

Issue No. 245

Hill & Valley

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

50p

February 2021



Dear Friends,

Well, here we are in February. As I write (towards the middle of January), the Covid-19 infection rate is starting to decrease, but hospital numbers are still rising, and death rates are still horrendously high. Thank goodness though that during this lockdown, we are fortunate enough to have the hope of vaccinations being rolled out as quickly as possible. We might now be well beyond the season of Advent, however our message is the same - hunker down and wait patiently.

But then, if we think about Candlemas, celebrated on 2nd February (when Jesus was presented at the temple) we hear how Anna had waited patiently for decades. Anna was a remarkable woman: it is believed that she was either an 84-year-old widow or a very old lady who had been widowed for 84 years (making her about 105).

Her lifestyle would be viewed today as eccentric, and possibly was also at the time. Anna "never left the Temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day" (Luke 2:37). As a prophetess and filled with the Holy Spirit, Anna received insights which remained hidden to most people.



So, when Mary and Joseph brought their new born baby Jesus to the temple, 40 days after his birth, Anna recognised Jesus, praised God and spoke of Jesus' significance; that this baby in front of her *was* the long-awaited Saviour.

There then followed another 30 years of waiting until Jesus started his earthly ministry. In bible terms, waiting is nothing new, but for us, it can feel quite uncomfortable. We live in such an immediate society where we expect replies from our emails within hours, and with a few clicks on a screen, we expect our purchases to arrive on our doorstep the next day. But with Covid-19, all we can do is stay at home and wait patiently for our vaccination.

The challenges of our waiting are compounded by everything that have been taken from us: our loved ones, our incomes, our security, and many, many simple pleasures which ordinarily sustain us. This is tough.

And yet, HOPE (especially hope through Jesus) is a treasure that will never be taken away. Hope is the light we are walking towards, whilst in this dark tunnel. Hope is what keeps us going when we feel defeated, demoralised, desperate. Hope expresses joy and peace in bleak times. Covid-19 has taken much from us, but it will never take away our hope, as we continue to wait patiently for our vaccination.

With love and best wishes,

Nicky

Rev. Nicky Smallwood
Assistant Curate

Message from The Reverend David Roche, Area Dean and Priest in charge, All Hallows, Whitchurch with Tufton and Litchfield:

We await Bishops direction for the interregnum and possible boundary changes.

Covid restrictions are unlikely to lift until the end of February so we will continue with Zoom services.



Services in the Parish Churches - subject to government regulations

February 2021

**As we go to print all our churches are closed for services.
But each week we will have an 11.00 am Zoom service.**

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

31st January - The Presentation of Christ
in the Temple (Candlemas)

11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service

7th February - The Second Sunday before Lent

11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service

14th February - The Sunday next before Lent

11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service

17th February - Ash Wednesday

6.00 pm - Benefice Zoom service

21st February - The First Sunday of Lent

11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service

28th February - The Second Sunday of Lent

11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service

**There will be a short Zoom service of evening prayer
every Thursday at 6.00 pm.**

Benefice Contacts during the interregnum period:

**For all enquiries about Baptisms,
Weddings, Funerals in any of the
parish churches, please contact
Karen in the Benefice Office
☎ 01264 738 308 or email:
office.brightwaters@btinternet.com**

If you wish to contact the
Revd Canon Dodie Marsden, please
call ☎ 01264 738 211 or
email: dodie.marsden@gmail.com
If you are unable to contact Dodie, in
an emergency, please call ☎ 01264
720 215 or ☎ 01264 738 489

• 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
email: rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk

From the Church Registers

Weddings

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

27th December Hurstbourne Priors
Marriage of **Elise Williams and Halley
Docherty** in St Andrew's

Funerals

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

Thursday 21st January - St Mary Bourne
Funeral of **Harry Black**, husband of Ann -
St Peter's

Thursday 28th January - St Mary Bourne
Funeral of **Brian Nicholas**, husband of
Daphne - St Peter's

An event for Young People

Whitchurch (All Hallows) has a fortnightly meeting for any
young people at secondary school or college.
It's called WAAG (Guess what that stands for!)
The time is 7 to 8.30 pm on a Sunday evening.
The dates are 31st January, 21st February, 7th March and
21st March.

For more details, and the zoom link contact any of the
WAAG leaders: Andrew Monk - andrew@andrewmonk.co.uk
or Gill Bilton - gill@biltons.plus.com .



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census 2021

Households across Longparish, St Mary Bourne, Woodcott and Hurstbourne Priors will be asked to take part in **Census 2021 on 21st March 2021**.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics said *“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”*

The census will include questions about sex, age, ethnicity, work, health, education and household size. For the first time there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions aimed at the over 16’s on sexual orientation and gender identity.

It will be the first run online from early March with households receiving a letter containing a unique access code to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. We have been advised that paper copies will be available. However, **please** offer to help your family, friends and neighbours fill out the census online if possible (Covid-19 guidelines permitting).

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.



For more information visit census.gov.uk.

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT FROM MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON 11 JANUARY

Planning

The Parish Council had **no objection** to:

- Replacement coach house at **Foxdale House, Andover Down**
- Demolition of existing extension, and construction of single storey rear extension and associated works at **Preston Cottage, Longparish**

It was reported that Raymond Brown has been granted permission by HCC to relax their operating hours during lockdown and will be operating 24 hours a day from Monday to Friday and to 2pm on Saturdays, commencing 11 January through to the end of March 2021.

The Plough Inn

The Chair of the Working Party reported that procedures for the purchase of The Plough Inn are progressing well. A meeting of the Plough Committee is scheduled to take place on 15 January prior to the final recommendations to the PC for drawdown of the PWLB loan to complete the purchase.

Playground

The Open Spaces team has been exploring solutions to the very wet and muddy entrance to the playground.

Village Hall car park

The parish Council resolved to appoint a contractor to install a land drainage pipe and soakaway at the car park to alleviate the flooding that has been an annual problem in the winter months. It is hoped that this can be completed in the February half-term break or sooner with the agreement of car park users.

Parish Council Meetings

Until further guidance is received from HALC, the Parish Council will continue to meet remotely via Zoom. Members of the public wishing to “attend” any meetings should contact the Clerk or the Chairman.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8 February. Parish Council Meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcome to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman - Christian Dryden Tel 720398, or email

christian.drydenpc@longparish.org.uk

Minutes of previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website www.longparish.org.uk



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Longparish Community Support Group

Thank you to all the volunteers who have signed up again for this Lockdown period.

If you or your family are self-isolating or staying at home for whatever reason and need help with shopping or any errands, picking up a takeaway from the pub, friendly regular phone call, there are plenty of people willing to help out.

Lifts can be arranged to the vaccination centres if needed.

Please call 07765 467 006 or email covidhelp@longparish.org.uk

Some other useful numbers:

Longparish Support Fund – The purpose of the fund is to provide financial help to individuals or families whose income has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Call 01264 720215 or email stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

Age Concern Village Agent – for all enquiries about support available.

Email villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

Tel 07593 439018

Test Valley Community Services

Telephone: 0330 4004 116

Website <http://www.unityonline.org.uk>

Email info@unityonline.org.uk

Samaritans Helpline Free telephone 116 123

Citizens Advice Bureau

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

Adviceline (England): 0800 144 8848

Government Lockdown Guidance

Leaving Home: You must not leave or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

If you are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. You should not attend work

Meeting others: You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a [support bubble](#) with (if you are legally permitted to form one).

You may exercise on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

You cannot meet other people you do not live with, or have not formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason.

[Stay 2 metres apart](#) from anyone **not** in your household.

COVID Vaccination Scam Alert

There have been reports of a new scam where a person receives a text saying they need to book a vaccination appointment and it takes them to a fake NHS form which then asks for their bank details to prove their identity.

The NHS will never ask for a person's banking information so please do not provide as it will be a scam

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L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

Santa hats were the order of the day for the December run and they were needed to keep the ears warm! It was a wet, cold and windy for the 163rd edition of the L2SOTM but that did not dampen the spirits of the runners. It was great to have some time of almost-normality in a Covid-disrupted world.

New runner, Oscar Gailer, was familiar with the route, having accompanied his father on his bike as his personal trainer. This time, in a nice bit of role reversal, Karl was Oscar's accompanying adult and was first home! As with most first-timers, he underestimated his speed and broke his estimated handicap by over six minutes. Wow!



Identical start times but social distancing maintained for Gina and Jeremy

Next home, and our Most Improved Woman, was Sylvia Crook in a personal record time. Sylvia joins the small group of people who have been most improved on consecutive events. 3rd place and Most Improved Man was Jeremy Barber in his best time this year. Some people have clearly taken advantage of lockdown to train hard because Graeme Johnson, Jo Clare and Jack Dundas also recorded personal records.

Thanks very much to Maggie Barber, Andy Smith, the whole Collier family, David Gould and Karl Gailer for helping and the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

You can see the full results and photos and find more information in the L2SOTM area of the Longparish website <http://archive.longparish.org.uk/l2sotm/>

Sadly, the current lockdown rules mean that the L2SOTM is suspended. Exercise is good for your health, both physical and mental, so we have a weekly virtual event which is open to all. You choose where and when to run your 5K. Details are on the website and everyone is welcome.

Jeremy Barber

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

It was very sad to have to cancel the Christmas Lunch Club, but we hope you enjoyed the Christmas goody bags.

It looks like Covid is still determined to keep us all from meeting up but if things change, we will let you know.

Looking forward to the Spring, vaccines and fresh starts.

Christian and Andrea

LITTER PICKING IN A COVID SAFE WAY!

Like Covid, litter doesn't seem to be going away!

Why not 'Adopt a Road' in Longparish instead of the regular Socially Distanced Litter Pick?

We may not be able to go out as a group to litter pick but if anyone would like to adopt a section of road for their daily exercise and would like a litter pick stick and bags, please do contact me:

Christian Dryden Tel 01264 720 398



The Running Girls



Our last group run before Christmas, saw us running through the village with Santa Hats and a little tinsel, spotted by Jacqui Healey who kindly took this photo.

How lucky are we, to be in such a stunning village, even more so during such a difficult year. I moved to Longparish in April and since then I think I have found every running, walking and mountain biking route possible.

The Running Girls Group has been a great way to meet and make new friends, the village is very welcoming and has a great close community network.

Jo Clare



The Plough Inn – latest news

Longparish Community Pub Ltd

If everything has gone to plan, the Plough will now belong to Longparish!

At the time of writing, the details of the sale were agreed, the paperwork had been drawn up and the finance was in place ready for an exchange on Monday 25th January, with a completion due to follow several days later.

It follows weeks of intense preparation. Since the last edition of Hill and Valley, the Plough Ahead team has been very busy drawing up legal documents and lease agreements, which has all been very time consuming. We've also been busy getting the last of the funding together. As we have previously reported, the original share scheme (last spring) raised £228,000. Over the last couple of months an extended share offer yielded a further £100,000 from new subscribers and existing shareholders.

Once the sale of the Plough has gone through, the plan is to start work on the building as soon as possible. The priority is to get the roof secured and make the building water-tight and weather-proof. Once that has been completed, we can concentrate on reinstating the heating and electricity. Plans will then need to be drawn up so we can apply for planning permission, where required, for works on the building and tree works in the grounds.

We are delighted that several local professionals have already stepped forward to offer their expertise with design for both the pub and outside areas. Most recently we have also been offered some excellent refurbished kitchen equipment from a company that fits and services professional kitchens.

If you would like to offer help or expertise with the transformation of the Plough, we would be very pleased indeed to hear from you. In the coming months we will need volunteers to help with clearing the garden, building fences, decorating inside and out, and many other tasks that will need to be completed so we can renovate and reopen the Plough.

We would be delighted to hear from you if you think you might like to join with us in any way with this really exciting project. You can find out more, keep updated or contact us through our website lcpl.org.uk and email volunteer@lcpl.org.uk or please call 720207.



LONGPARISH OF OLD -

A SAD DAY FOR THE VILLAGE

On Saturday 2nd February one hundred and twenty years ago Longparish was in mourning.

Blinds were drawn, shops were closed, women were mostly in black and the bell of St. Nicholas Church tolled.

It was the day the body of HM Queen Victoria was taken from Osborne House to St. Georges Chapel Windsor.

The scene in Longparish was reported in the Hants and Berks Gazette.

The reporter observed: "The village flag drooped half-mast under a gloomy sky or fluttered mournfully in the drizzling rain. For nature seemed to be sharing in the national grief."

There was not a vacant seat in the church for a service to honour the memory of "our beloved sovereign." It was timed to coincide with a similar service in St. George's Chapel although in Longparish the mourners were of a humbler type.

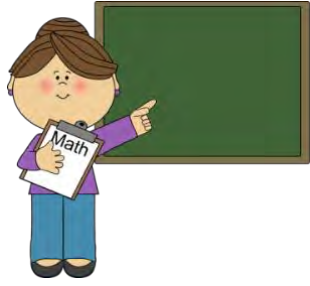
Among the congregation were the village policeman and postman; four soldiers and three sailors as well as landowners and farmworkers.

The atmosphere was: "remarkable for the depth of quiet feeling"

The organ "wailed forth" Chopin's funeral march and Handel's Dead March from the oratorio Saul. Among the hymns sung were Now The Labourer's Task Is O'er and Sleep On Beloved, and also On The Resurrection Morning

As the report noted, "Longparish was a house of mourning" that day.

Henry Yelf



Longparish CE Primary School

Happy New Year to all our friends in Longparish village from the children staff and governors at Longparish CE Primary School.

We all had a wonderful run up to Christmas in school. The children had small parties, Christmas lunch and made Christmas decorations and celebrated with a Christingle orange. The children created from small boxes, a Bethlehem village. We put our beautiful Christmas tree donated by Mrs Dinesen in Longparish (thank you so much) at the very end of Bethlehem alongside a nativity scene, so it felt like we were walking through Bethlehem to visit baby Jesus. The Christmas story most of us know very well. Some of us look on it as a sort of gentle fairy tale but it is a story fraught with danger: danger from the trauma of birth in a stable, the cold nights, the threats of King Herod, the journey to Egypt. Very worrying times. A bit like now.

In worship, we encourage our children to pray. Even if they don't know what to say or do, we remind them that silence can be a prayer. Loving others can be a prayer. Listening can be a prayer. A hug with our fellow 'bubblers' can be a prayer. Stroking a pet can be a prayer. Our children are all wonderful lights in our darkness and their innocent and young faces remind us all what it's like to be young and carefree. Let's try as hard as we can to allow our children their own childhood by not burdening them with too many of our fears and concerns about our present situation. Let's use the offer of prayer 24/7, anytime, anyplace to give up our thoughts and worries to God. I believe He does listen!

The children have all had a good start to the beginning of term, albeit they are mostly learning remotely at home. As usual, the children are beautifully behaved and are such bright inspirational lights for us all. Have a wonderful 2021. **Trudie Cawthra, Headteacher**

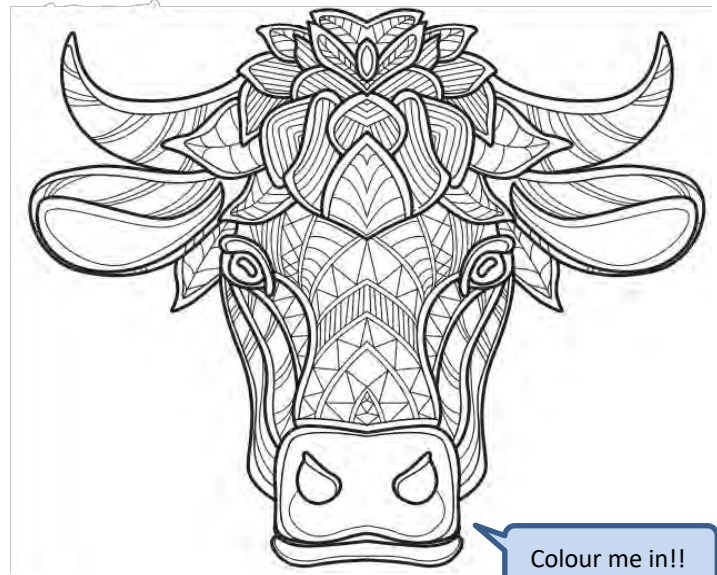
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CREATIVE CORNER

新年快乐 Happy New Year! 牛 Year of the Ox



This year, the Chinese New Year falls on Friday the 12th of February and is represented by the Chinese Zodiac sign for the Ox. The Ox symbolises luck and suggests avoiding laundry (hoorah!) and crying children (quite difficult at times, especially during the lockdown!) People born in the year of the Ox (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 and 2021) think carefully before acting and are hard workers. They have a great moral compass and know right from wrong.

Chinese people love the colour red, and regard red as the symbol of energy, happiness and good luck. Sending red envelopes is a way to send blessings, happiness, good wishes and luck (as well as money). The Chinese New Year red envelope is a traditional gift for children during Chinese New Year. In China, the red envelope is called *yasui qian* (压岁钱 / yaa-sway chyen/). Those who receive a red envelope are wished another safe and peaceful year. Here's to safe and peaceful year to you and your families.

Some fun Chinese New Year activities to try at home:



More great ideas can be found: [The Best 60 Chinese New Year Crafts and activities for kids \(artsycraftsymom.com\)](https://www.artsycraftsymom.com/)

Clare Sykes



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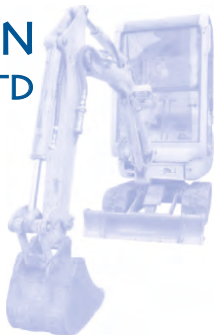
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LONGPARISH CRICKET CLUB

Happy New Year from Longparish Cricket Club, as we look forward to an active and exciting 2021.

The Club's fundraising campaign to replace the practice nets continues and the crowdfunding has so far raised circa £1,600.

In addition, separate grants, donations, sponsorship and Christmas fundraising has been received, to the current value of £5,135, with previous fundraising proceeds also now being made available, to bolster the overall available budget.

Thank you to all who have donated and contributed.

The crowdfunding page closed at the end of January, but donations directly to the club are still possible and gratefully received, however small. Please email me for bank account details:

mbenzing@aol.com

The club has now submitted a further grant application, using the Test Valley Borough Council Community Asset Fund. If successful, this will double the available funds and therefore the scope of work that can be completed on the nets upgrade. The decision will be made early March and the application is strong, so the club is very hopeful.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this application, including our sponsor, Bourne Valley Classic Car Storage, The River Test Distillery, The Cricketers Inn, The Community Pub Ltd, Longparish Community Association, Longparish and Testbourne Schools and Longparish Church. Also, thanks to everyone that liked the application on the clubs Facebook page.

Thanks also go to **Matt and The Cricketers Inn, Longparish**, who donated the proceeds of their Christmas Draw to the clubs Nets Upgrade Project. We will be along to say thanks, over a pint or two, once lock down is lifted. Cheers!

Mark Benzing, Chairman and Treasurer



The Cricketers Inn

WHAT'S ON UNTIL WE CAN REOPEN!

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
TEAM CRICKETERS



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB



We are so sorry LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB will not be able to hold any meetings for the foreseeable future due to the COVID restrictions.

We will hope to resume some garden visits when things improve.

In the meantime, stay safe, peruse the gardening catalogues and keep busy in your gardens!

Any queries please to: Rosie Lowry 01264 720325

rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com

or Marion Bell 01264 720205

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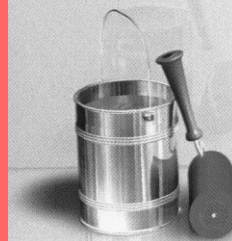
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WEATHER - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020

	November	December
Total rainfall for month	88mm (3.46in)	153mm (6.02in)
It rained on	12 days	21 days
Rainfall same month last year	131mm (5.15in)	183mm (7.20in)
Total for 2020	1078mm (42.44in)	1231mm (48.46in)
Total for 2019	966mm (38.03in)	1149mm (45.23in)
Max temp	17C (62F) on 10 th	14C (58F) on 21 st
Min temp	-1C (30F) on 3 rd	-4C (24F) on 31 st

December round up

25 year average rainfall 35.4ins.

10 year average rainfall 39.3ins.

2020 rainfall is on a par with last year, but still beats the averages by 6 or 9 inches .

2020 had:

Driest May on record.

Sunniest Spring since 1929.

Hottest day ever on August 12th: 38.5c

Third warmest year since records began.

Wettest day ever on October 3rd: 45mm.

Wettest month February 2020 9.40ins.

Strongest gust of wind ever on the Isle of Wight on

December 28th: 106mph.

John Smail

WORD OF THE MONTH

In the midst of the lockdown restrictions, many of us feel so grateful that we live in such a beautiful RIPARIAN neighbourhood.

So there you have my February offering. If the word is as new to you as it is to me, its meaning is "relating to wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams".

Barbara Carrodus

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Anne Yeaman is retiring as bookings secretary for Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall. We are very grateful to Anne for managing this so efficiently over the years.

Helen Ford will be taking over the Village Hall bookings from 1st February. Please contact Helen with your booking enquiries: Tel 07789 691018 and email helenford62@hotmail.co.uk

SAFARI SUPPER 2021

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS SAFARI SUPPER VIA ZOOM

Saturday 6th March 2021

An opportunity to go on safari via Zoom and meet others around the village over drinks and a three-course meal, without leaving home.

The programme will be:

7:15 - 7:30 pm	Virtual Village Hall (Login to Zoom)
7:30 - 7:50 pm	Drinks and nibbles
8:00 - 8:30 pm	Starters
8.40 - 9:20 pm	Main Course
9:30 - 10:00 pm	Pudding/cheese
10:00 - 10:30 pm	Coffee/chocolates/port

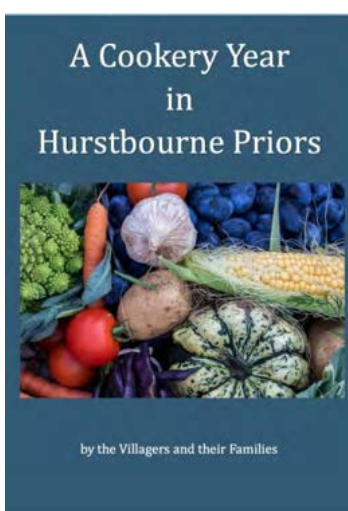
If you would like to take part, and have not already received an e-mail invitation, please contact the Safari Supper Team by Monday 15th February at the following email address:

SafariSupperHBP@outlook.com

Safari Supper Team



HURSTBOURNE PRIORS COOKERY BOOK



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Hurstbourne Priors Cookery Book Project. Almost 200 copies were sold, raising over £1600 which was shared between St Andrews Church and Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council for playground equipment.

If anyone missed out or would like to order more copies, we're aiming for a second print run in March.

We'd like to order at least 30 copies to keep unit costs low. Price still £16 each. Please indicate your interest by the end February by contacting hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com, payment details once we confirm your order.

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MAY FAIR 2021



We are sorry to announce that the Hurstbourne Priors May Fair will not take place in 2021.

At this stage of the pandemic, there is too much uncertainty and risk to run the Fair as we know and love it.

BUT PLEASE STILL SAVE THE DATE – Monday 3rd May 2021 – we still hope to have a Village event, albeit on a smaller scale or even virtual, depending on Government restrictions More details to follow!

We're also delighted to confirm that our very popular May Fair Plant and Preserves stalls are already gearing up for the 2021 season. More details of all these events nearer the time. As Lulu's Village Cookery Book project has proved, there are still some great ideas out there to raise funds, even when we cannot all get together as we would like. So please, we'd love to hear of any other fund-raising projects, especially those that could be organised even under the tightest Government restrictions. And even better if you have some time and energy to help run it!

Finally, with some of our team members leaving the village or stepping down, the May Fair team is now looking for a couple more volunteers to join our team, with a view to being at full strength for the 2022 Fair. If you're interested and would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch via our email address, or directly with any one of the current team.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

The May Fair Team

(Ed Beasley, Kim French, James MacMillan, John Perry, Clare Read, Fenella Williams, Mark Williams)

hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS FUND-RAISING 2020

THANK YOU EVERYONE who supported the Village to raise almost £5000 last year for our Village amenities. In the absence of our traditional May Fair, our resourceful Plants and Preserves stalls went online and proved extremely popular, whilst our Village Cookery Book project provided a welcome opportunity for us all to share recipes even when social-distancing rules meant we couldn't share meals in person!

It has been truly heart-warming to see so many villagers taking part in one way or another. To everyone who nurtured seedlings and cuttings, donated seeds and harvests, made jams and chutneys, shared recipes and anecdotes, generously gave their time and skills to help with promotion, on-line orders, cookery book designing, photography, accounts, deliveries..... AND of course, to all those who purchased our plants, preserves and cookery books this year.....A VERY BIG THANK YOU FROM THE MAY FAIR TEAM!!

THE BUS SHELTERS

As I hope many of you will have noticed the bus shelters which were destroyed in the dreadful lorry fire have at long last been finished. Following a long and drawn-out ordeal with the lorry's insurance company we finally received full payment meaning that the thatch was able to be finished off in December. Charlie Ayres of Ayers & Stanley Thatching, did a fantastic job with the weather very much against him, managing to finish it on Christmas Eve. I hope that you all agree that it is nice to see the thatched shelter back to its former glory.

All the English Elm which was salvaged from the original shelter has been reused where possible, a small amount was also used on the South side shelter as there wasn't enough for a full wall on the thatched one. Unfortunately, the cost of replacement Elm was prohibitive, but the Oak used in its place comes from a tree felled locally. Several residents have asked why the Parish Council didn't take this opportunity to thatch the South side shelter. This is because of its position under Lime trees whose sticky sap is very incompatible with thatch and causes it to erode.

We now await the repaired iron bench which was damaged when a VW collided with it last year. It is being rebuilt by Jacks Bush Forge who built the original over 20 years ago.

I would like to thank Paul Knipe for all his help in co-ordinating the team behind this project.

*Clare Read
HP Parish Council*



THANK YOU FROM HURSTBOURNE PRIORS PCC

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, we would like to thank the May Fair Team and everyone who contributed to and supported the fantastic and creative fund-raising efforts during 2020. We are most grateful for the wonderful donations to St Andrew's Church from the proceeds of the on-line Plants and Preserves stalls and the village Cookery Book.

With very many thanks.

*Martin Briant-Evans and Fenella Williams
Churchwardens*

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

**Against All Odds**

Despite the difficulties experienced in 2020, nearly 15,000 people visited the Mill and enjoyed all that we offered, from Winter Lights in January to the successful Great Wishing Tree of Whitchurch in December. What's more, we had our first commercial order for ribbons for many years, which gave our weavers the chance to create something not only beautiful but guaranteed to be money-making. During the year our trainee weaver completed her training and is now working for us full time. We'll be recruiting a new trainee as soon as we can.

Covid-19 Update

At the time of writing, restrictions mean the Mill, café and shop are closed to the public. In the meanwhile, the Mill team and the weavers are working hard, and we'll continue our digital programme of talks and virtual group tours and social media and blog posts. Our online shop offers a free local click and collect/delivery service, and we're running a fundraising campaign at www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill

Ripping Yarns

A new series of our popular online 'Ripping Yarns' is planned. These explain how some common expressions derived from the language of weaving. Previous Yarns can be found on our Facebook page. You can look forward to finding out more about the phrase 'cloth ears'. It first originated in the industrialised mills of northern England during the 1800s. The noise generated by the machinery was quite literally deafening, and the build-up of cotton dust in the workers' ears added to the problem. Nowadays, the expression is used as a rebuke to someone who has not heard or understood what's being said to them, along the lines of 'Oi, cloth ears, wake up!' Naturally our weavers don't talk to each other in this way!

A Look Back in Time

Have you been watching the most recent series of The Crown? If so, did you know that in 1980 the Mill played a vital role in the creation of Diana's wedding dress? The raw silk used to weave the cloth for the dress was wound on to bobbins on our winding frames. It wasn't until after the job was done that the Mill Manager, Ted Moss, told his staff this exciting news.

Regular events

Our regular events including Mini Millers, Young Millers and Pins & Needles will resume as soon as we're able.

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

CIVIL WAR ART AND POETRY COMPETITION



The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane has re-launched an English Civil War art and poetry competition for young people in the borough after it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor is inviting all schools and sixth form students in the borough to produce a piece of artwork or a poem relating to the Battle of Basing

House in 1645. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council are co-running the educational project which commemorates the 375th anniversary of the battle in 2020.

Pupils will learn how the nationally important historic site at Old Basing was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. Basing House was the last Royalist stronghold in the south east and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War.

Art entries for the competition can be in any form, for example drawing, photography, sculptures and music, together with poems, and should be inspired by Basing House and/or the English Civil War. The closing date is Friday 12 March 2021 and judging will take place on Friday 19 March 2021.

There are three categories – primary, secondary and sixth form. Subject to coronavirus restrictions being lifted, all the winners will be invited to join the Mayor at a special opening of the English Civil War Art and Poetry Exhibition at Basing House, where they will receive a Mayor's plaque and an annual family pass to Basing House. The winners' schools will also each receive a free educational visit to Basing House, potentially including a travel bursary.

For full information and inspirational local history lesson plans visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition> (Photo credit: Hampshire Cultural Trust)

RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

As a result of the success of the Cookery Book the Parish Council are delighted pleased to announce that they can start the much needed upgrade of the play equipment on the recreation ground. The Vitacress Charitable Foundation have also made a very generous grant which has enabled us to replace both rocking toys. Work is due to start in March as we need to wait until the ground is a bit less wet!

The Parish Council would be very interested to hear from residents with ideas for play equipment to be considered. If you have an idea please contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman richard.waterman150@btinternet.com

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council

BERE MILL RESTORATION



More than two and a half years after Bere Mill at Whitchurch in Hampshire was destroyed by a devastating fire on the night of 7th

February 2018, the reconstruction of this beautiful group of buildings is now complete, and the west barn is available for community uses.

Bere Mill is a historic mill on the River Test, with a significant history, having been home to Portals, the maker of British bank notes, who made paper for the Bank of England in the early 18th century. The fire, caused by an electrical malfunction, destroyed much of the house, the mill itself over the river, and the west barn and destroyed the detailed renovations of the last 30 years which had brought the buildings back into use as a family home, while maintaining their historic identity.



Over the last two and a half years the exterior of Bere Mill has been rebuilt precisely as it was before the fire, with original brick walls, timber cladding, and antique roof tiles. Windows and doors have been remodelled, as previously, in oak. The reconstruction has respected traditional building techniques, through construction of an oak timber frame to match the original, traditional hand-cut joinery, and lathe and plaster wall coverings, with the use of lime render throughout. The mill machinery will shortly be restored to its previous state. The renovation respects the original layout of rooms and the west barn has been fitted internally for community use, with modern lighting, a/v systems and good access. The building renovation was carried out by P J Roper, traditional builders of Whitchurch, Hants and the architecture was by Michael Kaner of Kaner Olette, Tunbridge Wells.

The Bere Mill butchery has remained open throughout the renovation, supplying grass-fed, home-reared lamb and beef, offering a click and collect service, or home

deliveries. The beautiful gardens and water meadows that lie alongside the River Test, complete with Mediterranean, herbaceous and bog plants, and sculpture by well-known artists, will be open for private visits by arrangement, and under the National Garden Scheme on 14 March and 2 and 31 June 2021 (subject to Covid restrictions).

Owner of Bere Mill, Rupert Nabarro, commented "My wife Elizabeth, and I, are grateful for the sympathy and support we have received from the local community through this long reconstruction process and most especially to the building team that has carried out the work, led by Paul Roper of P.J.Roper and his specialist trade colleagues. Their level of skill has been exceptional and they have cut no corners. We were delighted to give the renovation work to local experts, as the entire building team live and mostly originate from the Whitchurch area. They are an extraordinary witness to the continued existence of historic building skills."

(Photos Miriam Nabarro)

For more information about Bere Mill, visit <https://beremillfarm.co.uk/garden/>



This gorgeous mog is Suki, she is about 18 months old and has just finished rearing a litter of four kittens. She is very friendly and loves her food. Suki is looking for her new family to give her lots of attention. She has had her vet check and is now ready for rehoming. Please get in touch if you could offer Suki a suitable home.

As of December 31st we have homed 84 cats in 2020 despite being in lockdown for many months. We are really pleased with this figure as we are only a small branch of the Cats Protection. Thanks go to all the hard work of the fosterers who completed the training to allow us to carry on homing whilst maintaining strict social distancing measures.

For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;

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January 2021 - Update from Two Rivers Surgery

I am sure everyone is aware of the challenges facing the health system at the moment. Observing the growing numbers of our patients become infected with COVID and a small number who have become very unwell or needed admission to hospital over the past few weeks and months has been really tough. We are aware of the severe challenges facing Hampshire Hospitals at the moment. We want to reassure all of our patients that we are doing everything we can to remain open and accessible. We will continue to follow the guidance to initially have telephone or video consultations and bring patients into the surgery when absolutely necessary, either for examinations or for urgent investigations. We particularly want to ensure patients attend their cancer screening appointments and we are putting in extra effort to ensure these continue over the next few months.

We continue to lead the delivery of the COVID vaccine programme as part of our rural General Practice network. We have already vaccinated all of our care home residents and their healthcare workers, the majority of our patients over the age of 80, frontline healthcare workers and patients who are housebound. We remind people of the importance to maintain strict hygiene measures and physical distancing following your first vaccine to keep you and others safe. Everyone who has had their first vaccine is on the list to be called for their second vaccine within 12 weeks of the first one, so you do not need to call our reception team to enquire about this. Those next in line, similarly, the practice will make contact as soon as the vaccine is available for you. We are making good progress with this so far. We will not forget you.

We would like to thank everyone in the community for your kindness and continued support during this difficult time for all of us. We will do our utmost to ensure that the vaccine is rolled out to our patients as quickly and smoothly as possible. There is finally some light at the end of the tunnel!

Dr Dan Lickman
and the team at Two Rivers Medical Partnership



St Mary Bourne United Charities

is a small local trust set up to help residents of the Parish of St Mary Bourne (which includes the villages & hamlets of Stoke, Binley, Wadwick, Egbury, the Wykes and Lower Link).

If you are worried about heating costs this winter, an unpaid bill, or are experiencing unexpected financial difficulty caused by the Covid 19 situation, the Trust may be able to help.

All enquiries are treated in total confidence.

If you'd like to know more, please contact: Ruth Widén
01264 738 250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com

SMB ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE SHOP & post office

Just for a laugh, I've just read what I wrote for February last year for the Hill and Valley. It was full of hope and optimism for the dawning of a new decade... oh well.

This February, however, I do feel there is hope and optimism. There is definitely light at the end of this long dark tunnel. As I type, the sun has just popped out from one of the many dark threatening clouds in the sky and a memory of Spring jumps into my head. Longer days; seas of daffodils; planting seeds and the knowledge of whatever life throws at us from here on in. At least it will be with a bit more sunshine in our lives! Hopefully, the vaccine will soon loosen the vice-like grip that Covid has on our lives and after this extended period of staying at home we will, at very least, be able to have friends round in the garden (well, let's flipping hope so, anyhow!). We will be able to start planning holidays; parties; friends round for a BBQ and life WILL get better... hang on in there!

And all the while, the shop is here for anything you need. Home deliveries continue every Monday and Friday, but we are always happy to help wherever we can on other days too. We try to make sure that we stock everything you need, but if you can't find what you're looking for, please ask. At best we'll have more in the stock room and at worst we are always happy to order in new products. We have thoroughly enjoyed serving you during the uncertainty and chaos that was 2020 and look forward to continuing to do so in a happier, brighter 2021.

Happy February, people... Spring is nearly here!! LM

December 2020 - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - G Twine £20 - R Case £20 - M & E Maclay
£10 - J Culley £50 Xmas Draw - V & M Kennett

Congratulations to all the winners in 2020 and thanks to everyone who has signed up again for the Shop 100 Club.

January 2021 - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - H Wurzer £20 - A&M Stanes
£20 - R Sutcliffe £10 - C Farrell

Charades Christmas 2021 - by Emma van Zeller



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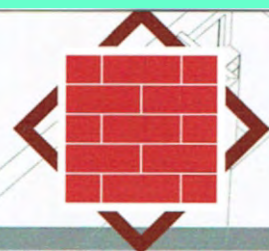
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SMB

ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE

& post office

...and Community Café!

Whilst Covid has been on the rampage with the world at large, the Village Shop Committee have been quietly thinking of ways to make our community shop better and how best to serve the people of St Mary Bourne and beyond. The shop, having been built 20 years ago is fast outgrowing it's skin and with the emphasis on local shopping, we feel it's time to extend the shops retail footprint to offer a wider range of services and goods including a larger range of day to day essentials; extending our eco range to include zero packaging products and being able to stock more of the fantastic local produce that we have in Hampshire. Alongside this, we have plans to extend the back of the building overlooking the recreation ground to incorporate a small community café.



SMB

ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE SHOP

& post office

SMB Community Café Questionnaire

Please copy, fill out, or tear out and return to the Village Shop before the end of February. We look forward to hearing your views! Many thanks.

Q1 - I currently use the shop

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Twice a week | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More often | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q2 - Extending the shop and building a Community Café would (please rank in importance to you)

(Select as many as you want in the order you prefer)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benefit the Community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Encourage visits to the shop | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Add new products to sell | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provide a meeting point | <input type="checkbox"/> |

This community café would offer homemade cakes; delicious teas and coffees, fresh sandwiches and a range of light lunches. Its focus would be on supporting the community with; a friendly environment for mums/dads with young children to meet; quiet workspace areas for those who want an alternative to working from home as well as accommodating book clubs and other such groups to meet. There will be an outside seating area for the summer months where children can play happily on the rec under the supervision of parents relaxing and enjoying a coffee!

At present, we have a full planning application in with Basingstoke and Deane and will shortly be applying for grants to aid the funding of the building. We'd love to have your views on what you think about our idea and whether you would use it. Please fill out the short questionnaire below and return to the village shop by the end of February or go to www.menti.com and enter this code **87 75 63 0** to fill it out online. You can also scan the QR code below to get there a little quicker!



Q3 - I would be most likely to use the Community Café to

(you may chose multiple options)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Meet friends | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work away from home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hold informal meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat, drink and socialise | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q4 - Please rank in importance to you

(Select as many as you want in the order you prefer)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Quality Tea and Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shakes and Smoothies | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cakes, Sweet and Savoury Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Light Lunches/Fresh Sandwiches | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q5 - I would visit the Community Café

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Twice a week | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More often | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6 - I am in favour of

(You may chose multiple options)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Café as a community benefit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Developing the shop in this way | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Participating in the project | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The current offering is sufficient | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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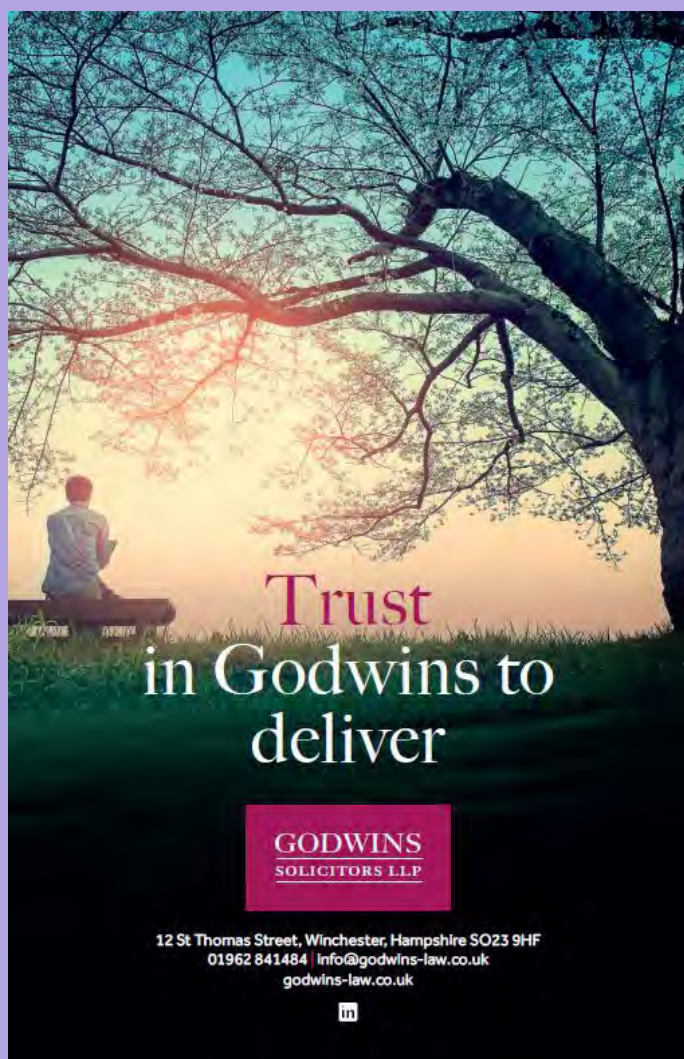
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Your Parish Council

Newly registered Planning Applications

Parish Council - Objection **x** / No objection **x**
February 21

- Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding; erection of a replacement dwelling - **The Cottage, Gangbridge House** - 20/03470/FUL
- Diversion of footpath in connection with application for planning permission 20/00028/FUL - **Rowe Farm, Gangbridge Lane** - 21/00122/FD
- Erection/relocation of an existing Agricultural Barn, for storage of fodder including hay & straw - **Jones Farm, Stoke** - 21/00143/AGPD
- Erection of a garage following demolition of store. Reconfiguring of frontage parking area - **Chapel Cottage, High Street** - 20/03479/HSE
- Erection of a single storey rear extension (following partial demolition of existing). Associated internal alterations and repairs. Replacement of 2 no. ground floor front windows and 2 no. first floor rear windows. Raising and lining of chimneys with new chimney pots. Reduced perimeter paving levels - **Ricketts Way, Gangbridge Lane** - 20/03402/LBC
- Erection of a single storey rear infill extension - **6 Denham Terrace** - 20/03313/HSE - **x**

Recent Local Planning Authority Decisions

- Request to fell both leylandii on south side of entrance gate - **Portway, Church Street** - T/00572/20/TCA - **raise no objection**
- Sycamore, prune back overhang; Sorbus, reduce crown by 1.5m, crown lift up to 3m - **Springhill Hill House** - T/00571/20/TCA - **raise no objection**
- Portuguese Laurel, fell and clear away; Robinia, reduce crown - **Gable Cottage, Church Street** - T/00541/20/TCA - **raise no objection**
- Erection of a new dwelling and garage with annexe over, provision of a tennis court, outdoor swimming pool with plant room and a home studio/office building to replace an existing barn and associated works, following demolition of existing industrial buildings (amendment to extant permission 19/03140/FUL) - **Stubbs House (Formerly Highfield Farm), Binley Bottom** - 20/02554/FUL - **x - granted**
- Replacement of existing conservatory with new UPVC and artificial slate design. New French doors and window to south elevation - **The Old Forge, Church Street** - 20/02541/HSE - **x - granted**
- Redevelopment of a redundant agricultural yard and buildings to provide 4 no. dwellings comprising 3 no. 3-bed units and 1 no. 2-bed unit together with associated garaging and landscaping - **Rowe Farm, Gangbridge Lane** - 20/00028/FUL - **x - granted**
- Erection of rear shed and covered storage (retrospective) - **6 Applegate, Church Street** - 20/01468/RET - **x - granted**

Parish Council Meetings

The parish council will currently meet only when required to discuss urgent business and these meetings will be held remotely. As usual, notice of any meeting will be published four days in advance on the parish council website and the noticeboards. You will be able to access the meeting remotely. But to allow for smooth running, if you are planning to raise a matter with the parish council you are asked to submit it in writing in advance to clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.

All minutes and reports can be viewed at

www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Details of all Planning Applications for the Parish can be accessed on the B&DBC website:

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning or by contacting the Parish Council Clerk ☎ 01264 738 039

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A terrace of three houses have been built in Binley and are available to rent, ideally to families with strong connections to St. Mary Bourne parish. Two have 3 bedrooms and one has 2 bedrooms. Each house has a cooker, low cost underfloor heating, generous garden with shed and adequate parking.

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Apply in writing to Mark Maclay, Lye Wood, Binley, Andover, SP11 6HA or mark.maclay@sladengreen.co.uk.



St Mary Bourne Village Centre News

We would normally hold our AGM in February but have decided to postpone it to the summer in the hope

that we may be able to meet by then.

Not surprisingly it's been a very quiet year, but during lockdown and the various periods of restricted activity we have been able to help out a little. We provided space for sorting and packing sewing kits for people sewing scrubs for our local NHS and we were able to support the Village Shop by providing storage space for the extra stock they carried to keep us all supplied in difficult times. We were pleased to be able to provide a COVID secure venue for the Village Shop's pop up Christmas Shop, which was greatly appreciated in a year when the usual Christmas fairs and markets were just not possible and being able to shop so locally was such a bonus.

We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we are allowed to.

KC

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Light Touch Our Valley Toads

After starting the toad patrols last spring, we have now learnt a lot more about our local celebrities' lives. They spend the summer on dry land in local gardens and water meadows around the lake, in the churchyard, the woods above the lake and some even live as far as 2 kilometres away. Depending on the weather they will arrive in a great state of excitement from all directions at our lake to breed occasionally in early February. Toads prefer large areas of deep cold water to breed and return to the place they were born each year. The males arrive first and lurk about waiting to catch their very own female by clamping themselves on her back. **They are most at risk when they try to cross the B3048** which they attempt to do from just south of the George Inn down to the surgery junction. They have even been seen coming down from Stevens Green. **They are also in danger from visitors to the Surgery and Derrydown** houses, while the residents and staff there are well aware and often pick them up themselves as they cross from the water meadows. Frogs come out earlier from late January, but they are either looking for food or trying to get to the local garden ponds as they prefer warmer shallow water.



The toads choose wet nights above 5 degrees centigrade when there have already been a few scattered mild evenings. They begin to cross just as dusk descends and Toad Patrol tries to be there to help them across. You will see us in yellow jackets and tabards waving buckets and torches. Please think of our toads as you drive through, they have walked (only frogs hop) a long way to reach us to be squashed in the last few yards. Once in the lake they feed, rest and wait for a full moon to get down to it in a seething mass.

The spawn is wrapped around water plants and roots in long strings of black dots which can be up to 7 metres long and contain 4000 eggs. Toad tadpoles hatch after 2 to 4 weeks depending on the temperature and swim around in shoals eating rotting vegetation and later on tiny insects. Both the adults and tadpoles have glands on their necks which eject a nasty tasting fluid if anything tries to attack them so are safe from fish and many predators. They have never objected in this way when we have had to pick them up. Last year we picked up nearly 400 but saw hundreds more crossing in safe places.

The baby toads emerge in a crowd from the lake after rain around 2 to 3 months after hatching. They will stay around the lake if there is enough food and shelter for many weeks and will then have a much better chance of surviving. There are plans to help wildlife by improving the habitat round the lake by increasing plant and dead wood cover which also increases their food. The mowing will be less and it may look "untidier", but so much better than tiny toadlets being chopped up.

Our lake is an especially safe environment as no dogs have been there since it was fenced. Dog's flea medicine contains neonicotinoids which pollute the water and kill aquatic insects if dogs swim. The geese are mainly vegetarian so are unlikely to harm them and fish steer clear because of those glands. The main threat to their survival, are cars and new development, blocking their ancestral paths or even draining their lakes.

Toads are another gardener's friend as the young eat aphids and the adults love slugs, snails, insect larvae and the odd worm. They often return to regular summer haunts and can become quite tame living up to 12 years.



Go Star Gazing in February

11 February - New Moon - so without light of moon it is perfect to star gaze. **PLEIADES** - Seven Sisters - cluster of stars visible in South just after sunset. **Andromeda Galaxy** seen towards the West just after sunset.



11 February - Venus and Jupiter conjunction. Look to South East horizon. This celestial pairing will occur 20-30 minutes before sunrise. Venus and Jupiter will appear as brilliant dots to the naked sky, so close as to be visible at same time. Added bonus planet Saturn be drifting to pairs upper right.

18 February - Perseverance landing - the touchdown of NASA's latest Mars rover. The series of cameras on the rover will enable us to view this event on TV.

27 February - Full Moon - known as Snow Moon by early Native American Tribes, because the heaviest snows usually fall at this time of year.

STAR COUNT

A lockdown star gazing activity for the family

Each February - Council for Protection of Rural England organises a star count in support of dark night skies. Just 3% of England experiences, "truly dark night skies" & 61% live in areas with severe light pollution. So CPRE needs our help to map the nation's view of the stars, so dark night skies can be better protected.

How to take part. Go to CPRE website. Sign up for Star Count between 6-14 February. New moon on 11 February, so darker skies. 7 pm is a good time. Looking South, using the naked eye only, the stars to be counted are in the rectangle formed by the four corner stars in the Orion constellation. There is an excellent diagram of this on the CPRE website. Submit your count, then check back to see how our area compares to national results. Thank you for participating and helping to protect our spectacular dark night sky.

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Postcard from Binley - January 2021

Christmas in Binley was a low-key affair. It's never exactly exuberant and you could drive through Binley and be forgiven for not knowing it were Christmas at all, save for the odd glimpse of twinkle behind drawn curtains. No illuminated plastic snowmen or reindeer stand sentinel in gardens, no Santa's disappear down chimneys and even the giant inflatable elves that usually sit in the cab of the army lorry in the Frogley's front garden at the top of Red Lane are missing this year. Self-isolating perhaps? What do twinkle and shine brightly are the empty cans of Red Bull, packets of Lambert and Butler King Size and shiny Ginster's Pasty wrappers that litter our verges. An early morning walk finds my wife and I wombling around and collecting them up. Why do people do this? I could kick myself now as I should have kept it all and then hung them from a tree as a festive piece of modern art. It would be unlikely to win the Turner Prize... though on reflection why not if an unmade bed and discarded pair of drawers can?

The numerous building sites here closed down just before the big day and Binley returned to tranquility. The effin' and jeffin' of carpenters has been replaced by the bleating of sheep, the drilling and crash bang walloping has been succeeded by the drumming of a woodpecker echoing through the park. In the sky above, the shrill cries of kites ring out as rooks and jackdaws, cartwheeling and spiraling through the air, drive them from the rookery. And below, birdsong charms me from the garden. A deer barks and in reply so does Dennis, my neighbour's new puppy. Nature has taken back control of the audio and it is a sensorial Nirvana!

Despite being very happy in my own company the last year has taught me how important social interaction is. The golf bores in the pub, those sniffy drinks parties, the angst-ridden dinner parties. They all seem so joyous and frivolous now! And I miss them. As humans, whether we like it or not, we possess an inner need to interact with our greater tribe. Pre-Covid, I was a natural party pooper. I'd look at an invitation on the dresser like it were a reminder for a colonoscopy appointment. And then the awful day would arrive, and I'd run out of excuses not to go. But right now, I'd kill to be stood in someone's drawing room, a tepid glass of Albanian sauvignon in my hand as a bandy legged blue rinser pebbledashes the front of my shirt with vol aux vent shrapnel and brings me up to date with her Labrador's gland problem. One thing I have discovered though at drinks parties is that the people you normally hide from behind an industrial trolley of frozen peas in Waitrose are actually really rather interesting when you get to know them, and I've been pleasantly surprised on so many occasions.

When you first arrive at a drinks party conversation will be at a murmur, punctuated by the odd "Mwah!" air kiss. Within an hour and with a few drinks inside them the volume will have risen to Iranian street funeral levels and you will find yourself shouting to be heard. I don't know if someone tips off the catering staff bringing round the nibbles, but they all avoid me like the plague. This is *precisely* the time I am at my hungriest and to stand there glumly following a plate of tempura king prawns around the room as the platter gets picked bare is torturous. Last year I found myself at the point of breakdown when Rosemary Plincke took the last two and I had to be restrained by my wife from lunging at her. What sort of monster have I become?

A novice to the drinks party circuit needs to learn the rules fast. In town they are scheduled later but here in the country lunchtime drinks are generally at 12.00 midday and evening drinks at 6.00 or 7.00 pm. You are expected to arrive punctually and stay two hours at the most.

Overstaying your welcome is frowned upon and getting rat faced and falling asleep in the dog's bed or being discovered comatose and upside down behind the television will result in you being scratched from all further engagements. In addition, if you do find the family dog climbing your leg it's very poor form to allow the moment to break conversation, least of all try to shake it off. So you must ignore it and soldier on while nature takes its course, unless your hostess interjects and says "Oh, I shouldn't let him do that, dear? Gives them ideas."

But there are certain types you need to keep an eye on: *The Gooser* - No drinks party worth its salt is without a resident gooser. Rarely active until the second hour and almost always a male (though there are exceptions) the offender is easy to spot; he'll almost certainly be wearing a cravat and stained blazer with suede shoes and he's not fussy. He'll be in his seventies, drives a Jag and wants you to know it. Likes to throw a bit of Franglais into the conversation as he believes it makes him sound more seductive. His wife is in a permanent state of exasperation.

The Activist - Usually the batty sister of the hostess, the Activist is easily identified because she'll be dressed like a Cabbage Patch Doll with matching African fertility symbol earrings and necklace made from driftwood. Her hair will have seen its first brush in over a month and she'll be sipping an elderflower cordial. More at home in Ho Chi Minh City than Kensington High Street and not terribly fond of men, or women for that matter, she's likely to corner you and stiff arm you for some sponsorship or funding for a project she's involved with in Sub Saharan Africa. Doesn't understand the word "No". Be warned!

The Pessimist - Likely to be a gangly fellow in a worn tweed jacket with leather patchings everywhere. The Pessimist can grow hair anywhere except on his head, it sprouts from every orifice; ears, nose and eyebrows. They like to get right in your face and still haven't got over Tony Blair or Arthur Scargill. Brexit and the Pandemic have been God's gift from Heaven to them and they hand out doom and gloom like Werther's Originals. Just as you get to the stage where you feel like ending it all they slap their thighs, give an ironic laugh and say gruffly "Could be worse!" before jumping into their £100k Range Rovers and heading home to their 3,000-acre farms.

The Toff - The upper classes of course are doing two of these gigs a day during the festive period and by the evening are well oiled and operating on autopilot... "Holiday this year? ... Awful b****y weather ... good for the wheat ... Boycott got a century ... drainage in the lower field ... serious game of rugger ... one of *them*, is he?" etc. I'm sure they are still rambling on when they have gone home and got to bed "Gower out for a duck ... Hughie's snuffed it ... saw it in the Telegraph ... b****y Corbyn!" and their wife has to throw a glass of water at them to snap them out of it. God bless 'em!

But I hope no hostess will read this and think me mean spirited. I am always tickled pink to be asked and even occasionally turn up!

NA



St Mary Bourne & District Flower Show and Fête



The Committee are very much hoping that this year's show will take place on **Saturday 24th July 2021** subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

So get planting your fruit, veg and flowers now! Updates on the show and details of how to join the St Mary Bourne & District Horticultural Society can be found on www.stmarybourne.org.

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Sustainable Bourne Valley

Are you interested in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable living in the Bourne Valley?

Then please join us at the Sustainable Bourne Valley online

Annual General Meeting to hear about the progress we have made since our group was founded in 2019, share your own ideas about what can be done to protect the environment and promote sustainability, or to become a volunteer. The meeting will take place on Google Meet at 7pm on Wednesday 17th February 2021 via the following link:

<https://meet.google.com/vfm-cfbz-rxn>

For further information please follow our page on Facebook or email:

sustainablebournevalley@gmail.com

Obituaries

Harry Black

19th December 1938 - 24th December 2020

Harry was the second child of Henry and Mabel Black who ran The Railway Inn (now the Bourne Valley Inn) in St Mary Bourne. He had one older sister, Pat.



Harry attended St Mary Bourne school and then went on to Whitchurch School. After leaving formal education, Harry got an apprenticeship with the local plumber, Fred Taylor. He then went to work for Southern Water for over 30 years.

During his childhood and early adulthood, he was a faithful worshipper at St Peter's Church where he sang

in the choir, carried the cross at the beginning and end of services, served at the altar and was a bell ringer. Harry met Ann Byford (who lived in Upper Wyke) in St Peter's when she was 18 and he 24. They married on 20th November 1965 and rented a house in Southview Terrace, Lower Link. Their first child Malcolm was born in 1967. After later suffering the sadness of the stillborn birth of a baby boy, their family was eventually completed with the birth of a daughter Hilary in 1976. When Hilary was 6 months old, the family moved to Andover but after Harry's retirement and when the children had grown up and

were leading independent lives, Harry and Ann were keen to return to St Mary Bourne. They became the first residents in the development of new houses at Stud Farm where they settled happily, and Harry continued to enjoy his prizewinning hobby of gardening.

But unfortunately, his health began to deteriorate. After two earlier successful operations, cancer returned aggressively to many parts of his body and Harry went into the Countess of Brecknock Hospice on 19th December where he passed away on Christmas Eve.

Harry is sadly missed. He is remembered as an amazing husband, dad, grandad and brother and with affection by lifelong local friends who shared many experiences together.

Brian Nicholas

8th February 1942 - 29th December 2020

Brian was born in the town of Lake on the Isle of Wight. He spent a very happy childhood there, spending days on the beach in summer and playing in the countryside in winter until teatime. He loved football and played in his school team and for a local team in his teens. He supported Portsmouth FC when he was growing up but switched his allegiance to Southampton when he moved to the mainland, probably because it was easier to get to their home matches from the Andover area.

Brian also loved dancing and he met Daphne Beer at the Islander Club at the end of Sandown Pier when she was on holiday there in 1966. At the end of the holiday, she went home to the mainland but the couple wrote to each other and met up occasionally until Brian moved to the mainland in January 1968 so they could be closer together. They married in St Peter's Church in March 1968.

Brian worked as a fitter and turner on the Isle of Wight. From 1968 he worked for Leggs in Andover until the workforce was made redundant, but he then managed to find another job until his retirement.

Daphne and Brian have always lived in Stoke where they had lots of friends and enjoyed visiting the local pubs. Brian also loved his garden and cricket and would support Hampshire at the Rose Bowl with Daphne. The couple were enthusiastic walkers and could often be seen walking the lanes around their home. They would also go on walking holidays in the Lake District, Scotland and Wales.

Brian will be sadly missed by Daphne, his brother and sister and their families





Photo: First snowfall 2021 - 24th January - Ed Beasley



Photo: First snowfall 2021 - 24th January - Michael Widén

Households across Longparish, St Mary Bourne, Woodcote and Hurstbourne Priors will be asked to take part in **Census 2021 on 21st March 2021**. For details look at page 1, Longparish pages inside.

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: helenford62@hotmail.co.uk
Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Jacqui Healey, ☎ 07748 322533, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk
Longparish Community Hall: During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317
St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com
The Village Halls remain closed for most bookings until further notice

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

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* Hill & Valley pages on-line

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Parish Council: www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk *

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Community Hub: www.stmarybourne.org

The Bright Waters Benefice: www.brightwatersbenefice.com

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