

Issue No. 292

Hill & Valley

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

£1

October 2025



Dear Friends,

HARVEST FESTIVAL

For many people in Britain, “Harvest Festival” conjures up memories of lugging a tin of baked beans or a bag of slightly squashed apples into school, where they would be displayed on a table next to a large wicker basket and then redistributed to the local food bank or an elderly neighbour. For others, it recalls hymns like *We plough the fields and scatter*—sung with varying degrees of enthusiasm, depending on the lure of biscuits after the service. Yet behind the nostalgia and the tins of Spam is a festival with deep Christian roots.

Harvest Festival, as celebrated in churches today, is a way of saying “thank you” to God for His provision. The Bible is packed with references to harvest. In the Old Testament, Israel had agricultural festivals such as the *Feast of Weeks* and the *Feast of Tabernacles*, when the people brought the firstfruits of their crops to God in gratitude and trust. The principle was simple but profound: the harvest is not just the result of human effort but a gift from the Creator who sends sun and rain.

In the New Testament, the language of harvest is often used metaphorically. Jesus speaks of the fields being “ripe for harvest,” pointing not to wheat or barley but to people ready to hear good news. The Apostle Paul echoes the theme when he encourages generosity, reminding the church that “*whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.*” For Christians, harvest is not only about crops but about lives bearing fruit—acts of kindness, justice, and love that nourish communities.

Of course, the modern British harvest looks rather different from biblical times. Few of us are threshing grain in our back gardens. Instead, we queue in supermarkets and debate whether we really need twelve types of pumpkin spice product in September. One vicar I know joked that in his parish the most common harvest “firstfruit” was not apples or

courgettes, but packets of pasta nearing their sell-by date. Yet even here the Christian meaning shines through. When a congregation gathers their tins, jars, and toiletries for a local charity, they are participating in the ancient rhythm of giving thanks and sharing blessings.

There is something disarming about a festival that teaches gratitude in an age of instant consumption. I once heard a farmer say that every year at harvest he feels both relief and humility: relief that the crop is safely gathered in, and humility that so much of the process - weather, soil, growth - is outside human control. Harvest is also a reminder of hope. Just as the land yields its crop in due time, so God’s kingdom grows quietly but surely, even when unseen. The season whispers that life is more than endless emails and weekly shopping runs; it is rooted in rhythms of gift, grace, and gratitude.

So next time you find yourself singing ‘*Come, ye thankful people, come*’, or stacking tins for a collection, remember: you are part of a tradition stretching back thousands of years. And if your contribution happens to be a lonely can of chickpeas, take heart - God can work with loaves and fishes. He can certainly cope with legumes!

Russ

The Revd Russ Smart



October 2025

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

Sunday 5th - Trinity 16

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	No service
St Nicholas', Longparish	No service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	No service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am Holy Communion
All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am Benefice Service
	5.00pm Contemplative Prayer

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 8th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am Holy Communion
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Sunday 12th - Trinity 17

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am Harvest Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am Family Harvest Festival
St James', Woodcott	No Service

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 19th - Trinity 18

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	11.00am Family Harvest Festival
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am Family Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am Matins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 22nd

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am Holy Communion
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Sunday 26th - Trinity 19

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am Holy Communion
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

Revd Russell Smart: ☎ 01962 760508

revrussellsmart@gmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:

☎ 01264 738211

dodie.marsden@gmail.com

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

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

From the Church Registers

• Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

Otho Fitz-Gerald

Wilbur Fitz- Gerald

Hurstbourne Priors - 20/09/2025

• Weddings

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

Amy Louise Goddard and

Jack Kenneth White

St Mary Bourne - 06/09/2025

• Funerals

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

Graham Cook - Burial of ashes

St Mary Bourne - 01/09/2025

Pamela Beier - Burial of ashes

St Mary Bourne - 09/09/2025

Barbara Carrodus - Thanksgiving Service

Hurstbourne Priors - 13/09/2025

Janet Munnion - Funeral (followed by a cremation with a burial of ashes later)

St Mary Bourne - 16/09/2025

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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WEATHER: AUGUST 2025

The Southeast and Central Southeast of England recorded an average temperature of 23.4°C and a mean of 17.8°C. Sunshine hours were the highest in the country at 223.8, and rainfall was 31.3mm the region's weather was dominated by the heatwave, with prolonged dry and sunny spells.

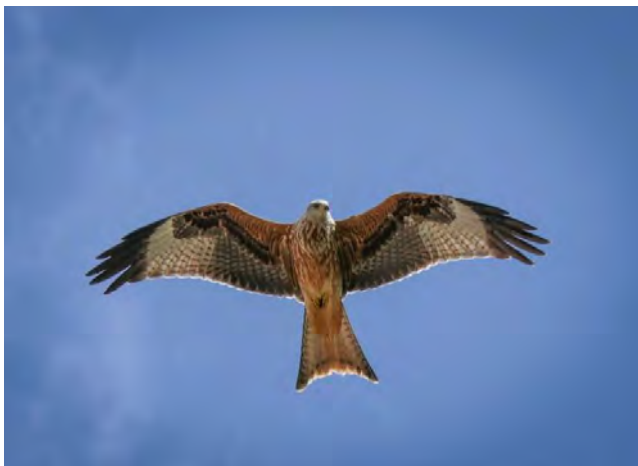
As the UK looks back on one of its warmest summers on record, many have noticed a surprising change in the landscape. The country experienced what the Met Office call a 'false autumn', a phenomenon where the stress of extreme summer conditions prompts trees and plants to behave as if the season has changed, even though it was still late August.

Locally here now though we return to our true Autumn colours and face more turbulent skies....



THE SKIES ABOVE US

It's not just the beautiful wildlife we see in the skies above us here ...



In October our night skies will feature the prominent winter constellations plus the key celestial bodies of two of the brightest planets Jupiter and Saturn (simulated below) Mars will also make an appearance. The Orionids meteor shower peaks around October 21st and the Full Hunters Moon is due later this month.



Meanwhile, back on earth we have the October ladies coffee morning...

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

The **October Coffee Morning** will be held by Amanda Briant-Evans on Wednesday, 15th at One Cressington (just after the viaduct) from 10.15 am to 12 noon. All ages welcome!

For more information or offers of holding a coffee morning please contact Susie Sorby tel 01256 892665



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Hill, Valley and Viaduct - the Hurstbourne Viaduct was constructed in 1854 and we may occasionally be lucky enough to spot a steam locomotive crossing it. Hurstbourne Priors even used to have its own railway station.





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In early September just such a locomotive was spotted. This locomotive is “Eddystone” and was a regular on the West of England line in her day.



Colour photos – Bob Lethaby, Hurstbourne Priors

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS



The **St Andrew's Harvest Festival** will be held on Sunday 19th October at 11am in the Church.

All are welcome and we will have an activity for children during the service. As usual we are collecting donations of non-perishable food for the Andover Food Bank. The Food Bank provides boxes containing sufficient nutrition for at least three days of healthy, balanced meals for individuals and families. Suitable items include cereal, tea, coffee, sugar, pasta, rice, tinned foods (meat, fish, fruit and vegetables) fruit juice and long-life milk. Please bring your donations to the service or leave them by the Font beforehand.

This will be followed by a **Harvest Lunch** at 12.15 in the Village Hall for all the family. Tickets for the lunch are £7 for adults and £2.50 for children (5s and under are free). As usual we will have a raffle, and all proceeds will be donated to the Mityana Projects Trust which works to support educational projects and vocational centres throughout the Mityana region in Uganda. Please contact Fenella Williams (07810 210388 or fenella.williams@btopenworld.com) to

book your tickets or if you would like to help with the lunch.

*******SPECIAL EVENT*******

"THE HISTORY OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS"

OCTOBER 25th HURSTBOURNE PRIORS VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm

With wine and refreshments and a raffle to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Pavilion

It all began last year with the discovery of human remains at the edge of the recreation ground when the new drainage system was being installed. Enter HM Constabulary and then County Archaeologist Mr David Hopkins....

It turns out that we live in a truly historical landscape, Hurstbourne was first mentioned as a place in 790 and Priors was added in the 12th Century when the land was given to the Priors of St Swithens. There is earlier evidence of life here in the Bourne Valley, from neolithic times in the form of crude tools and pottery, to iron age coins and spear heads found by many metal detectorists. The Romans also had a large settlement where Andover now is and gave us the Harroway amongst other legacies.

Hurstbourne Priors was a key staging post for coaches on the London turnpike to Salisbury in the 18th century. The railway lines which used to criss cross this area were vital to both wars efforts as they connected the sawmills and the ammunition depots at Longparish with the mainline at Hurstbourne. These lines were also interlinked with the cressbeds, of which there used to be many, whisking the cress to London and further afield.

On the **25th October** David Hopkins has offered to bring the history of our wonderful village to life, supported by pictures and artefacts he will give an insight into who lived here before us.

There will be a small charge of £5 for wine and nibbles as well as a raffle to help raise funds for the refurbishment of the Pavilion. The talk will start at 8pm and there will be an opportunity to ask David questions over further refreshments afterwards.

If you would like to attend, please let us know for catering purposes by contacting: Tom Crutchfield:

crutchyt@googlemail.com or Clare Read: clareread@aol.com payment can be made by bank transfer to: Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council, sort code: 30-90-21, account number: 00262163. Please use the reference History + your name. There will be a card machine for raffle tickets and tickets purchased on the door.

CRICKET PAVILION UPDATE

Following our ongoing fundraising efforts, including the contributions from the May Fair, we would like to publish an update on how the refurbishment of this building is progressing.



Having called in various experts the refurbishment task is much greater than the Parish Council first thought. For this beautiful building to be brought back to good condition and to serve our community for another 100 years is going to be a long and expensive project. Our first setback was discovering that the drainage system was failing, and totally irreparable, which given the Pavilion's situation could have had adverse consequences for the River Bourne and onwards to the River Test should it fail completely. The rules and regulations to protect Sites of Special Scientific interest meant that a massive £14,000 had to be spent installing a new 'closed' sewage and drainage system.

The next setback was a pinhole leak in one of the original copper pipes which meant that we had to install new piping as the leak was causing damage to the wooden walls and floor.

We refurbished the kitchen four years ago which has been a tremendous improvement and has increased our rental opportunities as well as being well received by our cricketers. Our current project funding total stands at £23,000 but we still have a bit to go. The thatching alone will cost £30,000. We have a Master

Thatcher booked in for April 2026, with strict instruction that they finish by the May Fair weekend.

As many of you know, the Parish Council are keen to get the rest of the Pavilion refurbished as soon as the roof is fixed. The changing room floors are in a poor state, especially given the plumbing leak earlier this year. The showers are in desperate need of modernisation and the windows need a lot of love.

The Parish Council has applied for several Grants from Local Charities, Sports Bodies and Local Government and we are waiting, with fingers crossed, for a decision from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council regarding a Community Fund application. If anyone has contacts within a grant giving body we would be delighted to hear from you, as any help is very welcome.

In the meantime, if you would like to contribute to the Pavilion Refurbishment Fund then donations will be gratefully received. Payment can be made by bank transfer to: Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council, sort code 30-90-21, account number 00262163. Please use Pavilion Fund as your reference.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets every other month, on the last Thursday of the month, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. The final meeting for this year will be held on **Thursday 27th November**.

Any resident of the Parish can attend and there is no need to alert the Council if you are coming. However, if there is a matter which you might feel the members might want to look into before you attend please do let me know: 01264 772460 or email richard.waterman150@btinternet.com.

ROAD SAFETY

To improve road safety Hampshire County Council have installed new high visibility signage and road markings at the Chapmansford Farm crossroads. There are also new Pedestrian in the Road signs between the Viaduct and St Mary Bourne.

SILK MILL – OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Witchurch Silk Mill offers a rich programme of events and workshops for all ages and interests in October.

Workshops & Creative Experiences Looking for a thoughtful gift or a chance to learn something new? The Mill's hands-on workshops are ideal for beginners and experienced crafters alike. Gift cards are available and can be redeemed for workshops, shop items, or café treats.

Darning Workshop (11 Oct, 11am–1pm): Learn to mend holes and extend the life of your favourite clothes. All materials provided. £35 per person.

Weave a Wall Hanging (25 Oct & 6 Nov, 10am & 2pm): Create your own woven artwork using tabletop looms. Small group tuition. £60 per person.

Loom 10 Relaunch – “A Final Strike” (8 Oct, 5–7pm): Celebrate the return of one of the Mill's historic looms after 18 months of conservation. The loom's first project is a limited-edition silk designed by Lucina Carlos, inspired by military medal stripes and the Mill's Waterloo clock. Tickets (£25) includes a drink, Mill tour, talks by experts, and early access to the new silk scarves.

Talk: The Gems of the Mills Archive Trust (15 Oct, 7–8.30pm): Discover the fascinating history of milling through stories and artifacts shared by the Mills Archive Trust. £15 per person. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Halloween Trail (29 Oct, 10.30am–12pm or 1.30–3pm): A spooky adventure for families with ten themed activities and treat bags. £6 per child. Please book in advance and share dietary requirements.

Exhibition From Where I'm Standing by D J Norwood (13 Sept–30 Nov): A photographic journey along Hampshire rivers, capturing nature through daily observations and reflections. Free with Mill admission.

Stay Connected Tickets are available via the Mill Shop or online at www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk.



Follow the **Silk Mill** on social media or subscribe to the newsletter for updates. For enquiries or to arrange alternative workshop dates,

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Watercress is grown locally and is considered a highly nutritious food. It is beneficial for your health, according to the NHS and other health organisations, due to its high vitamin and mineral content, antioxidants, and supports immune, heart, bone, and eye health. It is also a source of vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron and is known for its potential to lower blood pressure and protect against cell damage. It is versatile enough to be included in salads and home-made shakes and for meat and fish eaters it's a great addition as a “bed” to serve the mains on due to its distinctive sharp flavour.



With Autumn upon us a personal favourite is the Watercress Soup recipe found on: bbcgoodfood.com

REMEMBERING BARBARA CARRODUS

On Saturday, 13th September, we celebrated the life of **Barbara Carrodus** with a service of thanksgiving in St Andrew's Church. Before the service, Barbara's ashes were buried in a grave next to that of Harry Plunket Greene, the Irish baritone and fly-fisherman who lived in Hurstbourne Priors in the early 1900s. Barbara's family had a connection to Harry Plunket Greene through her great grandfather Robert Carrodus, a violinist who accompanied and performed with Plunket Greene.

Another connection is with the Elwes family: Gervase Elwes a distinguished tenor was a close friend of Plunket Greene. Following the death of Gervase in a railroad accident in Boston at the height of his career in 1921, Plunket Greene and other musicians founded the Musicians' Benevolent Fund, now called Help Musicians, in memory of their friend. Donations to Help Musicians were invited in memory of Barbara.

Barbara will be fondly remembered by her friends and family, and we offer our sympathy to her husband Jim and her sister Ann.



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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 14th October 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 15th October** 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.

Harvest 2025

Our Harvest Service is on Sunday 12th October at 10.30am

If you give a man a fish, he will eat once.

If you teach a man to fish, he will eat for the rest of his life.

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed.

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate people.

By sowing a seed, you will harvest once,

By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold.

By educating people, you will harvest one hundredfold.

(Kuan-tzu)



ST MARY BOURNE PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

can support anyone living in the parish of St Mary Bourne (including Stoke, Binley,

Egbury, Wadwick, Little London & The Wykes) who is worried about essential living expenses, or unexpected extra costs due to illness, employment changes, family difficulties, medical conditions, or accidents.

For more information about the PCF for yourself or someone else, please contact:

Ruth Widén - 01264 738 250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com

All enquiries are treated in complete confidence.



Being Seen...

Winter months present a serious hazard to all road users because of reduced visibility due to shorter days/longer nights and bad weather conditions. Road safety organisations recommend that pedestrians wear **reflective strips** (or something white) and carry a **torch** so they can be spotted by motorists on unlit country roads & lanes.

Stay lit and don't get hit!

Review...

Recent Publications of Local Interest



Martin Coppen, *B3048: Highway to the North* (Maryacre Publishing, 2024), 38 pages; 34 colour, 12 b&w illustrations, 4 maps. ISBN 978-0-933210-8-9. £5, sold for the benefit of Longparish and St

Mary Bourne schools. **Available from Acre Stores, Longparish and St Mary Bourne Village Shop.**

Inspired by Tom Fort's 2012 popular paperback, 'A303 Highway to the Sun', our own prolific author, Martin Coppen, has published 'B3048 Highway to the North'. It runs to a modest 38 pages in comparison to Fort's 344 and is described as 'A Journey from Wherwell to Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire'. Both are slim enough to slip into a car glove locker or rucksack, but B3048 is beautifully illustrated in colour with its author's photographs and helpful small maps to guide either motorist or, perhaps the braver walker, to 'dawdle' along its 11.1 miles (17.9 km) route. They are sure to be entertained by text describing all that is worthy of note or notice along the way. Who now can recall the long-closed Fullerton Junction and Hurstbourne railway line, or the history of Longparish and its big House, or the Methodist chapel, at Hurstbourne Priors, demolished in 1968? Nor are the parish churches along the way ignored. Their excellent photos alone invite pauses to explore further both inside and out.

Modestly priced at £5, including p.&p. from coppenma@1and3.org.uk, this informative and often entertaining little book could well be the start of many more, or be seen as a challenge to others to write, photograph and publish accounts of their favourite B and C road routes around Andover. *John Isherwood*

Reviewed in '*Lookback at Andover, vol.4 no.6, September 2025*', available from Waterstones, Andover Museum and at meetings of Andover History and Archaeology Society, **£6.00**. The issue also contains informative and well-illustrated articles on the construction of Andover Railways and the Holmes family and the Andover Advertiser.

St Peter's Church CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 29th November Village Centre 2 to 4pm



Come along, browse the stalls, meet your friends and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of Christmas cake. Everything on the stalls is kindly donated so the profits will go straight to supporting our Village Church.

- The Deli is there to delight you
- Buy delicious home-made cakes
- Bric-a-brac
- Toys
- Books
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- Raffle
- Teas.

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History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects

8 - St Mary Bourne School wall inscription



Somewhat weathered through these last 165 years, this plaque is high on the east gable elevation. '1860 NATIONAL SCHOOLS' records the completion of the original school building in the local brick and flint style.

The *Hampshire Chronicle* describes the great celebrations on 13 July 1861, the day of the school's public opening. A VIP invitation-only banquet preceded the opening ceremony. Over 340 people were present at the dedication Service and there were speeches by the Earl of Portsmouth, the principal donor; the bishop of Winchester; and finally the Hon. & Revd Samuel Best of Abbots Ann, the untiring local champion of all-age education. For it was a National Society, i.e. Church of England, school. The children of dissenting parents of the nearby Methodist and Baptist chapels were nevertheless warmly welcome, it was stressed.

However, in this then poor parish, the running costs were hard to collect over the next 15 years. So, given a change in the law, in 1875 it became a better-funded Board, i.e. government school, under the chairmanship of Dr Joseph Stevens. Non-denominational from that time, it eventually became a county primary, as the national rules changed. So, it's all a bit technical, but the inscription describes only the first 15 of the school's current 165 year life. MC

As a footnote, quietly mentioned among the visiting clergy at the 1861 opening was a certain 'Revd Keble', John Keble of Hursley, a nationally famous clergyman. Look him up, should you not have heard of him.



St Peter's Day Appeal

A Very Big Thank You to all of you who contributed to the appeal. Your generosity is wonderful. So far, **we have raised over £6,000** including *Gift Aid*. All the money

raised will go towards the maintenance of our wonderful ancient church. The new audio-visual system is at last in place and working. We have just had a quinquennial inspection which unfortunately has flagged up some major work that needs urgent attention.

So, thank you again for your continued support which as you must realise is very much appreciated. Eve & Patrick



Thinking of Christmas

If there are any **MEN** in St Mary Bourne who can sing and would like the opportunity to take part in St Peter's carol service this year, please contact Nigel or Harriet on ☎ 01264 738206.

(Ladies, of course, are always welcome)

First rehearsal Friday 31st October at 6pm in St Peter's



PRESENTATION EVENING:

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Monday 8th December 2025

7-8:30pm

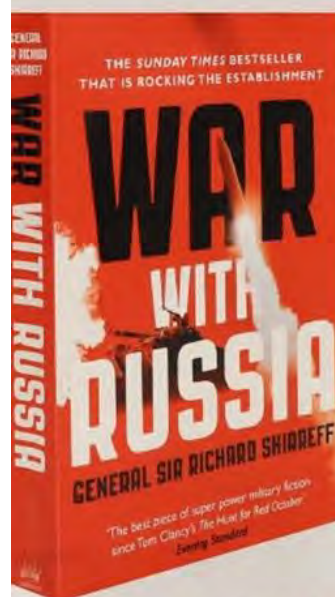
St Mary Bourne Village Centre, SP11 6BE
Refreshments and nibbles will be provided



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Armistice Day Lecture 2025



"The Strategic Impact of Russia's War in Ukraine and Whither NATO"

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Former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (2011 – 2014)

Author: "War with Russia" (published 2016 – see left)

Co-founder and Managing Partner of Strategia Worldwide

Monday 10th November, 7-8pm
St Mary Bourne Village Hall, SP11 6BE

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The Parish Council met on Tuesday September 9th for the first time since July.

It was reported that, following the approval of the planning application work should start on upgrading the **children's play area** at the end of

September. While this will bring some disruption in the short term, the improvements and benefits should soon outweigh this, and we are grateful for the hard work that the volunteers, the Clerk and council members have put in to achieve it.

There will be a **Lake Committee meeting** held in the Village Centre on **Monday 6th October**. This meeting is open to all, and information will be published by poster and social media nearer the time.

There will also be another **Volunteer Day** for tidying within the **lake area** on Saturday October 11th. All welcome; please bring gloves and small hand tools; that would be useful.

Following two well attended recent sessions, there will be another **Defibrillator training** course in the Village Centre at **7pm on Tuesday November 25th**.

PLANNING

T/00333/25/TCA	Bourne House SMB	Trees
25/01587/HSE	Betton House SMB	Rear extension, bay window dormers
T/00359/25/TCA	Garston Stoke	Trees
25/01703/HSE	Wakeswood SMB	Extensions, alterations, partial demolition
T/00372/25/TCA	Green Lodge SMB	Trees
T/00391/25/TCA	Kemback Stoke	Trees
25/01841/HSE	Little Meadow U. Wyke	Car port and new access
25/01958/AGPD	Wakeswood	Permitted agricultural development enquiry
T/00406/25/TCA	Ricketts Way Gangbridge Ln.	Trees
T/00404/TCA	Link Cottage, Lower Link	Trees
25/01508/FUL	1 The Old Barn, Breach Farm	Change of use and timber summerhouse
25/02005/HSE	Wakeswood	Swimming pool
T/00429/25/TCA	2 Bourne view Lower Link	Trees
T/00434/25/TCA	The Vicarage (Betton House)	Trees
25/02133/FUL	Gaston Wood Barn U. Wyke	Barn to residential
25/02001/FUL	The George Inn	6 bedrooms above parking
25/02002/LBC	The George Inn	Listed building consent for above application

**Next parish council meeting:
Tuesday 14th October at 19.30**

Village Centre - Public more than welcome.

www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

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



**Community Evenings at
St Mary Bourne Village Centre
Tuesday 21st October 2025, 7.30pm**



This event is free to the local community, and everyone is welcome. No need to make up a team. There will be prizes and a licensed bar for refreshments.

You can just turn up on the day, but it will help us with planning if you could let us know that you intend to come by emailing villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Next month: 18th November Arts & Crafts



St Mary Bourne Primary School

It has been a positive start to the new school year at St Mary Bourne Primary School. Over the summer, we had **new toilets** installed and they are looking great.



At the end of the summer term, we were really pleased with our new **green pitch** and **outdoor classroom**. Year 6 leavers had the chance to use the pitch before the end of the summer and since the start of term in September it has been

extremely popular with all the children.

The green pitch was funded by Friends of the School who were amazing in generating funds for the project. We also received an extremely generous donation from a person who lived in the parish until late Spring, and this helped make the plans a reality.



As a continued part of our **International School work**, we held a day to raise the profile of our links to our partner school in Uganda. The children came to school dressed in the colours of the Uganda flag and took part in a range of activities led by Revd Canon Dodie and Mrs Christy. All the

children's work will be shared with our school in Makonzi and is part of a shared learning project.

We look forward to finding out more about the visit when Dodie and Mrs Christy return from Uganda in November. The school also raised over £180 which will go towards a special Christmas lunch. It was a great day and a highlight was, learning how to sing Head, shoulders, Knees and toes in Ugandan.



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Funny how suddenly things change, Summer is slowly changing to Autumn and the long hot days of this year's Summer are starting to fade into our memories as we 'welcome' the darker mornings and evenings - here at The Boundary we always try to embrace change but

sometimes we don't do it happily

and a couple of changes have happened that we didn't want - our lovely **Laryssa** left us on the 21st September, and we are so sad about that - we have watched her confidence and English develop but it was the right thing for her, and we are now busily looking for a **replacement** - so if you know anyone (*maybe yourself!*) who would fancy a new challenge, drop into The Boundary and let myself or Vicky know. We have also lost two of our lovely weekenders, Olivia and Max but again, the time was right for them - we wish all three of them well

On a cheerier note, Vicky continues to source new things from our extended gluten free range to fun dry pasta shapes for children - there are also new giftware items appearing, so do come in and have a look, a chat or maybe a coffee - we are ALWAYS pleased to see you.

A final note to leave you with - Vicky and I have just been discussing **where to put the Christmas tree** - now that's scary!

Sandra & Vicky

The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

September 2025 draw:

£50 - Leslie Smith **£20** - A & T Spekes
£20 - Rosie Case **£10** - Leslie Sarson

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: **Saturday 11th October**

ANDOVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Astronomical Oddities -

Tony Roberts

Thursday 16th October - 7.30pm
Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre

Tony Roberts is Chairman of the Croydon Astronomical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. His talk looks at the odd and sometimes weird history of astronomy, astronomers and telescopes. William Herschel's "discovery" of the rings of Uranus, the history of super long aerial telescopes, life on the Moon, the great Moon hoax of 1835, the Martian Canals and more. Tony's talk is sure to be informative and amusing.

Everyone is welcome to our talks and there's no charge for your first meeting. After the talk, if the skies are clear, we will set up telescopes and look at the stars! For more information search online for "Andover

Astronomical Society" or

email: andoverastrosoc@gmail.com



Community Play Space Start Date & Fundraising

We are pleased to share that work on the Community Play Space is scheduled to begin on **September 29th, 2025, with an expected duration of eight to ten weeks.**

Subject to weather and progress on site, the new space should be ready to hand over to the community by late November or early December.

Regular updates will be provided via the Hill & Valley, notices at the Village Shop and on social media. While works are underway, the Under 12s play area will be closed, with no overflow parking available. We do expect some short-term disruption to parking availability, and we thank you for your patience during this time. Excitingly, we have also received a donation from the **Bournefest for £750**, bringing our total raised for this project to **£139,532.07 on the Good Exchange** fundraising platform.

Thank you again to all our individual donors, grantors and volunteers, including Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Bournefest, Hampshire County Council, Sport England, Southern Water, St Mary Bourne Big Breakfast, The George Inn, The Greenham Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund and The St Mary Bourne Flower Show and Fete.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new Play Space soon!

The Project Team (Volunteers: Laura Davis, Amelda de Segundo, Parish Council Members: Dave Burlison, Ed Makgill and Maxine Owen)

Save the Date



Kind Donations

The foodbank has very low stocks of the following:

- Tinned Soup • Cereal
- Biscuits • Chocolate bars • Long-life Milk • Tinned Meat Pies • Tinned Fruit • Toilet rolls • Toothbrushes
- Ladies Deodorant • Nappies - Sizes 4, 5 and 6
- General cleaning spray.

Donations are most gratefully received.

All donations can be made at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD - our opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30 to 12.30, or can be put in **the collection box at The Boundary Village Shop.**

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SMBCC enjoyed a stellar 2025 youth cricket season - our 5th year in existence. Our 9 youth teams played 106 league and friendly cricket matches. The club is very lucky to have over 40 coaching volunteers - 12 of which have gone through ECB coaching courses, who all help to provide fantastic coaching to all our kids. Alongside the coaches, we have an amazing team of volunteers, led by Tanya Mew - who run the weekly Bar/BBQ at the Marsden Arms every Friday. Thank you all.

Cricket wise - we had a very strong year. Our U11/13 girls decided to enter a boys' hardball league, and they won it! They finished unbeaten in a very strong team, coached by Quentin Hicks. Our U9 boys and girl's teams had a very strong year - three of our 4 teams finished top of their leagues (I should stress that the U9 matches are all friendly matches - so no official league winner) and our other u11, U13 and U15 teams fared well this season too.

This year we proved that we could transition our amazing kids into the adult teams: 26 teens played for SMBCC adult teams this year and we had 20 parent child combinations in our adult matches. **A great sign that the club is in a great place.**



This year - our youth teen coaches (we have 8 amazing teen coaches) - won an award at Hampshire's Rose Bowl for the best Youth coaches in Hampshire. Well done them.

We would like to thank our two key sponsors, who have helped us over the past 5 years - **Vitacress** and **Ninny's**. We wouldn't be where we are without them - **THANK YOU**.

We would also like to thank the **PYO** for their contribution to the youth cricket balls and the **Andover Patio Centre** for the much-needed gas for the BBQ.

Thank you everyone for making this year so great. If you want to get involved in 2026 - help prepare the youth pitches, coach, help at the Marsden Arms - contact me on jonny_orange@hotmail.com or 07931 285988.

Eric's Remarkable Innings



The Match was St Mary Bourne 1st team against Herriard 2nd Seconds. It was a League game which was played at home - with a limited 40 overs. Eric opened with Mark Lancaster and remained in for the complete 40 overs - not out - and scored an amazing **191** runs. (I think from about 134 balls). The

previous record stood at 156. It now stands at 191.

This performance was (and I quote from members of the team) record breaking, outstanding and inspiring. *'He did so well to get that score, especially with a limited number of overs.'* He is a good team player and probably surprised himself. He certainly surprised everyone else.

His performance in previous matches this season and last was thwarted and then suddenly he came good. In each of the last 4 games he has scored more than 50 runs including this last one, scoring a massive 191. We can only guess that if it had been a 50 over match he might have scored a double century.

Congratulations Eric, and well done - really, well done.

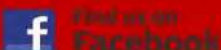


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Hill & Valley - 20 years ago...



TRIUMPHANT TRAFALGAR PREVIEW IN ST MARY BOURNE

St Mary Bourne staged a special event on August Bank Holiday Monday when the Trafalgar Dispatch post-chaise was driven from Binley to St Mary Bourne Village Centre. At approximately 5pm, the "Trafalgar" coach made a triumphant entrance into the Village Centre car park, carrying Sir George & Lady Young and accompanied by a procession of six horse & pony-drawn turn-outs.

Elizabeth Maclay, (who stabled the post chaise entourage for the duration of the Trafalgar Dispatch events in Hampshire), said: *"I am delighted that so many people turned out to see this, as it was all arranged at the last minute. We had planned an end-of-season barbecue for Andover Riding & Driving for the Disabled Association at Sladen Green on this date and lots of the drivers of the turn-outs are regular helpers with RDA during the summer. Many thanks to the tin-shakers at the Village Centre who collected the magnificent sum of £77.77 for Seafarers UK."*



The "17th Century Nun's Prayer"

is popular, but it is likely that it is a misattributed prayer that asks for wisdom and grace in old age, focusing on avoiding certain habits like being bossy or overly critical. Though not genuinely from the 17th century, its sentiments on humility, retaining friends, and seeing the good in others resonate with many.

DM

17th Century Nun's prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.



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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council

Council Chair: Emma Palmer

(emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or 07881 923150)

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas (clerk@longparish.org.uk or 01256 396868)

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/01966/CMAN – The A303 Recycling Facility, Barton Stacey

25/01998/TREEN – Test View Cottage

25/02066/FULLN – Meadowsweet

Full details of planning applications can be viewed on the Test Valley Borough

Council website: view-

applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/

OPEN SPACES

The Parish Council continues to focus on maintaining and improving village facilities. The Longbridge bin has been reinstated by Test Valley Borough Council after it was temporarily removed due to high demand from nearby campers.

A Handyman has been appointed on a once-a-month basis to help tackle a list of odd jobs around the village, including maintaining the play park, fixing the picnic bench and making repairs to the bus shelters.

Lastly, thanks go to Whitchurch Football Club who have kindly donated replacement football goals. The goals will be a welcome upgrade to the football pitch (as soon as we are able to arrange their transportation from Whitchurch to Longparish.)

VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

There are currently four vacancies on the Parish Council. If you would like to get involved in shaping the future of our village, please contact the Parish Clerk or speak with the Chair.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Longparish Little School

A busy start to the New School Year at Longparish Little School. It has been a lively and exciting start to the new school year. We've welcomed new children into our community, and it has been wonderful to see them settling in—exploring the play areas, building relationships with their key person(s), and beginning to make new friends. The children have been busy with a wide range of activities. In our cooking sessions, they have been learning how to safely use real tools such as potato peelers, cheese



graters and even knives, gaining confidence and independence along the way. Our woodwork sessions have also been a real highlight, with the children creating imaginative models using saws and hammers. A recent addition to our toolkit—the Beaverbot—has proved especially exciting, as it helps us cut thin pieces of wood to add to our creations.



Physical play has also been an important focus. In the school hall, the children have been practising their agility and balance, enjoying the challenge of moving their bodies in new and adventurous ways. Outdoors, our Forest School area has been full of energy and laughter. The children love the basket swing, climbing trees, and of course, playing in the mud! It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we look forward to many more weeks of fun, learning and adventure together.

We are taking bookings for September 2026, if you would like to arrange a visit, please call us on 01264 720455 or visit our website to learn more: <https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/> or follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup

2pm Saturday 11th October School/Community Hall.

Come and join us for the annual Longparish Pumpkin Show.



Whether you have grown your own, or designed a shop bought pumpkin, all are welcome, for a fun filled afternoon.

This year's categories are:

- Heaviest home-grown pumpkin
- Best decorated- this year's theme is ANIMALS.

There will be a £2.50 fee for each category entry, all proceeds go to Longparish Little School and Robin class joint gardening and cooking sessions.

There will also be face painting, a tombola, raffle and refreshments.

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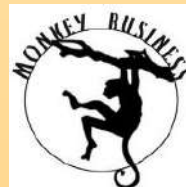
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LONGPARISH WILDLIFE MARSH HARRIER

We have a new bird for the village, a juvenile Marsh Harrier which was photographed, sadly not by me, on the road by the old chapel and in the Christmas tree field. I have never seen a juvenile Marsh Harrier before, but it was identified by Kath and Martin Clay. They are about the same size as a Buzzard but built a bit different. Slim head, and body, long wings, long tail, and legs. Juveniles are mahogany brown with white head, neck and throat.



The adult male has pale white head and breast, pale grey tail, and brown, grey upperparts. Underparts are pale with some reddish colouring. The wing tips are black. Marsh Harriers nest on the ground in thick marshy vegetation, made on a substantial pile of grass, reeds and small sticks. 3-8 eggs are laid, rounded oval, bluish-or greenish white, often becoming stained during incubation. The eggs are incubated for 31-38 days. Often, they will have a second brood and fledge in 35-40 days. They hunt for food by flying back and forth over reedbeds. Once the prey has been located it drops with claws held out. Prey is chiefly small mammals (especially rodents) and birds, they will also take birds sitting on nest in the reeds. Marsh Harriers have been in decline but are making a slow recovery. The juvenile seen in Longparish was on migration all the way to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Chris Bowman

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

**Tuesday, 28th October
7 pm**

**Nicholas Tripp on
"Colour in the Garden"**

Members Free - (visitors welcome £5.00)
Usual Raffle

Any queries please to Rosie Lowry on 01264720325
Or Marion Bell 01264720205



Friday Lunch Club Autumn Dates 2025

Longparish Village Hall 12. 00 - 2.00pm

The Lunch Club is open to everyone in the community. We do ask you to book so that we have an idea of numbers for catering.

We serve a light lunch, all homemade, of soup and roll followed by cake, tea, and coffee for just £3
Take a break from your desk and come just for lunch at 12.00

Friday 31st October

Friday 28th November

and

Friday 19th December for Christmas Lunch

To book a place Tel Andrea 720457 or Christian 720398
Transport can be arranged



WALK AND LITTER PICK– best way to keep fit!

Thank you to lots of people who pick up litter when they see it! September's haul was two bagsful, from Southside Road and the B3048, much less than usual.

There will not be an organised Friday litter pick this month but come along to the Village Clean Up Day on **Saturday 18th October 9.30am, meet at the playground.**

BINGO is back!

Join us for a fun evening at the **Cricketers Pub on Thursday, October 2nd**. Arrive anytime from 7 PM for a 7:30 start.



If you have anything suitable for a raffle prize, please bring it along. All profits go to Andover Food Bank.

For more info, please contact Laura on
lpchristmasfayre@outlook.com



Longparish Village Hall update

Maggie and Jeremy Barber have stepped down from the Longparish Village Hall Committee after many years of dedicated

support and we would like to give them our heartfelt thanks for all their efforts and the wonderful legacy they have helped create.

Their support for the Hall started over 30 years ago when it was in a rather sorry state, they then helped spear-head the massive renovation project 12 years ago, helping raise the significant funds needed and managing the renovation with an enthusiastic team to create the amazing village asset we have today.

In more recent years, they have continued their avid support managing bookings and finances, documenting policies, and keeping on top of the general Hall maintenance & upkeep. Their tireless efforts will ensure our Hall remains a valued Community Asset and top venue in the area for many more years to come - Thank you both!



Of course we still have a great team of volunteers managing the day to day running of the Hall and if you would like to join us as a volunteer or hire the Hall please contact us by phone on 01264 317037 or by Email vhbooking@longparish.co.uk You can also check out our website at www.longparish.org.uk/village-hall

With kind regards,
Stuart Montague
Chair, Longparish Village Hall

Lantern Walk

Create a festive lantern at the Village Hall and walk with us on **November 30th**. Lanterns can be decorated and then we will walk to the church and sing some songs around the Christmas tree.



Christmas Fayre



December 6th in the Community Hall.

Volunteers always appreciated if you would like to help, please get in touch:
lpchristmasfayre@outlook.com



Longparish Cricket Club

Congratulations to Longparish 1st team who have been crowned Champions of Hampshire County Division 3C. Despite a tricky start, losing two of their opening four games, the side went on a remarkable run, winning eleven of their next twelve matches, including the last nine in succession, remaining unbeaten since mid-June. With strength both with bat and ball, seven players passed the 300-run mark. New signing Adam McNeilly led the way, scoring 587 runs at an average of 41.93, including two centuries. Zac Allen was leading wicket taker, taking 24 wickets at 18.29.

The Club's success was not limited to the 1st XI. The 2nd XI enjoyed an excellent campaign, finishing 3rd in County Division 4B, just 10 points shy of promotion. Jack Ashmore was the batting star with 499 runs at 45.36, while Matt Elder led the bowling attack with 29 wickets at 17.79.

The 3rd XI, after a difficult start, finished strongly with four consecutive wins to secure 6th place in Division 6D. Paul Blackmore was the leading batsman with 312 runs at 24.00, while Timo Oram impressed with the ball, taking 17 wickets at 18.00.



Aside from the cricket, many members of the Club helped at the annual Longparish Village Fete in early September by putting up the marquees, organising the carparking and running the coconut shy.

Finally, a large group of the adult players are running the Bournemouth Half Marathon on 12 October 2025 to raise funds for the Club. All donations are very gratefully received via the following JustGiving link-

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lccplayershalfmarathon>

Alison Allen

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

The long, hot summer has faded into a distant memory, and it was cool and damp for the September race. We welcomed back Nina Smith after nearly 10 years and welcomed new runner Joel Etheridge

Our three trophy winners finished first, second and third and all achieved personal record times. Well done Jim Dundas, Hayley Halford and Megan Brunwin.



Afterwards the runners enjoyed coffee, and bacon rolls and/or cake at The Plough.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Elspeth Robertson for marshalling, Andy Smith and Alice Evans for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results.

The next race is on Sunday 12 October, starting at 9am at The Plough. New runners are always welcome, and you do not have to be fast. It is a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning. Please do give us a call or send 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

Mythical Creatures seen in Longparish

.... Evidence of the unicorn, thought to be extinct, until now. Seen from my upstairs window

The location must be kept a secret, to protect it!!



Ros Franklin

Avian Trichomonosis (aka Canker)



Cases of trichomonosis, aka canker, have been confirmed in Longparish. This disease leads to a growth in the bird's throat which eventually prevents swallowing and causes starvation. It is highly contagious to many bird species and is easily passed on around feeding and watering stations.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital advise sterilisation of all bird feeders/baths/watering stations every week for a month at least, with a 5% bleach solution (50ml bleach to 1 litre of water). The British Trust for Ornithology further recommends removing bird feeding/watering stations for 2 weeks to reduce spread of the disease.

Avian trichomonosis is not contagious to humans, however reasonable care should be taken to wear gloves when sterilising feeders and baths, and cleaning utensils used for this should not be used elsewhere.

More information about trichomonosis, including symptoms, can be found here:

<https://www.bto.org/learn/helping-birds/disease/trichomonosis>

Advice on hygiene practice to prevent the spread of avian diseases can be found here:

<https://www.bto.org/learn/helping-birds/feeding/best-practice>

Findings of sick or dead birds can be reported here:

<https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org>



Results of the August 2025

Draw

St Nicholas Church
100 Club



The membership currently stands at 61, and the prizes below are therefore based on that number. We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members, and we would be extremely grateful if you would consider becoming a member of the club and supporting your parish church in this way.

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%.

August Results

First prize:	No. 44	£76.00
Second prize:	No. 08	£46.00
Third Prize:	No. 10	£15.00

You can join at any time during the year, 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, please let me know, and I will let you have the relevant forms. Or, if you have any other queries about church finances or how the church is administered, for example, please contact me:

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

Tel: 01264 720233

Mob: 07860 630489 or

Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

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LONGPARISH
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SATURDAY 9.30AM - 12.30PM
18th OCTOBER 2025

Come along with join the team, litter picking, cutting back, leaf gathering and much more.

Meet at the playground 9.30am

Some equipment provided, including hi-vis jackets.
 If available please bring Wheel barrows, rakes, & brushes.
 Remember to bring your gloves and wear boots or wellies.

Everyone Welcome - Buffet Lunch 1pm at The Plough Pub

Let me know if you will be joining via FB messenger or email:
joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk



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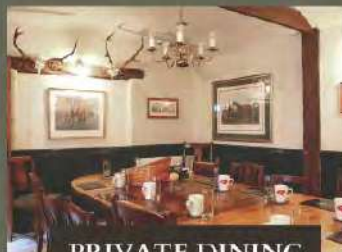
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Reflections on the Longparish Village Fete

By the Chair of the Fete Committee Harriet Major

Taking on the role of Chair of the Fete Committee for the first time this year was both exciting and a little daunting. The Longparish Village Fete has long been one of the highlights of the village calendar, and I felt a real sense of responsibility in helping to deliver an event that lived up to the wonderful tradition. Thankfully, I was not alone. From the very start, I was surrounded by a team of dedicated, enthusiastic, and creative people who gave their time and energy to ensure the fete was a success. I cannot thank them enough for the support and encouragement they have given me in my first year as Chair.

This year saw some changes to the fete, most notably a new layout which made full use of the entire cricket field. It was something of an experiment, but the feedback from those attending was overwhelmingly positive. The open layout not only gave us more space to spread out the stalls and activities but also created a lovely sense of flow, with visitors meandering between attractions throughout the afternoon.

The weather, as always, played its part. We were blessed with sunshine, though the gusty wind did give us a few unexpected challenges! A couple of tents took off into mid-air, and some of us had to dash to catch them before they landed somewhere in the next village. But even that added a bit of humour to the day, and it certainly didn't dampen spirits. From start to finish, the fete buzzed with energy, laughter, and the sound of people having fun.

The range of activities this year offered something for everyone. The dog show once again proved a big hit, with an array of fantastic entrants that drew smiles from spectators and judges alike. The children were spoilt for choice, from traditional games to the excitement of spraying the fireman's hose. The egg-throwing finale was enjoyed by all generations, and it was fantastic to see so many people of different ages taking part and cheering each other on.

Entertainment came in many forms. Simon Chainey's fire display left the crowd in awe, while Kelly's aerial silks had people queuing up to give it a try, a true spectacle of courage and balance. Andover Castles brought along some fantastic bouncy castles that were a huge hit with the children, while the Three Bees Project delighted visitors with goat handling sessions. We were also treated to a brilliant display from Two Birds Flying Experience, showcasing their incredible birds of prey. Music from the Andover Town Band filled the field with a wonderful atmosphere, adding to the sense of occasion. We were also lucky to welcome several external stalls this year, including two from our very own village, Purer Pits and Becks Bakes, which were both great additions.

The stalls also had a bumper year. The bric-a-brac stall reached new heights, raising more than ever before. The barbecue served up a steady stream of delicious burgers, hundreds of bottles were won at the bottle stall, and no fewer than forty Grand Draw prizes found new homes. Although the final figures are still being tweaked, we are currently looking at a total of **£10,734 raised**, a massive achievement, and something we should all feel incredibly proud of.

For me, the highlights were the moments of shared joy: children's laughter as the fire hose sprayed high into the air, the gasps of amazement during the fire show, the determination on faces during the egg throwing, and, above all, the countless comments from villagers and visitors telling me how much they had enjoyed themselves. Those words meant so much, especially in my first year as Chair, and reassured me that all the hard work was truly worthwhile.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped, whether setting up, running a stall, marshalling, or staying late to clear up afterwards. This fete simply could not happen without the dedication and generosity of so many volunteers. I am immensely proud of the community spirit that shone through not just on the day, but in the weeks leading up to it as so many came together to make it possible.

The fete is, without doubt, one of the highlights of the year for Longparish. I feel privileged to have played a part in helping to deliver it this year, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and belief you placed in me as Chair. If you would like to be involved in the day in any way please do get in touch, you will be welcomed with open arms! My hope is that we can continue to grow and evolve this wonderful tradition for many years to come. Long may the Longparish Village Fete thrive!

Many thanks to Harriet for the superb job she has done in organising and running the fete this year. She deserves the thanks of the whole village; the time and effort she put it to making it such a success was truly amazing. THANKYOU Harriet

-J.Y.

Longparish Choir and Friends Present

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- 15 10.15am to 12 Noon - *Coffee Morning* - One Cressington
 19 11am - *Harvest Festival*, St Andrew's Church, followed by
 12.15 - *Harvest Lunch* - Village Hall
 25 7.30pm - *"The History of Hurstbourne Priors"* presented by
 County Archeologist David Hopkins, Village Hall
 31 Halloween 🎃

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

And finally, we welcome **Phil Luckett** as editor for the Hurstbourne Priors pages. A **big thank** you on behalf of all our readers to our previous editors **Fenella** and **Elise Williams** and contributor **John Smail** for all their past efforts in support of Hill & Valley.

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- 3 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - 3 Long Leaze
 4 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 6 7pm - Open *Lake Meeting* (parish council) - Village Centre
 12 10.30am - Family Harvest Festival - St Peter's Church
 14 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 14 7.00pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
 15 12.30pm - *'The Lunch'* - Village Centre
 16 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Soc - HBT Community Centre
 17 7.30pm - Flower Show Thank You Drinks - Village Centre
 21 7.30pm - *Monthly Social* - **Halloween Quiz** - Village Centre
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -
The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 2 7.30pm - Bingo Night - The Cricketers
 10 10 to 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
 11 2pm - **Longparish Pumpkin Show** - Community Hall
 13 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Hall
 18 9.30am to 12.30pm - **Autumn Clean Up** - Playground
 31 12 noon to 2pm - *Friday Lunch Club* - Village Hall

**B3048, Highway to the North**

is available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1 mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* in 2024. It can be bought from **Acre Stores**,

Longparish and **The Boundary Community Shop** in **St Mary Bourne**.

At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local gift...and all the sales proceeds go to **Longparish** and **St Mary Bourne** schools.

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Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.

Please provide editorial copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) with any accompanying images in JPEG format.

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