

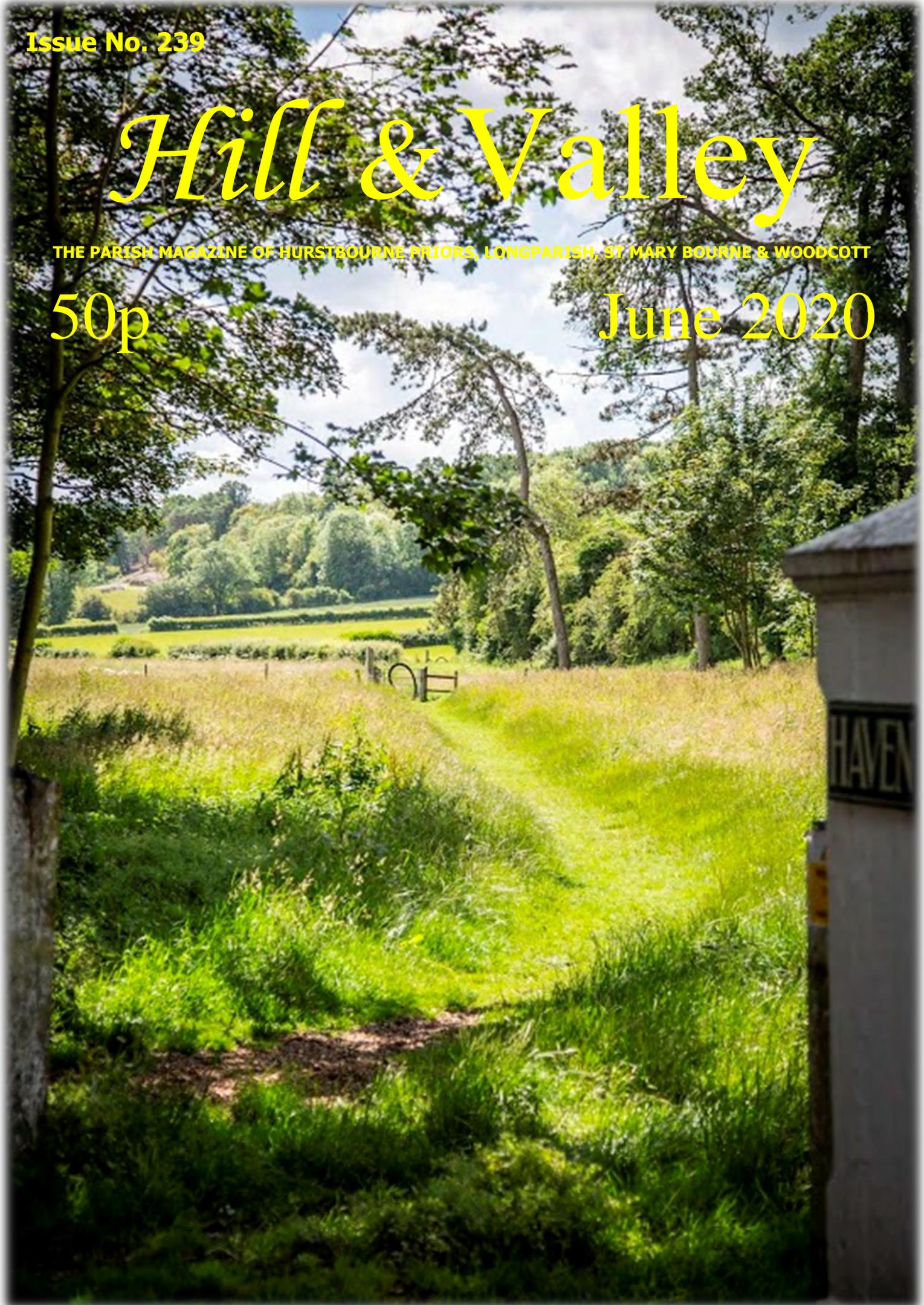
Issue No. 239

Hill & Valley

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

50p

June 2020



Dear Friends,

How many of you remember playing Kim's Game in your childhood? This is when various everyday objects are displayed on a tray. You look at them for a moment, then you have to turn away when one object is removed, turn back and remember which it is. Over the last 8 weeks, I wonder what you will have noticed is missing from our tray of pre-lockdown 'normality'?

I think some in our communities would put 'an open church'. They have missed the opportunity to enter a place outside the home for prayer or reflection, not just a place to gather for worship. Up until lockdown we have known our churches as 'sanctuaries'; and in the tradition of the past, along with the churchyards, they are known as common ground.

It also feels to me that we have lost something meaningful during these last two months. A place of 'refuge' has been denied to all of us, taking away the chance for anyone to seek 'shelter' or a quiet moment of prayer. A place anyone could go to. A sanctuary that could provide peace or comfort, away from what they faced in their everyday lives.

But now we are on the threshold of '**unlockdown**' and the common ground needs to be made safe. Guidelines will be there to protect the vulnerable.

Our bishops have agreed that the door can be opened just a little and through it the clergy may go in alone to pray. Whenever they do this, they represent all the people of our parishes to God. Perhaps the next step will be to open the door a little further for the private prayers of others.

Of course I believe that God hears us wherever we pray, but there is something special about being in a sacred place where people have come over the centuries in difficult times to feel that sense of God's care for the whole community. And the sanctuary or sacred place we seek to reopen is more than just a place for church services and public worship, it's about reconnecting with our fundamental spiritual needs and commitments.

In 2020 a living faith does not depend on architectural structures or arcane rituals, but it does depend on commitment - about caring for our neighbours, about being without guile, honest and kind. Something which some of us hope to find woven into our society, linking us back to the gospel.

For now it feels as if we remain locked out and until things change significantly, we are called on to hold fast. To continue in the spirit of friendship, to wave to those who pass our way, to become better acquainted with our neighbours, to enjoy the Thursday night greetings up and down the road as we clap the NHS, our carers and key workers, and on **Sunday evenings at 9pm, to light a candle** - in solidarity with those around us, united with those we cannot be with and as a commitment to **stay alert - control the virus - save lives**.

With my love and continued prayers.

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 25 minutes with two hymns, a reading, prayers and blessing. Everyone in the family can join and no one has to get out of their p-js. You can have a cup of coffee, comfy chair and best of all - see or hear everyone.

At the end we all go into breakout rooms to say hello to a few others for 5 minutes and then it's off to prepare the four-course-three star-Michelin- lunch, (or put the sausages on the Barbie)!

Dodie



Saturday 6th June &
Saturday 20th June @ 11 am



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** or
e: 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** or email: **rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk**



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Thank you, thank you, thank you

Thank you to all the lovely people who are keeping us going and cheerful. The Community Support Group organised by the Parish Council, the Community Association and the Church are doing an amazing job and we are well supported by many others including Anne and Pat at the shop, Steve our postman, the bin men and now takeaways from The Cricketers and so much more. Thank you all



Natasha Rouse serving at the shop



Steve our postie



Anne Burke



Social distancing at the shop



Andy Jolliffe preparing the fruit and veg deliveries



Claire Sykes loads up fruit and veg



Our bin men



Pat Burke

Anne and Pat Burke have been running our wonderful Acre Stores since the early 70s. They have endured many years of hard work in order to continue to succeed as they have done. One of the hurdles in the early days was having to survive 4 long years operating their original shop from a store that was missing a wall and had to be covered with a tarpaulin after extensive damage was caused by a minor traffic incident... Renovations over the years expanded the shop, and made it the community hub that we know and love today. Anne and Pat are always willing to regale any lucky shoppers with many a story of years gone by, which helps keep the history of our village alive. Little did anyone anticipate the happenings of 2020 with the global Covid-19 pandemic. This difficult time has seen the community pull together in ways that we haven't seen for years. If it wasn't for everyone who volunteered to help, the shop may have had to close its doors. From the LCA, (and I think we speak on behalf of the whole community), we wanted to thank Anne and Pat to say how grateful we are for allowing us into the shop to keep it going, so that the village was never without its essentials during the lockdown period.

The shop is open Monday-Thursday & Saturday 9-11am, Friday 9-12 noon, Sunday 9.30-11.30. We are continuing to take meat orders via paper and email. Videos of the stock are available on the LCA and Shop Facebook pages, as well as photos of promotions displayed outside the shop. Please continue to donate to the Foodbank; the collection box is outside the front of the shop and any donations are welcome.

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Longparish Community Pub Ltd

The launch of a community share offer to raise funds to bring The Plough into community ownership as a valuable village asset is now set for early June. As you will have seen from their recent letter, this project is fully supported by Longparish Parish Council.

Originally planned for April, the launch would normally have been with a fanfare along with invitations to join a public meeting in the village hall. With the current situation the launch will be a much softer event. Longparish Community Pub Ltd (LCPL) will soon be seeking investors to help fund this exciting opportunity.

An invitation to invest in community shares will be posted through your door in next couple of weeks. Information will also be available through social media and via the Plough Ahead web site www.ploughahead.co.uk. There will be video conferencing sessions with a chance to ask the team questions. If guidelines and social distancing measures allow, we also hope to set up some 1:1 meetings in the village hall.

It might seem a little strange to be asking for investment to save a pub at a time when all pubs across the country have closed their doors and many of them are facing an uncertain future as a result of the current pandemic. Yet, this current situation also reinforces the reasons why it is perhaps now even more important for our community to come together, take control and make this venture a success. Under community ownership The Plough can be shaped to be whatever the village decides it needs, now and in the future. If we lose this opportunity now through a short-term fear of an uncertain future, then that opportunity may be lost for ever.

No one will make a fast buck through investing in this project. In fact, the maximum amount the shares would ever be worth is what was paid for them. Investing in community shares in LCPL is all about investing in the long-term social fabric of where we live. The returns come from the satisfaction in seeing your investment helping your local community, and also knowing that just a bit of the local pub is yours!

Andy Jolliffe

Longparish Village Pub & Hub

Tell your Parish Council what you think.

As you know, we have a chance to buy The Plough for the village. A place to meet and greet, drink and eat, park, play and learn. Your Parish Council has been asked to support this project by taking out a long-term, low interest rate loan from HM Treasury over 50 years, which should be at no cost to Parish Council funds.

We have hand-delivered information about this proposal to every house in the village, and added information to the village website. We welcome your views, so please contact your local councillor or the PC Clerk Sally Lawman (details below) **by 8 June**. Alternatively, this item will be on the Agenda at our next PC Meeting at 7.30pm on **Monday 8 June** (in the village hall or by video on Zoom - please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend).

Clerk: Miss Sally Lawman, Ladybird Cottage, Stoke, Andover, Hants, SP11 0ND
01264 738716 clerk@longparish.org.uk

"The Remote Notes"

Longparish Village Choir is starting a YouTube channel of lock-down performances. Songs will be rehearsed via Zoom, with each choir member recording their own voice at home. Henry (Yelf) will then edit all the voice tracks together and add pictures to finish the piece. Some items will involve the whole choir, others may be solos or even instrumental pieces performed by the choir members.

Our first piece, We'll Meet Again is already on the channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu956HTPC_H6Tuqdw7IffFCA

Or search YouTube for Longparish Village Choir.

The Choir is also inviting any local musicians to submit items for the channel. If you have a musical party piece, let me know and we can showcase your talent on the channel for your friends and family to enjoy!

Email cathy.yelf@sky.com or call me on 01264 720790.

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Longparish Parish Council
Report from Meeting Held on 11 May
(remote meeting)

Procedural

Ordinarily, the May PC meeting is the statutory Annual Meeting of the Council, where the election of the Chairman and other officers takes place. The regulations of the Coronavirus Act 2020 enable PCs to defer these elections to May 2021, and it was agreed that the current Chairman, and all other officers would remain in post until the next Annual Meeting.

Finance

The Council agreed the Accounts and Notes for 2019-2020 and the Annual Return, and noted that these would be scrutinised by the Internal Auditor before being passed to the External Auditor. The Council also approved the revised Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment.

General Power of Competence

The PC is required to formally re-confirm eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence on an annual basis. It was minuted that Longparish Parish Council continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

The Plough Inn

It was resolved that the Parish Council will continue to support Longparish Community Pub Limited (LCPL) in their initiative to secure ownership of The Plough Inn and to restore it to an operational public house/restaurant and potential community hub for Longparish (please see separate article).

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 19.30 hours on Monday 8 June. This may be held by remote online meeting, dependent upon current government guidelines. Parish Council meetings are public, and public participation will still apply. Parishioners are welcome to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman – Christian Dryden (tel: 720398, or email: clerk@longparish.org.uk).

Minutes of previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish web-site (longparish.org.uk).

BIRDS OF LONGPARISH

by Chris Bowman

WHITE STORK

A group of private landowners and nature conservation organisations are working together, based at Knepp in West Sussex to help the white stork return home to South East England for the first time in several hundreds of years.

These large birds, symbolic of rebirth, are native to the British Isles and evidence suggests that they were once widely distributed. Whilst it is unclear why this spectacular and sociable bird failed to survive in Britain, it is likely that a combination of habitat loss, over-hunting and targeted

persecution all contributed to their decline. A contributory factor may be that it was persecuted in the English Civil War for being associated with rebellion. The white stork is a migratory bird species, and there have been many sightings in the UK over recent years, but conservationists identified that the species would need a helping hand to re-establish a breeding population in Britain.

The White Stork Project aims to restore a population of at least 50 breeding pairs in southern England by 2030 through a phased release programme over the next five years.

The white stork is mostly white with black wing feathers with a wingspan of about 5 feet. It has a long red bill and legs. Our stork is a female. She arrived in the UK from Poland with others in 2018. During the summer 2019 she started to explore. She



was seen in Cuckmere Haven between Brighton and Eastbourne. Then she moved to Durrington near Salisbury on the 13th September 2019

before moving on to Charney Basset in Oxfordshire on the 27th March. She was then sighted in Norfolk on the Ouse Washes on the 9th April and arrived in Longparish on the 24th April, spending several nights on top of a chimney in Forton. Once the birds reach maturity around 3-4 years old they will be released (our stork decided to leave early). They nest right across Europe. The nest is a big structure of sticks lined with grass, paper and rags. 3-5 eggs are laid in mid April incubated for 33-34 days and fledge in 58-64 days. Their food is mostly animals, mice, small birds etc. I have been in touch with Knepp since we first saw the stork and will keep you all updated. PS: Seen again on Jan West's chimney on 21st May

Social isolation – how to help yourself if you are feeling lonely

Try a telephone befriender service

Age Concern Hampshire can arrange a friendly phone call with a volunteer – call the Information and Advice line (0800 328 7154 Mon-Fri 10am-2pm). Also, Silverline (0800 470 8090) is available 24 hours per day for people over 55 who feel lonely or isolated. NHS Volunteer Responder Service (0808 196 3646 8am-8pm). Longparish Community Support (07765 467 006). Longparish Friends Line (01264 720215). You can also find a list of befriending networks on: <https://www.befriending.co.uk/>

**For more information contact
your local Village Agent
Pam Weale on 07593 439 018**

VE DAY SCARECROWS

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Laura Harding for organising the scarecrow competition. This cheered everyone up over the VE weekend and provided a lot of fun for the adults and children who dreamt up and produced their scarecrows. Here Laura writes about the competition:

Along with the VE day celebrations, we held a scarecrow competition. Initially I thought it would be something nice for the children to do during lockdown. However, this escalated into so much more than I could have imagined. In the end we had around 47 scarecrows and it made the walk around our beautiful village so much fun. The effort put in was amazing and I hope everyone enjoyed them as much as we did. Finkley Down Farm kindly agreed to judge the scarecrows and they did a live video on Facebook asking followers to help with their decision. The results were as follows: for the adults, first prize went to the Elwell family with their scarecrow Tank Commander Tom, second prize went to the Hillier family with Vera Lynn and third prize went to the Sanderson family with Sandy Discrow. For the children's category, first prize went to Sparkle Seashell made by Inara Janmohammed, second prize went to Dr Harry Hope made by the Brett family and in third place was Gymnastics Dave made by David Harding. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped raise over £250 for Longparish School. The LCA also arranged a lovely surprise for all of the children in Longparish to receive a commemorative chocolate bar. The wrapper can be kept as a souvenir of what turned out to be a very different VE Day.



Sandy Discrow

Family third prize



Meet Sparkle Seashell. Made by Inara age 3

Children first prize



Meet Dr Harry Hope made Emily 11, Louisa 11 and Olivia 9

Children second prize



Meet GD (gymnastics Dave) made by David age 11

Children third prize



The Celebrating Tank Commander Tom

Family first prize



Vera Lynn

Family second prize



Commemorative chocolate bars

WALKING FOR FOOD - Neighbours Sarah, Ailsa and Annelise, with their dogs Clover, Coco and Skye, are taking part in "Walk the Test Another Way" to raise money for Andover Foodbank. If you would like to find out more or donate our Justgiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sarah-Harris111>. The Rotary Club of Romsey organises the charity walk every year in September. This year the walk is taking place earlier so that charities can benefit now when they really need support. Walks are done individually and in accordance with current legislation.

SCHOOL NEWS

Longparish Little School.

Even though Little School is temporally closed while we are in lockdown, the children have been very busy at home.

We would like to thank Hillier garden centres for donating some herb plants to the children. They have been learning what the plants need to make them grow and some have even used them in their cooking. We have been investigating the life cycle of a caterpillar. Our caterpillars have now turned into cocoons and we are waiting to see what happens next. We also celebrated VE day by having parties in our own gardens. The children made flags, bunting and cakes.

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 further information please contact us at

claire@longparishlittleschool.org.uk

Longparish C E Primary School

The first half of the summer term has been a strange mix of weird, worrying and wonderful for the children at Longparish School. Following a positive spring term, with children happy and settled in their classrooms, they suddenly found themselves learning at home, in lockdown conditions, with no idea when a return to school would be possible.

Since lockdown began on 20th March, the teachers have prepared home learning lessons for the children and kept in touch with families via email, phone, facebook & Zoom. We have been delighted with the quality of work, creativity, sporting activities and opportunities taken to learn new things, perhaps not usually possible when life is more 'normal'.

In the meantime, the school premises have been thoroughly deep cleaned, decorated in some places & outstanding jobs completed. Teachers & staff have been visiting school, on a rota basis, adhering to social distancing at all times, to prepare & reorganise their classrooms, ready for the children's return, some on 1st June. Our headteacher Trudie Cawthra and her team are working hard to prepare for this, making sure they follow the strict government guidelines but also making sure they provide the warm setting the children are familiar with.

Trudie, the governors & I would like to thank all of the staff at Longparish School and all parents & carers for their support through this very unusual (and we hope not to be repeated) time. Most of all, we would like to thank and commend the children whose resilience has been outstanding. You are a credit to our community.

Ingrid Sanderson Chair of Governors

FoLS News

It was lovely to see all the scarecrows around the village to help us celebrate VE Day. Thank you Laura Harding for organising the competition. Thank you also to Sylvia and Martin for the plants they grew which have raised a significant amount of donations for FoLS and Little School. So far over £850 has been raised through both of these as well as general donations. FoLS want to say a huge thank you to everyone as it will make such a difference in funding things at school next year, as well as providing some additional funds for Little School.

If you would still like to make a donation, please go to <https://www.kindlink.com/fundraising/longparish-community-association/fols> or drop it around to Penny Billingham, Secretary of FoLS at 114 North Acre.

We've been looking at other fundraisers and are currently running a **Virtual Pet Competition** that is open to everyone.

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The Cricketers Inn

The Cricketers Inn, Longparish, has reopened (albeit take-away only for now!) New landlord, Matt Etherington introduces himself:

Where to start? Hello to all of you, I am Matt! Having taken on The Cricketers Inn, Longparish in March, at the time of 'Lockdown', many people thought it was a foolish thing for me to do. Sometimes I thought they may be right! However, lockdown has given me an opportunity to make a start on redecorating, refurbishing and sprucing up your pub, so it will be ready to receive you when we are all allowed to be free range again.

In the meantime, I have started a Friday and Saturday evening food and real ale takeaway service. I have been astounded by the huge support from the people of Longparish and surrounding villages for making the takeaway service work, and for welcoming me (back) to this beautiful part of the World.

My working life began in Longparish, back when I was 14, at The Plough Inn, having started as a kitchen porter, I quickly started to get involved with the food side of things, following my passion for making fresh food from scratch, and my love of preparing and using seasonal game and fish to create amazing food. I spent a few years in the kitchen at the Plough Inn, and tried my hand at 'Front of House' – which I equally enjoyed! After seven years of being involved with the Plough, I spread my wings – working in different parts of the country for gastro pubs, and spending a year in the South of France as a sous chef for a Hotel.

By the age of 25, I decided I wanted a change, and my weekends back! I settled in Dorset, with my partner, and together we built up a Garden Maintenance company, quite a change! I could never really shake off my love of hospitality, though, and I set about cooking private dinner parties for some of our customers, and got involved in the running of our village social club, turning it from near folding into the thriving community hub it is today,

When I heard that Longparish was down to only one pub, and then heard about that closing, I thought the time was right to see if I could give it a go, and build up a pub that Longparish could love and treasure again – and this is my goal. I have met many of you, some of you know me (including my former boss!) and I cannot wait to meet all of you as we regain our freedom. I hope I can serve

Longparish well and create the sort of pub you want to have in your Village. Cheers!

<https://thecricketersinnlongparish.com>

email: thecricketerslongparish@gmail.com



Longparish Gardening Club

We have reviewed our June and July Evening garden visits with the hosts concerned and have found that it is not practical to hold these events in view of the current circumstances. In both cases, we hope to be able to reschedule next year.

There is no meeting planned for August and we will keep the September visit to Preston Candover under review with the host.

Rosie Lowry

Longparish Cricket Club

Hopefully we will be able to start offering controlled net sessions at our ground sometime in June. The preparations of the club house and ground are underway in readiness for the first matches of the season which could be played at the beginning of July. If you or your children are interested in playing cricket for Longparish CC please contact Justin Jackman at jackmanjustin@aol.com or via the contacts on the website

<https://longparishcc.secure-club.com>

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WEATHER – APRIL 2020

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total rainfall for month | 75mm | 2.92in |
| It rained on | 6 days | |
| Rainfall same month last year | 48mm | 1.88in |
| Total for 2020 | 456mm | 17.95in |
| Total for 2019 | 265mm | 10.43in |
| Max temp (on 23 rd) | 27C | 80F |
| Min temp (on 6 th) | -1C | 30F |
| Frosts | 2 | |

April was a nice, dry, sunny month apart from a 30mm downpour on 17th and 43mm on the last four days. It was the joint warmest April on record (with April 2016).

John Smail

RHUBARB CRUMBLE CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients

For the Crumble

50g butter
25g demerara sugar
40g caster sugar
100g plain flour

For the Rhubarb

275g untrimmed rhubarb
50g caster sugar
25g plain flour

For the Cake

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6tbsp of soured cream | 1/2 tsp bicarb of soda |
| 1 free range egg and 1 yolk | 1/2 tsp of baking powder |
| 100g plain flour | pinch of salt |
| 100g caster sugar | 75g ground almonds |
| 75g softened butter | 1 tsp of vanilla extract |

1. Line and grease a tin, ideally 5cm deep and 20cm square. Pre-heat the oven to 180C
- 2 Top and tail the rhubarb and cut into 2.5cm pieces place into a bowl and add the sugar and flour, mix well and set aside for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Next make the crumble, melt the butter in a pan and add the sugars, mix well over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved and you have a smooth toffee like sauce, you will need to stir constantly. Pour the sauce over the flour and mix well to make a cookie style dough, leave to cool. Once cooled break the mixture into little nuggets and set aside.
4. For the cake mix the sour cream, egg and yolk in a bowl until thoroughly combined, add the vanilla and mix.
5. Sift the flour, baking powder and bicarb in a bowl and add the sugar. Add the butter and using a hand whisk mix well until it resembles fine breadcrumbs, add in the nuts and gradually the egg mix, stir until smooth.
6. Pour the cake mix into the prepared tin, scatter over the rhubarb and then finally the crumb mix.
7. Bake for 45 minutes until golden. Allow to cool before you cut into portions.

Lulu Beasley

THE MAY FAIR ON-LINE – DELI STALL

Following the success of the Plant Stall, we are delighted to bring you another of your favourite May Fair stalls on line. Josephine Hutchinson and Denise Bradley have been busy making jams and chutneys and have the following for sale at £3.50 per jar:

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Ferocious Bengal

Marmalade

Ginger
Orange
Whisky
Orange,
apple with Calvados

Jam

Raspberry
Strawberry
Jumbleberry
Plum and Apple
Apple and Walnut
Apple and Jumbleberry

To order, please email

josephine.hutchinson@btinternet.com She will confirm your order and send you instructions for a BACS payment and how to collect your order. All proceeds are in aid of the May Fair to support our village amenities.



MAY FAIR PLANT STALL

“The Plant Stall” would like to thank all the kind people of our village and the Benefice who have supported our venture to make use of seeds already sown before Lock-down. Thanks too, to Gina Yates for her usual high quality plants while some of my seedlings sulked - and I can only apologise to all those affected by this childish behaviour. I hope that when you read this you are not still waiting for your Tomatoes....

This could not have been done without the enthusiasm and encouragement of the May Fair Committee, in particular Kim French, who is a Wizard on her computer and an absolute Rock in every possible way for which I could not be more grateful. She tells me we have taken more than £800.00 so even more thanks to our generous friends.

Precelly Murray

THANK YOU PRECELLY

Every year, many hours of dedicated care are invested in growing the lovely plants to sell at our famous May Fair Plant Stall. This year has been no exception, despite some very difficult circumstances. On behalf of the May Fair team and the whole village, a huge thank you to Precelly Murray who has truly gone above and beyond this year. She has delivered some much needed joy to all our gardens, as well as raising an impressive and very welcome sum to support our village amenities.

THANK YOU!

The May Fair Team

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The Andover Foodbank would like to thank everyone who has made a donation over the past few weeks - your generosity and kindness has been greatly appreciated.

This week we are in need of the following, non-food items: shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, general cleaning and laundry products, dinner plates, cereal bowls, saucepan and frying pans.

Thank you for your support.

Andover Foodbank

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Public Parish Council meetings have been cancelled until further notice. A meeting will be held in late June via Zoom. If there is a resident who wishes to raise something at this meeting and therefore wants to join the Zoom meeting please can they contact me, the Parish Clerk, and I will notify you of the date, time and give you an access code.

If there is something you wish to bring before the Parish Council, please email me.

Richard Waterman, Parish Clerk

Richard.waterman150@btinternet.com

REFUSE, RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE

A number of residents have asked whether the usual refuse and recycling service will be resumed once the current COVID-19 outbreak is over. BDBC Cllr David George has confirmed that the black bins will be collected weekly and the recycling every two weeks as part of the Council's contract with Serco, as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Green Waste service which was suspended in April will restart in mid-June and customers will receive a letter advising them of the start date. No new customers can be accepted at this time. For those who have bulky waste which needs to be collected, that service will go live on Tuesday 26 May, booking online only at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bulkywaste with the collections starting the following week.

HCC has given details of the regulations for the newly reopened tip: It will only be open between 10.00 and 16.00 and is for householders who have nowhere to store waste. There are some exclusions as to what can be accepted at the moment so please check the website. Please note that you must not queue on either Columbus Way (by Lidl) or South Way (by Twinings) as it causes congestion for vehicles making deliveries to the Industrial Estate. Cars waiting to use the tip should use Livingstone Road – which is the road the tip exit is on. And the queue may be 'closed' if the operators of the tip feel that it will not be possible for all cars to enter and un-load by closing time.

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council

THE TALE OF TEN TANKERS

...or an ornithological account of sewage matters

No one living in the Valley will have failed to notice that the tanker migration season started early this year after a particularly wet winter. As leaks from rising groundwater into the sewage system threatened to overflow the creaky network once again, a flock of multicoloured tankers arrived just after Christmas to save the day. Led by canary yellow ones from main contractor MTS, there were also long-tailed white ones from Kent, short stubby brown ones from Birmingham, and, best of all, two shiny silver ones all the way from Scotland whose chirpy Geordie drivers preened and polished them all day long.

Whilst they were busy in the heart of St Mary Bourne, they particularly favoured the area around Cressington where they could frolic in the dust and create havoc in the mud waiting their turn to sip from the pumping station at the viaduct.



In late April, however, the message got out to tanker central who decided to turn off the sewer completely and an even greater swarm of yellow

tankers of the MTS species descended upon us to roost at Cressington. Flushed with the excitement of their arrival, they chattered loudly all night about their sex lives, revved their engines, flashed their yellow lights, left their windows and doors open for all to hear the dawn chorus from their amplified radios and beeped their reversing beepers throughout the night to ensure local residents were aware of their presence and got no sleep.

Tired of the intense competition around the viaduct, some of them also found their way down to Hurstbourne Priors where they continued to shout, beep and flash all night whilst their colleagues dug holes in roads and fields in search of elusive leaks. Two unfortunate ladies from Basingstoke encountered a rare green spotted one on the road below the Chapmansford crossroads and ended up in the ditch.

How long will this go on? Not until the chalky aquifer below us has receded and the river stops flowing at Gang Bridge. And now construction is about to begin on another 44 houses at the Hurstbourne Station site which will be connected into this inadequate infrastructure. It is simply not good enough Southern Water! It is time for a public meeting in this valley when you tell us what you are going to do to solve these problems. Otherwise you may find that the next time your bills come fluttering into our letterboxes there will be a whole lot of empty nests!

Martin Briant-Evans

TRAVELLERS' TALES

Hurstbourne Priors

Having spent 35 years in Hurstbourne Priors, 10 months in Longparish and 5 nights in St Mary Bourne, we have varying ideas of these three delightful villages. Our hearts are of course in Hurstbourne Priors because we were there for so long – our family of three children grew up, and then they went away, then they came back with wives/partner, then two of them had children, they brought their seven children to see us, and now the eldest of our grandchildren has gone away to University.

Hurstbourne Priors is not however blessed with footpaths. Gina Yates, who now lives in Andover (but still comes to Hurstbourne Priors to give help), the daughter of an Apsley gamekeeper, who appropriately lived in Keeper's Cottage, used to walk across the fields to go to Hurstbourne Priors School (which became our house). This footpath no longer exists. The footpath beside the B3400 fell into rack and ruin many years ago, but at least this has been replaced by a Permissive Footpath provided by a generous landowner. The only other path remaining out of the village is the one to Longparish. If you can face the short walk along the road towards St Mary Bourne, you will come to Racky Row on the left, shortly before the iron bridge over the Bourne Rivulet. If you walk up Racky Row you will on the left meet a lovely path that takes you to the B3400. Recently, there has been little traffic on it, but when it is busy you need to stop and listen before crossing. Continuing on this path you come to lovely countryside above Longparish.

Along Racky Row the African-American soldiers were housed in the run-up to the D-Day landings. During the war the Bank of England was moved to Hurstbourne Park where it was protected by a platoon of soldiers. The minutes of Hurstbourne Priors Invasion Committee's meetings record their presence. If you turn right at the top of Racky Row you can walk through the Apsley estate and after crossing the railway line, pass above St Mary Bourne eventually coming to the Test Way and then on to Combe Gibbet, high up at the head of the valley.

Longparish

Our time in Longparish was short but we enjoyed it because of the friendliness of the people who live there. We also enjoyed being able to look out to the Test River (big brother to the Bourne Rivulet) from our bedroom window. When the rains came last Autumn, the river level rose up and up, but never entered the garden. It is a quite disciplined river and much favoured by serious fisher-people.

Perhaps because there is a large and active estate in Longparish, there are quite a lot of footpaths that are kept in good order. Because Longparish is – well long, there is a footpath that goes through the fields but not far from the road and which schoolchildren still use to go to the primary school. It links up with the footpath to Hurstbourne Priors. Other paths go into the edge of Harewood Forest where American soldiers (white) were housed in the run-up to the D-Day landings.

The battle for banishing the dreaded Incinerator was an example of the ability of Longparish to come together (and with the other villages) to ensure that it would never be built. With the arrival of Covid-19, the village got together again to make sure that all who might need help were cared for. We were even allocated a "carer" because of our great age. VE Day was celebrated with the erection of scare-crows. Sir Winston Churchill appeared in a well-made pin-stripe suit, complete with a cigar and the familiar V sign. Walking and bicycling have become very popular during the "lockout". A notable part of any walk is the "Longparish Reel". When you meet others walking in the opposite direction, you step off the path into a nearby field or wood to maintain the required 2 meter space. At the same time there is much bowing and passing of thanks and greetings, before both couples (and dogs of course) resume the path.

St Mary Bourne

It would be presumptuous to say we have got to know St Mary Bourne in 4 days, but we have visited it often in the past particularly for the walks it offers, and more recently because of the Derrydown Clinic and the very well-run and stocked Village Shop. The short queue allows us to meet friendly folk from the village. In the past we have also arranged with others to hold a charity Burns night Scottish Country Dancing in the excellent village hall. St Mary Bourne of course has also housed our Vicar and we hope that it will again in the future. There are plenty of good walks around St Mary Bourne. Because the Test Way footpath runs past, there is access to long-distance paths, but there are also many paths that will take you to nearby hamlets such as Egbury and Binley. We look forward to exploring these walks.

Jeremy Goad

INCUBATING BANTAM EGGS

When I was 11 years old I joined with my brother to buy an Ecostat egg incubator. We successfully raised some chicks and had the pleasure and excitement of waiting and watching the arrivals hatch. They were reared in the house and when old enough were promoted to outdoor chickens' quarters - but would often be found sneaking back into the house, strutting through the kitchen... especially when it rained!!



Now, following in my footsteps Rosie (11) decided she wanted to hatch some chicks for her birthday. Memories came flooding back and after a search, my family identified which barn the old incubator was in, along with the heat lamp... built to last it still works and

is currently warming a mixture of bantam eggs. Today (day 4-20th May) we candled the eggs and the girls were so excited to see some of them had blood vessels. Bantam eggs take 19-20 days to hatch unlike a normal chicken egg of 21 days and we hope to hatch some on 4 June. Photos of any chicks to follow in the next edition.

Joanna Macmillan

THE LAST NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS - Part 1

During World War II our village faced an invasion not from a deadly virus but from a menacing foreign power. The years 1939-1944 were anxious times as a German invasion seemed highly likely. In Hurstbourne Priors, as in every other parish, an Invasion Committee was formed. The objectives were to liaise with the military authorities, to collect information about the supplies and manpower available and to look after the civilian population.

Hurstbourne Priors (which included Tufton) sprang into action despite its small size, numbering only 480 inhabitants. Major General Sir Philip Grant assumed the Chair (later replaced by Mr H.A. Game from Tufton Manor). Mrs Weston of 'Fellows' was secretary and Police Constable Purver from Long Parish was included in the eight strong team. From then on, all tasks and decisions were meticulously recorded and kept for posterity in an Invasion Committee Handbook.

The sense of urgency and importance must have been enhanced by the presence in the village of 600 employees from one of the country's vital institutions, the Bank of England, who were evacuated to the mansion and a camp at Hurstbourne Park. A representative was always included in all the Committee's deliberations and although their first priority was always their own staff and proceedings, the Bank stood ready to help the village in case of dire emergency.

The initial task was to assess the available manpower. Just over 200 men were deemed capable of work although many already had jobs and would only be available part time. Others had enlisted in the Home Guard or were limited by their age or physical condition, a challenge for the committee as it was envisaged that the most important task if the invasion happened was to clear fallen trees or fill in craters to free up army manoeuvres. 140 women were listed including 3 Land Girls but many of these were listed as caring for children or old people, or in some cases as 'nervous' - a classification showing not only the caring face of the village but also the high state of anxiety among its inhabitants. To free up the young Mothers for emergency work, 'parking places' were arranged for children at numbers 24 and 28 Hurstbourne Priors and at Fox Cottages and at Paper Mill Farm.

Government posters were put up urging civilians to play their part, to 'stand firm and remain in good heart' and to offer their services to the Committee. The village rapidly formed its own task force: 12 wardens, 17 messengers and 36 fire guards were appointed. The senior parish warden was Miss Darling from Park Cottage, Hurstbourne Park. In the event of invasion, she would be stationed at Committee HQ at Fellows and receive 'Red Warnings' passing on the danger of fire (by whistle) and gas (by rattle).

The hard working Miss Darling was also the voluntary food organiser and in charge of one and a half tons of emergency rations of tinned food to be issued to every inhabitant if normal supplies ceased. If the water supply

was cut off by enemy action, water would be drawn from emergency sources (all wells were listed together with the availability of stirrup pumps). *(to be continued)*

Amanda Briant-Evans



Lottie and Fred Tufnell



William Ryan

UNDETERRED BY LOCKDOWN

We remain within each other's lives in many different ways.

Working from home - wearing PJs, slippers and Zoom suits on special days.

Quizzes and chats with family and friends, a highlight in confinement time.

To see them all in virtual mode, together enjoy a glass, or three, of wine. Cloud-based video conferencing took church services into homes. Each Sunday, hosted by Dodie, with readings, hymns and poems.

The HBP May Fair was fated, but the flower stall managed to bloom. Selling bedding and perennials on-line, so we can still enjoy their perfume. Preserves also available to buy, each jar delish and all homemade, including hot and spicy chutneys, fruit jams and marmalades.

Home schooling's been a challenge, with parents rather confused. Helped by Disney, rainbows and baking, our youngsters are kept amused. The dogs have never been so fit, gardens, even fields, as well tended. Enjoying clear skies and sunny days whilst flying's been suspended.

VE Day we hung up bunting to celebrate this special day to mark the end of World War II, remembering the sacrifice along the way. We all enjoy our countryside, with bike rides and long walks, but, should we meet some other folk, keep six feet apart to talk.

We applaud our NHS, our gratitude has no bounds. Thank you posties, food deliveries, and binmen, Sir Tom, raising £33 million pounds. Whatever happens when lockdown eases, only time will tell. Let's hope we get a vaccine soon to save us buying thick bleach gel.

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VE Day Celebrations

On the special weekend of remembrance and thanks, and in this year particularly where normality has 'gone out of the window', many in the parish and local villages created wonderful displays of their homes and also their food!

Thanks to all those who got involved and made the parish and weekend full of red, white and blue. Many also set up tables outside their homes to share the celebrations with friends and neighbours; all with a safe distance of course!

Many of the photos submitted have been posted on the Hub's Facebook page, but special congratulations to the winners of the three categories. Thanks also to the art judges: Emma Van Zeller, Charlie Clapp and Mrs Hopkins; as well as Karen Crofts for the showstoppers.

Window Art

1. Ben & Molly Humphries
2. Oscar Howard-Jones
3. Aaron Guy Labuschagne

House Decoration Competition

1. Mrs Johnson
2. Ms Sheppard
3. Harvey Clifford

Show Stoppers

1. Nicole Richards
2. Neil Boxer
3. Siena and William Strong



Thanks to all who entered and congratulations. With the Flower Show and Fête fast approaching, perhaps more people will enter the different (albeit limited) classes this year.

On a slightly more serious note, the Hub also provided VE Day Fruit Gifts to those around the village who may be on their own, self-isolating, in need of a boost of morale, or just because we can, to say thanks! The Hub has been supported by Basingstoke Council, SMB Parish Council, a very kind donation from a local resident, as well as our Village Shop. So thanks to all for your help. There is also a small network of volunteers who (responsibly) distributed the bags around the parish. And of course, where would any of us be without Dodie, whose guidance and direction was the mastermind behind all this.

If we missed anyone with the gifts, we are sorry. Trying to establish who needs what over the last few weeks has been a tricky job, especially as no one wants to be 'put on a list'. This isn't the point of the Hub. It is about sharing and supporting all those in the parish who may be finding this time difficult.

We want to reach as many as we can. So that no one feels they are continuing to face this alone. 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.

As we all appear to be moving towards an easing of lock-down, we are still going to be around to help and support where we can. The next project is looking at masks for those who may want to venture out and about. For more information please either connect on the FB page or email - hub@stmarybourne.org (the website is a work in progress, so please bear with us - and if anyone has any WordPress skills and wants to get involved, we would be most grateful!).

If you, or you have a neighbour, who is not IT connected and in need of help, please either get someone to email on your behalf or let the Village Shop know, as we are looking to set up a non-email line of communication so that we can connect with all.

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

<https://stmarybourne.org/gallery/>

Thanks again to all whose help and hard work went into the VE Day weekend and we will keep in touch for the next event. Stay safe.



Ben & Molly Humphries



Oscar Howard-Jones



Aaron Guy Labuschagne

THE WATERMILL THEATRE

'Camp Albion'

The Village Centre regrets that this performance scheduled for Tuesday 16th June 2020 had to be postponed to a later date.



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Well, it's here. The summer that we were dreaming of during those long winter months... OK, so it's not quite what we had in mind; but the sun is certainly playing her part in showing up, even if the overseas holidays are remaining illusive along with the BBQ's with friends and pub gardens.

They say that everyone's experience of COVID-19 is different, and this is certainly true. Even though we all live in the same parish, our experience of this time can be polar opposites. I feel I'm one of the lucky ones, who gets to see a lot of people every day and has the chance to get out of the house..., some people have not seen or spoken to anyone for weeks and that can certainly be tough.

Working at the shop, however, has brought its own challenges. Our supply chain has been put under a huge amount of pressure with small village and convenience stores nationwide suddenly seeing a surge in sales. This means that our suppliers are struggling to keep up and just cannot buy in the amount of goods they need to meet demand.

Predominantly, we are supplied by Londis, who have done a sterling job of keeping us stocked with most things although there have inevitably been some products that have been conspicuous by their absence. Initially and famously, it was the loo roll which was in short supply. We were able to overcome this by going directly to a supplier who normally supplies restaurants and hotels and, with the use of the Village Centre, were able to order enough to ride the storm. Next, it was flour. This was trickier to overcome. Even the mills where the flour was ground were limiting their supplies to 2 cases per customer and were only open for orders for 15 mins a day, making it almost impossible to get through. We seem to have got around this one by ordering in big sacks of flour rather than the smaller retail sizes. This means that you are able to bring your own container into the shop and get it filled with the flour you want; thereby reducing packaging and solving the shortfall of product in one fell swoop. Purchasing bulk dry goods and selling them without packaging is something that we have been thinking about doing for a while. This has merely forced our hand a little earlier than we anticipated and without the right equipment to deal with it. So forgive us if the counters look a little floury while we adjust!

There have been other minor shortfalls along the way - paracetamol, yeast, baking powder, bicarb of soda, marmite - and we are doing our best to get them to you through whatever means we can think of. If we don't have something in stock, please don't think that it is from lack of trying because that couldn't be further from the truth. I promise, we are doing all that we can!

This dilemma has also given us a chance to sample new things from suppliers who otherwise would sell elsewhere. Chalk Stream Trout usually supplies the restaurant trade but has had to diversify to keep its business going. Chalk Stream make delicious trout pates, hot and cold smoked trout and trout fillets. All local, all beautifully packaged and amazingly fresh. Make sure you try it. You won't be disappointed!

Village Shop - May 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - L Macnamara; £20 - L Wurzer;

£20 - R Case; £10 - A Monro Davies.

UPDATE ON THE 2020 ST MARY BOURNE FLOWER SHOW - SATURDAY 25TH JULY

At this stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is still uncertain whether gatherings in any large numbers will be permitted at the end of July. The Flower Show Committee is aware it has a duty of care to hold any event responsibly and safely in line with the government's social distancing rules. It is also aware that many people in the parish would welcome a day of fun and friendly competition and the Committee is **determined** to provide one in some form or other. So:



Keep Saturday 25th July free



A Flower Show of some kind **WILL** be held that day - even if online/virtually!



In the meantime, keep planting!



Look out for more details on the new SMB Community Hub [stmarybourne.org] and Facebook's Bourne Valley Signpost. There will be some new and exciting adaptations to look forward to.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the show, the Committee is not printing a hard copy of the programme this year. We hope our supporters understand this difficult decision. If you are unable to access our information online, please call our helpline on 01264 738 551 or 738 800.

Go Stargazing in June

The Summer Triangle can be seen throughout June and July. Look for the brightest star in your easterly sky.

That's **VEGA**, the brightest star in the constellation

LYRA the HARP. Look to the lower left of **VEGA** for another bright star - **DENAR**. This is in the constellation **CYGNUS the SWAN** and is the third brightest in the Summer Triangle.

VEGA and **DENAR** are about a hand length apart if you stretch your arm out and hold it up against the sky. Look to the lower right of **VEGA** to locate the Summer Triangle's second brightest star **ALTAIR**, which is the brightest star in the constellation of **AQUILA the EAGLE**. **ALTAIR** and **VEGA** are further apart than **VEGA** and **DENAR**. They are more like 30mm apart, again if you stretch your arm out.

21 June - Annual eclipse - not visible in UK, but it can be viewed on line. Sometimes during an eclipse, the Moon will cover the Sun entirely, but when it is further away in its orbit during an annual eclipse, it leaves a narrow ring of sunlight around the lunar silhouette.

There has never been a better time to stargaze. Lockdown has reduced pollution levels and clearer skies make for excellent viewing.





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Annual Parish Assembly 2020

Chairman's Report

For reasons that we are all aware of, it has not been possible to hold this year's Annual Parish Assembly in the usual format. However, I believe it is important that the parish is kept up to date with what projects and activities the parish council (pc) has been involved in on their behalf. However, before doing so, I would first like to mention the fantastic response there has been throughout the parish to the unprecedented and difficult times we have all been having to deal with since the outbreak of Covid-19. When my family and I moved to St Mary Bourne in 1986, it didn't take long for us to realise what a special place we had found to call home. There has always been a strong sense of community spirit within the parish and this has certainly been evident during the current crisis. If any good is to come out of this pandemic, one is the way communities throughout the country have come together to support those that for one reason or another find themselves in need of help. On behalf of the parish, I would like to pay tribute and say thank you to the all the staff and volunteers at both the Village Shop and Derrydown Clinic for keeping open and for the home delivery service that many have relied upon. Rev Canon Dodie has been her usual caring self, not only with her constant bike deliveries, but also with the virtual church services she has organised and which have meant so much to a lot of people. There is also the SMB Community Hub which has been set up by local volunteers to provide information as well as practical help to those that need it. Thank you to them all!

As for the work of the parish council during the past year -

Highways: As I reported last year, HCC has reduced its funding for new signage, street furniture etc. and has set up a system for Community Funded Initiatives. What this means is that they will help with the feasibility and construction of any improvements that we want to make, but the pc has to find the money to pay for them. A number of improvements have already been implemented, but there are some that are still outstanding, including the speed indicator devices. The clearing of grips and ditches continues to be carried out as part of our Lengthsman budget. Thankfully the Lengthsman scheme is being continued by HCC for this year at least and the pc is also getting extra revenue from this as we continue to be the administrator for the 14 other parishes included in our cluster.

Grounds Maintenance: The parish council oversee the maintenance of the Recreation Ground, play areas, Lake and War Memorial etc. Last year we appointed a company called Scofell Commercial Landscapes to look after our grounds maintenance work and I'm pleased to report that they have lived up to all expectations in terms of the quality of their work. Premier Grounds and Garden Maintenance remain as our contractor for the Parish Lengthsman work. I would also like to thank Freddie Tarrant for continuing to keep our streets clean throughout the year and Patrick and Fiona Foote for again organising the recent litter pick around the village and Stoke Village Fund for doing the same in Stoke. Our footpaths are generally in a good state of repair, but if you come across any problems with paths being blocked or damage to stiles and signs please make the clerk aware so that they can be dealt with.

Planning: During the last year 55 applications have been considered by the pc and 50 went forward with no objection. B&DBC has so far approved 23 of them, 4 were refused and 3

were withdrawn.

Flood & Emergency Group: As I reported in the February issue of the H&V, we experienced prolonged rainfall during the early part of the Winter which resulted in the Bourne Rivulet being in full flow some six weeks earlier than normal. I am pleased to report that due mainly to the remedial work carried out down our section of the valley, there were no incidences of the river breaking its banks. Flooding occurred in only a very few properties and this was caused by ground water infiltration only. There were leakages from some of the manholes, mainly from the main sewer running through the village, again this was caused by ground water infiltration and was controlled using tankers. The intention is for the pc to discuss a long term solution to this problem with Southern Water as soon as we are able. We are continuing the remedial work identified by the HCC Pathfinder Project and also in partnership with Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust to restore the remaining parts of the river bank that require repair. I would also like to thank Sarah Cooney and Clem Jones for their input and support as members of the FEG.

Lake and Recreation Ground: A committee has been formed specifically to manage the lake and options have been discussed to allow limited public access to the lake. Let me emphasise that this will be for organised groups only and is in line with the agreement reached with Dr Evans when the lake was gifted to the parish council. The aim is also for the lake and its environs to be actively managed for habitat enrichment and Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust and the Wessex Chalk Stream & Rivers Trust will support the committee in developing a management plan to meet that objective. Dog fouling continues to be a problem, particularly on the Recreation Ground. I believe it is the small minority of dog owners that think the rules do not apply to them that are causing the problems. There are bins provided around the rec so there is no excuse for not picking up after your dog. The parish council have considered various options to try to combat this unpleasant problem, one of which is only allowing dogs that are on leads onto the Recreation Ground.

Finance and the Precept: The precept has again been increased for this current financial year. This has been done reluctantly, but there is still a need to slow the reduction in the parish council reserves so we do not fall below the reserve threshold generally accepted to be required to ensure continuity of service and our aim remains to cover our core running costs with controllable income. Since 2012 those core running costs have increased by 25%, compared to an increase in general inflation of 20% and so the increases will go some way to catch up with our running cost.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Borough and County Councillors for their work on your behalf and the valuable support they continue to give to the parish council and also to our Clerk, Jo Exelby for her hard work and diligence throughout the year and keeping us all in order. You also have two new parish councillors since last year, namely Jo Perry and Kevin Noble, and I'm sure we all wish them well and thank them for giving their time to the council. In closing I would like to thank all of your parish councillors for the support they've given to me over the past year and for giving their time, effort and dedication in trying to keep our parish the special place that it is.

David Peart *Chairman of St Mary Bourne Parish Council*

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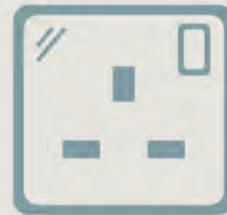
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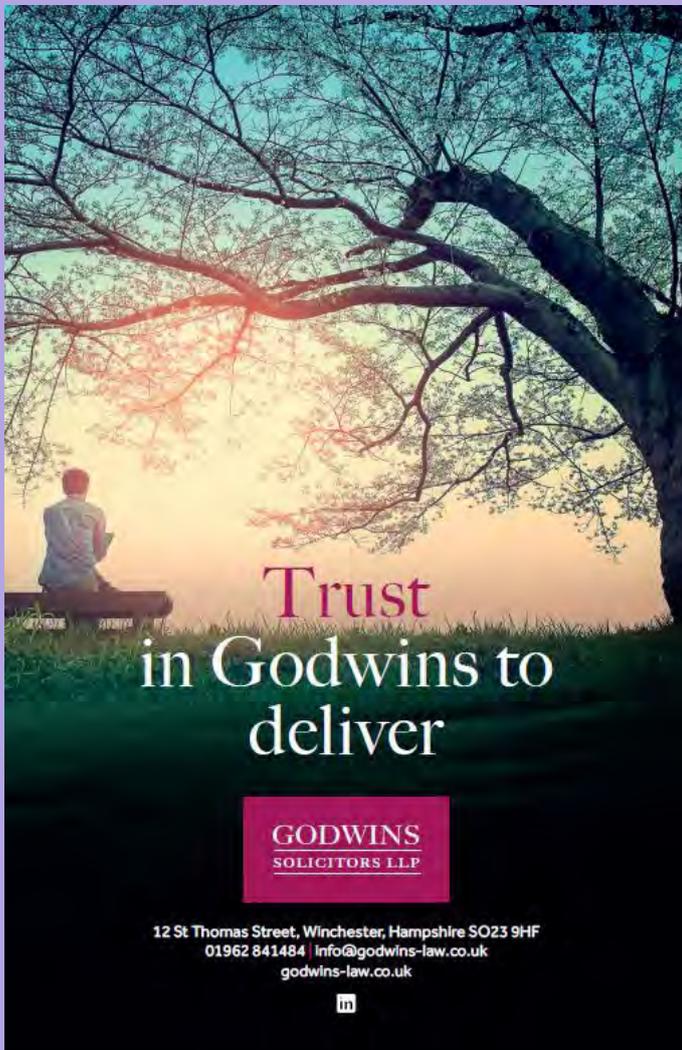
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Parish Council Meetings

The parish council will currently 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.

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



Light Touch Animal Farm

On the 6th May 2020 Compassion in World Farming produced a major report called "Is the next pandemic on our plate?"

"We are at a turning point in history and we need an action plan that will be adopted and implemented by global institutions and national governments; a plan that ends factory farming and revolutionises the way we farm, changes the way we eat, protects the environment, restores biodiversity and respects animals."

We are very quick to condemn China's wildlife markets for the cause of the virus, but it turns out much of this 'wildlife' is factory farmed these days just as our meat is.



According to Compassion in World Farming, the UK now has an estimated 800 US style intensive mega-farms. To be classed as intensive by the Environmental Agency a farm must have warehouses containing more than 40,000 poultry, 2,000 'production' pigs or 750 breeding sows. Most of the farms are far larger and the reality of their lives doesn't bear thinking about. Dairy cattle are kept indoors as well; the biggest British farms having over 2,000 cows kept indoors for their entire lives. There has been an increase of at least 26% since 2011, in spite of the much-publicised improvements in their welfare standards and the pretty pictures of farmers in fields on supermarket packets.

Factory farming has spread across the country to satisfy our appetite for cheap meat, dairy, and eggs, at great cost to animal welfare, human health and the environment. There is increasing pressure on farmers to further intensify meat and dairy production and it is not in the interests of Government or the food industry for us to be aware of the miserable state of this animal loving nation's farming or we might change our eating habits.

Factory farming is too often viewed as the cheap, efficient solution to feeding our world. But this couldn't



be further from the truth. For every 100 food calories of edible crops fed to livestock, we get back just 17 calories in the form of meat and dairy; an 83% loss. In short, people are being forced to compete with farm animals for food because they are reared in systems that are dependent on cereal and soya feeds for fast growth and high yields.

Although dairy cows are naturally adapted to grazing and eating grasses, they are now being bred to be more dependent on cereal and soya feeds too. This demand for feed essentially means that we are putting humans in competition with farm animals. We're literally taking high-quality, nutrient-rich foods that people can eat and feeding them to our farm animals. The system needs huge amounts of land, piped water, electricity, artificial fertilisers, pesticides, antibiotics. An economic pattern that ignores these "external" costs gives the



false impression that industrially produced meat is "cheap", when – in reality – it is very expensive for society as a whole because of the damage to our health and our environment. Maybe now is the time for the food industry and Government to get a conscience, faced with the possibility that it may be our farms which start the next pandemic. And the time for us all to realise we need to pay more for healthy local meat whose source we know, eat less of it and resist the urge to turn a blind eye to the reality of the supermarket bargains.

STOKE VILLAGE FUND

It's not easy having your freedom curtailed. Although those of us living in Stoke and Binley are incredibly lucky compared to those trapped in high rise flats or city dwellings, people can still be finding life difficult. Even in such beautiful surrounding and with, in most cases, great neighbours, some of us might need help.

So, if you live in Stoke or Binley and you are finding life a struggle during these present difficult times, don't forget that Stoke Village Fund has a team of volunteers who are willing to help anybody who needs a little bit of assistance.

Whether it is shopping, collecting shopping or even just a telephone chat to keep your spirits up, please do get in touch with Tanya Mew, Chair and Volunteer Co-ordinator, and she will do her best to meet your needs, within of course, the government directives and bearing in mind the safety for all concerned. So please ring Tanya on 07388 486861 or email tanyammew@yahoo.co.uk - all messages will be dealt with the utmost confidentiality.

Stoke Village Fund will do all it can to help those in Stoke or Binley who are the most vulnerable, or who feel isolated, to get through this present crisis, and we trust that we will all come through this safely together, by helping each other where needed. We look forward to a big party when this is all over!

Stoke Village Fund Committee



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Postcard from Binley - May 2020

"Zen" - To be relaxed and not worrying about things that you cannot change

A number of acquaintances of mine over the years have served time at Her Majesty's pleasure. To a man they all agree that the worst thing about it is not being mugged at knife point in the dinner queue or even the ghastly sanitation, but the relentless, mind numbing boredom of it all. It's important, in order to cope with it, to get your mind into a Zen like state, otherwise it breaks you. As I write we are 49 days into lockdown but I no longer care because I have "Zen"! Bucket loads of it! I no longer give thought to the business. I no longer worry about money. When it's gone it's gone. Que sera! I am appreciating life and all that is around me. I'm looking at nature with new eyes, at the wonderment of it all. The oaks are just in to leaf and are the most iridescent leaves I have seen. A lightly oiled, pale olive green. Beautiful! The blossom is the frothiest most blossomiest blossom I have ever clapped eyes on. Early swallows and swifts dance above me catching fly life and when a bullfinch flew into my conservatory door and I picked it up, lifeless in the palm of my hand, I rubbed his little vermilion chest and softly blew into his face and miracle of miracles he came round, sat up and flew off! I could have wept tears of joy! I'm becoming almost Chris Packham-esque in my adoration of Nature.

However, Lockdown Life is not without its little trials and tribulations and incredibly all four of us are still enduring one another here. Just. I don't know whether it was through boredom or pure mischief but yesterday I was browsing through an old address book that I've had for 40 years and amusing my eldest son by reciting the names of ex girlfriends...

"Daphne Peabody (Miss Bishops Stortford 1978), Karen Buffrey, known as "Buffers" for two obvious reasons....."

This little trip down mammary lane literally hit the buffers when I realised my wife was listening in from the next room. My state of Zen then took a kicking as by way of revenge she thought it would be fun to catch up on all the times I've cheesed her off over the last 30 years. This took at least an hour and continued at intervals throughout the day. Most of these episodes I hoped had been lost in the mists of time but no, I wasn't to get off that lightly. What is it with women and their forensic memories? I can barely remember what I had for breakfast but the fairer sex possesses an inspector Morse like doggedness when it comes to raking over a man's past?

By way of diffusing these fractious moments I have started taking an isolated afternoon nap. A siesta. And why not? Keeps me off the gin. My bed faces a low window that looks directly out on to a gently sloping field which at present is studded butter yellow and chartreuse with daisies and cowslips. The clay tiles at the top of my kitchen roof are just visible below the field and in the morning a blackbird pitches up and sings his little heart out! What a trouper! The usual occupants of the field are sheep and then later in the summer, horses. To lay here with a gentle breeze flowing through the room and gazing on this gentle vista is very conducive to sleep but in recent days the tranquility has been broken by the appearance on the roof of a pair of courting pigeons. Why they have picked my roof I have no idea but initially I found their courtship rather charming. The female would sidle up to the male, then sidle away, then sidle back in a "Yes you can, no you can't, yes you can!" type of situation. The male, bowing and cooing for all he's worth plays his part with grace. Then suddenly he gets the green light! I've yet to recognise what triggers it but he hops on and it all kicks off! Trying to maintain contact and balance with just a pair of wings must be tricky and he makes a hell of a racket flapping the damn things. The female just sits there with a "Do just get on with it!" expression that will be familiar to many male readers. Fortunately, it is over in seconds and

being feathered creatures I am spared viewing the mechanicals of the operation but as much as they are irritating me I do find myself gazing at them like some awful voyeur? I'm sure if it were baboons up there I would probably pull the curtains.

But it's just occurred to me that in these last few issues of H&V I've touched each time on procreation and I don't want you to think for one moment that I am obsessed with it but this is the first time in my life that I have spent an entire Spring at home. And of course, being in a very rural environment and exposed to nature all around me it was bound to happen. And it is amazing. Truly.

But getting back to Prisons, I was clearing out an old desk at home the other day just for something to do and came across some letters sent to me by my brother, now a reformed jailbird, while he was residing at what he describes as "one of Her Majesty's Country Clubs", namely Ford Open Prison, near Arundel, Sussex. Reading between the lines, "Open" appeared to be the operative word as it seems he came and went as he pleased, save for breakfast when he was on work duty in the kitchen. I believe he put the lumps in the porridge. He managed to enjoy both Goodwood and Fontwell Park, wasn't tempted by Glyndbourne (Philistine!) and participated in convivial meetings with "business associates" at local watering holes in the area. He played golf on a Thursday and on Sundays regularly met a lady friend for a Roast lunch in a discreet hotel followed by an afternoon of horizontal gymnastics.

I can't say it didn't make me feel a tad jealous and it sounds far more fun than say a Spa weekend in one of those ghastly places where you pay through the nose to lounge around in fluffy dressing gowns, drink pulverised sprouts and kid yourself you're having a good time. And all the while, having the threat of some starched, ex Russian shot putter waiting to wax your dangly bits.

But of course, you can't ring up Ford and book. You have to commit a misdemeanor or, to put it more bluntly, a criminal offence to get in. Get that slightly wrong or get the wrong judge on the wrong day and it could be Parkhurst or Wormwood Scrubs, which would take the edge off things somewhat. So, I have erased that little fantasy. But it's got me thinking about Binley criminals of the past and I'm struggling to think of any. We get the odd bit of pilfering like anyone else and the occasional resident banker who finds themselves temporarily in hot water but the only one I can think of was the unimaginatively named "Fred the Cake", who frequented the Hurdlers Arms. An old lag with a bit of "previous" as they say but in truth all he did was light finger a few cakes off the back of the bakers van he drove. I shall have to speak to Richard Simminds who as a lifelong Binley resident must have come across a wrong'un or two, surely?

"Anyone can be good in the country!" said Oscar Wilde. I don't think he was referring to personal attainment but behaviour, inferring that the temptations one is exposed to are far greater in town than the countryside. I beg to differ. When I moved to St Mary Bourne from London in the 1980's I found the place to be like the Wild West, with all sorts of shenanigans going on. It's why within a week I knew I never wanted to live anywhere else! I must say, scandal wise it is a shadow of its former self now but as the old saying goes, "you had to be there"! Those that were will know what I mean and as for those that weren't, well it's your bad luck that I won't name names! Funny how some people can be old before their time but I've rarely experienced that here in the valley, in fact the reverse is more the case. There must be something in the water, you know, like the Spielberg movie "Cocoon". The elixir of youth! Although many of these amazing individuals have passed on now, many haven't; and it is still amusing to bump into the odd snazzy septuagenarian at a drinks party and exchange knowing winks! "Chin chin!"

NA

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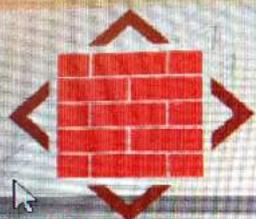
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Obituaries

Rita Constable-Buckingham

20th July 1934 - 10th April 2020

Rita was born in Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey in 1934 to Daisy and Ted Ruse. She was their second child, following an older sister Patricia. Her parents worked as pub landlords who were moved about to manage different establishments for the brewery. During WW2 when her father was serving in the Army, her mother ran a pub in Mortlake, London but the dangers of bombing caused the family to move to Saltdean on the Sussex coast for the remainder of the war.

Rita subsequently met Reg Constable from a long-established farming family located at Redhill in Surrey. They married and moved to Westwell in Kent where Reg managed a pedigree herd of Friesians whilst Rita worked on a neighbouring farm at Eastwell Park for Captain Brodrick, looking after the calves. She later worked at the Agricultural Research Institute at Wye.

Reg and Rita had three children, John, Roger and Mary, and the family had many happy years growing up in Westwell. Sadly Reg died just before his retirement aged 64 in 1984. As the children had all grown up and left home, Rita was alone for a while but she formed a new relationship with an old friend of the family, widower Norman Buckingham, who had worked for Captain Brodrick at Eastwell. Norman had moved from Kent with the Captain when he bought the Dunley Estate near Whitchurch Hampshire.

Rita travelled up and down from Kent to see Norman but after a while she sold up and moved down to Dunley to marry him in St James's church in Woodcott. They had many happy years together until Norman died aged 92 in 2010. Rita eventually settled in Holdway Cottages in the centre of St Mary Bourne.



Rita embraced life in the heart of the village, regularly attending Church and making friends with many people as she was a founder member of the Walking Group, joined the Bowling Club and usually attended the monthly Lunch in the Village Centre. In addition, she had obtained a degree in History from Winchester University when in her sixties and was extremely well-read in a number of different subjects, including philosophy, politics and theology.

When Rita's health began to decline, she moved to a ground floor flat at Seeviours Court in Whitchurch, Hampshire, where once again she made new friends. In 2019 she had successful keyhole heart surgery which transformed her health until she was admitted to Basingstoke Hospital in March with a bout of pneumonia where she succumbed to the Covid-19 virus on Good Friday aged 85.

Rita's resting place is at the New Romney Cemetery where both her parents and her first husband Reg are

buried. Close family, as required by Govt restrictions, attended a service of committal there on 28th April and the Rev Canon Dodie Marsden said a final prayer for Rita before she left Andover on her final journey from Hampshire to Kent.

Rita brightened many lives and she will live long in the cherished memories of her family and friends.

William Lane

12th January 1924 - 14th April 2020

William Lane was born on 13th January 1924 in Fontmell Magna, north Dorset. He was the first son of five born to George and Maud Lane and was known throughout his life as Will or Bill. He would answer to both.

Will attended school in Fontmell Magna and his first job after leaving school was as a school caretaker. He went on to farm work and continued working on the land during the 2nd World War whilst also serving in the Home Guard. Will met and married his first wife during that time and their daughter Hazel was born in Sixpenny Handley where they lived.

The family moved to St Mary Bourne in the early 1960s when Will began working on Culleys farm but sadly the marriage broke up and soon afterwards Will started working for Swattons in Andover.

On 1st April 1970, Will married Peggy Payne - a widow with three young children, Denis, David & Carole - and so began the happiest time of his life. They met whilst playing Bingo in the Village Hall and would often go out and about on Will's Bantam motor bike. They also used to attend many steam rallies and country shows, sometimes camping and sometimes in their caravan with many much-loved dogs.

Will was a hardworking man who enjoyed the simple things in life - going out with Peggy, trips to the seaside, tinkering in his shed, or just being with his family. He also enjoyed entering things in the annual Flower Show such as produce he had grown in his garden, model handicrafts, or even the fancy dress competition. He loved to see his grandchildren and great grandchildren and in turn they always enjoyed spending time with him.

But things became difficult for Will when his beloved Peggy passed away in 2017. He visited her grave every day and maintained his independence, even recovering from a fall in the graveyard in 2019 when he broke his hip. But things weren't the same for him and life became a struggle. He was unable to move far from the bungalow in Stevens Green and couldn't even manage a walk in his beloved garden. The highlight of his day would be when one of the family would visit.

He was admitted to Winchester Hospital for his final weeks where he died on 14th April, re-united with his beloved Peg, liked and respected by all who came in contact with him, and remembered with love by many generations of his family.





Photo: Graeme Bristow

Andover Artisan Market - Sunday 21st June 2020
10am to 2pm - High Street

Front cover photograph:
Peter Horsham

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.

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

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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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