

Issue No. 284

Hill & Valley

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

£1

December 2024

January 2025

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Are you ready for Christmas?



Are you ready for Christmas?

It's a question I have been asked (and I have asked of other people) over the past few days and weeks. It's the question that is on lots of people's lips in December.

"Are you ready for Christmas?"

Getting ready for Christmas involves so many things:

- gifts to buy and wrap,
- travel plans to make,
- decorations to hang,
- food to cook,
- entertaining to plan for family and friends,
- carols to practice,
- sermons to write...
- But what would have happened if we didn't get everything done?

What would have happened if "gasp!" we weren't ready? In fact are any of us really ever ready?!

No matter if we prepare or not - Christmas will come. So why should we even worry about getting ready, and perhaps even more important what does it mean to be ready?

When you think about the whole Christmas story Mary and Joseph didn't seem very ready even though they knew the birth was coming. They left on a long journey knowing the baby would be born while they were away from home; and still they arrived in Bethlehem, tired, probably hungry, with nowhere to stay, and Mary goes into labour.

They had known for nine months a baby was coming yet had made no arrangements – there was simply Mary and Joseph in a stable with a feed trough and some animals. By our standards they weren't even close to being ready for Christmas - yet Christmas was coming and it did come.

In fact, it seemed like the world itself was not ready for the coming of Christmas – the birth of Jesus. God's plan of Salvation was ready to take place – Christmas was coming and did come.

So what do we need to do to be ready for Christmas – to be really ready to celebrate that special birth?

Let us be like the shepherds and wise men of so long ago and look upon the Child in the manger with love and adoration.

Let us accept and believe that Jesus is God's gift to us and then let this gift of unimaginable love fill our hearts and change our lives.

Above all, let us always strive to be full of faith and to follow the example that the new-born King will set for us.

And, if we do these things then we will be truly ready.

So – are you ready for Christmas?



Richard

The Revd Richard Sutcliffe

We have lots of different services on offer over the festive period (please see the details on the opposite page).

You'll receive a very warm welcome and we would love to see you.

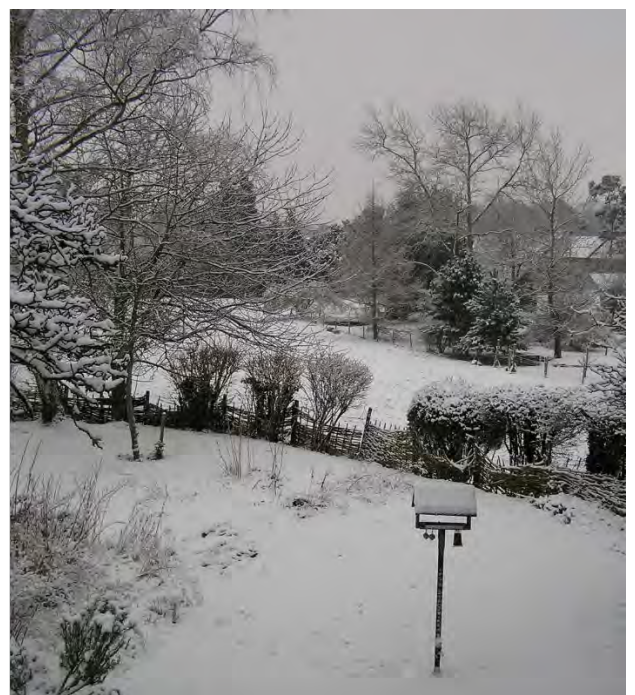
However you are celebrating, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bright Waters Ministry Team



LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email

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



Services in the Parish Churches

December 2024 - January 2025

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

Sunday 1st December - Advent 1

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Wednesday 4th December

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 8th December - Advent 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	No Service	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 15th December - Advent 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Christingle
St James', Woodcott	No service	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Wednesday 18th December

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 22nd December - Advent 4

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	11.00am	Carol Service
St Nicholas', Longparish	6.00pm	Carol Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	Carol Service
St James', Woodcott	4.00pm	Crib Service
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Monday 23rd December

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	Carols & Nativity (Rec. Ground)
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Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Nicholas', Longparish	5.00pm	Crib Christingle
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Family Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 29th December - Christmas 1

All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong (End of Year Service)
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Sunday 5th January - Epiphany Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

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

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535 revd.davidroche@hotmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden: ☎ 01264 738211 dodie.marsden@gmail.com

• For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

• **Methodist Minister** for our parishes: The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk

From the Church Registers

• Baptisms

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

Edith Margaret Jones

Woodcott - 2/11/24

Jemima Rose Pritchard

St Mary Bourne - 16/11/24

Poppy du Val du Beaulieu

Hurstbourne Priors - 24/11/24

• Funerals

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

Camilla St Quintin

Service of Thanksgiving - St Mary Bourne - 16/11/24

Mark Sorby

Funeral - Basingstoke Crematorium - 22/11/24

Service of Thanksgiving - Hurstbourne Priors - 28/11/24

Adele Mary Bateman

Basingstoke Crematorium - 27/11/24

Wednesday 8th January

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 12th January - Baptism of the Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	No service	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 19th January - Epiphany 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Praise
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Sunday 26th January - Epiphany 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	Family Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott	No service	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

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***Stoke to Hurstbourne Tarrant
Concluding our now cold journey up the***

B3048

Highway to the North - Part 8

Habitations thin out north of Stoke, the view across the meadows to the left and up to Wallop Hill Down (from the Portsmouth family name, once the great landowners of this area, or 'valley of the stream'? —both fit) and Doles Copse is so beautiful on a bright, sunny day. The third river bridge is the humblest, passed in a flash: just two brick walls flanking the road, near an ugly electricity substation. The river Bourne magically turns into the Swift on the parish border, which is marked by the unobtrusive sign 'Hurstbourne Tarrant' on the left at a farm track crossroads. The Swift is a wonderful sight in full flow, threading through the fields on a bright spring day, but just a green ditch for much of the year.

The road zig-zags left then right just before the old vicarage (late C17). Next to it, also on the right, is the 13th century St Peter's church, with its 1180s south doorway and medieval wall-paintings. The valley side rises steeply behind the church, its ancient churchyard entered through the roadside lych gate. Here we are in 'Uphusband' proper (say it in a thick 'ampshire accent: posh name, 'Hurstbourne Regis'). On the left is the school (1848) and out of sight behind it the modern Community Centre (2015) and recreation ground. The manor was the property of Tarrant Abbey, a nunnery in Tarrant Crawford, near Blandford Forum in Dorset, from 1266 to 1539. So, there is a medieval nunnery connection both at the beginning and end of the B3048.

Two-thirds of a mile brings us to the end of the B3048, the staggered crossroad in Hurstbourne Tarrant with the busy Andover-Newbury A343. There we pause to take stock, perhaps over a pint/glass of Merlot in The George and Dragon (hoping it is reopened after closure in 2024), on the site of a medieval inn. This close to the Scottish border, the air blows clearer and the hills reach higher than when we set off from warm and temperate Wherwell. The road itself has climbed 51m from start to finish.

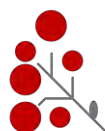
We have journeyed through the old and the new—there were even streetlights in Hurstbourne Priors! But the old, the ancient, gives the road its depth and twists. Crossing two ancient trackways, two Roman roads, over three bridges, past two closed railway stations, under one railway viaduct, past four medieval churches (plus one lost Anglo-Saxon church at Stoke); at least nine 19th century dissenting chapels; five pubs, four open at the time of writing; one shop; four schools; countless houses and cottages, old and new; through historically vast estates with their smaller farms; and an Aston to Wallopful of Old English, Anglo-Saxon names... Let alone all those potholes—just like the old days. What a road!

MC

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

In the Village Hall

Christmas Lunch



Friday 20th December 12 – 2.30pm

Entertainment by Longparish School Choir
Please let us know by 13th December if you would like to come, as numbers are limited. Priority to regular members. £3 for members £5 for non-members

31st January 2025 - New Year Friday Lunch Club

To book for either date and for transport ring
Andrea 720 457

Walking the Test Way



Over the summer, Claudia and Zara challenged themselves to walk the whole of the Test Way to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund and through a series of walks they've done it, over 44 miles. The route that comes through Longparish has been very picturesque with walking near the river in places and through some beautiful

villages. They have been very lucky to have dry and sometimes sunny days when walking. The girls showed grit and determination, particularly on the longer stretches, keeping going, and have raised an amazing £530! Thank you to everyone who has sponsored them or encouraged them on their quest.

You can find out more about the route they took in <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/walks/TestWayleaflet.pdf>. If you would like to sponsor them, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/zara-claudia-wwf-test-way>

B3048, Journey to the North is now



available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1-mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* this year. It can be bought from **Acre Stores**, Longparish and **The Boundary**

Community Shop in St Mary Bourne. At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local Christmas gift... And all the sales proceeds are for Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Council Chairman: Emma Palmer

Emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or telephone 07881 923150

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas

clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01256 396868

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 18 NOVEMBER

PLANNING

Tree Notice: 24/02579/TREEN. Foxponds, Longparish.

LPPC feedback: Raise no objections.

Tree Notice 24/02631/TREEN. Woodbury House, Longparish.

LPPC feedback: Raise no objections.

Tree Notice 24/02645/TREEN. 1 The Withies, Longparish.

LPPC feedback: Raise no objections.

OPEN SPACES

Cllr Hull updated the PC on the success of the last Clean Up Day. Volunteer numbers were lower, but a good selection of jobs was completed. Special thanks were given to Jo Barnard for leading the morning and Collards for providing a skip. It was agreed that a hedge trimmer will be purchased for future Clean Up Days.

The LCA have generously provided grants towards the new village noticeboards and the new football nets.

Moles have appeared on the football pitch and actions are being taken to resolve this.

The War Memorial needs cleaning and some maintenance work. Quotes will be obtained, and this will be budgeted for in 2025-2026.

The brief for grass cutting is being drawn up and quotes will be obtained in good time for next growing season.

The allotments need a tidy up and the PC is currently seeking an allotment manager to ensure the area is well maintained. We welcome current allotment plot holders to put themselves forward and volunteer for this role.

HIGHWAYS

The PC have raised the issue of trees on Sugar Lane with HCC Highways. They have unfortunately informed us that the area in question does not fall under their responsibility. Cllr Storey has received confirmation that the works to the blocked pipes on Mill Lane (where the recent gully clearing has taken place) is scheduled.

The PC is continuing to liaise with Southern Water in order to get more advanced notice of any road closures and also different signage to state that businesses are still open in the event of road disruption.

RESILIENCE

The PC assigned £1500 from the PC General Reserve Fund to fund the shortfall to install the generator at the Plough Inn. Maintenance of the generator will be included in the 2025-26 budget.

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 9thth December.**

Parish Council Meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcome to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman, or on any matter as part of the Period for Public Speaking.

Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the Longparish website

www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB



There will be no meeting in December for the Longparish Gardening Club.

The next meeting will be
Tuesday, January 28th, 2025.

We will be enrolling and re-enrolling for the Longparish Garden Club.

Our speaker will be Benjamin Pope on "Gardening to Save Time."

New members always welcome from the Parishes in the Hill & Valley.

Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264720325 or Marion Bell 01264720205



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

The race was under temporary management as Jeremy was in New Zealand for the Queenstown marathon.

We started early as it was Remembrance Sunday and 13 runners took part. Mike Dukes was Most Improved Man and Sarah Dewbury was Most Improved Woman.

Well done all!



Thank you very much to Pauline and Elspeth for marshalling, Andy, Andy and Graham for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results.

The next race is on **Sunday 8**

December, starting at 9am at The Plough. It will be our last race before Christmas. Please wear Santa hats and/or outfits if you wish and we'll have mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give us a call or send an email if you'd like to join us. For more information, please see

<http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

Maggie Barber

01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com

LONGPARISH WILDLIFE

SCARLET IBIS



The Scarlet Ibis has been seen in the village on numerous occasions sadly not by me. Unless there are two of them, it has moved to Stodmarsh Nature Reserve in Kent and is causing quite a lot of attraction. It is believed to be from a private zoo or collection. The Scarlet Ibis which is sometimes called the

Red Ibis inhabits tropical South America and parts of the Caribbean. We have a Glossy Ibis which has bred in the UK for a few years. It's a bird like our Little Egret but with a long-curved beak. Its plumage is virtually scarlet the feathers may show various tints and shades, but only the tips of its primaries are inky black. Ibises nest in large colonies with other similar birds. In Southeastern Brazil, they gather in mid-September and build nests at the beginning of November. Egg laying within the colony is synchronous, with female birds laying eggs in three waves in early November, late December and late January. A clutch of 3-5 eggs is laid, incubated for 19-23 days, and fledged in 40-45 days. Their distinctive long curved bill is used to probe the earth for worms and invertebrates.

Well, another year is nearly over and as this is the last Hill and Valley this year, I would like to thank you for reading my article and wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Chris Bowman



Tuesday Talk

Tuesday 21st January 2025

"Don't Delay - Enrol Today": The Women's Land Army in Hampshire

In both twentieth century world wars, the departure of large numbers of male farm labourers to join the armed forces, and the need to increase home food production to offset losses of imported products because of enemy U-boat action, made the employment of women and girls essential.

Most had no farming experience but with enormous commitment, rose to the challenges.

Our speaker is John Lander

John and his wife moved to Barton Stacey from Cornwall in 2019, and John became a governor of Sparsholt College, recently described as 'a banker by profession and a social historian by natural inclination', since John obtained a PhD in 2000, over thirty books and papers for specialist journals have been written. John is Chair of Winchester Housing Trust Ltd, a trustee of United Church, Winchester, and a member of the Barton Stacey History Group.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m.

Village Hall doors open at 6.30 p.m.

Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the Hall. There will be a cash bar.



Longparish Toddler Group needs you!

Recently the Longparish Toddler Group temporarily stopped running. We would love to see this successful group restarted with either one person or a group of people to run it with some support from the LCA committee.

You don't have to have a toddler to run this group, just an interest in helping parents and carers meet with their little ones. The group runs from about 9am on Monday mornings and you will need time to set up either earlier on Monday morning or on Sunday evening. Packing up is normally done by the attendees.

If you would be interested in helping us restart this successful group for parents and carers in Longparish please get in touch with us via lca@longparish.org.uk or drop a note to us via Acre Stores and we will contact you.



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Longparish Little School

Little School and Robins class from Big School extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our Pumpkin Competition.



We would especially like to recognise Laura Harding and Maggie Barber for their challenging task of selecting winners from each age group.

This year's theme for the decorated pumpkins was Storybook Characters, and we received some truly magnificent entries.

Congratulations to Jeremy Barber for growing the heaviest pumpkin, with the Roebuck family achieving the second heaviest. Although the pumpkin grown by the children at Little School did not reach great proportions, they learned a great deal about the growing process from seed and took immense pride in their achievement.



We are now carrying out viewings for September 2025. If you would like to come and look around, please call us on 01264 7202455 or visit our website <https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/>



Friends of Longparish School

Work on the much-awaited Longparish Lookout and Timber Trail is now

complete. There have been class visits to the lookout over the past week with the children expected to start using it regularly in the New Year. We were fortunate enough to have some photographs taken (from the air!) and I think we can all agree that it is going to be a wonderful addition to our school. A huge thank you again to all those who donated and supported our fundraising efforts over the past year.



Christmas Quiz! Come and join us for a fun and festive evening in the Community Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 4 December. Entry is £5 per person, with mulled wine and mince pies included. Enter as a team (maximum of 6 people) or feel free to come alone as we will be making up teams on the night. Everyone is welcome – no need to be a LLS or school parent – it's very much the more, the merrier! For further info, or to enter a team, contact chairfols@gmail.com

A reminder – Tesco's Stronger Starts scheme: Do please keep dropping in your blue tokens to vote for Friends of Longparish School. Found in the Tesco branches in Andover, our box will be there until mid-January. Your support will make a big difference to our ongoing fundraising efforts. Thank you!

More information:

Website: www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish

Facebook: fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool

Instagram: [@friendsoflongparishschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflongparishschool)



HAPPY CHRISTMAS and THANK YOU TO ALL THE LONGPARISH LITTER PICKERS

There will be no organised litter pick in December.

Next Litter pick is on Friday 10th January 2025.

Make it your New Year Resolution – a regular litter picking session followed by free coffee at the LCA Coffee Shop alternating between the Cricketers and the Plough.

Meet behind the **Village Hall at 9.15 am.**

The Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags.

For more information or to borrow equipment Tel **Christian Dryden 720 398**





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Longparish Cricket Club

Both of the Longparish Cricket Club teams who are currently competing in the winter indoor leagues at Dummer Cricket Centre are undefeated after playing 5 matches each. This is a great start to the indoor season, and we hope the wins continue through the winter.

In common with most voluntary organisations, LCC is always looking for people to help out with running the club. We especially need more volunteers to assist with the expanding junior section and Allstars. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping out with a variety of roles - admin, coaching, scoring, ground maintenance or kitchen duties - please get in contact with the Chairman, James Hillier at jameshillier@hillier.co.uk

Alison Allen

Results of the October Draw 2024



Saint Nicholas Church 100 Club

The draw was made on the 31st October 2024.

First prize:	No. 52	£77.00
Second prize:	No. 39	£46.00
Third Prize:	No. 57	£16.00

Our 1st year anniversary is here - 6th December 2024

A big 'Thank You' to all our members. The 100 Club has made a real difference to our income for church maintenance. Your direct debit or standing order may well be automatic, but if you need to renew your annual subscription please remember to do so for December.

Membership currently stands at 63. Of course, as the name suggests, we would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members. You can join at any time, and it works like this: -

Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, and you longer have the letter I sent out a year ago, please let me know and I can send you another letter and a form to complete. Please consider joining the 100 Club to maintain your beautiful church.

Or, if you have any other queries, please contact:
John Young, Churchwarden & PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas Church

Tel: 01264 720233 Mob: 07860 630489

Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

St Nicholas Churchyard Biodiversity Initiative

Following on from trial management of an area managed as a wildflower hay meadow by mowing in the Spring and then in mid-summer it was decided to manage the churchyard more sympathetically to encourage biodiversity.

This involved reducing the number of cuts to just four and mowing certain areas in more of a patchwork. The cut material or biomass was removed from site reducing nutrients, helping to arrest growth and encouraging perennial herbaceous plants to compete.

Existing plants seen were cowslips, lady's bedstraw, yarrow (see attached picture), harebells and pyramidal orchids. Plugs of betony, meadow saxifrage, dropwort, wild clary and more cowslips have been planted and seed sown on the molehills which provide a natural seedbed.

A young hare has been resident, and a robust bat-box has been installed on the large Cypress on the South side of the approach to the church.



This initiative comes, as Chris Packham has been discussing with the Church of England, on managing their estate more in sync with wildlife.

The Lyche Gate - The Rise of the Phoenix from the Ashes

The rebuilding of the West Lyche Gate is underway with the erection of the two main uprights.



This work is being carried out by the Timber Framing craftsman Mark Barnett of the Andover Down Sawmill from locally sourced and

sustainably grown oak. Mark renovated and rebuilt the two bus shelters at the Hurstbourne Priors crossroads in the Spring of 2020. Weather permitting work on the new Lyche Gate should be completed by Christmas.

Paul Knipe

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Barton Stacey WI

Being a member of the WI brings many benefits, not least the ability to attend regular monthly meetings. Sometimes these meetings include a speaker giving a presentation about subjects of interest, including history, the environment and local causes. At other meetings we get the opportunity to learn a new skill.

At the WI, we love learning something new, especially if it is a practical skill. In November we organised a willow weaving workshop one Saturday morning, and this was incredible fun. Willow weaving is a relatively simple craft but forming it into shapes was perhaps a little more difficult than some of us expected. However, with the expert tuition we received we were very happy with our creations that were taken home. There will be some lovely willow Christmas trees, reindeers and stars adorning houses very soon.



We are really looking forward to December, with so much planned. We will be at the Church Christmas Fair, offering refreshments and also the opportunity for you to purchase a 'Blind Date with a Book'. We will be enjoying a social evening with Christmas Dinner at a local hostelry. And at our December meeting we will be making a variety of sweet treats. Will they be eaten quickly, or will we gift them to loved ones? Who knows!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and peace, health and happiness for 2025.

If your New Year's Resolution involves making new friends, learning new things and supporting your local community, why not consider joining the WI? We are a small group of ladies who meet on the last Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, from 7.30pm. We offer a warm welcome and encourage guests to our meetings to see what becoming a member of the WI can offer.

For more information, please contact Sue
bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk or Donna
bartonstaceysec@hampshirewi.org.uk.

A very big happy 90th Birthday to Anne Riley earlier this month. Anne has lived in the village for over 30 years with her husband Dennis, who has very recently moved into a home.

The LCA have sent a bouquet of flowers for Anne on her special day for which she is extremely grateful. We wish Anne all the very best in her milestone birthday and our thoughts are with Dennis who is close by.



If anyone knows of anyone within Longparish who has recently found themselves, or knows of a neighbour living on their own, please let one of the LCA team know.

LCA@longparish.org.uk Jo, Matt, Andrea, James, Andy & Georgi.

The Plough

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Christmas at The Plough

Breakfast with Santa!



Shhh.....! Santa tells us that he's coming to breakfast on **Saturday 14th December from 9.30am – 11.30am**. Come and join us for a delicious Full English and special time with Santa for £15 per child (to include a gift) and £15 per adult to include a hot drink. *Not to be missed, booking required*

Carols with the Choir

The fabulous Longparish Choir will be singing Christmas Carols on **Wednesday 18th December at 7pm**. Enjoy a complimentary mince pie and Mulled Wine will be available to buy from the bar.

Santa's Booze Cruise

Santa's fundraising charity Booze Cruise will fly past at around **8.30pm on Wednesday 18th December**. Join us for photos with Santa and donate to local charities!

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve:

Bar: Noon-11pm. Kitchen: Noon-3pm & 5.30-9pm

Christmas Day:

Bar: Noon - 3pm

Boxing Day:

Bar: Noon-4.30pm. Kitchen: Noon - 3pm

27th-30th Dec:

Normal opening hours (Monday Open)

New Year's Eve:

Bar: Noon - 1am. Kitchen: Noon-3pm & 7-10pm

New Year's Day:

Bar: Noon-4.30pm. Kitchen: Noon-3pm

2nd Jan: CLOSED

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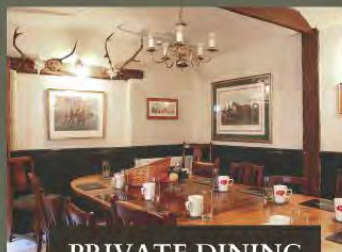
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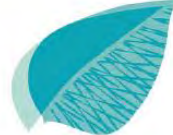


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WEATHER: OCTOBER 2024

Total rainfall for this month	104mm/4.09in
Total for 2024 (to date)	957mm/37.67in
Total for 2023	906mm/35.60in
Max temp	21°C/70f(3rd)
Min temp	2°C/36f(22nd)



One inch more rain, and we will have reached our ten-year average for rainfall, with six weeks to go!

John Smail

EDITOR VACANCY

Due to a surfeit of other commitments, I am stepping down as editor for the Hurstbourne Priors pages of the *Hill & Valley*, and would love to find a replacement to take on the fun and fulfilling task of assembling our section of the magazine. If you think that could be you, or if you would like to know more about the role, please contact me (Elise) on 01256 892081, or email hillandvalleyhbp@gmail.com.

Thank you to all our contributors and readers over the last year – it would have been a very empty magazine without you.

LADIES COFFEE MORNING(S)

Our December Coffee Morning will be held by Amanda Briant-Evans at no. 1, Cressington, on **Wednesday 4th December from 10.15am to 12 noon**.

Our January Coffee Morning will be held by Denise Bradley at Mistletoe Cottage, on **Tuesday 16th January from 10.15am to 12 noon**. All ages welcome!

For more information or for offers to hold a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel. 892665 or email: sbsorby@hotmail.com)



SAVE THE DATE: SAFARI SUPPER



CHRISTMAS IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

We warmly invite you to join our celebrations in Hurstbourne Priors in the week leading up to Christmas.

On **Sunday, 22nd December at 11.00am**, there will be a traditional Carol Service in St Andrews Church

– with readings and carols. Activity bags will be available in church for the children. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The School House by kind invitation of Andrew and Hannah Ross.



On **Monday, 23rd December at 4pm** we have our Carols and Nativity on the Recreation Ground. Join us at the Pavilion to sing your favourite Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story, followed by refreshments. Children are invited to dress up! If it is raining, we will gather in the Church.



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On **Christmas Day, 25th December at 10.30am** – there will be a family Christmas Communion in St Andrews Church.

We do hope you will join us – you will be most welcome!

*Ann Orr and Fenella Williams
Churchwardens*

CHURCH MERCH

For those of you planning your Christmas presents, have you considered any of the lovely St Andrews goodies currently available? How about a mug for the coffee fiend in your life? Or a stylish tea towel to properly blitz the Christmas Day washing-up...? All created from photographs, etchings and watercolour paintings of views of our beautiful church, and all proceeds in aid of St Andrews. Prices are as follows. Please contact annjorr@btinternet.com to order.

Bone china mugs:	£9.99 each
Tea towels:	£7.50 each
One mug and one tea towel:	£15.00
Christmas cards:	£5.00 for a pack of 5
Hymn book dedication	£9.75



CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTION

Over the festive period the rubbish, recycling and garden waste collection days will change. Please find below the changes:

Black Bin

Friday 20th – no change

Friday 27th – collection Monday 30th

Friday 3rd January – collection Saturday 3rd

Friday 10th – collection Saturday 11th

Recycling Bin/Glass Boxes

Friday 13th – no change

Friday 27th – collection Monday 30th

Friday 10th January – collection Saturday 11th

For the first black bin collection after Christmas additional securely tied bin bags will be collected. Ditto for recycling, flattened cardboard left alongside your green bin will also be collected. Please remember that wrapping paper is not recyclable and should be put in your black bin.

Garden waste subscribers

The last collection of 2024 will be on 20th December. The service will resume on 6th January when Christmas trees will also be collected. These should be cut in half if they are more than 6' tall and have all decorations removed!

THE BIG LEAF RAKE

Now that the lime trees on the church drive have fully divested themselves of all foliage, the great St Andrews annual leaf-rake is once more upon us, and will be held on **Saturday, 7th December at 10.00am**. All helpers most welcome! Please bring a rake, gloves, all the upper-body strength you can muster, and meet on the church drive ready to rake. Sustaining, warming refreshments will be provided. Inspirational photos of leaf-rakings past below:





GARDENING CLUB: DIARY DATES

The seeds we sowed in the Autumn are now healthy seedlings which need potting on ready for the May Fair. We also have lots of cuttings ready to move into bigger pots. There are also plenty more seeds which need sowing over the next few weeks and months. Anyone who would like to help get plants ready for the May Fair is most welcome to join. We have two dates for your diaries:
Friday 24th January at 10.00am at Hurstbourne Priors House

Wednesday 12th February at 6.00pm at Hurstbourne Priors House

We have all the seeds, compost etc but do bring gardening gloves if you would like. If you are able to write labels that is just as useful! It would be helpful if you could give an indication if you were able to come.

*With many thanks,
 Kat, Clare and Rosie*



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

The Parish Council meet every other month, on the last Thursday of the month, at 6.30PM in the Village Hall. The dates of meetings for 2025 are as follows:

Thursday 30th January
Thursday 27th March
Thursday 29th May
Thursday 31st July
Thursday 25th September
Thursday 27th November

Any resident of the Parish can attend and there is no need to alert the Council if you are coming. However, if there is a matter which you might feel the members might want to look into before you attend please do let me know: 01264 772460 or email richard.waterman150@btinternet.com

*Richard Waterman
 Clerk to Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS APPLE JUICE

Having picked the village orchards clean of apples, making an incredible 147 bottles of juice, we have a limited amount left. Perfect for Christmas presents in a hamper or to jazz up a cocktail, or equally delicious mulled with a cinnamon stick. £5 a bottle, and all proceeds go to the village Pavilion thatch project. Please email beasleylulu@gmail.com to order, collection from Hurstbourne House via Clare Read.



VILLAGE HALL HIRE FEES

From April 2024 to March 2025, please note that fees for the hire of the Village Hall are as follows:

Local/Regular User	£12.50 per hour
Standard User	£15.00 per hour
Kitchen Use	£12.50 per booking
Large electrical appliance surcharge	£20.00 per booking
Local/Regular User Day Rate	£125.00 per day
Standard User Day Rate	£150.00 per day
Local Event Rate (Fri-Sun)	£325.00 per booking
Standard Event Rate (Fri-Sun)	£400.00 per booking

A non-refundable reservation fee will be required for an event at the time of booking. Full payment for

an event is required one month before the event takes place. For enquiries or to make a booking, please email hbpvhbookings@gmail.com.

GINA YATES - BEQUEST TO ST ANDREWS

Many of you will remember our dear friend Gina Yates who sadly died in the spring of 2023. Gina grew up in Hurstbourne Priors and although she lived in Andover for many years she continued to take part in our village life. St Andrew's Church, where she worshipped for more than 80 years was especially dear to her. In her will, Gina has made a generous bequest to the Fabric Fund of St Andrew's Church. This Fund is restricted to the maintenance and repair of the church building – the fabric of the church. It cannot be used for any other purpose and is separate from the general Parochial Church Council (PCC) account whose funds are used for the day to day running costs of the church. We would like to express our huge gratitude for this wonderful gift from Gina.



Fenella Williams, Churchwarden

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Of course, any recipe I recommend this month should be something festive, but I doubt any of you need me to tell you how to roast a turkey, mince a pie, or stuff a goose. So instead, I suggest we turn our attention to the humble Brussels sprout, that much maligned, misunderstood, cruelly underestimated item of festive greenery. For many of us, sprouts are the seasoned gatecrashers of your Christmas party: you're not entirely sure how they got there, not everyone is thrilled to see them, but now they're here, you might as well make the best of it. The good news is that sprouts are full of healthful things like vitamins, minerals and even a dash of

fibre – the antidote to just about everything else you might have for Christmas lunch. And they really do come from Brussels, or at least, they first appeared in northern Europe during the 5th century, and were eventually cultivated in what is now Belgium during the 13th century. Interestingly, Mexico is the second largest producer of sprouts, which I hope is useful information for any sprout super-fans planning their holidays.

The recipe I propose this month is a festive innovation for a sprout canapé from my father, late of this parish, much missed, formerly editor of these very pages, sprout evangelist, and frankly, a liability in the kitchen around Christmas. Please forget everything I just said about sprouts being terribly good for you; almost all of that good is about to be undone by the liberal introduction of bacon, cream and alcohol to proceedings, as follows:

Rule number one when it comes to sprouts is DO NOT BOIL YOUR SPROUTS. Instead, try roasting a bag of washed and trimmed sprouts with a bit of butter or cooking fats from whatever it is you roast on Christmas day. Whilst that is underway, finely dice some bacon (the streakier and smokier the better) and fry until fairly crispy. Add a festive splash of brandy to the pan and reduce. Stir in a little cream to finish, check seasoning, retrieve your sprouts from the oven, and serve on cocktail sticks with the bacon and brandy sauce as a dip. It isn't pretty, but it is guaranteed to convert even the staunchest of sprout skeptics.

And on that note, have a very happy Christmas, and if you are reading this in January, a happy 2025 too.



SAVE THE DATE!

Yes, we're already thinking about it: the **May Fair 2025** will be held from **noon on May 6th**, at the Hurstbourne Priors recreation ground. Keep an eye out in the New Year for details on how you can get involved!

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B3048, Journey to the North is now available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1-mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* this year. It can be bought from **Acre Stores, Longparish** and **The Boundary Community Shop** in St Mary Bourne. At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local Christmas gift... And all the sales proceeds are for Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.



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



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 10th December and 14th January at 10.30am**
£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Lunch

Our next village lunch is on **Wednesday 11th December** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, starting to serve at 12.30pm as usual. This will be our traditional **Christmas Lunch** which includes carols from the village school choir and a fabulous raffle. Returning to the third Wednesday of the month, our first lunch of the New Year will be on **Wednesday 15th January 2025**. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



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Well finally it seems to have arrived - well at least in The Boundary - the elves have worked their magic, and we now have a beautiful display of gifts and Christmassy food. Vicky has been shopping for what seems like forever (with a little help from Harriet & myself)... We really hope you like

the results. We know it might have seemed early to have everything out on display but in truth, we couldn't get into the stockroom!

We are holding a **Christmas Raffle** - there will be a Hamper as the main prize and the tickets are **£1** a strip.

The earlier promise of a Suggestion Box has yet to materialise (my apologies) but in the New Year it will, and we look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Vicky is planning to do a Bingo event in January - they are really good fun so please do come along and support it - details to follow.

We are looking for a **Handyman** to do odd jobs around The Boundary as and when needed. Please come and see Vicky or myself if you think it is something you could help us with. As we mentioned last month, we are hoping to start **Home Deliveries** - they will be on a Wednesday (the day after our regular delivery so there will be plenty of stock). The finer details of this will be in the next edition of Hill & Valley.



Last posting dates for Christmas are:

18 th December	2 nd class
20 th December	1 st class
21 st December	Tracked 48
23 rd December	Tracked 24

Shop opening over Christmas:

24 th December	Café 9am – 2pm Shop 9am – 3pm
25th December	Closed
26 th December	Café & Shop 9am – 2pm
31 st December	Café 9am – 12 noon Shop 9am – 1.00pm
1st January 2025	Closed
2 nd January	Shop open until 10am then closed for stocktake.

Happy Christmas to all. Sandra & Vicky

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November 2024 draw:

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£20 - Sandra Grunsell **£10** - J & S Meaney

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'Family Theatre' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



60 minutes - for children 4 to 104 years
Bumblefly, Forestforge and Mischief Theatre

A spangly, new swashbuckling tale of derring do and ridiculousness fresh from the Traveling Players suitcase.

Friday 13th December - 6.30pm

Doors open 6pm

All tickets: **£6** - children under 6: **£3**

Please reserve all tickets in advance by email

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Refreshments and Licensed Bar

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



2023 - 15 • 1 h 41 m

Academy Award Nominee Sir Ian McKellen (The Lord of the Rings, The Good Liar) stars as a powerful London theatre critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences. A suspenseful thriller co-starring Gemma Arterton (Quantum of Solace), Mark Strong (Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy) and Lesley Manville (Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris).

Tuesday 14th January 2025 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£7** at the door

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Film: Tuesday 18th February 2025



St Mary Bourne Primary School

This has been a very busy term at St Mary Bourne School, and the children have loved being outside in the autumnal weather. As a school we are committed to caring for the environment and recently

Year 6 children had an enjoyable morning working with



Sustainable Bourne Valley sowing yellow rattle seed at Hirst Meadow. The children worked hard, carefully planting their allocated seeds and looking after the rescue primroses, we look

forward to visiting again soon.

This term we also held a School Grounds Morning, clearing and weeding in the school. Several families came and helped, and it was a very successful event. The school pond now looks amazing, and all around the school the grounds look very good. The school also has several new bird boxes that hopefully will be inhabited in Spring.



Friends of the School helped with refreshments, and we also had the support of **Dobbie's** who donated bark chippings and shrubs.

Oak class garden is also being given a makeover. A new imaginative play area has been created as

well as an enhanced garden area. A big thank you to **Kong Scaffolding** that provided some planks for the children to use in their creative outdoor play.



ADVENT CHURCH CLEAN

Saturday 14th December 2024

It is a great social time.

Please, please come and help

any time between 9.30am and 1.30 pm.

We are preparing for Christmas.

If you can spare just **half an hour** that would be great but longer would be wonderful. It's all hands to the pump!

Refreshments provided

For any information call me on 738681

Look forward to seeing you then. Many, many

thanks

Eve Lind-Smith



ST MARY BOURNE
PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

The **Parish Community Fund** may be able to help parishioners who are worried about their heating costs this

winter following the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payments. One-off grants (£100 max) are available.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk

clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk or Ruth Widen on

☎ 01264 738250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com.



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Abotts Ann Based



The Parish Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday November 12th during which the Flood and Emergency Group gave an update on **Southern Water** and their sub-contractors' progress with their programme of works. While this

continues to involve frustrating road closures, Southern Water are now working on the two main projects at Applegate and by the Bourne Valley Inn which they believe should make a significant improvement to the efficiency of the valley's sewerage system.

There was also an update on the **Play Area Project** to improve facilities for small children on the Recreation Ground, while also providing more badly needed parking space, for which a small team are working in collaboration with the Parish Council. This will require funds to be raised locally as well as from external grants, and the next **Big Breakfast** on January 12th will be in aid of this project.

The Council has been successful in an application to the Hampshire Forest Partnership to receive four disease resistant **elm trees** which will be delivered and planted early next year, three around the lake and one at the back of the Rec where their growth and durability will be monitored as part of the Partnership project.

Planning Applications

T/00490/24/TCA	Trestan Cottage SMB	Work on Trees
T/00507/24/TCA	The Old Orchard SMB	Work on Trees
24/02346/HSE	2 Clayton Mews SMB	Replacement Garage
24/02386/AGPD	Wadwick Bottom Land	Permitted development enquiry only
24/02404/FUL	Middle Wyke Farm	Replacement Barn
T/00534/24/TCA	Batsford House SMB	Work on Trees
24/02392/LBC	Old Farmhouse Stoke	Listed building consent: Exterior renovations

Next parish council meetings at 19.30 on Tuesday 10th December 2024 & 14th January 2025
Village Centre Main Hall - Public more than welcome

Christmas bin collection dates

Normal collection date	Festive collection date
Friday 27 th December	Monday 30th December
Friday 3 rd January	Monday 6th January
Friday 10 th January	Saturday 11th January

For the first bin collection after Christmas extra rubbish sacks left by the grey bin will be collected.

Stoke Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 4th December
Whitefield Cottage, SP11 0LX

Wednesday 8th January
Half Way Up, SP11 0LT

10-11.30am
Everyone welcome
svfcommunitygroup@aol.com

Mityana 2024 and 2025

On Wednesday 29th January we are holding a lunch time meeting to talk about Mityana and our visit in October 2024. It will be held in the All Hallows Church Rooms in Whitchurch from 12 noon. We'll begin with the talk (about 45 minutes) and then provide a bowl of soup, some bread and cheese and the chance to chat.

If anyone is interested in coming to Mityana in October 2025 - this is your opportunity to find out more details. We can then arrange a meeting in February to discuss details. Obviously numbers are limited but we hope a cross section of people in the Deanery is able to join us.

If you have any queries, you can email me dodie.marsden@gmail.com or phone 01264 738211.

Thank you, thank you, thank you

to all the contributors, collators, sponsors, deliverers, writers, and to the Hill & Valley editors, and to all who get the magazine from creative ideas to printed mag - thank you so much. All volunteers and the magazine are highly valued by the readers. Thank you, thank you All.

Dodie Marsden



The **Christingle service** is on **Sunday 15th December at 4pm** in St Peter's Church. It's about half an hour and very suitable for very young children.

The **Epiphany Family Service** is on Sunday **5th January at 10.30am** in St Peter's Church. Camels, crowns and creative crafts!



Andover Astronomical Society

meet at Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre monthly at 7.30pm on a Thursday. We are a very friendly society - welcoming folks of all levels of interest and ages. The first meeting is free.

Come along to our **Christmas social meeting** on Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm. There will be festive food and drinks (Mince Pies, Mulled Wine) and Astronomy, a Christmas quiz, short talks by members, a bring-and-buy table and a display of photographs by members. We can't guarantee that we'll be able to spot Santa Claus but if the sky is clear we'll set up our telescopes and have a look!

Rebel Star: Our Quest to Solve the Great Mysteries of the Sun – Thursday 16th January starting at 7.30pm

Colin Stuart, award-winning astronomy author and speaker, returns to talk about the sun. In 1869, a great mystery was born. As astronomers observed a total solar eclipse, for the first time they saw the faint glow of the solar corona, the sun's outer atmosphere. Colin will explain all with his fascinating and comprehensive guide to the sun – our home star – which remains the greatest mystery in the solar system, and why understanding it is pivotal to our future existence here on Earth.

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The Water Rail's Tale

Even in the quietest parts of winter, our local chalk streams hum with activity. As coots and moorhens glide across the surface, one of their relatives may be hiding in plain sight. At around 23-28cm long, the water rail is



smaller than these more outgoing members of the *Rallidae* family, but just as fond of damp places. Ponds, marshes, reedbeds, wetlands, and rivers are all potential homes for this enigmatic bird.

One reason for the water rail's wide variety of habitats is its omnivorous

diet. Although it mostly eats fish, snails, and insects, it will also snack on roots, seeds, and berries. There are even reports of water rails catching small amphibians, mammals, and birds. With its long legs, long toes, and long beak, this species is perfectly adapted for hunting and foraging on boggy ground or in shallow water.

The water rail sports distinctive colouration that makes it easy to identify. Its face and underside are grey, while its back is dappled brown and black. Zebra-like stripes along its flanks lead into bright white feathers under its tail, and both its eyes and beak are a striking red. As a chick, the water rail's black feathers make it resemble a baby coot or moorhen – the trick is to look for a pale-yellow beak instead of a red one.

Despite having snazzy plumage and being relatively widespread, the water rail is notoriously elusive. Its camouflage helps it to blend into the undergrowth, and its skittishness causes it to run for cover when startled. The odds of a sighting do increase during winter, when the UK population is boosted by visitors from the colder parts of Europe. True to their cautious nature, these migrating birds usually travel at night.

While you need sharp eyes and good luck to see a water rail, you may have a better chance of hearing one. Of their greatest hits – which include creaks, whistles, groans, and even purrs – their most common call in wintertime is known as "sharming". Used to converse, mark territory, or express alarm, this call is a mixture of grunting and squealing that would make a piglet proud!

Since the water rail is so shy, it likes riverbanks that have lots of lush plant life. To welcome these beautiful birds, we need to allow a thick fringe of vegetation to flourish along the water's edge. To learn more about how chalk streams can be improved for wildlife, check out the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Poetry Prize-winners

Sixteen Hampshire-based young poets have been named as winners in the Tales from the Riverbank Poetry Competition. Ranging from 7 to 17 years old, they recently received their prizes at a special ceremony in Winchester. Their fantastic chalk stream poems can be read on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website (hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes) in the form of a beautifully illustrated anthology. Congratulations to all!

The Big Breakfast



Since 2020, a small group of volunteers and the SMB Parish Council have been working hard behind the scenes on the Community Play Space project to improve the under-12s playground and the existing Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). The new plans include a natural



playground, resurfaced MUGA and the creation of more parking spaces. Beginning in Spring 2025 and running across two phases, these improvements are designed with the whole community in mind.

Come along to the Big Breakfast to learn all about the plans, ask questions and help us fundraise (nearly there!). You can also visit our project page on the Good Exchange or follow us on Instagram at [communityplayspace_smb](https://www.instagram.com/communityplayspace_smb) for updates. **See you there!**



The Bourne rivulet emerged early again between Gangbridge Lane and Baptist Hill on 19th November, 5 days later than in 2023

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Postcard from Binley

I now have a crick in my neck having spent the last month gazing upwards in a vain attempt at spotting the White-Tailed Sea Eagle that was reported on local social media as having attempted to abduct a pet turkey from a garden in Stoke. It occurred to me that over the years there have been occasions when my Christmas dinner has ended up in the bin or in the dog, but never up in the sky, so that would have been a first. Fortunately for the turkey a child ran out of the house and fended the attacker off, an act of heroism that surely deserves some recognition because these are very big birds with a wingspan of eight feet! But the story is not as far-fetched as you might imagine. The first of these reintroduced birds were released on the Isle of Wight in 2019. I think the original idea was they would spread along the south coast but being nomadic they have also moved inland with some going up as far as Scotland or west to Exmoor and Wales with another pair spending a great deal of time in Suffolk. Others make daily forays into Hampshire and back to the island. Perhaps it was one of these "commuters" that passed over Stoke and fancied his chances? Either way I think it top trumps the Osprey spotted in Longparish recently.

But I have been thinking about these reintroduced creatures and the success or failure of them. We can all remember the reintroduction of Great Bustards on to Salisbury Plain in recent years but that got off to a tricky start because they used Russian Bustards who came over, had a good time and then went back to Russia as Russians are prone to do. The Bustards! So next they went for the more laid-back Spanish Bustards who were far more accommodating, strolling around (even at Stonehenge!), having a louche time, taking afternoon naps and everything was "mañana". And they have been a huge success and probably down to the fact that they can outrun a fox.

So, ospreys, beavers, natterjack toads, wild boar, sand lizards, pine martens, even the Capercaillie, the first ever reintroduced creature back in 1832, have all flourished though the latter's numbers are down by 40% in the last 15 years due to habitat loss. So how far do you go? Step forward Paul Lister, owner of the 20,000-hectare Alladale Estate in Sutherland who in 2013 attempted to create a true Highland wilderness reserve with the reintroduction of wolves and bears. Needless to say, the Ramblers Association blew a gasket as the right to roam legislation allows all access to land north of the border, and I kind of take their point, though as someone who has occasionally tried to remove the odd poaching Glaswegian character from the riverbank, I'm not sure what I'd be more frightened of!

Lastly my thoughts and prayers with the family of Robert Mew, resident of Binley, a real country man in every sense of the word and a thoroughly nice and honourable chap. He will be missed. NA



EASY RECYCLING IN ANDOVER HIGH STREET

Superdrug will take all make-up containers, except nail varnish and mascara medicine blister packs

Boots will take make-up and cosmetics containers, such as tubes and jars

Clarks will take worn or unwanted shoes which are intact and useable – to be sent abroad to raise money for charity

Specsavers, Vision Express and Boots Opticians will take all glasses.

SMB COMMUNITY BUS

Every Tuesday and Thursday the AV8 'Taxi share', operated by Unity Transport, runs through St Mary Bourne on its way to Andover. At only **£1** per journey, it is cheaper than driving and parking in Andover. Pre-booked passengers can travel from bus stops along the route starting at Forton, up the Bourne Valley, through Little London, Upper Enham, Enham Alamein, Andover Tesco Extra to Andover.

Here are one passenger's thoughts:

I have really enjoyed using this facility which costs a mere £1 each way - cheaper than car parking! Through using it I have seen parts of the countryside I would not have visited otherwise. We often see wildlife - deer, hares, and, of course, the lovely autumn trees. I have also met people I would not otherwise have met, and it is always a very cheerful journey.

The bus stops at Tesco, but I carry on into Andover and have enjoyed using my time there to discover places I would not usually visit. The little lanes are fascinating and there are so many old and interesting buildings to look at. I have done the heritage trail and been to the museum. I always treat myself to a coffee and Danish pastry, and something from the plant stall. The vegetable stall has a wide range of produce and there are several other stalls.

Call 01264 356808 to register and book for yourself. Arrival at Andover Bus Station by 10.30 and leave again by 13.30.

SOUTHERN VOICES

40th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Bringing their ruby anniversary season to a close on 21 December in the Chapel of St Cross, Winchester at 7.30pm, **SOUTHERN VOICES**

look forward to celebrating in style with their traditional, festive feast of Christmas carols. This year they are thrilled to welcome former royal harpist **Alis Huws** who had the honour of playing at the Coronation. She will accompany them in **Benjamin Britten's** iconic **A Ceremony of Carols**. This will be a real treat and the perfect way to round off a superb year of music-making for the choir.

Booking is essential, and tickets are now on sale. Tickets: **£19** (Age 21 & under, **£10**) from: southernvoices.co.uk/Christmas or telephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply).

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (registered charity 1086868).





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From Ukraine to England: A Journey of Resilience and Creativity.

My name is Nataliia Palkovska, and for the past two years, I've been living in Upper Woodcott.



Originally from Ukraine, I moved to England with my family when the war began. Back home, I had built a thriving career as a journalist and editor-in-chief of a leading entertainment platform. I had also founded an art space that celebrated Ukraine's rich cultural heritage, providing local artists and artisans with a place to showcase their handmade creations.

Starting over in England has been a journey of resilience and rediscovery, made possible by the support of extraordinary people I've met along the way. Traditional crafts and cuisine remain at the heart of my life. I practise two UNESCO-recognised skills: making Ukrainian borsch and willow weaving. My borsch has become a favourite among English friends, while my weaving—a craft I refined under the guidance of local basket maker Erica Adams—allows me to connect deeply with nature and tradition. My passion for holiday decor also inspires my work, blending natural materials with cultural storytelling. By participating in fairs and hosting workshops, I've found opportunities to connect with communities, share my skills, and support local artisans.

Through my journey, I hope to inspire others to rediscover themselves, embrace creativity, and contribute meaningfully to the world, no matter the obstacles they face.

Email: nataliia@mail.uk - Phone: 07388 011774
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St. Mary's Church, Andover

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Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day Lecture 2024

Some two hundred people congregated around the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday to remember the dead of both World Wars and other conflicts. Wreaths were laid by Deputy Lieutenant Professor Khalid Aziz LVO on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, and Colonel (retd) Charlie Blount, St Mary Bourne's senior officer. The Royal British Legion contingent numbered seventeen. Petty Officer (retd) Danny Anderson, replete with pace stick, kept the squad in step. Colonel Blount recited "The Exhortation" and Lieutenant (RN retd) James Croser read the Roll of Honour and the "Kohima Epitaph". Major (retd) Michael Malyon read "In Flanders Fields". The Reverend Canon Dodie Marsden conducted the service at The War Memorial and afterwards at St Peter's Church.

The following day, Armistice Day, some 120 people gathered in the village hall for a lecture on D-Day, in recognition of its 80th anniversary. Amongst the attendees

was a D-Day veteran, St Mary Bourne resident Gordon Pearce, aged 103, who landed on Gold Beach with the 8th Armoured Brigade on D+3. The lecture was arranged by Captain (retd)



Jeremy Barks and the serving and veteran community of St Mary Bourne. The speaker was Brigadier (retd) Allan Mallinson, a former commanding officer of 13th/18th Royal Hussars, whose tanks swam ashore on Sword Beach on D-Day. He is a best-selling author of military history and of a series of novels about a nineteenth century cavalry officer, Matthew Hervey. His latest book, "The Shape of Battle", analyses six battles in depth, of which one is D-Day. He is also the military obituarist for The Times. His talk focused on the meticulous planning of D-Day and the people behind it. It offered a fascinating perspective by an acknowledged expert and was extremely well received.

The lecture made a net profit of **£1,214** mostly from ticket sales but also from a pay bar. Of this, **£850** was added to funds raised in St Mary Bourne on behalf of The Poppy Appeal and the balance of **£364** was donated to St Peter's Church. The total contribution by St Mary Bourne to The Poppy Appeal amounted to £2,301. The coordinator of the Poppy Appeal in St Mary Bourne is Michael Malyon. On behalf of the Royal British Legion, the serving and veteran community wish to thank all those who supported the Appeal.

It is intended to hold another Armistice Day Lecture next year. A Royal Naval subject has been mooted. *JB*



LONGPARISH

- 4 Dec** 7.30pm - Little School and Fols Christmas Quiz - Community Hall
7 Dec 2 to 4pm - Saint Nicholas' Christmas Fayre - Community Hall
8 Dec 9am - L2SOTM Race - The Plough
9 Dec 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
20 Dec 12noon to 2.30pm - LCA Lunch Club - Village Hall

- 10 Jan** 9.15am - Walk and Litter Pick - Village Hall
21 Jan 7pm - Tuesday Talks - "Don't Delay - Enrol Today": The Women's Land Army in Hampshire - Village Hall
28 Jan 7pm - Longparish Garden Club - Village Hall
31 Jan 12noon to 2.30pm - LCA Lunch Club - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 4 Dec** 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning - 1, Cressington
7 Dec 10am - Leaf Rake - Church drive
22 Dec 11am - Carol Service - St Andrew's
23 Dec 4pm - Carols and Nativity - Pavilion
25 Dec 10.30am - Christmas Communion - St Andrew's

- 16 Jan** 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning - Mistletoe Cottage
24 Jan 10am - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
25 Jan 1pm - Hampshire Sewing Circle - Village Hall
30 Jan 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 7 Dec** 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
4 Dec 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Whitefield Cottage
10 Dec 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
10 Dec 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Main Hall
11 Dec 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall
13 Dec 6.30pm - 'A humbug Christmas Carol' - Village Centre
14 Dec 9.30am to 1.30pm - Advent Church Clean - St Peter's Church
15 Dec 4pm - *Christingle Service* - St Peter's Church

- 4 Jan** 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
5 Jan Epiphany Family Service - St Peter's Church
8 Jan 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Half Way Up
12 Jan 9am to 12noon - *The Big Breakfast* - Village Centre
14 Jan 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
14 Jan 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Main Hall
14 Jan 7.15pm - 'The Film' - *The Critic* - Village Centre
15 Jan 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall

Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room



B3048, Highway to the North is now available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1 mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* this year. It can be bought from *Acre Stores*, *Longparish* and *The Boundary Community Shop* in St Mary Bourne. At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local Christmas gift... And all the sales proceeds are for Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.



Front cover photo: M. Widén

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Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date. Please provide copy in Word format and attached images as jpg files.

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