

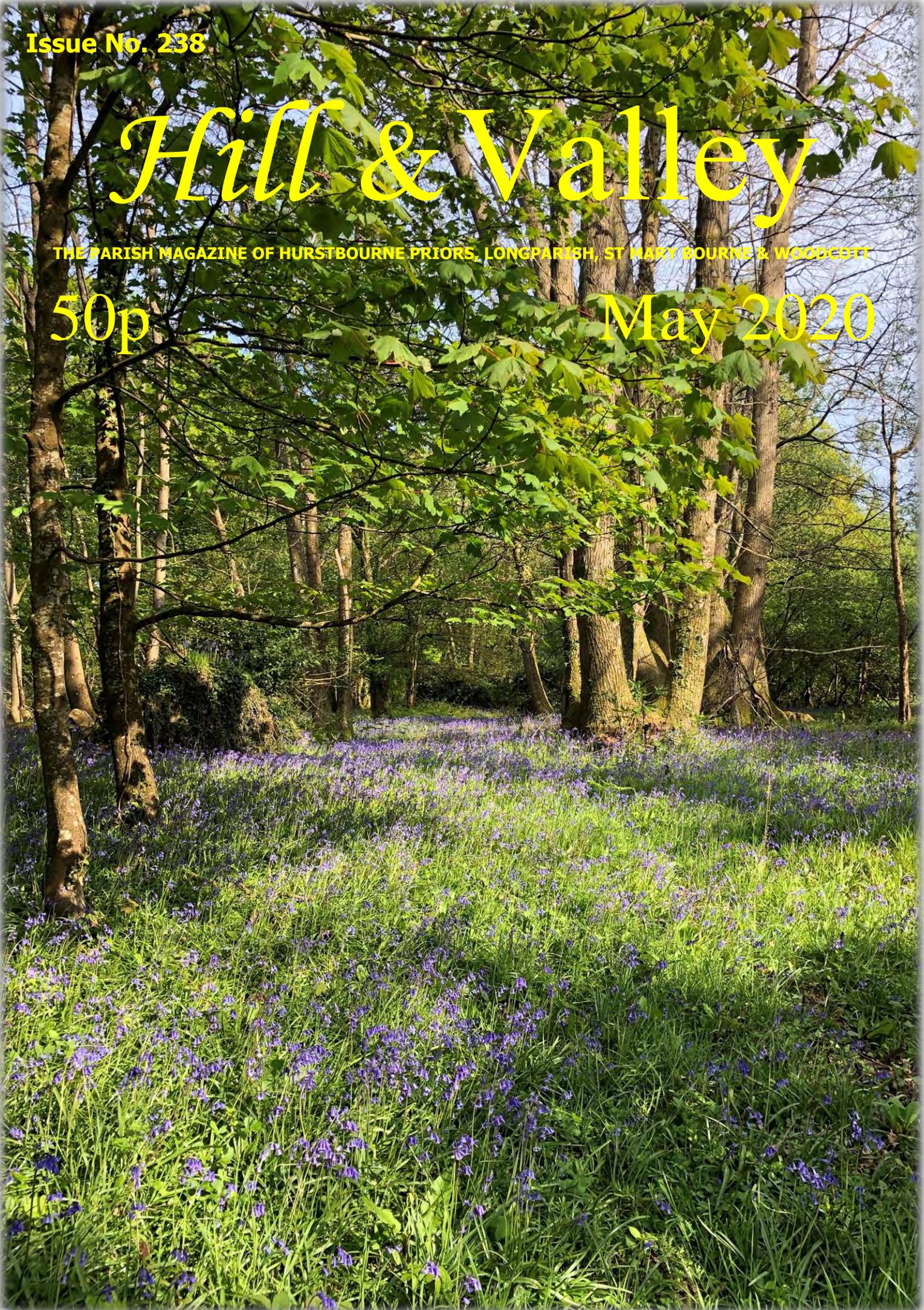
Issue No. 238

Hill & Valley

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

50p

May 2020



Dear Friends,

Hope

When we are feeling **H**elpless
But have not lost our **O**ptimism,
With **P**eople around us
WE can all do something.

This last month in people's windows throughout the parish we have seen pictures of rainbows and they bring a smile to our faces and hope to our hearts.



Hope is a great word, isn't it? But it's a word loaded with meanings - some more superficial than others. The Bible doesn't speak of hope as wishful thinking, a 'fingers crossed, it'll be ok' sort of hope, but of hope as a holding onto the things unseen. Holding on in the midst of sadness, illness, rejection, suffering, and in our present circumstances - uncertainty. This is not trivialised hope, not hope that is a simplistic, naive virtue as if we have to 'keep smiling through with a cheerful disposition' but a hope that is earthed in an attitude of expectation, most of all, of things eternal.

In that great story of the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy and Toto meet three wonderful characters. The Lion, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man. And down the Yellow Brick Road they go together to get to the Emerald City. They all wanted something. The Tin Man wanted a heart, the Scarecrow wanted a brain, and the Lion wanted courage. It seems to me that these three 'hoped' for the very things we all hope for. Things we all need, particularly in adverse circumstances.

When we are feeling **H**elpless, this is a time when we do not have to lose hope, because we can trust and remain **O**ptimistic. This optimism is based on God's love and his promise through his Son. We all know that **P**eople in our communities have been fantastic, caring for those around them. Those of us younger than the war generation can honestly say we have never seen it like this before.

But the truth is **W**E can all do something. Get involved, help, care and provide, knowing that with the personal tools of a heart, a brain and courage we can make a difference.

And I have not forgotten Dorothy (and Toto). She just wanted to go home. Christians believe in life after death, of eternity being the true home; that our life-journeys involve life beyond death and love being eternal.

We should not lose HOPE. It is about trusting beyond what we know, believing without seeing, and holding on when things are uncertain.

With my love and continued prayers, but also thanks for so many doing so much.

Dodie

Corona Virus Causes Suspension of Worship in Church

Until further notice there will be no services in any of our benefice churches.



The Benefice Live Stream Service

This will take place each **Sunday at 11am**. The details can be obtained by emailing one of the church wardens or me.

It is approximately 20 minutes with two hymns, a reading, prayers and blessing. Everyone in the family can join and no one has to get out of the jim-jams! You can have a cup of coffee, comfy chair and best of all - see or hear everyone.

At the end, after a short piece of music, there is the opportunity to say hello (or goodbye) to those with us. *Dodie*



Lighting a Candle

Each **Sunday evening at 8 pm** we are lighting a candle - battery operated or with a match - to stand together in solidarity. Remembering those in our community who are ill, giving thanks for the NHS, and as a symbol of light, hope and friendship to our neighbours.

Please join us, place your lighted candle in a window where someone else can see it. *Dodie*



Benefice Contacts during the interregnum period:

For the duration of the interregnum Karen Morrison (Longparish) has kindly agreed to be the Benefice Team Co-ordinator.

Phone calls to the St Mary Bourne vicarage will be diverted to Karen's home phone and she will be fielding all calls that currently go to the vicarage.

For all enquires about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact Karen in the Benefice Office ☎ 01264 738308 - email: office.brightwaters@btinternet.com

In an emergency, or if you wish to contact the Rev Canon Dodie Marsden, please ☎ 01264 738 211 or email: dodie.marsden@gmail.com

If you are unable to contact Dodie in an emergency, please call 01264 720 215 or 01264 738 489.

- 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 email: rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk

From the Church Registers

Funerals

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

St Mary Bourne

Burial in the Woodland burial ground of **Alan Cutbill** who died on 30th March 2020

St Mary Bourne

Funeral at the Andover Crematorium of **Gordon Froude**, aged 97, Father of Robin

St Mary Bourne

We would also like to record the deaths of:

Peter Blease

Rita Constable-Buckingham

Bill Lane

We offer our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Scramblers in St Mary Bourne

There will be no Scramblers until further notice.



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WEATHER – MARCH 2020

Total rainfall for month	72mm	2.83in
It rained on	11 days	
Rainfall same month last year	104mm	4.09in
Total for 2020	381mm	15in
Total for 2019	217mm	8.54in
Max temp (on 23 rd)	19C	66F
Min temp (on 6 th)	-3C	26F
Frost	9	

After two very wet months it was no surprise that March was a lot drier. In fact the second half of the month saw only 4mm of rain – almost a drought!

John Smail

WILD GARLIC PESTO RECIPE

50g cashew nuts (or any nuts you have to hand)
 75g wild garlic leaves and stems
 35g freshly grated Parmesan
 Finely grated zest of ½ lemon, plus a good squeeze of lemon juice
 100-150ml rapeseed oil
 Sea salt

1. Place the cashew nuts into a dry frying pan and toast until golden. Set them aside and allow to cool and harden up. During cooking they go a bit soft.
2. Wash and roughly chop the wild garlic, you can include the stems, but any flowers you may have you can keep for salads or add to a bottle of oil to infuse.
3. Finely grate your Parmesan cheese
4. Zest and juice your lemon
5. Place the wild garlic into the blender and add 100ml of oil, gently pulse until you have a coarse texture, if you need more oil add it and mix it through. I like mine coarse and quite oily.
6. Add in the toasted nuts, lemon zest and juice and pulse again until the nuts have blitzed down into tiny little chunks
7. Add the Parmesan, season to taste and mix well.

If you have patience you can keep the pesto in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Lulu Beesley



MAY FAIR ON-LINE PLANT STALL

There is no May Fair this year but you can still buy plants for your gardens from our on-line plant stall!

Precelly Murray has a range of favourites from her usual May Fair stall including geraniums, cosmos, dahlias, tomato plants, runner beans, courgettes, herbs and perennials such as lavender and penstemon.

There are too many to list them all here and if you would like a full list of plants with prices and instructions on how to order and pay, please email:

hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com



A NEW ARRIVAL

On 1st April, at 9.41pm, the Ross family welcomed a new addition to our clan. Flora Nancy Fiona Ross, weighing a healthy 8lb 13oz, very nearly arrived in the car but we managed to get to Basingstoke hospital just in the nick of time.

Her brothers Archie and Henry are enjoying lots of cuddles and have been very helpful so far. Long may it continue!

Thank you everyone for the well wishes and Flora hopes to meet you soon after the lock down ends!

Hannah and Andrew Ross



Archie and Henry's rainbow

WORDS OF THE MONTH

PERICLITATE - to expose to danger or put at risk

OCHLOPHOBIA - abnormal fear of crowds

POGONOTROPHY - the cultivation of a beard, moustache, or other facial hair. There is also pogonophilia (love of beards) and pogonophobia (an irrational fear of beards).

Lastly that which we all long to reconnect with, is to be able to OBAMBULATE (to wander aimlessly) though not necessarily in our own homes! *Barbara Carrodus*

ANDOVER FOODBANK

During these current difficult times the need and demand for the Andover food bank is greater than ever. Over the past three weeks we have been amazed at people's generosity in continuing to make donations - both of food and non-food items and cash - particularly when so many are facing financial hardship and practical difficulties such as getting to the supermarket!! So, a huge thank you goes to all those who have made donations. We are incredibly grateful as it has meant that we can continue to help those people who are really struggling.

If you would like to make a donation, here is a list of the items we are currently in need of: Packs of rice, tinned potatoes or instant mash, tins of rice pudding or custard, tinned fruit, long life milk, long life fruit juice, deodorant, laundry products and multi-purpose cleaner.

Our current opening hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-12.30 and Wednesday 11-12.30. Thank you.

Andover Foodbank

Tel: 01264 362111 www.andover.foodbank.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING and AGM

The next Parish Council meeting and AGM is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 27th May at 19.30 in the Village Hall. At the time of going to print the Parish Council are unsure whether lock down will still be in effect and whether the meeting will go ahead. There will be an announcement on the village website: www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk if the meeting has to be cancelled.

If you have anything which you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council please contact the Clerk, Richard Waterman on Richard.waterman150@btinternet.com or the Chairman, Clare Read on clareread@aol.com Any resident of Hurstbourne Priors can attend Parish Council meetings.

Richard Waterman
Clerk to Hurstbourne Priors PC

RECREATION GROUND

During these difficult times the Parish Council have decided to keep our Recreation Ground open to residents so that they can enjoy the outside space and calm that its beautiful setting affords. It has been very nice to see people taking their daily exercise safely distanced from other users of this wonderful community space. In addition, two of the benches have been moved into the church yard so that those wishing to sit in quiet contemplation may do so safely.

We have installed two football goals, placed well, so that family groups can have a kick-about safely. The grass has been cut much earlier than usual to make it easier for pushchairs and children's bikes.

Don't forget to ensure that hands are well washed after using the playground equipment.

Please can we remind dog owners that they must clear up after their dogs and place bags in the bins provided.

Hurstbourne Priors PC

WALKING: ITS HEALING POWER....

In recent weeks I have been reminded how healing walking the local paths can be, especially in Spring.



Four years ago I had treatment for primary breast cancer including chemotherapy. You may remember me walking every day, just to the church and back on bad days and up to 4 miles on good days. My life was in lock down, a 3 week pattern of chemo for 18 weeks. Over that time I walked 300 miles, never further than 2 miles from home. The gentle exercise really helped me find focus and a positive way pace through that time. Since COVID 19 Lock down I have got back

to brisk local walks. This spring has blown me away; every day there is something different, something new. The power of nature getting on with new life has really helped sweep away the stress wrought by this virus. I have discovered patches of bluebell wood I had never noticed before; photographing the horse chestnut trees come out into leaf and blossom has been a real joy. Hares racing, deer bounding, swallow (just one seen so far) flying, the chatter of birds nest building, wood anemones, lesser celandines, wood sorrel, blue bells, the oak trees coming into leaf will all live long in the memory. A real privilege to have the time to appreciate the beauty of Hurstbourne Priors. *Sarah Milne*

BASINGSTOKE & DEAN BIN COLLECTIONS

Basingstoke and Dean have made a change to the frequency of bin collections during the COVID-19 outbreak. From Monday 20 April, residents should put out their green recycling bin and glass container on their normal recycling collection day and the following week put out their grey waste bin. The grey waste bin will be collected every fortnight instead of every week. The day of the week that bins are collected will not change. This temporary change will be kept under review and normal collections will resume as soon as possible after the government restrictions have been lifted. For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling

DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

This year marks the start of my third cycling season. It turns out that April will be 300 days long. Britain has been hit with a hammer-blow, and that stark reality of being under-prepared has hit home on many fronts. For decades we have serially under-invested in our front-line health services and operated on razor-thin margins of capacity. This is why we have all been asked to stay at home. We need to watch four different news channels to achieve some kind of balanced world view, and the media is already leading a merry dance to pressure an 'exit' strategy. As a cyclist, my heart goes out to the Italians who were hit first in Europe, and the hardest. As Hill & Valley goes to print, the Giro D'Italia should have started – an event that sparks cycling enthusiasm all across Europe – but, alas, not to be.

By now your sheds are re-organised and the gardening projects have begun, the car and bikes are detailed to concours-condition, the bathrooms are spotless, you have learned more about your household appliances, and discovered the 'Mute' button on Zoom.

It seems like an age since the Safari Supper, where early reports from the WHO were being pooh-poohed, and Trump was promising it would all be over by Easter while washing his hands like Pilate.



It also seems like an age since I re-introduced my 65 year-old father to road cycling. We took on an 80-mile ride around the New Forest on a blustery 7th March with 300 others. We had bought a second-hand Trek Domane from a fell-runner in Shepton Mallet. Dad took to the bike well, and it was not entirely without mirth that I helped him from the floor once he'd taken

his first clipped-in fall while stopped at a junction: "I think we're on a winner here, Trig, play it nice and cool son, nice and cool..." We completed the ride as a practice for a long charity ride for Royal British Legion that we are taking in September (hopefully).

Much like today's circumstances, cycling is about balance and probability. On average we are not doing much more than half of the speed limit, we have to slow for road-hazards, parked cars, errant pheasants and now illegal street-parties conducted by dog-walkers. We have to swerve the pot-holes and help flatten the curves.

Group cycling is banned, but I see the same people out riding solo – with a nod and a wave all while holding our breath. For 23 hours a day I am at home, but my 1 hour out on the bike on quiet country lanes is the safest it has ever been. I am delighted to see households of families (2 adults, 3 children) enjoying the lanes, I am equally delighted that thousands of women are being urged out by their lycra-clad husbands, in lieu of the local chain-gang. Cycling requires concentration and forces fresh-air and fitness upon you – it is a mental escape from life's noise and tragic news. You connect with others from a

distance, or share on-line pedalling with a global community of tens of thousands.

Avoiding hospital is a key concern, so it was disappointing to read on the St. Mary Bourne signpost Facebook group when one wag rather uncharitably suggested a stick through the spokes, followed by 'Likes' of tacit approval. We could do without armchair aggression, especially as such action would land two of us in hospital. Cyclists are not perfect, we are human, like you. We are also walkers, runners, and drive cars too. In fact, I welcome new cyclists to the roads – it gives you a new perspective on road-speeds from cars, and rewards you with the wind in your corona-beard and birdsong across the open fields. You can expect a cheery "hello" from me as you enjoy your daily walk. Happy Easter, keep moving, stay healthy and May the 4th be with you.

Simon Mattison

Message from the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Diane Taylor

I have always noted that humans are great adjusters. Whenever there is a difficult and significant change in our lives, perhaps a death or illness or relationship break-up, we can feel that we will never get used to it... but somehow, with time, we always manage to adjust to our "new normal" and get on with life in its different format. If you had told me last year that in Spring 2020 I would be confined to my home for weeks on end, working forever at the computer, not meeting people face-to-face, queueing to get into food shops, unable to attend a single public meeting or event, I would have been horrified. How can I live like that? Guess what – I can! Like everyone who is either completely isolated for health reasons or, at the other end of the scale, working all hours to save the lives of dangerously ill people, somehow we humans adjust and find a way to get on with life.

One of the final public duties of my Mayoral year would have been to lead the celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May. Needless to say, there will be no public event to mark this significant occasion – just a video of me at the War Memorial at 10am on that morning which will go out on social media.

However, can I encourage everyone to find a way – perhaps in the afternoon at about 3pm – to raise a glass or a tea cup in in your own homes in celebration of a victory that brought us the great life that we are privileged to lead today. The resilience, courage and determination of this nation during World War Two astounds me. Let's celebrate the outcome of a war that logically we should have lost – but, with our great allies, we won! And what's more, we will win the Coronavirus war too!

In the meantime, please stay safe by staying at home unless it's for an essential journey as outlined by the government and help to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If you are a vulnerable resident self-isolating due to an increased risk of illness, and have no friends or family nearby, you can register for support to access food supplies and collection of prescriptions. Call the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline on 0333 370 4000, available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm or visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub for more information.

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The Great Sunflower Challenge

The Parish Council has provided seeds for children and adults to take part in the great Sunflower Challenge. Here are pictures of some of the wonderfully decorated flowerpots from those taking part. Prizes will be awarded to anyone who grows a sunflower bigger than they are and also a grand prize for the tallest sunflower in the valley. To take part please contact Clare on 07711 917375 or clareread@aol.com



Lily (l) and Isobel (Bbell) (r) von Guionneau



William Ryan



Rose Briant-Evans



Hugo Briant-Evans



The Macmillan family (l to r): Jo, James, Rosie, Matilda and Henrietta

Learning at home

At Copper Beech the Urquharts are using the local area as inspiration for their home learning. Rose and Joseph have had some in-depth learning about horses (in the Murrays' field), have collected wild flowers for pressing and crafting and made clay leaf pots, all without leaving the village!

Going on a Bear Hunt – we're not scared!

A lovely way to spend a weekend afternoon during lockdown. The effort made by so many in the village to make it fun for the children was greatly appreciated. Highlights were the huge bear in the car, a teddy bears' picnic, a bear with balloons ...



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Stronger together!

It seems extraordinary that it has taken a global pandemic to germinate the idea of starting a community hub, but then these are extraordinary times.

The one thing that is becoming abundantly clear as the virus continues to spread itself, is that no one is exempt. Everyone is susceptible, everyone is vulnerable, and at some point, or other, everyone may need help.

The SMB Community Hub has been set up to try to help address that. It is intended to act as a platform where people can come together virtually, if not physically, and lend each other a hand. To connect those who are in need of help, with those who can provide it.

The Hub is being established in connection with Basingstoke and Deane Council and will also act as a central location between St Mary Bourne Shop, Village Centre and Parish Council, to help further distribute any news, information and 'good news' updates; especially as all this unpredictability continues. We will also link with other local parish hubs (Longparish, Hurstbourne Priors and Hurstbourne Tarrant) to make sure we keep track of other activities within the local area.

Whether you are young or old, isolating alone or with your family, ill or frail or simply in need of someone to pick up the occasional loaf of bread; we have a number of lovely volunteers (but more are always welcome) who can assist with shopping or if you need someone to collect a prescription or even if you just want to have a natter with someone on the phone or over a garden fence, please let us know.

We want to reach *everyone*, so that *no one* is forgotten. We want to make sure that no one person gets left to tackle this ordeal alone. Ironic, really, that as we find ourselves physically isolated, we know that we stand a far higher chance of overcoming this nightmare if we do so by joining together.

Because we are all in this together. And if we do, and if we can, then we will come out the other side a better and stronger community for it.

Please contact and register with the hub via Facebook or email if you are IT connected. If you are not on the internet then letters can be printed and posted through your door, call the number below and let Dodie know your location.

For now, though, please stay safe. Please do share. And let us be together stronger!

email: stmarybourne.hub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/SMBParishHub - ☎ 01264 738 211



Hope



Sun streaming through the trees, shadows moving with the breeze. Birds singing fills the air, flying around without a care.

Not a soul in sight to spoil the view, it almost feels it can't be true. The world is changing overnight and we must learn with all our might.

When we get to meet again, I hope we rise up through our pain. With all our friends we miss so much, let's do our best to keep in touch.

Xx Tiffany Fish

Dawn Chorus Walk

Many apologies that we cannot have our Dawn Chorus Walk on 2nd May. Let us hope that we shall do it in 2021.

Mark Maclay

COVID-19 update and thank you

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to every carer, key worker, volunteer and neighbour in our community. Especially we would like to thank all the kind people who have supported Two Rivers practice in Derrydown and Whitchurch since the Covid-19 outbreak began. Thank you to Gary and others who have delivered hundreds of medication to your doors already. Thank you to the local nurseries, schools and shops for donating spare protective equipment to help protect our staff. Thank you for all the kind cards, messages of support, cakes; you all know who you are and you have helped us to keep going! You are all heroes.

A quick reminder that if you suspect you have COVID-19 then please either google or call 111 initially who have a new service to help you. All the latest advice is online 111.nhs.uk/covid-19. If you need a face to face appointment or visit you will be guided back to the surgery. We have developed hubs and visiting services jointly with other practices in Andover and the surrounding area. Our hub is based next to the Andover Health Centre (SP10 3LB).

We continue to stay open conducting the majority of our consultations now on the phone or video call. We have been busy contacting our patients on the government's 'shielding' list to ensure our most vulnerable patients have all the support they will need for the next few weeks.

We would urge everyone to stay especially healthy during this time. Stay connected. Ask for help. Keep as active as is possible. Try to cut down alcohol intake and stop smoking if possible. One day we will look back and remember this difficult time, for now let's keep pulling together. We will get through this.

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ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE SHOP
& post office

Sometimes, it seems we have gone back in time. Before long distance travel and working every hour God sent away from our families to ensure we can afford the material things that define our success. Before every household had at least two cars and when family was at the heart of life. The village no longer has the sound of cars as its backing track but instead the birds have taken over as the new soundtrack to our lives. We have a lot to be thankful for, living in this complete idyll.

I always thought that the village shop should stand at the heart of its community, alongside the church, pub and school. And whilst we are living in these troubled times, and with the other three pillars of our community out of action, that is exactly what the shop has become. Whilst the rule of only two people shopping in the shop at any one time makes a 'pop to the shop' a thing of the past, it does allow people to chat whilst in the 2 meter apart queue making them feel less alone. With our sense of comradery and resolution, the banter is a joy to hear with everyone always good humoured. Whilst I ferry stock to and from the shop, I pick up snippets of conversation or the tail end of a joke and without exception they are all conversations of happiness, thankfulness and support for one another. We really are truly blessed.

But I can't help but ask myself the question, what will become of the village shop once this is all over? Will it return to its former place, tucked down a little road leading to the rec, where only 20% of the population deems to pass its threshold? Or will the community in which we serve remember us once all this is over?

These are trying times, with the staff at the shop exposed to the potential threat of coronavirus yet determined to stay open in order to give St Mary Bourne people the option of staying within the village boundaries rather than venturing into the larger supermarkets. Don't get me wrong. What we do is miniscule compared to those brave men and women of the NHS who go daily into a true battle with the virus with a legitimate fear in their hearts that any day soon they may be the patient rather than the practitioner. However, we do, to a lesser level, face that threat too.

So, once this is over what will people do? Discard the shop like a used tissue and hurry back to the bright lights of Tesco, Sainsbury's, Lidl, et al or continue to support the shop in the knowledge that the next time there is a crisis, big or small, snowed in or locked down, we will be there for them.

I would like to think it would be the latter, however, my realistic side is managing my expectations...
Stay safe, stay home, shop local.

XX

Village Shop - April 1 ☺☺ Club Draw:
£50 - M Pearce; £20 - M Crofts;
£20 - M Ahl; £10 - E Lind-Smith.

Assistant Shop Manager

St Mary Bourne Village Shop and Post Office is looking for an Assistant Shop Manager to help run this busy and vibrant community hub.

The part time post requires a minimum of 15 hours per week with the possibility to extend these hours later in the year.

The successful candidate will have fantastic organisational skills, be computer literate, have a warm and friendly character, great attention to detail and be able to work as part of a team.

Retail or Post Office experience is desirable but not essential.

All training, including Post Office training will be given.

For more information on the role please email Lara at smbshopcic@outlook.com

Applications must be made in writing along with accompanying CV to the same address

Parish council meetings

The parish council will meet only when required to discuss urgent business and these meetings will be held remotely. As usual, notice of any meeting will be published four days in advance on the parish council website, the noticeboards and on Bourne Valley Signpost. You will be able to access the meeting remotely, but to allow for smooth running, if you are planning to raise a matter with the parish council you are asked to submit it in writing in advance to clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk. If the matter is not urgent then please wait to bring your issue to a meeting later in the year.

Annual Parish Assembly

Given the extension of the restrictions, the Annual Parish Assembly scheduled for 28th April is postponed to later in the year.

All planning applications for the parish of St Mary Bourne can be looked up by visiting the parish council website www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk - go to 'Planning' and 'Planning Tracker' and use the options available - or by contacting the Parish Council Clerk ☎ 01264 738 039. Details of all planning applications can be accessed on the B&DBC website - go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning

Go Stargazing in May

Super moon - 7 May. This is a full moon which is at its closest position to earth.

Comet C / 2019 Y4 (Atlas) is moving towards **Perseus**, where it will reach its brightest around **mid-May**, when it may be visible to the naked eye.

Mercury reaches its highest point in the evening sky at **end of May**.

The Hubble telescope celebrated its 30-year anniversary on 24 April.

Please protect our dark night skies by reducing light pollution. External lighting also disrupts wildlife.

Why not make the time to look up whilst we are in "lock down?"



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Postcard from Binley April 2020

Day 19 of the lockdown and if I never see another frozen pea again it will be too soon. I'm living out of the freezer in a state of microwaveable purgatory and every day is the same. I come down at 6am and put the kettle on, let the dogs out, then retrieve that night's dinner from its frozen perch to defrost. I always thought the freezer was the place where you stored food you never intended to eat but were too ashamed to throw away, but now I'm actually having to, it's dreary beyond belief. Some of it's been in here for ages and many of the labels have fallen off so I'm playing a form of culinary Russian Roulette. Yesterday I removed a lasagne that thawed out to be a blackberry crumble! Even Heston Blumenthal couldn't make that work with chips and a tossed salad. Vintage wine I can recommend, vintage casseroles less so, it's become a game at dinner to guess what we are actually having!

And talking of wine I've drunk all my best stuff, the wine I've saved for years just for a special occasion, the eye wateringly expensive gear. Early in the pandemic I had a panic attack and realised that if this virus killed me it would be some other swine drinking it so I've done the lot, the Aloxe-Corton, the Puligny-Montrachet, the Paullac and even the 1983 Gevrey Chambertin that I actually brought back from Gevrey Chambertin in 1985. One benefit of this hideously expensive bender is that I appear to have lost a week and can remember very little of anything that happened between Monday 30th March and Sunday 5th April. It's all a haze which in these tedious times is a good thing, surely?

There are four of us living under this thatched roof and we started so well, full of Dunkirk Spirit and all that. Went through the "Isn't this novel!" stage, then negotiated the "Let's all sit on the sofa and watch an old movie together" stage, blasted through the "wandering around aimlessly" stage and I'm now stood in my kitchen wearing nothing but my underpants, unshaven and with hair like the Nutty Professor, a large gin in my right hand and it's only 3.00 in the afternoon and staring into the dishwasher screaming "Who put the ***** spoons in the wrong ***** section of the ***** dishwasher!?!?!?" That stage.

The list of jobs that my wife enthusiastically scripted and handed to me with a relish some weeks back is now complete. The garden looks like Titchmarsh and Charlie Wotsits has been through it and the house looks like Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen has flounced through it. My wife's fetish with soft furnishings is now out of control; she's changed the bedroom curtains three times and every time I leave the house and return something has been moved or re-covered.

Everywhere smells of fresh paint, which is exactly what the Queen complains about as wherever she goes carrying out her duties there's always a bloke in front of her with a brush and a bucket of emulsion. Which reminds me, I've always wanted to catch a glimpse of the chap that carries the Royal lavatory seat around on these visits. You must have heard of him? Does he fit it as soon as he gets there or does he wait until she needs to go and gives him a secret signal? If that's the case he must be permanently hovering around and has got to be a dab hand at it now. I know when I've had to change one it takes me about two hours which would be catastrophic for Her Majesty so that's another job I shan't bother applying for.

Talking of lavatories, such is my level of boredom now I'm appreciating toilet breaks as a form of entertainment. If this is what retirement's like then frankly my next colonoscopy seems more appealing. But being confined to barracks allows me to at least witness the daily comings and goings around Binley and I'm finding myself constantly twitching the net curtains, so to speak. There's rarely not something happening outside my

bedroom window and I'm amazed at the number of joggers, power walkers, cyclists and mothers with racing prams that pass through here. A sunny afternoon brings them out in droves and if there is one thing I have learned from this pandemic it's that the over 50's really shouldn't be wearing lycra. By my reckoning wobbly buttocks are currently outstripping "Rear of the Year" contenders by a ratio of 40-1.

Then the most extraordinary thing occurred the other day when my youngest son went out into the garden for his morning constitutional and was approached by a cock pheasant he assumed was tame and looking for titbits. He couldn't have been more wrong! After circling my lad a couple of times and giving him the eye it launched a frenzied attack on his lower limbs which left him running for the sanctuary of the house. My wife, who was bent over fastening the bolts on the gate was next. The bird attempted, and I have to be delicate here, what I can best describe as a reverse missionary position coupling with her. Fortunately, she is well practiced in seeing off amorous advances (don't I know it!) and dealt swiftly with the creature via a smart kick to the goolies. Damien (we have named him) then loitered around the front of the house looking through the French doors and windows, I assume in a state of avian arousal before sulking off back to the park. But it was touch and go for a minute.

I've mentioned the attack to Wyndham Culley and he assures me it's not uncommon at this time of year, so be wary!

Seeing my neighbour in her garden I warned her that a pheasant may attempt to have some form of physical liaison with her. I think I used language a little fruitier than that but either way she looked aghast and hasn't spoken to me since! But she's from South Africa so perhaps doesn't understand our English eccentricities! NA

THE ST MARY BOURNE FLOWER SHOW & FETE COMMITTEE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS YEAR'S



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WANTED – A CHINA PLEA!

Are you using this lockdown to do a bit of clearing out? Have you come across any unwanted china? Maybe you have a crazed or cracked plate or two at the back of your cupboard? If so, the St Mary Bourne Hort Soc will happily take them off you!

In the hope that we will still be able to go ahead with the 2020 Flower Show on Saturday 25th July, we're planning a Plate Smashing stall and are collecting all sorts of china, especially plates and saucers but also chipped mugs, cups, teapots without lids or spouts etc. We'd be grateful for any donations. (And if we can't go ahead this year, we'll be readily supplied for 2021!)

Do please leave them on my doorstep at Bourne House, StMB or I will happily pick them up from your doorstep if it's easier / you are self-isolating - just call me on ☎ 01264 738 551.

With many thanks, *Bat Redfern*

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Light Touch COP 2020

In this beautiful weather in this wonderful valley we are blessed with a less painful lock down. We

can watch nature carrying on now we are no longer rushing around, the roads are empty, we have our heroic village shop and surgery and caring neighbours. In large towns people talk of the bliss of no aeroplanes overhead and less traffic, they can hear the birds and the haze has lifted so they can see the view and the night sky even if they are trapped indoors. Many of us have learned new ways of using technology to keep in touch with each other or work from home. A microscopic virus has temporarily achieved a dramatic fall in carbon emissions and has given us all a lesson we need to learn. We can all change some things about the way we live to help the environment: travel less, buy locally produced food, use our shop more, think before jumping in the car, allow time to walk or cycle, save errands up for one journey, leave the heating off and wear more, buy less, reuse more, mend more, grow more. We can feel overwhelmed and powerless, but all these things done by many add up to less consumption and lessen our own carbon footprints.

The obscurely named COP (Conference of the Parties) 26th United Nations climate change talks due to take place in Glasgow in November were officially postponed on April 1st because of Covid-19. The West has had the "benefit" of



unimpeded development for hundreds of years and has for all that time carelessly used raw materials and cheap manpower from all over the world to fuel our consumer driven life styles. We started climate change and the global south is now paying with life threatening extreme weather. On top of this we were asking them to slow their development, while western Governments drag their heels reaching their own targets. Many charities were gearing up to demonstrate before this event for global climate justice. For instance, charities such as Christian Aid was going to ask each developed country to

- urgently transfer a fair share of finance and technology to poor and climate vulnerable countries
- stop fuelling fossil fuel expansion and support clean renewable energy
- develop renewable energy without exploiting people or destroying the environment in the global south
- curb the overconsumption which is driving climate breakdown
- invest in decarbonising the UK economy in a way that addresses economic and social inequalities

Hopefully some of these things can still be considered.



Obituary

Alan John Neville Cutbill

9th June 1946 – 30th March 2020

Alan was born on 9th June 1946 in Chiswick, London. He was the eldest child of Alan and Dorothy Cutbill and was joined later by a younger sister Pamela. After leaving school at 17, Alan worked for Lloyds of London as an insurance broker. He met and married Jenny while she was working as a theatre Sister at St Mary's, Paddington. Their eldest son Paul arrived in 1967 followed by Richard in 1969. The family first lived in Turnham Green near Chiswick before moving to Kent.

In 1971 Alan was head hunted by an American insurance company and the family moved to Brussels where the company's European headquarters was based. Their daughter Jane was born there in 1972. They lived in Brussels for six happy years during which Alan joined the Brussels British Rugby Club and took an active part in team training sessions and in the social life. In his youth Alan had been a very keen squash player but he subsequently took up golf which he loved all his life.



The family returned to England in 1977 and Alan commuted to London from Croydon for many years, working for a variety of re-insurance companies which involved a great deal of overseas travel. During this time he took further insurance exams and qualified as an Independent Financial Adviser which remained his career until his retirement in 2017.

The family made many friends in Croydon but on Jenny's retirement in May 2006 as the children had married and left home, they fulfilled their wish to move to a more rural environment. Both Alan and Jenny maintained that moving to St Mary Bourne on July 4th, 2006 was the best move of their lives. Despite being a London boy at heart, Alan loved his long walks with his dogs and revelled in the wide-open spaces. He was very well-known amongst the dog-walking locals and he also became a member of Jane Snow's Quiz league team, eventually becoming Quiz Master.

Alan suffered from a progressive lung disease for many years which required treatment in Autumn 2019 from Basingstoke Hospital and John Ratcliffe Hospital in Oxford. His condition rapidly deteriorated in mid-March and he died with his family around him on 30th March in Basingstoke Hospital.

Alan was very proud of his family and quietly doted on his grandchildren. He will be very much missed. His larger than life character and presence leaves a hole in their lives.

Jenny Cutbill and her family would like to pay enormous thanks to all the villagers for their kindness, support, cards and messages of condolence at the time of Alan's death. It has been a great source of comfort to us all. St Mary Bourne is a wonderful village to live in.



Olivia Millar (12) on the left, Florrie Millar (9) on the right

Photo: Abby Millar



This is from Amélie Lewis. Her rainbow and her painted pebbles really lighten up Egbury. She also inspired all the other kids in Egbury to paint pebbles which resulted in a chocolate Easter Egg trade with other neighbours who also wanted some colour by their house.



And the Newell girls have made this giant rainbow outside their home with added extra bunting.

Have you spotted any of the wonderful rainbows popping up all over St Mary Bourne? Part of a national trend, children here have also jumped on board to make a rainbow and put it up in their window to reassure us all with a **message of hope**. Originally starting in Italy and Spain, the #frommywindow (#desdemiventana) movement has really taken off, and is brightening these gloomy days. In our village we initiated it on the *Friends of St Mary Bourne School* Facebook page back on the 21st March, the first Monday after the children stopped school. It was such a nice community idea, we wanted all the children to be involved.

Here are just some of those spotted in St Mary Bourne on our daily exercise strolls:



Chloe and Lucy used pens and paint to make theirs.



Not all are painted though, here's a crocheted version.



Oscar, Leonard and Vesper made one each for their window, lots of colour to brighten the day.



Bailey and Emily worked hard on making this one with tissue paper.



Here's Isla and Isaac's big hand painted rainbow.



Ameelia painted hers with an extra reminder to stay home, help the NHS and save lives.

Thank you to everyone who took part, the images look beautiful.
Claire Rimmer

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NEWSLETTER

15 APRIL 2020

Since the last PC meeting on 9 March, the national pandemic has overtaken our normal course of business, and we are therefore finding new ways to work for the time being. This newsletter is a way to keep parishioners up-to-date with what the PC have been working on. We hope you find it useful. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, you can contact the Clerk, Sally Lawman by email clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Parish Council and the Community Association swung into action almost as soon as the coronavirus crisis began, and a community response group of volunteers has been formed to help those in isolation called the Longparish Community Support Group. See separate article. The PC has issued a grant of £1000 towards the Emergency Fund.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY Sadly, there have been some shed break-ins, broken windows and poaching going on, even during lockdown. Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.

During the Covid-19 outbreak, Hampshire Police are asking for people to only call 999 if it is an emergency, 101 if it is urgent and to report everything else on line www.hampshire.police.uk You can also anonymously report a crime or suspicious behaviour to Crimestoppers-uk.org (Tel: 0800 555 111)

PLAYGROUND CLOSED

The playground remains closed until further notice. Please ensure that everyone stays out.

The working party has just submitted applications for further grants and if successful, work on the playground refurbishment will begin in September.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled to be held on 20 April. This meeting was cancelled. The reports that would normally be presented at the APM will be available to read on the website.

PC MEETINGS

The PC has now received guidance which will allow us to meet remotely via video link, and we hope to conduct our first remote meeting on 11th May. As always, the Agenda will be published in advance of the meeting, and it should still be possible for residents to "attend" the

meeting. To do this, you will need to contact the Clerk, who will email you an invitation link to the meeting. We will however have much shorter meetings, concentrating on those items that require a resolution, and we hope that this newsletter will cover the other areas that are usually discussed in the monthly PC meeting.

NEIGHBOUR AWARE

It is very tempting to tackle all those outside jobs, but please talk to your neighbours before embarking on potentially noisy, smoky, or disruptive activities so you can agree when and for how long it should go on for!

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

The Spring Clean-Up Day scheduled for 25 April was cancelled. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the Autumn one as normal.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

There have been two infrastructure issues with mains drains in March/April, one by the shop and one in Forton. The Parish Council rep for Infrastructure and residents nearby alerted Southern Water and both issues are now resolved.

Flooding on Mill Lane - Middleton Estate have dug out the ditch by Lower Mill to assist with draining the current flood on Mill Lane but there is more of an issue towards B3048 that Hampshire Highways will need to deal with.

The PC have started to look at options for restoring the Stream verge.

THE PLOUGH INN

A Working Party has been set up to consider the options for the PC to facilitate the purchase of The Plough Inn by Longparish Community Pub Limited (LCPL). The PC has been seeking legal advice from Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and nothing has been decided yet.

THE CRICKETERS INN

The PC is very pleased to hear that a new landlord has moved into The Cricketers Inn.

RAYMOND BROWN

Raymond Brown are temporarily working extended hours to clear their back-log. Due to lockdown restrictions, there is currently a reduced market for the aggregate they produce, therefore the piles are higher than normal. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Collard Group 01264 720257 waste.solutions@rollard.com or Fortis IBA 02380 273750

THANK YOU!

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for following government advice, and staying at home as much as possible at this time. Please continue to do so. The PC also wishes to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to keep the village running smoothly at this difficult time. We are very lucky to live in such beautiful surroundings – enjoy the sunshine!



The Thomson family in Tufton showed their support for the NHS by mowing their field

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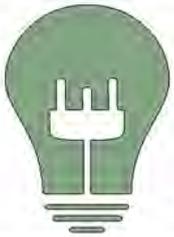
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LONGPARISH COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

In the April issue we just managed to squeeze in news about the launch of the Longparish Community Support group. Since then a lot has been going on in the background and this is where we are now.

There are over 50 volunteers. Some are helping out at the shop, some are delivering the meat and veg, answering the phone, collecting prescriptions or supporting an individual household or two. Everyone has been brilliant at responding to the email call outs for help. Others in our community have organised activities such as the Rainbows in the windows, the Easter Egg hunt, and a Friday night quiz on Facebook. A big thank you to everyone!

Even if the current strict lockdown is lifted in some way, there will still be many people who will be isolating for at least the 12 weeks, so it's expected that this support network will be needed for some weeks to come and into the future.

The village shop has reduced opening times to protect Anne & Pat, and also their staff and customers. Hopefully we are all beginning to get used to this way of shopping!! While you can no longer just dash out for something, you are now able to order fresh meat through the shop and pick up essentials daily. We are hugely grateful to Anne & Pat for keeping their shop open and continuing to deliver the papers. This has enabled them to stay as safe as possible, while trading and they have embraced working with volunteers.

A Telephone Tree is evolving and should be up and running by the time you read this. It is a way of getting information out quickly to everyone, and especially for anyone who isn't on the internet or on Facebook.

If you would also like to receive email updates you can register online at tinyurl.com/longparish-email, or send an email to email.list@longparish.org.uk asking to be added to the email list.

A Community Support Welfare Fund has been set up for those who are in financial need at these difficult times. This is administered by the trustees of St Nicholas Church in strictest confidence.
Tel 01264 720 215.

An Emergency Fund has been set up through the LCA. The Community support group is very grateful to grants from TVBC, the Parish Council, the LCA, Keep Test Valley Beautiful as well as individual donors. This has enabled the Group to provide a fruit bag each week to those on their own who are isolating as well as support the initiatives described above.

Christian Dryden - Parish Council

Andy Jolliffe - LCA

Please share with your neighbours and friends if they don't already know.

Longparish Community Support Group -

Tel 07765 467 006

Email covidhelp@longparish.org.uk

LCA Facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/Longparish



The Covid lockdown has driven a coach and horses through our community share launch planned for April. While the team has been distracted by the pandemic and in supporting the community in other ways, we are not deterred. This will all be over at some point, and pubs will reopen. The business case for our community owned pub is still sound and Longparish's response to this current crisis just further demonstrates the importance for having a community hub where the community can control its destiny.

Commenting on this response, James Alcock, chief executive of national charity the Plunkett Foundation said. "The residents of Longparish clearly have a passion to protect rural services, as we can see in their efforts to save the local pub. It is impressive to see how quickly they have managed to spur local volunteers into action and keep their local shop up and running, and importantly keeping vital supplies available for those most in need.

"This kind of can-do spirit will surely serve them well as they strive to take their local pub into community ownership. Issues such as loss of amenities and isolation in rural areas are well known. And we know from the many pubs we have supported that when they are in community ownership they can do so much more than just be a pub as they help tackle these issues."

Andy Jolliffe

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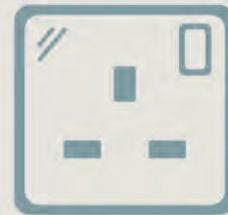
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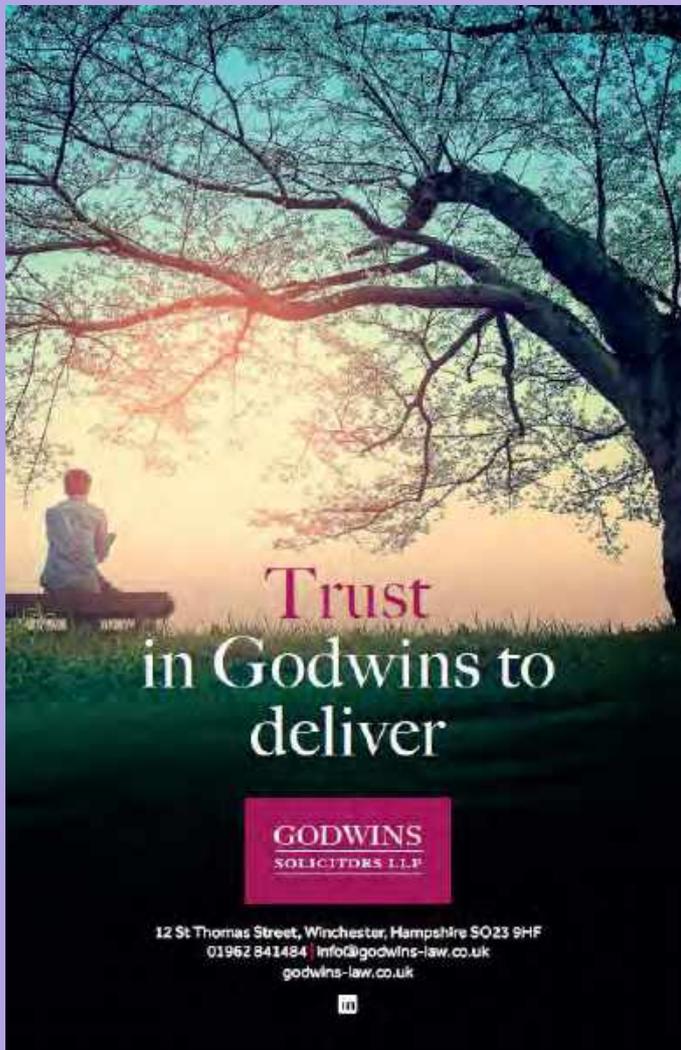
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Longparish Support Fund

The purpose of the fund is to provide financial help to individuals or families whose income has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. The fund is available immediately.

The trustees of St Nicholas Church are acting as administrators of the fund. Of these only the donations team will be involved with applications and all information will be held in the **strictest confidence** in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

There may be a number of reasons why your income has been affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. For example, you may need some short-term financial assistance because you are unable to access state funded benefits at the moment.



01264 720215

or email: stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com

If you know of a friend or neighbour who might benefit from this fund you may contact us, but please speak to them first.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence

LONGPARISH
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LONGPARISH
Community Association

Longparish Friends Line

If you live alone and would like someone to talk to during this difficult time, please:



01264 720215

You may wish to talk about a problem, or you may just feel like talking to someone

We are here to lend an ear

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Beware of Covid-19 scams

Scams are criminal tricks which are designed to deceive people in order to gain access to their money, possessions or personal details.

Scammers are taking advantage of people's fear and isolation as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19) – don't be caught out!

Tips on spotting scams:

1. Being rushed in to making a decision – any good tradesman/organisation will give you time to think about something and won't expect a decision straight away.
2. If it is an unbelievably good deal that it is likely that it is a scam.
3. Asking for cash upfront – Never give bank details or money up front, genuine companies may ask for a deposit once a contract has been signed but will not ask for full payment.

Scams to be aware of:

- Offers of virus testing kits – these will only be offered by the NHS. Currently, there is no vaccine or cure for Covid-19, so any offers of these will be scams.
- Avoid overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from Covid-19, such as hand wash, masks and gloves.
- People you do not know, and not from a community group, offering to do shopping for you. Thieves take the money and do not return with shopping.
- Cleaning companies offering to clean paths and driveways with antibacterial agents to prevent Covid-19.
- People pretending to be from your bank, mortgage company or insurance provider asking for bank details.
- Donation scams – people calling and asking for donation to fake charities, including Coronavirus Cure charities.
- Emails/texts/phone calls offering refunds you are not expecting – such as Council Tax and HMRC. Do not click on links or open attachments in suspicious emails.

If you are in isolation and need help, call Age Concern Hampshire on 0800 328 7154 or email info@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

Alternatively, contact your local Village Agent: Pam Weale on 07593439018

Village Agents are volunteers who can help you find information and local services that will enable you to stay living safely and independently.

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Editor's note: On behalf of the readers of Hill and Valley and all residents of the village our heartfelt thanks go to David Wright as Chairman and all the members of the Keep Test Valley Beautiful Campaign for their initiative and hard work which led to withdrawal of the Wheelabrator project.

KTVB Steering Committee

Closing Report

April 2020

The result

As you will all know, on 20 February 2020, Wheelabrator announced they were withdrawing their plans to develop the Harewood Incinerator. This was the best possible news for us, our community and for the Test Valley itself.

Future of KTVB Steering Committee

Having achieved its aim, the committee feels there is no longer any need for us to continue. We have therefore taken the decision to disband.

Risk of future plans for development of the site

There is a risk that other proposals might be put forward for the land in the future. This has been discussed by the committee. While individual members of the committee may at some stage become part of any groups that might be set up to monitor or mitigate future risk, we do not feel that we are the right structure to take this work forward.

Finance

In round terms, £100,000 was raised. This was a tremendous effort, and we would like to thank everyone who donated. Thank you also to the many people who set up and supported fund raising events to further the cause.

Of this £100,000, we have spent around £85,000, leaving a current surplus of approximately £15,000.

Breakdown of expenditure is as follows:

Planning consultants:	£32,000
Landscape consultants:	£18,950
Ecology consultants:	£5,500
Heritage consultants:	£4,500
Hydrogeology consultants:	£3,275
Air quality consultants:	£2,400
Secretarial and printing:	£6,670
Signs, banners etc:	£5,500
Website:	£1,725
Miscellaneous:	£4,475
Total:	£85,295

Plans for surplus

After discussion with our major donors, the committee have agreed that the surplus will be distributed to a number of different local charities and public bodies to be used for the benefit of local people, and to national anti-incineration groups. See below for schedule of donations.

Acknowledgments and Thanks

We would like to thank all our specialists for the superb work they have done on our behalf, and which was a very significant element of our success. We would like to say a special thank you to our planning barrister Richard Glover QC who provided invaluable advice and support on a pro-bono basis. We would also like to thank all our local councillors and MPs for their help and assistance. Particular thanks have to go to Caroline Nokes MP for her unstinting support, and her frequent parliamentary interventions on behalf of the cause. Finally, we want to thank each and every one of you who gave up your time to encourage and support, and who put pen to paper and finger to keyboard to send the 5463 letters of objection to Wheelabrator. This was a truly outstanding response.

Finally

It has been a hectic and sometimes stressful 12 months. The anxiety of what this project would have meant for us and our communities has been a constant worry. It is with a huge sigh of relief that we can say that the current threat has been defeated.

If further attempts are made to develop the site in an inappropriate fashion, we will be ready for it. We have learnt how to fight, we have built a fantastic team, and we have developed systems and strategies that have proved successful. If the worst should happen, we will be able to dust them off and fight again.

Thank you to all of you for your support.

David Wright

Chair, KTVB Steering Committee

Schedule of Donations

Andover Food Bank	£4,800
Countess of Brecknock Hospice	£1,800
Longparish Community Association	£3,000
Barton Stacey Parish Council	£1,200
Whitchurch Community Support Group	£500
Laverstoke Parish Council	£500
Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council	£500
Overton Parish Council	£500
UKWIN	£1250
Plume Plotter	£150



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We hope everyone is keeping well. Whilst we are unable to hold events, we are exploring other routes of raising funds for the school. FoLS unfortunately had to postpone the May Fayre,

which is our biggest fundraiser of the year and usually raises £4.5 - £5k. This funds the children's class music lessons, provides a contribution to school trips and this year we were hoping it would contribute to funding the repainting of the playground lines.

We are trying to raise some of what we might have made and are asking that if you are in the position to, please could you make a donation. This could be what you'd usually spend at the Fayre but honestly any donation will help. This is an unusual request and we fully appreciate that these are difficult times and therefore this may not be possible for people. 10% of any donations to this May Fayre fundraiser will be given to Little School as we normally do from May Fayre.

If you are able to make a donation please go to <http://www.longparish.org.uk/clubs/fols/fols-events/1578-may-fayre-5.html>

If you would prefer to make a donation via cheque, please drop it into Penny Billingham, Secretary of FoLS at 114 North Acre, addressing the cheque to 'Friends of Longparish School'. Please write 'May Fayre' on the back of the cheque.

We are very fortunate that Sylvia Crook grows lots of wonderful plants for the May Fayre. As there won't be a Fayre this year, she will be putting a table on the drive of Tudor Cottage with various plants available for donations. Please wear gloves and maintain social distancing. For more details and how to donate for plants, please visit the donation link above.

Thank you so much for your continued support.



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Even though Little School is temporarily closed while we are in lockdown, the children have been very busy at home. We set up a virtual Little School on our parent Facebook page. We have still been investigating life cycles and had an Easter bonnet competition. The children have been creating great pictures, making fantastic models, baking yummy cakes and learning to ride their bikes.

We are now enrolling children from September. Unfortunately due to the current circumstances we cannot offer viewings. If you would like to find out more you can visit our website

<https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/> or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup

If you would like an application form or would like further information please contact us at admin@longparishlittleschool.org.uk



Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a Haiku have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The lines rarely rhyme. This one was written by Catherine Sweet

Yaffle of laughter
Looping flight, flash of yellow green
Drumroll? Woodbecker!

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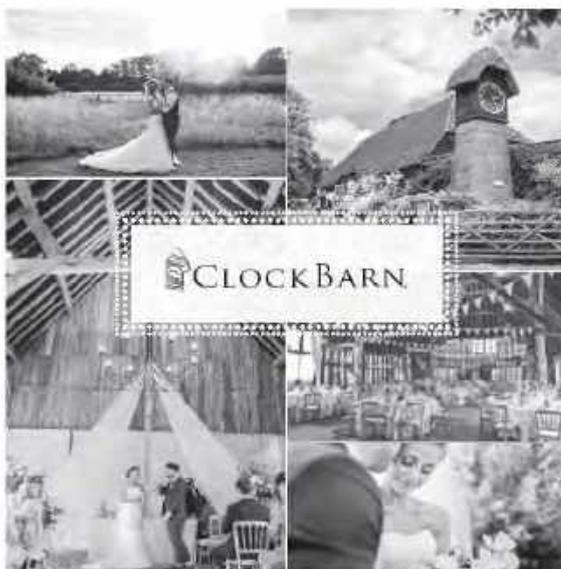
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Birds of Longparish - by Chris Bowman

TREECREEPER

The Treecreeper is a small bird with its head and body similar to a Wren. It has a decurved bill and a much longer stiff tail which it uses when it climbs up tree trunks. They are brown above and white below. They have a white stripe above and behind the eye, white banded wings and a rufous rump. In the winter they are usually foraging with flocks of tits. Its food comprises insects and spiders, some seeds during winter, mostly pine and spruce. They forage on tree trunks starting low down and creeping spirally.



Eggs are laid in late March to early June. There are often two broods overlapping when a second nest is built and eggs are laid before the first brood has fledged. They nest on a tree trunk behind loose bark and sometimes in a building using a foundation of small twigs and grass lined with hair and wool. 5-6 eggs are laid. They are white with very fine specks of reddish-brown usually at the larger end. Incubation is 13-15 days and fledging is in 13-18 days.

We have had a very wet and mild winter. This has encouraged birds to nest two weeks early. Nuthatches have been nesting in March and Grey Wagtails with young have been seen in mid April. I cannot remember them ever nesting this early. I saw my first Swallow on the 6th April four days earlier than last year and House Martins on the 8th two days earlier. The Cuckoo has been heard by a few people but I think the first was on the 5th April behind North Acre.

Each January the **RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch** takes place. People sit and watch the birds for two hours and count how many different birds they see and here are the results in order of the most common birds seen

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 House Sparrow | 6 Goldfinch |
| 2 Starling | 7 Great Tit |
| 3 Blue Tit | 8 Robin |
| 4 Woodpigeon | 9 Long-Tailed Tit |
| 5 Blackbird | 10 Magpie |

Calm down folks
it's only
gardening !



The Remote Notes – the singing goes on!

Longparish Village Choir is still rehearsing - via video conferencing facilities. Members of the Choir join Zoom (equipped of course, with a glass of wine) straight after the Thursday Clap. We seem to be recruiting new members; children, pets and stuffed toys are now all taking part and, to be honest, we laugh as much as we sing!

Our VE Day weekend concerts in Longparish and Hurstbourne Priors have had to be postponed, but we'll arrange new dates as soon as we can.

We've been experimenting with creating a virtual performance of the wartime classic We'll Meet Again, part of our VE Day concert programme, but also now on everyone's lips as a result of Her Maj's timely quote. As ever, anyone can join the choir. We do not hold auditions and no experience or musical education is necessary, just a willingness to rehearse often enough to get it right! If you'd like to find out more, do talk to anyone in the choir or give me a ring on 01264 720790, email cathy.yelf@sky.com

The Choir sends love and very best wishes to all our friends and neighbours across the Benefice.

Longparish Cricket Club

shortened report (sorry lack of space)

- No cricket played yet
- Hope to start later in the Summer
- Committee very busy with grant application for new nets from Veolia
- Groundsman has been working hard on the pitch
- Only cricket has been in members' gardens
- To play contact Justin Jackman jackmanjustin@aol.com



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB - Message from Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 or Marion Bell 720205 Sadly our visits have had to be cancelled. Hopefully you are all planting seeds and potting on. Please do grow extra. There are many people in the village who need plants. Rosy Hardy's nursery is closed but you can order via her website and they will deliver. www.hardysplants.co.uk. We are missing seeing everyone and do hope we can get back to normal before too long. In the meantime Happy Gardening, Keep Safe and Well.



Photo: M. Widén

St Mary Bourne Primary School

Rainbow Trail Success

The Story

The trend of creating pictures of rainbows during lockdown in the UK has been credited to a 31-year-old woman, Crystal Stanley, in Ipswich who read about something similar in Italy which inspired her to set up a Rainbow Trail Facebook page.

Miss Stanley said the rainbows were a sign of “**positivity, hope and togetherness**” during the crisis.

She painted her first rainbow on a piece of wallpaper, put it in her window and encouraged others on her Facebook page to do the same.

More than 182,000 people from around the world have since joined her group and the Rainbow Trail has now set up a fundraising page to help East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices.

In her recent broadcast to the nation, **HM the Queen** said the rainbows would be the symbol of the UK’s “**national spirit**” in the face of the pandemic.

11th April 2020 (bbc.co.uk/news)

See also Vicar’s page and St Mary Bourne editorial pages 5 and 6.

Andover Artisan Market
Sunday 17th May 2020
 10am to 2pm - High Street

If you have a seasonal photograph that could be used for the front cover of Hill & Valley, please send it to one of the editors listed below. Please send any contributions in portrait and jpg format if possible.

Front cover photograph: **Caroline Peters**

The Village Halls are closed until further notice. More information from the contacts listed below.

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall: Mrs Anne Yeaman, e: hbpvillagehall@live.co.uk

Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Jacqui Healey, ☎ 07748 322533, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk

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

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

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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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Parish Editors

Hurstb’ Priors: Fenella Williams, Old Parsonage, H’b Pr, ☎ 01256 892081, e: fenella.williams@btopenworld.com

Longparish: Tom Bremridge, Bramblegate, Longparish ☎ 01264 720 540, e: hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk

St Mary Bourne & Woodcott: Pearl Pritchard, Downhams Cottage, Egbury, StMB, ☎ 07869 727 452, e: pearlpritchard@outlook.com

Editorial: Tom Bremridge, Longparish ☎ 01264 720 540
 Michael Widén, St Mary Bourne ☎ 01264 738 250

Production: Tom Bremridge, Bramblegate, Longparish, ☎ 01264 720 540, e: hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk -
 Michael Widén, Batsford Hs, StMB, ☎ 01264 738 250, e: m.widen@btinternet.com

Advertising: Michael Widén, Batsford House, StMB, ☎ 01264 738 250, e: m.widen@btinternet.com

Websites

* **Hill & Valley pages on-line**

Hurstbourne Priors: www.facebook.com/HurstbournePriors
 Parish Council: www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk *

Longparish:
 Parish Council: www.longparish.org.uk *

St Mary Bourne:
 Parish Council: www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk *
 Village Centre: www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Village Scrapbook: Sue Dixon - e: suedixon2005@hotmail.co.uk

Stoke Village Fund: <http://www.svf.btck.co.uk>

Bourne Valley Signpost:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BVSmember>

The Bright Waters Benefice: www.brightwatersbenefice.com