

Issue No. 303

Hill & Valley

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

£1

November 2026

Remembrance Day - 8th November

Poems for Remembrance

by Graham Mottley, Longparish,
former soldier Royal Army Medical Corps

Aden 1966 - 1967

Never again will I tread these lands,
Of people dying and desert sands
Fighting someone he's unknown.
He comes at night and not alone.

You miss your country so green and great.
You miss these things, as you learn to hate.
You wish your life to go past fast;
You wish that you were home at last.

You see the bomb you stop and stare,
Don't give a damn, don't give a care.
Get down fast you silly man,
He stared so long he felt the bang.

It's then I wonder will I see
England and Pat my bride to be
Or will I die and go to Satan;
For the things I did and saw in Aden.

Written by Graham at age of 18

For those who died so young

How much of life have my friends missed out, serving
and dying so young?

No kiss from a wife, no hug from the kids. Them killed by
a bullet or bomb.

No hurt, as your parents, pass away with the years.
My mates protected by death, so no tears.

Your son picks a wife, is she really the one.
Walking your daughter down the aisle, gaining a son.
Worry about money worry about life.
My mates have no worries, no kids or a wife.

As your children grow up and their children gain age
They're part of your life, a book's new page
As you watch them grow they can make you so sad
My mates had no chance, to be a Granddad.

As the bullet hit the sand bag, got dust in my eyes
They couldn't hit a barn door I said in surprise.
As the years pass by dust still fills my eyes.
I think of my friends that have had no lives.

As I grow old with the pain felt in my body,
Looking so fat with a movement so soggy
With hair so gray from head to my toe.
Young mates in their grave with nowhere to go.

In a few years time we shall be back with our mates
Taking the piss as we go through the gates
I know even then I shall be so sad.
Knowing what it's like, to be a Granddad.

They did their duty, now go rest in peace,
Your memories have stayed with our years.
We talk of your times, we laugh and we cry.
Not forgetting you still owe for beers.

Love for God

Are you looking forward to Christmas?

Are you looking forward to Christmas? Does your heart
soar at the thought, or does it sink, or are you somewhere
in between, looking forward to the festivities but unsure
what it all means? It may be a little early to talk about
Christmas (though retailers will surely disagree!), but it is
never too early to ask what God is saying to us. He is
saying that he loves us and he longs for us to love him
back. Yet much of the time we seem to have a hard time
showing love to our Creator - the source of all we have,
the giver of everything we love.

How can we love him back? Can we love him back? Yes,
we can. Perhaps the place to start is with living things,
especially the people we love or are drawn to. There are
people whose kindness surprises us and whose generosity
touches us; people who, despite the challenges they face,
seem able to live beyond themselves. What is it about
such people that draws us towards them?

In a sermon entitled 'Loving God', Rowan Williams
suggests that we are drawn to them because we see in
their lives something we should be seeking. Something
that makes us hope that some of their goodness and
beauty will rub off on us. And sometimes, whether we
realise it or not, what we glimpse is a reflection of
God. We may not recognise it as holiness. We might
simply say, 'What a lovely person!' Yet in that person we
have caught a glimpse of God's love.

And this brings us back to Christmas. In Jesus we see
what God's love looks like in a human life: compassion,
forgiveness, generosity, and a love that knows no bounds.

Perhaps loving God isn't as difficult as it sometimes
seems. We begin by noticing love and goodness wherever
we find them, and by asking whether God might be
reaching out to us, whether the God who became visible in
the face of Jesus may be glimpsed in the faces of those we
meet.

Christmas is a wonderful time to look for God and see
the love of God in those around us, for it is in looking for
him that we will recognize his love; and when we share
that love, we love him back.

God bless you!

Revd Georgi

Services in the Parish Churches

November 2026

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

Sunday 1st November - All Saints Day

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 Prayer
	6.00pm	All Souls' Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 4th November

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.50am	Remembrance
St Mary's, Tufton		Joint Service with All Hallows
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.50am	Remembrance
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.50am	Remembrance
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Remembrance

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 15th November - 2nd before Advent

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	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott		No service

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 18th November

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 22nd November - Christ the King

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	Family Service
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott		No service

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 29th November - Advent 1

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

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 Nicky Smallwood ☎ 07775 903321

vicar@brightwatersbenefice.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."

Clara Catherine Collier

St Mary Bourne - 25/10/2026

• Funerals

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

John Edward Jeremy Goad

Charlton Park Crematorium - 05/10/2026

Mavis Marlene Wells

Charlton Park Crematorium - 23/10/2026

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for

You or someone else, please email

stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.





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Tuesday 10th November at 10.30am

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

The Lunch

Our next Village Lunch is on **Wednesday 11th November** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, starting to serve as usual at 12.30pm. Don't forget that for November and December our lunches are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month, rather than the 3rd. As usual there will be a raffle at our Christmas lunch on **9th December** and we would be very grateful for any prize donations being brought along to the November lunch. If you need a lift, phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



On Saturday 18th October **Ray Randall** invited family and many friends from the village and elsewhere to the Village Centre to celebrate his **90th birthday**.

Ray has lived in St Mary Bourne all his life and served as parish councillor for many years. He was also responsible for the maintenance of the Village Centre for a long time and

was instrumental when the new Village Centre was developed and opened in 1992. He has always enthusiastically spearheaded many of the village celebrations, in particular the royal events. Ray now enjoys the company of four grandchildren and one great grandchild who also attended the party.

Ray and Gwen would like to thank everybody for coming and making it such a great day.



Pop Rock by Candlelight

A spectacular **candlelight concert** featuring a string quartet performing acoustic arrangements of popular rock and pop hits.

Saturday 21st November - St Mary's Church

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Sunday 1st Nov 10am - 2pm

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What's in a name?

Some names of the area

A common field name across the parishes is *Leaze*, most often prefixed by *Cow*, but on a few occasions by *Horse*, *Long*, *Lower/Low* or *Bushy*. The Old English word *læs*, meaning *pasture*, *grassland*, seems to provide its origin, grazed by cow or horse. But it might be connected with the much more common Old English *lēah* (pronounced *lay-ah*), meaning *woodland clearing*, *open meadow*, or *untilled piece of land*, which has given the place-name ending *-leigh*, *-ly*, *-ley* (think *Aps-*, *Bin-*, *Brad-*, *Doi-*, *Fink-*, *Trin-* ...). Stoke even has a close off Chapel Lane named *Long Leaze*, odd, because the 32 acre field with that name was at Middle Wyke, a mile and a half south. What, indeed, is in a name? **M.C.**



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Whilst I write this I am looking outside to a lovely blue sky on a very windy chilly day, and the autumn colours are all starting to show. Summer is officially behind us... so here at *The Boundary* we are starting to think about Christmas, YES already! Where has this year gone!

From November 2nd we will have our **Christmas gifts** displayed - from chocolate, sweets and cakes to stocking filler ideas, as well as local wooden and pottery gifts for that special someone or even for yourself.

Christmas ORDER FORMS will be available by mid-November. So come in and ask for Vicky so you can order your *Free range Turkey, Beef or Lamb, Chipolatas, Sausages, Bacon* or your *Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, Mince pies, Gingerbread*, or whatever you like for your special day. You will also be **supporting local suppliers**, all sourced from *Oaktrack Small Holdings, Greenfield Farm Shop, Lavender Blue...* You could even fill out your order form whilst sitting in our café having a gingerbread latte or a warming hot chocolate. We would love to see you.

Also, if you would like to volunteer behind the till, even for just 1 hour, helping with the delivery, serving customers or stacking shelves, we would love to welcome you. Just come on in and speak to Vicky, Sandra or a member of our lovely staff. VP & SG

The Boundary needs you



Your community shop and café are looking for **more volunteers**! Could you spare an hour or two? You don't need to commit to a regular slot, and there are lots of ways to help.

Whether you'd like to meet customers face-to-face or would prefer a quieter backroom role, you'll be very welcome. You don't need any experience - we'll show you all the ropes.

Many jobs are more adaptable than you might think: for instance, you wouldn't need to be on your feet to serve in the shop, and you could help with shelf stocking without bending or lifting.

Tasks vary from serving in the shop, helping with deliveries, keeping shelves and chillers stocked, and occasionally being an extra pair of hands in the café. We could also use some help with maintenance and repairs, indoors and out.

Up for joining the friendly team? Call in at the Boundary and ask for Vicky or Sandra, who'll tell you more. Or you can leave your name and details and they'll be in touch. Want to chat about it first? Contact Clive, Volunteer Coordinator, on 07914 642354.

The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

October 2026 draw:

£50 - Alex Francis **£20** - Katie Dixon
£20 - Jenny Harrison **£10** - Caroline Orange

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw:

Saturday 14th November

You can now apply in the Shop to join the 1☺☺ Club for 2027.

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St Mary Bourne Primary School

It is now half way through the Autumn term in school and there has been a lot going on.

We had a fantastic day celebrating **European Day of Languages**.

The children learnt a lot about different European languages and cultures, and we are very grateful to those who came into school to talk about another country they have lived in or language they can speak. This work contributes to our International Schools reaccreditation, thank you to Mrs Webb our MFL lead who organised the day.

The school also had a great time on **Uganda Day**, dressing up in the flag colours (red, yellow and black) and we raised over £155 for a special meal for the children and staff at our link school there.



The **NSPCC** held workshops with some of the classes in the school, as part of the **'Speak Out, Stay Safe'** campaign. There was also a virtual assembly about keeping safe and the importance of talking to a trusted adult. The children were introduced to **Buddy** the programme mascot; he is a friendly green speech bubble representing the idea that children should "speak out" if they feel worried, sad, or unsafe.



In celebration of **World Mental Health Day** (10th October 2026) the St Mary Bourne staff and students have undertaken Sport In Minds 100K Your Way Challenge. It's a simple challenge – complete 100KM in 10 days any way you can – with one powerful goal: to help ensure nobody faces mental health challenges alone.

Just before half term we held our school **Harvest Festival**, there were lots of donations kindly brought in, which were passed onto Andover Foodbank to support our local community.





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IMPORTANT SPORTS PAVILION QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 13th October. Details of the agenda are available on the Thursday before our monthly meeting which is always on the second Tuesday of the month. Minutes of that meeting are published usually a week after. Both are published on the Parish Council Website and on the noticeboard on the side of the Village Centre in St Mary Bourne.

A **Community Consultation Evening** is taking place between **3pm** and **8pm** on **Tuesday 3rd November** in the Village Centre. **Plans for the new sports pavilion will be on display.**

The Parish Council would like to ask as many members of the community to complete the questionnaire. There is an invitation to the event to the right, so **please use the QR code to access the online survey** or grab a paper copy at the Consultation Evening, Village Shop, or by emailing Maxine, the Parish Clerk on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk for a copy. Details will also be available on the local community Facebook pages. Please feel free to share the link with friends and family, **your opinions are important** for this generational project.

The results of the questionnaire will be in the December edition of Hill & Valley (the deadline is tight, so please get your responses in as soon as you can). **Please come along** on the **3rd November**, members of the Parish Council and Pavilion Rebuild Team will be in attendance to answer any questions and gather feedback.

Planning Applications since the last report are below. Full details can be reached on the planning section of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Website.

26/00472/HSE	Bramley Cottage, Gangbridge Lane	Amendments
26/01812/RET	Bourne Court, SMB	Fence
T/00429/26/TCA	Medhurst Stoke Road, SMB	Trees
T/00428/26/TCA	Longhouse, SMB	Trees
T/00430/26/TCA	Mulberry House, SMB	Trees
T/00439/26/TCA	Gangbridge Cottage, SMB	Trees
T/00453/26/TCA	Stoke House, Stoke	Trees
26/01932/FUL	Cold Harbour Farm, SMB	Solar Array
26/02012/OOBC	The Firs, Walworth Rd, Picket Piece	(Test Valley) New dwelling
26/01893/ADV	Recreation Ground, SMB	Cricket Scoreboard
26/01958/RET	Recreation Ground, SMB	Ball-stop Safety Netting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm

St Mary Bourne Parish Council CONSULTATION ON THE REBUILD OF THE SPORTS PAVILION

Have your say on the future
of our pavilion



3RD NOVEMBER

3PM – 8PM

MAIN HALL, VILLAGE CENTRE, ST
MARY BOURNE



We're holding an information evening in St Mary Bourne

We're continuing our work to seal the sewers in your area. This will reduce the amount of groundwater entering the sewer network. To keep you updated, we're holding an information evening about our progress so far. We'll also share how we'll manage the sewer levels this winter.

You can come along and hear more information at St Mary Bourne Village Centre on **Wednesday 25th November** from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

What you can expect

This evening is a chance to hear directly from us and talk to our team. We'll explain:

- What work we've been doing in your area over the summer
- Our long-term plans to improve the sewer network
- How we'll manage the sewer levels over winter

We'll be presenting information at 7.00pm. After this you'll also be able to speak to our team, ask questions, and find out what our work means for you and your community.

Sign up for updates

You can sign up for updates on this project on <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/works-or-issues-in-my-area/>.

How to contact us

Email: Roxanne, Customer Liaison Manager,
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Phone: Call Southern Water 0330 3030 368. Just say PRN 870496 so we can help you more quickly.

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Community Evenings at St Mary Bourne Village Centre

**Tuesday 17th November
7.30pm**

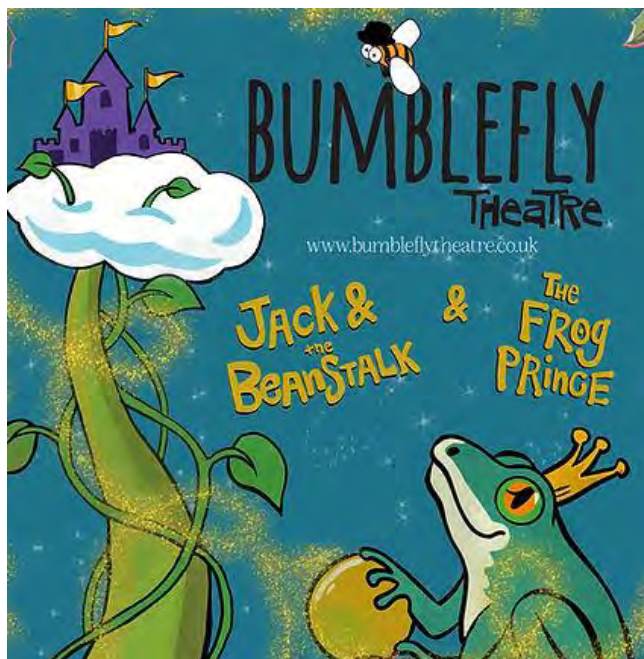


Come and join us for our November Quiz Night with St Mary Bourne quiz master Paul Gaffney.

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

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

St Mary Bourne Village Centre Christmas Family Show



The Travelling Players return with not one but **TWO** shows in one night for you this Christmas! Two Travelling Players are desperate to share their story with you, but which will go first Jack and the Beanstalk or The Frog Prince?

Jack - his eyes full of wonder - finds himself the owner of precious magic beans. When they grow into a huge beanstalk, his world is changed forever. Princess Polly has a lot on her plate, to save the kingdom she is being asked to marry, she has lost her golden ball and to cap it all she is being hounded by a frog who wants to be her friend.

Join us for a night of merriment, puppets and song as The Travelling Players bring to life these stories in their usual magical, mischievous and festive style.

Thursday 17th December – 6.30pm

Doors open 6pm – Refreshments and licensed bar

Tickets £8 – children under 6 £5

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Sustainable Weekend at Hurstbourne Tarrant

This year the 4th Sustainable Day extended into a 2 day event and was hosted by Hurstbourne Tarrant in conjunction with Sustainable Bourne Valley, Longparish Greening and Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council.

The weekend started on Friday 16th October at The Community Centre with an afternoon of activities at HBT School. Amongst other things the children learned about renewable power from solar pv and created a dragon art design made from recycled materials and included a series of pledges and wishes from the children.

On Friday evening over sixty people attended a screening of The People's Emergency film – a sobering insight into the challenges facing our climate and nature, encouraging us all to consider what we can do to live more sustainably.

Around thirty enthusiastic volunteers of all ages gathered on Saturday morning to clear litter from Hurstbourne Tarrant and Ibthorpe.

This was then followed by the Sustainable Day at the Community Centre, featuring local organisations including Andover Trees Charity and Test Valley Recycling, as well as the popular plant stall, the launch of the 'At the Gate' app and the much loved Repair Café. An activity table saw youngsters (and not so youngsters!) creating recycled sock plant pots and other intriguing items and the MOT Café brought along a selection of their outstanding cakes.

The event was supported by Kit Malthouse MP.

The afternoon concluded with a well-supported foraging walk around HBT and a popular bat evening at St Mary Bourne.

If you would like to learn more about Sustainable Bourne Valley, please visit www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk Join the WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code.



Andover Astronomical Society

Thursday 19th November - 7.30pm

Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre

A History of the Universe in 60 Million Galaxies

Professor Sesh Nadathur, University of Portsmouth

Our next talk will describe how a telescope on a desert mountain top was used to create a precise map of the positions of 60 million galaxies. Researchers used this map to measure the faint remnants of ripples imprinted at the Big Bang itself. They measured patterns that show the Universe has been expanding at different points in its history, stretching back to over 11 billion years ago. This provides a mine of information – and has told us something very unexpected and exciting about "dark energy", the mysterious substance that has been driving this expansion getting ever faster with time.

All are welcome and there's no charge for the first meeting. We'll be serving tea and coffee, and at the meeting are showing off pictures that our members have taken in the past few months. If the skies are clear there will be chance to observe the stars. For more information about **Andover Astronomical Society** go to

www.andoverastronomy.org.uk or email andoverastrosoc@gmail.com

Postcard from Binley

Storms Austen and Boelo have blown themselves out and Binley is still standing! How I'll never know? Normally one puff of wind and we're off the grid for days but this time not so much as a light bulb flickered.

And now the clocks have gone back and we are plunged into proper winter and I couldn't be happier. Log fires, heavy stews, single malts, frosty walks and knackered dogs are the order of the day. It was around now I first came to this valley all those years ago and walking home from The George, hoary breath hanging in the still air and the chattering little Bourne by my side made me realise I never wanted to be anywhere else.

Through all the seasons, and aren't we so lucky to actually have seasons, my fondness for this place never diminishes. Each new one brings its own joys and this morning was no different as I followed possibly the whitest barn owl I have ever seen as it hunted along the lane by Elm Farm. It was so white, even the backs of its wings that I formed the opinion it may actually be albino? If so this is extremely rare. This is the second day I have seen it, you cannot mistake it so I'd be interested to hear if anyone else has come to the same opinion? Barn owls will hunt in daylight during autumn and winter so your chances of an encounter are greatly enhanced.

But going back to leaving The George, I recall one occasion at chucking out time when a dear friend of mine, over refreshed and heavily in the grip of the grape who lived up near the Coronation Arms decided to swim home for a change. He entered the stream below the bridge opposite the pub and that was the last I saw of him. He survived the ordeal because I saw him a few days later, but he was strangely reluctant to discuss how far he'd progressed. The Summerhaugh if he was lucky is my guess. But back then chucking out time at The George meant frantically seeking a lift from anyone heading to The Hurdlers at Binley where licensing laws didn't apply. Many a time I would be taken there by Ron and Sylvia, a delightful old couple who would hit the pubs here on a Saturday night and sing their way around all of them. Many readers will remember them. Characters like that, so plentiful back then are so sadly missed now.

But friends and friendships are what bind this place together. I've certainly met some oddballs over the years, I'm probably considered one myself but we've always mucked along and that's what's important. I think you have to be less selective in the country. In town you can pick and choose your friends but here in these little communities we have to get on with it.

I was once asked back in the 80's by a friend's mother who, on hearing where I lived, insisted I go and see a woman she had served with during the last war. And so one wet and windy afternoon I left the Old Pottery and headed to a little cottage with yellow shutters up Stoke Hill where I knocked on the door and introduced myself to Clunie Younger. I was invited in, plonked on a sofa in her drawing room and presented with tea in a china cup and a custard cream. Bratbys and Bacons hung from the

walls, Epstein sculptures littered the mantelpiece. She had a good eye did Clunie. She must have been in her late 70's and we got on like a house on fire. Our politics couldn't have been further apart. She had been involved heavily with the ANC in South Africa and was I'm absolutely certain a Communist and there was I, 27 years old and Thatcher's love child! But that is my point, the most wildly opposite individuals can hit it off in the country if you give it a chance!

I'm sure everyone is thoroughly enjoying Martin Coppen's historical pieces in Hill and Valley. "What's in a name?" is the title and I find it absolutely fascinating as he dissects and explains the old English names of the area. "Puxey Bottom" for instance is not something you contract from a dodgy toilet seat but is in fact probably derived from "puck", otherwise "land haunted by a goblin". And as for Upper Bottom, well, I simply had to go there just to say I'd been!
NA

Hill & Valley - November 2005 :

On **Remembrance Sunday** we shall keep the two minute's silence at the War Memorial in honour of the 47 dead from our parish in two World Wars.

Having been cleaned and the garden replanted last year, the Memorial which we see has a history dating back to 1920. John Atkins, who was living in Diplands House (the present Bourne House) had the Memorial built in the corner of his field. Was it paid for, perhaps, by public subscription? Mr Atkins was also behind the placing of the beautifully crafted Roll of Honour in the Church in 1920, originally hung on the west wall of the Lady Chapel. A month later, he conveyed the land – a much smaller plot than we now see – with the Memorial, to the Parish Council. In those days it had a gate and rails round it. There was some controversy about whether the gate should be locked or not: the Parish Council finally relented to popular demands for access in 1923.

It stayed much as it had been until after the Second World War to celebrate the Festival of Britain, the Village Produce and Flower Show Association had given £20 in 1950 for its care. It was decided to use it to extend the War Memorial grounds and put in two seats. The ground was given by Mr J Gibbs (the then owner of Diplands). Four may trees and the original rose bushes were planted, as was a Ionic hedge. Many individuals subscribed to the costs or gave gifts in kind, but special mention was made of the gift of £5 from the village of Stoke – the proceeds of a Whist Drive. The final deficit of £14 was only paid off in 1952 with a Garden Fete held at Bourne Court by the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Lee, which also launched the appeal for the building of a Village Centre. (Based on information published in the Andover Advertiser).

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Did you know that Hampshire County Council Libraries offer a free monthly service to anyone who finds it difficult to access a library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities? The **Home Library Service** provides an opportunity for individuals to enjoy the pleasure of reading, even if they find it difficult to leave their homes.



The service can deliver a variety of library materials including books in standard and large print, audio books in various formats, and specialist items such as those from our Reminiscence Collection.

Specially recruited volunteers are matched to customers in their own communities and visit their homes each month. This service can be a lifeline which enables access to reading, despite physical or other limitations, plus regular contact with a friendly volunteer. The daughter of a customer recently told us "The HLS service... is about so much more than reading... giving my elderly Mum much appreciated companionship."



Applying for the service is easy. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, you can enquire at your local library or online via the Hampshire Library website by selecting 'Access for All', then 'Home Library Service' and completing a short form. Applicants then receive a phone call to discuss their needs and preferences. The service is adapted for each individual and ensures everyone has access to the library materials they enjoy.



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Monthly News

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The **Repair Café** on the 1st Saturday of the month

George Inn Weekly deals - Pie Wednesday £15

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We are now taking bookings for **Christmas parties** up to the 23rd December

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www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/armistice-lecture

In advance via the link or QR code, from The Boundary (village shop), or on the door on the night.



Buffet supper afterwards in The George • £15 per person

All profits from the talk and the pay bar go to
The Poppy Appeal and St Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne.

STOKE COFFEE MORNING

Friday 6th November

10 to 11.30am

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Through Home & Pet Nanny, I see this all the time. Looking after a pet isn't just about food, walks or letting them out. It's about knowing what makes them feel safe, settled and happy.

This is a lovely book if you enjoy animals and are curious about the special place they have in our lives. It may even make you look at your own pet with fresh eyes.

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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORTwww.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 9th November at 7pm in the Village Hall.**NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 26/02/105/TREEN 1 Eastfield Cottages, Forton

Proposal: Holly- fell, Hawthorn – fell

PC Feedback: 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/**WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillor, David Bibby. We are delighted to have him on board and look forward to working together.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

In Longparish we are incredibly lucky to have a number of brilliant, local businesses that play an important part in village life. Longparish Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to support local. Whether it's picking up a few bits from the village shop, enjoying a meal or a drink at the Plough Inn or the Cricketers Inn, or simply recommending a local business to a friend, every little bit helps.

By supporting our village businesses, we can help ensure they continue to flourish and remain at the heart of Longparish for years to come. Thank you for playing your part!

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB
Tuesday, 24th November at 7 pm
 at Longparish Village Hall SP11 6PB

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GARDENING QUIZ

Usual Raffle with a gardening/Christmas theme
 Members free (Guests welcome £5.00)

Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264720325
 Or Marion Bell 01264720205

The Village Shop – so much, so local!

We are very lucky still to have a village shop in Longparish. It's a precious community asset but we need to use it if we want to keep it.

If you're not a regular customer you may not know about the wide range of products in stock, or that most are priced in line with supermarkets.

Here's just a little of what the shop offers:

- Laundry and dry-cleaning collection and delivery for Ben's (Andover) every Wednesday
- Fresh meat delivery every Wednesday
- A wide range of larder staples, soft drinks, beers, spirits and wines
- Warburton's bread
- Sandwiches, cakes, crisps, snacks confectionary and ice cream
- Ready meals and frozen foods
- Toiletries, first aid and over-the-counter medicines
- Greeting cards, stationary, newspapers and magazines
- Household goods including cleaning materials, laundry supplies, batteries, car windscreen wash and de-icer, Hot Max fuel logs, kindling and BBQ charcoal
- Becky's Bees honey
- And for pets; food, litter and poop bags all available

The shop has a 5* hygiene rating.

And don't forget the **Post Office** for parcels, cash withdrawals and more.

The Post Office is open Monday-Friday 9am-1pm. The shop is open Monday-Saturday from 9am -5pm and Sundays 9am-1pm.

Anne, Iris and Kaly promise a warm welcome.

**EV Charge Point at The Plough**

Our Parish Council and Greening Group have been trying to find a site for a communal EV charger for a long time so we are excited and delighted to report that a dual-socket fast charger for electric cars has recently been installed at The Plough. This was made possible by a grant from SSEN Distribution from their Powering Communities

to Net Zero LCT Fund. We are very grateful to them. The charger will be available to Longparish residents at a discounted rate and to everyone else at a competitive rate. If you would like to register for the local rate, please contact evcharging@ploughinn.org

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Nepal Flooding Appeal

Thank you very much to everyone who donated at the Plough, in the shop or at the fete or by sponsoring me on the Clarendon Marathon. The total raised is over £3,000 and has been passed to the Red Cross to help with their work in alleviating the hardship and damage caused by the devastating flood and mudslides in August.

Jeremy Barber

**Longparish C of E Primary School**

This month, I received a truly heartwarming letter from one of our pupils, who had taken the initiative to propose and organise a Chess Club. Not only had he carefully planned how the club could run, but he had also designed a Lego trophy for a tournament and even suggested ways to source chess sets. It was a wonderful example of the creativity, responsibility and thoughtfulness we strive to nurture in our children.



After sharing this story with one of our governors who lives in the village, I was delighted that two beautiful chess sets were

generously donated by members of our community. We are incredibly grateful for this kindness and support. It is a lovely reminder of the strong partnership between our school and village, and how much can be achieved when people come together.

Last week, pupils and staff also enjoyed taking part in the Biggest Game of Simon Says, dressing in bright colours and playing a whole school Simon Says, to raise awareness and funds for this important Hampshire charity. Simon Says supports children and young people who are experiencing, or have experienced, the death of a significant person in their lives. Thank you to everyone who helped us support such a worthy cause. Together, we raised an impressive £97.70 for the charity.

Moments like these highlight the generosity, compassion and community spirit that make our school such a special place.



Sarah Jordan

**Friday Lunch Club End of the Year dates 2026**

Longparish Village Hall

12.00 - 2.00pm

The Lunch Club is open to everyone in the community. It is a place to come for warmth, company, break from your desk.

We serve a light lunch, of soup and roll followed by cake and tea and coffee for just £3.

So that we have an idea of numbers, please book beforehand.

Friday 27th November

Friday 18th December – Christmas Lunch, essential to book early as numbers will be limited.

To book a place Tel Andrea Harris 720 457 or Christian Dryden 720 398 Transport can be arranged

Come and join us for our

CHRISTMAS

=QUIZ=

FUNDRAISER


8th December


7.30pm


School Hall

Teams of up to 6 people
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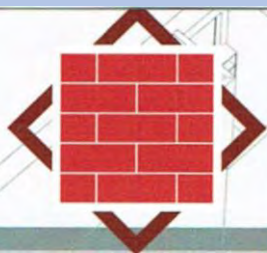
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LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish 2nd Sunday of the Month handicap race

Summer is over; it was chilly and overcast for the October race. Attendance was good with 19 runners but the beer festival the previous evening may have affected some performances, mentioning no names.

Clive Bugeja led from start to finish and completed the course nearly two minutes inside his handicap with a new personal record time to become our Most Improved Man. Andy Mountain and Richard Taylor also had personal record times in 4th and 5th and Alice Evans was Most Improved Woman in 7th. Well done all!



Afterwards we enjoyed coffee and bacon rolls in The Plough.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Claire Collier 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 8 November**, 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>

Jeremy Barber

01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Longparish Cricket Club

Autumn and winter are a time to regroup and plan for the upcoming summer season. The Committee is busy considering improvements to the ground and pavilion as well as planning for teams, training and matches next year. The Club is also actively looking at expanding opportunities for girls to engage in cricket with Longparish CC next season. It's also a busy time for ground maintenance with additions of loam and seed to keep the pitch in tip top condition for next season.

Longparish CC has entered 2 teams in the indoor winter Leagues at Dummer Cricket Centre. Fixtures began in mid-October and an update will be provided next month.

Alison Allen

The Resurrection of Biodiversity in the Churchyard of St Nicholas Church

Since taking over the mowing of the churchyard in 2024, I have had to tread a fine line between an informal yet managed look.

I concentrate on a full cut for special events such as births, weddings and funerals and maintain the strip down to the memorial stones and the borders of the paths on a more regular basis.

The church wardens and parishioners appear happy with this arrangement and I am very pleased with the slow but incremental progress of the floral association that is developing.



The entrance to the church with a glorious show of Yarrow flowers

The variety of plant species is built upon each year with seed sowing and the planting of plugs. This variety has attracted a following of animal wildlife; insects in particular, feeding on flowers and their larvae feeding on the foliage.

The instigation of a selective cutting regime, both seasonally and spatially has established a mosaic of habitats and flowering plants ensuring a constant food source, primarily for insects.

In addition, a less intensive higher cut during the summer months, creates a microclimate that reduces drying out of the grassland by retaining moisture with the increased height.

Species include the small yellow dandelion-like flowers of Cat's ears and Hawk's beards, the white and pink Yarrow as seen at the entrance to the church (above), pale blue Harebells, darker blue Wild Sage and bugle, yellow Lady's Bedstraw (below), cat's ears, hawkbits and meadow vetchling, red-purple Betony and hazy-pink Lamb's tongue plantain as well as pyramidal orchids turning up at random! (below)



← A patch of Lady's Bedstraw which has greatly expanded with a later cut



A Pyramidal Orchid which has appeared with the new regime

Paul Knipe

SEASONED FIREWOOD



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Longparish Little School Celebrates Excellent Ofsted Report

Longparish Little School is celebrating after achieving a Strong standard in all areas in its latest Ofsted inspection.



The rural village preschool is delighted with the outcome, which recognises the setting's commitment to providing a nurturing environment where children learn, grow and develop through play.

A key part of Little School's ethos is its belief that children learn best when they are happy, curious and engaged in activities that follow their own interests. Child-led play is at the heart of the setting, giving children opportunities to explore, investigate, develop new skills and learn at their own pace.

Claire, manager at Longparish Little School, said: "We are absolutely delighted with this outstanding result and so proud of our whole team. It means a great deal to us that the inspector recognised the importance of play and child-led learning, which are central to everything we do."

"We want every child to feel safe, valued and happy, with the confidence to explore the world around them. Through play, children develop their independence, communication, friendships and problem-solving skills, building strong foundations for their future learning."

Claire, who has been part of Longparish Little School for 25 years, added: "This achievement is a real reflection of the dedication, hard work and care our team puts in every day. We are incredibly lucky to have such a passionate team who work so hard to give the children the best possible start."

Longparish Little School offers children opportunities to learn through a wide range of experiences, including Forest School, gardening, cooking, process art, pottery, physical play and woodwork.

The team is proud of the report and grateful to the children, families and wider community who help make Little School such a special place to learn and grow.



Meet at The Plough
Friday 13th November
from 10am - 11:45am

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



A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Collins will be held in St. Nicholas Church, Longparish on 9th November at 2pm

Anyone who knew John is welcome to attend this service.

The service will be followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall from 3pm

It would be helpful to know who would like to attend, for catering purposes.

Please be in touch with his daughter Alison by email:
Alison Alford: alford_alison@hotmail.com

John died peacefully in his care home on 2nd September 2026. He was a faithful member of St Nicholas Church. He was captain of the Bell Tower and served as churchwarden for 17 years from 1984 to 2001. He lived in the village for 54 years. His ashes will be interred in the St Nicholas Memorial garden alongside those of his wife Marion, who died in 2007. The interment will be a private family affair on the morning of 9th November.





St Nicholas Church 100 Club

Result of the September 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%.

September Results

First prize:	No. 34	£85.00
Second prize:	No. 30	£51.00
Third Prize:	No. 49	£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 Church, Longparish
Tel: 01264 720233
Mob: 07860 630489 or
Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

Test Valley's Food Waste Recycling



Making every Scrap count!

Residents across Test Valley have been making the most of the borough's weekly food waste collection service and are helping turn everyday food scraps into a valuable resource.

Since its launch last October, Test Valley Borough Council's food waste collection service has made it simpler than ever for residents to recycle their food waste at home. The scheme has quickly become a highly successful addition to the borough's recycling services. And now, 57% of residents are participating.

Every week, food waste collected from homes across the borough is sent to a specialist anaerobic digestion facility, where it is transformed into methane and nutrient-rich fertiliser. Eight separate collection rounds, using dedicated vehicles running on HVO, a vegetable derived diesel fuel, collect your food caddy every week.

Most households have a small kitchen caddy for use indoors and a larger kerbside caddy for weekly collections. Residents living in flats or properties with communal waste facilities use a larger, shared food waste bin.

A wide variety of food waste can be recycled, including leftovers, fruit and vegetable peelings, bread, dairy products, tea bags, coffee grounds, meat, fish and even bones and pet food. On average 345 tonnes of food waste are collected every month.

Every banana skin, tea bag and plate scraping recycled through the service helps reduce waste and supports a cleaner, greener Test Valley. By making food waste recycling part of your weekly routine, you can make a real difference. Since last October, there has been a 2000 tonne reduction of waste going into black bins.

Top Tips for Successful Food Waste Recycling

- Keep your kitchen caddy somewhere convenient, such as under the sink or on a worktop.
- Use compostable liners, plastic bags, newspaper, kitchen roll or paper towels to help keep your caddy clean and fresh.
- Empty your kitchen caddy regularly into your kerbside food waste caddy.
- Present your kerbside caddy by 7am on your collection day, with the lid closed and the handle upright.
- Remember that packaging, liquids, cooking oils, pet bedding and garden waste cannot be placed in food waste caddies.

For more information check out:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/foodwaste

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH LANTERN DECORATING & WALK

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ST NICHOLAS CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

1-30PM TIL 4-30PM

LONGPARISH VILLAGE HALL

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL STNICHOLASCHRISTMASFAYRE@OUTLOOK.COM

Sustainable Weekend

For the first time Hurstbourne Tarrant played host to the Sustainable Bourne Valley Event 2026. The event was organised in conjunction with Greening Longparish, Sustainable Bourne Valley and Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council.

There is a proposal to join up the different groups up and down the Bourne and Test Valley as far as Longparish to share ideas and actions to improve the environment for all the communities.

Activities commenced on Friday 16th October at the Community Centre with an activity afternoon for Hurstbourne Tarrant School learning about Solar energy, and they created a dragon art work using recycled materials.

On Friday evening over 60 people attended a screening of The Peoples Emergency Briefing film, a sobering insight into the challenges facing our climate and nature, encouraging us all to consider what we can do to live more sustainably.

If enough people are interested a screening of the film will be shown in Longparish – watch this space!

Saturday morning saw around 30 enthusiastic litter pickers clearing up around the local area.



This was followed by an event in the Community Hall, where local organisations were present with stalls highlighting various projects and initiatives. The event was supported by Kit Malthouse, the MP for St Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Greening Longparish had a stall showing initiatives such as mapping areas of individual projects along with the Longparish Toad Patrol and some brilliant posters showing what Paul Knipe, supported by the Parish Council, The Plough and the Church has been doing to improve biodiversity in the village.

The afternoon concluded with a foraging walk around Hurstbourne Tarrant and then a bat walk in St Mary Bourne.

It was inspiring and up lifting to see the genuine enthusiasm for protecting our local environment, the climate, and for living in a more responsible and sustainable way.

Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to a fun and informative weekend and to the SBV for organising the event.

Have a look on the St Mary Bourne pages to see the new website, www.atmygate.co.uk, where you can look for advertise free or chargeable excess produce.

Next year 2027, it will be Greening Longparish's turn to host the event so if you are interested do get in touch 07462111431 and join the WhatsApp group, go to www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk for the QR code.



A warm welcome to The Plough Inn

New Winter Menu – a treat in store for you!

Come and try our **new Winter menu** and enjoy heart-warming delicious home-cooked dishes for lunch and dinner.

Extended food service hours

We are now serving food on Friday and Saturday from 12pm till 9pm.

That means no more missing lunch by minutes or waiting for evening service if you fancy something in between. Our main lunch menu will run as usual, then from 2:30pm to 5pm we'll have a smaller menu available

Friday & Saturday

Lunch menu 12pm-2.30pm

Smaller menu 2:30pm-5pm

Evening menu 5pm-9pm



Christmas is nearly here



Our mouth-watering Christmas menu is now online for bookings from **20th Nov – 24th Dec 2026**

Join us for a truly magical Christmas at The Plough. Whether you're planning the office Christmas do, a festive get-together with friends, or the big family celebration, now's the time to get your table booked!

2 gorgeous courses at £38.95 per person or

3 courses at £42.95 per person

Gather friends and family together and we'll fill you with festive fun! See our website for menu details, or ask when you drop in to say hello at the pub.

Plough Quiz Night – always great fun!

Sunday 8th November at 6pm

Teams of up to 6 people, £2 per person entry fee, all fees go to a charity chosen by the winning team.

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2027

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BATS AND BIRDS THRIVE AT LOWER LINK FARM

Our latest biodiversity survey has highlighted Lower Link Farm's importance, as a haven for birds and bats within the local parish.

Over the summer, we used bioacoustics recorders to capture bird and bat calls between 1st May and the 31st of July, allowing specialists to identify which species were present.

61 bird species were recorded at Lower Link Farm from over **119,000 calls**, placing it among the most bird-rich Vitacress sites, with **30 green-listed species**, **19 amber-listed species**, **9 red-listed species** and **3 non-natives** (conservation status).



Many familiar countryside birds featured, and our top five most recorded species were wrens, with around 40,000 calls, followed by blackbirds, blackcaps, robins and chiffchaffs.

Particularly encouraging was the presence of several species of conservation concern. The survey recorded a 586% increase in **spotted flycatcher** recordings compared to 2025, a red list species that has undergone significant declines across the UK.

The report showed 79% and 400% year on year increases in **yellowhammer** and **marsh tit** recordings, respectively, both of which are becoming increasingly rare nationally.



The summer survey also recorded species associated with the river corridor and surrounding habitats.

Kingfishers continued to be recorded regularly, highlighting the importance of the Bourne Rivulet and its connected wetland habitats.

Other wetland and aquatic species detected included **green sandpiper**, **lapwing**, **little ringed plover**, **gadwall**, **oystercatcher**, **grey wagtail**, **moorhen**, **mallard** and **grey heron**, reflecting the varied habitats across the farm.

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.

Our summer bioacoustics also record bat species, and we managed to identify **6 species** from **6,428 sounds**. These included the expected common and soprano pipistrelles, but also noctules, serotine, brown long eared bat and a bat from the myotis family that could not be distinguished to species level.

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 species making use of our habitats, and we look forward to putting out our devices for the upcoming winter survey period.

Vitacress 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 environment.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Parish Council Meeting Dates

The date for the final Parish Council meeting in 2026 is 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

The **Hurstbourne Priors Village Pavilion** refurbishment project received a welcome boost this month following

confirmation that the Parish Council has been awarded a grant from The National Lottery towards the cost of the works. The £19,500 grant comes from **The National Lottery Community Fund**, which helps communities such as ours to thrive.



The Parish Council is especially grateful to its new Clerk, Mr Steven Marshall, who managed the successful application and helped secure this funding.



The Parish Council has donated a viewing bench for quiet contemplation and friends to meet on the open space at Tufton on the river Test.

This bench was installed to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III in 2023. Tufton

welcomes walkers, cyclists and passers-by to pause, rest and enjoy the view.

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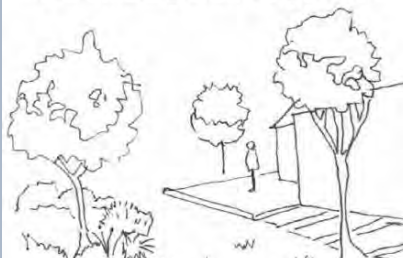
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ST ANDREWS CHURCH - NEWS

Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch



Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate the Harvest Festival in Hurstbourne Priors: to Revd Gordon Randall and Carolyn Jay for an interactive, all age service in church, to Rosie Kelton and Kat McCullough for the beautiful arrangements with flowers from their gardens, for all of the donations of food for the Andover Foodbank, and to everyone who helped with the Harvest Lunch,

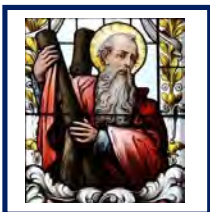
including everyone who joined us. The lunch raised just over £200 for the Mityana Projects Trust. *Fenella Williams*

Leaf Raking

Our annual Leaf Raking Party is on Saturday 12th December at 2pm. Please come with a broom or rake to help clear the leaves from the Church Avenue. All ages are welcome and sustaining refreshments will be provided.



Patronal Festival Evensong – St Andrew's Church



Evensong on Sunday 29th November at 6pm with Revd Christina Theobald will celebrate St Andrew the patron saint of our church. We do hope you will join us for this special service.



Remembrance Sunday

Hurstbourne Priors' Service of Remembrance is on Sunday 8th November, at 10.50am at St Andrew's Church.

The collection from this service will be donated to the Royal British Legion (Poppy Fund). There will be activities for the children in the Vestry, and all are welcome.



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING & BURNS NIGHT

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

We invite you to come and make a Christmas Wreath in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall on Saturday 28th November 2026



Depending on numbers, there will be two sessions: 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm.

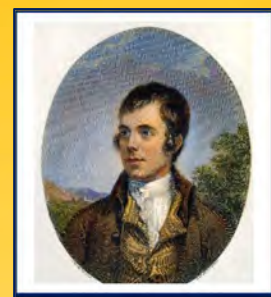
Everything you need to make your wreath will be provided and there will be a charge of £30 to cover the cost of materials and hire of the Village Hall. Any surplus will be given to St Andrew's Church.

To book your place, please contact Fenella.williams@btopemworld.com or 07810 210 388 by Wednesday, 18th November.

BURNS NIGHT

In aid of St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

Saturday, 23rd January 2027 at 7pm in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall



Tickets are £35 and include a traditional Burns Supper of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, with speeches and dancing. Dress is black tie or tartan.

Everyone is welcome!
For tickets, please contact Fenella.williams@btopemworld.com

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LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our **November Coffee Morning** will be held by Fiona Obert on Wednesday, 18th from 10.15 am to 12 noon at Bourne Cottage (55/56), Hurstbourne Priors. All ages welcome!



*Please let me know if you would like to host a coffee morning in the future
sbsorby@hotmail.com*



A River Runs Through It... (and occasionally, so does the dog) - An old dog, a beautiful stretch of the River Test, two churches and a tree with a personal vendetta....

There has been a bit of a break from **Cocker Spaniel Wanderings** recently, and for once it hasn't been because I've got lost, fallen in a ditch or been defeated by a particularly aggressive Hampshire stile. Sadly, my dear old dad passed away after a long and happy life. However old our parents get, saying goodbye is never easy. It leaves a gap that can only really be softened by happy memories and the knowledge that they enjoyed a life worth celebrating.

As if that wasn't quite enough, **Marley**, my beloved 11-year-old cocker spaniel, decided to test the emotional resilience of the entire household by nearly departing this world himself.

First came an encounter with the dreaded grass seed, one of nature's more irritating inventions. Then, while recovering, he developed sepsis, which very nearly finished him off.

But Marley, who has now enjoyed more comebacks than Status Quo, wasn't quite ready to hang up his walking boots. Not that he has boots, obviously, although given his recent veterinary bills, I suspect I could have bought him several pairs of handmade Italian ones. Thankfully, he's still here, tail wagging and nose working overtime.

His advancing years mean our walks have become a little shorter, but perhaps that's not such a bad thing. Slowing down allows you to appreciate the little things, and it has reintroduced me to this cracker of a walk around the River Test at Whitchurch

Tufton: A Photographer's Paradise...

Our adventure begins near **St Mary's Church** in the tiny village of **Tufton**. Find somewhere suitable to park and follow the road ahead, passing some barns with the River Test on your right - and what a sight it is.

It is worth remembering that The Test is one of England's most celebrated chalk streams, its clear waters supporting an extraordinary variety of wildlife. Fed by groundwater filtered through chalk, these rivers are internationally important habitats and we are incredibly fortunate to have one on our doorstep.



Ahead, you'll find a footbridge. To your left stands the arch of a disused railway bridge, while to your right the river glides towards the barns in a scene so ridiculously picturesque it almost feels contrived.

Once you've finished admiring the scenery, turn left beneath the railway arch, then right onto the path leading through the trees towards the meadows.

Meadows, Mud and Medieval Musings

Emerging from the trees, veer left towards the path running alongside the B3400.

Follow it through the meadows, keeping the road to your left. Waterproof boots are advisable because the Hampshire countryside has a remarkable ability to transform from firm ground into something resembling the Somme overnight.



After roughly half a mile, you'll reach a gate leading to the path



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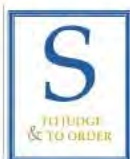
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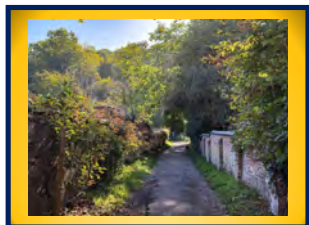
Looking for really good beef at an affordable price? Try our premium Parsonage Farm 10kg Meat Boxes, packed with quality cuts straight from our farm to your table.

Searching for somewhere to live in a really good village? We have a couple of small houses and cottages coming up for rent - perfect for couples, and individuals. Get in touch today and find out how we can help!

Email me, Roddy Wakeford roddy@parsonagefarmingcompany.co.uk or call **07944 140685** for friendly advice and unbeatable local options!

beside the road. Put your dog on the lead and continue beneath the arch towards the impressive **All Hallows Church**.

Kingfishers, Trout and a Violent Tree



Opposite All Hallows, you'll find a footpath that follows the banks of the River Test; and this is where the walk becomes truly special.

The water is often gin-clear, flowing over gravel beds where you may spot brown trout or grayling holding their position in the current.

Keep an eye out for grey wagtails, chiffchaffs and, if you're lucky, a kingfisher flashing along the river like a tiny electric-blue missile.

If you have the Merlin Bird ID app, switch on its sound identification feature. You might hear a Cetti's warbler, a small, secretive bird that makes an enormous amount of noise while remaining almost impossible to see. I suspect Cetti's warblers regard birdwatchers with the same contempt teenagers reserve for their parents.

Now, before becoming too distracted by the wildlife, I feel duty-bound to issue a warning. About halfway along the path is an overhanging tree. It looks perfectly innocent. It isn't. This tree has assaulted me twice, both times with considerable enthusiasm.

On the first occasion, I walked straight into it and carried on, blissfully unaware that I'd opened up an impressive wound on my scalp.

I subsequently wandered into the King's Arms to meet my brother, alarming the bar staff, who appeared to think I'd been involved in a particularly unpleasant pub brawl. Apparently, blood was pouring from my head.

Assuming you've survived the tree, continue along the riverside path until you reach the lovely bridge at Fulling Mill.

From here, you can follow The Weir, which confusingly is the name of a road rather than an actual weir, back towards Winchester Street.

However, being a man of adventure comparable to Simon Reeve, I prefer turning right before The Weir and crossing the meadows.

Fortunately, someone has thoughtfully installed a boardwalk, considerably reducing the likelihood of me disappearing into a Hampshire bog. This also brings you onto Winchester Street, a little further towards the A34.

You now have two choices. Follow Winchester Street towards Nuns Walk and make your way back to Tufton or find the footpath cutting around the back of the church.

I can't remember precisely where this path begins, but it's there somewhere. That's the sort of detailed navigational guidance you've come to expect from Cocker Spaniel Wanderings.

I last took it during a particularly unpleasant February storm,

when the AA was advising people not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Naturally, I was out walking the dog....

Anyone who owns a spaniel will understand. There could be a hurricane approaching, trees falling and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse galloping through Whitchurch, and a spaniel would still be standing by the door demanding his constitutional. We survived, although I remember being genuinely frightened by the wind. Marley, naturally, thought it was marvellous.

Soon be Spring...

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL – NOVEMBER NEWS & EVENTS



New Solstice Silks and Christmas Shopping

Enjoy new Solstice Silk displays in the café and browse our refreshed shop for Christmas gifts. Gift vouchers are also available for admission, events, workshops, the café and shop.

The Longest Yarn: 'Remembrance Cascades'

From 4–29 November, the Mill hosts The Longest Yarn's 'Remembrance Cascades', commemorating the stories, sacrifice and shared experiences of the Second World War.

Elf on a Shelf: A Crafty Christmas Trail, 5 December, 10.30am–12 noon or 1.30–3pm

Follow the family trail, complete 10 elf-themed activities and collect a chocolate treat. Tickets are £7.50 per child, with one accompanying adult free, and include the trail sheet, craft supplies, elf ears and a dairy or Free From* treat bag.

Sea Glass Pendant Workshop, 2 November, 10.30am–1.30pm

Create a unique sea-glass pendant with Lou Sargent. Limited to eight participants, with all materials and tools provided. Suitable for beginners and experienced makers aged 16+. Tickets are £85 and must be booked in advance via Eventbrite.

Weave a Wall Hanging, 5 or 7 November, 10am–1pm

Learn to weave on a Louët table-top loom and create a wall hanging to take home. All materials are provided; beginners are welcome. Tickets are £60.

Whitchurch Silk Production Tour, 10 November, 11am–12 midday

Go behind the scenes with our weaving team to see the looms in action and discover the stories and skills behind silk production. Advance booking is essential. Tickets are £25.

Darning Workshop, 13 November, 11am–1pm

Learn practical darning techniques and repair a hole step by step. All tools and practice fabrics are provided. Tickets are £35.

Visit the Events page on our website for details and tickets, also available from the Mill Shop. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, or subscribe to our email newsletter for updates.



Contact:

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November issue photographs courtesy of Lower Link Farm/Vitacress, Parish Council, Phil Luckett, St Andrews Church, Bob Lethaby and the Whitchurch Silk Mill.

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 1 10am to 2pm - The Artful Duck exhibition - Village Centre
- 3 3 to 8pm - Community Consultation - Village Centre
- 5 11am to 4pm - Christmas Market - Parsonage Farm Barn - HBT
- 6 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Jasmine Cottage
- 7 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
- 9 6.15 for 7pm - Armistice Lecture 2026 - Village Centre
- 10 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
- 10 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
- 11 12.30pm - **'The Lunch'** - Village Centre
- 17 7.30pm - Community Evening **Quiz Night** - Village Centre
- 19 7.30 - Andover Astronomical Society '60 Million Galaxies' - HBT
- 25 7 to 9pm - Southern Water informs - Village Centre
- Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -**
The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room

**LONGPARISH**

- 8 9am - L2SoTM Handicap Race - The Plough
- 9 7pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Hall
- 13 10 to 11.15am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Plough
- 24 7pm - Gardening Club - Village Hall
- 27 12 noon to 2pm - **LCA Lunch Club** - Village Hall
- 29 Lantern Decorating and Walk - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 5 Bonfire Night - Guy Fawkes Night
- 8 10.50am - Remembrance Service - St Andrew's
- 12 2pm - Leaf Raking - St Andrew's Avenue
- 14 Birthday of H.M. King Charles III 
- 18 10.15am to 12 noon - Coffee Morning - hosted by
Fiona Obert Bourne Cottage (55/56)
- 29 6pm - Patronal Festival Evensong - St Andrew's

**Hill & Valley Vacancy
Advertising Manager**

The Hill & Valley Management Group is urgently looking for a volunteer to fill this important post.

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

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Copy date for the December 2026/January 2027 edition of Hill & Valley is Wednesday 18th November.

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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