

Issue No. **300**

Hill & Valley

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

£1

July / August 2026

*St Mary Bourne Flower
Show & Fête
Saturday 25th July - 12.30pm*

Introduction from our New Vicar

On Wednesday 15th July, I will become your new vicar of the Bright Waters Benefice (serving Barton Stacey, Bullington, Hurstbourne Priors, Litchfield, Longparish, St. Mary Bourne, Tufton, Whitchurch, and Woodcott), so I would love to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I was ordained in 2020 and have been deeply embedded in our local church community for over 13 years, having lived in Longparish and Whitchurch. Other areas of important ministry for me have included volunteering with a charity supporting women in recovery from addictions, working near Alton as an Anna Chaplain supporting older people, and most recently serving as the chaplain of our local hospices for children and young adults, Naomi and Jack's. And before all this, I was a small animal vet.

I am married to Robin, and we have three sons now in their teens and early twenties. When not busy with our family or ministry, I enjoy playing music with friends, creating pots on a wheel, and trying to keep fit. Later this year, I will be taking part in a fundraising trek in the Indian Himalayas to support Naomi and Jack's.

As Christians, we seek to follow the life and teachings of Jesus, whose ministry was rooted in love, care, connection, and prayer. Of course, love, care and connection aren't just religious ideas; they are the solid foundations of any healthy, thriving community. And these building blocks were so important to Jesus that they formed part of his departing words to his disciples:

"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13.34)

These threads have all guided my ministry - whether working with older folks, hospice families, or women in recovery. And I know that as we begin this new chapter together, Jesus' teachings will continue to ground and guide me on a daily basis. I am incredibly excited to serve our local communities through my new role, and look forward to deepening existing connections and building new relationships across the benefice.

You are warmly invited to attend my licensing service on Wednesday 15th July at 7.30pm, All Hallows Church, Whitchurch. And if you see me out and about, please do come and say Hello!

Nicky

The Revd Nicky Smallwood



Services in the Parish Churches

July / August 2026

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

Wednesday 1st July




St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 5th July - Trinity 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	No service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 12th July - Trinity 6

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Mary's, Tufton	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Worship
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Animal Service   
St James', Woodcott	No service	

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Wednesday 15th July

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 19th July - Trinity 7

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	No service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Eco Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 26th July - Trinity 8

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Benefice Service
St Mary's, Tufton	No service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	No service	
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott	No service	

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 2nd August - Trinity 9




St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	No service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
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 August

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 9th August - Trinity 10

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Mary's, Tufton	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Animal Service   
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Ice Cream Sundaes
St James', Woodcott	No service	

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online


Sunday 16th August - Trinity 11

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	No service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Morning Worship
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

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 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."

Louis Kenneth Lawrence Campbell

St Mary Bourne - 7 June 2026

Darcie Rose Hazel Walker

Longparish - 20 June 2026

Eva Marie Jill Long

St Mary Bourne - 20 June 2026

Cassie Ruth Mitchell

Woodcott - 27 June 2026

• Weddings

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

Heather Paxton and Mark Long

St Mary Bourne - 20 June 2026

• Funerals

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

Mary Reel-Boyd

St Mary Bourne - 3 June 2026

Peter Teare

St Mary Bourne - 6 June 2026

Doreen Avery

Basingstoke Crematorium - 8 June 2026

Wednesday 19th August

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 23rd August - Trinity 12

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	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

Sunday 30th August - Trinity 13

All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	Holy Communion
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Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online



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The Community Library - Club Room
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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 July and 11th August at 10.30am
£3.00 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

June 2026 draw:

£50 - Lesley Sarson **£20** - Len Mew
£20 - Anya Ahl **£10** - Jack Wilson

The next 1☺☺ Club Draws:

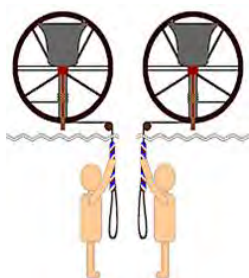
Saturday 11th July and 8th August

The Lunch

Staffed by a team of volunteers, the monthly Village Lunch started nearly twenty-two years ago and has

been a great success ever since. But to ensure this success continues we need new helpers and would especially appreciate anyone happy to cook soups, traybakes, etc. For more information, please contact Jane on 07711 625094 or Chris on 01264 738110.

Our next Village Lunches will be held on **Wednesday 15th July** and **Wednesday 19th August** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12:30pm. Once again, we will be holding our Summer Raffle at the July lunch.



Bell Ringing

Saturday 8th August
10am - St Peter's

If you have never done it before, learnt years ago, always wanted a try, **now is your chance.**
Come and have a go!

Sunday 20th September at 10.30am

There is going to be a special service in St Peter's to celebrate grandparents.



and yummies to eat.

Please do invite them now.

There will be special activities and gift making, delicious coffee



St Peter's Church history
A talk by Martin Coppin

On the 3rd of June our friend and retired Vicar gave a splendid talk about some of the lesser-known historical facts and figures regarding St Peter's Church.



A fascinating insight into what is not always obvious. Many thanks to Martin for his historical research.

Also at St Peter's Church...

Over the next three months St Peter's is offering on Sundays at 10.30am:

On 12th July The Animal Service

On 19th July An Eco Service

On 9th August it's Ice-cream Sundae

...and on **6th September** from **12 noon** there will be a **Paella Lunch** at St Peter's for **£10** a ticket, and that includes a dessert. Drinks from a 'donation bar'. You will need to book please; it should be very tempting.

And also, during June Norah Desborough (nee Dawes) met up with Norah Halse (nee Phillips) and her daughter Hazel.



Their grandparents were sisters Annie Collins and Edie Fisher. They are buried beside each other in our churchyard. They were born in the 1880's and 90's and they are relatives of the Annals, Fisher and Wedge families.

STOKE Coffee Morning
Wednesday 1st July - 10 to 11.30am
Hill View - SP11 0LT
Everyone welcome



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Behind the Scenes with Your Local GP

If you were to peek through the windows of the surgery on any given morning, you would likely see a blur of activity. The phones are ringing, keyboards are clacking, and our waiting room is humming with life. General practice is busier than it has ever been. Yet, behind the central hub of the reception, there is a quiet, deliberate rhythm to how we work—one designed specifically to ensure that you get the best possible care when you need it most.

We are incredibly proud to be a successful, thriving practice, but that success does not happen by accident. It comes down to a deliberate choice we made: to champion continuity of care.

In modern medicine, it is easy for care to feel fragmented. To fight this, we operate in mini-teams which we call "pods." By grouping a small number of doctors, trainee doctors, nurse practitioners, and administrators together, we aim to ensure that when you contact us with your undifferentiated problems, you are dealing with people who know you and your medical history.

This approach helps us balance two things that often pull in opposite directions: quick access and long-term relationship building. If you have an urgent, sudden illness, we want to make sure you can see a clinician quickly. But if you are managing a complex, ongoing condition, we know how vital it is that you see the same person who looked after you last month.

One of the greatest, most unseen challenges of being a GP is managing uncertainty. Medicine is rarely black and white. Every day, we see patients with vague symptoms that could be a passing virus, or could be the early warning signs of something more serious. A massive part of our job is balancing that risk. We have to decide when it is safe to "wait and see," versus when we need to trigger blood tests, scans, or hospital referrals. This has become increasingly challenging recently, as navigating the wider healthcare system—waiting for hospital investigations or operations—requires a great deal of patience from both us and you. While you are waiting for those hospital appointments, our role shifts to supporting you, managing your symptoms, and holding that uncertainty together.

To keep up with this demand and maintain our own healthy balance as a staff, we have had to innovate. You might notice your GP listening intently to you during a consultation, but typing far less than they used to. We have recently introduced advanced tools that securely listen to our conversation and instantly draft our clinical notes. Don't worry—it doesn't replace our medical judgment, and we check every word. What it does do is save us hours of typing at the end of the day, allowing us to keep our eyes on you during the consultation, rather than glued to a screen. It is technology helping us stay human.

How You Can Help Us Help You

To make the absolute best use of your surgery, we always appreciate a few small steps from our community:

Tell the receptionist a little detail: Our reception team are bound by the exact same confidentiality rules as the doctors. When they ask what the problem is, they aren't being nosy—they are trained to direct you to the right member of the mini-team or book the appropriate length of appointment.

Think ahead for routine matters: For ongoing issues, medication reviews, or routine checks, booking a bit in

advance helps us protect those urgent, same-day slots for people who are suddenly taken unwell.

Utilise the wider team: Sometimes a clinical pharmacist, a physiotherapist, or a nurse practitioner is actually the absolute best expert for your specific issue, rather than a GP.

We live and work in an incredible community, and it is a privilege to look after you. By working together, embracing a little bit of new technology, and looking out for one another, we can ensure our surgery stays strong, accessible, and deeply personal for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr Dan Lickman and the Two Rivers team

What's in a name?

Some names of the area

Spratt's Down is what it is now called in Hurstbourne Priors, but it was once *Spatch Down* (1898), or indeed even *Pratt's Down* in the 17th century. St Mary Bourne had its own variation on the theme: *Splatts* and *Splatts Copse*. Some names can be slippery over the years.

Spratt's Down itself is also rather a fluid location—which adds to the fun. Older maps show it definitely on the west of the B3048, 1km / 0.6 mile below Chapmansford crossroads: newer maps place it on the east of the road, so in Hurstbourne Park. *Splatts* and *Splatts Copse*, on the other hand, are near Lye Farm and Sladen Green, in the north of St Mary Bourne parish but also in the pre-1930s Portsmouth Estate.

Had the down and the copse once been owned by someone called *Pratt*? Was there a *sprat* fishing connection? Both are unlikely. Probably the origin is the Old English *splott*, meaning 'small plot of land', but with a thousand years of verbal mangling it becomes a *spratt* or a *splatt*, or a *spatch*.

M.C.

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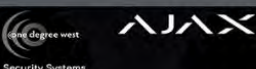
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St Mary Bourne Primary School

We are nearly at the end of the academic year at school and it's very busy with lots of events going on.

We have taken part in the rural school cricket tournament held in St Mary



Bourne and we came second in a close competition. All our cricketers showed great enthusiasm and teamwork during the event and should be very proud of their achievement.

We always encourage children to **walk, scoot or cycle to school**. It is a benefit to mental health and wellbeing, alongside helping to reduce the numbers of cars around the school and help the environment. And **please don't let your engine running when parked outside or near the school**.

Strider the Living Streets **WOW Mascot** came to St Mary Bourne on Tuesday the 9th of June and handed out some extra badges to those who actively travelled to school.

We've also recently had a couple of fantastic assemblies hosted by some great charities.



Sport in Mind is a mental health sports charity, and they spoke to the St Mary Bourne students on the benefits of sport and physical activity in improving their mental wellbeing as a preventative measure. They run **free**, weekly Sport & Games sessions at Andover Leisure Centre for children aged 10-14.



Then we had the **Royal Lifesaving Society** share some great advice on how the children could keep safe around water.



Plastic Free July is a world-wide movement - it is so easy to support at home, school, the office, in fact in everything we do. And the easiest start is to stop using single use plastic. Help make a difference to avoid the billions of single-use cups that end up in landfill and litter each

year. Click onto <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> for many more ideas.

Water Saving Tips – an SBV reminder

- Reduce your shower time: Limiting showers to 5 minutes cuts down on both water and the energy required to heat it.
- Fix leaks: Check taps, pipes, and toilets for hidden leaks, as they waste significant amounts of water.
- Only run full loads: Wait until dishwashers and washing machines are completely full to maximize efficiency.
- Harvest rainwater: Set up a water butt to collect rainwater for your garden.
- Turn off the tap: Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth.

Future Events

- Next SBV activity is the **Balsam Pull** by the Bourne Valley Inn in July/August; date and details will be posted on Facebook. All equipment provided.
- **Sustainable Day** – Saturday 17th October at Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Hall



The **PLANT SWOP** event took place outside the Boundary Shop in June.

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The Parish Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday 9th June.

After its request in May for candidates to offer themselves for potential co-option as councillors, five parishioners registered their interest, and during the meeting three of

these were elected. We welcome **Hollie Craddock, Lee Morgan** and **Martin Theobald**, and look forward to their contribution to the working of the council and thank all the candidates for offering to stand.

As part of the projected re-organisation of local government we expect that there will be Parish Council elections again next May so this will be an opportunity for all those candidates and any others to put themselves before the local electorate.

Planning permission:

26/00472/HSE	Bramley Cottage, Gangbridge Lane SMB	Amendments to landscaping plan
26/00959/OOBC & 26/00912/SCRN	Land south of Finkley (Test Valley)	1600 dwellings + infrastructure (Opinion screening exercise)
T/00227/26/TCA	8 Egbury Rd SMB	Trees
T/00223/26/TCA	Ringlands, Stoke Rd. SMB	Trees
26/00961/FUL	Bottom barn at Swampton Farm, Wadwick	Barn amendments

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 14th July at 7.30pm. There will be no meeting in August.

THE GEORGE INN

Monthly News

Now open every morning at 8am till 10.30am for breakfast

Sip & Paint Class, last Thursday of the month

Turn your Pinot into a Picasso & your Thursday into a master piece! Enquire for more details

Large Screen in the bar where we are able to show major sporting events from Terrestrial and Sky TV

Two of our Private rooms now have large TV's which can be booked

The Repair Café on the 1st Saturday of the month

George Inn Weekly deals - Pie Wednesday £15

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Local chef Nathan Craddock came to the Village Centre on 16th June and gave us all a fascinating insight into the intricate and somewhat daunting task of making sourdough. His starter was **87** years old!!

There was an excellent turn out and we were all able to sample his loaves with various delicious combinations of toppings.

He was extremely helpful and very encouraging and hopes that we will all be baking batches in our own homes!



Be warned, it takes time, and there is no quick remedy, but this labour of love is truly worth it, and the outcome is mouth-watering and delicious.

It was mooted that there should be an extra class in the flower show for us all to enter!

Thank you Nathan for such an informative, happy evening.

Hedgerow Finds



There is nothing more satisfying than foraging for produce in the hedgerows.

There is an abundance of elderflower now, so it is the perfect time to make elderflower cordial. **Recipe:**

- **1.3 kilos granulated sugar**
- **3 lemons**
- **3 pints of water**
- **50 grams citric acid**
- **25 elderflower heads**

You can buy citric acid online or at any decent chemist.

Method:

- Boil the water and add the sugar until dissolved.
 - Cut the lemons into slices. Add to pan with citric acid and elderflower heads. Leave overnight.
 - Squeeze the lemons to maximise the juice,
 - drain through a sieve with a clean j cloth inside or a muslin. This will remove any bugs and small bits of lemon.
 - Pour into bottles and freeze what you won't use immediately.
 - Store in fridge. It will keep for at least 6 months in the fridge.
- HD*

RHYMES AND RECOLLECTIONS

A Choral Collection of Childhood Songs

7.30pm Saturday 18th July 2026

Farleigh School
Andover, SP11 7PW

Tickets: £15 on the door, £12 in advance, under 16s free. Refreshments included.
Available at The Lights, Andover (in person and online) and through choir members.



Proceeds in aid of Andover Young Carers.



A hidden Hampshire garden - and a familiar local face

Many of us who live in these villages are fortunate to be surrounded by open

countryside, mature trees and cherished gardens. Green spaces matter here. They mark the seasons, ground us in daily life and offer a quiet, enduring pleasure.

Just a short drive from Winchester lies a place that shares those same values - though you might never guess it from the road. The Dower House, a residential and nursing care home, is home to something rather unexpected: five acres of beautiful, established gardens, carefully tended and full of life.

Behind the house, the grounds unfold gradually, rewarding those who enjoy wandering rather than rushing. Curving paths reveal ever-changing views - bridges, water, shaded corners and open lawns - creating the feel of a much-loved country garden that has evolved over time.

Gardeners will notice particular highlights. An Indian Bean Tree brings a soft fragrance in late spring, while a cherry blossom marks the seasons with its brief but eagerly awaited display. A thriving pond supports water lilies, koi carp and goldfish, with dragonflies and birds adding to the sense of calm. Elsewhere, hardy geraniums and an iris bed provide colour and seasonal interest. These gardens are not just for show. They form part of everyday life at The Dower House, with walks, seasonal events and a much-enjoyed gardening club, supported by long-standing Head Gardener Ben.

There is also a local connection. The Dower House's new Chief Operating Officer, Chris Golding, lives in St Mary Bourne and understands the rhythms of rural life and community.

While many know the home for long-term care, fewer realise it also offers short stays and respite, providing a calm setting for recovery and rest. In many cases, the gardens play a quiet but important role in that process - a rare and valued asset very much in keeping with parish life. You would be welcome to come and see this hidden gem!

www.TheDowerHouseWinchester.co.uk - 01962 882 848



The Artful Duck is a fundraising art project in aid of a new Sports Pavilion for St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground, with proceeds shared with local youth charities.

An exhibition of all the amateur entries will be held in the Autumn. Winning artwork to be hung in the new Sports Pavilion.

Amateur Art Competition for Ages 5 to 105

The Brief

Create your own masterpiece using the duck outline on the canvas provided - or go completely freestyle and create a piece that represents a connotation of the word DUCK in paint, pencil, crayon, collage or 3D - the choice is yours.

Entry Fee: 5-17yrs £10 | 18+ £15

Categories: 5-7yr, 8-10yr, 11-12yr, 13-14yr, 15-17yr, 18+

How to Enter: To reserve your canvas call/WhatsApp Caroline on 07738 470555

Closing date for amateurs: 15th September 2026

Professional Artists and Celebrity Auction

We have a number of professional artists already on board. If you are one or know of any pro artist or celebrity who'd like to help our cause and support local youth charities please get in touch with Caroline

Closing date for Pro/celebrity: 31st January 2027



*Every entry makes a difference
Get your creative duck juices flowing!*



Help Shape Local Health & Care and be in with a chance to win a £25 Gift Card!

Action Hampshire is working with Healthwatch Hampshire to gather feedback from people across the county about their experiences with health and social care services. We especially want to hear from underrepresented groups such as rural communities like yours.

Maybe you've had a great visit with your local GP, or perhaps you've struggled to get a dentist appointment. You might have had support from a social worker, or needed help from a paramedic. Whatever your experience, we'd love to hear about it. Your feedback helps make sure services are working well and meeting the needs of local communities.

As a thank you, you'll have the opportunity to enter our free Autumn Prize Draw to win one of three £25 One4All gift cards - perfect for a little treat. **Deadline: Sunday 26th October at midnight.**

Share your feedback here: bit.ly/AutumnPrizeDrawHWH

Let's make sure rural voices are heard - your story could help shape better care for everyone.

The Homeowner's Notebook

This Month's Topic: **Hiring the Right Tradesperson – The Complete Guide**

After accepting the quote, there are still a few things to check before actually hiring.

We've seen it all - the good, the bad, and the dangerous. Here's everything about hiring right, first time. The Do's & Don'ts

• **DO: The Essential Steps**

Check Qualifications (This One Can Save Lives)

For certain jobs, checking credentials isn't optional – it's the law.

- Gas work: They must be on the Gas Safe Register. Ask to see their ID card and check the back – it should list which types of gas work they're qualified for.
- Electrical work: Look for NICEIC, ECA, or Part P registration. These prove they're certified to keep your wiring safe.
- Building work: CSCS cards show builders have basic training. For bigger projects, check if they're with the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Always ask for proof. A genuine tradesperson expects this and will have documents ready.

Ask for References and Photos

Any decent tradesperson will have recent work to show you. Ask for photos (most of these will probably be on their website/socials) and, crucially, references of a couple of recent customers.

Use a Written Contract

Get everything in writing before work starts:

- Total cost, including VAT (if registered)
- Payment schedule (more on this below)
- Start date and estimated completion date
- What materials will be used (brands and quality)

A contract protects both of you. If someone won't put it in writing, that's a red flag!

Pay Safely

This is where things often go wrong. Follow these rules:

- Never pay 100% upfront. Full stop.
- Never pay more than a 40% deposit. For very large jobs, try to keep it lower (25-30%)
- Avoid paying with cash. Always leave a paper trail. Bank transfer, credit card, or PayPal. These can be traced and, with credit cards, you may have extra protection. Cash disappears.

Check Their Insurance

Public liability insurance covers you if they accidentally damage your property. Ask to see their certificate. It's standard for any professional to have this.

Report Problems Immediately

If something doesn't look right, speak up before you make the final payment. Good tradespeople want to fix issues. Once the money's gone, your leverage goes with it.

• **DON'T: The Traps to Avoid**

- Don't hire without checking credentials. Especially for gas, electrics, or structural work. This is how tragedies happen.
- Don't pay in full upfront. Scammers rely on this. They take the money and vanish.
- Don't rely on verbal agreements. A handshake is nice, but a signed contract is what counts if things go wrong.
- Don't use cash-only tradespeople. No paper trail means no comeback. It also often means they're avoiding tax – not someone you want in your home.

- Don't rush. Pressure tactics ("I can start tomorrow but only if you decide now") are a major red flag. Real professionals are busy, but they don't bully.

Must-Ask Questions Before You Hire

Print these out. Keep them by the phone.

- "Are you registered with a trade body?" (Gas Safe, NICEIC, FMB, etc.)
- "Can I see your insurance and certificates?" (Take photos for your records.)
- "Do you provide a written quote and contract?" (If not, walk away.)
- "What's the estimated timeline?" (Delays happen but get a rough schedule.)
- "Who will actually be doing the work?" (Some firms subcontract – ask who'll be on site.)
- "What happens if there's a problem after completion?" (Ask about guarantees and warranties.)

Red Flags: When to Walk Away

Trust your instincts. These signs should send you running:

- No fixed address – just a mobile number.
- Demands cash only – avoids tax and leaves you with no proof.
- High-pressure sales – "This price is only valid today!"
- No online presence – no website, no reviews, no visible history.
- Vague quotes – avoids putting costs in writing.
- Refuses to show credentials – a genuine pro has nothing to hide.

Know Your Rights

If work is faulty, you have legal protection under the Consumer Rights Act 2015. Tradespeople must carry out work with reasonable care and skill.

If a tradesperson disappears or takes your money without doing the work, report them to Trading Standards and Action Fraud.

Keep everything: contracts, receipts, messages, photos. Paperwork is your best friend if things go wrong.

Final Tip: Trust, But Verify

A good tradesperson won't mind questions. They won't be offended if you ask for proof. They understand that your home is your biggest investment and you want to protect it. If someone refuses to show certificates, won't put things in writing, or pushes for cash – walk away. There are plenty of good people out there. Take your time and find the right one.

This advice is provided by www.qwote.uk, a free service for Surrey & Hampshire homeowners.

Next month in **The Homeowner's Notebook: Finding the Right Gardener or Landscaper for Your Garden.**

From pruning to patio installation, tips you can follow.



ST MARY BOURNE PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

will 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:
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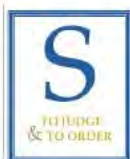
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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council

Council Chair: Peter Hull

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

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: Monday 13th July at 7pm in the Village Hall.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Woodbury House 26/01134/TREEN Tree works

PC comments: The Parish Council has requested further clarification

The Lake House, Nun's Walk 26/01080/VARN Variation of planning conditions

PC comments: No objection.

Full details of planning applications still under consultation can be viewed on the Test Valley Borough Council website view-applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/

WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOING THIS MONTH: PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Longparish Playground is one of the village's most-loved spaces, providing countless hours of fun, adventure and friendship for local children. Behind the scenes, however, there is a small team on the Parish Council helping to keep the area safe and welcoming. Each month, our dedicated volunteer carries out an inspection of the playground equipment, keeping an eye out for any wear and tear that comes with so much enthusiastic use. More recently, the playground underwent its annual professional inspection, giving the equipment a thorough health check and helping to ensure it remains a safe place for everyone to enjoy. Visitors may also have spotted a brand-new picnic bench, recently installed to provide a comfortable spot for parents, grandparents and friends to sit and chat whilst the children burn off some energy.

Thank you to everyone who supported the concert for Naomi and Jack's children's hospices in June. Around £2,500 was raised toward Revd Nicky Smallwood's Himalayan Trek fundraiser. The musicians, including the village choir, had great fun performing and the audience appeared to enjoy it too! If you haven't donated to Nicky's trek but would like to do so you can at her Just Giving page

www.justgiving.com/page/nicky-smallwood-1

Longparish Choir will be joining other choirs in the Benefice at Nicky's licensing service on Wednesday 15 July at 7.30 at All Hallows.

Thank you again for your kind support.

Cathy Yelf

**LONGPARISH CRICKET CLUB**

A massive thank-you to everyone who came along to the John Woodcock Cup cricket match between Longparish Village and Longparish CC at the end of June.

The weather has continued to disrupt the League season for the adult teams with half the scheduled fixtures being abandoned due to rain. The 1st XI has the best record to date if the adult teams, losing only one match. All the Junior teams are in the midst of a busy fixture schedule with a mixture of wins and losses across the age groups. Monday evenings at the ground continue to be very busy with Junior training sessions creating a buzz of activity all evening.

Cricket continues through to the end of August, so do drop into the beautiful ground and watch a few overs if you have time!

Alison Allen

Longparish School says farewell

We would like to take a moment to recognise and thank our wonderful School Business Manager, Christine Leach, who is leaving her post after an incredible 24 years of service.



Throughout her time at Longparish School, she has supported countless families with patience, kindness, and professionalism, becoming a trusted and familiar face within our school and the wider community. Her dedication behind the scenes has helped our school run smoothly day after day, and her commitment to our children, staff, and families has made a lasting difference.

We've also shared plenty of laughs along the way — from local sheep casually turning up at our doors as if they were late for registration, to the endless stream of "quick questions" that somehow turned into full-blown adventures. Through it all, she has handled every family, every form, every crisis, and every curved ball with a smile that said, "Yes, I can sort that... but I might need a cup of tea first."

After 24 years of keeping us organised, sane, and occasionally entertained, we hope her next chapter brings her as much joy as she has brought to our school community. She will be missed more than the stationery cupboard misses its missing glue sticks.

Good luck Mrs Leach

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THANK YOU From Chris Bowman
I would like to thank the many, many people who have said they will miss my article. I will still do a walk now and again or if we have a new bird. Many thanks.

John Woodcock Plaque Target Reached

The fundraising target for the John Woodcock memorial plaque has been reached. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the £8,000 appeal.

It will also pay for a blue plaque attached The Old Curacy, his home for 73 years.

It is likely that enough money will remain to make a donation to the youth section of Longparish Cricket Club of which John was President.

The plaque will be unveiled in St. Nicholas Church on **Saturday August 8** and invitations are now being sent to donors. If you made a donation and haven't received an invitation, please contact Alix Bremridge at art@alixbaker.com or 07808 137305.



From 10am - 11:45am

Drop in for a chat, everyone welcome.
Coffee or Tea and biscuits, all for £1.00

Meet at The Plough Inn
Friday 10th July

Meet at The Cricketers
Friday 14th Aug



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

We welcomed new runners, Richard Taylor and James Hillier to the June run.

Conditions were pretty well perfect and our first six runners all recorded their best time this year and for two: Liz Benedetto and Jeremy Barber, it was their personal best time for the course.

Forton's Dave Henery is continuing to improve following his injury and he was first home to become our Most Improved Man. Liz was Most Improved Woman and Marco Ford was our Rising Star in a new junior course record. Well done all!



Afterwards we enjoyed a warm welcome, bacon rolls and coffee at The Plough.

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

The next race is on **Sunday 12 July**, starting at **9am** at **The Plough** and the **August race is on the 9th**. 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 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



LONGPARISH FETE BOOK/CD/DVD STALL ITEMS NEEDED TO SELL

If you have any books, CD's and DVDs to donate to Longparish fete please phone Jenny Jolliffe on 07471 942 496 or 01264 720207 to arrange collection.

I am happy to collect items from anywhere within the Bourne Valley any time before the fete date of 5 September 2026

Jenny

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Longparish Village Fete 2026

Save the Date!

The Longparish Village Fete returns on **Saturday 5th September 2026**, taking place on the cricket field from 12 noon until 4.00pm.

This much-loved community event promises a wonderful afternoon of entertainment, refreshments, activities and village spirit for all ages. The fete is one of the highlights of the Longparish calendar and brings together residents, friends and visitors for a traditional afternoon of fun.

The fete committee is already busy planning the event and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. Whether you can spare some time to help before the day, assist with setting up, run a stall or lend a hand during the afternoon, your support will be greatly appreciated.

We are particularly keen to hear from new volunteers. The fete relies entirely on the support of local people, and if we are unable to attract some additional volunteers this year, we may not be able to continue running the event in future years. Even a small amount of time can make a real difference and help ensure this much-loved village tradition continues.

If you would like to volunteer or help in any way, please contact Harriet at harrietlily@hotmail.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to another fantastic Longparish Village Fete.



Longparish Little School

Our garden has recently become a place of discovery, teamwork, and care for the natural world, as we begin an exciting new project with the children: creating a nature-friendly garden designed to welcome insects and wildlife.

The idea behind the project is simple but powerful. By learning about the plants and habitats that support pollinating insects and other wildlife, we can help create a thriving ecosystem right on our doorstep.

The staff and children have been at the heart of this journey—researching which plants attract bees, butterflies, and other important pollinators, and then helping to plant them in our garden.

As part of our learning, we visited Poppies Community



Garden, where we had a truly delightful and inspiring morning. We were given a tour of the garden and learned about the wide variety of flowers and plants that attract pollinating insects. The children were especially excited to be given some rhubarb to take back, which we are looking forward to using to make a crumble. The children also had the opportunity to plant pea seeds, which we brought back to Little School. These will be carefully nurtured as they grow before being transferred to our own vegetable bed.

The visit gave us many ideas and has inspired the way we are developing our own garden.



Sustainability is also a key part of our approach. We have set up a wormery, where food scraps are transformed into nutrient-rich compost. This natural fertiliser is then used to help our plants grow strong and healthy. It's been a fascinating way for the children to see how waste can be reused and how important worms are in maintaining healthy soil. In addition, we are collecting rainwater in a water butt, which we use to water the garden. This not only helps conserve water but also teaches the importance of recycling natural resources and caring for the environment.



As the garden continues to grow, so does our anticipation. We are looking forward to seeing what wildlife will come to visit—whether it's buzzing bees, colourful butterflies, or even birds and small creatures making a home among the plants.

This project is more than just gardening. It's about learning, nurturing, and building a connection with nature. By working together, we hope to create a space that supports wildlife while inspiring the next generation to care for the world around them.

If you have a child who would like to join Little School, we are currently accepting applications for September 2026. To arrange a viewing, please call 01264 720455.

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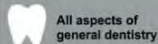


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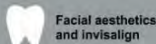
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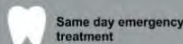
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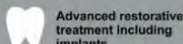
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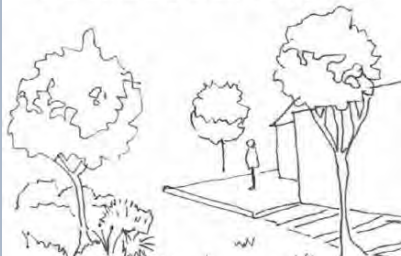


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This month has involved thinking about others in our community along with all over the world in different ways:

- Chaffinch has written prayers for our Bags of Hope project, thinking about others who need refuge. These will be displayed in Winchester cathedral as part of the Year 6 Leaver Service.
- Our FoLS, the community and staff all pulled together to create an amazing Family Fete! The rain did not stop anyone! The children created some wonderful items with their different talents and loved being in charge of their own stalls- having tickets as currency, what a game changer! Thank you so much to everyone involved. I am very pleased to announce that we raised **over £2,400!!** What an achievement!
- We also had a visit from Dodie, who reminded our children the importance of not wasting water especially when brushing our teeth. The



children understand how lucky we are to have fresh running water from a tap rather than collecting from a dirty river like others in the world. We

are looking forward to raising money to provide

Christmas dinners to our link school.

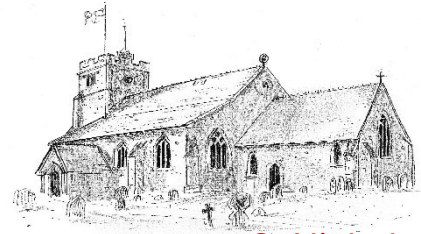
- Meet Hernando! Mr Beck, Headteacher from Testbourne brought the school's therapy dog to Longparish. The children asked such thoughtful questions and loved having a stroke, learning about his job and how he helps children. Thank you Mr Beck! It was great to see so many overcome



their worries about dogs today too!

A busy month!

Sarah Jordan - Headteacher



**St Nicholas Church
100 Club
Heritage Fund**

Results of the May 2026 Draw

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%.

May Results

First prize:	No. 44	£85.00
Second prize:	No. 30	£51.00
Third Prize:	No. 46	£17.00

Our membership now stands at 68 numbers. The objective is to reach a membership of 100, so if you are not a member, please consider joining and supporting your church in this way. You can join at any time during the year. 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 feel free to contact me:

John Young, Churchwarden & PCC Stewardship Officer,
St. Nicholas 100 Club
Tel: 01264 720233
Mob: 07860 630489 or
Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

N.B. The church is open each day from about 9.30am to 5pm. It is a beautiful church, and it's yours!

The Parish Giving Scheme

Please consider giving a small monthly amount to this scheme to help with the running costs of keeping the church services going and the church alive and well for future generations. It is simple to do and it adds the Gift Aid automatically for us, helping the administration of the church's finances.

Remember, we rely solely on donations - no money comes from the Church of England to help run our church - your church.

Thank you!





**Shape the future of your community pub,
be part of something worth fighting for**

The Plough Inn is something genuinely special. As a community-owned pub, it belongs to all of us — and it enriches village life in ways that go far beyond a good pint. But community ownership only works if the community steps up. And right now, we need you to do exactly that.

Charlie and his team do a fantastic job running the pub day to day, supported by the Management Committee who take some of the administrative, compliance and management load off his shoulders. Three places are up for election on the Management Committee this Autumn. This is your chance, not someone else's, to help shape the future of this remarkable village asset.

It's time to do more than raise a glass.

It's easy to enjoy what the Plough offers and assume others will take care of it. But the people who help to keep this pub thriving are volunteers, just like you. The committee always welcomes fresh energy, new ideas, and a wider range of skills. Could that be you?

"I never thought I'd join the committee — but it's fun, sociable, and I know I'm really helping the pub thrive."

There's plenty you could contribute:

- Boosting loyalty and keeping the atmosphere buzzing
- Maintaining the pub and gardens
- Organising improvements, big or small
- Planning, compliance and governance
- Promoting events and driving new ideas
- Building community engagement
- Finance and money management

Whatever your background — whether you're a retired professional, a busy parent with an hour to spare, or someone who simply loves this pub — your contribution will make a real difference. Skills, time, energy: all of it counts.

Nominations open in early September 2026

You will need to be a shareholder to join the committee, and the minimum shareholding is 5 shares @ £10 per share, £50.00 in total.

Want to find out more?

Email: volunteer@lcpl.org.uk or call: **01264 720069**

Or simply chat to anyone you know who's already on the committee.

The Plough is yours. Help us to look after it.



**August Bank Holiday BBQ
Monday 31st August**

Due to popular demand, we're heating up the grill again for a spectacular August BBQ!

Roast Middleton Estate haunch of Venison slow cooked over fire alongside other delicious BBQ treats!

Join us for the August Bank Holiday at The Plough. Bring friends and family for an afternoon of mouthwatering food and children's games accompanied by live music

Serving from 12noon – 4pm

Live music from 1pm

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Welcoming everyone – including well-behaved dogs on leads!

**Plough Quiz Night – always great fun!
Sunday 12th July & Sunday 9th August at 6pm**

Get your teams ready and join us for a fun-packed evening. Start time 6pm, teams of up to 6, £2 per person entry fee, all fees go to a charity chosen by the winning team
every 2nd Sunday of the month

**Plough Games Night
Sunday 26th July & Sunday 23rd August
5.30pm–9pm**

Gather friends and family for a relaxed, laughter-filled evening of board games, card classics and friendly competition. Snack bowls and sweet treats will be available to buy from the bar. Funds from the sale of snack bowls & sweets will be donated to Naomi House & Jackspace, now known as Naomi & Jack's.
Every 4th Sunday of the month

Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website
www.ploughinn.org | reservations@ploughinn.org



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

Tuesday, 14th July (Please note change of date)

2 pm

Visit to Summerdown, Malshanger, Basingstoke.



Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264720325
or Marion Bell 01264720205.



Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Cornell University has made it easier than ever for us to learn about the birds in our area. I have been using it with the recommendation of Chris Bowman for some years now and really enjoy it.

Merlin Bird ID is a free bird identification app developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help answer one simple question: **"What's that bird?"**

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced bird watcher, Merlin acts as your personal birding coach. By asking a few simple questions—such as where and when you saw the bird, along with its size, colour, and behaviour. Merlin quickly narrows down the possibilities and suggests likely species. Powered by more than 800 million bird observations submitted through eBird and millions of bird descriptions contributed by experts and bird enthusiasts worldwide, Merlin uses advanced data and community knowledge to deliver accurate identifications.

It offers both a Sound identifier and a Photo Identifier feature which is really helpful. **Sound ID** listens to the birds around you and shows real-time suggestions for who's singing. Snap a photo of a bird, or pull one in from your camera roll, and **Photo ID** will offer a short list of possible matches.

Just look for **Merlin Bird ID** in the app store.

Peter Newel Jones

26th October 1951 – 28th May 2026



Peter grew up in Belfast with his mum Vera, his dad Alan, and his sisters.

His first love was motor racing and engines. He loved to take engines apart and build them back up. At the age of 16, he had his first car which was a bubble car and he and his friend drove 250 miles to Cork, where they were joined a few days later by his family. After this, he progressed onto rallying. He took part many times in the Circle of Donegal along with his navigator where they were known as 'Smith and Jones'. They dominated the racetracks around Northern Ireland, winning trophy after trophy and that now leaves Sandra with a loft full of silver ware....

One of Peter's first jobs was as a car salesman for Saab where he met Lawrence who was the person who opened his eyes to the skies. As a result of this newfound interest in flying which turned into his second love, Peter returned to school at the age of 29 to complete his O-Levels which started his journey to becoming a pilot. As part of this training to become a shiny captain, he was required to complete a certain number of hours in the sky. This meant that his brother-in-law Ken was personally flown from country to country which is something that I am sure Ken will hold fondly in his memory forever.

Peter worked for multiple airlines, but the most important one was Dan Air where he met the love of his life, Sandra. Their love story started on a return lunchtime flight from Toulouse where the crew decided they would meet for after flight drinks at the local pub which turned out to be only Peter and Sandra in attendance, and some may call this fate. Sandra was on the lookout for a tall, dark and handsome Captain but settled with a short, dark and Irish first officer... they laughed from the moment they met and have been laughing together for the last 40 years. After minimal persuasion to get engaged (from Sandra), they were happily married in January 1990 on a rainy, cold day in Frimley alongside their family and friends. In September 1992, along came Gobby...I mean Amy! Peter was over the moon with his first-born daughter, so much so, two years later they did it again and along came Lucy.

Peter always wanted to live in the South of France, but Sandra didn't so they compromised and moved to Longparish where they have built and lived and built and lived and built and lived since 1999. Longparish is the place they call home where they have grown a large community of friends over the years and most likely everyone can think of a time you have spent with Peter (most probably including a tippie or ten).

Peter retired from flying 3 times and decided it was time to turn his attention back to his first love of cars, but this time building them. What started as one small project, is now 5 incomplete projects as he returned to flying for the 4th time. His final venture in the world of flying was as an aviation instructor/examiner and he spent many happy years working with three different companies and along the way, met some amazing colleagues.

Peter loved his animals, especially his beloved donkeys Plum and Star. He adored his family tremendously. His daughters Amy and Lucy, his two sons-in-law JJ and Harry and most importantly his three (soon to be four) grandchildren Henry, Effie and Noah.

Not only did Peter love to travel around the world for work, but he also loved to travel around the world with his ever-growing family, and he has now grown his wings to travel for eternity.

The impact that Peter had on everyone around him is clear by everyone present here today and the support that the family have received over the last few weeks. Thank you, Peter, for everything you gave us. You will be loved, remembered and missed forever.

To thank the team who cared for Peter in his final week, donations will be to the ICU department at Basingstoke Hospital and a page has been set up in his memory for anyone who would like to donate.

<https://peter-jones-1951-2026.muchloved.com/>

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

2026 May Fair - The May Fair team organised a tea party to say thank you to everyone who had helped, in the run up, and setting up/breaking down on the actual day of the May Fair. They recognise the tremendous team effort that goes into making the Fair such a success. This year they were able to make donations of £8,200 to both St Andrews Church and to the Recreation Ground and a donation of £3,100 to the Village Hall.



Below Ann Orr receiving the donation on behalf of St Andrew’s church from Councillor Clare Read and Henry and Archie Ross receiving the donation on behalf of everyone who uses the Recreation Ground from Ed Beasley.



If any of you would like to join the May Fair team for 2027 then we would be delighted to hear from you.

At the Parish Council meeting on 4th June, we bid farewell to our long-serving Clerk, **Richard Waterman**, who is retiring after more than 25 years of dedicated service to the local community.



Richard will be relocating to the West Country, where he looks forward to pursuing his passion for gardening. As a small token of our appreciation, he was presented with some "Richard' Roses" and a voucher to help with his new garden.

At the same meeting, we were pleased to welcome our new Parish Clerk, **Mr Steven Marshall**.

Steven brings with him a wealth of experience in local government and takes on the role at an exciting time. His responsibilities will include working within parish and local government guidelines, as well as overseeing key projects such as the refurbishment of our Village Pavilion and the building of a new interactive website for our village which can also then be used for Village Hall and Recreation Ground bookings.

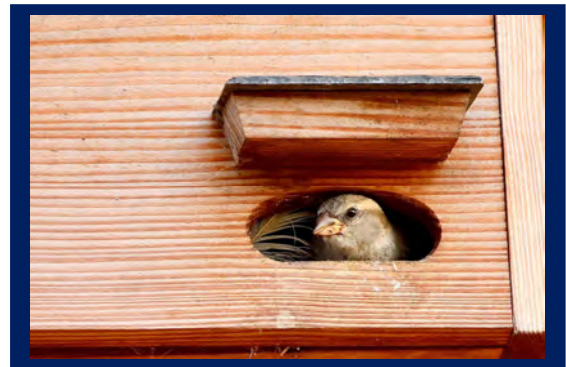
Parish Council Meeting Dates

The dates for the remaining Parish Council meetings in 2026:

- Thursday 30th July
- Thursday 24th September
- Thursday 26th November

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 18.30. Any resident of the Parish can attend and there is no need to alert the Council in advance. However, if you would like members to consider a matter before you attend, please contact Steven Marshall, Clerk to the Parish Council. Email: Spm58@btinternet.com

THE SKIES ABOVE US...



House Sparrows have lived alongside us in **Hurstbourne Priors** for centuries, taking advantage of spilt grain and food scraps. These noisy, sociable birds are here largely because of their ability to make the most of humanity’s rubbish and wastefulness...

Monitoring, however, suggests a severe decline in the UK House Sparrow population, estimated at 71% between 1977 and 2008, with large falls in both rural and urban populations. Since 1970, almost 30 million of these little birds have vanished from the UK.

They are the most common bird recorded during the Big Garden Birdwatch, and if you put up feeders you are almost certain to see them, particularly if you offer fat balls and sunflower hearts.



..or maybe instead you and your family fancy seeing something a little bit faster and noisier in the skies above us this month?

If so, why not head to the **Army Flying Museum** in Middle Wallop for its **Wheels & Wings** event and air show on **Saturday 11 July**.



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Visitors are in for a real treat this year, as weather permitting, a number of air displays are planned throughout the event. The Museum is thrilled to welcome a spectacular line-up including the Gazelle Squadron Display Team, along with static aircraft displays celebrating the 80th anniversary of the first flight of the de Havilland Canada Chipmunk and the 90th anniversary of the legendary **Supermarine Spitfire**. Including a flypast from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire.



North American T-6 Harvard

There will also be plenty to enjoy on the ground, with more than 400 classic and supercars, motorcycles, vehicle parades, and a lively event village. Aviation fans and families alike can look forward to a packed programme designed to entertain throughout the day.

It promises to be a great day out for the whole family, not just for car, motorbike and aircraft enthusiasts. Entertainment running throughout the day will include craft activities, a pit stop challenge, laser tag, mini racers and circus skills, while younger visitors can enjoy classic pedal planes and little tanks.

The Museum is an independent charity and relies on fundraising activities to support its work in preserving the history of British Army aviation. That makes this flagship event especially important, not only as a vital fundraiser, but also as a brilliant family day out for the local community and visitors alike.

All full-price tickets purchased in advance include a free annual pass to the Museum, valid from Sunday 12 July, offering excellent value for local families who would like to return and enjoy the Museum again over the coming year. You can prebook tickets by visiting their website.

Photos: Andy Brooks photography

FEATURE: LOWER LINK FARM

Helping the Bourne Rivulet thrive at Lower Link Farm (Bourne Valley) - Some of you may have noticed recent work along the Bourne Rivulet at Lower Link Farm...

Vitacress has been working in partnership with Wessex Rivers Trust to enhance the Bourne Rivulet, one of Hampshire's precious chalk streams and a globally rare habitat.

The river has been transformed from a straight and modified channel into a thriving ecosystem. This chalk stream enhancement project will help to create a healthier, more resilient river ecosystem. We hope this will support the wildlife that makes the Bourne Rivulet so special, including Otters, Kingfishers, Green Sandpipers, Reed Warblers, Water Voles a and Brown Trout.



Restored Bourne Rivulet

Specific actions include:

- Re-naturalising the shape and path of the historically straightened channel to diversify flows conditions.
- Adding woody debris and root plates to drive habitat diversity and create kingfisher hunting perches.
- Encouraging scouring of bed gravels for fish spawning and addressing a historic barrier to help fish move more easily up and downstream.
- Lowering banks so the river can connect naturally with surrounding areas, creating wetted margins and wading bird habitat.
- Installing kingfisher nesting burrows and bird boxes.
- Planting native shrubs, wildflowers and trees, including black poplar (the UK's rarest native tree).
- Wetland and pond creation, plus adding refuges for amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.



One of our new Kingfisher Nesting Banks

We're proud to care for this special stretch of the Bourne Rivulet and intend to continue our work with local partners to support wildlife and enhance our shared Bourne Rivulet landscape.

We'll be watching closely as the river evolves, and we look forward to sharing updates with you about the wildlife and other biodiversity work at Lower Link Farm in the months ahead...



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The Anton Way, Goodworth Clatford. The latest instalment of Cocker Spaniel Wanderings takes us to the delightful Anton Way around Goodworth Clatford. It is a walk featuring rivers, wildlife, village pubs, rolling Hampshire scenery and, if you own a spaniel, several opportunities for your dog to completely ignore your instructions.



The adventure begins by leaving Andover on the A3057 towards Winchester and Romsey. Turn right into Church Lane and park by the bridge. From here you'll spot the footpath and immediately face

one of life's great dilemmas: woods or fields?

On this occasion we choose fields not that its necessary better, but because indecision is exhausting and the dog has already made up its mind.

Take the footpath to the left and stride confidently onwards. It's a gentle climb with mature trees to your right, although one unfortunate specimen has recently lost its battle with the Hampshire weather. At the top, pass through a small wooded section and bear left, following the fence line where ponies graze peacefully, no doubt wondering why humans voluntarily walk up hills for entertainment.

In summer, the meadows are full of wildflowers. In winter, they provide an excellent opportunity to appreciate just how cold Hampshire can become when there is absolutely nothing between you and the Arctic.

Continue alongside the fence and eventually the A3057 appears behind the hedge, so veer right. When you reach the gravel track, pause and look back. The views over the village, church and surrounding countryside are genuinely magnificent and worth every step of the ascent.

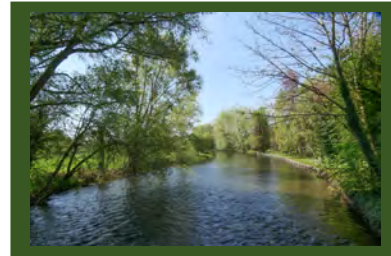
Press on and you'll encounter a solar farm to your right. Admittedly, solar farms don't usually make anyone's list of scenic highlights, but on a summer evening when the low sun catches the panels, it can look surprisingly impressive. It's rather like discovering your accountant plays lead guitar in a Clash tribute band.

The route continues across open countryside. Not much happens here, which is actually part of the charm.

Sometimes a walk doesn't need attractions every fifty yards. Sometimes it just fresh air, no people and enough distance to fully justify a pint later.

Pass through a gate, cross the road that leads to the water treatment works, go through another gate and continue straight ahead, enjoying views towards Fullerton and Longstock before turning right.

Soon you'll enter woodland, head left and reach a small bridge crossing the beautiful River Anton, a tributary of the Test. This is one of the highlights of the walk. Chiffchaffs, Sedge warblers and Cetti's warblers provide the soundtrack, while the river meanders quietly beneath the trees. It is all Hampshire...



Follow the riverside path until another bridge appears, where trout can often be seen holding station in the crystal-clear water. For readers of a certain vintage, this is pure Jack Hargreaves territory. You half

expect him to emerge from behind a willow tree and explain.

I know one of his former junior editors, who assured me that Jack was a wonderful storyteller. Whether every tale stood up to rigorous fact-checking is another matter entirely. Apparently he also enjoyed the company of the fairer sex rather more than his wholesome television persona suggested. This revelation confirmed my late mother's long-held suspicion that he had "something of the night about him". Who would have thought it? There he was, the nation's favourite tweed-clad countryman, quietly proving that reality is often more entertaining than television.

The route then crosses a meadow before arriving at a stile that appears to have been designed by somebody with shares in the local orthopaedic department. Negotiate it successfully and you emerge onto a quiet lane.

If your dog's recall is as reliable as mine, this is the moment to reintroduce the lead. The lane itself is lovely: tree-lined, peaceful and beautiful throughout the year. Follow it for around ten minutes until you reach Longstock Road.



Turn right and begin the final leg back to the start. Fortunately, this section comes with significant compensation. Along the way you'll pass the Royal Oak, The Clatford Arms and the



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village shop. Few walks demonstrate such a clear understanding of human motivation.

Just before the second pub, turn right and cross the bridge, where another lovely river view provides a fitting finale. And that's it. A hearty stroll of around five miles featuring wildlife, rivers, fine views, village charm and two pubs strategically positioned near the finish line....



As Alan Partridge might say...

it's classic Hampshire.....A-ha.



Bob Lethaby

The Ladies Coffee Morning ☕

The July Coffee Morning will be hosted by Susie Sorby on Thursday 16th July from 10.15am at Bourne House (no 53). All ages welcome!

Please let me know if you would like to hold a coffee morning in one of the months to come: ssorby@hotmail.com

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL – JULY/AUGUST NEWS AND EVENTS

Whitchurch Silk Mill has been busy sharing its work beyond the Test Valley in recent months. Members of the team attended craft events, including the MADE Festival at Winchester Cathedral and the Bovey Tracey Craft Festival, where they spoke to visitors about silk weaving and the Mill's long history. Our fabrics were also displayed internationally through a collaboration with textile specialists Spinexpo.

Here at home, there is plenty to see and enjoy. Following a recent Visit England assessment, the Mill achieved a **91% Rating as a visitor attraction**, reflecting both the quality of the visitor experience and the dedication of the team.

Visitors this summer will find activity throughout the building. On the ground floor, silk continues to be woven on historic looms, while elsewhere you may see bobbin winding, trimming and finishing work in progress.

A newly arranged archive area on the middle floor offers insights into over 200 years of the Mill's history, alongside a

space where preparations for finished silk can be observed.

Like many heritage sites, the Mill faces ongoing challenges in maintaining an historic building. In response to rising energy costs, solar panels have recently been installed on the Welcome Building roof, contributing to a more sustainable future while complementing the Mill's traditional reliance on water power.

In addition, a grant from the Government's Arts Everywhere Fund will support essential conservation work to the wheelhouse, helping to safeguard it for future visits.



There are also several events planned in July. On 7th July, Tracey Panek, historian for Levi Strauss & Co., will give a talk exploring the company's development from its origins in the California Gold Rush to its global influence today.

On the same day, a guided Silk Production Tour will offer visitors an opportunity to see the weaving process up close and learn more about the people and skills behind it.

A range of workshops continues throughout the month, including weaving, crochet, sewing and silversmithing. These sessions are great for beginners as well as those wishing to develop existing skills and provide a friendly way to try something new.

We look forward to welcoming local residents and visitors over the summer months.



Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website via the 'Events' page. To keep up to date with what's on at the Mill, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via the link on our website.

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

July/August Issue photographs courtesy of Angus Grant, Bob Lethaby, Clare Read, Phil Luckett, and the Whitchurch Silk Mill.


ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 1 Jul 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Hill View
 4 Jul 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 14 Jul 10.30am - Coffee at *The George Inn*
 9 Jul 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
 15 Jul 12.30pm - **'The Lunch'** - Village Centre
 18 Jul 7.30pm - Andover Chamber Choir - Farleigh School
 25 Jul from 12.30pm - Flower Show & Fête - 12.30pm
- 1 Aug 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 8 Aug 10am - Bell Ringing - St Peter's Church
 11 Aug 10.30am - Coffee at *The George Inn*
 19 Aug 12.30pm - **'The Lunch'** - Village Centre
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -
The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 10 Jul 10 to 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Plough Inn
 12 Jul 9 am - L2SOTM handicap race - The Plough
 13 Jul 7pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
 14 Jul Longparish Gardening Club - Summerdown - details inside
 31 Jul 12 noon to 2pm - LCA Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall
- 9 Aug 9 am - L2SOTM - handicap race - The Plough
 14 Aug 10 to - 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
 28 Aug 12 noon to 2pm - LCA Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 11 Jul Wings and Wheels - Army Air Museum Middle Wallop
 16 Jul from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning hosted by by Susie Sorby - Bourne House (no 53)
 17 Jul HRH Queen Camilla Birthday 
 30 Jul 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
- 31 Aug Summer Bank Holiday

**Hill & Valley Vacancy
Advertising Manager**

The Management Group is looking for a volunteer to fill this important post as soon as possible. Income from advertising is the main financial source for the production of Hill & Valley, and it allows distribution of the magazine free of charge to all households in the three parishes of Hurstbourne Priors, Longparish and St Mary Bourne 10 times per year.

If you feel able to take this on, making a massive contribution to the existence of the magazine, or would like to know more about what it entails, please contact Michael on

☎ **07880 808111** or write to

hillandvalley@btinternet.com.

Front cover photograph: Michael Widén

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Longparish Village Hall: Charlie Parris, ☎ 01264 317037, e: vhbooking@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: villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Copy date for the **September 2026 edition** of Hill & Valley is **Wednesday 19th August**.

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 and any images in JPEG format if possible.

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