuming and has given the current trustees much pleasure in their time of service.

The current trustees are:

- Patrick Foote (Chairman), St Mary Bourne ([patrickfoote49@gmail.com](mailto:patrickfoote49@gmail.com))
- Sandra Grunsell (Secretary) St Mary Bourne ([sandragrunsell@hotmail.com](mailto:sandragrunsell@hotmail.com))
- Brian Mehaffey (Treasurer), Hurstbourne Priors ([mehaffey9@aol.com](mailto:mehaffey9@aol.com))
- Jim Vyse, Hurstbourne Priors ([jimvysearks@aol.com](mailto:jimvysearks@aol.com))
- Alison Cooper, Longparish ([alisoncoops@hotmail.com](mailto:alisoncoops@hotmail.com))
- Carol Dunford, Longparish ([caroldunford@hotmail.com](mailto:caroldunford@hotmail.com))

Please contact any of the current committee if you think you might be interested in joining.

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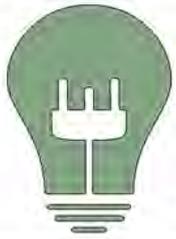


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## LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman  
[clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk) or telephone 01264 738716

## REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 13 MARCH

### PLANNING

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

- Erection of a ball stop net on the perimeter of the cricket ground at **Longparish Cricket Club**

### VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Working Party has been constructing a questionnaire which, once approved by TVBC, will be issued to residents. Feedback from the questionnaire will be used to review and revise the current Village Design Statement document.

### PC ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections are scheduled to take place on **4 May 2023**. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor must complete and return nomination paperwork to Test Valley Borough Council by hand no later than 4pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023. More information can be found here:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england>

### TREE WORK AT THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK AND CEMETERY

Following a tendering process, Councillors agreed the tree surgeon that the tree work contract will be awarded to. The PC received advice from the Parish Tree Warden who devised a schedule of works. An application for tree work has been submitted to TVBC for approval. It is hoped that work on the trees damaged by the October storm can take place during the Easter school holiday break.

### HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT – CANCELLATION OF BUS SERVICES – ONLINE PETITION

The Parish Council was notified by HCC that bus services between Longparish and Andover will cease to operate in April. Our Highways & Transport representative has been in contact with HCC's Community Transport team to find out about alternative provision. (See separate article in last month's Hill & Valley). There is an online petition running to save this bus service which can be found here:

<https://www.testvalleylibdems.org.uk/campaigns/save-our-buses>

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **8.30pm on Monday 17 April**, following the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm**.

Parish Council Meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcome 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](mailto:peter.hullpc@longparish.org.uk)

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

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

Day Trip by Coach to RHS Wisley.

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Garden Visit to a Garden near Salisbury Early Evening.



Any queries please to Rosie Lowry

01264720325 [rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com](mailto:rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com)

Or Marion Bell 01264720205



## Coronation Weekend Events

Save the date for the Coronation Weekend

More events are being planned over the weekend, with a Coronation Service at St Nicholas, FoLS Longparish Run and Coronation Party on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Then on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** there will be a **LCA Fun Afternoon** (raising money for Andover Food Bank and Naomi House). Also planned are a **Discovery Trail** and **Decorating St. Nicholas Church** for the King's Coronation. For more information, look out for posters around the village and in this edition of Hill & Valley.

## LCA Survey

Last month's Hill & Valley included a survey about the LCA and events you would like to see running in the village. Please take some time to complete it and drop it in at the shop for us to collect or complete it online here: <https://forms.office.com/r/acqJqHTe6p>

## Village Fete Proceeds

LCA are very grateful for the decision made by the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and the Village Hall to make available some of the proceeds from the village fete to residents. The LCA committee are inviting applications from residents now for grants. Please email [treasurer.lca@longparish.org.uk](mailto:treasurer.lca@longparish.org.uk) or write to us via the shop where we will collect it. More information will follow at the LCA AGM and New Villagers Event on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April** as well as in Hill & Valley.

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## Longparish Primary School

Spring is coming! New Life is bursting out of the ground, in the plants and in the animals.

Jane Goodall, reflecting on her

childhood experiences wrote:

*'When I think of my childhood, I remember spring bulbs pushing up pale shoots through the dead leaves, spiders in the garden carrying tiny babies on their backs, the scent of violets and honeysuckle, and the sound of the wind rustling the leaves as I perched for hours in the branches of my beech tree. It was that magic of childhood that shaped the passion that drives me to spend my life fighting to save and protect the last wild places on the planet.'*

We adore science here at Longparish. Hands-on learning and practical experiments are encouraged and celebrated in every Year Group, with the aim of encouraging children to want to be scientists, or environmentalists, or even just deep thinkers who appreciate the awe and wonder of our planet.

Our Reception class have been amazed this week, to see chicks hatch out of eggs in their class. Next term they will watch that incredible transformation from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

We have also just had a 'science week' across the whole school.



The week is specifically designed to allow the 'awe and wonder' of science to be celebrated and explored.

There was much glee and delight as children watched coke spurt like a geyser out of its bottle, when mentos sweets were dropped into it. Children also explored the wonder of chromatography seeing how black ink can be separated into different colours and were thrilled at making a 'non-Newtonian fluid' (a fluid that does not follow Newton's law of viscosity; and can be a liquid but then, when under force, becomes a solid). As well as making it they enjoyed watching a video clip of this same liquid being poured into a swimming pool, and then have people run, and even ride a bike, across it.

Abraham Heschel, a Jewish Rabbi, and philosopher argued that awe and wonder are religious emotions

because they reduce our feelings of self-importance, and thereby help to cultivate the proper reverent attitude towards God. Others may argue that science takes away the awe and wonder – does looking up at the stars diminish your awe and wonder of them when you know that they are mere globs of gas atoms?

Our week of science certainly did not diminish children's awe and wonder of the world. It generated great questioning and deep thinking. It was, undoubtedly, a part of 'that magic of childhood;' that may well have shaped a passion in the children that could (hopefully) develop into a successful career in science or environmental studies.

**Mark Ward**  
Headteacher



## Longparish Little School

At Little School we like to celebrate special days for the children. In February we had Dominican Republic

Independence day. We had a special snack time where we had mango, pineapple, plantain crisps and coconut milk. We used drums to play along to Bachata music. One of our Mums came in and read us a story in Spanish and taught us a dance. To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, we made pancakes and invited our families for a special snack time.

We would like to thank everyone that came along to our fundraising Pamper evening and especially to Sarah for organising it. We raised £245. We thought if the grownups had a pamper then the children should too. They really enjoyed the pamper morning having their nails painted, cucumber eye masks, putting on their make up (face paints) and having their hair plated or brushed.



The children also enjoyed exploring the snow. We went for a walk across the field and found treasure that the snow pirates had buried.

If you would like to see some photos of all the exciting things we do at Little School you can go to our website [www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk](http://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup>

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# Friends of Longparish School

EVENTS NEXT MONTH

## The Longparish Run Sunday 7 May

### May Fayre Saturday 20 May 12pm-4pm

[www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish)

#### Friends of Longparish School

**The Longparish Run:** Bookings are now open for the Longparish Run on **Sunday, 7 May!** With 10k, 5k and 3k routes around the village, everyone is welcome to take part. Register at [www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish)

+ We will need volunteers for the event. Could you help with registration, water stations, refreshments, or course marshalling? Fill in our volunteer form at [tinyurl.com/5xhuejx2](http://tinyurl.com/5xhuejx2)  
+ Why not sponsor the runners from Longparish Primary School at [tinyurl.com/3p9nbht5](http://tinyurl.com/3p9nbht5)

**May Fayre:** The countdown is on! Join us on **Saturday, 20 May from 12pm-4pm**. You can look forward to: BBQ and cake stall, beer tent run by The Cricketers Inn, giant inflatable and bouncy castle, traditional fayre games, free kids crafts, and lots more!

#### Can you help?

+ We will be doing our annual collection for donations to the Bottle Tombola at the end of April. Leaflets will be posted through letterboxes in the village soon. Donations can also be left at the school reception. This is one of our most popular stalls, and we very much appreciate your support each year.  
+ We are looking for donations of second-hand toys and books (children's and adult's) to sell at the Fayre. Or could you bake a cake for our refreshments stall?  
**Donations** can be brought to school after **3pm on Friday 19 May**, or on the day.



**World Book Day:** We celebrated World Book Day last month with a second-hand book sale at school, including giving a FREE book to all pupils.

For more information about FoLS visit [www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish) or follow us on Facebook at [fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool](https://fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool)

Jo Allam, Chair ([chairfols@gmail.com](mailto:chairfols@gmail.com))



**Friday Lunch Club in the Village Hall 28<sup>th</sup> April  
12-2pm**

#### A pre-Coronation Celebration!

Open to anyone of any age but please book for catering purposes.

To book lunch and or transport for any date ring **Andrea 720 457** or **Christian 720 398**

#### LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2023!!

Next Litter pick is on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. Free coffee afterwards at the Coffee Club. Meet behind the **Village Hall at 9.15 am**, the Parish Council will supply litter picking sticks, hoops, and bags. If we pick the litter on the 14<sup>th</sup> there will be less to pick on the Village Clean-up Day so the focus can be on other jobs. For more information Tel **Christian Dryden 720 398**



#### Calling All Rusty Racquets

Have not picked up your racquet in ages?  
Had some lessons but not played since?  
Want to have a go but not sure how?

**Come along to our  
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Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 2pm**

Bring the family  
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**For further information, find us on Facebook  
#WhitchurchTennisClub or visit our website  
[www.whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk)**



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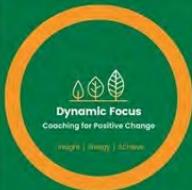
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### UPDATE ON MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

At the beginning of March, as part of the second pillar Making space for Nature, we had a very interesting talk from the Wessex Rivers Trust and an update of the Toad Patrol scheme running in the valley. Both these topics

were very relevant to the Wild Isle Series currently showing on BBC1, Sunday nights. Who knew that toads are not only in danger crossing the roads but also some baby toads have to also navigate through the toad munching leeches to get back to their habitat! Hopefully not in the Valley though.

### UPDATE ON MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT AND WARMER

**Thermal Imaging Camera** We are coming to the end of the time when a thermal imaging camera to find cold spots is most effective. If you would like to borrow the Greening Longparish Camera do get in touch. **01264 720 398**

### Some useful websites and videos to help you work out the best way to make your own home more energy efficient and carbon neutral.

1. **Home Energy series on YouTube, 6 episodes**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Fvn\\_kPZcU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Fvn_kPZcU)
2. **Exhibition for those who love the knowledge 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April**, Farnborough. A lot about electric vehicles but also Home energy.  
<https://fullycharged.show/events/fully-charged-live/>
3. **Centre for sustainable Energy**  
<https://www.cse.org.uk/advice>

Please get in touch if you want to become part of a community project – to enhance the space for nature we already have in Longparish or are interested in finding out more about making your home more energy efficient and warmer.

[Green@longparish.org.uk](mailto:Green@longparish.org.uk) Tel 720 398

### Save the Date

Longparish Village and Church Fete  
9th of September 2023  
Longparish Cricket Ground

Looking forward to all previous stall holders to offer their services this again this year.

We are still seeking individuals interested in getting involved in the leadership of running the fete again this year. Anyone interested should contact LCA, Village Hall committee or the Church wardens for more info.

### LONGPARISH WILDLIFE A WINTERS WALK



We start from home as usual with the dog and go down the back path. It is quiet down here just a couple of **Blue Tits** and **House Sparrows**. We then turn right where a couple of **Collared Doves** are sitting on the wires and more sparrows hide in the hedge by Preston Cottage. At the pony paddock are **Jackdaws**

and **Rooks** looking for food and a **Red Kite** flying over. Turn left on to Mill Lane and a **Duncock** is sitting on top of the hedge singing away. A bit farther along a **Robin** is doing the same. At Lower Mill bridge there are a pair of **Swans**, two **Cormorants** sat in a tree and a **Heron** is sat on the bridge to the island. Turn left towards the ford at the Trout lake are **Canadian Geese**, **Greylag Geese**, **Great Black-Backed**, **Lesser Black Backed**, **Black-headed** and **Herring Gulls**, **Coot**, **Moorhen**, **Tufted Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Pied** and **Grey Wagtails**, a small flock of **Meadow Pipits**, **Mistle Thrush**, and a **Redwing**, WOW that's a lot of birds. On to the Ford, a couple of **Blackbirds** and some **Goldfinches** are having a drink. Heading down Nuns Walk, a mixed flock of birds on my right **Long-Tailed**, **Blue** and **Great Tits**, **Goldcrest**, **Nuthatch**, and a **Treecreeper**. it's nice to find a flock like that. Over Owls Lodge is a **Buzzard** and a few **Carriion Crows**. Turn right on South Side Road at the bridge is the usual tame **Little Egret**, **Little Grebe**, and a **Kingfisher**. On we go turn right back into Mill Lane and a couple of **Chaffinches** are sat in an Ash tree and I can see a **Pheasant** the other side of the hedge. On my left are a few **Woodpigeons** and a few more tits in the hedge. Back to Tudor Cottage turn right and there is a small flock of **Starlings** in the Oak tree. Back to the shop and home. I hope you enjoyed our walk we saw 43 different birds.

The Rooks are nesting two weeks early and I've seen a Robin carrying leaves to build its nest, spring must be around the corner.

Chris Bowman



### Barton Stacey WI:



We would like to invite anyone interested in seeing what our local WI is about to join us on **April 27th, 7:30 PM** at the **Barton Stacey Village hall**. Our next meeting is a session of Armchair Pilates.

More information about our group can be found online: <https://www.facebook.com/BartonStaceyWI>

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

It was good to see Alice Evans for the March race. Alice, Andy Smith, and Jeremy Barber are three of the originals from the first race back in October 2006 and between them they have 315 finishes.

Andy has a bit of a history of coming in second but today was his day. He finished over a minute ahead of the field and became our Most Improved Man for the first time in over seven years. Most Improved Woman was Sandra Doney and Darrell Waite had a personal record in 3rd place. Well done all!



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

The next race is on **Easter Sunday, 9 April**, starting at 9am. All finishers will be awarded an Easter Egg. New runners are always welcome. You do not have to be fast. Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you would like to join us.

Jeremy Barber  
01264 720459 [mrjeremybarber@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeremybarber@gmail.com)



All Stars cricket for children in Years 1 -3 is returning to Longparish Cricket Club on Monday evenings from 5 - 6pm starting on **Monday 8 May 2023**. To register your child please go to [allstarscricket@co.uk](mailto:allstarscricket@co.uk). Every participant receives a personalised kit bag including a bat, ball, and t-shirt.

## Longparish Cricket Club

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the **Murder Mystery** fundraising event such a success. Firstly, to the **Longparish Players**, led by Andy Smith, who took up the challenge to put on a play and commit to hours of rehearsal and line learning (particularly Richard Williams and Sandra Jones)! Thank you, Richard Williams, for funding the script and performing rights. The result of their talents, tenacity and comic timing was a masterpiece worthy of the West End and left their fans hungry for more.

They did not have to wait long to have their appetite satisfied by some delicious and flavoursome Chilli cooked and donated by the **Red-Hot Chilli Ladies and Man** – thank you all so much, you know who you are!

No village event would be complete without a raffle, and the beautiful flowers given by Helen Ridge of **Petal Boutique**, and the renowned **River Test Distillery** gin donated by the Nelsons, along with a stunning print of the Longparish cricket ground painted by **Alison Cooper's** father, helped raise further funds.

And a Massive Thank You to LCC committee members Andrea, Ingrid and Donna who organised all the above (apart from the actors on stage), including selling the tickets, front of house, running the bar, feeding over 100 people, and clearing up afterwards!

A special mention to young club players, Stephen, Dan and Wilf who combined stage crew/sound/lighting/waiting at table and being the runners for anything that was needed – great work boys!

And lastly, thank you to all the village that came to support the Players and the Cricket Club, giving so generously and being such a riotous audience – it was great fun!

Raising funds is so important for the club to continue being a central part of the village. Before a ball is bowled, along with any modern club, there are many associated costs to comply with rules and regulations as well as certain requirements set out by the cricket league. On top of which at Longparish, we need to cover the cost of a new “ball-stop” safety net and the eventual re-thatching of the pavilion roof.

The Murder Mystery event was particularly aimed at raising money for the re-thatching fund and I am delighted to say that you all raised £2,019.40! **THANK YOU ALL!**

**Cricket Club membership open:** Please e-mail Longparish Cricket Club if you would like to join and support our village club – e-mail for more details: [longparishcc@gmail.com](mailto:longparishcc@gmail.com)  
**Planning Permission sought**

The Longparish Cricket club are seeking planning permission to put up a retractable 8m high ball-stop net to protect users of the playpark being hit by stray balls during the cricket season. Please see the planning notice on the TVBC website for more details.

**James Hillier (LCC Chair)**

**‘JUST DESSERTS’ - a murder mystery and Cricket Club Production**

\*\*\*\*\*

On 4 March the Longparish Players, that much missed repertory company, staged a fine comeback to a packed house.

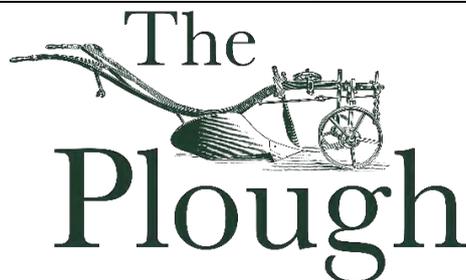
What an honour it was to see Dame Sandra Jones reprise her well-established role of a killer (a skill honed on one sheep and one goat). Andrea Harris’s asset-flashing was pure method acting at its best.

Martin Lampard showed the true cynicism of us theatre critics and James Hillier’s Mayor Graham charmed us with his yet unconquered lisp and timidity. Richard Williams performed magnificently without corpsing, as we say in the industry, until his final moment. How we enjoyed the latest acting dynasty of the Hulmes! And, of course, Jeremy Barber’s combined role of policeman and flasher (clue cards only).

Toby Cooper’s Bishop Joseph (aka Joanne out of respect for modern all-inclusive trends) gave one of his finest performances taking as his inspiration, no doubt, so much of the play-acting one sees in gatherings of the Synod.

The evening was magnificently supported by Andy Smith, the A\* MC in the DJ, the handsome waiters, the caterers/raffle ‘Debbies’, raffle-donators, and the organisers.

We now look forward to the Players’ national tour with ‘Privacy - A Whinge Too Far’.



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**Award Winning Pub**

It’s Spring time at the Plough and our wonderful new garden is getting ready for lighter evenings, sunnier days and fun times ahead! We’re planning festivities for the Coronation week and will launch a new Spring menu in April so look out for details in the pub, on our website [www.ploughinn.org](http://www.ploughinn.org) and on social media too.

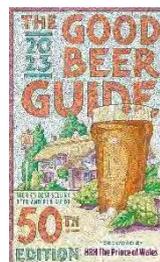
We can exclusively reveal that Steve and Lucy are planning a couple of their legendary quiz nights for the Spring and early Summer. Always massively popular. And perhaps another Theme night too..... Book early to avoid disappointment.

We’ve had a fantastic start to the year with three really busy months trading. Great reviews continue to roll in and we say a big thank you to our community and customers for your support.

Come and sit by one of our roaring fires and enjoy our award-winning ales, delicious menu, really warm welcome and beautiful, cosy pub! And don’t forget that we do a take-away menu too offering our most popular items.

We’re so proud of our community pub and love to share it with you, please do tell your friends and family about us.

Steve, Lucy, and the team



Editorial Appeal: We are still seeking interesting articles for our pages. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please email [hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk](mailto:hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk)

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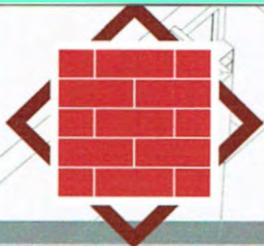
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**WEATHER - FEBRUARY 2023**

Total rainfall for month	9mm	0.35in
Rainfall same month last year	84mm	3.3in
Total for 2023	143mm	5.62in
Total for 2022	110mm	4.33in
Max temp (on 15 <sup>th</sup> )	15C	59F
Min night temp (on 9 <sup>th</sup> )	9C	48F
Min temp (6 <sup>th</sup> )	-5C	23F

No February “fill dyke” this year.\*

The Met Office says it was the driest February for 30 years.

*John Smail*

\* fill dyke - a rural appellation for the month of February when rain or melting snow fills the dykes with water.

**LADIES COFFEE MORNING**

Caroline Glover is hosting our April coffee morning. All are welcome from 10.15 am at Longhatch, No.33, on Thursday, 20th April.

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

**A NEW EDITOR NEEDED!**

After nearly five enjoyable years and with the imminent arrival of a second grandchild, the time has come for me to handover the editorial pen for the Hurstbourne Priors pages of the Hill and Valley.

If you would like to take this on, or would like to know more about what it entails, please phone 01256 892081 or email [fenella.williams@btopenworld.com](mailto:fenella.williams@btopenworld.com)

*Fenella Williams*

**EASTER LILIES**

At Easter we have beautiful flower arrangements with lilies. If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter lilies in church in memory of a loved one, please could you give it to Ann Orr or Fenella Williams by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III**

You are invited to a special ‘royal’ tea on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 15:00 to celebrate the coronation of our new King. Since Hurstbourne Priors is famous (and rightly so) for its cakes it seems a fitting way to celebrate. We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join in the fun.

There will be a ‘best crown’ competition for any aspiring Kings and Queen Consorts as well as a fun, all ages, rounders match and the Pavilion Bar will be open to help celebrate.

If you would like to help make sandwiches or cakes, pull pints or pour wine please get in touch with Clare Read at [clareread@aol.com](mailto:clareread@aol.com)

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE****Party at the Pavilion**

Please save the afternoon and evening of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of June for the ‘Party at the Pavilion’. A fun and fabulous feast with live music, competitions, bar and raffle to raise money for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

Unfortunately the drains need to be replaced and the Pavilion requires a new thatch as well as updating the showers, changing rooms and some of the fittings.

Full details in next month’s Hill & Valley. If you would be interested in joining the organising team please contact Lulu Beasley on [beasleylulu@gmail.com](mailto:beasleylulu@gmail.com)





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**The Mill at Rotations Charity Shop**

Please raid your wardrobes and cupboards and help us stock the Rotations Charity Shop when we're resident between 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April. We don't have room to store your donations at the Mill so please take them straight to the shop during our fortnight. Please note we cannot accept electrical items, knives or videos. This year, more than ever, we're in need of the income we'll gain from Rotations, to help with our running costs.

**Can You Knit? And if so ...**

... would you knit a small crown, or several, or many(!), to raise funds for the the Mill? We'd love your help to create a mass collection entitled 'A Treasury of Crowns' which will be displayed at the Mill in April for visitors to see and admire, and then the individual crowns will be for sale in our shop in the first week of May and at the Mill's Coronation event. A free pattern is online at <https://knittingbypost.com/free-king-coronation-crown-knitting-pattern/> and one crown takes about an hour to knit. Finished crowns can be dropped off at the Mill for the attention of Amanda Wiltshire, or can be posted to Whitchurch Silk Mill, 28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7AL.

**Wild and Wonderful Family Day**

Local animal and nature charities will be in the Mill gardens on 5 April for our second Wild and Wonderful Family Day. Free entry to the grounds will allow you to enjoy the Mill's surroundings and you'll be able to take part in activities that will teach you about the wildlife in Hampshire, for example river-dipping with an expert to see the various creatures that can be found in the River Test. Children will also be able to make pictures with a local artist to form a large mural that will then be used to create a colouring book to sell in the Mill shop. The pictures will also join others from around the UK as part of the Art Fund's Wild Escape project, which is collecting pictures and stories created by children to make a British wildlife mural that imagines a better future for our wildlife, and which will be launched across the UK on Earth Day, 22 April.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

On Monday 3 April between 10.30 and midday we're holding an Easter Egg Hunt in the gardens and the ground floor of the Mill building. Pre-booking is essential for children taking part in the Hunt, and there is no fixed time for starting. Each participating child will receive a collection bag and there will be 13 chocolate letters for them to find. If your child needs dairy-free alternatives please email [jessica.bone@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:jessica.bone@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) after making your booking so she can make special arrangements for you. Cost £4.50/participating child. There is no charge for accompanying adults and children. However, usual

charges will apply if you wish to visit other parts of the Mill.

**The Waterwheel**

At the heart of Whitchurch Silk Mill is the historic waterwheel, which has been turning through the centuries to provide power for the machinery. The thumping and swooshing sound of the wheel is the heartbeat of the Mill, but some of its ancient parts were badly affected by many months of shutdown during the Covid pandemic and restoration was needed, so there's been silence for a couple of years. Nigel Spender of G&H Spender, our Industrial Heritage Conservator, has milled, turned, ground and sawn his way through this complex and extensive restoration, suffering inflationary prices and the closure of numerous vital suppliers which made his job much more difficult than it might have been. In addition, each layer of the wheel that Nigel unpicked revealed another list of essential repairs. However, we are delighted to announce that the restored waterwheel has now passed its trials and will begin running again from early April with limited operation. Further details about the restoration and recommissioning can be found on our website.

**Current Exhibition – 'In and around the Mill'**

Between 1 April and 25 June Visual Marks – Textile Artists will be in our exhibition space showing art inspired by the Mill and its surroundings. The group's artists use many forms of media, including machine and hand stitching, painting, collage and appliqué, and the exhibition will show a diverse and interesting collection for visitors to enjoy. Free with admission to the Mill.

Contact: [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) – 01256 892065 – [www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)

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**WORD OF THE MONTH**


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The word for April is GOBEMOUCHE which the Oxford Dictionary lists as meaning gullible listener. It comes from the French *gober* (to swallow whole) and *mouche* (fly). With a hyphen, GOBE-MOUCHE means fly-catcher.

Hopefully there will be no April Fools amongst our readers!

*Barbara Carrodus*

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**ANDOVER FOODBANK**


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The Andover Foodbank would like to thank everyone who has generously donated over the past few weeks, in particular for all the Easter Eggs that have been coming in. We are incredibly grateful.

This week we are in need of the following items:

Long Life Fruit Juice	Tinned Fruit
Tinned Fish	Long Life Milk

Laundry pods/tablets	Toothbrushes
Dishcloths	Nappies – Size 5 and 6
Deodorant – both male and female	

Thank you so much.

*Andover Foodbank*  
([www.andover.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.andover.foodbank.org.uk))



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## NEW HURSTBOURNE PRIORS VILLAGE WEBSITE

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that the new website will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April at [www.hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.org.uk)

The previous website was rather old fashioned and we were unable to provide enough information for all the elements we would like to include and which we felt were useful both to the village residents and those wanting to use either the Recreation Ground and Pavilion or the Village Hall. There will now be 'live' diaries for both clearly visible so if you want to book either you will be able to see what dates are available and simply click on a link to make a booking.

All approved minutes from past Parish Council meetings will be available and the Agenda for each meeting will be available to view one week prior to meetings.

Any events happening in the village will be advertised on the new site, whether that is the May Fair, the date and venue of ladies coffee mornings or who to contact if you are interested in taking part in the annual village Safari Supper. In addition if residents would like something featured they can request its inclusion on the site. It has taken a while to get modernised but we hope that in the next few weeks and months our new village website will be a source of both useful and helpful information.

If anyone has any photographs that we could use on the new website please do send them to [richard.waterman150@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.waterman150@btinternet.com)

*Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

## ST ANDREWS REELS - 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

**Save the Date!**

**St Andrew's Reels**  
in aid of St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**  
The Barn, Chapmansford Farm House

Dinner & Dancing £40    Black Tie / Tartan / Smart  
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[St.AndrewsReels@gmail.com](mailto:St.AndrewsReels@gmail.com) (numbers limited)

*Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, Eightsome,  
Duke of Perth, Hamilton House, Reel of the 51st*

## ANDOVER OLDER PEOPLES FORUM

It has been an exciting year for the Forum since our last AGM in April 2022.

There have been lively meetings and interesting and informative visiting speakers. The Notice Board newsletter which was started in the Pandemic to keep us all in touch has proved very popular going out by email to email connected members and delivered through the door to those who are not into IT.

The Website has just got better and better containing a mine of useful information. If you haven't seen it do take a look or find us on Facebook.

We are eagerly looking for a member, or new member, with website and social media know-how and, in particular the Wix platform, to join the team. Anyone with a little experience would get full support from our two IT members who currently manage the website and Facebook page as volunteers. They would love to train-up someone new to help out – so please contact AOPF if you are interested by email: [andover.opf@gmail.com](mailto:andover.opf@gmail.com) or ring 01264 737251.

In any case why not come and see for yourself what we have been doing and what is planned for the next year – there's no fee and new faces are always welcome. Bring a friend if you would like to.

Our next meeting is to include our AGM and will be held at the Baptist Church, Charlton Road, Andover starting at 2.15pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. There will be refreshments and a raffle and as an extra treat there will be some home made cakes to go with your cuppa! What not to like? Look forward to seeing you.

## BIG BREAKFAST AND PANCAKE RACE

A crowd of eager pancake racers gathered at the Pavilion on 26 February with frying pans at the ready. Fortified by a hearty breakfast cooked by Jim Vyse the racers lined up under starters orders from Hannah Ross. The races were hotly contended, pancakes were tossed (and dropped). Everyone had a good time and heard some more about the May Fair and how they can take part.



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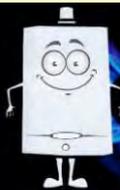
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**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS MAY FAIR  
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May  
from 12noon to 4pm**



The May Fair is nearly here! Our village stalls would be very grateful for contributions to their stalls to help make the May Fair a great success as our main annual fundraiser for our village amenities: the Village Hall, St Andrew's Church and the Recreation Ground.

Please do have a look and see if you have any nearly new clothes, books or bric-a-brac items, or maybe you can bake a cake, or make sandwiches. All contributions will be most welcome.

Some stallholders would still welcome some help with their stall on the day – even half an hour of ‘minding the shop’ to give someone a break. If you would like to help, please contact the stall holder direct (see below) or come along to the **Stallholders and Helpers meeting in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday, 17 April at 7.30pm**

We are also looking for volunteers who can help with putting up tents on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am (bacon rolls and cake provided).

The May Fair organising team: Jim Vyse (Chairman), Kim French, Kate Gardner, John Perry, Clare Read, Susie Urquhart, Fenella Williams [hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com](mailto:hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com)

 <p><b>Nearly New Stall</b></p> <p>We would welcome nearly new clothes for ladies, men and children - and belts, handbags, jewellery, hats etc in good condition and unwanted coat hangers too!</p> <p>Please drop of any items off at Meadow View, Longparish Road (last house on the left going towards Longparish) <b>before</b> 15<sup>th</sup> April. If no-one is in, please leave your donations on the bench at the front. (No jumble please!)</p> <p>After 15<sup>th</sup> April, please contact Susie Urquhart (07880 733121)</p>	 <p><b>PRE-LOVED TOYS</b></p> <p>We'd appreciate donations in good condition for the Toy Stall, Teddy Tombola, Lucy Dip:</p> <p><b>Toys - Soft Toys - Games &amp; Jigsaws for all ages - Children's books - Arts &amp; Crafts kits - Fancy Dress - Outdoor Toys - Bikes - Party Favours - Wrapped sweets &amp; lollipops - ANYTHING FUN!</b></p> <p>Please contact Kim French 07715 645 096 / 01256 892970 to arrange collection or drop off. I can take donations any time after Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Many thanks!</p>	<p><b>BRIC-A-BRAC</b></p> <p>At last you can get rid of those bits and pieces you set aside for the Bric-a-brac stall during your Covid clear-outs....</p> <p>Please bring anything you wish to contribute to the Village Hall between 10am and 4pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April. If you need assistance and cannot get to the Village Hall on that day, please contact <a href="mailto:Sarah@Wyatt-Tilby.com">Sarah@Wyatt-Tilby.com</a> to arrange collection. Please note: No electrical items, books, CDs, clothes or damaged china/glass. Thank you! James and Sarah Wyatt-Tilby</p>
 <p><b>TEAS</b></p> <p>Donations of ready made filled rolls and sandwiches or the ingredients (eg: bread, cheese, ham, salad or other fillings) and cakes or traybakes would be very gratefully received. Please drop them off at the Village Hall on the day. Thank you! Fenella (01256 892081)</p>	<p><b>CAKE STALL</b></p> <p>Donations of cakes, meringues, cheese straws, flapjack, cup cakes, home made bread etc to the cake stall would be extremely appreciated. Please drop off to Emma Ryan (07773 350065) at Watercress Cottage, 3 Hurstbourne Priors the day before or bring to the cake stall on the day.</p>	<p><b>BOOK STALL</b></p> <p>Please leave any books for the Book Stall at the Village Hall or at no 43 Hurstbourne Priors from Friday 28 April. Many thanks! David and Tom</p> 
<p><b>T O M B O L A</b></p> <p>We should be grateful for donations of unopened gifts such as puzzles, bath/shower items, chocolates, candles, scarves, gift vouchers etc.</p> <p>Please contact Hannah (07980 514938) or Andy Ross (07766 252501) at The School House to arrange collection/drop off from 24<sup>th</sup> April onwards.</p>		<p><b>Last but not least: The Plant Stall, the Book Stall and the Nearly New Stall are also looking for plastic or strong paper carrier bags. If you have any to spare, please drop them off in the box in the Village Hall porch.</b></p>

**St Mary Bourne**

Front cover photo: Michael Widén

- 1 10am to 12 Noon - 'The Repair Café' - The George Inn  
 11 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn  
 11 6.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room  
 7.30pm - **Annual Parish Assembly** - Village Centre Main Hall  
 19 12.30pm - '**The Lunch**' - Village Centre  
 19 7pm - 'Sustainable Bourne Valley' AGM -  
 The George Inn  
 21 7.15pm - '**The Film**' - '**ELVIS**' - Village Centre  
 24 7.30pm - Stoke Village Fund Drinks and AGM -  
 The White Hart

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

**Longparish**

- 9 9am - L2S0TM Race - Cricket Ground  
 14 9.15am - Litter Pick - Village Hall  
 17 7.30pm - Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall  
 17 8.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
 25 Gardening Club Day Trip - Village Hall  
 28 12 Noon to 2pm - Lunch Club - Village Hall  
 7 May Longparish Run  
 20 May May Fayre - Longparish Village School

**Hurstbourne Priors**

- 17 7.30pm - Stallholders and Helpers meeting -  
 Cricket Pavilion  
 20 from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning -  
 Longhatch (no 33)  
 1 May 12 noon to 4pm - May Fair - Recreation Ground  
 8 May Coronation Celebration - Recreation Ground



The River Test at Longparish

**Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall:** Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: [helenford62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenford62@hotmail.co.uk)

**Longparish Village Hall:** Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: [villagehall@longparish.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

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

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\* Hill &amp; Valley pages on-line

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