

Issue No. 279

Hill & Valley

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

£1

June 2024



St Francis of Assisi

Stories of the life of Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) describe him as someone who talked to every element of the natural world, as well as to animals.

We are told he didn't speak to them as ordinary creatures but in terms of equality as fellow creations of God living on earth. He was always telling them who they were, why they should be happy, and why they made him happy. One of his early biographers wrote, "We who were with him saw him when he was with any creatures, touching and looking at them always in such joy, inwardly and outwardly."

There is a story about him and the wolf of Gubbio which goes like this:

Francis was living in Gubbio, Italy when a fierce wolf began attacking livestock. Soon it progressed to attacking humans; and not long after that, it began to hunt and eat them exclusively. It was known for lingering outside the city gates in wait for anyone foolish enough to venture beyond them alone. No weapon was capable of hurting it and all who attempted to destroy it were devoured. Francis decided to go and meet the wolf face to face. Some people followed him, staying back at a safe distance but were close enough to witness what transpired.

It is said that when the wolf rushed at Francis, he made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf to cease his attacks in the name of God. The wolf trotted to him and then lay at his feet, putting his head in Francis's hands. Francis spoke to him; after which, tradition tells us, the wolf submitted to Francis, placing one paw in his outstretched hand. As they made their way back into the town centre, the townsfolk gathered in the city marketplace to await Francis and his companion and were shocked to see the ferocious wolf behaving as his pet. The wolf was assured by Francis that it would be fed by local people for the rest of his life.

St Francis addressed inanimate creation too, as he believed it indeed possessed a soul. We know this because his "*Canticle of the Creatures*" includes fire, wind, water, Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and, of course, "our Sister Mother Earth" herself.

Francis's lifestyle led to the formation of the Franciscan movement, the largest Christian religious order. For its followers it means a life of service to the poor and the marginalised, an affirmation of the unique worth of each person, an appreciation of beauty, reverence and respect for all creation, and faith in a personal and provident God. Franciscans can be found in over one hundred countries across the world.

Many people would agree with St Francis that the natural world has a way of helping us to understand the spiritual world and that a walk or time in the countryside refreshes us spiritually.

The spiritual blessings brought by the beauties of the natural world are vividly expressed in a poem by Ellwood Roberts, a few verses of which I attach below:

*Full of joy is early Summer,
Growth and warmth and golden light;
Every day is crowned with beauty,
Full of loveliness the night.*

*Dazzling sunshine brings the roses,
Fills the whole bright world with bloom;
Day and night rejoice together,
Banished now are doubt and gloom.*

*Earth a veritable Eden
In the glowing sunlight gleams,
Life a grand and noble epic,
Viewed from such a standpoint seems.*

*Gladness reigns the wide world over,
Early Summer's golden light
Fills each bosom with thanksgiving
For the season's blessings bright.*

So, during these early summer days, I hope you can try to take a walk; or just go outside and look at the countryside around you, filling your heart with thanksgiving and gratitude for this wonderful place we live in.

Dodie

The Revd Canon Dodie Marsden



Services in the Parish Churches

June 2024

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

Sunday 2nd - Trinity 1

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

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Wednesday 5th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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Sunday 9th - Trinity 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Benefice 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		<i>No Service</i>

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 16th - Trinity 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Praise</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Matins</i>

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 23rd June - Trinity 4

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>Family Service</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No service</i>

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 30th - Trinity 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors		<i>No Service</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish		<i>No Service</i>
All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	<i>Morning Praise</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No Service</i>

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

FROM ST MARY BOURNE PCC

A few weeks ago, the St Peter's Church Council has been told that Winchester Diocese intended to put the Vicarage in St Mary Bourne up for sale, along with some other properties in the Diocese. We don't imagine the decision has been easy, nor will it be popular!

Rev David Roche was informed by the Diocesan Secretary "that the long overdue news we have all known about regarding the sale of the Vicarage in St Mary Bourne is part of an initiative in selling a suite of houses belonging to the Diocese."

There will be a sense of anger and frustration at this news, but also a deep sadness that there will no longer be a vicar's residence in our parish. As with so much 'Church Property', the Vicarage does not belong to us, however we feel about its place in our community.

The Rev David Roche has asked if anyone would like to pass on their views about this, please do email him and he will collate and forward them to the Diocese. revd.davidroche@hotmail.com 01256 892535

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."

Sophie Frances Hillsley-Cook

St Peter's, SMB - 21/4/24

Wilfred Philip Graham King

St Peter's, SMB - 12/5/24

Rollo Parris

St Nicholas', LPH - 12/5/24

Elena Ann Hulme

St Nicholas', LPH - 18/5/24

Weddings

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation ..."

Isabel Jane Asia Scott and Thomas Arthur Collier

St Peter's, SMB - 11/5/24

Abby Louise Shearer and Mark Harley Davies

St Peter's, SMB - 25/5/24

Wedding Blessing

Angelina Yvonne Conde-Dickinson and Felix George Adams Dickinson

St Peter's, SMB - 25/5/24

Funerals

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

Leonard Arthur Colston Fuller

St Peter's, SMB - 8/5/24

Judith Judd

St Peter's, SMB - 17/5/24

Shaun Andrew Burgess

Basingstoke Crematorium - 24/5/24

Ian Dunne

25/3/24

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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Continuing our summer ride up the B3048

Highway to the North - Part 4

East Aston to Hurstbourne Priors, south

Towards the north-east end of the Long Parish stands the second great house and beyond it, East Aston. There is plenty of time to take it all in as you carefully negotiate the seven near 90° bends in just two thirds of a mile. Rebuilt around 1700, in the next 200 years Longparish House was the seat of a succession of heads of the Hawker family, conveniently all named Peter. But it was Colonel Peter Hawker (1786-1853) who made a name for himself as writer and 'great shot'. He is, perhaps, Longparish' most famous son. While early maps show the road negotiating three sides of the park in front of the house, it is arguable that once it ran nearer the house: there lingers still a footpath right-of-way from the south entrance gates. A film-crew were once encountered, scouring the area for a house they had heard about, built 'like a French chateau': '... an agreeable, almost French, appearance', writes Pevsner, of Longparish House.

East Aston is the final settlement of Longparish, with its sharp bends and narrow road. But it is worth stopping here for a break, wandering among the delights of Upper Mill and the adjacent channels of the Test and its wooden bridges - so many beautiful walks. It is on the final sharp corner, where the road turns almost directly north towards Hurstbourne Priors, that the parish and borough boundaries run, again unmarked. But now you have left Test Valley and are in Basingstoke and Deane borough, 'Birthplace and home of Jane Austen', as road signs elsewhere trumpet loudly.

This last lap of the original 1923 B3048, almost a mile, reaches the junction with the A30 (yes, according to the 1923 map: it was soon relegated to the second division, B3400) which divides Hurstbourne Priors. Beyond the water meadows to the east of this stretch lies 'where the bright waters meet', that celebrated, but inaccessible place, where the River Bourne joins the Test. The settlement of Hurstbourne Priors strings along mainly on the left after almost 2/3 mile of fields, up to the crossroad, ending with *The Hurstbourne*, previously *The Portsmouth Arms*, now converted to houses. Whether founded by, or a nod to, the great landowners, the Earls of Portsmouth at Hurstbourne Park, the inn existed from at least 1853. It no doubt also gained passing trade from the Andover-Basingstoke turnpike road of 1754 (A30/B3400). As with other villages cut in two by a busy main road (Hurstbourne Tarrant, for instance) the two halves of this village have a subtly different 'feel'. Here, the southern run was historically more 'chapel', the northern, 'church', though the social mix of both was in fact very similar - apart from the magnificent seat of the earls of Portsmouth, Hurstbourne Park. More on that next month...

MC



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



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 11th June at 10.30am**

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

The Lunch

Our next village lunch will be held on

Wednesday 19th June at St Mary

Bourne Village Centre, starting to serve at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch. As usual we will be holding a raffle at our July Lunch and would be very grateful for any prize donations to be brought along on 19th June. If a lift is needed, please contact Chris on ☎ 01264 738 110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



SURPRISE SUNDAY

June Family Service - Sunday 23rd, 10.30am

Plenty of 'surprise' things to do for **adults and children**. Biscuit decoration, word searches, spot the difference, craft decorations, coffee, squash and cake. DM

Stoke Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th June

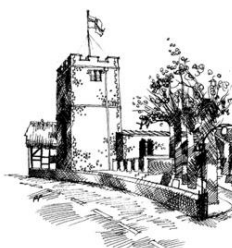
10am - 11.30am

Half Way Up, Stoke, SP11 OLT



Stoke Village Fund is organising a monthly coffee morning on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome, if you're happy to help or host a future morning please let us know.

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com



St Peter's Day Appeal

This year's St Peter's Day Appeal envelopes will be included in July's Hill & Valley. St Peter's Day is at the very end of June!

We hope to complete the new audio-visual system by the end of the year. This has been slightly more expensive than we originally anticipated. DM



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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



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The story of how reggae icon [Bob Marley](#) overcame adversity, and the journey behind his revolutionary music.

Tuesday 18th June 2024 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£7** at the door

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

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www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Film: 17th September 2024



So, almost the end of May and time for my second instalment! Vic and I are slowly making little changes on what was already a strong platform - the stockroom has been rearranged (seeing Vic move a massive chest freezer is unbelievable!) and we are all happy with what we have done.

Our lovely Laryssa (in the kitchen) has gone home to the Ukraine for a month to see her mum, so the wonderful Kate Coldicott has stepped in. We have a slightly reduced Menu and Kate's salads are becoming legendary - last week we sold 8kg of potato salad! We have also started selling home-made sandwiches and they are flying out!

On a sadder note, our lovely Debbie has retired but is going to do the odd shift when staff are on holiday and will do volunteer shifts. Oscar is leaving us too before he goes to university but will cover some shifts in the Café once his exams are done and the lovely Laura is leaving us also to return to her career in teaching in London. It's all change! Emily Pettit has joined us and will be working all areas of The Boundary - we will be putting her to good use!

Vic is hoping to do a Bingo night soon and plans for a Pyjama Party (I say no more for now!) are afoot! Both Vic and I want to make The Boundary a happy smiley place and are both always open to any suggestions or ideas you may have!

That's it for now!

Sandra & Vic



The cricket season is well and truly underway with plenty of highs and lows already! The league side have started strong on Saturdays, and we have had some fantastic turnouts for both our midweek T20 games and our Sunday friendly fixtures! Please do get in touch if you want to get involved!

The youth cricket continues to grow. We are coaching 170 kids this year. By the first of June we will have played 30 youth matches. Please do come and support The Marsden Arms (bar/BBQ at the pavilion) on a Friday night - 16.30 till 20.30

Matches are Monday nights, some Saturday mornings, and every Sunday morning when it's not raining!

If anyone local wants to lend an hour a week to mow, roll and paint white lines - do contact the club. You can follow both the senior and junior teams live on our YouTube channel!

<https://youtube.com/@stmarybournecc?si=8gkXj74vrcDIAfAb>



HAPPY HANDOVER - Shop volunteers surprised Lara Madge with a drinks good-bye party at the Boundary when newly-appointed manager Vicky handed over a present, wishing her well for the future and her new home in Cornwall.



Photo: BURLISON

The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

May 2024 draw:

£50 - Laura Wurzer

£20 - Ben Maitland

£20 - Dom Liversedge

£10 - Mark Grace

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 8th June

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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

The St Mary Bourne Annual Parish Assembly was held in the Village Centre on Tuesday 7th May and was an opportunity for parishioners to meet and hear from their County, Borough and parish councillors as well as representatives of community organisations.

On Tuesday 14th May the Parish Council held its Annual Meeting during which responsibilities for the coming year are agreed and allocated.

Patrick Foote was elected Chairman for the year ahead and Dave Peart Vice-Chairman, and amongst the usual monthly discussions and agreements, notice was made of a meeting on Friday 17th May between the Flood and Emergency Group members and Kit Malthouse MP together with senior Southern Water representatives to try to accelerate the long promised course of action to improve sewer drainage along the valley.

Planning:

T/00196/24TCA	Spring Hill House	Work on trees
24/000768/FUL (and LBC)	The George Inn	Outside Bar – Fence and gates
24/000837/RET	Old Chapel House	Retrospective change of use
T00222/24/TCA	Kingfisher House	Work on trees

Next parish council meeting: Tuesday 11th June 2024

Village Centre - Public more than welcome
www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Copies of meeting minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine Owen on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.

Facebook: Search for www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage and like and follow to get updates or arrange to pop along to the parish council office for a chat.

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Happy News from Woodcott

Cora (left) and **Millie** (right) were born during those Covid years and were baptized in St James' Church,



Woodcott at the end of 2023. The church has always been close to Jane and Geoff's hearts since renting in Lower Woodcott almost 20 years ago. During that time, they became great friends with the late Camilla Clutterbuck. Jane says: "The twins are fortunate to share

many Godparents, including all three of Camilla's sons who remain dear to us." Although as a family they have now moved further afield, they regularly visit many friends in the parish and enjoy attending the carol service at St James each year.

Greetings readers!

The wimpy cyclist has transferred over to St Mary Bourne and is now offering up a local Karate club for your kids to enjoy. The club launched on 8th May, but some of you may have spotted a group of us using the hall for Karate practice over the past six months. I am running a Karate-for-kids session from 6.30 - 7.30pm every Wednesday at the Village Centre.



Bourne Valley Karate

club is a grassroots club started by me having been a member of the Su-Ha-Ri Club and the Wado International Karate-do Federation (WIKF) for over 35 years. I have had the privilege of training with some of the best Karate practitioners and teachers (Sensei) in the world and wish to teach you a little of what I know. Our founder was Professor Tatsuo Suzuki who brought Karate to England in the 1960's; I achieved my black belt under him in 2008 after many years of training under Jon Wicks - now the World Chief Instructor.

Karate is a traditional Japanese fighting art and involves much patience, application, and personal discipline. These are all values and life skills that you can hope to improve in attending regularly. 'Kara-te' means "empty-hand" and has roots in Chinese Kung-fu. Wado-Ryu is our karate "style" and teaches deflections (blocking) and avoiding in defence as well as speed and attack - elements from original Okinawan Jiu-Jitsu. Su-Ha-Ri is from the 'Shuhari' teaching concept in Japanese and is the name our long-established club from the Hampshire-Surrey borders covering Fleet, Farnham, Alton and Basingstoke.

I hope this adds an exciting new dimension to our village's community offering - it is an honour to start a Dojo here. More from me in the forthcoming editions of Hill & Valley as we report progress and success from our young 'Karateka'.

Sensei Simon



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Reading Rivers: Four Great Books to Try.

Looking for a good book? The wild world of Britain's rivers has inspired some truly wonderful nature writing. Here are four terrific tomes for your reading list!

Our first book is 'The Flow' by Amy-Jane Beer. It won the 2023 Wainwright Prize for nature writing, and details Beer's exploration of British rivers after losing a close friend. As a biologist turned naturalist, Beer combines ecological knowledge with a heartfelt desire to connect with wild places. As she rediscovers her love for our waterways and their wildlife, which are rendered in vibrant detail, she considers how caring for rivers helps us to find 'the flow' in our own lives.

Next, we have 'Elegy for a River' by author and ecologist Tom Moorhouse. This funny and thought-provoking book documents 11 years of fieldwork, most of which focused on Britain's endangered water voles. It offers fascinating insights into the complexities of ecological research, and the eccentricities of water vole society are explained with heart-warming fondness. Throughout, Moorhouse ponders the future of our wildlife, and how that future will be shaped by human actions.

Turning to the fantastical, we have 'River Folk Tales of Britain and Ireland' by Lisa Schneidau. An ecologist turned storyteller, Schneidau deftly weaves tales of ghosts, gods, and monsters into a mesmerising tapestry. The result is an intriguing dive into how humans have interpreted their relationship with rivers, and a testament to the enduring power of mythology. Expect awe about the wonders of nature, respect for its dangers, and wildlife species in starring roles.

Lastly, we have 'The Pull of the River' by Matt Gaw. This book documents a year of adventures along Britain's rivers,

most of which took place in a homemade canoe. Brimming with enthusiasm for the natural world, Gaw describes his many wildlife encounters with earnest humour and vibrant imagery. >>>>>



As he paddles, swims, and dives his way across the country, the book becomes an absorbing exploration of what it means to look for (and perhaps find) the wild.

All of these books can be borrowed through your local Hampshire library, and some are available as e-books too. So, if you don't already have one, consider grabbing a library card to enjoy spellbinding stories like these – membership is free! To learn more, visit

hants.gov.uk/library.

You can also hear from these amazing authors in person, by attending our literature festival this June. We're hosting free talks, walks, and writing workshops in Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, and Alresford. Find out more at **hiwwt.org.uk/tales**. The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



National Bike Week 10 to 16 June 2024

Clean Air Day 20 June 2024

Anticipating sunny weather in June -

- make extra time and effort to bike during National Bike Week.
- Bike to work, school, the Boundary, to see your friends, to see the countryside.
- Leave the car at home and save on fuel and fumes.
- Contribute to reducing air pollution, which rose by 11% over the last 3 years in the UK.

Did you take part in last month's 'Big Plastic Count'?

Your results are important so fill in the survey. **[The Big Plastic Count - A Deeper Dive Survey](https://surveymonkey.com)** (surveymonkey.com) which has been organised by the University of Portsmouth.



ST MARY BOURNE
PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

If you had some financial difficulties getting through the winter, this local community fund

may be able to help. Information from: Ruth Widén,
☎ 01264 738 250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com.



Stoke had a fantastic turnout of around 40 residents for the annual spring clean and litter pick. A huge thanks to everyone who came.

Postcard from Binley

I was laid on the bed taking an afternoon nap the other day with my terrier Maurice, when in through the window came a stripey winged insect the size of a good butcher's sausage making a hell of a racket. I'm not sure who dived under the duvet for cover first but we lay there clinging to each other in fear waiting for the awful droning to subside. It was probably a large hornet or maybe a Queen wasp or perhaps one of these European wasps that Farage is so vexed about but whatever it was it was a big b****er.

But size isn't everything as I've been sympathetically told so many times and it was only last summer that I was stung by the tiniest black wasp-like creature I had ever seen that flew up my shorts as I was fishing. I can assure you that Trypoxylon figulus (or Bramble Wasp as it is commonly known) stings like hell and your nether regions are the last place you'd like it to visit.

But the great British outdoors is becoming a little more dangerous as I found out in March when I grabbed some old gardening gloves from the porch and my index finger woke a hibernating spider of some sorts. False Widow? Who knows but it sank its fangs into me and it was excruciatingly painful and I felt a little weird for some time.

But Binley has seen the coldest and wettest Spring for many years. Although I have no vested interest in sheep farming there is a strong bond here in Binley with "our" sheep and from the 1st of April my wife and I monitor the births, occasional deaths and too'ings and fro'ings as new life is born and enters our little world. I cannot tell you how it gladdens my heart as each new lamb or lambs and their mother get taken from the farm to the Downs and set free. Is there a greater celebration of new life anywhere? Perhaps I am being over romantic. But I worried that it was both cold AND wet. The last thing we need, but all in all I think we got away with it and reports coming through to me confirm that.

One of the pluses of the wet Spring has been the display of trees in the Park. The colours have been quite breathtaking as the species have merged into one extraordinary palette. It would be easy to say it trumps Autumn, but then come Autumn I am waffling on about the Autumnal splendour so make your own minds up. What I do know is we have a lot to be thankful for here in this little Hampshire backwater and long may it continue.

NA

CALLING ALL UNWANTED CHINA!



Have you got any unwanted China lurking around the house? We're collecting again for another Smashing Stall for this year's Flower Show and Fête on 27th July. We'd welcome donations of sort of China, especially plates and saucers but chipped mugs, cups, teapots without lids or spoons etc. - anything you no longer want! Do please leave any donations at 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. many thanks.

The Redfern Family



It's Back!
Father's Day Big Breakfast

Sunday 16th June
9am to 12pm

St Mary Bourne Village Hall

Just turn up, Everyone welcome.
Proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support
in memory of Mike Crofts

A bunch of Mike's (Mike Crofts') Marvellous Mates will be participating in a 26-mile Mighty Hike in Mike's memory on June 29th. The hike is in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support and is of course in Mike's beloved Yorkshire! We are holding a Big Breakfast on **Sunday 16th June** as part of our fundraising effort, so please do come along and support us. If you would like to support our fundraising by donating, you can do so by scanning the QR code.





7:30 p.m. Saturday 20th July 2024

St Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne

Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) on the door or £10 in advance from The Lights (online or in person), St Mary Bourne Village Shop or from choir members. Under 16s free.

Proceeds in aid of Yellow Brick Road Projects.

www.andoverchamberchoir.org.uk



Remembering...

Anthony (Monty) Dobson

16th March 1943 - 24th March 2024

Mont was born on the 16th March 1943. He was the youngest child of Alfred & Doris-Annie Dobson and had three older sisters, Viv, Lil and Marg. He spent his early years growing up in Vernham Dean & Buttermere, moving to Upper Wyke when he was 6. He had a real country childhood, walking everywhere and learning about plants and animals. He always enjoyed being outside; helping out with farmwork and gardening whenever he got the chance.

After schooling Mont worked at Stoner and Saunders and also as a roofer and a driver of petrol tankers. He had two sons with his first wife; Daren born in 1969, followed by John in 1971.

Mont was always keen on motor bikes and fine cars, especially Aston Martins. When living in Devon, Mont set up exhibitions for Aston Martins in Europe, even getting to drive the cars himself.

He moved back to Andover in the mid-80s when he started working at Vitacress as a driver and a maintenance engineer. Following redundancy from Vitacress, he worked for Keith Hirst at Bank Top, managing the yard. He made many friends and continued to work there until the business was sold. Mont was never one to sit around doing nothing. He took up garden work for people in the local area and kept his own productive garden from which he would supply fruit and vegetables around the villages and help out family and friends. He also helped out with maintenance work for the school, the church and the Pick-Your-Own.

Mont loved sport all his life. In his early years he played cricket, coached a boys football team in the village, and was a good darts player. He also loved bar billiards and once got to the last 16 in an All-England Competition in Jersey. In later years he took up golf and clay pigeon shooting and remained one of Manchester United's most passionate lifelong supporters.

Mont and Jenny got together in 1986. They first lived in Andover. They returned to live in the village in the early 1990s and married in October 1999. They had a great marriage together, shared a love of motorbikes, and enjoyed many holidays with family and friends. In October this year they would have celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Unfortunately, over the last few years Mont suffered some health problems. He was hit by a van and also suffered a stroke. All of which took their toll. He became ill in January and needed time in hospital undergoing tests. Between hospital stays he was able to enjoy a couple of days with both his sons and all his grandchildren; some of them visiting from Singapore and Australia. He was immensely proud of his boys and loved them dearly and he adored his grandchildren Lewis, Hannah, Niamh and Holly. Hannah wrote a very loving tribute to her granddad which was read out at his funeral service on behalf of all the grandchildren.



Jenny spent the last few months caring for Mont, right to the end when Mont died peacefully and pain free at home on 24th March. He was loved so very much by Jenny, his boys, grandchildren, daughter in law Julie and all his family and friends. Some of the messages they have received describe him as "loving and caring", "truly a good man and a good neighbour", "kindest man always ready to help" and "part of the fabric of the village". Monty Dobson - He is sadly missed by many and remembered with gratitude and love. R.I.P.

Jenny would like to thank everyone for their messages of support, cards, and donations of which nearly £800 has been shared between Cancer Research and Countess of Brecknock Hospice. Special thanks also to Dr Lickman and Michelle from the Two Rivers practice and the care team at Countess of Brecknock for their care, support and guidance to both Monty and Jenny.

Ian Dunne

5th December 1950 - 25th March 2024

Ian was born and grew up in Wyke Regis, Weymouth. He was one of 4 children – 2 sisters and an older brother.

His childhood was spent climbing over bombed out houses and raiding the coal holes of houses that had been flattened. At a time before mobile phones, he and his mates would disappear for whole days at a time, walking over the local fields and Chesil Beach.

Ian was not academic, preferring to spend his time at the local farm, milking cows and driving tractors, long before he was old enough to do so. Health and Safety hadn't made it to Weymouth at that point! On leaving school he went to Kingston Maurward Agricultural College and served an apprenticeship with a local farmer. He worked on farms for many years but did have a few breaks such as working for Securicor in London, guarding Lambeth Palace and he was on duty at Heathrow Airport when it was bombed by the IRA.

Taking a break from farming in 1977 he started work at Pontins Holiday Camp and it was here that he met Pauline.

Two years later he was offered a job on a farm at East Fleet near Weymouth which included a house, so he and Pauline moved in and it was from there that they were married and had their 2 children Helen and Laura. When the farm was sold, they moved first to Came Down Farm in Dorchester and then to Binley Farm in Hampshire. After redundancy from Binley Farm, Ian worked as an HGV driver for Vitacress but finally joined Mencap, for many years supporting adults in their own homes. He retired during Covid.

In later life he enjoyed many memorable cruises, going all over the world. His most pleasurable times were spent just sitting on deck talking to anyone who passed by.

He was very proud of his two daughters and his four grandchildren, Alfie, Charlie, Edith and Nancy.



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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman

clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 13 MAY (ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PC)

Procedural & Financial

This was the statutory Annual Meeting of the Council, and Emma Palmer was elected as Chairman and Natasha Rouse as Vice Chairman. The chairmanship of the Planning Committee and Working Parties was also agreed. Councillors expressed their thanks to outgoing Chairman, Peter Hull, for his dedication to the role over the past two years.

The PC reviewed and approved the Annual Governance & Accountability Return documentation for 2023/24, prior to it being submitted for external auditing.

Recruitment arrangements for new Parish Clerk

The current Clerk is leaving on 31 August, and the council agreed contract terms & conditions, Job Description and Person Specification for a replacement clerk, and selected an interview panel. The position will be advertised, with a closing date of 14 June (see separate advertisement).

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 10 June**.

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.

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

Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the Longparish website

www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council



What do birds do for fun on weekends?

Play fla-bingo.

On the topic of Flamingos, there is one hidden in every issue of Hill & Valley. So, while you are reading, keep an eye out for it.

The Clerk will be totally responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the Council in connection with its function as a Local Authority are carried out. The Clerk is expected to advise the Council on, and assist in the formation of, overall policies to be followed in respect of the Authority's activities and to produce all the information required for making effective decisions and to implement constructively all decisions. The person appointed will be accountable to the Council for the effective management of all its resources and will report to them as and when required. The Clerk will be the Responsible Financial Officer and responsible for all financial records of the Council and the careful administration of its finances.

- Work from home, with some evening work to attend the monthly PC meeting, and other ad hoc meetings as necessary
- 44 hours per month (approx. 10 hours per week to be worked flexibly as required)
- £13.73 per hour (SCP 12 - NJC Pay Agreement 2023)
- Paid holiday, Work from Home Allowance, paid mileage
- Training
- IT equipment supplied

The successful applicant will have previous clerk experience and/or experience in a general administration role, with knowledge and experience in budget setting, financial control, and VAT. Must be well organised, with great attention to detail, a working knowledge of procedures, roles, duties and responsibilities of Parish Councillors or a willingness to learn. Ideally, CiLCA qualified, although the council would consider applicants who commit to becoming CiLCA qualified or are in the process of obtaining this qualification.

This is a challenging, but very interesting and fulfilling role, working for a team of supportive and proactive volunteer councillors.

For further information, including Job Description and Person Specification, please see **Parish Clerk Recruitment Information** in the Parish Council Documents section of the Longparish website: <https://www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council>

Please feel free to contact the current Parish Clerk for an informal chat about this position. Email clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716

How to apply

Please send CV and covering letter to:
Sally Lawman, Parish Clerk
c/o Ladybird Cottage
Stoke
Andover
Hampshire SP11 0ND

Email: clerk@longparish.org.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday 14 June 2024

COULD YOU BE LONGPARISH'S NEXT PARISH CLERK? EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Longparish Parish Council is seeking a forward-thinking and proactive Parish Clerk to work with councillors for the good of the community. You will be the council's Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer, and as such under a statutory duty to carry out all the functions, and to serve or issue all the notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer.



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Email: amportconstruction@gmail.com Web: amportconstruction.co.uk

Abotts Ann Based



Longparish Little School

At Little School we have been finding out about Life Cycles. Back in February we had some frogspawn come and join us and

we have watched it become tadpoles and now they have grown their back legs. We are looking forward to them becoming little froglets soon. We were very lucky that, in a joint experience with Robin class, we had 10 chicken eggs come to stay for a few weeks. The eggs soon hatched, and we got to hold some baby chicks and learn how to look after them by giving them food and water. A pair of blue tits have been very busy in our camera bird box building a nest and last week we were very excited as 7 chicks hatched. We have been watching the Mummy and Daddy bird doing a great job of feeding them. We also have some caterpillars that this week are starting to make their cocoons and we can't wait for them to metamorphose into butterflies.



In Forest School we have been finding out about the importance of bees in pollinating our fruit and vegetable plants so we can have food to eat. We also learnt about how some bees make honey and we enjoyed having some toast with honey for our snack.

If you would like to come and have a look around Little School, please call us on **01264 720455**.



Please join us for the
Summer Friday Lunch
Club
12 – 2 pm



28th of June
26th of July
30th of August

£3 for hot soup and freshly baked cake.

A chance for a conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age, but please book in advance for catering purposes.

To book lunch and or transport ring Andrea 720 457

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

The weather was good for the May race but the water was still more than ankle deep at The Cleaves so all the runners got wet feet. We welcomed new runner Mia Sait who was accompanied by her Mum, Kerrie.

Henry Kidd led from start to finish and beat his handicap by over three minutes to become our Rising Star. Most Improved Man was Andy Smith. Both he and Most Improved Woman, Alice Evans, were there at our first event 197 runs ago, Well done all!

It was very slippery at The Cleaves and Gail Hunt, who was accompanying Sam, slid gracefully off her bicycle into the water. Luckily there was no damage to Gail or her bike.

Afterwards the runners enjoyed chocolate biscuits with grapes for those preferred the healthy option.



Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Simon Hunt for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs, to the adults who accompanied juniors and to David Gould for processing the results.

Special thanks go to the Cricket Club for hosting us for 198 events. Next month we move to The Plough as they have started doing breakfasts and the prospect of bacon butties after the race is very appealing.

The next race is on **Sunday, 9 June** starting at **9am** at The Plough. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us. For more information, please see

<http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

Jeremy Barber

01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Countryside Club

Last year two sessions were organized in the summer holidays for Longparish families. They were very popular, and we wondered if we should run them again.

Please get in touch to register your interest. green@longparish.org.uk

Tel 720 398

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Save the Date for the Village Fete The Village Fete Needs You!

The village fete needs your ideas, support, and commitment. We have convened a new committee to help elevate our fete, but a fete is more than a small group of people. The village fete is a community event that raises funds for the village, the church, and the local community.

This year's fete is on **September 7th, 2024.**

- We need **Fresh Ideas**
- **Volunteers** to help run stalls
- **Stall Sponsors**
- **Outside Vendors** – New and returning vendors
- **Grand Draw Prizes and Silent Auction Items** (Art, jewellery, experience packages etc)
- **Donations** for the stalls such as cakes, produce, books, toys, clothes, etc

Dates for donations to be delivered and locations to drop will be announced soon for "Second hand Rose", Toys and Bric-a-Brac stalls. Donations of clothes hangers also welcome for "Second Hand Rose".

Veg competition categories to be announced soon.

Please don't wait until the last minute to volunteer. Email us! Fete@longparish.org.uk

Longparish Mummers on Tour



When the Longparish Mummers heard that the Whitchurch Folk Festival was being revived they were quick to volunteer to perform. Then came a bit of a lull but they jolted into action just in time with a rehearsal two days before the show. That had the advantage that the script was topical and the great battle between King George and the Yorkish Knight went down very well with the Whitchurch audience. Encouraged by their success, the Mummers felt confident that the traffic would stop when they felt an Abbey Road moment coming on.



Longparish Cricket Club

The outdoor season has finally got underway, and every team has played at least one match. There were winning starts to League matches for the 1st and 2nd teams and a success for the U9s, U11s and U13s. We hope this early success will continue. Allstars cricket for children aged 5-7 years has also started with fun and excitement for all participating.

Date for your diary - **30 June 2024.** The annual Village Cricket Fun Day and Woodcock Cup match. The day comprises 2 Junior matches starting at **9am** and the Woodcock Cup 2pm - 7pm. There will be refreshments available including bacon rolls, BBQ, Pimms tent and tea & cake. We will also be running a Silent Auction and raffle. Please come along to enjoy the day and support your local cricket club.

LONGPARISH CC VILLAGE FUN DAY WOODCOCK CUP

2 x Junior Matches : 9.00am

Bacon Butties

Tea & Coffee

Woodcock Cup : 2.00pm

BBQ

Pimms Tent

Tea & Cake

for more info contact:

James Hillier 07831 329772 / 720016



**30th June
9am - 7pm**

BINGO NIGHT

Tuesday 4th, June 7:30 pm

Longparish Village Hall

Doors open at 7 pm for a prompt **7:30pm 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 contact: **Laura 01264 720298**

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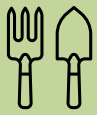
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Longparish Gardening Club Tuesday, June 25th at 6 p.m.



Evening visit to the Lower Mill,
Longparish

Any queries please contact **Rosie Lowry 01264720325** or
Marion Bell 01264720205

Spring Tidy Up

Another great turn out for the Annual Spring Village Tidy on a very hot 11th May. We all achieved so much. Great to see kids and D of E champions too.



Stream clearance, Ashburn Rest cleaned up, bench on spinal path, hedge on spinal path, playground clean up and gate repair, litter picking up Middleway, bridge railings at Lower Mill, two bus shelters cleared of vegetation, footpath to the Christmas tree field is now slightly less boggy with lots of wood chippings, the dried mud along the road by school footpath, litter picking in carparks and up to Forton, sticks collected in the cemetery are the areas we covered.

A special shout out for Collards providing the skip and Mick for his tractor, the day would not be possible without them.
Matt Beal, Daryl Barnard for their hedge cutting & strimming skills.
Paul Knipe and Christian Dryden for gathering all the equipment.
The Parish Council for the chips and drinks for all at the Plough.
A brilliant team effort keeping Longparish looking beautiful and an amazing place to live.

Jo Clare

Little Library:



As a reminder we do have a little village library in the phone box at the split on North Acre. It's been popular so it is full. I will be going through soon and remove any damaged or unsuitable books from the library this month. Please take care not to leave books or DVDs on the ground as we must keep the defibrillator accessible.

Thank you everyone who helps to maintain the library on a regular basis. I appreciate it greatly.

-Ang



Friends of Longparish School

**Summer Fayre, Saturday June 8th,
12pm-4pm**

Just one week until the Summer Fayre! All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of fun, including animal encounters, bottle tombola, woodland crafts, chocolate tombola, plant and produce stall, Pimm's and beer stands, and pre-loved books, toys, and children's clothes.

- + **Grand Draw** – we have some fantastic prizes on offer. First prize is a Fortnum & Mason hamper, kindly donated by Phillips Law, Basingstoke. Plus, vouchers from the Plough and lots more!
- + Can you help with baking a cake for the refreshments stall? Donations very much appreciated. Please drop them off at school on the day.
- + If you can lend a hand on the day, please let us know at volunteersignup.org/JRWJP (we also need lots of help setting up and taking down gazebos over the weekend) Thank you!!

The Longparish Run – new date announced soon:
Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Longparish Run this year. The new date will be announced soon.

More information:

Website: www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish

Facebook: fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool

Instagram: [@friendsoflongparishschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflongparishschool)

Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)

**We are excited to share that we will be running
"The Well-Being Experience" event in
Longparish Village Hall on Saturday 15th June
from 10am-2pm.**

This event is designed to help you unwind and de-stress and explore different ways to enhance your well-being. Massage, Indian Head Massage, Reiki, Chakra Balancing, Tarot Cards, and Guided Meditation are available to soothe the soul. Tropic Mini Facials, Hand Rituals and Mineral Make Up sessions are on offer to refresh and enhance you physically. The admission ticket is £5 and includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Treatment sessions are optional and are £10 per 20-minute session. Pre-booking treatment sessions is advisable to avoid disappointment on the day. For full details or to book please see the-well-being-experience.eventbrite.co.uk or text **07752827098**. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Little School.



LONGPARISH WILDLIFE A LATE SPRING WALK

I know I did a walk not long ago, but I had to tell you about this one!

I left home as usual down the back path; a couple of **Collared Doves** are on the wires. At Arthur's are a **Blackbird**, a couple of **Blue Tits** and a **Robin**. Turn right at the shop, a couple of **Starlings** flying around. Carry on at Tom's house are some **House Sparrows** in the hedge and at the pony paddock are **Jackdaws** and a pair of **Gadwall** on the lake. Turn left, the usual **Greenfinch** is on top of the tree and a **Raven** sat on top of a fir tree honking. On to the bridge a **Heron** on the little bridge. Turn left at the Trout Farm are **Canada** and **Greylag geese**, Greater and Lesser, **Black-Backed Gulls**, **Mallard**, **Tufted Duck**, and a **Coot** - not much here today. Left at the ford - nothing new, so carry on. Turn right, a couple of **Carrion Crows** are in the field on my right.



On to the next lake, we have a **Swan** sitting on her nest, **Moorhen**, **Pochard**, **Little Grebe**, **Little Egret**. So, on we go, a **Red Kite** and a **Buzzard** are soaring on the thermals. Not a lot at Vale Farm, just a **Magpie**, **Pied Wagtail**, and a **Cormorant** landing in Nick's lake. On along the straight, a pair of **Linnets**, oh and a **Bullfinch** - don't see many of them now. Turn left into the Cleeves, a **Great Tit** and a **Long-Tailed Tit** just popped up from a bramble patch. Now the tricky bit, can I get through the flood it's a bit deep in places. I can see a **Sedge Warbler** on a reed in front of me. Well, I have gotten as far as Long Bridge, but I think that's it. A **Cetti's Warbler** singing in a bramble bush beside me, well, it's just flown across the road, how lucky was that. So, back to the crossroads, turn right and a few **Woodpigeons** fly out of the ivy. I can see a **Chaffinch** on the hedge in front of me. Carrying on, a few we have already seen. A **Jay** in front making a lot of noise. On past the ford, I like to stop in the gateway along here hoping to see a **Skylark** and I'm not disappointed. Also, a **Pheasant**, **Red-Legged Partridge** and a **Magpie** on the wires. Turn right onto the bridge, a **Robin** also a **Grey Wagtail** which is catching insects. Turn right into Mill Lane where a small flock of **Goldfinches** are sat in an old Ash tree. Another look in the Trout Farm, two **Swallows** flying around the lake and a **Blackbird**. On we go, something climbing up

the side of a tree it's a **Tree Creeper**. A **Goldcrest** in the Yew tree beside me. On to the bridge and a **Sparrowhawk** circling high above me. Carrying on back to the main road and turn right. Another look in the pony paddock a **Mistle Thrush**, **Rooks** and a **Songthrush**.

So, I hope you enjoyed our walk we saw **51** different birds, not a bad walk.

Chris Bowman



Did You Know? There is an augmented reality game that lets you catch Pokémon right here in the village.

With the help of Google Maps and User input the village hosts several locations inside the game. These locations were chosen because of their significance to the community, either historically or as a place to socialize.

Longparish Poké stops, Gyms and Routes:

Gyms:

The Village Shop
The Ashburn Rest
The Plough

Poké Stops:

The Cricketers Inn
The Park
The Village Hall
The Burnaby Greene Memorial
The Church

Route: Along the footpath from the shop and The Burnaby Greene Memorial (Reversible)



This is so much more than just a video game; it was always the intention of the game developers to get people out exercising and socializing. With regularly scheduled in game events, this free game is a great way to explore and meet new people.

Kjuns1

Smooth Movers Ladies' Exercise Class



Low impact exercise and stretches to music. Aids fitness, co-ordination, balance, physical and mental wellbeing. Led by Lauren, a fully qualified dance and fitness instructor.

Come and join our friendly group on Thursday mornings, 9.15am – 10.15 am at Northwood Farm Buildings, Andover Down.

£5 a session and free parking. Car share and lifts available from Longparish and St Mary Bourne.

If you are interested, please phone Sarah 07789 472820 or email sarahaharris33@gmail.com



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9-11am Thurs-Sunday

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Coffee & Cake
By popular demand, we're now offering cake and hot (or cold!) drinks. Pop in with friends, after the school run, a cycle or walk. Scrummy!

Family Friday - from 5pm
You asked us to open the kitchen earlier on a Friday for family meals - so we have! Come on in from 5pm to enjoy a well-earned rest from cooking and washing up.

New opening hours
Please check opening hours on our website, and book to avoid disappointment. We look forward to seeing you!

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Food for Thought – Planting Seeds of Positivity

In my pursuit of a happier, more mindful life, I encountered the teachings of Tich Nhat Hanh. His simple yet profound words, “If you plant corn, corn will grow” struck a chord with me.

Beyond its obvious literal interpretation this statement holds meaning applicable to various aspects of life.

It signifies that cultivating positive thoughts, yields positivity, just as planting seeds of kindness, breeds kindness. Love begets love, and proactive efforts for change lead to transformation.

In essence, our intentions and actions shape the trajectory of our lives.



If we plant a pumpkin and a broccoli grows, we've clearly planted the wrong seed. If we find ourselves saddled with sadness, instead of questioning why we are not happy, we need to plant the seeds of happiness. We may have to learn to consciously acknowledge the joys of

everyday life, the early sunrise, the sounds of nature around us, the beauty of the green fields, or in the wag of a dog's tail as he longingly waits for you to drop a piece of cheese.

I hope today you take a moment to appreciate the joys all around you and that you have a brighter happier day.

-Ang

Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCO

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St Nicholas 100 Club

The draw was made on the 30th of April 2024.

First prize: No. 41 £73.00
Second prize: No. 18 £43.00
Third Prize: No. 57 £15.00

To date, we have a membership of 58. We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members (Clue is in the name!). You can join at any time, and it works like this: Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, you may well have the letter and application form still at home, but if you require another one, please let me know or if you have any other queries, please contact: John Young, Churchwarden & PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas Church

Tel: 01264 720233
Mob: 07860 630489 or
Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com



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WEATHER: APRIL 2024

Total rainfall for this month	83mm/3.26in
Total for 2024 (to date)	452mm/17.79in
Total for 2023	386mm/15.19in
Max temp	20°C/68f(30 th)
Min temp	3°C/38f(2 nd)

April was wetter and duller than average, but a bit warmer.

John Smail

MIDSUMMER FUN DAY

Sunday 23rd June 2.30-5.30pm

In Aid of St Andrews Church, Hurstbourne Priors

Tea, Toys, Maze in a Children's Play Garden

Junior and Senior Tennis competition

Afternoon Tea and Croquet

Tropical Goldfish Pool

Pimms and wine on sale

Please bring a deckchair, rug or cushion to sit on

Families £25 or £10/adult and £5/child, to include activities and tea. Please contact

annjorr@btinternet.com, or buy on the day

To book your tennis slot, contact Ann Orr at the above email before 16th June

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our June Coffee Morning will be held by Fiona Obert at No. 55, Bourne Cottage, on **Thursday, 13th June from 10.15am to 12 noon**. All ages welcome!

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



PARTY AT THE PAVILION

Please save the afternoon and evening of **Saturday 7th September** for our annual **Party at the Pavilion** to raise money for the re-thatching of the Pavilion. Our fantastic local band 'The Rum Runners' will be providing live music, there will be children's races and events (which adults can also enjoy!) followed by tea and then a BBQ in the evening for adults.

We will have the Pavilion Bar running all day, the return of Welly Wanging and a mixed-ages game of rounders.

Full details and ticket prices will be published in *Hill & Valley* after we have all recovered from the May Fair.



PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR 2024

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council meets every other month at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents of the Parish can attend. If you would like to bring something to the attention of your Parish Council you are welcome to come along. If it is something that may need a bit of looking into, or research, do contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman (please email: richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) and he will circulate relevant information to the Councillors.

The remaining dates for meetings for this year are:

31st July

25th September

27th November

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MAY FAIR 2024



A full match report will follow in a future issue of the *Hill & Valley*, but as you can probably tell from the profusion of wellies and anoraks in these photos, this year's May Fair was not as dry as it could have been, but those who braved the rain

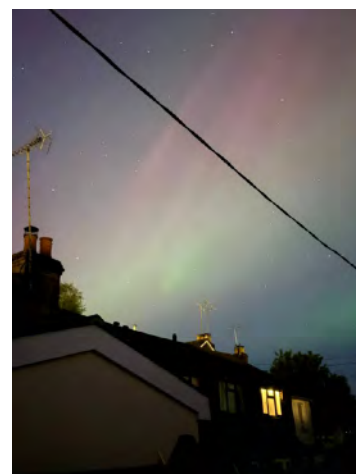
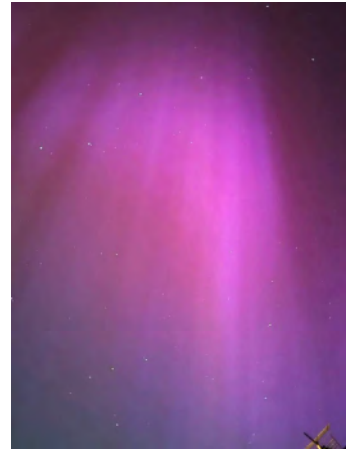
and the mud, and the even more mud, still had plenty of fun. A testament to the hard work of everyone running stalls, putting up tents, taking them down, all the organising, sorting and making, and the truly herculean task of liberating a field of cars from some very sticky going.



NORTHERN LIGHTS IN HBP

Anyone peering through their curtains in Hurstbourne Priors at about 11.45 on the evening of Friday 10th May was in for a thrilling treat: owing to an extreme geomagnetic storm, the aurora borealis was, for one night only, visible over the trees and rooftops of HBP. With a keen finger on the pulse of village events, and an eye on the four empty pages to fill for this issue, your *Hill & Valley* editor fully intended to head out with a camera and capture the spectacle for posterity, only to be thwarted by a teething baby, and the fact that I fell asleep at about 9pm.

Quite a blow to any editor with a very empty inbox, and a burgeoning plan to turn their June issue into a kind of picture-special. However, all was not lost: it seemed the extreme geomagnetic storm was continuing into a second night, and that the northern



lights would be visible again on the Saturday evening. This time, conditions were far more favourable. The baby slept, I didn't, and out I went, firmly resolved to stay away from any street lamps or passing clouds. Alas, not a glimmer appeared in the sky, no matter where or how hard I looked. In the end, accepting that it was just very dark, I trudged home and spent Sunday looking up flights to Reykjavik instead. So I'm afraid I don't have any photos of the aurora borealis over Hurstbourne Priors to share here; the closest I have are these photos from a friend in Whitchurch, with thanks to James Phillips for sending them. If you were lucky enough to see the lights, and have any photos to share, we would love to include them in a future issue!



THE GEORGE INN ST MARY BOURNE



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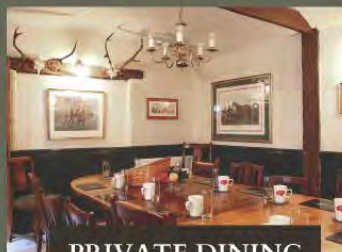
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ST ANDREWS WILDFLOWERS

A sprinkling of wildflowers is gradually appearing among the grasses of our wildflower meadow in the churchyard between the yew tree and the Recreation Ground. Some of the flowers are very small and you have to look closely to spot them hiding in the grass.

Apart from the easily recognisable dandelions and buttercups, I have found bright blue speedwells and the delicate pale pink or white lady's smock or cuckoo flower, so called because it appears around the time of the cuckoo's first call.

Fenella Williams



Cuckoo flower



Speedwell



If anyone can identify this one, please let us know!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

From late May through to the end of June, as you ramble along a hedgerow or through a wood, you may well come across an elder tree or two, which at this time of year will be laden with sprays of tiny star-like white flowers. And if the improved weather we've been enjoying of late has put you in mind of delicious things to stir through a summer cocktail or drizzle over a pudding, the below recipe for elderflower cordial from Sarah Raven might be of interest.

Makes 2 x 750ml bottles

Ingredients

- 1.35kg granulated sugar
- Flowers from 15–20 elderflower heads
- 2 oranges, thinly sliced
- 2 lemons, thinly sliced
- 2 limes, thinly sliced
- 30g tartaric (or citric) acid

As always with foraged produce, please make sure it is elderflower you are gathering. There is a good guide to identification on the Woodland Trust website, and please be aware that only the flowers and berries are edible, and even then, still somewhat toxic if you eat them raw. Cooking, as set out in the method below, makes them safe and far more appealing to eat. Also, be careful where you gather your elderflower: any flowers picked near a busy

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road might give your cordial an unfortunate base note of traffic fumes, which is probably best avoided. Give the flowers a gentle shake to free any insects, rinse well in cold water, and they are ready to use! Here is what Sarah Raven suggests you do with them next:

- Put 1.15 litres water and the sugar in a saucepan, and dissolve the sugar completely before bringing to the boil.
- Add the flowers and return the water to the boil. Remove from the heat immediately.
- Put the thinly sliced fruit into a large bowl or jug. Add the tartaric acid and pour over the hot syrup and flowers.
- Stir well and cover loosely.
- Leave for 24 hours.
- Strain into warm sterilised bottles and seal. This keeps for a couple of months in the fridge. If you make plenty, pour some into plastic bottles and freeze. It will last for years.



SUMMER EVENTS AT THE SILK MILL

Current Exhibition: Thailand, Colour of Culture, 4th May–23rd June

In partnership with the National Research Council of Thailand and the Ministry of Higher Education,

Science, Research and innovation (Thailand), this exhibition showcases the diversity of Thai hill tribe folk art. Thai hill tribe communities are renowned for their unique identity and exceptional expertise in weaving textiles.

Weftival Textiles Festival, 5th–6th July

Join us for our second Weftival event at which you can meet a community of textile and weaving professionals and learn about diverse types of weaving and textiles. There will be talks, demonstrations, production tours, a weaving exhibition and pre-bookable workshops.

The programme features the following:

Friday 5th

- a talk by Janet Philips, handweaver, fabric designer and author
- a chance to meet and talk to the production skills manager from Coldharbour Mill, one of the oldest woollen mills in the country
- ‘All Things Rafia’ workshop

Saturday 6th

- a ‘small craft’ fair, showcasing the work of small crafts makers, with a chance to talk to them about their methods and purchase their wares
- children’s craft area for those 10 and under
- workshops by Tabby and Tweed and Elka Textiles

Both days

- workshops and demonstrations by Silkewoman, our own weavers, and the Kennet Valley Guild
- a production tour of the weaving floor (must be booked in advance)
- a weaving exhibition

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065.
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ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 1 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 5 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Half Way Up

Bourne fest

- 7 Bar • Live Music • Street Food • BBQ • Kids Movie Night
 8 BBQ Breakfast • Sports Day • Children's Tent • D Day Lunch & Tea Dance
 • Live Music • Bowls Bar • Food Trucks • BBQ
 9 Family Fun Run • BBQ Breakfast • Football Tournament • Village Teas
 • Tennis Tournament • Open Gardens BBQ • Mimosa Tent • Bar • Wrap Party

- 11 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 11 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
 16 9am to 12 noon - **Father's Day Big Breakfast** - Village Centre
 18 7.15pm - 'The Film' - '**Bob Marley ONE LOVE**' - Village Centre Main Hall
 19 12.30pm - '**The Lunch**' - Village Centre Main Hall
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library** - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 4 7pm - Bingo - Village Hall
 8 12 noon to 4pm - **Summer Fayre** - Longparish Primary School
 9 9am - L2SOTM Race - The Plough
 10 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
 15 10am to 2pm - The Well-Being Experience - Village Hall
 25 6pm - Garden Club visit to Lower Mill - Lower Mill
 28 12 noon to 2pm - **Friday Lunch Club** - Village Hall
 30 9am - **Annual Village Cricket Fun Day and Woodcock Cup Match** - Cricket Pitch



HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 13 10.15am to 12 noon - Coffee morning - Bourne Cottage
 23 2.30 to 5.30pm - **Midsummer Fun Day**
 7 September - Save the date - Party at the Pavilion

Front cover photo: Michael Widén

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Copy date for the July/August Hill & Valley edition: Wednesday 19th June 2024

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.
 Please provide copy in Word format and attached images as jpg files.

Printed by The Andover Printing Company Ltd ☎ 01264 334220 www.andoverprinting.co.uk © Hill & Valley Parish Magazine 2024

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