

Issue No. 301

Hill & Valley

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

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September 2026



Thoughts on prayer

The Collect for the 10th Sunday after Trinity is one we could all do with remembering each day of the year, because it enjoins us to be persistent in prayer and to bring our prayers to God through Jesus our Lord. Now this might seem to be stating the obvious but in reality it is not always easy.

The discipline of finding the time in each day to purposefully spend time praying is still a challenge for me. I may be engaged in my church activities either administratively, pastorally or service preparation nearly every day, but although this includes and involves prayer, I admit to not always just being still and allowing myself to open my heart and mind to hearing if God has something to say to me. I am always giving thanks throughout my day in my mind but this I realise is not the same as having real prayer time.

Jesus knew the value of quietness and in the Bible we often read of him taking himself to a place where he could be alone to pray and his disciples would give him this 'me' time by watching and waiting while crowds gathered around them.

We all need some 'me' time and it is not selfish to want to be still and feel the presence of the Lord in our own hearts and minds. Sometimes this might just be involve going for a short walk or watching the clouds scud across a blue sky (which we have had a lot of lately), listening to some music or reading a book or better yet a bible.

While I was on placement in Jersey in May, I fully realised how much I had allowed 'me' time to slip away. On the island the pace of life generally was very different and especially in ministry.

There was always another beautiful day to address issues that arose and always enough time to ponder and reflect, which seems here on the mainland to be a luxury we do not allow ourselves. It would be lovely wouldn't it if we could all find our own little island on which to recuperate and gather our strength. But wait, isn't that what Jesus asks of us daily? To be still and feel his nearness. Easier said than done though in our busy worlds.

One of our Gospel readings in August was the famous story of Peter being afraid to walk towards Jesus on the water. Jesus exclaimed 'have you so little faith'. It wasn't that he doubted Peter had faith, but how strong was that faith. It really all comes down to this point, we do believe, we have faith, but it is big enough and bold enough to get us through our own storms and doubts. Surely the remedy lies, in our ability to do as our collect instructs us, be persistent in prayer.

Amen.

Chris The Revd Chris Theobald



St Nicholas' Church, Longparish

New Altar Frontal

Altar frontals are changed for the different church seasons, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc. Ours are all old and dilapidated and needed replacing. The new one was made by Sue Batstone, a friend of Gill Williamson from embroidered fabric from an Ecclesiastical supplier and will be used for ordinary time for much of the year. It was funded from legacies from Kath Hewlett, Ella Scott and Jim Sawyer. There is also a lovely new red frontal which was very kindly made by Kate Gibbons.

The Church is open from 9.30am to 5.00pm every day.

Services in the Parish Churches

September 2026

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

Sunday 6th September - Trinity 14

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Animal Service	
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 9th September

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 13th September - Trinity 15

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
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
St James', Woodcott	No service	

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 20th September - Trinity 16

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

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Wednesday 23rd September

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 27th September - Trinity 7

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

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am



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

brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Rev Nicky Smallwood ☎ 07775 903321
rev.nicky@ahwhitchurch.org.uk

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."

Rosie Delilah Smith

St Mary Bourne - 12/7/26

Alfred Richard Curr

Hurstbourne Priors - 18/7/26

Rory James Philipson

Longparish - 26/7/26

• Weddings

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

Anna Nicole Straker and Charles John Hurlock
St Mary Bourne - 15/8/26

• Funerals

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

Bill Morris

St Mary Bourne - 27/6/26

Gordon Alfred Pearce

Charlton Park Crematorium - 8/7/26

Jim Morgan

Basingstoke Crematorium - 29/7/26

Kieron Andrew Patrick Mitchell (Freddie)

St Mary Bourne - 14/8/26

Judy Bray

St Mary Bourne - 18/8/26

Colin Henderson

St Mary Bourne - 20/8/26

We offer our condolences to:

• Caroline and Kevin and the friends of **'Freddie' Mitchell**. Andy and Pat Gunner (Freddie's grandparents) lived at Gangbridge Lane. Freddie attended SMB School.

• The family and friends of **Judy Bray**, who died aged 103. Judy and her late husband Charlie lived at Cole Henley and worshipped at St Peter's regularly.

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



### Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Residents Survey and Village Pavilion Refurbishment

Parish Councils are the tier of local government closest to the residents and communities they serve. All

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who undertake the statutory responsibilities of the Parish Council, as well as providing local services and developing projects that benefit the community.

The Parish Council of Hurstbourne Priors is seeking your views on the work, services and projects that you and your family feel the Parish Council should prioritise to help improve life in our Parish. This is particularly relevant to our **Village Pavilion Refurbishment Project**, and your input could help us secure further funding towards the refurbishment.

If you live in the parish of **Hurstbourne Priors**, a short and simple survey will have been delivered through your letter box. We would be very grateful if you and your family could complete it so that we can hear your views.

*Many thanks, Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

Note you can complete the survey online by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/HPPC-ResidentSurvey> or by scanning the QR code below on or before 9<sup>th</sup> September:

*Thank you in advance  
for sharing your  
opinions and comments  
with us!*



### Parish Council Meeting Dates

The dates for the remaining Parish Council meetings in 2026:

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: [clerk@hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Refurbished Bus Shelter and New Mini Library

recent and striking transformation of the **Drury Close Bus Shelter**. Once an unloved, neglected and graffiti-covered eyesore, the shelter has now been completely transformed into a welcoming mini village library, thanks to the hard work of local parents and in particular, children from our community.

Residents and visitors to **Hurstbourne Priors** may have noticed the



What began as a personal community improvement project quickly gathered momentum during late spring and summer, when the real work began. With support from their parents, the children created a useful, attractive and much-valued new facility for the village.

Scarlett Banks (13), Savannah Scutt (14) and George Scutt (10) have done an amazing job and deserve full recognition for their creativity, commitment and determination. The new mini library features fresh décor, original artwork, a noticeboard and four book storage areas to house the collection.



The Parish Council was pleased to support the initiative with a contribution towards material costs, but the real hard work was carried out by these three young people.

Photographs of the transformation are featured here, and book donations to the Bus Shelter Library are now welcome. Members of the Parish Council would like to thank Scarlett, Savannah and George once again for undertaking this initiative and for helping to provide such an excellent community facility.



*Scarlett Banks (13) Savannah Scutt (14) & George Scutt (10)*





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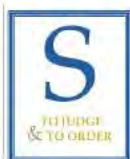


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## LOWER LINK FARM NEWS – OUR BIOACOUSTICS SURVEY RESULTS

**W**inter Bioacoustics Survey reveals rich birdlife at Lower Link Farm (Hurstbourne Priors) - The fields, hedgerows and waterways around Lower Link Farm may appear peaceful in winter, but they are surprisingly busy places. During the 2025-2026 winter, we carried out a bird bioacoustics survey using sound recorders. The devices captured bird calls between November and January, allowing specialists to identify which species were present.

A total of **47 bird species** were recorded at Lower Link Farm, placing it among the most bird-rich Vitacress sites, with **24 green-listed species**, **17 amber-listed species**, **3 red-listed species** and **3 non-natives** (conservation status).

Many familiar countryside birds featured prominently, and our top five most recorded species were Robins, with around 8000 calls, followed by Wrens, Blue Tits, Dunnocks and Long-Tailed Tits. The survey also revealed several species that can indicate a healthy and varied ecosystem. **Kingfishers** were recorded regularly, reflecting the importance of the Bourne Rivulet and associated wetland habitats. Other wetland species included **Green Sandpiper**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Water Rail**, **Mallard**, **Moorhen** and **Grey Heron**.

A particularly exciting find was the detection of a **Peregrine Falcon**, one of Britain's most spectacular birds of prey. Residents may also be pleased to know that both **Barn Owl** and **Tawny Owl** were recorded frequently across the site during the winter months.



Our bioacoustics devices in action



*Kestrels were also recorded and successfully bred here last summer*

The results are encouraging given the fact UK bird populations have experienced significant declines, with recent estimates pointing to the **UK having 73 million fewer birds now than in 1970**. This is primarily due to habitat loss and agricultural intensification, but also climate change.

Surveys like this help us understand which species are using the farm and where habitat creation and enhancement can provide the greatest benefit. We are delighted to see such a wide variety of birds making use of our habitats and look forward to discovering what the spring/summer survey reveals later this year.

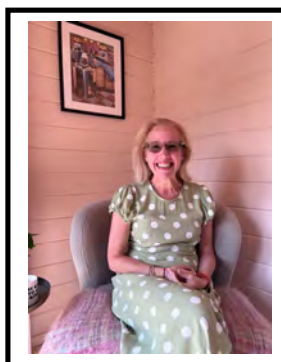
We will continue to share updates on the wildlife and conservation work taking place at Lower Link Farm, as we work with local partners to support the local environment.

## A SPACE TO BE YOURSELF – HELPING PARENTS OF NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN

**M**aureen Grant, of **Wisteria Therapy** is a Hurstbourne Priors resident who specialises in supporting parents of neurodivergent children. For this issue, we spoke to Maureen about her work and the difference therapy can make for families navigating this often challenging journey.

Maureen explained that parenting a neurodivergent child can be incredibly hard and at times, isolating. During pregnancy and early parenthood, many parents naturally imagine a particular path for their child's future. When it becomes clear that life may take a different direction, families can find themselves having to adjust not only their expectations, but also the practical realities of everyday life.

Feelings of isolation and guilt are common, and they can often be exacerbated by the systems parents have to navigate, particularly when seeking support for a child's special educational and health needs. Some neurodivergent children may also experience difficulties later in life, including trauma, shame and low self-worth, which can affect their confidence, opportunities and sense of personal potential.



Maureen believes that parents who are struggling while caring for neurodivergent children are an under-represented group, and this is now an area in which she specialises. Many are juggling family life, careers and schooling while also caring for a child with complex physical and emotional needs. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and every family's experience is different. I asked Maureen about

the therapy she uses, and how it can help and benefit parents....

"Firstly, I offer parents a space where they can be fully themselves," Maureen explains. "Therapy is not something that is simply done to you; clients also need to participate in the process for it to be worthwhile. First and foremost, I engender and promote a trusting relationship to create a space where



parents can express themselves, explore their emotions and feelings, and use Gestalt therapy techniques to support that process”.

Gestalt therapy focuses on increasing immediate awareness of how you are feeling and responding in the present moment, while giving you the flexibility to experiment with different ways of reacting. It is based on the principle that each person is a whole made up of mind, body and soul and draws on the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. To fully understand someone, Gestalt therapy looks at their current situation as they experience it.



*Maureen pictured here with her dog “Flash”  
 (“Flash” is a Black Labrador with a white stripe)*

“Sadly, there is no magic wand,” Maureen added, “but the rewards I see with some clients can be phenomenal.” Parents who arrive feeling overwhelmed by what she describes as “spaghetti thoughts” can leave with those thoughts feeling more untangled. Those experiencing negative thoughts, depression, guilt, or the belief that they cannot cope may leave feeling lighter and less burdened, as well as gaining practical coping skills to help regulate themselves.

This type of therapy can also help people become more aware of their own thought patterns and of how those thoughts affect the body. Maureen uses the example of a mind tuned into “Rubbish FM Radio Station”: therapy can help turn the volume down or even switch it off. In difficult situations, lifting someone’s mood can create fertile ground for change.

From her personal experience, and from the parents she supports, Maureen recognises that many families have embarked on a long and often demoralising journey. The wonderful, celebratory wins can be a long time in the making, but they are deeply meaningful when they come.

Finally, I asked Maureen why she chose the name Wisteria Therapy. “Wisteria has always been one of my favourite flowers and purple is a colour I associate with calm, compassion and hope,” she said. “For me, therapy is about offering people a safe place to pause, feel heard and begin to untangle whatever they are carrying. Although I have a particular passion for supporting parents of neurodivergent children, I also work with

adults experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, grief, eating disorders, family difficulties and life transitions. Whatever has brought someone to therapy, my hope is that they leave feeling lighter, more connected to themselves and better able to move forward.

**Web:** [wisteria-therapy.net](http://wisteria-therapy.net)

**email:** [welcome@wisteria-therapy.net](mailto:welcome@wisteria-therapy.net)

*If you live in the parish of Hurstbourne Priors and have an unusual or interesting hobby or job that could feature here, then please contact me:*  
[philip.luckett12@gmail.com](mailto:philip.luckett12@gmail.com)



## LADIES COFFEE MORNING



**T**he **September Coffee Morning** is being held by Clare Read on **Thursday, 10th September** from 10.15 am to 12 midday at Hurstbourne Priors House. All ages are welcome!



*Please let me know if you would like to host a coffee morning in the future:*  
[sbsorby@hotmail.com](mailto:sbsorby@hotmail.com)

## ST ANDREWS CHURCH – HARVEST FESTIVAL

**T**he **Saint Andrews Harvest Festival** will be held on Sunday 4th 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.



**The Harvest Lunch is 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.

**Animal Service – 6th September** - Our Animal Service is on Sunday 6th September at 10.30am. All are welcome – and especially your furry or feathery friends! Weather permitting, we will gather in front of the church.

## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL – SEPTEMBER NEWS AND EVENTS

**Whitchurch Silk Mill events and activities for September and the Autumn include:**

### Autumn Festival, 23-25 October

Following the success of our Flower Festival this summer, we're excited to be planning an Autumn Festival at the Mill. Over three days, visitors can enjoy seasonal craft displays, workshops and family-friendly activities throughout our historic site. More details will be announced soon on our website and social media channels.

### Crowdfunder Appeal: Keep Britain's Silk Weaving Heritage Alive

In July we launched a crowdfunder appeal to raise funds for the Mill. Donations will help us preserve our historic looms and keep endangered craft skills alive. We aren't a museum of objects behind glass; we're a visitor attraction where history is brought to life through the sights and sounds of the Mill and the skills of our two silk weavers. Our looms, some dating back to the 1890s, allow our weavers to produce beautiful silk fabrics, just as their predecessors did, and they are passing on their knowledge to students on short-term placements who will carry on the tradition here in Whitchurch. But this living heritage is increasingly fragile, and Whitchurch Silk Mill is a beacon of hope in times when heritage craft skills are being forgotten. **Only five silk ribbon weavers remain in this country, and our Mill employs two of them.** That's why it's important we train the next generation, so these rare skills do not disappear forever. The income from visitors, retail sales and events supports our work, but this alone is not enough to secure the future of the Mill and its important heritage. **That's why we're asking for public support via the crowdfunder appeal.**

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/keep-britains-silk-weaving-heritage-alive](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/keep-britains-silk-weaving-heritage-alive).

The appeal ends on 20 September.

### Upcoming Workshops and Experiences

September offers several opportunities to learn new skills and discover more about the Mill.

On 8 September, visitors can join our exclusive Silk Production Tour, a behind-the-scenes experience exploring the weaving process and the stories of those who have worked at the Mill. Booking is essential.



Creative workshops during the month include a Beginner's Crochet Workshop (12 September), a Sea Glass Pendant Workshop (14 September), a two-day Beginner's Weaving Course (24-25 September), and a Corn Dolly Workshop exploring a traditional rural craft (26 September). Full details and booking information are available on our website.

### Could You Help Shape the Future of the Mill?

We are currently seeking a volunteer Trustee with legal knowledge or experience to join our Board. We welcome interest from people with legal expertise in the broadest sense, whether qualified professionals, trainees or those who have worked in legal environments.

Trustees help ensure that the charity remains well governed, sustainable and ambitious in its plans for the future. Previous trustee experience is not required, and we would be delighted to have an informal conversation with anyone interested in learning more.

For information about events, volunteering opportunities and the latest Mill news, visit our website or contact us:

Whitchurch Silk Mill

01256 892065

[info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)

<https://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk>

## and finally...



Please visit our new Bus Shelter Mini Library, created for everyone to enjoy. Feel free to borrow a book, donate one, or do both!

September issue photographs courtesy of Ben and Sarah Scutt, Lower Link Farm, Maureen Grant, Phil Luckett, St Andrews Church, The Whitchurch Silk Mill and Bob Lethaby

I am out and about wandering and will report back on my latest adventures next month...







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

**STOKE Coffee Morning**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**  
**10 to 11.30am**  
**Whitefield Cottage - SP11 0LX**  
*Everyone welcome*



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**

**£3.00** for coffee and biscuits - For more information  
contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

## The Lunch

Our next village lunch will be held on

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September** 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 Smith on ☎ 01264 738110  
by Noon on the Tuesday.



## Beyond the Prescription: Meeting Our Mind Wellbeing Advisor team.

When you think of a visit to the Two Rivers surgery,  
you probably picture stethoscopes, prescriptions, and  
clinical checks. However, staying well involves far more  
than just medical treatments. True health is heavily  
influenced by the wider determinants of our daily lives -  
our mental well-being, our mobility, and how connected  
we feel to our community. Recognising that isolation and  
lifestyle play a massive role in overall health, we have  
fully integrated a specialist Mind Wellbeing Advisor,  
Catrine, directly into our practice team, attempting to  
bridge the gap between medical care and local  
community support.

Working in close partnership with our local Mind  
charity, our advisor provides a dedicated space for  
patients to explore what matters most to them. Whether  
someone is navigating the heavy fog of bereavement,  
facing financial stresses, or feeling increasingly isolated  
at home, medicine alone isn't always the answer. By  
linking patients with local community groups, emotional  
support, and practical advice, our advisor helps people  
rediscover their purpose and rebuild their resilience right  
here at home.

> > > > > >

A great example of this holistic care in action involves  
a lady who recently came to us after a series of  
unsettling stumbles and falls. A fear of falling had  
severely knocked her confidence, causing her to stay  
indoors, which quickly led to loneliness and a loss of  
independence. As well as assessing her clinically, our  
team connected her with tailored local support. We  
signposted her to the community-based '*Steady and  
Strong*' classes, which are specifically designed to  
improve balance, build physical strength, and reduce the  
risk of future falls. The transformation has been  
remarkable. Not only has she regained her physical  
stability and walking confidence, but by getting to the  
classes, she has also found a warm, supportive social  
network.

We are continuing to look beyond the immediate  
symptom to treat the whole person, ensuring no one in  
our community has to walk their road to recovery on  
their own. The current process is for our clinical team to  
actively refer people to see Catrine within the practice. It  
will be great to hear any further feedback.

Dr Dan Lickman, *GP Two Rivers  
Whitchurch Surgery & Derrydown Clinic*



## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Ride and Stride is a country wide event raising money  
for historic churches and chapels of all denominations.  
Why not take part! Make a day of it. Plan a route taking  
in as many churches as possible.

Half the money you raise through **Sponsorship** goes  
to the **Hampshire and The Islands Historic  
Churches Trust** and half to **Your Own Church** funds.

Most churches and chapels in Hampshire are open with  
many of them offering refreshments.

The idea is to be sponsored to visit as many churches  
you can by walking or cycling to them between 10am  
and 6pm.

*Sponsor forms and further information available from  
Eve Lind-Smith ☎ 01264 738681. Good luck. And enjoy!*

### What's in a name?

*Some names of the area*

*Puxey Bottom* sounds a rather playful name for a field  
on the edge of the celebrated Colonel Peter Hawker's  
(1786-1853) Longparish House estate. It's near Budgett  
Farm, south off the B3400 London Road, near the turn to  
Apsley on the other side of the road. In our landscape,  
there are plenty of *bottoms*—'land at a valley bottom': St  
Mary Bourne has at least seven, including 'First',  
'Second', even 'Upper Bottom'.

*Puxey* is a small village near Sturminster Newton,  
Dorset, which might have some local connection—  
perhaps Col. Hawker went shooting there? Or might it  
derive from *Puck*, Old English *pūca*, 'land haunted by a  
goblin'?

*M.C.*



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There has been no Parish Council meeting in August.

Work has continued making plans for the rebuilding of the sports pavilion, and the project team and the Council will hold a Community Consultation to illustrate their proposals to interested parish members in October. The date for this will be advertised in next month's magazine and through the usual channels.

Following a recent meeting with Hampshire Countryside officers, a reminder that problems with footpaths in the parish can be reported to the Rights of Way team:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway> , but in addition, Robbie Henderson is happy to receive WhatsApp messages about blocked footpaths on 07342 637051, or by email

[Cllr.Robbie.Henderson@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Robbie.Henderson@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk) .

#### Planning:

|              |                                 |                               |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26/01491/FUL | Wyke Down Golf Driving Range    | 9 New Dwellings               |
| 26/01474/HSE | 4 Egbury Rd SMB                 | Porch                         |
| 26/01526/FUL | Bourne Farm, Gangbridge Lane    | Replacement Dwelling 26/01443 |
| 26/01443/OUT | Land adjacent to Wyke Down Farm | 68 New Dwellings              |
| 26/01337/RET | Betton Houses SMB               | Gate in wall (Retrospective)  |
| 26/00472/HSE | Bramley Cottage Gangbridge Lane | Amendments                    |

**Date of next meeting**  
**Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

**Andover Astronomical Society**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**, Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre at 7.30pm  
**And Yet It Still Moves – Dr Andy Watson**

Our first talk of the new season will take a historical look at the solar system. Do all the stars and the planets move around the earth or is the sun at the centre of the solar system? The Catholic Church punished Galileo for defending the Copernican system, which placed the Sun - not the Earth - at the centre of our system. The popular story recounts that as Galileo stood up from recanting his scientific truth, he defied them under his breath with "and yet it moves". Andy's talk will cover the false starts and dead ends over 2,000 years that finally led to our modern view of the solar system. There is intrigue and skulduggery along the way as well some real scientific investigations.

*All are welcome and there's no charge for the first meeting.*

We'll be serving tea and coffee and at the meeting and showing off pictures that our members have taken in the last few months, including the eclipse. For more information about Andover Astronomical Society go to:

[www.andoverastronomy.org.uk](http://www.andoverastronomy.org.uk) or e: [andoverastroc@gmail.com](mailto:andoverastroc@gmail.com)



#### Andover Riding for the Disabled

Support a valuable local charity by bringing friends to enjoy **A Bridge Afternoon** including a scrumptious afternoon tea and raffle

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - 2 to 5pm**

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Hall

e: [saraholdham46@gmail.com](mailto:saraholdham46@gmail.com) or ☎ 07876 468790 to book

**£80 per team of 4 players**



**Community Evenings at**  
**St Mary Bourne Village Centre**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 7.30pm**

#### Parish History Evening

As our previous parish history session was so well received, we are having another and looking to repeat these sessions at regular intervals in the future. Do come and join us to learn something about local history with Julie Muirhead, who hosts our history page on Facebook. The scrapbooks recording notable and interesting events in the day-to-day life of the parish will be available to look at. They include photographs, editorial and copy from newspapers and magazines and memorabilia such as programmes, tickets and orders of service. Please bring any photos or other memorabilia you would like to share.

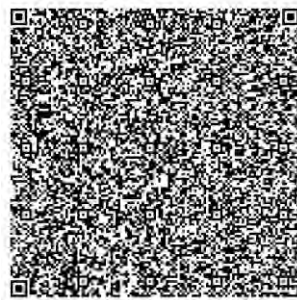
There will be a licensed bar for refreshments. This event is free to the local community, and everyone is welcome.

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](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

#### Marvellous Mates take on a Mighty Hike



On September 5<sup>th</sup> we will be hoping to complete a Mighty Hike (26 miles) for Macmillan Cancer Support. We will be walking part of the Northumbrian coast in memory of friends and family we have all lost to cancer including our great mates



**Mike Crofts and Oli Madge** who many of you will know - pictured in one of Dodie's legendary outdoor nativity plays!

If you're able to donate, we'd be incredibly grateful. Even a small contribution can make a real difference. You can support us by scanning the QR below or using this link

[www.justgiving.com/team/mikesmarvelousmates](http://www.justgiving.com/team/mikesmarvelousmates)

Thank you so much for your support.

*Jo, Neil, Karen, Milla, Andrew and Lara*

#### St Mary Bourne

As I sit on my patio with my glass of red  
The air is cooling, it will soon be time for bed.

St Peter's bell ringers are ringing their peals  
Happy families are in the pub gardens  
enjoying their meals.

When suddenly I hear a crack,  
as willow hits the leather  
Then cricket supporters on the Rec,  
are cheering altogether.

My village, so busy, so friendly.  
I feel so blessed  
As I sit, with my glass of red  
in the place I love best.

*Win Coventry*



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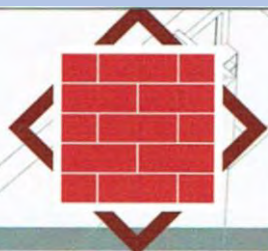
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Well, what a lovely Summer it has been, and the Shop and Café have been buzzing with activity! One of the biggest things has been the installation of the new fridges - they are lovely and Vic is one happy girlie! They will be more economic

which will be better for our carbon footprint, and you can see better all the lovely stock we have.

You will also have noticed our new Deli Counter. This is work in progress, but we know you will be impressed with the finished result; more of that next month. All we will say now, don't get too used to the layout as yet.

We also have a new Urn in the Cafe - a backup for the coffee machine (should it ever break down!) and will ease the pressure on the existing machine as we will use it for making Tea and Americano.

We would also like to thank our amazing team who have helped and endured throughout the recent upheaval and our lovely Customers too for their patience with all the changes, and the lovely workmen who have helped us too.

*Vic and Sandra*

### The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

#### July 2026 draw:

£50 - John Horsham £20 - Joy Habgood  
£20 - Serena Coulton £10 - Mandy Briant-Evans

#### August 2026 draw:

£50 - Sam Millar £20 - Magdalena Opala  
£20 - Paul Gaffney £10 - Kate Vernon

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September



### Save the Date – Sustainable Day 2026

This year we are bringing Sustainable Day to Hurstbourne Tarrant. It will be taking place on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 1.30pm at Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Hall.**

Our annual event brings together local organisations, community groups and residents to share ideas, practical tips and inspiration for living more sustainably while protecting the wonderful environment we all enjoy.

We're still putting the finishing touches to this year's programme, but you can expect a welcoming afternoon with activities, displays, hands-on ideas and plenty of opportunities to find out more about the projects making a difference across the Bourne Valley.

Whether you're interested in wildlife, reducing waste, saving energy, repairing instead of replacing, or simply meeting like-minded people, there will be something for everyone.

Please save the date and look out for more information in the October edition of Hill & Valley, on the Sustainable Bourne Valley Facebook page and on posters around the villages.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



### St Mary Bourne Primary School

We are looking for dedicated people to join our school board of governors. The school governing board ensures that:

- the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- headteacher effectively drives the educational performance of the school
- school's financial resources are used efficiently

Full Governing Board meetings are held at the school once a month on a Monday evening (18.00 to 20.00). In addition, governors make periodic monitoring visits to the school during school hours.

To be a school governor you do not need a background in education, we value a diverse range of skills and interests.

The role of school governor is subject to a DBS check.

If you are interested in this role, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school admin office for further information - ☎ **01264 738 336**

e: [adminoffice@st-marybourne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-marybourne.hants.sch.uk)



**Lydia (10) and Annabelle (8) Choules** came out to St Mary Bourne with their grandparents, David and Christine to see the names of some of their family and visit places where some of these people lived.

Their great, great grandfather, William Choules, who played cricket for St. Mary Bourne and his three brothers all fought in the Great War and the miracle was that they all came back. George, William's younger brother was the village cobbler and lived for a while at No. 1 York Cottages.

Their grandmother Christine was the daughter of Eileen Hooks (nee Pond). Strong ties with St Mary Bourne and a wonderful morning tea at the Boundary for Lydia and Annabelle.



The **Ice-cream Sundae** service in St Peter's took place on 9<sup>th</sup> August and craft activities involved boats, water and a lot of colouring, glue sticks and a sea of jelly (difficult as the UK has no blue jelly) with waves of sprinkles. George and Margo Makgill loved it. The morning finished with Magnums, fruit icy lollies and coffee. Roll on next year!

*Dodie*





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## Postcard from Binley

"Phew, what a scorcher!" is how our red top tabloids would traditionally have covered this summer. Probably with a picture of a scantily clad, toothsome lovely frolicking in a fountain. I think Hill & Valley have missed a trick here as I have spent the last three months scantily clad and frolicking around in my dog's paddling pool, surrounded by empty beer bottles and with a very cheesed off Newfoundland squeezed in beside me. *Surely that should have graced this month's front cover don't you think? Ah well...*

But Binley is tinderbox dry and one carelessly discarded Lambert and Butler dog end lobbed out of a Transit window could see the end of all of us. My nerves are shredded. But I have been reflecting on the summer's winners and losers. We all know who the losers are but what about the winners? For a start *Hummingbird hawk moths*. I have never seen so many in the garden. I used to get terribly excited when one popped by but we are inundated with them. The "hot" plants are rampant but more rampant are the b\*\*\*\*y flies! And you get this new breed, a little smaller than bluebottles and brown in colour. As quick as lightening I have been forced into purchasing a high end electrified fly swat. Now I can swat and fry, and let me tell you the levels of satisfaction with every kill are stratospheric. No matter he has already cr\*\*\*\*\*ed on my Salad Nicoise six times, I am finding it enormously satisfying.

I have to be honest, the eclipse here in Binley left most of us Binlanders a little nonplussed. I'm not sure if it is the northerly latitude up here but while I was sat watching several TV reporters having emotional breakdowns over the thing, here it just got a bit overcast before lightening up and the day carried on. The threat of birds dropping out of trees, bats rampaging and Peter Corbett howling at the moon were all complete nonsense. At one point my old dog got up, broke wind and staggered off to his bed three hours early but that was the only real sign that something momentous had happened? Most strange.

Lastly, I was most saddened to hear Colin Henderson had passed. A real village lad, a man you could never approach without receiving the biggest of smiles, a stalwart of the notorious St Mary Bourne Tug of War team, someone who never had a bad word to say about anybody. One of the goodu'ns! God bless him and his family.

NA

## Paella Party

St Peter's Church is organising a Paella Lunch in the Church Yard on **6th September** from 12.30pm. If wet at Down Farm (Harroway). There are two options: Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian. It's £10 a ticket which includes a dessert, and there will be a donations bar. Please book [dodie.marsden@gmail.com](mailto:dodie.marsden@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be a **Family Service** in St Peter's with special activities and gift making, coffee and cakes, *to celebrate grandparents* on Sunday **20th September** at 10.30am.

Dodie



## THE ARTFUL DUCK

### PAINTING EVENING

Thursday 3rd September | 7pm - 9pm

Village Centre | adults only

Cost of canvas £15 | paints supplied

Limited spaces | Booking essential

Call / WhatsApp 07738 470555



### ARTFUL DUCK competition is open to all ages!

Each participant gets a canvas with the outline of a duck and your mission is to make it brilliant! Paint it, collage it, sculpt it, glitter it, mould it, photograph it or *completely reinvent it* — if it says "duck" by any dictionary definition it counts!

Enter your artwork into the Artful Duck competition to win a coveted place on the walls of the new Community Sports Pavilion.

### Still time to get your canvas and enter...

Closing date 15th September

Purchase your canvas whatsapp/call 07738 470555



Watch this space and/or follow us on instagram to see submitted entries as they come in, updates on the Artful Duck Exhibition and how to vote for your favourite Artful Duck in the People's Choice Award

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## Remembering...

### Gordon Alfred Pearce

28<sup>th</sup> September 1921 - 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, Charlton Park Crematorium was filled with family members, friends, neighbours and former colleagues of Gordon/Ned Pearce. They came there to honour him as a peaceful gentle man and a good friend and neighbour. The Thanksgiving was followed by a Gathering at the British Oak, Smannell, where Gordon had previously celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2021.

Gordon Alfred Pearce (also known as Ned) lived in Hampshire all his life (apart from his army service abroad in wartime 1939-45). He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1921 in Linkenholt where his father Alfred was a shepherd. His mother Elisabeth was a housewife. As his father's employment was primarily concerned with grazing and sheep fairs, the family moved regularly to different locations in North Hampshire.

Gordon started school at Appleshaw, then Kimpton, then Whitchurch (where his father was employed at Cole Henley), and finally at Andover Boy's School. He worked in Knights Enham on a poultry farm for two years after he left school. But when war with Germany was declared on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 he signed up on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to join the 74<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment, later transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps.

Gordon saw active service from the beginning. Fighting the Desert War in North Africa in 1941 and then, at the end of the war, taking part in the Normandy landings (Gold Beach 9<sup>th</sup> June 1944). In 2004 he returned there with his niece Linda and her husband Graham for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Landings, which he found very poignant. But he was glad that he went back. For Gordon's war service he was awarded the Africa 1939/45 Star and France Germany Star and War medal 1939-45. He served for another 7 years after the war and then a further 7 years in the Reserve. He always took part in the Remembrance Day services and parades in St Mary Bourne and wore his medals with pride. He was dined as an Honoured Guest of the Royal British Legion in the George Inn, St Mary Bourne in his 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2021.



Gordon met his future wife Dorothy White when he was home on leave during the war. One day he visited his cousin Ted Pearce at Marshalls Farm in Charlton and spotted Dorothy working there, milking cows as she was in the Land Army. The couple married in 1945 and first lived with Dorothy's parents in Southampton. He then got a job in Southampton Post Office, but after two years he transferred to Andover and worked as a postman for the next 34 years. He really enjoyed his picturesque rural delivery routes around Vernham Dean, Facombe, Clanville etc, where he made lifelong friends.

Dorothy & Gordon were then living in a thatched cottage in Appleshaw. But on Gordon's retirement, they thought the thatch was too expensive to maintain. So, in

1982 they found the ideal bungalow to move to – Meadow Set in St Mary Bourne – where Gordon created a beautiful garden and continued to live there independently after the sad loss of Dorothy in 2010 after 65 years of marriage.

In 2021 for Gordon's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, his niece arranged a special celebration lunch at the British Oak, Smannell where speeches were made in his honour by Simon Prior-Palmer, son of his former Commanding Officer, and by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson. In pride of place was a signed card of congratulations from HM Queen Elizabeth II. As the oldest man in the village in 2022, Gordon lit the St Mary Bourne Beacon to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II; and in 2023 he officially opened the new Boundary Café & St Mary Bourne Village Shop. Unfortunately, after a fall at his home in 2025, Gordon needed to go into residential care where he died peacefully on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Gordon loved nature in all its forms. He was a quiet friendly man who enjoyed the occasional tot of whisky with his friends, visits from his niece, nephews & family, and the chance to spend peaceful time in his garden, listening to the birds and enjoying the sound of the church bells. He was loved and will be missed and cherished in many memories.*

*A service of Evensong in his memory was held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August in St Peter's where he and Dorothy used to worship together.*

### Colin Henderson

11<sup>th</sup> September 1950 - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Colin was born on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1950 in Whitefloods Cottage (now White Farm), St Mary Bourne. He was the third child of Victor & Phyllis (nee Sandal-Ball) Henderson. Colin had an older brother Alan and sister Pat and he was followed by a younger brother Ian. The family then moved to a bigger home in Steven's Green.

Colin enjoyed a carefree happy childhood in the village. He attended St Mary Bourne School and Whitchurch Secondary School. Although he wasn't particularly keen on the academic side, he loved sport and was always selected to take part in school teams and village activities. He joined the Cubs at a young age, took part in Priors Players productions, notably as Puck in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in 1964, and formed a teenage band – the 'Bourne Beats' - with some local mates.

After school, Colin started work aged 15 on a 5-year carpentry apprenticeship with Andover Carpentry and Joinery. After his apprenticeship, he joined Portals where he stayed for 26 years before taking early retirement at the age of 51.

It was then that he became a well-respected and hard-working Parish Councillor, looking after footpaths, chopping back vegetation, digging culverts, mending broken stiles and distributing sandbags whenever there was danger of flooding. He also took on gardening and maintenance jobs for local people. If anyone ever needed help, Colin would always lend a hand.

> > > > >





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Colin became a family man at the age of 19 when he married Marilyn in 1969 and became a dad to Clare in 1970 and Lee in 1972. In 1997 when Chrissie came into his life, Colin embraced his new family including Nicola, Austin and Robbie without hesitation and loved them as his own. His love for Chrissie was radiant. They shared a complete and endless love together for nearly 30 years.

Family, friendship and festivities were very important in Colin's life. For years he would stand thigh-high in cold water at Easter to steer 100s of plastic ducks down the Bourne in aid of the Village Shop. At Halloween he'd wear the scariest possible costumes to frighten children who called at the door. But Christmas was his favourite time when



he would dress up as Father Xmas as part of the wonderful Christmas illuminations displayed around his house and garden which raised £100s over the years for the Village School and the Salvation Army.

Before he met Chrissie, Colin had been an integral part of The George Tug-of-War team which competed at local fêtes and further afield. They were quite successful in the Tug of War circle, but the most important part of any "pull" was to be back in The George to celebrate, win or lose. Those were memorable days of mates bonding over a rope and having a laugh. Colin & Chrissie maintained those close friendships over the years, getting together for many trips and parties.

But family always came first for Colin. He treasured all his grandchildren Amie-Jayne, Darcie, Libby, Brooke, Kai, Liam, Rose, Daisy and Hugo and his great grandson Teddy. How proud he was of Clare, Lee, Nicola, Austin and Robbie for all their achievements, for becoming wonderful parents, and for passing on the family values that he cherished so much.

Sadly, in 2020 Colin was diagnosed with CANVAS syndrome, a degenerative non-curable neurological disorder. He experienced significant health changes early in 2026 which then suddenly escalated. With 24/7 loving care from Chrissie and help from the Countess of Brecknock Hospice and all his supportive family, Colin was able to die peacefully at home in Egbury Road on 13<sup>th</sup> July surrounded by love.

Colin Henderson – a true man of the village: son, brother, husband, father & father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. One of the really good guys. Much respected, very much loved and missed. RIP.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Our sympathies go to Chrissie and to everyone who is grieving the loss of Colin.*



## Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

Amid the summer's heatwaves we were lucky to have some respite for the 2026 Flower Show. The tent was full of produce and craftworks, with more entries in almost all classes

than 2025. The judges were most impressed with the high standards of the vegetables, fruit and produce and the children's classes were very popular with lots of interest in drawing, miniature gardens and craft.

Outside there were more than 25 stalls. Bouncy castles and the Classic Car show were popular attractions, along with plate smashing, the coconut shy and rat splatting, as well as the raffle and tombola, which hit a record for takings. Bric-a-brac continues to generate interest and income, vintage clothes finds an increasing number of customers, books saw record sales. The dog show was limited due to heat but still had a good turnout.



Our great BBQ Amigos flipped hundreds of burgers and sausages and we would like to thank Jon and his team for over 12 years of serving up a storm, as they hang up their aprons. The bar and the Pimm's tent poured hundreds of pints and the tea brigade from Friends of SMB School did a roaring trade in the Village Centre. Kids were entertained with face painting and the animal treasure hunt.

Final figures will be published at the distributions meeting, but we will be very close to past records. We would welcome anyone who helped at this year's Flower Show, or who would like to support us in 2027, to **drinks at 7pm on 16<sup>th</sup> October** in the Village Centre.

As we bought the big marquee earlier this year, our costs relating to it are covered by generous sponsorship from Vitacress, for which we are hugely grateful. Our other stalwart sponsors contributed generously to our other costs, such as renting the bouncy castles. And the raffle, which turned in a huge result, reflects the generosity of those who donated prizes. For which, to both, many thanks.

*The committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered, before the day and on it, whether running a stall, the raffle, working in the marquee, judging or stepping in with other support. We could not do it without this small army of dedicated, energetic and kind people. Thanks also to everyone who came and made it a day to remember. The atmosphere was wonderful and made all the hard work that goes into it worthwhile.*



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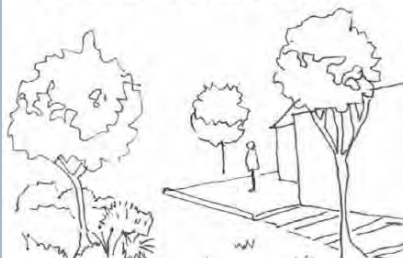
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**LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**[www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council](http://www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council)

Council Chair: Peter Hull

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas ([clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk) or 01256 396868)**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Village Hall.**NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 26/01400/DDCA The Cricketer's Inn.

Removal of dead willow tree.

Approved by Test Valley Borough Council. No Parish Council comment required.

- 26/01395/FULLN and 26/01396/LBWN Meadow Farm Cottage, Mill House Lane, Longparish

Demolition of shed and garage, erection of rear extension, front porch canopy and ancillary building, addition of gate, chimney stack extension, installation of sewage treatment plant and internal alterations including kitchen to utility and insertion of first floor bathroom

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/](http://view-applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/)**SCORE!**

Longparish Parish Council are happy to announce that new adult-size football goals are now in place on the playing field, ready for the start of the training season. The previous goals had sadly rusted through and thanks to generous donations from the Football Foundation, the Village Fete and Cllr David Drew at Test Valley Borough Council, as well as some Parish Council funds we have been able to secure their replacement. The Parish Council are delighted to be able to continue to support local football and provide residents with a much-needed space for a kick about.

**FIRE RISK**

With the recent heatwave and prolonged dry weather, the current risk of fire is very high. Rural areas such as ours are particularly vulnerable. We ask all residents and visitors to Longparish to be especially mindful of anything that may lead to an accidental fire. Please dispose of cigarettes and litter safely, avoid using barbecues or anything that could create sparks near dry vegetation, and report any signs of fire promptly. A little extra care from everyone can help keep our village and surrounding countryside safe.

**Silver coloured bangle**

Found on the verge of Southside Road near the Mill Lane junction - a silver-coloured bangle marked Radley London. If you know who

lost it, please contact me, Jeremy Barber, [mrjeremybarber@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeremybarber@gmail.com) Tel 01264 720459

**LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish 2nd Sunday of the Month handicap race**

We welcomed new runners, Billy Priestley and Nicci Skerritt to the August run. By a happy coincidence Billy who at the age of six represents the new generation, is runner number 500. It is going to be a fast generation. Billy was first home in under 30 minutes. In theory you can't win a trophy at your first event but that performance merited an exception.

Conditions were good, if a little warm, and our first 10 finishers all broke their handicaps. Most Improved Man was James Hillier who broke his handicap by an amazing 9 minutes and 24 seconds. James has been on a get fit campaign and it is certainly working. Whatever he is on, we all need some. It was a family success for Jo and Alfie Brunwin, our Most Improved Woman and Junior who kindly shared a cup so Billy could have a trophy. It is a strange quirk of handicap racing that a runner can break the course record without being most improved. When we compiled the results, we discovered that Ben Evans had done just that. Well done! Ben is following in his father's footsteps as Jonathan was course record holder back in 2014.

**L-R: Ben, Jo, Alfie, James, Billy**

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Ailsa Wiggins, 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 13 September**, starting at **9am at The Plough**. 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>

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## Congratulations to Dr Matthew Dryden



Matthew Dryden, long term Forton resident and Consultant in Infection for the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) programme, has been awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to global health.

This honour reflects a remarkable career spanning over 40 years, during which Matt has made a genuine difference to patients and services worldwide. He has been at the forefront of tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for decades, helping shape how we approach antibiotic use across the UK, and he remains just as committed and passionate about this work today in the overseas territories.

Within the UKOTs programme, his impact has been substantial. He has transformed diagnostics in some of the most challenging and isolated settings in the world, bringing practical, workable solutions that have improved both patient care and public health decision-making – most recently demonstrated during the hantavirus incident, where strengthened diagnostic capability made a real difference.

Matt's team describe him as "a generous and grounded colleague, someone who shares his expertise freely, supports teams without fuss, and brings a thoughtful, decisive approach when it matters most."

Christian Dryden, his wife, did an onerous stint as Chair of the Parish Council during Covid and is a constant contributor to our Longparish community. Matthew is a brilliant bird and nature photographer.



## Remembrance Evening

**Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>, at Longparish Village Hall**  
Please save the date for an evening of remembrance and celebration with the wonderful Longparish Village Choir. More information will be available soon.

**Laura Harding**

## LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

**Tuesday, 22nd September 7 pm**

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Any queries please to **Rosie Lowry 01264720325** or  
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## A Goodbye from The Palmers



We have said goodbye to Jonathan and Emma Palmer of Longparish House. They have been good neighbours to the village and played a big part in the campaign against the incinerator. They supported many local actives and Emma was a very effective chair of the parish council.

Jonathan says:



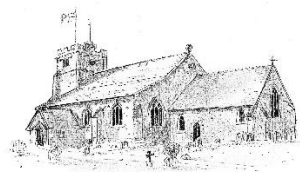
"We have had a wonderful seven years at Longparish House and I must say I always thought we'd be in Longparish for a very long time. It is Emma's love of horse racing and desire to have a breeding stud that has led to us to move.



We will always cherish our memories of the historic home of the Hawker, and later, Dawnay family - and have enjoyed making our own, small contribution to the history of Longparish House. We have also enjoyed and appreciated the friendliness of the village, with many great suppers - and not too far to drive home!

Something I will always miss is the magical experience of enjoying a glass of rosé, sitting by the crystal-clear river Test, marvelling at the trout jumping, and so high! Even if, maddeningly, I could never get a photo!"





## St Nicholas Church 100 Club Heritage Fund

### Results of the June and July 2026 Draws

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%.

#### June Results

|               |        |        |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| First prize:  | No. 41 | £85.00 |
| Second prize: | No. 50 | £51.00 |
| Third Prize:  | No. 57 | £17.00 |

#### July Results

|               |        |        |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| First prize:  | No. 39 | £85.00 |
| Second prize: | No. 43 | £51.00 |
| Third Prize:  | No. 26 | £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](mailto: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!

Come and see the new plaque and the superb window dedicated to John Woodcock, The Times Cricket Correspondent. Also, the newly-cleaned Hawker window!

### Longparish Church and Village Fete 2026

The church is having a stall at this year's fete. Please visit us, and you can learn about the church and how it is financed. There will be an opportunity to sign up to either, or both, the St Nicholas 100 Club/Heritage Fund and the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), introduced in April of this year.

Thank you for your support for St Nicholas Parish Church, Longparish.



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- ✓ Membership Renewal

**7.30PM  
VILLAGE HALL  
TUES 6TH  
OCTOBER**



Email us:  
[lca@longparish.org.uk](mailto:lca@longparish.org.uk)

**RSVP so we  
know to  
expect you**

### Recent Power Cuts

The strange partial power cut which recently affected Longparish has been explained by local electrician Martin Hanchant.



It caused some electrical units, such as fridges to shut down while others continued working. Even lighting on the same circuit was affected. Some bulbs shone while others didn't.

Martin explained that the problem stemmed from the fact that for a time only 80 volts was being fed through the system instead of the usual 240 volts, insufficient to power a whole house.

**Henry Yelf**





### Fancy getting involved with The Plough?

Three places are up for election on the Management Committee

### Applications will open on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Whatever your background, (retired professional, busy parent, local business owner, or someone who simply loves this pub,) please share a little of your skills and time.

To stand for election you will need to be a shareholder. The minimum shareholding is just 5 shares at £10 each, a total of £50. If you're not yet a shareholder and would like to find out more about joining, we'd be delighted to tell you how.

### Enjoy great benefits. It takes a team to build a flourishing pub, please join us!

We'd love you to come and find out more, no commitment required, just an open mind and a little of your time.

**At The Plough, River Room**  
**On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30–7pm**

Free drink & nibbles!

Meet the team, find out more

Email us at [volunteer@lcpl.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lcpl.org.uk) or chat to anyone you know who is involved in The Plough.

### Plough Quiz Night – always great fun! Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

We'd love to hear from you, call us on 01264 720069

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**MONDAY**



To host Longparish's

### Baby & Toddler Group

Monday's 9-11am, during term time

Due to a change in circumstances our current volunteer team are unable to continue running the group from September.

If you are interested in coordinating our Toddler Group, please email Matt for more information



Contact Matt

[lca@longparish.org.uk](mailto:lca@longparish.org.uk)

### Mid-Summer Walk and Breakfast

In the early hours of a Saturday morning in June, about 30 Longparishoners gathered at the bottom of Woodwalk Lane for the LCA Mid-Summer Walk and Breakfast.

Guided by Paul Knipe, the early risers were treated to a fascinating tour and talk about the flora and fauna of Longparish. The tour covered different parts of the river, the common and, by kind permission, Lower Mill. The intrepid villagers finished at The Cricketers Inn for a well-earned breakfast.

Thanks to Joanna Roebuck for organising the walk, Paul Knipe and Mick Blocksidge for guiding everyone, Karen-Marie Dinesen for permission to tour Lower Mill and The Cricketers Inn for hosting breakfast.

**Jo Clare**

### ...BUT WHERE ARE THE BUSSES?

Longparish Parish Council has commissioned local handyman Rob Allnut, paid for by a grant from Hampshire County Council, to refurbish the dilapidated bus shelters in the village. This one, opposite the Plough, is the first to be completed. It was built 73 years ago to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11, but there's no evidence that she ever alighted there.



**Henry Yelf**



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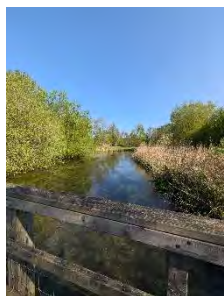
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**The Grindstone**

The grindstone has emerged from its bank of wild flowers... The stream bank is managed as a conservation area and is due to be trimmed in the autumn after the wildflowers, including Angelica, Meadowsweet and Marsh Thistle have seeded. Paul Knipe who looks after the site says it's been a bumper year. Other wildflowers to be found by the stream included are Marsh Bird's Foot Trefoil and Fleabane, white Sneezewort, Water Figwort, Purple Loosestrife, the pink flowered Marsh Woundwort and Hemp Agrimony.

**Henry Yelf****Summer Drought**

"Droughts are becoming longer and more common due to climate change, exacerbating water shortages that can have a devastating impact on our environment." – **Emma Hardy, Water Minister**

We should hold our water departments and authorities responsible for their inadequacies, especially when it comes to planning for drought and managing our water resources. However, responsibility cannot stop there. We are all individually responsible for becoming more thoughtful about how we use and conserve water, particularly after this historically hot and dry summer.

There are many simple changes we can make in our everyday lives. Where possible, consider reusing wastewater from showers and sinks for watering plants or gardens. We can also avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily, turn off the tap while brushing our teeth, and never leave water running when it is not needed. These may seem like small actions, but collectively they can make a meaningful difference.

It is also worth thinking beyond our daily habits. Water storage systems, rain barrels, and drought-tolerant gardens can help us make better use of the water we already have. If you do not have the space or resources to install a water-capture system, there are still simple alternatives. For example, consider digging a small channel beneath a downspout to direct rainwater further into your garden rather than allowing it to run straight into a drain. This can help distribute water naturally, reduce runoff, and create a healthier garden ecosystem.

Saving water is not simply the responsibility of governments or water authorities. It is something we can all contribute to. By making small changes and thinking creatively about how we use water, we can help protect this essential resource for the future.

For more information on please visit: [letssavewater.com](http://letssavewater.com)

**Meet at The Plough**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**  
 from 10am - 11:45am  
 Drop in for a chat, everyone welcome.  
 Coffee or Tea and biscuits, all for £1.00

*coffee morning...*

**LONGPARISH**  
 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION





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## John “Wooders” Woodcock remembered

Mike Atherton, The Times’ chief cricket correspondent and former England Captain, has unveiled a memorial plaque to John Woodcock, his friend and predecessor at “The Thunderer”.

About 100 people of those who helped raise more than £9,000 gathered in St Nicholas’ Church on August 8, which would have been John’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Atherton unveiled the plaque with John’s nephew Christopher. Both spoke of John’s love of cricket, the village and its people as “the Sage of Longparish”.

The cricket club’s youth section also benefitted. Atherton presented a cheque for the surplus £1,050 to young cricketers, Humphrey Roebuck, Elizabeth Revell and Annabel Broad.

The Revd Terry Hemming blessed the plaque. He recalled how John knew everyone: “Who was who, who had been who, and who was who before that.” John’s trust in humanity was such that he never locked his car. As he explained to Terry: “I feel it would be impolite to the village.”

The fund financed a blue plaque on The Old Curacy where John was born and lived for more than 70 years. You will also find a permanent Woodcock display in his favourite pub, The Plough.

John died in 2021.

The project group: Brian Saunders, Alix Bremridge and Henry Yelf, thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this enterprise in any way, financial, material or their enthusiasm.



John at his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party



The finished memorial plaque



Mike Atherton, Rev Terry Hemming, Chris Woodcock (John’s nephew) and Humphrey Roebuck, Youth Cricketers of Longparish Cricket Club



Cheque for £1,050 from surplus fundraising donated to Longparish Youth Cricketers represented by Humphrey Roebuck, Elizabeth Revell and Annabel Broad



The Woodcock Wall at The Plough



**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS**

- 6 10.30am - Animal Service - St Andrew's Church   
 10 from 10.15am - Ladies' Coffee Morning hosted by Clare Read - Hurstbourne Priors House  
 23 *Autumn Equinox* (first official day of Autumn)  
 24 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall

- 4 Oct 11am - **Harvest Festival** - St Andrew's Church  
 12.15pm - Harvest Lunch - Village Hall

**ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT**

- 2 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Whitefield Cottage  
 5 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn  
 6 12.30pm - Paella Party - St Peter's Church  
 8 10.30am - Coffee at *The George Inn*  
 8 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre  
 12 10am to 6pm - **Ride + Stride for Churches**  
 15 7.30pm - Parish History Evening - Village Centre  
 15 *THE ARTFUL DUCK* - Closing date  
 16 12.30pm - **'The Lunch'** - Village Centre  
 17 7.30 - Andover Astronomical Society talk  
 Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -  
*The Community Library* - Village Centre Club Room

**LONGPARISH**

- 5 12 noon to 4pm - **Longparish Village Fête** - The Cricket Field  
 11 10 to 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Plough  
 13 9am - L2SOTM Handicap Race - The Plough  
 14 7pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
 22 7pm - Gardening Club - *"Stars of Autumn"* - Village Hall

**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](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com).

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.

Front cover photograph: Neil Pyle, Longparish

Hurstbourne Priors **Village Hall**: Mrs Helen Ford,  07789 691018, e: [hbpvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hbpvhbookings@gmail.com)  
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 St Mary Bourne **Village Centre**: Miss Angela Cook,  01264 738158, e: [villagecentre@stmarybourne.org](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

Copy date for the **October 2026 edition** of Hill & Valley is **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September**.

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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**Longparish:**

Parish Council: [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk) \*

**St Mary Bourne:**

Parish Council: [www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk) \*

Community Hub: [www.stmarybourne.org](http://www.stmarybourne.org) \*

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