

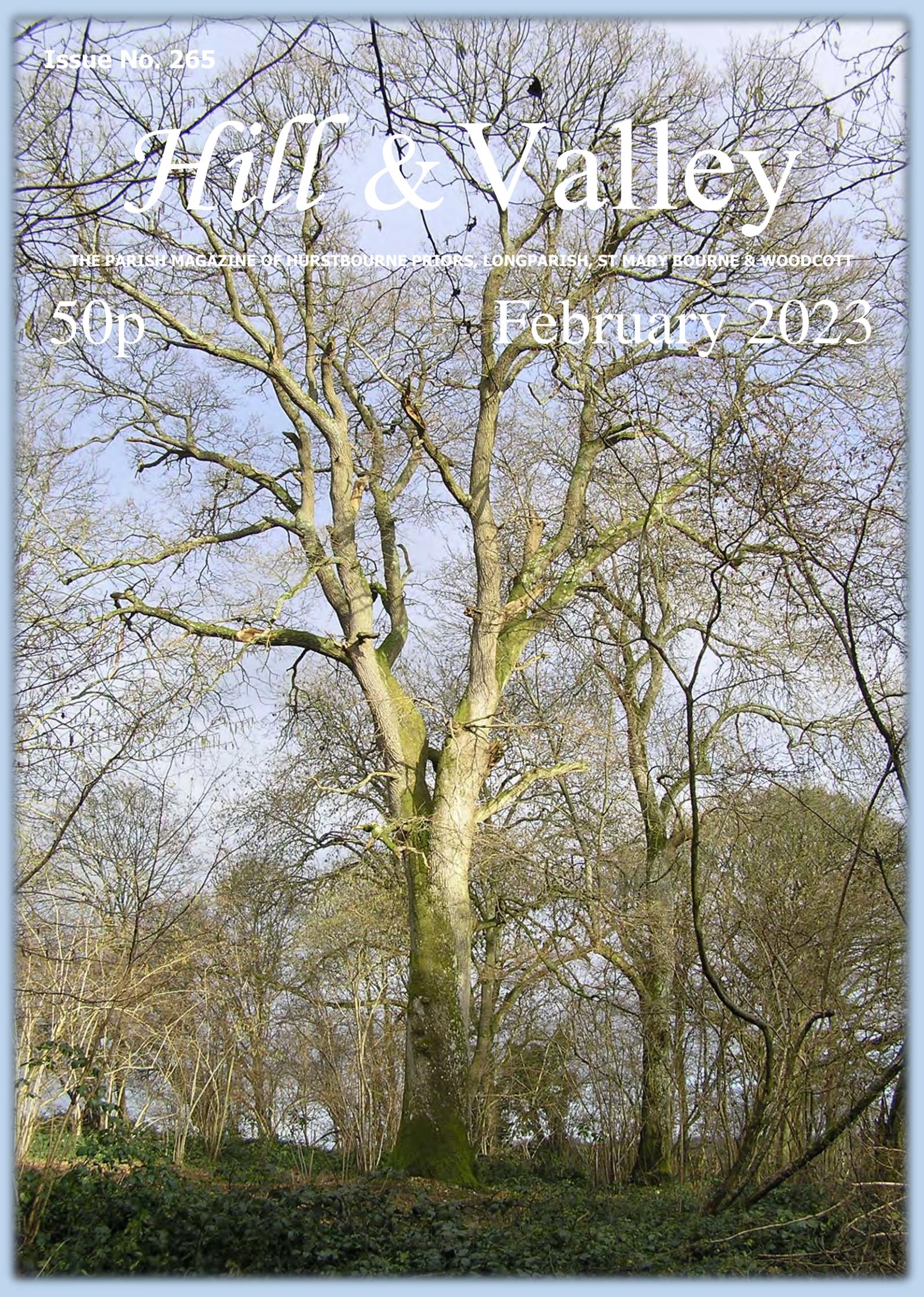
Issue No. 265

Hill & Valley

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

50p

February 2023



Dear Friends,

What does the Sabbath mean to us? Is Sunday different to any other day of the week?

I've recently taken up the study of Biblical Hebrew - it's a tricky language, but I have always been interested and intrigued by Judaism and how it informs our history as Christians, and I'm hoping learning something of the language will help with that.

Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins at sundown on Friday night and continues through to Saturday night, when three stars can be seen in the sky. This start of this weekly celebration revolves around a meal and the lighting of candles as wine is blessed, bread is broken and shared, and the family gathers together. The rest of the time is spent "in retreat" from normal day-to-day work. No work is done – the strict Jewish laws extend to prohibit the use of mobile phones and even lights cannot be switched on or off. Instead the time is devoted to spending time in reading, worship and enjoying time with family and friends. This day of rest is there to energise you for the rest of the week.

So what can we learn from this? What does the Sabbath mean for us? There are plenty of examples in the Gospels where Jesus and his disciples are criticised for breaking the Sabbath. It seems like another example where Jesus makes clear that many of the strict Jewish laws no longer need to be followed. But I think it is a little more subtle than that. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus says:

"The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath." (Mark 2.27)

So I think Jesus is saying we should make use of the Sabbath. We should set one day aside from our daily work – to rest, to be with our families, to worship God and to pray. Of course, I don't think that means we should not pray and try to be close to God on other days – but the Sabbath gives us a chance to slow down, to take stock and to listen for his still, small voice that is sometimes drowned out by our modern lives.

Now I know this isn't easy to do – it is often easier to let our daily lives muscle their way into our leisure time – but we do this at our peril. Research shows a link that those of us who do not get enough sleep are at greater risk of developing a whole host of diseases. So why not try to make Sunday a different sort of day – switch off Facebook and Twitter, spend a day not looking at emails, take the opportunity to take the day more slowly. And then you might find the time to do some of the things you find relaxing to help you get ready for the week ahead. That day of retreat might help to keep you well and ready to tackle the week ahead.

So I end with the traditional greeting for the Sabbath - **שבת שלום!** (Shabat Shalom!) – or in English, have a peaceful Sabbath.

Blessings, *Richard*



'A Light to Lighten the Gentiles...'

With the threat of possible power cuts this winter, the wise parishioner might have prepared alternative lighting in case of emergency. Does that paraffin lamp, unused for years, still work? Where's the box of old candles - and the matches? Or perhaps you had one of those vogue scented candles for Christmas? (Too bad if you can't stand that particular odour, when you need its light.) Perhaps we take the gift of light in the long dark nights of winter too much for granted until it gives out?

Light shining in the darkness is a spiritual picture: God's light shining despite the darkness of human sin; salvation appearing in bleak circumstances; longer days returning after the dark time of the year. February stirs a memory of how previous generations celebrated and enjoyed it in the medieval festival of *Candlemas*, wordily now styled the feast of the *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*. On the 2nd February, parishioners would bring a candle or would be given a candle for blessing by the priest in church. They might be placed on a *trendle*, a revolving wooden ring, so that he could bless each candle in turn. A procession of the people holding their lighted candles followed the mass (cf. the well-loved moveable feast of Christingle). While some candles stayed in church, burning before the statue of Mary, others were taken home to be lit in times of storm or sickness, or held in the hands of the dying. This was communal fun with a spiritual purpose, to point to Jesus, the Light of the World. Candlemas marked the formal arrival of spring and so hope.

We would not entertain for a moment the idea of bringing our contemporary sources of light - bulbs, LEDs, torches, mobile phones - to church for blessing. Imagine the happy mayhem if we did! We have gained so many ways of making light, but perhaps we have lost the communal sense of rejoicing in the light, physical and spiritual, which Candlemas brought.

A paid-up member of the Wistful Society of Nostalgians (MC)

February 2023

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

Sunday 5th - 3 Before Lent

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

Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 8th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Midweek Communion
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Sunday 12th - 2 Before Lent

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	No Service
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	No Service

Church of England Zoom Service Online

Sunday 19th - Transfiguration Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Mattins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 22nd - Ash Wednesday

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Ash Wednesday Service
All Hallows', Whitchurch	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 26th - Lent 1

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Family Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
St James', Woodcott	No service	
Whitchurch Millennium Field	4.00pm	Benefice Forest Service

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

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

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

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

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

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

From the Church Registers

Weddings

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

We celebrate with **Ele Meek** and **Wilf Mafham** who were married in St Peter's on 21st January

Funerals

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

We offer our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of

Richard Walker
Les North
Margaret Wilkinson
Phyllis Rich
Lindsay Taylor

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



Photo: Burlison



Photo: Widén

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WEATHER - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022

	November	December
Total rainfall for month	208mm (8.19in)	157mm (6.19in)
Rainfall same month last year	11mm (0.39in)	94mm (3.70in)
Total for 2022	710mm (27.9in)	867mm (34.13in)
Total for 2021	917mm (36.10in)	1011mm (39.80in)
Max temp	19C (66F) on 12 th	14C (58F) on 23 rd
Max night temp	14C (58F) on 10 th	11C (52F) on 18 th
Min temp	1C (34F) on 21 st	-7C (20F) on 16 th

Met Office Highs and Lows for 2022

Sunshine: 9% more than average.
 Temperature: Above average every month.
 Summer: Fourth warmest (temp went above 40C for the first time ever)
 Rainfall: Tenth driest year on record (by the end of August, it was the driest since 1976) Despite the wet Nov/Dec, we had 5ins less rain than our 10 year average of 39ins.
 Cold: First two weeks of December were the coldest since 2010.

Other than that it was normal !

John Smail

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our February coffee morning will be at Bourne House, no. 53 with Susie Sorby on Thursday, 9th from 10.15 am. (Tel: 892665)
 Everyone welcome!



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

DID YOU KNOW?

The earliest credible evidence of coffee drinking in the form of the modern beverage appears in modern-day Yemen from the mid-15th century in Sufi shrines, where coffee seeds were first roasted and brewed in a manner similar to current methods.

SAFARI SUPPER - 4th MARCH 2022

Hurstbourne Priors
 Safari Supper - 4th March 2023
Invitation
 All villagers are invited to join the next Hurstbourne Priors Safari Supper. We would like to welcome anyone who has not been before or is new to the village.
 Each couple hosts one course, going to other houses for other courses meeting different people at each location.
 The programme for the evening will be:-
 6.45 pm Drinks/nibbles
 7.30 pm Starter
 8.15pm Mains
 9.15pm Pudding/cheese
 10.00pm Coffee in the Village Hall
 Those who do not have a partner can join with someone else to form a 'couple' for the evening.
 If you would like to participate, please email by the 15th February to:
SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com
 to register and for full details.

SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com

Safari Supper Team

PIANO CONCERT - 4th FEBRUARY

We are delighted that pianist Christopher Burrows is returning to play a selection of classical music on Saturday 4th February at 4pm in St Andrews Church. Tickets are £12.50 to include afternoon tea during the interval.

Please contact Fenella Williams
fenella.williams@btopenworld.com or 01256 892081



WORD OF THE MONTH

This month, I offer APRICITY, which is the celebration of the gradual lengthening of daylight after last month's Winter Solstice and refers to the warmth of the sun on a winter's day.

On reflection I might have used it during the heatwave of last year, relating to basking in the sun. So still appropriate for our current lengthening days!

Barbara Carrodus

THE MAY FAIR – 1st MAY 2023



A date for your diary!

Monday, 1st May 2023
12 noon to 4pm

Preparations are underway for our major fundraising event for our three Village amenities: St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground.

We welcome new members who would like to join our friendly May Fair Team and would be most grateful for offers of help both beforehand and on the day.

There are many ways that you can help: with planning, putting up and taking down tents, running or helping on a stall, baking to name but a few.

To find out more, come along to our annual

BIG BREAKFAST AND PANCAKE RACE

on

Sunday 26th February from 10.15am – 12noon.

Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground

Bring your frying pan and come and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast, have fun pancake racing and find out how you can help with the May Fair this year.

Please email hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com to book your place.



Many thanks for your continuing support.

The May Fair Team
hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL



WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL

2022 Was a Busy and Successful Year

Looking back at 2022 has reminded us what a busy year we had, with some notable successes:

- The weavers wove more than a dozen silks. That's far more than we've woven for over a decade.

- We hosted five exhibitions and held events and workshops every month.
- With its expanded menu of fare from the best local producers Hampshire has to offer, the café has gone from strength to strength and become a popular venue for the local community, for touring cyclists and of course visitors to the Mill. The café also won several awards including a silver in the 'Best café and tearoom of the year' category at Visit South East England's prestigious Beautiful South Tourism Awards ceremony in December.
- At the same awards Marie Colgrave, our Welcome Building Supervisor, won gold in the 'Unsung hero' category for her kindness, initiative for income generation, and willingness and determination during the Covid pandemic.
- The Mill gained a bronze in the 'Small attraction of the year' category at the same awards, which was a fitting end to a year in which many other awards were gained, including VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Award for 'Best told story', and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers' heritage award.

February Half Term Activities

- Drop in any time between 10:30 & 12:30 on 14 February for our children's Spring Make & Take, free with Mill admission.
- Make a Miniature Garden workshop, 10:30–12:00 on 15 February, £8 per child with one adult free.
- Print it! workshop, 10:30–12:00 on 16 February, £8 per child with one adult free.
- Fun with LEGO bricks, multiple sessions, 10:00 to 16:00 on 17 February, £8 per child with one adult free.

Bookings are open and the workshops are filling up quickly, so please check our website or follow us on social media to check availability and also so you're alerted as soon as bookings open for future children's activities.

Wine Tasting with Tales

On Friday 10 February Linda Palmer, Chair of the Mill's Trustees, will be guiding us through a selection of well-known wines and telling their stories, exploring the history, landscape and characters who made them. Begins 19:00 and includes six small glasses of wine plus canapés and nibbles. Tickets £30 per person (18+).

The Mill at Rotations Charity Shop

Please save items and donate them to us during our residency at the Rotations Charity Shop, 6–20 April. Please take them straight to the shop rather than bringing them to the Mill, as we don't have room to store them. We typically raise about £1500 at the charity shop, which makes a considerable contribution to our running costs, so we're hoping you've lots of unwanted clothes, books and bric-a-brac you can donate to us!

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

LOIS JONES 1937 – 2022



It's a year since Lois died peacefully at her home of 52 years in Hurstbourne Priors. Family and friends all share fond memories of a lovely, engaging woman with an infectious sense of fun, who was a joy to spend time with and who had a real gift for friendship. Lois grew up in rural Wales before moving to London and studying at catering college. True to her Welsh roots she spent time at the London Welsh Club where she met the dashing and ebullient Gwyn.

Once married they settled in North London with Huw and Sian completing the family.

In 1970 Gwyn was transferred to the new AA Head Office in Basingstoke. After many weekends spent searching for their perfect new home, they settled on 28 HBP as a stop gap. Unbeknown to them they had found their perfect home!

Lois quickly found herself a lunchtime job at The Plough, Longparish and there she made many lifelong friends. Once Huw and Sian at secondary school she sought a new challenge and enrolled for an evening class at Cricklade College. The tutor took one look at her qualifications and offered her a job as a lecturer in Home Management & Familycare. The perfect role for her. Lois and Gwyn enjoyed HBP village life and became firm fixtures at St Andrew's, the May Fair, on the PCC, at Safari Suppers, Harvest Suppers and Quiz nights. Lois helped with church flowers and delivered Hill & Valley.

Once retired, they travelled more, hosted 2 family weddings in HBP and welcomed grandchildren. Their retirement together was cut so cruelly short with the sudden and untimely death of Gwyn aged 66. Typically, despite the enormous loss felt, Lois showed courage and fortitude. She kept busy whether playing bridge or welcoming friends and family to her home where she loved to try new recipes and enjoy good company. She accepted invitations from friends to travel further afield, including a trip to Patagonia where her Welsh language skills were tested!

Lois was a hands-on Nain to her 6 grandchildren – getting them involved in the kitchen and catering for them as they got older and used no. 28 as their revision hub for exams. She also loved to show them off at the May Fair!

Lois' final week was typical, it was filled with social engagements (twice visiting The Plough which she was thrilled had reopened!), hosting a grandson, catching up with old friends by phone and FaceTime calls with family.

We celebrate a life well lived, in love and friendship and remember the many happy times.

THE TUFTON FOOTBRIDGE IS OPEN

We are delighted to report that the foot bridge over the River Test in Tufton will officially re-open on February 3rd.

The contractors have worked through some pretty challenging and unpleasant weather in the past months and have managed to complete the rebuild on schedule. In addition to a new bridge Hampshire Countryside Service have also replaced the kissing gate, replaced fencing and laid a new surface on the approach to the bridge as the path gets very muddy and slippery in wet weather.



We would like to thank all the contractors who worked so hard and hope that everyone will enjoy using this path again.

Hurstbourne Priors PC

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

The Parish Council meets every other month and anyone is welcome to attend in order to raise any concerns or to bring matters to the Parish Council's attention. There is no need to notify the Parish Council that you wish to attend. However, if it is a subject that requires some research then please do let me, the Parish Clerk, know prior to the meeting so that I can make sure Councillors have an opportunity to look into the matter.

The dates for this year's meetings are as follows:

January 25th
 March 29th
 May 31st (Annual General Meeting)
 July 26th
 September 27th
 November 29th

All meetings start at 6.30 and are held in the Village Hall.

Richard Waterman
 Clerk to Hurstbourne Priors PC
richard.waterman150@btinternet.com 01264 772460



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MACMILLAN CANCER QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday, 19th November we held an 80s Quiz night to raise money for Macmillan Cancer. We had a great turn out and filled the village hall.

Along with the 80s themed questions there was a fancy dress competition and bonus rounds including 'the price is right!' We also held a raffle and auction and so far the event has raised over £1650, with more money still coming in!

I would like to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm for the event. It was great to get our village together and have such a good laugh whilst raising money for a worthy cause.



Tom Crutchfield

HIGH SPEED CAR CHASE ENDS IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

From the Andover Advertiser, Friday 26 December 1947

Late on Monday evening, at Salisbury, a man hired Mr Gordon Jackson, a city taxi driver, to take him into Andover. At Middle Wallop, it is alleged, the passenger held up the driver and threatened him with a weapon, robbed him and then drove off in the taxi. The taxi driver immediately phoned the police.

Shortly afterwards, PC R Choules and PC Roulston, both stationed at Andover, were on police patrol duty when they spotted the taxi travelling through Andover. They gave chase and the taxi drove off at high speed towards Whitchurch.

Apparently sensing that he was being followed, the driver of the taxi increased his speed and at times both vehicles were travelling at 75 mph, until the foot of Hurstbourne Priors hill was reached. Here the driver of the taxi swerved and his vehicle somersaulted and landed upright on its four wheels again. The occupant was arrested.

MC

ANDOVER FOODBANK

The Andover foodbank would like to thank everyone who has generously donated over the past few weeks. We are incredibly grateful.

This month we are in need of the following food and non-food items:

Longlife Fruit Juice
Tinned Fish

Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Fruit

Cleaning Sprays/wipes
Washing up liquid

Laundry pods or tablets

Jenny Lelean, Andover Foodbank
(www.andover.foodbank.org.uk)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Lights! Camera! Action! The red carpet was rolled out on 9th January for the postponed Saturday Night at the Movies in the Village Hall to raise funds for St Andrew's Church. It was a hugely enjoyable evening with a delicious dinner, live music and singing and the Grand Raffle.

Thank you everyone who worked so hard to make the evening a great success: Ian and Denise Bradley, Ann and Crispin Orr the organisers; Susie and Charlie Urquhart for hosting the drinks and canapes; the cooks who prepared canapes, main course and puddings; the wonderful musicians, Lottie and Maria; Master of Ceremonies, Andy Ross; people who donated raffle prizes and to everyone who came to the event!

Fenella Williams
Churchwarden

A BENEFICE PILGRIMAGE

In early December, Simon Mattison walked the length of the new Bright Waters Benefice visiting each of the nine churches from Bullington to Litchfield – 20 miles in one day and kindly raising funds for St Andrew's.

Simon lit a candle in each church for Christmas and to highlight and welcome all into our new Benefice – and he made history being the first person ever to walk the entire new Bright Waters Benefice and visiting every church.

Congratulations and thank you Simon!

... AND FINALLY



As we go to press, it is less than a month since Christmas, so here is a little reminder of our Carols and Nativity at the Pavilion – and the 'camel' and the 'donkey' who were there too.

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St Mary Bourne Village Centre AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Wednesday 1st March** in the Village Centre and

all are welcome to attend. As well as a review of 2022, this is a chance for you to give the management committee your feedback and ideas for your community facility.

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

The Boundary Community Shop & Café 100 Club A Big Thank-You to All who support the 100 Club!

December 2022 - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - Laura Wurzer **£20** - Sandra Grunsell
£20 - John Scott **£10** - Serena Coulton

Christmas Draw - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - Colin Farrell

January 2023 - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - Katie Cambrook **£20** - Leslie Smith
£20 - D & C Liversedge **£10** - Milla Woodhouse



Coffee at The George Inn

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

The George Inn St Mary Bourne on Tuesday 14th February at 10.30am

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



THE BIG BREAKFAST

Sunday 26th February
9am to 12 noon

St Mary Bourne Village Centre
Cooked breakfast only £6

Proceeds in aid of Andover Child Contact Centre

For info contact Jo Boxer (☎ 01264 738 342)

The Lunch

started in September 2004 and we continue to provide a monthly low cost, light lunch and social occasion for everyone in the community.

Over seventy-five people attended our festive Christmas Lunch in December. With sherry on arrival, all enjoyed a traditional roast turkey meal followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. There was a superb raffle and once again children from St Mary Bourne Primary School kindly came to sing Christmas songs and carols.

Our thanks go to everyone who supports us each year. In particular: the Vitacress company, the Village School, Bourne Valley PYO, Ken White Distribution, and everyone who generously donated raffle prizes.

Our next lunch will be on **Wednesday 15th February** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre as usual, serving at 12.30pm. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.

NEW TO THE PARISH?

WELCOME DRINKS FOR NEW VILLAGERS

on Friday 17th March 2023 - 6.30pm
St Mary Bourne Village Centre

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

All new residents are warmly invited to a drinks reception to welcome them 'officially' to the parish*. The relaxed evening gives newcomers an opportunity to meet other new residents and to find out more about the villages and parish by chatting to representatives of different local organisations and clubs.

Anyone who has moved in since Autumn 2021 is very welcome to attend. Personal invitations will be sent out nearer the date but if, by mischance, you don't receive one, please do feel free to come along and introduce yourself on the evening. We'd love to see you!

For acceptances / more information, see www.stmarybourne.org/new-residents.

* Anyone in Binley, Dunley, Egbury, St Mary Bourne, Stoke, Wadwick, Woodcott and The Wykes



We are now into our second month at The Boundary, and we are settling into our new surroundings. The café is wonderful and a really lovely place to be, especially when it's full of people and dogs!

In the café, our new menu is going down well, and we are very pleased to announce that from March the kitchen will be open 7 days a week.

February will see the construction of our outside decking area, ready for warmer days when we can throw open our big glass doors and let the outside in (or the inside out).

In the shop, our Friday delivery of sourdough loaves from the lovely people at *Hoxtons* continues to go down a storm and our chiller and deli counter is bulging with delicious fresh produce from great value ready meals, chalkstream trout, fruit and veg, local meat, wonderful cheeses, fresh olives and wonderful salads made in our kitchen.

We were very sad to say goodbye to the lovely Nadeen at the end of December. Nadeen had been with us for many years and will be missed by all. Wonderful Vic has taken over the role of Assistant Manager and has taken to it like a duck to water.

All in all, life at The Boundary is buzzing... new menus are being prepared; outdoor space created; new products being trialled; cake being eaten and coffee drunk... Spring and Summer are on the horizon and I, for one, can't wait!

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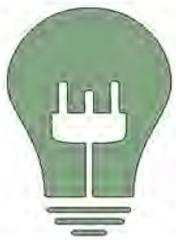
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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



PG • 1 h 55 m

In partnership with the House of Dior, "Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris" tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves, and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.

Tuesday 21st February - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

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

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Film: Tuesday 21st March

'Ticket to Paradise'

SMB Play Area Update

Our 2023 plans to support a new SMB Play Area kicked off with our first fundraiser and Jumble Sale in the Village Centre Club Room on January 15th. We are pleased to say it was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came down and to those who kindly donated their baby and children's pre-loved toys, books, and clothing - we are very grateful. A few leftover items were donated to Ninny's House nursery school and the local doctor's surgery, and the rest will feature in our stall at the Village Flower Show this summer.

In total, the Jumble Sale raised £420, and thanks to the match funding we have through the Good Exchange Platform, that comes to **£840** in total. The Greenham Trust have awarded us with £25k of match funding, with 100% of donations going towards the Community Play Space - this match funding will significantly help us to reach our goal of £125k faster. To donate and for more details of our project, please visit our new Instagram account under [communityplayspace_smb](#).



In 1996 Mrs Troghear left a small rural school of 28 pupils in Hereford and began teaching here at St Mary Bourne School with a class of 32! She had, what we called a 'fixed term contract' for a term and then after some supply teaching here she began a full-time job.

In those days there were four full time teachers and one teaching assistant shared between two classes. My calculator tells me that over 400 children have been taught by her and as she comes up for retirement in mid-February, we want to take the opportunity to say thank you.

So what does spring to mind from all those years? Here's a selection...

Maypole and Morris dancing, football and netball coaching, DT tie-dyeing and building bridges, quilling Tudor roses, creating logos for kings and queens. The reading of 'Put out the light, Moon Bear' and 'There and



Back', mummifying some sardines, the journey of a sausage on the heel of a shoe of a headteacher from the hall back to the office. Then there was the playing the saxophone in the orchestra, the making of the Arts-Mark trophy out of cardboard and paper mâché, followed

[Mrs Troghear (l) and Mrs Hicks (r) in Sycamore Classroom] by a four-foot lizard out of chicken wire and mod rock. The creating of school tee shirts, her famous bottle of home-made jam which when auctioned made a record sale. The higher-than-predicted results one year in maths when every child achieved the expected standard or above. The end of term plays including Super Sam and the first Robin Hood. The children singing Silent Night in German, getting stuck in on Ground-Force day, the Anglo-Saxon weaving in a Forest School session and Mrs Bray (at 100) coming into school to talk to the children. And this list does not include the hours and hours of preparation, marking and teaching; staff meetings, training courses and report writing. The after-school clubs, the mentoring of newly qualified teachers and the help and support for other staff members, so many of whom she has enjoyed working with.

In the past 20+ years Mrs T has been an inspirational teacher. Everything she has done has impacted on the ethos of her classroom and pupils.

Now it is time to say goodbye. And as we do, we want her to take with her our gratitude and thanks for all she has done for so many of our children.

And finally, she mentioned once that at the beginning of her teaching career, someone said: "Never shy away from something, give it your best". So, in looking at all the above and so many more experiences and events over these many years we can testify that she has done just that. She has given her best to so many and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you Mrs Troghear, thank you so much. DM

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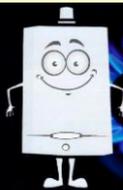
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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

Time to look ahead

As another year clicks in we start to look ahead to a new financial year and resetting the values and objectives of your Parish Council.

The 2023/24 precept and budget proposal has been discussed and agreed by the council and will have been submitted as necessary to B&DBC. Copies are available on request and will be publicly available on the website once we have received confirmation from the budget providers as to the amounts.

The last few years have not provided consistency in terms of financial governance, and we are still working through some of the inaccuracies and missing information. However, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to get 'the ship back on course' and also look to recover missed budget requests. So we have tried to turn this into a positive outcome; but we will all ensure that this is a situation we don't end up in again.

Looking forwards unfortunately also brings some potential uncertain financial times, where national and county budgets have been targeted to be reduced or possibly removed. This places pressure at parish level to provide continuation. We very much look forward to 'everything remaining the same', but also we are not being naive to the fact that grant monies are getting harder to obtain.

As a finance team and council, we understand that we need to be extra diligent with our budgets, and we may also need to become more flexible in our approach and willingness to adapt, especially when opportunities present themselves. This is a slightly different approach than many parish councils have taken to date. But it might need to become more of the normal approach if centralised funding is impacted. We will of course keep everyone posted as we understand more.

New Year, new face:

Following an extended period of working behind the scenes to help realign Parish Council governance, we are very pleased to announce that Maxine Owen is our new Clerk. Max has already retrieved some funding which will help replenish our depleted reserves. We thank her for cramming many years of work into a handful of months.

Please get in touch with Max and come along to welcome her to the role and find out more about the Parish Council.

Cricket practice nets

With Spring now around the corner, a new project is about to start: The installation of two new nets in the north/west corner of the Recreation Ground in St Mary Bourne. This project will be undertaken by the Parish Council and the nets are primarily for the use of the cricket club, both junior and senior. The project has been spear-headed by Jonny Orange and he will continue to be part of the installation team with the council.

Installation does include ground works and, considering the weather at the moment, landscaping repairs may be

necessary once the nets have been finished. All works to make the 'rec' fit for purposes will be completed. So, if necessary in between, please bear with us during the installation.

PC Meeting Minutes and Summary of Outcomes

As part of a new communications plan, it was discussed that summaries of PC Meetings will not be covered on this page. Instead we want to use this space for more proactive distribution of content, plans and progress.

If anyone would like to get a printed copy of the Minutes, which are also available on the Parish Council website and on the Stoke and SMB Parish Council notice boards, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Max at the Parish Council Office, Club Room at SMB Village Centre.

In this age of digital, we appreciate that not everyone has access to websites, which is why copies will be made available where necessary. We want to share our aims and objectives so that everyone has a greater appreciation of where the council is heading.

We always appreciate any suggestions on how we can best share and promote our communications. So please do not hesitate to contact the office if any ideas come to mind.

OM

Next parish council meeting:

14th February - 19.30 Village Centre Club Room
Public more than welcome.

www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Copies of minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or points to Maxine on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.
Facebook: Search for 'SMB.PCpage' and like and follow to get updates or pop along to the office for a chat.

The Kingfisher Day Centre was established in 1984 as a registered charity to provide activities, social interaction and care to vulnerable older people.

We provide a warm space with entertainment, activities, a two course hot meal, companionship and care at our Day Centre in Laverstoke Lane, Laverstoke, near Whitchurch and we now have a minibus to collect people from their homes, travelling from St Mary Bourne and Longparish on Wednesdays.

If you or your loved one would like to come and join us, please call the centre on 01256 893333, or email kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com for more information.



St Mary Bourne United Charities with St Peter's Community Fund

may be able to help if you live in the parish and know someone struggling with financial worries.

Please contact Ruth Widén -

☎ 01264 738250 -

ruth.widen@btinternet.com for more information in complete confidence.

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- Use your dishwasher (full) rather than washing up
- New Year clear out – donate/give away/sell first then recycle, only throw away if no other option
- Look at the A – Z of recycling on www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk/community/sustainable-bourne-valley-15360/recycling/



Toad Patrol

The Sustainable Bourne Valley Toad Patrol will be out again this spring whisking them off the road between the George and Bourne Valley Inn to avoid the traffic.



Please join our friendly team who take it in turns to go out on warm(er) damp nights from about mid-February to mid-March. Families welcome for patrolling Derrydown Lane where the toads congregate in the surgery car park!

Contact Caroline Hoyes on greenbootz@yahoo.com for more details.

Light Touch

Save the Birds, Tuppence a Bag

Birds need to eat regularly in very cold weather, so feeding is important. Small songbirds may survive less than 12 hours without food in sub-zero temperatures. If we feed birds in our gardens all year round, the population will increase because of the reliable food source. So if we have to stop feeding, it needs to be in very mild weather. In spring the birds are busy rearing babies so extra food is good, but never put out whole peanuts in case they are fed to nestlings who could choke. Bird flu does not seem to be affecting our songbirds yet, but there are other



diseases they can catch from dirty bird feeders or water troughs. Both should be thoroughly cleaned, well rinsed and dried weekly especially in wet weather. Also, there is a risk of cross infection from the abnormally close contact of different species at feeders, balanced by the acute loss of insect species. So it is harder for birds to get enough wild food and keep healthy without us. The most important thing we can do to feed birds more naturally is to grow lots of indigenous seeding plants and have areas of wild ground, dead wood, hedges and fruiting trees if possible, so they can find at least some of their own food. CH



Marion Jeffery

born 4th January 1922

For many years Marion raised her two sons in Hurstbourne Tarrant before retiring to Hayling Island later in life. Throughout retirement, she would spend long summers on her boat with her best friend John Ackerman in the south of France.

Over the years Marion's family has grown with 5 grandchildren and subsequently 10 great grandchildren.

Birthday celebrations were held at the White Hart in Stoke, her new local, after moving house at the grand age of 99!

Happy 100th birthday Grandma!

If we only get better with age, you must be nearly perfect!

Emma Wilson



The Village Centre trustees presented **Ray Randall** with a garden chair for him to relax in and enjoy his retirement.

Thank you Ray for your decades of excellent service as caretaker and management committee member.

Karen Crofts

St Mary Bourne Cricket



If you're a budding cricketer, then St. Mary Bourne Cricket Club would love to see you! There are league and social matches throughout the summer and we would love to see some new faces. We also do indoor nets from January to April. Please email info@smbcc.co.uk for more information.

Those budding children cricketers, please keep an eye on the ECB website for All Stars entry (for those in Reception & Year 1). This normally happens in February and is very popular. If in Year 2+ please email youthcricket@smbcc.co.uk to get in the youth team. Both of the training sessions for these happen on Fridays from 16.00-20.15 depending on age.

Finally a huge thankyou to Jonny Orange and all his efforts to crowdfund for the 2 cricket nets on the recreation ground. This is going to be invaluable for youth & adults' cricket.

Please keep an eye on our social media pages for all updates. Facebook: St. Mary Bourne Cricket Club, Instagram: [smb_cricket_club](https://www.instagram.com/smb_cricket_club). We hope to you see you in 2023!



Go Star Gazing in February

5 February Full Moon. Moon will be located on opposite side of the Earth. Known as Snow Moon by early Native American tribes due to heavy snowfalls at this time of year.

20 February New Moon. Moon will be located on same side of the Earth as the Sun & will not be visible. Best time of month to observe faint objects such as galaxies & star clusters as there is no moonlight to interfere.

Please try to minimise light pollution by reducing outdoor lighting. This benefits wildlife, environment & humans alike. RS





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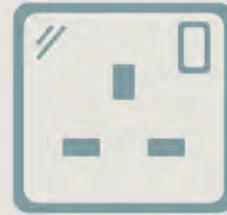
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Postcard from Binley February 2023

Christmas and New Year were their usual quiet affair here in Binley. The occasional houseguest could be spotted wandering aimlessly around looking for excitement. Believe me, there isn't any. And hasn't been since Chris Gabriel's Flat Coat Retriever was tempted into believing Peter Corbett's goat was another Flat Coat Retriever. That made things a little frosty in the Hurdlers Arms for a while. But houseguests can be tiresome, and more often than not turn up with a corner shop bottle of plonk or some garage forecourt Chrysanthus before proceeding to eat you out of house and home, polish off your Remy Martin and then finally demand a bed for the night. My brother refers to them as "pigs in blankets" and he's not far wrong. Fortunately, I no longer have to accommodate relatives as they are all dead and I certainly don't miss my Uncle Bernard who habitually blocked the lavatory to the extent he'd arrive with an overnight bag, a bucket and one of those rubber plunger gizmos.

Of course, you can't choose your relatives as they say, but you can choose your friends. It was a pleasure to bump into a few on Boxing Day on the rec for the annual "Marrieds Versus Singles" football match. This traditional fixture was looking a little perilous a few years back, but it is enjoying something of a renaissance now, and I couldn't be more delighted. Having a natter with old stalwarts like Johnny Horsham, Chrissie Wedge and Billy Annals who once graced the sacred turf was great. As was seeing one of the best games played in years though Des Desai seems to have gone the way of poor old Gazza. Puffing on a Boxing Day cigar we recalled the exploits of players past: the Culley boys, Johnny Cap, Joss Hillier who always played in goal in a sheepskin coat with a crate of beer in the back of the net. As soon as the church clock struck 12.00, he'd jog off the pitch and straight into The George, regardless of the state of play. Such was his level of commitment! Tommy Gibbons, a wonderful man, was often referee and he is someone who is so sadly missed around these parts. Sometimes the ghosts of the past are hard to shake off.

But village traditions, once so plentiful throughout the land seem to be things of the past now. There can be no doubt that a bride fortunate enough to be married here in St Peter's will want to walk up that short tree lined path, past the ancient yew and through the main entrance, the south door. With wisteria fronds cascading around it and pretty as a picture you really cannot blame her but until fairly recent times this was not permitted and brides had to enter the church through the rather anonymous north door, the south door reserved for funerals. This is a slightly curious local superstition as the Devil and evil spirits in general were meant to exit a church via the north door to such an extent it was always left open during christenings precisely for this purpose. Of course, the Flower Show still continues and long may it last; but I do rather regret the diluting of these old habits and customs because there is no reversing the present, only a mourning for the past.

As I write we are into the second cold snap of winter and under an azure blue sky above, me rooks are chasing and mobbing a kite and a matter of a few feet from me a robin and a long-tailed tit are scrapping over some bacon rind on the bird feeder. There is plenty for everyone, but the robin is a pugnacious individual and my money is firmly on him to emerge victorious. Talking of kites, I feel their numbers here in Binley have become depleted. Whether it was last summer's drought or the big freeze before Christmas,

I really don't know. I have studied them for the last thirty odd years here, and compared to a year ago we have nothing like the numbers. But then did we have too many?

Upwards of seventy could sometimes be counted in at dusk to roost in the park so maybe a lack of available carrion has dispersed them? But the good news is the Bourne is up and flowing. I have just driven down the valley from Hurstbourne Tarrant and to my right a silver ribbon was chattering and babbling along. Wonderful, and it doesn't half set the old place off! NA

Reading the letter from Binley in the November magazine about the eels, brought back memories from my childhood to me. I was brought up in Longparish, as my father was the gardener at Longparish House. We lived for a few years in Cowlease Cottage. Behind our cottage was a large, corrugated iron shed which in previous years was the laundry to the big house. This shed contained a large wooden sink and pump, and my mother used to attach the live eel to the edge of the sink by hitting a meat skewer into its head and skinning it alive! My brother Peter who was eight years older than me and I used to watch this procedure with great interest, and because I was only five years old, I used to stand on a stool by the pump to watch. This day the eel which was trying to escape and writhing about, dislodged the skewer and fell to the ground. Mum and Peter ran shouting from the shed and I jumped down from the stool and tried to escape from the poor eel which was wriggling all over the floor. Of course, I was soon rescued but as N.A. wrote, I too had nightmares for a while after this!

Marion Scull (nee Goulder)

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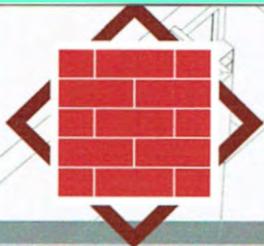
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St Mary Bourne RHS Flower Show and Fête Saturday 29th July 2023

Competition Classes Following review of competition entries in recent years, competition classes for the 2023 show are being streamlined to concentrate entries into the more popular classes. In addition, the entry process for this year will be much easier. You will no longer have to pre-register for classes, just bring along your entry on the day. The list of Classes is below (Children's tbc) but if you feel that your favourite class is missing or you have a good idea for a new one, please find 5 other people willing to enter and we will gladly include it.

Free Seeds & Plugs To encourage budding gardeners to participate in some healthy competition, Hardy's Nursery, our fabulous local nursery and winners of 24 RHS Chelsea Gold Medals, are supplying free seeds and plant plugs which will be available in the village shop from February onwards.

Prizes The flower show is on the second Saturday of the school holidays giving kids plenty of time to get crafty. More trophies and prize money will be on offer for children's classes. There will be no prize money for Adults classes - just the glory of knowing your tomato/bean/flapjack or photograph is the best of the best! Please support the Flower show and challenge your neighbours to a bake off, grow-off or make-off, to be judged in public - no hiding!

Holy Pants Finally, in conjunction with Sustainable Bourne Valley, we are launching a new soil health competition to reward the person with the healthiest garden soil. Simply bury a 100% cotton pair of pants 4-6 inches deep in your garden soil and the winner will be the person with the most decomposed specimen on show day.

Are You Septic Smart?

All across rural Hampshire, there are properties that are disconnected from the main sewer system. Instead, these properties use private 'off-mains' alternatives: cesspits, septic tanks, and sewage treatment plants. The three types vary in how they store, treat, and release waste, but aren't a cause for concern when working well.

When something goes wrong, however, both people and wildlife are put at risk. While off-mains properties are in the minority, they have the potential to massively impact their surrounding environment. This is because systems that are incorrectly sized, sited, or maintained can cause chronic sewage pollution.

This pollution can damage homes and gardens but is also rich in nitrogen and phosphorus - highly effective fertilisers. When it gets into our local chalk streams, it encourages the rapid growth of algae. The resulting 'blooms' starve the streams of sunlight and oxygen, with devastating consequences for wildlife.

The contamination of our waterways is especially serious in Hampshire, where pollutants can easily reach the underground chalk aquifer. As the source of both our chalk streams and most of our drinking water, this natural wonder is hugely important. Once inside, pollutants may continue to emerge even years later.

Luckily, expensive repairs and environmental harm can be avoided with a little know-how. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their system is suitable for their property and the number of residents. They must schedule frequent emptying and maintenance and perform regular checks for signs of trouble.

Swampy ground, pooling water, a leaking tank lid, a grey film on the ground, and spots of lush grass growth can all be clues that something is amiss. Inside the home, look out for sinks, showers, and toilets draining slowly or noisily. Staying alert to potential problems is the best way to fix them before they escalate.

Care over what gets 'flushed' is also key, as the wrong additions can make off-mains systems inefficient or non-functional. Oil, fat, food waste, 'flushable' wipes, and sanitary products can cause blockages. Medicines, chemicals, bleach, and drain cleaner can kill the bacteria that help to break down the waste.

Learn more about how to keep your system safe and effective through the **Septic Smart project**. It forms

part of the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme, which is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. To get involved, visit www.hiwwt.org.uk/septicmart or email winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk.

Free Online Talk - 'Bats: Superheroes of the Night'
21st February, 7-8pm

Join Nik Knight for a look at our fascinating local bat species and how they thrive in the rich environments of our chalk streams. Book your ticket at www.hiwwt.org.uk/events



Photo: Heike Kampe

<p>SECTION A – Flowers A1 - Roses – Vase of 3 stems A2 - Sweet Peas, mixed vase, max 7 stems A3 - Perennials (excluding Roses and Dahlias), 9 stems, mixed kinds A4 - Dahlias - Vase of 5 blooms A5 - Posy in a jam jar A6 – Hardy's Plugs (donated by Hardy's Nursery, grown and shown by you)</p>	<p>SECTION B – Vegetables and Fruit B1 - Runner Beans – 6 pods B2 - Courgettes, 3, approx 15cm long B3 - Tomatoes – 6 Large/Standard B4 - Tomatoes – Cherry - a bunch of 4 or more Cherry Tomatoes, as grown B5 - Rhubarb, 3 sticks, with 7.5cm of leaf</p>
<p>Section C – Domestic C1 - Victoria Sponge with Raspberry Jam C2 - Lemon Drizzle C3 - Flapjacks - 6 pieces C4 - Loaf of home-made bread – Any type C5 - Jam, or Marmalade - Any type C6 - Chutney, Any type C7 – Home Made Beer or Wine C8 - Sloe Gin</p>	<p>Section D – Photography D1 - Print – Landscape scene D2 - Print – Bird, Insect, Animal or Flower D3 - Print - Amusing/comic photograph</p>
<p>Section E – Children – tbc</p>	<p>Soil Health Competition – Holy Pants (bury cotton pants in your garden bring them to the show for judgement in July).</p>



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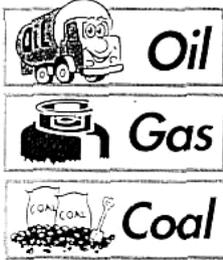
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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman
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REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 9 JANUARY

PLANNING

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

- Tree work at **The Cricketers Inn, Longparish**

An **OBJECTION** was raised for a proposed housing development at **Land to south of Micheldever Road and Shuttle Street, Whitchurch** (a Basingstoke & Deane application), due to impact on Nuns Walk

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

Representatives from River Test Distillery attended the meeting to detail their plans for a new distillery building. The Planning Application has not yet been submitted. Members of the PCC asked councillors to reconsider the new cemetery fees, and the PC agreed to have a further discussion at the February meeting. A resident made a complaint about lights at The Plough Inn and was advised that the PC would contact LCPL to confirm the automatic timings of the lights.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A new Working Party has been formed to review this supplementary planning document. The group members are a mixture of councillors and volunteers from the community. The Working Party held its first meeting and have agreed Terms of Reference. Their next priority is to devise and circulate a consultation survey.

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2023/24

The Budget and Precept for the forthcoming financial year were approved at this meeting. The Precept request of £20,284 has been submitted to TVBC for approval. A new reserve for tree work has been created, and funds set aside for the Community Association to access for a Coronation event.

OPEN SPACES

Cllr David Drew (HCC/TVBC) joined a meeting between representatives of the Cricket Club and the PC to discuss the erection of a ball-stop barrier to be sited between the cricket pitch and the playground. He was able to offer advice about funding to help finance this project. It was reported that the Lengthsman has completed additional work in North Acre to improve the footpath.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 13 February**.

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

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

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

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

Please report any small repairs and maintenance tasks required around the village to the Clerk.



LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2023!!

Thank you to two new volunteers who turned out on a sunny but chilly morning in January. Two bags were picked along the B3048 and Southside Road. Next Litter pick is on Friday **10th February 2023**, followed by free coffee at the LCA Coffee Shop at the Cricketers. Meet behind the Village Hall at 9.15 am, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops, and bags. For more information Tel **Christian Dryden 720 398**



Start the New Year with a trip to the Friday Lunch Club, on the last Friday of the month in the Village Hall.

12-2pm, £3 for hot soup and freshly baked cake.

A chance for warmth, conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age but need to book for catering purposes.

24th February

31st March

28th April

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



Spring Village Clean Up – Save the Date
Saturday 22nd of April, 2pm
Followed by refreshments at
The Plough



February's Coffee Morning
will be **February 10th**
10 am – 12 Noon at the Cricketers
All welcome – Coffee and Biscuits for **£1**

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LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 7pm

At Longparish Village Hall, SP11 6PB
Paolo Arrigo whose firm is Franchi Seeds

speaking on "From Seed to Plate"

Paolo came to speak to the LGC last in 2016. He is an entertaining speaker and brings Italian seeds with him for sale.



Visitors Welcome £5.00

Any queries please to **Rosie Lowry 01264720325**

or rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com

Or **Marion Bell 01264720205**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TALK BY WESSEX RIVERS TRUST AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LONGPARISH TOAD PATROL.

Wednesday March 1st, 2023

Longparish Community Hall

7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Approx. 9pm finish

Refreshments available on arrival

As part of the 'Space for Nature' Pillar of the Greening Campaign, Greening Longparish has organised a **talk by Wessex Rivers Trust** covering:

- An introduction to chalk streams - why are they special?
- Biodiversity / chalk stream wildlife
- Challenges facing our chalk streams
- Restoration work - including local before and after photos, nearby projects and any opportunities to help
- Q&A

This will be followed by an introduction to the **Longparish Toad Patrol**, including information about the local breeding sites to be aware of on warm, damp spring nights! More volunteers always welcome!

For any queries or for more information on Greening Longparish please contact:

green@longparish.org.uk New volunteers always welcome!

For more information on the Greening Campaign please see: <https://greening-campaign.org>

Wanted – Toad Patrollers 2023. Help save amphibian lives in Longparish!

Each year frogs and toads make their annual migration back to the pond that they were born in to produce their own young. They will follow the simplest trajectory possible and, often, this means that they end up crawling straight across roads and are crushed by traffic. Frogs and toads are an essential part of the ecosystem, and their survival is unfortunately being threatened due to so many deaths on the roads. One such area of concern is Nun's Walk in Longparish. Our toad patrollers come out when conditions are dark and wet (and therefore suitable for toad movement) and help the creatures on their journey.

Last year, our toad army not only **saved 1171 lives** but captured essential data for the wildlife conservation charity **Froglife**. Full training is given, and there is a great deal of camaraderie and satisfaction involved in the job, not to mention the serious upping of your daily step-count! Children supervised by adults are welcome, and many intrepid young amphibian fans helped us last year. If you can spare some **evenings between mid-February and the end of March** to make a real difference, then please **email** me on urquhartinteriors@outlook.com.



BINGO NIGHT

Tuesday 21st February

7:30 pm

Longparish Village Hall

Doors open at 6:45pm

For a prompt 7:30 start

Refreshments available

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

All profits go to Andover Food Bank

For more information, please contact

Laura Harding on 01264 720298



Longparish Primary School

I wonder how many readers of 'Hill and Valley' can recite a poem off by heart? And how many can recall all - or some of - a poem learnt and recited in school? (How long ago?)

Poetry can be many things for many people. For some it is a sanctuary, a place to seek peace when times are tough. Poetry, if we let it and embrace it, can offer us a way to empathise with one another. In its immediacy, poetry is a counsellor helping us to understand one another, leading us away from hate to love, from violence to mercy and pity.

Developing that awareness of the joys of poems comes with time. In Primary School children find poetry can be a hugely enjoyable way to play with words. To reorder them, to be silly with them. To laugh out loud at.

As well as writing poetry, this term we will be getting all children to learn and recite a poem. First, they will all recite a poem to their classmates. The best - as voted by the children - will then perform to the whole school.

To recite poetry can be a challenge for children. They need to know that a poem is not a poisonous snake. It will not bite, and you do not have to tip-toe around it. Once learnt, they need to think about clarity - can your audience hear and understand your words? Meaning - did they understand the images and feelings of the poem? Speaking rate - were you speaking too fast or too slowly? Voice - too loud, too soft, too high, too low?

To stand up and recite in front of the class will be a huge achievement for many in itself. In schools we are still confronting the challenges of a post pandemic world; and talking to an audience is something that didn't happen in those lock down years. So, creating as many opportunities as possible now is so very important for our children.

Our teachers are currently choosing suitable poems - maybe a bit of fun from Spike Milligan, or a nursery rhyme for our little ones, or a classic poem like Rudyard Kipling's 'If'. Soon the children will be given them to learn and recite.

Hopefully, they will meet with triumph not disaster when they recite them. Either way, let's hope they learn to treat those two imposters just the same.

Mark Ward
Headteacher



Longparish Little School

We are delighted with our overall grade of Good from our recent Ofsted inspection and extremely proud of achieving

outstanding grades in Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes. Our ethos at Little School is very much linked to the children becoming motivated, respectful, independent, and resilient individuals. They learn and develop through all the meaningful play experiences we provide for them which we feel the report reflects very well.

This half term in our sports sessions we have been practicing balance, core strength and flexibility by taking part in some gym sessions. The children have really enjoyed learning the new moves with Ed our sports coach.

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

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



Friends of Longparish School

NEW! The Longparish Run

Lace up your trainers and join us at our brand-new event! FoLS are delighted to announce the first Longparish Run on Sunday 7 May. With 10k, 5k and 3k routes around our beautiful village, everyone is welcome to take part. Not a runner? You can walk the 5k and 3k routes if you prefer.

May Fayre

Preparations are underway for our biggest event of the year. The May Fayre will be on Saturday 20 May, 12-4pm. All are welcome to attend. And here are some ways to help:

- + Donate items for our bottle tombola and chocolate tombola.
- + Do you work for a company that could donate a raffle prize? Tickets, vouchers, products or even a box of chocolates, all donations are appreciated.
- + We are looking for companies to sponsor a stall. It's a fantastic way to advertise to the local community while supporting a local charity.

For more information on both events, please visit our new website at www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish or follow us on Facebook at fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool

Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)



We are organising a **Fundraising Pamper Evening for Little School on Thurs March 2nd 7-9.30pm** in the school community hall. We have a variety of mini pamper treatments on offer including Manicure, Massage, Head Massage, Reflexology, Chakra Balancing, and Facial treatments too. There will also be some local business and craft stalls and a short talk on Colour & Style, so something for everyone. **Tickets are £10 and include a glass of Fizz, Cupcake, Goody Bag and 1 Raffle Ticket.** Please email Sarah at info@positivehappyme.co.uk or text 07752827098 to book your ticket. **Pre-Booking is recommended** as treatment slots go quickly!

Longparish Cricket Club

Enhancement of the pavilion at the cricket ground in Longparish has begun with an estimated completion date of February for the exterior work. The pavilion is being fronted off with double doors and two windows to create an enclosed area. Decoration of the newly created indoor space will be finished in time for the start of the new outdoor season. This improvement has been made possible by grant funding from the ECB topped up with a small amount of money from the Club. The photo shows progress made to date.



Longparish Players Presents... "Just Desserts"

A scrumptious murder mystery in aid of the Longparish Cricket Club Thatch fund.

When: **Saturday 4th March**
 Where: **Longparish Village Hall**
 Doors Open 7pm
 Showtime 7.30pm
 Tickets: £15ea includes Supper and Dessert and, of course, the show!

Drinks available at the bar.
 Bookings to LongparishCC@gmail.com
 Watch out for more Details and Promotion!

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

Did you have a New Year resolution to become leaner and fitter? So, did I. Last year began with a broken ankle followed by Covid and two bouts of post-Covid pneumonia. Comfort eating and lack of exercise conspired to help me add a stone in weight and five minutes to my 5K time, so I have plenty of scope. The L2SOTM is part of my exercise plan and I'm working up to the new FoLS Longparish Run on 7 May. Now here's the usual race report. I'm delighted to report that the plan is working!

The January weather presented our runners with a difficult footwear choice: running shoes or wellies. We took shelter under the cricket pavilion, so the course was a bit longer than usual. But our hardy runners set off undeterred by the wet conditions.

New runner, Caroline Sutton was first away and led from start to finish completing the 5K more than two minutes inside her estimated handicap. Well done. Next time Mr Handicap will sort her out!

In second place with his fastest time for over a year was Jeremy Barber who became our Most Improved Man and in third was our Most Improved Woman, Claire Collier. In 4th place was Andy Smith in exactly the same time as Jeremy so it will be head-to-head in February.



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

The next race is on **Sunday 12 February**, starting later than usual at **10am**. New runners are always welcome. You don't have to be fast. Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us.

Jeremy Barber
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**BIRDS OF LONGPARISH
FIELDFARE**



Another bird to watch out for is the Fieldfare. Once they have eaten the berries in Scandinavia, they fly across the north sea and arrive in eastern UK in October, by the end of winter it is estimated 750,000 are here. They start eating the yew berries first followed by hawthorn, holly and finally ivy. They will also forage on the ground for insects and other invertebrates, but they will eat fallen apples if food is scarce or the ground is frozen. Fieldfares are about the same size as our native Mistle Thrush. They have a blue-grey head, chestnut back, grey rump and almost black tail and a heavily speckled breast, yellow beak, and black feet. The name Fieldfare comes from Anglo Saxon word *Fieldware* which means traveller. There are a few who nest in the Northern UK. They often nest in small colonies. The nest is a bulky compact structure with outer parts being comprised of grass and twigs, roots lined with a thick layer of mud then fine grass glued with more mud. They start egg laying in May usually in a tree. Each nest will have 5-6 Pale Blue eggs with Red-Brown specks. Both parents often tend to the feeding of the babies. The eggs are incubated for 10-13 days and fledge in 12-15 days.

Chris Bowman



Longparish Little Library
(North Acre Phone box)

Did you know that Longparish has a free library? It was started in 2020 as a small shelf and has grown to fill the phone box. While it predominately has book, it also occasionally receives DVDs and video games.

There is one other thing that has turned up in the library, a geocache. A geocache is kind of like a treasure that you hunt for using GPS. Searching for Geocaches is a fun way to explore an area. In my search I discovered there are a couple of other caches hidden around Longparish. It is important when you find a geocache that you don't remove it, but instead sign the log and swap an item inside it.

I hope you feel inspired to visit the library or look for a geocache.

Boxing Day Santa and Mummers

There was a good turnout for the 16th Great Longparish Santa Dash. The Santa assembled at the school and dashed to The Cricketers.



After a short pause so the crowd could charge their glasses, they were entertained by the Longparish Mummers.

This year there was a new character, the Green Man and the first ever female Mummer who put the Mum into Mumming.



After another pause for the crowd and the Mummers to charge their glasses, the Mummers wassailed to The Plough for the second performance which was like the first save for memory lapses and a bit of wiggling.



The collections at the two performances raised £250. The Plough added £130 from their Christmas Quiz and the total raised of £380 has been split equally between Andover foodbank and the Mityana Projects Trust.

Thank you to everyone who took part, cheered, heckled, and donated.



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AWARD WINNING PUB!

We had a fantastic festive season at the Plough and want to say a BIG thank you to all our customers, staff and volunteers for supporting us through Christmas and the New year!

With December came the best news ever – the Plough won **CAMRA’s** (The Campaign for Real Ale) **Pub Saving Award 2022!!** The award recognises the significant effort and dedication of our village and supporters in rescuing the Plough and turning it into a thriving pub and community hub. *Well done everyone involved!* And to celebrate we hosted a terrific party in early January.



Our annual “Plough fix-it week” went ahead in early January. Our dedicated team of volunteers worked tirelessly to clear a long list of snagging tasks whilst Steve, Lucy and the staff took a well-earned rest. Thank you to everyone for your time and skills, we couldn’t do without you.

We’ve launched our **New Menu** full of delicious dishes as well as our take-away menu offering our most popular items. Come and sit by one of our roaring fires and enjoy a tasty meal or take something home for a cosy meal in front of the telly. See social media and our website www.ploughinn.org for details.

On Wednesday, the 1st of February (to be repeated on the first Wednesday of each month) we’ll launch our **“Name your Price”** day and evening where you’ll have the chance to dine here and pay what you feel each dish is worth, imagine! (This only applies to food.)

We always recommend booking to avoid disappointment. Call Steve & Lucy on **01264 720069** or book via our website.

*We look forward to seeing you at the Plough!
Steve, Lucy and the LCPL Committee.*



PLANTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SPRING

The Mixed Species Native Hedgerow between the football field and the Plough garden, has matured after a year and is full of blossom. Shrub species include Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Bird Cherry, Hazel, Alder, and Purging Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Elder, Goat Willow, Crab Apple, Dog Rose, and Honeysuckle. To help the hedge establish the plants wear plastic spirals to dissuade deer and rabbits and we remove all weeds which impede their growth. At the same time native species endemic to the area are left, increasing the biodiversity of the scheme, making it more robust.

All wood, and annual and perennial weeds are composted off-site. Also, off-site plants for the scheme have been propagated which provide food for larvae and act as a nectar source for insects.

With careful pruning, The Plough mixed Species Native Hedgerow will expand widthways and be pruned to the height of the sustainable post and rail fence.

This was milled locally by Andover Down Sawmill, from the timber cut down on the site.

Spring flowers to come include Snowdrops, native Bluebells and Daffodils, Primroses, Violets, Wild Garlic, Hedge Garlic, Mullein and Foxgloves.

The standing deadwood Eucalyptus acts as a ‘refuge station’ primarily for birds, bats, and bees. Please have a closer look at this example of a biodiverse garden on your way to school or when walking the Test Way.

For further information please contact:
Pam Weale, Community Gardener
or Paul Knipe, Conservation Adviser on 01264 720713



Cathy Yelf – Longparish Snowdrop Project

Hurstbourne Priors

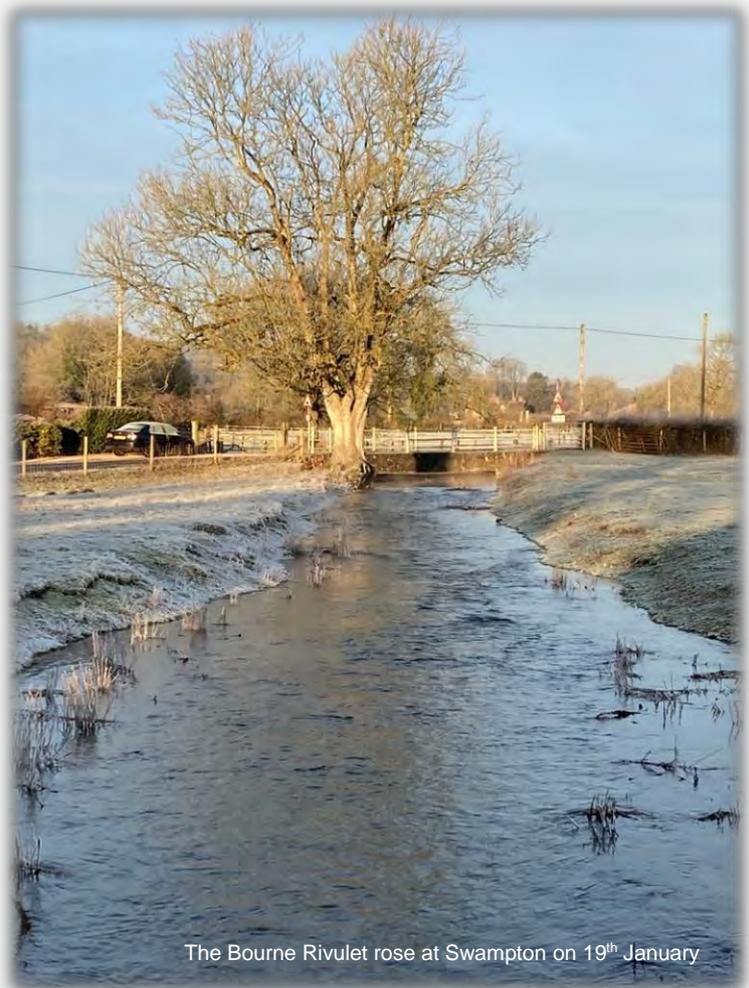
- 4 4pm - Piano Recital - St Andrews Church
 9 from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee - Bourne House
 26 10.15am - Big Breakfast and Pancake Races -
 The Pavilion
 4 Mar 6.45pm - Safari Supper

St Mary Bourne

- 4 10am to 12 Noon - 'The Repair Café' -
 The George Inn
 14 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 14 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting -
 Village Centre Club Room
 15 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre
 21 7.30pm - 'The Film' - Mrs Harris Goes to Paris -
 Village Centre Main Hall
 26 9am - 12 Noon - THE BIG BREAKFAST -
 Village Centre Main Hall
 1 Mar 7.30pm - Village Centre AGM - Main Hall
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -
The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room

Longparish

- 10 9.15am - Litter Pick - Village Hall
 10 10am to 12 Noon - Coffee Morning - Cricketers
 12 10am - L2S0TM Race - Cricket Ground
 13 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
 21 7.30pm - Bingo - Village Hall
 24 12 Noon to 2pm - Lunch Club - Village Hall
 28 7pm - Gardening Club - Village Hall
 1 Mar 7.15 to 9pm - Greening Longparish: Wessex
 Rivers Trust Talk - Community Hall



The Bourne Rivulet rose at Swampton on 19th January

Front cover image: The 'King Oak' at Wakeswood
 Photo: Michael Widén

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

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

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

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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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