

Issue No. 277

Hill & Valley

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

£1

April 2024



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Happy Easter

St Thomas

At my church primary school, we were always encouraged to read about the life of the saints. The stories were often exciting and thought-provoking, but through their stories we were taught to appreciate what it meant to live a Christian life. It's something that I have continued through my life.

But one saint that I feel a bit sorry is Thomas – all most people remember him for is for being “Doubting Thomas”. Actually, Thomas was one of the most loyal and dedicated of the twelve apostles.

When we meet him at other times in the Gospel, he is the practical one, ready to follow Jesus and encourage the others when they seem a little less sure.

Then we come to the “doubting scene”.

Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them after his Resurrection. And although Jesus had given them some hope and given them their instructions to go out and to share the Good News, they were still confused and hiding together in fear.

There had been increasing stories of Jesus being seen alive. But to the ever-practical Thomas that this must have all seemed fanciful. Despite what they had seen, the disciples were still hiding away. Thomas was not convinced.

A week later Thomas is there when Jesus next appears. We have the same scene – the disciples still in hiding. Jesus comes straight over to him. And we all know that Jesus invites him to touch his wounds – but instead, at that moment Thomas becomes the first disciple to really understand who Jesus is.

It's not surprising that Thomas doubted the disciples' story - a week after Jesus first appeared to them, they were still hiding in the dark! They seemed to doubt it had happened themselves.

But Thomas is pretty much like the rest of us. We all have our own doubts. The story of Thomas is a story of an honest, practical man who loved his Lord too much to confuse what he believed to be true with what he only wished were true. He needed proof.

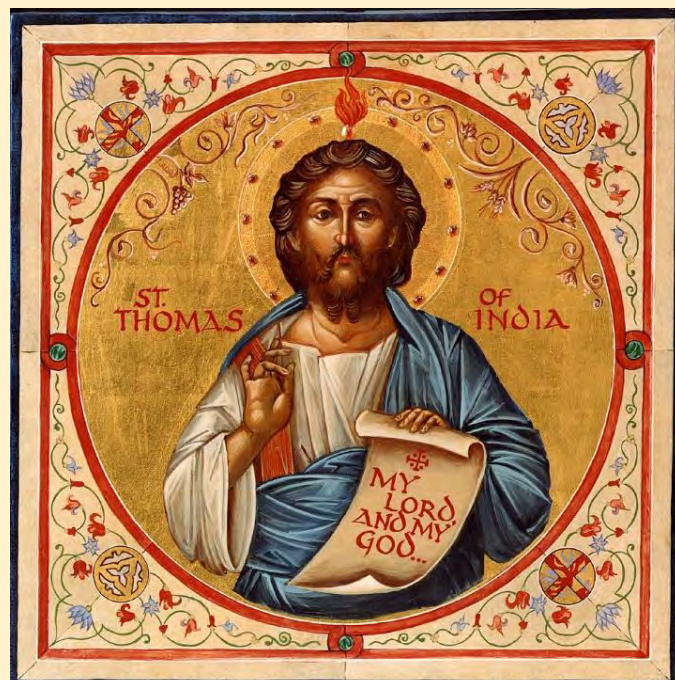
And here is the Good News. God doesn't mind. He'd rather we were honest with our doubts than pretend we don't have them. With those struggles our faith will become stronger; with those struggles we will engage with God with our minds as well as our hearts.

So, when you doubt, don't worry – we all do – it's normal. And if you ever have questions then I can't promise we will always have the answers, but one of us we will always be happy to struggle to find them with you.

Blessings,

Richard

The Revd Richard Sutcliffe



Services in the Parish Churches

April 2024

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

Sunday 7th - Easter 2

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

Wednesday 5th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 14th - Easter 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
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 21st - Easter 4

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	Songs of Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Praise
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 28th - Easter 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott		No 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

Funerals

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

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

Peter Stephen Martin

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne - 5/3/24

Alan James Kingston and Margaret Irene Kingston

(interment of ashes) - Longparish - 8/3/24

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



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Continuing our trip up the B3048, Highway to the North - Part 2

Soon after the unmarked Wherwell - Longparish parish boundary, we reach something old and something new. On the right lies the farm representing the ancient manor of Gavelacre, or Gallaker (meaning 'a field rented for a customary service or payment'), owned by Wherwell Abbey from 1258. Old maps (1759 and 1791) suggest that the road once clung closer to the river, running through Gavelacre and on through Forton (Old English '-tūn', 'homestead' or 'village by a ford'). This ancient track lingers as a footpath, rudely interrupted by that beacon of modernity, the 1962 construction known as the A303 (T), 'Andover bypass'. Still, drivers speeding at 70mph+ along the dual carriageway are duly warned that pedestrians might be crossing in 300yds, so have eight seconds to avoid them.

Back on the present B3048, high on the left behind Longparish Station is Harewood Forest, where much more is going on than a passerby might guess. There is intensive pig and poultry farming, and what one correspondent to the Andover Advertiser described in 2013 as the source of the 'disgraceful constant plume of effluent from the incinerator ... in the heart of one of our ancient woodlands'. Tucked away off the link road over the A303 is also the Harewood Forest Industrial Estate, very convenient for the flyover interchange, opened in 1995, which gives swift access to the A303 west or east.

Longparish Station was built in 1885 on the Fullerton Junction and Hurstbourne line, which Queen Victoria enjoyed travelling on. It was nicknamed the 'Nile Valley Railway' (why? angling, or the royal imagination - take your pick!). It joined the main line just west of Hurstbourne railway viaduct over the B3048. It was a two-track line, so Longparish Station had two platforms. While freight rumbled along for over 70 years, its only chance of making money from passengers was if the population of Longparish expanded to 10,000. It didn't and the line was reduced to a single-track in 1913, losing its passenger service in 1931. After the line was completely closed in 1956, the station house and cottages came into private ownership. Since then, a small number of newer houses have been added. But the A303 makes Longparish Station and Gavelacre feel cut off from Longparish village. Indeed, for its first 33 years, traffic from Wherwell to Longparish had to negotiate the dangerous staggered crossroad to cross the dual carriageway - imagine that in the holiday season... The interchange saved lives and enables ramblers following the long-distance Test Way to cross safely. Part of the interchange route runs along the track of the old railway line.

Heading north-east beyond the A303 and up hill, a healthy height above the wandering river course below, the B3048 then becomes the 'Forton bypass'. This neatly

preserves this pleasant hamlet's narrow street and 16 Grade II listed buildings from invasion by through-traffic. So, we travel on from Forton towards the other weighty '-tons' of Longparish...
MC

WEATHER: FEBRUARY 2024

Total rainfall for this month	156mm/6.14in
Total for 2024 (to date)	244mm/9.60in
Total for 2023	134mm/5.27in
Max temp	17°C/62f (17 th)
Min temp	-2°C/28f (24 th)

Obviously a very wet month but we have had worse recently! Our 10 year average for February is 90mm, but 2014 was 186mm and 2020 was 184mm, so this year is only the third wettest in 10 years, which is not much comfort. We also had the warmest February on record.

John Smail

MIDSUMMER FUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 23rd June

2.30-5.30pm

Midsummer Funday

In Aid of St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

Croquet, Pimms and Afternoon Tea
Tennis, Indoor Swimming
Children's Play Garden, with toys and tea

Further details to follow in May

For any queries, please contact Churchwardens

Fenella Williams

fenella.williams@btopenworld.com

or Ann Orr

annjorr@btinternet.com



PARTY AT THE PAVILION

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

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

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

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our April Coffee Morning will be held by Denise Bradley at No. 38, Mistletoe Cottage, on **Wednesday 24th April from 10.15am to 12 noon**. All ages welcome!

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

GARDENING CLUB

Our two final dates for the Gardening Club to prepare plants for the May Fair are as follows:

10.30 on Tuesday 9th April

7pm on Tuesday 16th April

Hopefully the meeting on 9th April will be in the garden if the weather is kind. Both sessions will be held at Hurstbourne Priors House and we have everything you will need, although please bring gloves if you don’t want to get muddy!

Many thanks to everyone who has helped us over the past few months.

Kat, Rosie and Clare



MAY FAIR FUNDS

The Hurstbourne Priors May Fair raises funds for our three village amenities: St Andrew’s Church, the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground and Pavilion. For many years, the funds have been shared out as follows: 3/7 to the Church, 3/7 to the Village Hall and 1/7 to the Recreation Ground.

At the Village Meeting following the May Fair last year, there was a discussion about whether a share-out formula agreed many years ago was still valid and the Chairman, Jim Vyse, agreed to undertake a consultation of the village and the beneficiaries.

This consultation considered the questionnaire responses completed by each of the beneficiaries, opinions from villagers who had submitted written suggestions after the Village Meeting and responses to an article in the *Hill & Valley*. These were then discussed separately by Jim with the villagers who had expressed a desire to take part in the review. All the information was collated and presented to the May Fair Committee, who considered the responses and discussed how the funds should be distributed in future. It was agreed that:

- Costs incurred by any of the beneficiaries for staging the May Fair should be reimbursed before the distribution of the proceeds.
- The May Fair should fund the proposed storage facilities for the May Fair equipment to be located at the Village Hall.
- The agreed distribution should stand for three years.
- The May Fair Committee recognised that the Church and the Recreation Ground have the greatest need:
 - the Church receives no grants and relies on donations and fundraising to meet its running costs to keep the building open and available to all villagers; and to fund its contribution to the Diocese to pay for clergy. The May Fair donation is used only towards the running costs
 - the Pavilion needs significant repairs including a complete re-thatch, and a major internal refit without which it will become unusable. They have recently replaced the sewage system and repaired storm damage to the Lych Gate.
- The Village Hall’s income from hire charges funds its running costs and it currently holds sufficient reserves to maintain the fabric and for the provision of new facilities. The Village Hall Trustees felt that they are able to accept a smaller share of the May Fair proceeds.
- The May Fair Committee has therefore unanimously agreed that the proceeds from the May Fair will be shared as follows:
 - Church 45%; Recreation Ground 45% and Village Hall 10%

We look forward to staging another successful May Fair for the benefit of everyone in Hurstbourne Priors.

The May Fair Committee

MAY FAIR DONATIONS

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS MAY FAIR



**BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY 6th May**



from 12noon to 4pm

The May Fair is nearly here! Our village stalls would be very grateful for contributions to their stalls to help make the May Fair a great success as our main annual fundraiser for our village amenities: the Village Hall, St Andrew's Church and the Recreation Ground. Please do have a look and see if you have any nearly new clothes, books or bric-a-brac items, or maybe you can bake a cake, or make sandwiches. All contributions will be most welcome.

Some stallholders would still welcome some help with their stall on the day – even half an hour of “minding the shop” to give someone a break. If you would like to help, please contact the stall holder direct (see below) or email hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com. We would also welcome volunteers who can help with putting up tents on **Sunday, 5th May from 10.30am** (bacon rolls and cake provided).

The May Fair Committee: Jim Vyse (Chairman), Kate Chisnall, John Perry, Clare Read, Susie Urquhart, Fenella Williams

Nearly New Stall

We would welcome nearly new clothes for ladies and men - also belts, handbags, jewellery, hats etc in good condition and unwanted coat hangers too!

Please drop any items off at Meadow View, Longparish Road (last house on the left going towards Longparish) **after 30th April**. Please leave your donations on the bench at the front. (No jumble please!)

PRE-LOVED TOYS

We'd appreciate donations in good condition for the Toy Stall, Teddy Tombola, Lucy Dip:
Toys – Soft Toys – Games & Jigsaws for all ages – Children's books – Arts & Crafts kits – Fancy Dress – Outdoor Toys – Bikes – Party Favours – Wrapped sweets and lollipops - **ANYTHING FUN!**
Please contact Kate Chisnall 07505 668840 to arrange collection or drop off.

BRIC-A-BRAC

We would be grateful for donation of items in good condition for the Bric-a-brac stall. Please bring anything you wish to contribute to the Village Hall **from Friday 3rd May**.

If you need assistance and cannot get to the Village Hall that weekend, please contact Sarah@Wyatt-Tilby.com to arrange collection. Please note: No electrical items, books, CDs, clothes or damaged china/glass. Thank you!
James and Sarah Wyatt-Tilby

TEAS

Donations of ready made filled rolls and sandwiches or the ingredients (eg: bread, cheese, ham, salad or other fillings) and cakes or traybakes would be very gratefully received. Please drop them off at the Village Hall **on the day**. Thank you!
Fenella (01256 892081)

CAKE STALL

Donations of cakes, meringues, cheese straws, flapjack, cup-cakes, home-made bread etc to the cake stall would be extremely appreciated.

Please drop off to Emma Ryan (07773 350065) at Watercress Cottage, 3 Hurstbourne Priors **the day before or bring to the cake stall on the day**.

BOOK STALL

Please leave any books for the Book Stall at the Village Hall or at no. 43 Hurstbourne Priors **from Friday 3rd April**. Many thanks! David and Tom

T O M B O L A

We should be grateful for donations of unopened gifts such as puzzles, bath/shower items, chocolates, candles, scarves, gift vouchers etc. Please contact Hannah (07980 514938) or Andy Ross (07766 252501) at The School House to arrange collection/drop off **from 29th April onwards**.

THE BOTTLE STALL

We are collecting bottles of any shape or size: wine, spirits, beer, soft drinks and cans too. If you would like to contribute, please leave your donations in the garage at The School House **from Monday 29th April to Saturday 4th May**.

Nearly New Kids clothes

We are looking for nearly new items in good condition that your child has outgrown for our Nearly New Clothes Stall for Kids.

Please drop off any donations at Copper Beech (no. 45) or contact Susie Urquhart 07880

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

If you are lucky enough to come across a glut of wild garlic over the coming weeks, you may be wondering what to do with it. Fortunately, Lulu Beasley suggests this “unusual but delicious” recipe from Meera Sodha for Wild Garlic Chicken Curry.

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 150g wild garlic leaves
- 200ml Greek yoghurt
- 2 tablespoons rapeseed oil
- 1 large brown onion, chopped
- 3cm ginger, peeled and grated
- 2 green finger chillies, very finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/3rd teaspoon turmeric
- 8 boneless skinless chicken thighs
- ¾ – 1 teaspoon salt

Firstly, check that it really is wild garlic you have gathered, and not one of its less delicious, potentially far more poisonous doppelgängers. There is a good foraging guide on the RHS website, and do make sure you are removing only the leaves of the plant, leaving the bulb in the ground so it can re-grow.

For the curry, wash the wild garlic thoroughly, cut off the stalks and leave a third of the leaves to one side. Roughly chop the rest and throw into a blender along with the Greek yoghurt and blitz. Leave to one side.

Heat the oil in a large lidded frying pan over a medium heat and when hot, add the onion. Fry until translucent then add the ginger, green chillies, cumin, black pepper and turmeric and fry until the onions are golden (another 5 mins). Then add the chicken thighs, stir to mix and cover with the lid. Cook for 20 minutes, turning every now and then.

Turn down the heat, add the wild garlic and yoghurt mixture and the salt, stir to mix and cover for 5 minutes. Check the consistency of the sauce, you might need to add a little splash of water. Add the remaining whole garlic leaves and cover for another 5 minutes until wilted.



WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

Easter Egg Hunt, 10th April, 10.30am–12.00

Join us in the Mill's grounds to search for chocolate eggs. Collect bags on arrival or bring your own baskets. Each participating child will be given an information sheet to help them collect 15 chocolates from different locations within the grounds of the Mill. Booking is required for all children wishing to participate. Accompanying adults go free. Please note: if you are booking for a child requiring a dairy free option please email Jessica Bone: Jessica.bone@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk once you have made your booking.

“Enigma: The Making and Breaking”, 17th April, 7–8.30pm

A talk by Alan Watson, OBE, about cyphers and cypher machines. There will be an opportunity to get hands-on with four machines: a German three-rotor, a Swiss NEMA, a Swedish Hagelin, and a Russian Fialka. Tickets £15 and must be booked in advance. Tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

National Mills Weekend 2024, 11th–12th May, 10.30am–5pm

Nigel Spender will be here to talk to visitors about the many crafts used during G & H Spender Engineering's recent conservation of the Mill's Grade Two* listed Georgian waterwheel, and the historic craft of millwrighting. Included with admission fee or annual pass.

10,000 Years of Textiles, 15th May, 7–8.30pm

In this illustrated talk Angela Pawlyn will show examples of preserved textiles and explain how ancient equipment evolved into the looms seen today at the Mill. Tickets £15. Doors open at 6.30pm and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Weftival Textiles Festival, 5th–6th July

Plans for our 2024 Weftival textiles festival are advancing! Tickets are already available on our website, where you can also see our events plan as it develops.

Pins and Needles Craft Group

Our adult crafting group meets from 2–4pm on the first Thursday of the month and is open to all. On 4th April we'll teach you to paint your own silk scarf using a microwave. Tickets £12.50 per session including tuition, materials and a hot drink. Booking is essential as places go fast.

Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website via the “What's on” page.

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

And to keep up to date with what's on at the Mill, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via our website.



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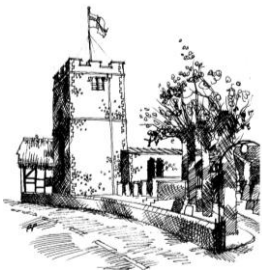


The Community Library - Club Room
 Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 12.30



Coffee at The George Inn
 All ages are welcome, from all the villages, to a social coffee morning at
The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 9th April at 10.30am
 £2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Lunch Our next village lunch will be held on **Wednesday 17th April** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on 01264-738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th April in the Village Centre Club Room. Refreshments will be provided.



On Saturday 2nd March Lorraine and Trevor Cousins celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and Lorraine reminisces about their

Life in St Mary Bourne

We came to live at New Barn Farm in 1965. Trevor had previously worked as a

gardener, he liked working outdoors and thought that farming would be a suitable job for him. We moved into a farm cottage at New Barn Farm with our baby son. Trevor's job was to rear calves for Edgars dairy farm in the new forest and to help with the pig enterprise and general farm work at New Barn Farm.

A second son arrived for us in 1966. In 1967 Edgars acquired the lease at Jamaica Farm and we moved into Jamaica Farmhouse; our 3rd son, Jason arrived in 1968. Life was quite hard, the wages were low, the hours were long, there was of course no transport, so I had to walk into Whitchurch for Doctors appointments and shopping. When I passed my driving test things were a lot easier, I was able to take the children to St Mary Bourne and made friends with other mothers.

At that time the playgroup movement was just taking off and the Village Centre committee were looking to start a playgroup in the village hall. I had made friends with Meta Harris; Meta was also interested in starting a playgroup. It was a great success, and I am pleased to say there is still a playgroup in the village hall which my Great Granddaughter now attends.

Our children grew up on the farm and attended St Mary Bourne school and later Testbourne School in Whitchurch.

Problems arrived in the form of T.B. in the cattle. It was decided to sell the herd. As Trevor's job then came to an end and he didn't want to work with the pigs, we decided it was time for us to move out of farming. We were fortunate that a house in St. Mary Bourne came up for sale. We moved into Hirst Copse in 2000.

Two of our sons had formed a building company and they offered their father a job with them! He worked with them for 20 years before retiring, since then he has become involved with the maintenance of the church grounds.

We have enjoyed our life in St. Mary Bourne and hope to stay here for a few more years!

Since then the Edgars Farming enterprise has come to an end, the farm cottages have been re-developed and the land is now farmed by contractors.

LC

Stoke Village Fund AGM and Welcome Drinks

Friday 26th April
 White Hart, Stoke

AGM at 7pm with
 Welcome Drinks at 8pm
 All Welcome

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com



ST MARY BOURNE
 PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

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

may be able to help. Information from: Ruth Widen, ☎ 01264 738250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com .

This month's Repair Café is on Saturday 6th April and "The Cycling Seamstress" will be joining us.

If you have any small clothing mends or fabric repairs she would love to see you!



Snowdrops! Snowdrops!

Now is the time to ask me for some. **£1** for a good sized clump for transplanting in April.
 In aid of St Peter's Church.

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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

Southern Water

At the council meeting on Tuesday March 12th, the recent rise in the water table put Southern Water's management of the current situation and the Flood and Emergency group's local response to it back in the forefront of discussion and group members are pressing Southern Water for an update on their 'Infiltration Reduction Plan' which will aim in future to reduce the sort of problems this very wet winter has produced.

For residents who have concerns about their own circumstances Southern Water have issued reference numbers which if quoted in email or on the telephone should shorten the necessity for detailed explanation, as they will provide SW employees with local information and background.

These are as follows:

Applegate	4649964
Rest of St Mary Bourne	4649950
Stoke	4649976

There will be a Lake Open Meeting in the Village Centre on Wednesday 3rd April and a Working Party Volunteers Day on Saturday 20th April.

Planning

T/00095/24/TPO	Slade Bottom House Stoke	<i>Work on Trees</i>
T/00107/24/TCA	Myrtle Cottage Gangbridge	<i>Work on Trees</i>
23/01463/RET	Cricket Pavilion SMB	<i>Amendment</i>
24/00537/HSE	Hill House Springhill Lane	<i>Greenhouse</i>

Cricket Pavillion

Following the approval of the *Change of Use Planning Application* by the Development Control Committee at B&DBC (23/01463/RET - Change of Use from Cricket Pavilion to mixed use Cricket Pavilion and Childrens' Nursery and amendment to the Change of Use to include the patio area inside the fence) the Parish Council will review the overall situation with the aim of making an informed decision about future use by the end of May.

If you are interested and think you could help the parish council with anything or all things, please get in touch with Maxine Owen, Parish Clerk, by emailing clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.

Next parish council meeting:

Tuesday 9th April - 19.30
in the Village Centre Club Room
Public more than welcome

Copies of parish council meeting minutes are available on the parish council website www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk and notice boards. Please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk
Please follow/like our facebook page so more people are aware that it exists - and we can continue to update all more frequently - www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage



APRIL

I absolutely love April!! Daffs; tulips; Easter (sometimes); longer days; sunshine (sometimes); summer stretching out in front of us... and my birthday...

This April has a slightly bittersweet tinge, however. My husband and I have decided to pack our bags and head west to the shores of Cornwall and so this will be our last foray into Spring at St Mary Bourne.

In a bizarre coincidence, I handed in my notice at The Boundary 7 years to the day that I started. Working at our village shop has been the longest job that I have ever had, and I have to say, it's been one of the most enjoyable. The shop has changed dramatically over the time I've been here, and I've loved seeing it morph into something so much more than a convenience store. It has become a real hub of the village and I love hearing the chatter and banter as I sit in the corner doing paperwork!

So far, I have had 367 Mondays, 360 Londis deliveries, taken delivery of an estimated 201,342 pints of milk and approximately 63,336 bananas and, of course, 364 Hill & Valley entries. Life has never been boring and the shop with its constant challenges and triumphs has made it a real rollercoaster of a journey. But it is time I left and allow fresh ideas and energy to work their magic. Over the years I have been supported by amazing staff; wonderful volunteers and great committees working behind the scenes... it really has been a team effort.

I truly believe that the Shop and Café as it stands today is an amazing asset for the village of St Mary Bourne. People who enter the shop for the first time are always complimentary and I hope that it has bolstered the reasons for people to move to this vibrant community. We are here to serve the parish and all the demographics that it includes, and I feel we fill the brief well. I hope that you all feel the same and continue to support The Boundary as well as you have been. It is an amazing place with beautiful people who work and volunteer within it. I will miss them all very much.

So, thank you, all of you, for being there for the shop and supporting us through a transient time. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Thank you for your laughter and banter. Thank you for sticking Boundary stickers to my back so that I walk around for hours unwittingly advertising my place of work. Thank you for hanging bunting and balloons on the shop for my 50th birthday. Thank you for everything. I have tears running down my cheeks as I write this. I will miss you all.
Lastly, thank you for indulging me in this Hill & Valley entry.

If you should ever find yourself on the Roseland Peninsula in Cornwall, do come and say hello.
Over and Out with much love,

Lara xxxxx

The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

March 2024 draw:

£50 - Mark Grace **£20** - Pearl Pritchard
£20 - Joanne Brown **£10** - J & S Meaney

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 13th April

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Postcard from Binley

For some time now I have been living as an openly "old" man. In general, my wife, close family and friends have accepted it, but some are in denial. I'd certainly left plenty of clues. The monthly newsletters from World of Sheds piling up in the downstairs lavvie, the signed and framed photo of Carol Kirkwood by my bed, the constant sucking of peppermints. Incredibly I'm not the only "oldie" in the village! Amazingly there are several of us and I'm thinking about starting a support group so we can meet once a month round each other's houses, drink pots of tea, munch through a couple of packs of Hob Nobs and collectively shout at the news on the telly. I think it will be very therapeutic and we can explore our oldie issues like *why did I put yesterday's socks and pants in the saucepan cupboard and not the washing machine?* Or the eternal question of *why do we march into rooms with a purpose and then have no idea what we are doing there?* There are advantages of course, I can now wear socks with sandals, and nobody will care. I can make off-colour jokes to supermarket checkout girls, and they no longer roll their eyes and call for Security but smile sympathetically while thinking "silly old f**t!"

More good news is I have finally made it onto an NHS waiting list! I know it's not quite up there with an MBE, but I am still justifiably proud. Do you get a certificate or letters after your name? That would be a nice touch. As I shall be going under the knife perhaps a tie with a pair of crossed scalpels would be pertinent. Which reminds me, many years ago an Irish girlfriend of mine told me there was a society of men in Dublin who had all had vasectomies. Their "club" tie simply showed a silver pair of scissors. These were proudly worn out on a Saturday night where in this fiercely Catholic society they were considered a safe bet for a "knee trembler" in a bus shelter after a night on the Guinness.

But here in the Hampshire Highlands nature's knee tremblers are well under way as spring is springing out all over and all manner of God's creatures are paired up. Nest building is proceeding at a rapid pace. To assist this, I have spent hours perched precariously on the barn roof scraping off moss and have left it all at the back of the building alongside a large pile of vine twigs. A sort of avian Travis Perkins. The wrens and tits have been getting stuck in and helping themselves as have the rooks and pigeons. Little things like that make me feel good about myself. But to top this off I have a resident Tree Creeper in the garden. I haven't had one or should I say spotted one since an old apple tree grew outside the kitchen door but just now for the second time, I caught one going backwards up a gnarly old acer that is covered in lichen. Tree Creepers are such pretty birds and so delicately formed with mottled brown feathers and a white underbelly. Their needle like downward curving beak is perfect for rooting around under flaky bark and hooking earwigs out of their homes. Often, they will become resident in just one tree. Hope he hangs around.

Leaning on a parapet and staring into a river below is one of life's great pleasures. I have wasted hours of my life doing it and have no regrets. It fixes the mind and cleans the soul and often someone will stop alongside you and fall into conversation. And this is precisely what happened the other day in Whitchurch as I was watching the huge grayling that sit in the current upstream of the Silk Mill in Whitchurch. Bread fed they must weigh over 3 pounds, a substantial size for one of these fish and quite a prize for

any angler fortunate enough to catch one. But here I fell into conversation with an old chap who had spent his lifetime working on farms from Whitchurch down to the coastal farms along the Solent; and he told me how it was there as a boy among the salt marshes he would go out with his grandfather poaching rabbits on the darkest of nights when no gamekeeper would believe poachers were at it. Instead of a ferret they would bring along a large King crab in a sack. They would set their nets and then melt the bottom of a stubby candle before allowing it to set on the back of the crab's shell. Attached to a long piece of string and putting the crab sideways on to the rabbit's bury with the candle lit, the old crab would start to meander sideways down the hole, slow and steady. What the rabbits made of this crustaceous apparition heaven only knows but they would bolt immediately straight into the nets. I didn't believe a word of this nonsense of course but as soon as I got in the car I googled it on my phone. "Crabbing for rabbits". Absolutely true!
NA

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



PG • 1 h 56 m

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Tuesday 16th April 2024 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

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

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Next Film: 21st May 2024



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Saturday July 27th

April is a busy month in the garden and time spent outdoors now, sowing, planting and dividing will bring you great results this summer - and competition prizes at the Flower Show !

There are 17 weeks until the show.

Hopefully your seed potatoes will be planted - remember to protect them from frost. The last frost date is apparently between 21-30 April (as per plant maps who use historic weather data). Plant out onion sets, sew hardy annuals, check on dahlia tubers, fertilise roses and start checking for aphids, cover beds with sheets of polythene to warm the soil for seed sowing - all good jobs for April. In response to feedback the class list has grown for 2024.

The following classes are for Flowers, Vegetables & Fruit:

Section A - Flowers

- A1** Roses - Vase of 3 stems, Home grown, mixed or single variety
- A2** Sweet Peas - Vase of 7 stems, mixed or single variety
- A3** Perennials (excluding Roses and Dahlias) - Vase of 5 stems, mixed or single variety
- A4** Dahlias - Vase of 5 blooms, home grown, mixed or single variety
- A5** Posy in a jam jar - Posy of mixed or single variety blooms
- A6** Hanging Basket - Display that can be hung, of any plant variety
- A7** Open Class - Interesting or Unusual bloom, single or multiple stems
- A8** Houseplant - Houseplant any type

Section B - Vegetables and Fruit

- B1** Runner Beans - 6 pods of equal length
- B2** Courgette - Biggest individual fruit
- B3** Tomatoes - 3 Large or Standard tomatoes of 1 variety
- B4** Tomatoes - Cherry - most fruits on the vine - 1 x vine of homegrown tomatoes, most fruits to win
- B5** Rhubarb - 3 sticks, with leaf
- B6** Onions - 3 bulbs of any variety
- B7** Potatoes - Heaviest crop from the seed potato competition
- B8** Ugly Veg - Ugly shaped veg
- B9** Open Fruit class - 3 any single variety of fruit
- B10** Open Vegetable Class - 3 any single variety of vegetable

At last, Local Hard Plastics Recycling



A specialist local company doing high specification recycling of hard plastics has opened its doors to help the public recycle their own food trays and pots, plant pots, screw top lids and any other rigid plastic. They will sort it into the numerous types of plastic on site, so there is no need to search for

obscure numbers. The only stipulation is that it does have to be clean. Just bag it up in as large a bag as you can find. Very exciting, POLYSTYRENE or styrofoam can also be recycled by the company, but it **must be kept separate** from other plastics. We all know the ghastly expanded packing stuff in its many forms which is seen littering building sites and nearby hedges. There is also a more malleable sheet form used in packaging that they will take.

The company is called **Regenthill Ltd** and is on Fyfield Road in Weyhill, SP11 8DN. This is a lane just off the Amesbury Road to Hilliers Garden centre opposite Millway Nursing Home and a few minutes away from The Weyhill Fair with its café, craft shops and zero waste shop. So an occasional drop off can be incorporated into other visits.

It is open to the public for drop off Mondays to Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm. The telephone number is 01264 771519. Give them a ring during the day to check there is no problem with deliveries.

Regenthill is a few yards along Fyfield Road on the left with a sign high up in the hedge as in the picture, go straight down to the metal gates and push the intercom or phone to get the automatic gates opened. The office is immediately on the left for handover. Simple as that! All these details are also on the Sustainable Bourne Valley website under recycling.




FRIDAY 14TH JUNE

● BOMBAY SAPPHIRE DISTILLERY ● 7.30PM

A glam '80s evening of cocktails and catch ups.

A promise of grub and dancing. Let us know if you can be there and tell your Kestrel, Hawk, Merlin and Eagle Mates! Tickets £40 to £50 + complimentary cocktail on arrival + Bar & Buffet

Supply top 3 favourite songs between 1979 and 1984 to add to the playlist. For further details and questions:

testbourneclassof84@gmail.com



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WATERCRESS & WINTERBOURNES

Beautiful Blue Butterflies



The rolling hills of Hampshire's chalk downlands are amazing havens for butterflies. These colourful creatures light up the landscape, and are a crucial food source for birds, bats,

small mammals, and amphibians. If you take a walk around our local chalk streams, keep an eye out for these blue beauties – just remember that the females, which can be partly brown, present more of a challenge!

The earliest to emerge is the holly blue, which can appear as early as April. This first generation is followed by another in August, and sometimes a third in October. As its name suggests, this species tends to congregate around holly plants in the springtime, although the summer generation mostly relies on ivy. Unlike the others in our list, this butterfly is pale blue on the underside of its wings.

Britain's most widespread blue butterfly, the common blue, can roam due to the prevalence of its favourite foodplant: common bird's-foot-trefoil. You can often spot it in grassy areas, including along riverbanks. Look for individuals or pairs in late May, and again in late August. As with the holly blue, a third generation can sometimes arrive in October if the weather has been warm.

The chalk hill blue is the largest blue butterfly on our list, and the second largest in Britain. It is mostly confined to chalk downlands, as they are the main habitat for horseshoe vetch – its sole foodplant. Unusually, the chalk hill blue has just one generation, which emerges from July to September. The caterpillars secrete a sweet substance, so ant colonies will often protect them from predators.

Eating only horseshoe vetch is a trait shared by the Adonis blue, although this butterfly prefers to find its food on slopes with shorter grasses. Like those of the chalk hill blue, Adonis blue caterpillars have a symbiotic relationship with ants. Despite a significant decline in its overall population, this species can still be seen at sites across Hampshire in late May and late August.

If you're keen to learn more about these amazing animals, the local branch of Butterfly Conservation holds guided walks throughout the spring and summer. To discover the wonderful world of chalk streams, explore the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Online Talks

'An Introduction to Floodplain Meadows' 25th April, 7pm

Floodplain meadows bring beauty and biodiversity to the landscape, but many have been lost over time. How can we restore these habitats?

'The Role of the River Keeper' - 14th May, 7pm

Often responsible for habitat management in fisheries, river keepers can play a crucial role in protecting our precious chalk streams.

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

Go Star Gazing in April The Orion Nebula

Photo taken by Andover Astronomy Society member Phil Piper. Showing both the Orion Nebula and the surrounding Ha emissions, rising above Stonehenge.



When we look up into the sky, we generally see little more than the moon, stars, and a few planets. The camera can capture far more than our eyes. The red nebula is ionised hydrogen gas - one of the most abundant elements & building blocks of the universe.

Final meeting of Andover Astronomy Society for 2023/2024 on Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre, SP110AX.

We will live stream Sophie Allan, UK National Space Academy. She will update on James Webb Space Telescope. Sophie will look at breath-taking images & science behind them, look at plans and challenges of the next decade in unlocking the secrets of our Universe.

Free to new members

Want to observe Dark Night Sky Highlights? Visit Andover Astronomy Website. Select, "NIGHT SKIES."

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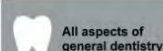


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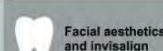
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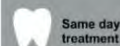
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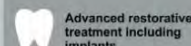
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Remembering...

Peter Stephen Martin

18th May 1954 - 18th February 2024

Pete was born in South-East London. He was the third son of Percy and Mary and had two older brothers David and John. His father was a musician and career soldier in the Irish Guards where he served as a bandsman and his mother worked as a mortgage manager. Much of Pete's childhood was spent in the company of his brother John who had a huge influence on his life, particularly in his early teens when John (8 years older) introduced him to the wilder side of life at Sussex University in the 1960s.

Pete went to school in Catford and Dulwich. He was an excellent student, a talented musician who played in his school bands and orchestra, and a notable sportsman who played Under-18 rugby for England. He then went on to York University to study English where he met Sophy Blakeway who was studying History. This was the start of a 50-year partnership which strengthened Pete's determination to explore and make the most out of life. He had wondered whether to become a professional musician but instead chose to follow a career in education where he made a huge difference to other people's lives. Pete was passionate about education. As a teacher, inspector of schools, director of national strategies and international consultant for not-for-profit organisations, he had a rare ability to inspire and reassure the people he worked with; many of whom turned up for his funeral service in St Peter's on 5th March.

Pete and Sophy started their married life and teaching careers in London, but then moved to Ford Cottage, St Mary Bourne in 1992 with their three young daughters Laura, Becky and Hope when Pete was appointed Inspector of English for N.E. Hampshire Schools.

Despite the pressures of his work, Pete threw himself into village life whenever time allowed. He joined Priors Players and took an active part in all productions. He sang in the church choir and played the bugle at the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial. He took lead roles in Opera Dever productions and thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people and taking part in social events which appealed to his endless curiosity.

Whatever he took up, Pete developed the skills to become good at it. His achievements were many and his interests were wide-ranging.

It was a great joy when Clem Jones introduced him to sailing in 2011. This led to Pete training to become a Master Skipper and he & Sophy buying their beloved boat Alizé. They had many exciting voyages around Southern England and the Mediterranean on Alizé, sailing with family members and local friends. On one of those trips they bought a house in the Peleponnese which became a second home for them. Pete then became semi-fluent in Greek, knowledgeable about Greek history and a classy crooner of classic Greek songs. He mastered many things which interested him and was ready for the next challenge up to the end.

Unfortunately, during Covid lockdown Pete started to experience some health problems which were eventually diagnosed as myelofibrosis – a rare blood cancer. He endured difficult treatments at Southampton Hospital for over a year, including a stem cell transplant, and faced the various setbacks and social isolation with stoicism



and humour, fortified by love, sympathy, patience and help from Sophy and all his family. But eventually he had to give up the struggle.

Pete's family – Sophy, Laura, Becky and Hope, their partners and his six grandchildren – were the cornerstone of his life. He is also deeply mourned by many friends, local and worldwide, who love and remember him as

a warm, funny, opinionated, moral and inspirational companion who shared his enthusiasms and adventures with them and enhanced their lives.

Pete Martin – A Good Man. R.I.P

Melanie Nixon

The funeral service for Melanie Nixon of Snowdrops, Manor Farm Close, Stoke will be held in St Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne on 10th April at 12 o'clock, followed by a gathering at the George Inn for everyone to have a chance to share their memories. All friends and neighbours will be very welcome.

Stoke Plant Sale
 Saturday 25th May
 2 - 4pm
 Winterbourne Cottage Greenhouse
 SP11 ONP
 Any plant donations
 greatly appreciated

The River Test Distillery
 Stoke Village Fund are looking to
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LONGPARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Longparish Village Hall - Monday 29th April 7.00pm

Meet the Parish Councillors, and hear about their activities over the last year, including planning, finances, and Open Spaces

Hear from local organisations including Longparish Community Association, LCPL, School, Little School, Cricket club, Village Hall Committee

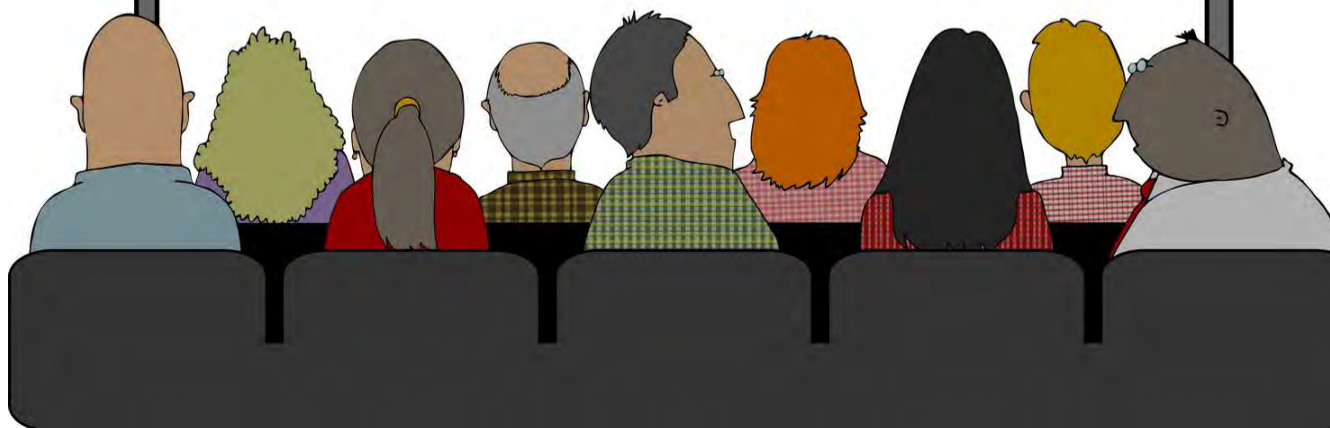
COME AND VIEW THE NEW VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT!

A chance to say thank you to our volunteers

Meet and hear from Borough and County Council representative

Have the opportunity to ask questions and have your say!

ALL WELCOME!



LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman

clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 11 MARCH PLANNING

Councillors considered two agricultural notifications for a livestock building and a storage building at **Tinkers Hill Farm, Ox Drove, Picket Piece**, and were satisfied that no prior approval is required.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT -The revised Village Design Statement is close to completion, and the working party are planning a public reveal of the revised document as part of the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

OPEN SPACES – THANK YOU TO OUR D OF E SPACE RANGER VOLUNTEERS!

For the past few months, a gang of young people have been doing all sorts of useful tasks around the village to complete the volunteering section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have done a great job collecting litter, carrying out playground checks, keeping the bus shelters tidy, sweeping and collecting leaves, among other tasks. Thank you to Aly, Daniel, Charlie, and helping out Paul Knipe on the pocket nature reserve,

Leon, Luke and Tristan, and to Sarah Jarman for co-ordinating their schedule.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR - The PC welcomed **Simon Storey** to the council.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council currently has three vacancies, and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the clerk for more information. We welcome with open arms anyone who wants to get stuck into projects, is willing to join working parties, produce reports, monitor and research, with the aim of making a difference for the good of the community. This role is a lot more than just attending the monthly PC meeting!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting incorporating the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 29 April**.

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

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

Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website



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LONGPARISH WILDLIFE - A VERY EARLY SPRING WALK

By Chris Bowman

Started from home as usual. Got my buggy out and the dog. There is a Blackbird sat on Mel's chimney singing "spring is on it's way." Down the back path, nothing down here until we get to Arthur's, just a few Blue Tits on his feeders. The Sparrows seem to have moved on since the garden was cleared. Turn right at the shop > I can't go round the Cleeves it's still flooded. So on we go. There are a lot of House Sparrows in Tom's hedge; perhaps they have moved here. In the pony paddock are a few late Redwings, Woodpigeons and Jackdaws.

Turn left into Mill Lane, a pair of Greenfinches are at the top of the Beech Tree. On we go and a Dunnock is on the side of the road looking for food, nothing else, so on we go. At Lower Mill bridge the usual Heron is sat on the little bridge down river. Turn left towards the ford, at the trout farm there are a lot of gulls, Herring, Lesser Black-Baked, Great Black-Baked Gulls, Canada and Greylag geese. It's nice to see them coming back now they have finished shooting them. Coot, Moorhen, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Pochard, Shoveler, Swans, Pheasant, and a Mistle Thrush quite a few.

On we go and a Cormorant flies over and onto the bridge. Mr Palmer has just taken off in his helicopter and Woodpigeons are flying everywhere. Turn right into Nuns Walk where a Carrion Crow flies over making a lot of noise. Magpies, they are busy building a nest in the trees on my left and a pair of Great Tits are in the hedge and a Robin singing loudly.

Turn right onto the bridge there are three Little Grebes up river and a Chaffinch in the tree calling. Then i see a small bird fly out and catch an insect it's a Chiffchaff probably just arrived from Africa, an early migrant. Turn right back

into Mill Lane and see a pair of Long-Tailed tits collecting nesting material. They are building a nest in Rowan House garden. Three Goldfinches are flying up the road in front of me. Back to the bridge three Buzzards (pictured) and a Red Kite are circling high above me. Moving on nothing much else

we haven't already seen. Turn right I can see a few Rooks in the Pony paddock they are nesting as well. A small flock of Starlings fly over and a pair of Collared Doves sat on the wires. Back into the Acre and home. I hope you enjoyed our walk we saw 38 different birds.



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

The March race was held during a brief pause in the rain but the water level at The Cleeves was more than ankle deep so all the runners got wet feet.

Megan Brunwin led from start to finish and became our Rising Star. Her time was a personal record which is amazing given the conditions. Her Mum, Jo, was Most Improved Woman and Luke Pierce was Most Improved Man. Well done all!



Afterwards the runners enjoyed chocolate biscuits with grapes for those who were off chocolate for Lent.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Megan for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs and David Gould

for processing the results. Thanks also to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on Sunday, 14 April starting at 9am at the Cricket Ground. New runners are always welcome and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us. For more information please see <http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

Jeremy Barber

01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Pauline Dale is fund raising for a farewell and thank you gift for Matt. If you would like to contribute, there will be a box in the shop or give on line: Donations by 15th April please:

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LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB Tuesday, 23rd April 2024 Garden Day Visit to Exbury Gardens, Nr. Southampton. SO45 1AZ. Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com or Marion Bell 01264 720205



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It's Springtime at the Plough and our wonderful garden is getting ready for lighter evenings, sunnier days and jolly times ahead.

So what's happening in April?

Menu Specials: Our popular menu specials are going down a treat, come on over and enjoy!

Burger Wednesdays (£28 for 2 - choose from our famous burgers)

Pie Night Thursdays (£28 for 2 – Chef's pie of the day).

Fish and Chip Fridays (£28 for 2)

Steak Saturday (£42 for 2 - cut steaks with all the trimmings).

Last Thursday of the Month...save the date!

Rhomeo is planning another themed menu night for the last Thursday of April, Thursday 25th. Watch out for details on the blackboards in the pub and on social media. Always massively popular, book early to avoid disappointment.

Plough Cocktails: Every night is Plough Cocktails night! 2 cocktails for the price of one from 6pm – 10pm. Have a cocktail, have a pie, bring a friend!

Our huge thanks to all our local customers, staff, volunteers and shareholders. We truly appreciate your support and hope you will enjoy The Plough's warm welcome throughout the Spring **See you soon!**

Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website

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Save the Date for the Village Fete

The Village Fete Needs You!

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

This year's fete is scheduled for
September 7th, 2024.

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

Can you help? Email us!

Fete@longparish.org.uk



Please join us for the next Friday Lunch Club
12-2pm 26th April
£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 please book for catering purposes.

To book lunch and or transport ring Andrea 720 457

Longparish CE Primary School



By Mark Ward – Head Teacher

At our school we aim to make our children lifelong citizens of the world. As such, we start with making sure they are connected to our local community. Sometimes that is about us going out into the community, and other times it is about inviting people into our school.

We recently invited in Susie Urquhart from the 'Longparish Toad Patrol' team, who gave a fascinating talk..The visit gave valuable learning and insight into toads which the children loved and linked perfectly to their learning on life cycles, growing and changing.

Our Reception class joined Little School to share in the opening of 'the bug hotel in the park'. The children made the bug hotel a few months ago and it has now been positioned in pride of place in the village park by the cricket ground. The children all trooped down to the park and we were joined by one of our school governors, Christian Dryden, as well as some very special guests, Mr and Mrs Darrah, who developed the original park in its current location over 50 years ago. Mary Jo Darrah also wrote the Longparish history

as part of the Longparish handbook, and was the Chairman of the Parish Council for many years.



Local Artist Jill Smith came and did an art workshop with our Years 5 and 6 children. They loved the experience and created some inspirational art from that day. Another local artist, Alix Baker, also recently donated paintings to auction for our Lookout Lodge.

Councillor David Drew visited our school. He wanted to find out more about the Lookout Lodge that we are fundraising for, It was a pleasure to show him around and talk about the range of topics the children are learning about and how we are keen to develop attitude and character in our children as well as develop their skills and knowledge. We are very grateful for the grants and financial support from the Parish Council.

Fundraising for the Lookout Lodge and Timber Trail is going very well. It is great to have so much community support for it. The list of individuals, groups, local businesses and companies that have shown their support is amazing. Too many to mention in this article. But the most wonderful part of this fundraising campaign is seeing how the children have taken this on board. Sponsored bike rides, swims, walks and runs. Night hikes, car washing, cake sales and more have all been undertaken by the children and they are all so excited and empowered by what they have done and what it is for. We have a way to go yet, so if you would also like to support us please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-longparish-lookout>.

Friends of Longparish School

We celebrated World Book Day last month with a second-hand book sale, including giving a free book to every pupil. And we have recently funded chicken eggs for Robins class, who were very excited to watch them hatch.

The Longparish Run, Sunday 19 May:

Join us on a 10k, 5k or 3k route around the village. Everyone is welcome at our family-friendly event. Register at www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish ([early bird discount for bookings before 1st May](#)).

We will also need volunteers for the event. Please contact us if you could help with registration, water stations or marshalling around the course.

Summer Fayre, Saturday 8 June, 12pm-4pm:

We have lots of fun activities planned for the Summer Fayre. Can you help with:

- + We will be doing our annual collection for donations to the Bottle Tombola this month. Leaflets will be posted through letterboxes in the village soon. Donations can also be left at school reception. This is one of our most popular stalls, and we very much appreciate your support each year.

- + Can you donate plants (outdoor or houseplants) for the popular plant stall. Or bake a cake for the refreshments stall? Donations of second-hand books, toys and childrens clothes are also needed.

- + And we have a fantastic new opportunity are looking for companies to sponsor the event or donate a raffle prize. It's a fantastic way to advertise to the local community while supporting a local charity.

More information:

Website: www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish
 Facebook: fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool
 Instagram: [@friendsoflongparishschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflongparishschool)

Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)

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Cricket Club April 2024

We are now preparing for the 2024 outdoor cricket season and hoping for some drier weather ahead. As the Junior section expands, we are asking for volunteers to join a Junior Committee and to become Junior co-ordinators/team managers to assist the Junior Coordinator.

We are introducing a new age group to Longparish CC, the Under 9s, and are grateful to the parents who have volunteered to undertake coaching courses and co-ordinate the admin for this cohort. AllStars for children in school years 1 & 2 will also run again at Longparish CC starting in mid May, sign up is via the ECB website. Training for AllStars to U13s inclusive will be on Monday evenings at the ground in Longparish.

The U15s training night will continue to be on a Wednesday evening. Currently the Club is planning to start Junior training sessions from mid-April. Please contact Junior Coordinator, Justin Jackman via jackmanjustin@aol.com for more details on junior cricket at Longparish CC.

In preparation for the Hampshire League games which start in early May, the adult teams will begin playing friendly matches in mid-April assuming the ground has dried out enough. The new ball stop net will be in place between the ground and the play park in time for the start of the season. If you are interested in playing cricket at Longparish CC this season please contact us via the website

<https://longparishcc.hitscricket.com/>

Longparish Village Design Statement Preview

For the first time in over 20 years a working party, led by Charlie Birtles, was put together last year to update The Longparish Village Design Statement. This is a document which TVBC and The Parish Council use as supplementary planning guidance when considering planning applications within our village.

A questionnaire was released, which had a good response, and the comments and views have been taken into account when redrafting the updated version. This has now been agreed in principle by TVBC, so the final stage is to present it to the village for comments before it is finally signed off by TVBC.

The updated VDS will be on display at the Village Hall from 3.00 pm on 29th April for the Annual Parish Meeting, which starts at 6.00 pm, and will also be available in the village hall for other events that week.

This is your Village Design Statement and the working party look forward to hearing your much valued views and comments to work towards the final approved version.



St Nicholas Church 100 Club

Results of the February Draw 2024

Many thanks again to all those who have signed up to the scheme. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

We had 3 new members join in February, making the total members of the scheme up to 57. **Please think about joining the scheme in order to help preserve the fabric of your church.**

Prizes are allocated on a percentage basis. First prize is 25% of the total income for the month, second prize 15% and third prize 5%. The draw was made on the 28th February 2024.

First prize:	No. 40	£70.00
Second prize:	No. 10	£42.00
Third Prize:	No. 02	£15.00

We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members (Clue is in the name!). You can join at any time, and it works like this:- Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, you may well have the letter and application form still at home, but if you require another one, please let me know:-

Or, if you have any other queries, please contact:-

John Young, PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club

Tel: 01264 720233

Mob: 07860 630489 or

Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

P.S. If you're interested to learn more about the finances of the church and how it is funded etc., I would be very happy to have a conversation with you any time. Just give me a call.



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The new BUG hotel, built by the Little School children and Robins class of Longparish school was finally installed by the wildflower area in the Playground. This really was a collaborative project involving the school, Little School, the Parish Council and enabled by Paul Knipe for his botanical advice, Dean Palmer for the installation and Rob Alnutt for the beautiful sign. In the traditional way, the ribbon was cut by Mary Jo and Graeme Darrah, which was very appropriate as Mary Jo was the instigator of the original playground over 50 years ago and her children were amongst the first children to enjoy the playground. Let's hope the Bugs think the hotel is right for them next winter. Keep an eye open for the wildflowers over the next months.



The Longparish Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Team

For the last few months, we have been filling in divots, picking up litter, checking the playground, cleaning bus shelters, sweeping leaves

and more as part of our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. We hope it has made a small difference to our community but, at the same time, it has also been a very good experience for us all.

We have enjoyed learning new routes around the village and learning new skills like drainage for football pitches. We have also felt proud walking around the village and seeing less litter on the footpaths.

It has also been great to have the opportunity to spend some time working with Paul Knipe who has a broad range of knowledge and experience about how to improve the environment and wildlife in our local community. Thank you also to Christian and Sally from the Parish Council for their support, guidance and equipment.

Aly, Charlie, Daniel, Leon, Luke and Tristan



ADOPT-A-ROAD or footpath to Litter Pick

The monthly litter picks have not had many volunteers recently so a change of plan is needed! Thank you though to lots of people who pick up litter when they see it!

In the past, the Adopt-a Road scheme, set up by a former Councillor, was very successful and we do currently have several volunteers who adopt a particular stretch of road to keep litter free in their own time. The current list and map needs updating so please get in touch to let me know if you are happy to continue, would like to adopt a section of road or just need new equipment to continue. If you no longer can manage a regular litter pick but have equipment please let me know so that I can pick it up to pass it on to someone else. I am afraid there is no coffee reward but just the knowledge that you are keeping Longparish beautiful.

Tel Christian Dryden 720 398 or email christian.drydenpc@longparish.org.uk



The Cricketers Inn

Hello everybody – As you will all be aware by now, the Cricketers Inn has sadly closed..Matt, Pauline, Terina, and all of our team past and present would like to thank you all for your wonderful support, friendships made, good times enjoyed by all and for all of your kindness. It is heartbreaking to have to let go of the hard work, blood, sweat and tears that went into making the Cricketers the amazing little place that it became.

Thank you: Matt, Pauline, Terina, and team.

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 9 10.30am - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
 16 7pm - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
 24 10.15am - Coffee morning - Mistletoe Cottage
 6 May 12 noon - **May Fair** - Recreation Ground

**ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT**

- 3 6.30pm - Lake Open Meeting - Village Centre Main Hall
 6 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 8 7.30pm - The Annual Parochial Church (PCC) meeting - Village Centre Club Room
 9 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 9 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room
 16 7pm - Sustainable Bourne Valley AGM - The George Inn
 16 7.15pm - 'The Film' - **'Wonka'** - Village Centre Main Hall
 17 12.30pm - **'The Lunch'** - Village Centre Main Hall
 18 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre
 26 7pm - Stoke Village Fund AGM & Welcome Drinks - White Hart, Stoke
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library** - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 14 9am - L2SOTM Race - Cricket Ground
 23 All day - Gardening Club Visit - Exbury, Nr Beaulieu
 26 12 noon to 2pm - **Lunch Club** - Village Hall
 29 3pm onwards - **Village Design Statement Display** - Village Hall
 29 7pm - Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall

Front cover photograph: Jeanette Davies

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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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