

Issue No. 252

Hill & Valley

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

50p

October 2021



Dear Friends,

October is now upon us! Winterfylleth was the Anglo-Saxon or Old English name for the month of October; it marked and celebrated the beginning of winter. As with all seasons I always find an excitement about what lies ahead, not just cooler, windy and rain filled days. There are remnants of summer fading still to be enjoyed, to make the most of being outdoors, in walking and in sport, and changing the kinds of food we eat according to the season. With the harvest in recent memory, we now look forward to living off the fruits of our labour, giving thanks to God as we enter the autumn season, bronzed trees and the baptism of leaves.

With the change of season, comes an opportune moment for me to put my 'comms' hat on and explain something of the changes locally within the Church of England. Nationally, all churches are experiencing a decline in attendance numbers and therefore income. The 'knock on' has been a reduction in Stipendiary Clergy. The Covid-19 pandemic hasn't helped, of course.

In response to this, the churches **St Peter's** in St Mary Bourne, **St Nicholas** in Longparish, **St Andrew's** in Hurstbourne Priors and **St James** in Woodcott have come together with the churches of **All Hallows'** in Whitchurch, **All Saints'** in Barton Stacey, **St James the Less** in Litchfield, **St Mary's** in Tufton and **St Michael's** in Bullington to form a new Benefice. Our new Ministry Team comprises six Clergy (Revd Helen O'Sullivan as Associate Vicar) and five Licensed Lay Ministers. This means you will undoubtedly see new smiley faces in your churches and schools from time to time, so please welcome them. I am pleased to lead the new benefice team and to serve you as your incumbent Vicar.

We are fortunate that the churches within the Hill & Valley area are in a good place; visible, vibrant and active across the community and our schools. I would like to say thank you to the Lay Clergy and those in our communities that have made this possible and for their continued support.

The Parish Church Councils (PCCs) have agreed in principle to the proposed boundary changes to the Benefice. Pleasingly, the PCCs will continue with no change as before, retaining their Church Wardens, their autonomy, their Parish status and responsibility for their own funds and how they are spent. The Diocese is encouraging all churches to explore simplification of governance in future years where possible and to benefit from the sharing of administration and ideas.

Our new Benefice (network of parishes) will continue to be known as the **Bright Waters Benefice**. The title has local historical significance taken from the book '*Where the Bright Waters Meet*' by Harry Plunket Greene, who is buried at Hurstbourne Priors. This is a lovely picture of chalk streams merging, fishing, and enjoyment of the beautiful countryside; and of course the theological significance of living waters of hope bringing new life.

I would value your prayers at this time of change which hasn't been easy all round. However, ever the optimist, I can see plenty of opportunity for the churches to network well, meet new friends and support each other across our communities in a new way, and have some fun! If anyone would like to contact me to chat about these changes, please do email me Revd.davidroche@hotmail.com.

I leave you with this Autumnal poem:

*This month, Father God, may my eyes be opened
to see the beauty
in all that is ordinary - yet special -
around me.
May the glory of all that you have made
remind me of your presence and lead me closer to you. Amen*

All good wishes

David

*The Reverend David Roche
Area Dean and Priest in charge*

Services in the Parish Churches

October 2021

The Benefice will continue to have an **11am Zoom service**. If you are isolating, in a vulnerable category or are unsure, please stay safe, stay at home and come to Zoom. All Zoom details (incl. the link) are available from the Church wardens, Caroline Hoyes or Dodie Marsden. Please note that **St James, Woodcott has moved from 9.30am to a 9.00am service** for its bi-monthly services.

3rd October - Trinity 18

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	11.00am	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	11.00am	<i>Family Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<i>* Home Zoom service at 11.00am</i>		

10th October - Trinity 19

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.30am	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
St James', Woodcott	no service	
<i>* Home Zoom service at 11.00am</i>		

17th October - Trinity 20

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	11.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Family Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
<i>* Home Zoom service at 11.00am</i>		

24th October - Trinity 21 - Bible Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	11.00am	<i>All Age Family Worship</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	11.00am	<i>Family Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	no service	

31st October - All Saints Day

Benefice Service at All Hallow's at 11.00am
 St Peter's, St Mary Bourne 6.00pm *Benefice All Souls*
** Home Zoom service at 11.00am from All Hallows*



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

Baptisms

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

Lily May Walton on 29th August at St Peter's

Sophie Francis on 12th September at St Nicholas'

Ottilie Burgess on 12th September at St Nicholas'

Gabriel Albert on 26th September at St Peter's

Weddings

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

Will Nelsey and Abby Ind on 18th September at St Peter's

Funerals

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

With deepest sympathy we record the following:

A Thanksgiving Service and burial of Ashes of Helga Spring at St Peter's

A Funeral of Penny Elkins at St Nicholas'

A Burial of Ashes of Barbie Taylor at St Peter's

A Service of Thanksgiving for Tony Grunsell at St Peter's

A cremation service for Fred Lipscombe

We remember them and their families in our prayers

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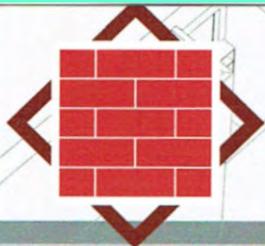
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**NEW TO THE PARISH?
WELCOME DRINKS FOR NEW VILLAGERS
on Friday 1st October 2021 - 6.30pm
St Mary Bourne Village Centre**

All new residents are warmly invited to a drinks reception to welcome them 'officially' to the parish*. The relaxed evening gives newcomers an opportunity to meet other new residents and to find out more about the villages and parish by chatting to representatives of different local organisations and clubs.

Anyone who has moved in since November 2018 is very welcome to attend. Personal invitations will be sent out nearer the date but if, by mischance, you don't receive one, please do feel free to come along and introduce yourself on the evening. We'd love to see you!

For acceptances and more information, email welcome@stmarybourne.org or see <https://stmarybourne.org/new-residents/>

* anyone in Binley, Dunley, Egbury, St Mary Bourne, Stoke, Wadwick, Woodcott and The Wykes



**ST MARY BOURNE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**We are holding our open day sessions
for year R parents September 2022
on
Thursday 11th November and
Thursday 18th November 2021
1.30 - 2.30pm**



Coffee at The George Inn

All ages are welcome, from all the villages, to a social coffee morning at **The George Inn St Mary Bourne on Tuesday 12th October at 10.30am**

£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.



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

John o' Groats to Land's End Bike Ride

To everyone who donated/sponsored me on my cycling challenge, I wanted to extend a huge thank you to all of you. I completed the challenge in the 10 days I allotted and have to date raised just shy of £4,000.

I cannot believe the generosity of everyone who has supported me through donations and messages of support, so I truly cannot thank you enough. I am enjoying a well-earned rest while planning my next big adventure; London to Barcelona in 2022! Best wishes *Hamish*



If you have a child who will be starting reception in September 2022 please come along to meet the children and staff and have a tour of the school

**TEL: 01264 738336 TO BOOK A PLACE
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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre

FRANCES McDORMAND **NOMADLAND**

12A | 1 h 47 min

Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The third feature film from director Chloé Zhao, *NOMADLAND* features real nomads Linda May, Swankie and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her exploration through the vast landscape of the American West.

Tuesday 19th October - 7.30pm**Hall and Licensed Bar open from 7pm**Tickets **£5** in advance or **£6** at the door

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.comwww.stmarybourne.co.uk**16th November - 'Summerland'**

SMB

ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE SHOP
& post office

There is a tiny corner at the back of the stock room where I have carved a small space for myself to work. It sometimes gets covered in empty boxes waiting to be filled for home deliveries or loo roll but sometimes, just sometimes, it's clear enough for me to work on.

On the wall to my left is a big white board where I have written my 'To Do' List. Fourth down on the list is 'Christmas!' I can barely think about it when it seems we haven't had summer yet, but think about it I must. Turkeys, Christmas decorations, great small gifts and all the Christmas food you need will be here for you. Still a long way off, but just so you know.

A more immediate challenge for the shop is that of deliveries and supplies. Apparently, due to a perfect storm of driver shortages, Brexit and a shortage of cardboard, we are being 'capped' in what we can order from our main supplier, Londis. This means that if a product is deemed as non-priority, we may be capped at zero - meaning we won't get it at all or capped at just 1 case. Along with the capping is an ever-increasing list of products that are 'temporarily unavailable.' Please bear with us if there are things you cannot find in the shop. We are doing our utmost to get them to you, and so far, compared with a lot of village stores, we are doing really well. We are better stocked than most and will continue to do whatever we can to ensure our shortages are kept at an absolute minimum. We have a distinct advantage that we have some very lovely people who live in the village that are quite influential at the Londis depot and we thank them whole heartedly for their commitment to get us what we need... You know who you are!!

So that's it. Summer is turning golden, and we are kicking through the leaves. Schools are back and October half term is on the horizon. Halloween approaches and as usual we will have pumpkins from the *Pick Your Own* and a bundle of treats to have ready at your front door for the witches and ghouls that will visit. Autumn brings its own magic and whilst it might not mean long summer evenings and chilled rosé wine, it does mean crackling fires and comfort food... for every door that closes, another one opens! *Lara and the Team*

Village Shop**September 2021 - 1🍀🍀 Club Draw:****£50** - J Crossley **£20** - D & A Blake**£20** - S Coulton **£10** - J Ahl

The St Mary Bourne Village Bake Off Saturday 6th November 2021

Bring your bakes for 3-4pm @ The SMB Village Centre.

Judging will start at 4pm and prizes are expected to be awarded at about 5pm. **£2.00/entry**There will be 3 age categories (**kids, bigger kids & adults**) and three baking categories:Category 1 • **Bonfire night theme**Category 2 • **Anything with lemon**Category 3 • **Anything with 2 eyes**

All proceeds will go to St Mary Bourne Primary School. After judging is complete - everyone will head to The George for drinks and food (and to eat all the cakes). Please sign up via the facebook page or email Jonny - so we know numbers.

Please contact Jonny Orange to pre-order kids food.

Jonny_orange@hotmail.com or **07931 285 988**

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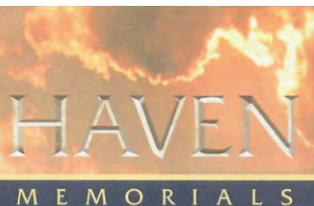
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Parish Council

Dates for Full Parish Council Meetings

- **Tuesday 19th October**
- Tuesday 23rd November
- Tuesday 21st December
- Tuesday 18th January 22

Summary report from the **June & July** meetings of St Mary Bourne Parish Council

Time for Public Speaking (*June*) -

- Whether the Parish Lengthsman's work previously identified in November 2020 had been followed up, including costs involved
- Sustainable Bourne Valley timing concerns for fundraising for a Community Energy Project
- Difficulties with communicating with parish council on parish office answerphone
- Future retention of Parish Council office in the Club Room

Time for Public Speaking (*July*) - The planning application **Land adjacent to Bourne Valley Inn** was discussed.

Borough Councillor's Reports -

(*June*) - Cllr Carr reported on a planning application at Stoke Road; the Local Plan Update; a pilot scheme for assessing community needs and assets; and on-going issues with local waste collections.

(*July*) - Cllr Carr reported on B&DBC Development Committee's refusal of planning permission for parking for Methodist Chapel conversion with access from Gangbridge Lane. He also reported on estimated future housing needs in B&DBC for next 15 years (900 homes per year); savings that B&DBC is looking to make (£40m); and waste/recycling management.

County Councillor's Report - Cllr Thacker reported on Hampshire CC's new Chief Executive, Carolyn Williamson and a Balancing the Budget consultation
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

Footpaths - A fence & gate would be erected to allow access to Bells Meadow from FP 37. The Parish Council would obtain quotes for the work.

Highways -

- Rubbish collection issues at Bank Top. The Chair had spoken to the CEO of B&DBC
- Repair work on the Jubilee lamp would be carried out shortly
- Owners will be contacted re overgrown hedges on road frontage at Bourne Court
- Necessary repairs to paths, damage to roads/bridges, etc. Please report to parish council or to
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

Recreation Ground and Lake -

- Committee co-optees had submitted a report with estimated costs for re-locating the children's play area. Recommendations from B&DBC landscape architect had been discussed and further consultations would take place. The current playground had received a RoSPA report. All issues were being dealt with.
- Waste bins at the Cricket pavilion should be emptied after games and practices and cricket teams would be made aware of danger to Recreation Ground users of cars being driven onto the ground at speeds above 5mph.
- A 3-year lake plan would shortly be drafted to take into consideration all users of the lake and the wildlife.
- Damage to bridges, fences etc throughout the parish can be reported direct to
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

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

Newly registered Planning Applications October 2021

- Erection of rear conservatory - **Droveside, Chapel Lane, Stoke** - 21/02692/HSE - 17 August 2021

Recent Local Planning Authority Decisions

- Single storey extension to the rear elevation - **12 Stevens Green** - 21/02414/HSE - 20 July 2021 - **Granted**
- Installation of integrated "In-Roof" Solar PV panels to the rear of the dwelling (Retrospective) - **Pioneer House, Church Street** - 21/02182/RET - 29 June 2021 - **Granted**
- Conversion of loft space to a bedroom with roof lights to the south and north elevations, and window to west elevation - **6 Applegate** - 21/02180/HSE - 29 June 2021 - **Granted**
- Installation of replacement cladding, windows and roof covering - **Copse Cottage, Derry Down** - 21/02088/HSE - 21 June 2021 - **Granted**
- Re-roofing of existing thatched outbuilding - **Old Lawn, Binley Bottom** - 21/02028/HSE - 15 June 2021 - **Granted**
- Erection of outbuilding following demolition of existing garage outbuilding. Single storey porch extension to existing dwelling, and removal of existing bay window - **Windmill Cottage, Egbury Road** - 21/01772/HSE - 24 May 2021 - Application withdrawn
- Creation of outdoor swimming pool and erection of pool house - **Stoke House, Windmill Lane** - 21/01368/HSE - 19 April 2021 - **Granted**
- Internal and external alterations including removal of chimneystack, extension to rear store to contain new air source heat pump, installation of roof lights, alterations to rear window, alterations to internal walls, addition of new internal insulation, installation of new bathroom - **Eyles Cottage, Church Street** - 21/00975/LBC - 17 March 2021 - **Granted**

St Mary Bourne Annual Parish Council Meeting Election of Officers and Committee members

Parish Council Chair: David Peart **Vice-Chair:** Jo Perry

Finance: David Peart, Bridget Culley, Kevin Fullerton, Oliver Madge, Jo Perry

Flood & Emergency: David Peart, Bridget Culley & Jo Perry. Sarah Cooney & Clem Jones (co-opted members)

Highways & Services: David Peart, Bridget Culley & Jo Perry. Sarah Cooney & Katie Dixon (co-opted members)

Planning: David Peart, Jo Perry, Kevin Fullerton, Kevin Noble & Gwen Randall.

Recreation Ground: David Peart, Bridget Culley, Jo Perry, Kevin Fullerton & Gwen Randall. Laura Davis & Amelda De Segundo (co-opted members)

Lake: David Peart, Bridget Culley, Jo Perry, Oliver Madge, Gwen Randall. Caroline Hoyes & Alex Martin (co-opted members)

Footpaths: Kevin Noble & Caroline Hoyes (co-opted)

Parish Tree Warden: Vacancy. The council thanked Peter St Quintin for his work in this role for a number of years.

Hampshire Association of Local Councils: David Peart

Holdway Almshouse Charity: Daniel Culley and Penny Woods

St Mary Bourne United Charities: Bridget Culley

Hill & Valley Business Group: Oliver Madge

Future Parish Council meetings would be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, if possible.

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Light Touch Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

Many of us had to learn Keats' poem about autumn at school, and one line talks of apples (on) the moss'd cottage-trees. When did we start leaving apples lying on the ground to rot and buying shiny round apples from the supermarket? A charity called Pesticide Action Network UK tries to promote safe and sustainable alternatives to pesticide use. Pesticide use is measured by weight, and we are reassured that its use is declining. But its toxicity is increasing; and the number of times and area of land sprayed is as well, according to PAN UK's research. As many new pesticides are systemic, the residue is all through the fruit so cannot be washed off.

There is an unfortunate vicious circle in large commercial orchards; large monocultures attract pests, sprays kill insects indiscriminately, the pests tend to have a much faster breeding rate than their natural predators. So, the end result is more pests and so more sprays. Herbicides remove the plants under the trees to make gathering fruit easier causing the removal of even more beneficial insects so allowing even more pests. A difficult cycle to break once started.

Organic fruit is expensive, but in a village, we have no excuse for spurning the free, if sometimes lumpy offerings, left out in boxes by the road or offered by a neighbour. If you have any garden at all even better grow your own. Apple trees are meant to be the easiest of all to grow and can be found quite cheaply. Old fashioned varieties are naturally more pest resistant. They need sun and as we are in a frost pocket a late flowering type would be safer. It is best to plant them bare root in winter and they need a yearly prune, but if in a garden setting with plenty of surrounding flowers and a bit of longer grass underneath for insects they should be perfectly healthy. In any case, the tree tends to discard an occasional fruit early if it has been attacked. As well as the popular bees and ladybirds, a lesser well-known ally looking after your fruit is the earwig, so don't squish them!



Go Star Gazing in October

6 October - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in night sky. Phase occurs at 11.05 UTC. This is best time of month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.



7 October - Draconids Meteor Shower. Draconids is a minor meteor shower, producing only about 10 meteors per hour. Produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner, first discovered in 1900. Draconids is unusual shower in that the best viewing is in the early evening, instead of early morning like most other meteor showers. Shower runs annually from 6-10 October and peaks this year on the night of 7th. Best viewing early evening from dark location away from outdoor lights. Meteors will radiate from constellation Draco but can appear anywhere in the sky.

20 October- Full Moon. Moon will be located on opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. Phase occurs 14.57 UTC. This full moon is known by early Native American tribes as the Hunters Moon because at this time of year the leaves are falling, and game is fat and ready to hunt. This moon also known as Blood Moon.

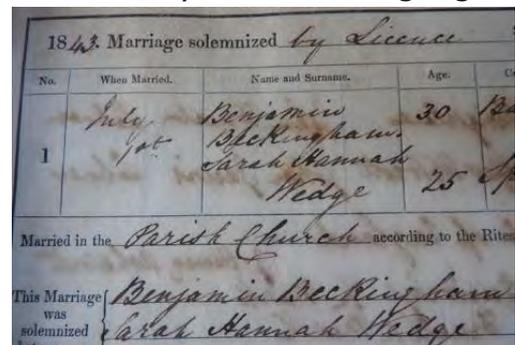
21-22 October- Orionids Meteor Shower. The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. Produced by dust grains left behind by comet Halley, which has been known and observed since ancient times. Shower runs from 2 October -7 November. Peaks on night of 21 October and morning of 22 October. Full moon will be a problem this year for Orionids. Its glare will block out all but brightest meteors. If you are patient, you should be able to catch a few good ones. Meteors will radiate from constellation Orion but can appear anywhere in the sky.

25 October-Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation 18.4 degrees from Sun. This is best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above horizon in morning sky. Look for planet low in eastern sky just before sunrise.

29 October-Venus at Greatest Elongation. Planet Venus reaches its greatest eastern elongation of 47 degrees from Sun. This is best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above horizon in evening sky. Look for bright planet in western sky after sunset.

St James', Woodcott

1st & 100th entry in the wedding register



Postcard from Binley October 2021

I stopped off at St Peter's Church the other morning and went looking for a Leper's Squint. Disappointingly I didn't find one. I saw a couple of places where there *might* have been one but nothing really to go on. During the Middle Ages when leprosy was widespread, leper houses and hospitals were established on the outskirts of towns and cities. In rural communities they were generally by crossroads on the edges of villages where the poor old lepers could beg a living, live among their own wretched people and not infect the healthy members of the parish. As many were Christian, churches obligingly facilitated a hole in the church wall where the lepers could gather, see the chalice on the altar and listen to the preaching and the service without mixing with the congregation and these became known as "Leper's Squints". Some could be as simple as removing a stone in the church wall to leave a hole, others could be as elaborate as installing a small window. A friend lives at Tarrant Rushton near Blandford Forum where they have a real cracker of a Leper's Squint. The sandstone either side of the window has literally been gouged out of the building by Leper's hands in either a state of excitement or agitation, I'm really not quite sure.

Of course, if I'd done some research, I would have discovered that the nearest and in fact the *oldest* Leper Colony in the country was at Winchester out on the Alresford road, St Mary Magdalen founded in pre-Norman times. Despite missing out on a leper's colony here in the valley we did however have two settlements for those living with smallpox. One at Swampton in the village and the other up at Doiley Wood. Smallpox was a terrible scourge here and the churchyards are full of those that perished with it. In fact, as little as a hundred and fifty years ago the chances of a resident living a long and full life were pretty slim. If the smallpox didn't get you then more likely the Bourne Fever (Typhoid) would! This was largely eradicated by Dr Joseph Stevens in the 1870's by simply acquiring some land for allotments at the top of Bourne Hill (I think).

"The introduction of allotments away from the village has been of considerable advantage, in a sanitary point, to the health of the villagers. Five and twenty years ago there was an almost annual visitation of fever, of a typhoid character, which was due to the small gardens at the backs of the houses being crowded in the arrangement of the pig-styes, closets, and muck heaps, which trenched too closely on the back doors. Greater cleanliness was exacted in the removal of all refuse materials, which found their way chiefly to the allotment gardens, and thus contamination of the water in the shallow wells or "Dip-holes" was prevented, to the comparative exclusion of a long-standing menace to the health of the population." (Dr. Joseph Stevens).
So, there you are.

I was having an early one in the George the other evening and fell into conversation with a couple of old stalwarts in the shape of Colin Chilton and Derek Dyer and we started reminiscing. Old names, old faces, old

happenings. That place is full of ghosts for me, I first walked through the door in my twenties and now I'm in my sixties. Good Lord, where has that time gone?

As someone once said, "The past is like a collection of photographs: some are familiar and on constant display, others need searching for in dusty drawers." How very true. And it was while we were searching through these dusty drawers that the magnificently named "Stiffy" Downes cropped up. Stiffy famously challenged big Joe Goodyear to a dual in The George which involved a shove ha'penny board and ten half crowns. That's about as much detail as I feel able to give but it was an heroic defeat for Stiffy who went into self-imposed exile on the Isle of Wight after that. A Napoleonic gesture that saw his name become part of St. Mary Bourne folklore.

Do you have a favourite stick? If not, you should have. I have one that was given to me by Micky Wedge. It's very nobbly blackthorn and Micky has grafted a thumb rest on the top from a roe deer's antler. It's varnished, has a heavy brass cap on the bottom and it's a work of art and I treasure it. Memories of a dear friend and countryman. It's too nice to take out on a ramble and so I take great pleasure in cutting my own. Now is a good time and we are blessed here in the valley with heavy crops of hazel so get in under the canopy of leaves that I see are now turning rusty around the edges, admire the milky greenness of the hazel nuts that will be all around you and cut yourself a straight stem a comfortable distance from where the stem forks at a "V". Trim the "V" to a couple of inches each side, trim the stick according to your height and you have the perfect stick to take out. You are now licensed to point at things like errant cyclists, approaching rain or distant creatures and pass comment to whoever you are with. You can poke around a lump of dung and see what comes out or flick a dead rat into a hedge. The entertainment possibilities are endless when you are armed with a good stick so cut yourself one and get out into our glorious countryside which will be coming into its finest livery over the next few weeks. And most importantly, enjoy it! *NA*



Obituaries

Keith James Hirst

7th October 1946 – 4th June 2021

(Written by Glenn Hirst)

Keith James Hirst, affectionately known as "Chief" by his family, was born in Upper Wyke on the 7th October 1946 to Olga and Joseph Hirst. Keith had two older brothers Joey and David and an older sister June.

In 1946 Keith's dad, Joe, bought some land in St Mary Bourne at Bank Top and started to sell cars, lorries and bikes bought from the army, and J. Hirst & Sons was born.

In 1948 at the age of 2, Keith and his family moved to St Mary Bourne and he continued to live in the village for the rest of his life.

Keith spent the most of his childhood days playing football (he always boasted about his "footballer's legs"). He played Left Half at junior school, in the cub scouts and then at Testbourne school where, in the under 13's team, they won the league and the cup. He used to play in Whitchurch every Saturday morning, have beans on toast in the café and then cycle back to SMB ... to play more football!

Working with his dad and brothers in the yard at Bank Top, Keith learned valuable skills he would continue to use in his working life, especially how to "haggle" a price, usually agreed in the end by flipping a coin. One day he glued two coins together so it would definitely be "Heads" and he couldn't lose. But when flipping the coin the customer called Heads before he did and Keith had to agree to sell at the lower price.

In 1964 Keith met Carole Ashford, a hairdresser who was doing his Gran's hair. For their first date he picked up Carole in his Ford Ten, which his dad had bought for him from a government sale for £50, and they drove to Salisbury to see the Rolling Stones live in concert.

In 1966 Keith and Carole were married and England won the World Cup. Keith always said "what a year!"

On return from their honeymoon Keith and Carole moved into a bungalow in the village called "Chandos" where they would live for 23 years. Their son Darren came along in 1967 and Lisa in 1968. Keith and Carole started fostering in 1971 and would continue to do so for the next 40 years, fostering and taking in well over 50 children and adopting Glenn, Katrina, Samantha, Katie and Ben along the way.

Carole and Keith would have many BBQs, parties and celebrations over the years with all of their friends and family and Keith was always getting involved in village life whether it was being a Marshall for the half marathon and fun runs, helping to organise the duck race, or being a willing competitor in the local Beer races!

One of Keith's greatest passions was his involvement with the Freemasons. He joined the Anton lodge in 1971 where his dad Joe was already a member, and he enjoyed many years moving up through the ranks and joining other lodges around the country. 2021 was his 50th year in the masons and he was the longest standing member in his lodge.

Keith and his family moved twice over the years always staying in St Mary Bourne and settling at Briar Patch. Over the years they would find "home from homes", first in a beach hut at Hengistbury Head, Christchurch which they had for 19 years and then their holiday home in Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

Keith's children made him a grandpa 12 times: Zak, Gabby, Milly, Wilfie, Isaac, Scarlett, Ruby, Maggie, Bella, Lulu, Elliot and Gracie, and a great grandpa twice, Noah and Chester.

Unfortunately, out of the blue, Keith was diagnosed with a rare sarcoma cancer in April 2021 which was so aggressive it could not be treated. He was in hospital for a month but all he wanted to do was to come home to see his family and his dog Lottie for the last time.

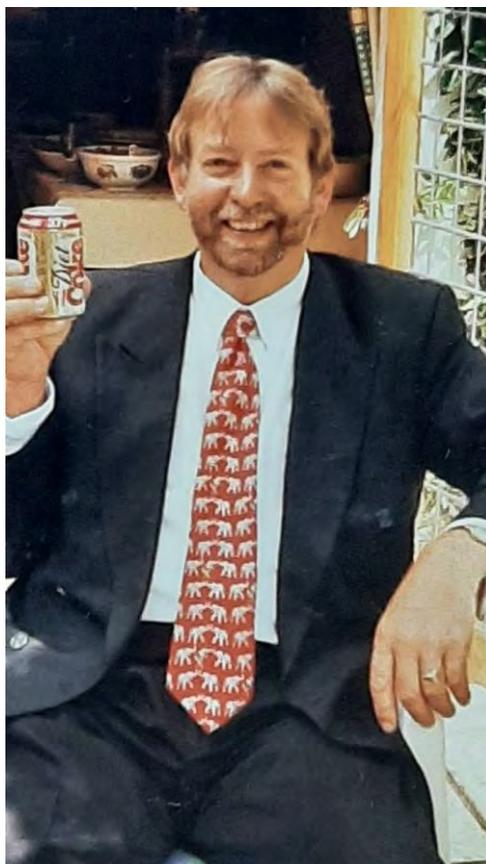
Keith was home for 2 weeks before he was moved to the Countess of Brecknock hospice in Andover on the 3rd of June where, the next day, June 4th, he passed away peacefully with his family surrounding his bed.

Keith was a village boy through and through so it was perfect that his funeral service was in the field behind his old yard, overlooking the houses of his family and friends and the places he loved to walk. His favourite music was playing and Carole, all the kids, grandkids and great grandkids were with him to say goodbye.

Keith didn't "battle" cancer, he didn't "fight" it. He accepted that this insidious thing had moved into his space and for 12 weeks he lived with it, he shared a body with it, and it inspired him. He donated money, he wrote his memoirs, he talked to people he hadn't spoken to in years, he mended relationships and helped us all, his family and friends, see what we can do when we pull together.

There is not enough paper and ink in the world to write down all the good things Keith did, all the people he helped and all the adventures he had.

He was a kind, loving, funny, generous man and will be greatly missed by all.



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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT FROM MEETING ON 13th SEPTEMBER

Planning

Raymond Brown/Fortis will shortly be submitting a revised planning application for the permanent storage of IBAA on the front field at the A303 Enviropark. *There is to be a public consultation until 14th October.* The documents relating to the application can be found here:

<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0545> A summary of the Community liaison meeting with Raymond Brown, held on 15th September, can be found on the Longparish website

Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Camilla Janmohamed, a councillor vacancy has been advertised. Two members of the public attended the meeting to learn more about the vacancy and to introduce themselves. Other interested parties should contact the Clerk for further information. It is likely that the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the October PC meeting.

The Plough Inn

The Treasurer of LCPL attended the meeting and gave a very informative presentation about the renovation works at The Plough Inn, and a summary of the costs involved since the beginning of the project. The Plough Inn will be opening on 16 September, although for drinks only at this stage until the kitchen has been completed.

Playground

The council selected a contractor to install safety surfacing around the ping pong table in the playground, which is due to be installed shortly. The PC very gratefully received a donation of £600 from Longparish Gardening Club towards the cost of a new bench.

Highways

Following a number of concerns raised by parishioners about traffic speed and accidents on the B3400 and also through the village, the Chairman had contacted HCC. The Speed Indicator Device may only be used on roads with 20, 30 or 40mph speed limit, and therefore cannot be used to monitor traffic on the B3400. The Parish Council will sign up to the Safer Roads Scheme. Approval was granted to purchase an extension pole for the SID mounting post near Forton.

Longparish Fete

The Parish Council wishes to congratulate and thank the Longparish Fete Committee and volunteers for a very successful and enjoyable event.

Parish Council Meetings

Face-to-face meetings at the Village Hall have now recommenced, adhering to Covid regulations set out by the Village Hall Committee. Capacity of the hall is therefore reduced, and we would ask that anyone wishing to attend a PC meeting should contact the clerk clerk@longparish.org.uk prior to the meeting, so that we can carefully monitor numbers.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 October. 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

KEEP TEST VALLEY BEAUTIFUL

The Keep Test Valley Beautiful team has commissioned a consultant to study a fresh application to make permanent the "temporary" ash pile at the Raymond Brown/Fortis Enviropark.

They want to concrete 1.7 hectares of what was grassland to accommodate incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA). The revised plan covers a slightly smaller area, removing the proposal to encroach on a strip of semi-mature woodland, but still accommodating thousands of tons of IBAA.

Raymond Brown/Fortis originally said the extra storage would be required only for the period of the pandemic but if granted permission it will remain for decades to come.

David Wright, representing KTVB said: "We are on the case. If after proper consideration of the application we feel there are appropriate grounds for objection we will shortly circulate suggested objection points for consideration." "But there is no need to wait – Consultation closes in just four weeks (October 15) so urgent action is important"

Email objections to

<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Comment/HCC/2021/0545> or write to Strategic Planning, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD for the attention of Philip Mallard. Quote application 21/00812/CMAN.

You must include your full name and address, including postcode and, if you object, you must say so. Each member of the household can complain separately. Said David: "It's important that individuals express their concerns. Numbers count."

KTVB will need to raise around £4000 to fund our professional advisors. If you have any suggestions or can offer any help in raising this money, please email KTVB c/o David Wright at djt_wright@hotmail.com

LITTER FREE LONGPARISH



Longparish Friday Litter pick
Friday 15th October

- meet behind Village Hall 9.15.

The PC is sponsoring a Duke of Edinburgh Award candidate who has chosen to litter pick in

Longparish over the next 6 months. She will be following one of four routes and will be monitoring what she collects and recycling what she can too. Thank you, we look forward to hearing the results.

The Parish Council can provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags. Tel **Christian Dryden 720 398**



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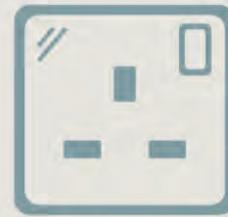
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FANTASTIC FETE



Credit: Rev David Roche

Two years on from the last fete everyone felt liberated from the bondage of Covid restrictions and decided to have a relaxing afternoon out. The weather was very kind with the sun illuminating the cricket ground with colour and joyfulness. The turnout was amazing. Over 350 cars squeezed into the parking field. By the time we reached the official opening, the ground was seething with visitors of all ages and a wonderful collection of dogs of every conceivable size shape colour and temperament.

Jonathan Palmer of Longparish House kindly opened the fete having been interrogated by Andy Smith, the master of ceremonies for the day, about his life in motor sport, formula one racing and his second career owning and managing motor racing circuits. Jonathan had presented the Grand Draw first prize, a ride for 4 in his helicopter to the Isle of Wight and lunch. The lucky winner was James Grant of Forton. Jonathan also most generously gave another prize, a day out at Brands Hatch driving on the racing circuit.

Thanks to the energy and commitment of the stall holders and volunteers on the day and during the build up to the fete made a profit of £12,000. Congratulations and thanks to all involved. This was an epic achievement.

Congratulations everyone for a brilliant day and thanks to all who made it happen.

The Longparish Fete is run every year by a large team of village volunteers, who both contribute to, and benefit from, this hugely popular annual village event; these include representatives from the Parish Council, Village Hall, Longparish Community Association, St Nicholas Church (PCC), Longparish School, Longparish Cricket Club, the Playground and many more. If you use and enjoy some of these wonderful community services, we strongly urge you to consider joining the fete committee. This fun and diverse village group meets several times during the run up to the fete, and works together as a team over the fete weekend in early September to run the event.

John and Jane Young have brilliantly steered the ship for the past 5 years (well beyond expectation) and would like to hand over the baton next year. As a village we wholeheartedly thank and congratulate them for their efforts. The committee are now looking for volunteers to join the fete committee for 2022 and would love to see some new faces and hear some fresh ideas. For more information on what is involved please do give John a call on: 01264 720233 or email j.young233@btinternet.com

Penny Elkins, 1943-2021



It was a mark of their presence and contribution to village life that it seemed that Trevor and Penny were living in White Windows for much longer than they did. On his retirement from REME and their peripatetic army life, and her work as a paediatric nurse, they moved in late 2006 to begin a new life together in this village,

full of hope for their future and family times ahead in a more permanent home. They both became joyfully active in community life, joining village organisations and assisting readily when volunteers were needed. Penny particularly enjoyed singing in the village choir, building on her earlier choral experience. They both felt very at home in Longparish and its beautiful countryside and made many friends.

Very sadly, Trevor died after a short illness in March 2009 and losing him was a great blow for Penny. She moved in May 2010 to be near her sister in Winchester and then finally, to be nearer to her younger family, she settled in Sheet, near Petersfield. For some years she still sang with the Longparish choir, despite the distance. How sad that she was taken ill earlier this year, bravely suffered a difficult treatment, but died surrounded by her loving family in Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth on 21 August.

At her funeral in St Nicholas church on 10 September, her family spoke of the great love they had known from her, protective, practical and her enthusiasm for volunteering, particularly to work with children, as she had in her nursing. We offer our deepest sympathy on their mother's death to Julia, Nikki, Peter and Diana and her nine grandchildren. She was buried in Longparish Cemetery next to her beloved Trevor.



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Friday Lunch Club Autumn Dates 2021

Longparish Village Hall

12.00 - 2.00pm

As restrictions are lifted, the Lunch Club is open to anyone in the community. We do ask you to book so that we have an idea of numbers as there may still be restrictions on numbers for the hall. We serve a light lunch, all home made, of soup and roll followed by cake and tea and coffee for just £3.

After lunch there is a talk or quiz - ideas for speakers always welcome.

Friday 29th October - " Flying High: The Army in the air, their stories " presented by The Army Air Museum

Friday 26th November - Beckys Beez

Friday 17th December - Christmas Lunch and Quiz

To book a place and transport call

Andrea Harris 720 457 or

Christian Dryden 720398

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



We are looking for more volunteers to join our fabulous Volunteer Marshals at the Covid Vaccination Centre in Chineham.

Our vaccination centre has been up and running for 9 months now and to date we have delivered over 185,000

vaccinations to residents from all over North Hampshire! After a quieter period over the summer, we are now gearing up again towards the roll-out of boosters / 3rd doses for the most vulnerable in our community. As we know it is this group in particular who need our assistance most when arriving on site and guiding through their vaccinations. They are also the most in need of protection from this virus and as a consequence are incredibly grateful to our volunteers for their assistance and efforts.

Our shifts run 07:15 - 13:15 OR 13:15 - 19:15, 7 days a week. And tasks include meeting patients on arrival, assistance from their vehicles into the centre, guiding through the vaccination hall, and then out again back to their cars. Don't worry, no training is required. You will receive joining instructions beforehand and will be fully briefed on arrival.

If you are interested in joining our super-friendly team, or for more information please use the following link to Basingstoke Voluntary Action;

<https://www.bvaction.org.uk/vaccination-programme-volunteering-may-2021/> or get in touch by email: liz@training-expertise.co.uk

Liz Mayon-White



Despite the inclement weather, Longparish CC had a successful summer season with both the 2nd and 3rd teams gaining promotion from their leagues. Junior matches suffered more from weather disruption but many Colts were still able to participate and enjoy playing games against other clubs.

The new nets have been extensively used over the summer by both adults and juniors. We are looking forward to the resumption of the indoor cricket leagues this winter at Dummer and Winchester and the club have entered several teams.

The club held a very successful Golf Day at Leckford Golf Course on 3rd September with over 30 players participating. The annual presentation evening followed on after this, kindly hosted by The Cricketers Inn. LCC also successfully ran the BBQ at the recent Longparish Village fete.

Planning for further improvement to the pavilion and the ground will take place over the winter.

If anyone is interested in playing cricket or becoming involved with the club, please contact either Justin Jackman, Junior Co-ordinator: jackmanjustin@aol.com or Mark Benzing, Chairman, mbenzing@aol.com

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LONGPARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

A very warm welcome back to all our families. What a wonderful start the children have made to this academic year. All of our

children, in particular our lower school children, have adapted quickly to our new routine for entering school and we now have a smoother start to the day. Our Year 6 pupils suddenly look more mature and are fantastic role models for our younger children. We are particularly excited about the prospect of our new Year R children starting their induction week next week and look forward to welcoming them into the community.

We would like to extend a warm welcome our new families, whose children started with us after a week of home visits and induction. It is not easy to start a new school and they have been absolutely brilliant. Working hard, enjoying themselves and sharing their thoughts and ideas in worship.

The children have settled back into the school routine quickly and happily and they are particularly enjoying spending time with their friends during break time and lunchtime.

We hope and pray that the Covid-19 pandemic will not have the devastating impact on both our personal lives and the school as it has done over the past year and a half. Whilst it would be foolish for us to become complacent, it is extremely important that we offer our children a broad, engaging and challenging education - particularly when they have not been formally educated continuously since March 2020.

I have spent time with the leadership team drawing together dates for the coming Academic year and we are looking forward returning to a level of normality for our whole school community as we reintroduce school visits, key events, collaborative learning, and the reintroduction of mixing of the classes. It's going to be brilliant, and we can't wait to share it with you.

With my love and prayers to you all,

Nicky White
Headteacher at Longparish Church of England
Primary School



Longparish Little School

We have been very busy back at Little School. We have been making pretend cakes in the mud kitchen and we were very excited that a tractor came to cut the hedges in the field behind us. We had a great time at Forest School looking for bugs, climb climbing trees, swinging on the rope swing and playing in the Forest cafe. We have had some new additions to our provision over the summer. A new small world platform in our nature area where the children created a dinosaur world and a work bench for all their tools. We also now have a snack unit where the children can do their own washing up. One of our team turned an old cat tower into a world for the wild animals to live.

If you would like to see some photos of all the exciting things we do at Little School you can go to our website www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup> We are currently taking for bookings for September 2022, if you would like to come and have a look around please email me at claire@longparishlittleschool.org.uk or phone 01264 7205455.



FoLS 100 Club Winners

- 1st Rachel Waite
- 2nd Jan and Richard West
- 3rd Adam and Emma Brett





The Cricketers Inn

-Longparish-

Matt and the team would like to thank you all for your fantastic continued support. Our Autumn menu is going down well, and we will soon have our first quiz night.

As the nights are drawing in and the weather is cooler we often have our log burners roaring away – come and join us as we head into Autumn!

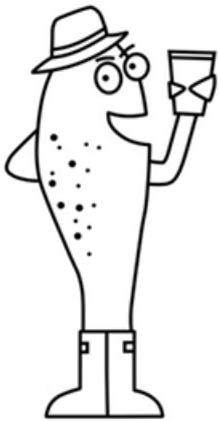
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The Sensational Sixth LCA Longparish Beer Festival 2021



On Saturday 9th October 7pm – 11.30pm the Sensational Longparish Beer Festival is back for the sixth time.

We will be returning to our wonderful Village Hall and as in previous years bringing you a fine selection of real ales from our local area and beyond. Although the beer festival will be going ahead

this year, numbers will be limited this year for understandable reasons.



For further details, contact Sylvia Crook sylvia.crook@gmx.co.uk (0776 303428) or Andy Smith (720 034).

LONGPARISH WILDLIFE BY CHRIS BOWMAN

HEDGEHOGS



The west European hedgehog is one off seventeen species worldwide. They are Britain's only spined mammal. Their highly specialised coat contains around 6,000 creamy brown spines and hang around their body in a loose-ish skirt, concealing greyish fur on the underside and surprisingly long legs and a short tail.

Hedgehogs reach maturity in their second year and breed every year. They mate in May-June and the young are born in July-August but that can depend on how mild the winter is. The average litter size is 4 or 5, however they only wean 2 or 3. The mother is liable to desert or even eat the hoglets if she is disturbed. Sometimes she will carry them in her mouth to a new location.

Young hoglets will leave the nest when they are 3-4 weeks old and go foraging trips with their mother. After around 10 days, the young will wander off on their own. Females are capable of having a second litter in late September-October but the young are unlikely to survive the winter. Hedgehogs are one of the few mammals to hibernate from October-November through to March-April but a lot depends on the winter - if it's mild they will hibernate less.

They will eat worms and insects. If you want to feed them do not put bread and milk out it's not good for them. Dog food or a dried food which you can buy and water. I have at least 8 visiting my garden, they all have different markings and one has taken up residence in our hedgehog house. If you want to see more pictures go to the Longparish Wildlife facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1798082330423787>



GARDENING



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

Sadly, the Longparish Gardening Club have decided to postpone all their meetings until the beginning of the New Year due to Covid restrictions. We start again on **Tuesday 25th January 2022**.

Any queries please to :

Rosie Lowry 720325 rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com or **Marion Bell** 720205



The Plough Inn is open!

After almost six years of dark windows and austere fencing, there was light, laughter and merriment emanating

from our lovely old pub when it opened for business at 5pm on 16th September, three hundred years after it was first founded.

Throughout the opening night, a steady stream of people gathered at the bar, wandered between the tables studying the artwork and artefacts; chatted in groups; admired the beautifully refurbished interior and the stylish exterior - and appreciated the sheer hard work of the dedicated volunteers and tradespeople who have been working so hard on this lovely old building in the last few months.

Steve Howard, the new landlord, said the reaction to the pub had been extremely positive. "It was a really good night - so well supported by locals and people from further afield. It was fantastic to see the pub full of atmosphere. At the moment we're serving just drinks but we're looking forward to offering good quality tasty pub fayre in the next few weeks."

Andy Jolliffe, who heads up the committee that spearheaded the project, said it was a great evening. "It was just great to see the pub filled with people again. After months of really hard work the pub came alive again tonight. None of this would have been possible without our amazing team of volunteers and our skilled team of dedicated tradespeople, who have all poured so much blood, sweat and tears into this project. It feels so good to see it come to fruition and to know that we have all brought The Plough back to life."

Come and see us! Initial opening hours until the kitchen is opened in a few weeks time are:

Mon - Thurs 5pm to 10:30pm

Fri & Sat 11am to 11pm

Sunday noon to 10:30pm

Serving a range of craft ales, fine wines, a wide range of gins including Longparish's award winning River Test Distillery, other spirits and soft drinks.



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

Conditions were good for the September race.

Before we started Forton's Dave Henery was awarded a special tee-shirt to mark 100 runs. Lee Gregory was flying. On his 33rd run, he finished three minutes ahead of the field and recorded a personal best time by over a minute.



Most Improved Woman was Jo Clare. Well done all!

Thanks very much to Maggie Barber, Andy Smith, Claire and Sarah Collier, Luke Pierce and David Gould for helping and the Cricket Club for the lovely venue. The run was the day after the fete and it is great to see the Cricket

Club welcoming people to the ground.

Our next event is on Sunday 10th October. New runners are always welcome. You don't have to be fast. Times this month ranged from 21 minutes to 44 minutes. Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us (details below next article).

Nepal: The Hangman Ultra-Marathon

The 34-mile Hangman Ultra-marathon starts and finishes at Longparish football field. It goes 17 miles up the Test Way to Coombe Gibbet (hence the name) and back again. This picture is at the half way point. You can see the gibbet in the background. Only 17 miles to go.



I ran carrying my Nepali flag to raise awareness of the dire situation there. The Covid infection rate is high, the vaccination rate is low, the tourist industry has taken a huge hit, there's no furlough scheme and unusually heavy monsoon rains have brought severe flooding. And to make matters worse my Nepali friend and his wife and son have all gone down with the virus. They are

strong and I'm sure they will survive but other are less fortunate.

Thank you to everyone who has given to help out. I know some people had problems with the link in last month's Hill & Valley. Sorry. If you were one please try again. I hope this link is better:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/17464#!/DonationDetails>

The target is to reach £1,500 and the total is already past £900. Please chip in. Readers gave generously when the devastating earthquake struck Nepal a few years ago and I know you'll do it again. Everything you give will help families with no furlough and no income from tourism or with the repair of six houses washed away by floods.

Please do contact me if you'd like more information.

Jeremy Barber Tel 01264 720459

Email mriJeremybarber@gmail.com

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WEATHER – AUGUST 2021

Total rainfall for month	52mm	2.04in
It rained on	6 days	
Rainfall same month last year	114mm	4.48in
Total for 2021	664mm	26.14in
Total for 2020	706mm	27.79in
Max temp on 25 th	27C	80F
Min temp	8C	46F

Southern parts of the UK had the third worst August for sunlight since records began. We had 129 hours of sun and we usually manage 192 hours, so gloomy it was !

John Smail

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND LUNCH

St Andrew's Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday, 3rd October at 11am.

All are welcome and we will have a special activity for children during the service.

As usual, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Andover Food Bank. The Food Bank provides boxes containing sufficient nutrition for at least three days worth of healthy, balanced meals for individuals and families. Suitable items include cereal, tea, coffee, sugar, pasta, rice, tinned foods, (meat, fish, fruit and vegetables) fruit juice and longlife milk.

Please bring your donations to the service or leave them in the church beforehand.

Followed by **Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30pm**

Tickets for lunch are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children (under 5s free). Available from Fenella Williams (01256 892081). There will be a quiz and a raffle and all proceeds will be donated to the Mityana Trust.



WORD OF THE MONTH

As Villeggiatura ends, (a period of residence in the country, usually in the summer), we have RUTILANCE – redness or red glow in the trees, sky or face).

So we enter a time of *rubiginous*** *rutilance* before the seasonal *abscission** of leaves from the trees.

Again I repeat myself: *October 2019, ** October 2020.
Barbara Carrodus

AUTUMNAL PIANO RECITAL

Saturday 9th October, 6:30 pm

**St Andrew's Church,
Hurstbourne Priors**

**Pianist
Christopher Burrows**

An evening of classical music to include works by Rachmaninoff, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven and other composers.

Tickets £12.50 to include light refreshments during the interval available from:

barbara.carrodus@btinternet.com 01256 893473
or a.briantevans@gmail.com 01246 738489



Save the date: The Wondering Fiddlers – concert in St Andrews Church on Saturday, 20th November. More details in next month's Hill & Valley.

LADIES' COFFEE MORNINGS

The October coffee morning will be on Wednesday, 20th at The Limes, hosted by Helen Mehaffey (tel. 893119) from 10.15 am to 12 noon. All ages are welcome!



For more information, or if you would like to host a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel. 892665 or sbsorby@hotmail.com)

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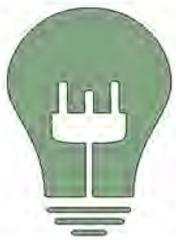
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- River Test Gin Distillery, Longparish
- Ryan Dickinson Plumbing, Whitchurch
- The Cricketers, Longparish

Total Raised for St. Andrew's Church

****** £6,680.64 ******

This would never have been achieved without the generosity of all those who bought tickets, donated and bid for prizes, provided financial donations, proffered their skills and gave their time. All of which contributed to a memorable evening and for which we extend to you a huge THANK YOU!

Ann Orr, Lulu Beasley, Emma Ryan,
 Denise & Ian Bradley



On behalf of Hurstbourne Priors PCC, we would like to thank the Midsummer committee: Ann, Lulu, Emma, Denise and Ian for organising a wonderful evening which was hugely enjoyed by everyone and raised much needed funds for St Andrew's Church.
Martin Briant-Evans and Fenella Williams, Churchwardens



WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

Please Help Us Keep the Waterwheel Turning

The waterwheel is at the heart of the Mill and has been turning and providing power for centuries, but last year when the Mill was closed during Covid-19 lockdowns the wheel was stopped because there was no one to oversee it from day to day. This

unavoidable decision wasn't taken lightly because the potential consequence of some of the wheel's paddles being constantly out of the river and some constantly in the river was that the wood would suffer decay. Unfortunately, that's exactly what has happened and so restoration is now urgently needed. A working waterwheel is essential to the Mill not only to provide power but also so that visitors can see it in action and fully appreciate the history and the engineering. Our Industrial Heritage Conservator has started work by making a lifting frame and support for the wheel's axle so it can be held safely while restoration is carried out, and he'll be replacing all the starts, backboards and floats on the wheel. This restoration work will cost £6000; an expense we hadn't budgeted for, so we're fundraising in various ways and we'd be extremely grateful for donations, large or small.

- We've created a crowd-fundraising campaign for donations. See <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/whitchurch-silk-mill-water-wheel-appeal>
- Become a 'float champion' by donating £100 to sponsor a float (floats are the paddles that push through the water and drive the wheel). With your agreement your name will be listed on the waterwheel interpretation panel and the Mill's website for up to 15 years. We'll also give you regular updates about the restoration project and a ticket for four people to visit the Mill.
- Become a 'backboard champion' by donating £75 to sponsor a backboard (backboards attach to the rim of the wheel to stop water running off the floats into the interior of the wheel). Benefits as for the floats but a ticket for two people rather than four.
- Donate £30 or more and help pay for starts (the wooden pegs that fix the floats to the wheel and hold everything together). Benefits as for backboards plus a 10% discount in our gift shop on the day of your visit.

Please help by telling your friends about this fundraising campaign and/or publicise it on social media.



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DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

Entendez-vous dans les campagnes, mugir ces féroces soldats?



Do you hear, in the countryside, the roar of those ferocious soldiers? The first cycling peloton to assault Paris since the belated Tour de France

in September 2020 took place last week (Sep 2-5). The only ride to boast professional motorcycle escorts across the Somme to the Arc de Triomphe and the cobbles of the Champs Elysee was truly glorious. It ranks as one of the top things I have ever done in my life, and I thank the Royal British Legion (RBL) for their outstanding organisation and the fortitude and dogma of all those who participated. The ride was emotional for many. Men broke down in tears after 300 miles of headwinds, mind-games, aches and pains. But all was nought compared to the suffering endured on the long marches of Armies and the columns of refugees who passed this way 100 years ago. At the time of writing I have raised £3,700, including Dad's funds, and the Legion raised over £250k – a big thanks to all who sponsored us. Your donations will change lives, and even save some.

Day 1- The dash to Dover

The weather reports promised warmth, with a light breeze from the north-east. We mustered, all 150 of us shivering at 06:30 as a light drizzle beckoned us from Eltham Palace, near Sidcup, London. Ready for a 5 hour ride? Our "Colour" was borne upon the recumbent bicycle at the front, like some ragtag Brexit demo setting off for the coast. "Let's gather together into groups at the M25"- alarming, but we soon settled into a rhythm on the A20 heading south-east. I had the rather fun privilege of an interview on Sky News live at 09:45 to promote the event and I craved that first coffee break – it meant whisking our group along and we had to watch ourselves as we all crumpled into packs at the red traffic lights to Aylesford. I was without my former ride-buddy, Dad, but soon accrued a few mates along the way and we wended our way around the Kentish country lanes – far more familiar to me and a comfortable parallel to our lanes here in Hampshire – with all the same smells and blind corners. The big fear was "Capel le Ferne", also known as Dover Hill as we exited a large roundabout outside Folkestone. Once the hill was conquered with a rewarding pint at the aptly named Valiant Sailor, we whooshed to the Ferry in a ferocious headwind. Hurry up and wait – as is the military way – with some scoff on the Ferry.

Day 2 – The longest day

Early rise, this time with a one-hour penalty for daring to set foot on the continent and scratching of heads through the Blonde Belgian Beer fog. We gathered at the Calais town square and memorial for our first Remembrance service – a good turn out from the old boys with their Standards, a somewhat apologetic speech given in rusty

A-level French, and a rousing rendition of God Save the Queen and La Marseillaise. We split into 3 groups – fast, medium and whacky races. The conditions were fabulous, and this time we had pace-cars and a large team of motorcycle outriders. They held all the lights and junctions for us, and the oncoming French cars all pulled over out of a kind of hard-wired respect for cycle groups. Anathema to my experiences here in UK (why can't we do this?). A baguette stop at the village hall at Brunembert and we set off again. I bumped down to Group 2 for a more casual pace, and of course we were the only group to get lost, divert through a cobbled town (ouch) and miss the tea-stop. After a parched 2+ hour slog across the Somme – impressively long views and undulating land – we had ice lollies at Crécy. This was not just a ride to Paris, this was a history tour – with evening talks and battle explanations from our ride military historian.

Day 3 – Catharsis

I trained for this. I put the hours in the saddle. I felt up for it on Day 3 – it was shorter and much, much faster. Instead of bunching up behind the pace car, I joined the top twenty riders in the fast group 1. We nailed it to the lunch stop at a tasty average of 19-20mph, including a session in a "chaingang" – a kind of formation that rotates the lead cyclist that takes the headwind, resulting in a fast draft. Our afternoon get together was at Auchy-la-Montagne, who welcomed us with warmth, wine and bunting. Most of their men had been shot as the Germans withdrew in 1944, and the British Army had shown them much generosity back then which they seemed to be returning to us now. We left as one large pack again for the ride on to Beauvais. The Remembrance ceremony at Beauvais (Capital of the Oise region) had a great turnout with 27 colour flags borne by the old veterans under the monument aux morts by Henri-Léon Gréber. It was here I had the privilege to lay a wreath for my father, Major Ian Mattison RE, who died training for this ride. The Mayor and local dignitaries were in attendance, and the Royal British Legion represented by Lt. Gen Bashal (who was also riding with us).

Day 4 – Triumphal Arch of the Star

After a brief set of push-ups to "bring Sally up" we rolled out of Beauvais on a bright sunny day to Paris. We mustered at Menucourt and followed La Seine river – the four hours had seemed to go by in a flash and we were cruising up the cobbles into central Paris, soaking up the atmosphere, awash with euphoria. The road closures were timed to perfection: at 15:17 we rode up Avenue De La Grand Armée and across that huge chaotic roundabout at Arc de Triomphe, traffic paused by a string of 7 motorcycles, time stood still. Dismounted in a crowd, we collected medals, hugs and quaffed a bottle of beer – men broke down in tears. Amidst the claustrophobia and doubt caused by the pandemic, this was a huge release. We sang as we tunneled to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and paid our respects in another parade of Remembrance. *Le jour de gloire est arrivé!*

Simon Mattison



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St Mary Bourne

- 1 6.30pm - Welcome for new villagers
Village Centre Main Hall
- 12 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
- 19 7.30pm - The Film - 'Nomadland'
Village Centre
- 19 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting
Village Centre Club Room
- Saturday mornings** - 10.30am to 12.30pm
The Community Library
Village Centre Club Room

Longparish

- 9 The Sensational Sixth LCA Longparish
Beer Festival 2021
- 10 9am - L2SOTM Race
Longparish Cricket Ground
- 11 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting
Longparish Village Hall
- 15 9.15am - Friday Litter Pick
Longparish Village Hall
- 29 12 Noon - Friday Lunch Club
Longparish Village Hall

Hurstbourne Priors

- 3 11am - Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch
St Andrew's and the Village Hall
- 9 6.30pm - Christopher Burrows, Piano recital
St Andrew's Church
- 20 10.15am - Ladies' Coffee - The Limes

Andover Artisan Market
Sunday 17th October
10am to 2pm - High Street



Photo: A Hitchcock

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