

Issue No. 246

# *Hill & Valley*

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

50p

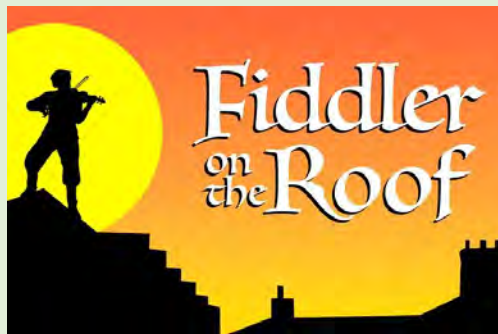
March 2021





## Dear Friends,

Last month one of our national newspapers published the ten best musicals of all time. Other polls have, of course, a different top ten! But the one that caught my eye was **Fiddler on the Roof**. Not for its story line, not for the songs, the actors or the sets, but because it is a metaphor for life.



In the opening scene, the “**Fiddler**” is up on the roof precariously playing and he, the characters and the story itself speak about survival, through tradition and joyfulness, in a life full of uncertainty and imbalance.

Hovering in the background is the threat of resettlement of Jewish families in Imperial Russia in or around 1905. In the small village of Anatevka, Tevye (a dairy farmer) and his wife, Golde have five daughters who they wish to marry successfully with the help of the matchmaker.

Tevye is a man of tradition and wishes to maintain his religious and cultural traditions but he has to cope with his strong-willed wife and his daughters, who wish to marry for love; with their choices of husbands being successively less palatable for Tevye.

Throughout the play (or film) much of his time is spent weighing things up and talking to God, and sometimes having to find a way out of a situation that conflicts with their tradition which has, for so long, held them together as a family and a community. It is a tough life: where they live and how they live is under threat; all that they know as fundamental to life could be lost; and that makes the future very shaky indeed.

When in conflict with his daughters he sings:

*Who, day and night, must scramble for a living, feed a wife and children, say his daily prayers?  
And who has the right, as master of the house, to have the final word at home?*

And grabbing at straws he enquires:

*Where does it stop? Do I still have something to say about my daughter,  
or doesn't anybody have to ask the father anymore?*

And as he feels he is losing control, having to rethink, he changes tack asking his wife: Do you love me? And so shocked by this question she replies, Do I what? So, he asks again, ‘Do you love me?’

*For twenty-five years I've washed your clothes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house  
Given you children, milked the cows, after twenty-five years, why talk about love right now?*

I'll leave you to imagine the answer if you don't already know! Nothing seems the same as before.

This story is very much a metaphor for life for us too. As you read this we are not far off twelve months to the day from when, last year, things changed in ways that previously were unimaginable. In our villages and towns: no fund-raising events. In our churches: little or no worship, services on Zoom, limited numbers at funerals and weddings without celebrations. No visiting, no holidays, no festivities or festivals. But for all that there has been something significant, something foundational going on in amongst the sadness, loneliness and loss.

In the same way that Tevye felt he was losing control, we have too. Things that were vital have slipped down the ladder of importance. Life has very real elements of uncertainty and imbalance. But in moving off the previously safe tracks of a well-ordered life, we have become more aware of what is worth holding on to. Our smaller funerals have become more meaningful. Our weddings without the focus on a guest list and party afterwards have become a very real expression of the love a couple have for each other and so much more.

As for Tevye, what he had held on to in the past was now out of reach. And Golde had been made to think about love and what it meant after twenty-five years of hard work. The traditions once so deeply rooted in their village had become fragile. And at some time in the future they would have to find what held them together ‘*someplace else*’.

Our ‘*someplace else*’ doesn't move geographically. But in our faith, our thinking and believing our ‘*someplace else*’ is where we can meet God and find comfort, reassurance and hope.

*With my love and prayers*

*Dodie*

## Services in the Parish Churches

### March 2021

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

All Zoom details (incl. the link) are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

**7<sup>th</sup> March** - The Third Sunday of Lent  
**11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service**

**14<sup>th</sup> March** - Mothering Sunday  
**11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service**

**21<sup>st</sup> March** - The Fifth Sunday of Lent  
**11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service**

**28<sup>th</sup> March** - Palm Sunday  
**11.00 am - Benefice Zoom service**

#### Evening Prayer

There will be a short Zoom service of evening prayer (Compline) **every Thursday at 7.30pm.**

Each week there is mid-week reflection available on a Wednesday.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday

Hurstbourne Priors	<b>9.30 am</b>	<i>Easter Communion</i>
Woodcott	<b>9.30 am</b>	<i>Easter Communion</i>
Longparish	<b>11.00 am</b>	<i>Easter Communion</i>
<i>(live streamed for those unable to attend Church)</i>		
St Mary Bourne	<b>11.00 am</b>	<i>Easter Communion</i>

**Please note that from April all four churches will have services at either 9.30 am or 11 am and there will be Evensong fortnightly at 6 pm in the Benefice.**

#### Benefice Contacts during the interregnum period:

For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact **Karen in the Benefice Office**  
☎ 01264 738 308 or email: [office.brightwaters@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk)

#### From the Church Registers

##### Funerals

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

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February - St Mary Bourne**  
**Helga Spring**  
Funeral at Andover Crematorium

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
A thanksgiving service for the life of **Dennis Wells**

We also record with sadness the death of **Rose Sandall Ball** in January and **Tony Grunsell** in February.







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## Update from Two Rivers Medical Partnership

### Farewell Dr Jim Rose

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to Dr Rose who retires from the Two Rivers Medical partnership at the end of March 2021. Dr Rose has been a caring conscientious and highly skilled and respected GP who will be sadly missed by his patients and his colleagues alike.

Dr Rose has also been an exceptional leader both personally within the practice and more widely in the Primary Care Trust. He played a vital role in the successful merger of Whitchurch Surgery with Derrydown Clinic in 2015. His legacy at Two Rivers is the successful implementation of a learning culture and a "pod" model of general practice based on the traditional core General Practice strength of continuity of care. We are sure this model will succeed and continue to evolve over many years to come.

We know many patients will want to wish Dr Rose well as he sails into his retirement! We would suggest patients submit any letters or anecdotes via our practice website. We will compile these into a memory book for him. If anyone would like to record any videos of thanks these would also be greatly received. If anyone would like to offer donations towards a retirement present, please hand in your contribution in an envelope to either surgery marked "Dr Rose retirement".

### Update on recruitment

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Dr Diana Kenshole, an experienced GP who will be joining the Two Rivers Medical team from April this year. We have also successfully recruited Sandra Barnett an experienced generalist nurse practitioner who will join the team from April also.

### Update on COVID vaccines

We have moved on to offering the vaccine to all patients aged over 65 years. To date we have been calling patients but are moving to a text booking system for our younger patients. This obviously relies on patients having the correct mobile number on our system. Please update us through our practice website [www.tworiversmedicalpartnership.co.uk](http://www.tworiversmedicalpartnership.co.uk) if your mobile number has changed. We will also soon be booking in patients second vaccine doses but there is no need for patients to contact the surgery directly, we will update you with these appointments.

Best wishes Dr Dan Lickman  
and the team at Two Rivers Medical Partnership



## SMB ST MARY BOURNE VILLAGE SHOP & post office

Time's ticking... don't be a victim of the Lockdown Regrets!!

At the time of writing this we are unsure about exactly what Boris is going to announce with regards to getting out of lockdown, but I'm going to go out on a limb and assume that we are finally, slowly, going to be climbing out of this quagmire into the bright sunshine of an unlocked life. This is all good news and one where we can finally rejoice in the company of others and take long drives to wherever we desire. However, we must be careful not to fall in the trap of Lockdown Regret. Gone will be the days of idly lounging around watching box set after box set in our pyjamas, of going on endless walks and sipping Zoom cocktails. Before we know it we'll be manically scrabbling around in the wardrobe for something less comfortable, feeling guilty about the expectant look our pooch is giving us as we rush out the door for something more important, and longing for the days where we had very little in our lives. So, whilst we may feel a little caged (and maybe caged for a little while longer), we should perhaps rejoice in the parts of our life that we find so limiting?

On asking people what is it about lockdown they've loved most, I have to say the vast majority say 'not a lot!' However, there have been some nuggets of joy. Long family walks; catching up on lost TV series; home baking; Zoom family calls... there is much to be thankful for. And whilst we must be quick to appreciate that not everyone has the lockdown life of us in the Bourne Valley, we must also acknowledge that not everything is bad. Some good has come out of all this chaos.

So onwards and upwards. March is definitely a Spring month and we have survived the long, dark winter of 20/21. There is much to look forward to and the SMB Village Shop produce will reflect the changing of the season. With everything from your everyday basics such as bread, milk, dairy and canned produce to fresh soups, locally reared meat and fish, fresh fruit and veg, a range of cut flowers, your local Village Shop has everything you need to enjoy the hopefully final days of lockdown!

*Lara and the Team*

### February 2021 - 1☺☺ Club Draw:

£50 - C Reid £20 - P Blair  
£20 - The Redfern family £10 - C Culley

### Village postcards

now available from the Village Shop at 30p each.



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# Your Parish Council

## Parish Council Meetings

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

All minutes and reports can be viewed at  
[www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning) or by contacting the Parish Council Clerk ☎ 01264 738 039

## Newly registered Planning Applications March 2021

- Erection of two storey extension to the north elevation - **Gate Cottage, School Lane** - 21/00269/HSE - 25 January 2021
- Installation of replacement windows and doors - **6 Applegate** - 21/00275/HSE - 15 February 2021
- Variation of condition 1 (plan numbers) and removal of condition 12 (windows and doors) of permission 18/00784/FUL to allow amendments to the conversion of Methodist Chapel to 1 no. dwelling with extensions and renovation work - **Methodist Chapel, Stoke Road** - 21/00162/ROC - 15 January 2021
- Extension of village shop/post office to create a café and eco shop, with additional storage - **Village Shop, Bourne Meadow** - 21/00144/FUL - 8 February 2021
- Erection of part two storey part single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory - **Minden, High Street** - 21/00101/HSE - 11 January 2021
- Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory - **Pippins, Church Street** - 21/00116/HSE - 8 January 2021

## Recent Local Planning Authority Decisions

- Erection of a single storey rear infill extension - **6 Denham Terrace** - 20/03313/HSE - 26 November 2020 - **Granted**
- Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed use of works for the removal of existing conservatory and replace with an infill single storey rear extension and pergola - **Swampton Farm, Gangbridge Lane** - 20/02955/LDPO - 23 November 2020 - **Granted**



Basingstoke  
and Deane

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane would like to hear from couples across the borough celebrating their golden and diamond wedding anniversaries.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor is unable to hold an annual tea party which brings couples celebrating milestone anniversaries together.

To ensure couples still have a memorable celebration, an afternoon tea box created by Basingstoke College of Technology students, will be delivered to couples' homes on 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to mark the special occasion.

Cllr Taylor said: "Golden and diamond anniversaries are very special milestones in a couple's life together.

"Even though we won't be able to celebrate in person this year, I would like to offer my good wishes to all couples who are marking this milestone around the borough.

"If you or anyone you know have their golden or diamond anniversary between 20 May 2020 and 21 May 2021, then please let us know so we can get in touch."

Please contact the Mayoral Events Coordinator Zoe McLaren on 01256 845591 or email [mayor@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@basingstoke.gov.uk) before Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

For more information, visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayors-reception](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayors-reception)

## St Mary Bourne & District Neighbourcare

### We are still here!

Normally our local organization offers lifts for people who require transport to a hospital, surgery, dentist, optician or other medical appointment. Unfortunately, during the first Lock Down we were not permitted to offer this service.

Then it became possible for anyone who was willing to drive someone to an appointment to do so. They have to follow all the usual careful strict Covid instructions and everyone must wear a face mask.

If you need transport do get in touch. Particularly if it is for a job.

Those of you who were expecting your 2<sup>nd</sup> jab in January and are now hoping to get it in **March** just let us know when you get the appointment.

The numbers to ring are either 01264 **738681** or **738041**.

If you would like to be one of the **volunteer drivers** that would be wonderful as several of our long-time drivers are no longer able to help and we are slightly thin on the ground. It is not a big commitment as you are unlikely to be called upon more than once a month, if that.

If you are interested, please call **01264 738 681**.

*Eve Lind-Smith*

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## Light Touch One Man's Trash... is another man's Treasure.

Charity shops are closed and when lockdown ends they will be overwhelmed, so could we try to repurpose as much as possible now? Lockdown has enabled many of us to have that big sort out we had always intended to have.

So, what can we do with it all? Please don't resort to chucking anything useable. We have the excellent Free for the Bourne Valley recycling Facebook group where a remarkable amount of possessions find a new home. Melissa on 01264 **738462** is collecting for a primary school in Andover which has 170 vulnerable children and needs good condition outdoor play equipment from balls to skipping ropes, plus indoor puzzles and games. Caroline on 01264 **738579** is collecting for the Crisis Centre (single bedding, cutlery and bedside lamps) and Care4Calais (tents, sleeping bags, waterproofs, warm clothes, back packs etc.). Alison on 01264



**CARE4  
CALAIS**

**738902** is collecting dog accessories, especially leads, harnesses and collars for a rescue service in Hertfordshire, so nothing too heavy. Do ring any of these people if you want more detail.

Freecycle carries on with safe contactless pickups. They are a not-for-profit group whose aim is to keep stuff out of landfill. The Andover UK group has 2,108 members giving and receiving locally. It is free to join online and anything from chicken houses to jam jars are on offer. It is monitored to ensure no live animals or anything dangerous is offered. They just encourage everyone to offer as well as request objects.

BIU group (formerly *bag it up*) have the bin in St Mary Bourne in aid of the Ark Cancer Centre at Basingstoke Hospital. They take all textiles and shoes and will hopefully be able to get their second-hand clothes system running smoothly soon, post Brexit. They are at the moment being charged export tax on our donated second-hand clothes as they were not originally made in the UK which uses up the money which should be donated to the charity. Their recycling of unusable textiles into cleaning cloths and mattress fillings continues. £40,000 has been raised locally so far for the Ark.



A few motivating facts for you from WRAP, a charity working with businesses to achieve a sustainable lifestyle for the planet.

An estimated £140 million worth (350,000 metric tonnes) of used clothing goes to waste in landfill every year. These days there is absolutely no reason for any materials to go to landfill any more as explained above.

Clothing made from natural materials like cotton, wool and leather will produce a range of greenhouse gases while biodegrading in landfill sites. Synthetic materials will take hundreds of years to disintegrate and will be a danger if allowed to enter the food chain.

For every metric tonne of natural textiles reused rather than sent into landfill, 7 tonnes of harmful greenhouse gases are avoided.



## Calling all residents of St Mary Bourne and surrounding villages!

The St Mary Bourne Horticultural Society **AGM** will be held by Zoom on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

Meeting ID: **749 1928 1548**

Password: **em4c00**

All members are welcome to attend. Membership is now free for residents of St Mary Bourne and its surrounding villages (Binley, Dunley, Egbury, Stoke, Wadwick, Woodcott and the Wykes)!

All we need is your name, home address and crucially, your email address - and your consent for the Hort Soc to hold your contact data and to email you from time to time. In return, members get to vote at the AGM in March each year and an invitation to drinks afterwards (though a virtual drink this year!).

By offering free membership the committee hopes to increase membership numbers to help its messages about the Show reach all local households (such as closing deadlines for competition entries, etc). To join please complete the form by visiting the website at the link below and press on the purple button '**Become a Member**'.

<https://stmarybourne.org/flower-show-and-fete/>

## Praying in St Peter's

St Peter's is open for private prayer Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. There is a list at the back of the church for names of those you would like prayer for and also for those we wish to remember who have died recently.

## Cleaning up the church yard

February/March is the time when we clean up the church yard and remove old and discoloured flowers, wreaths and arrangements and prepare for the Spring. If you can help us by removing items from your grave please do so, but in the meantime be assured we will only remove things that look old or worn out.

## Services

At present we are Zooming until Easter Day when we hope to have our church open but will also provide an online service for those who cannot attend. Please note that throughout April and beyond we will have services at either 9.30 am or 11.00 am (this is new for St Peter's so please check). Our Evensongs will continue and possibly 8 am Holy Communion but we will confirm these in April and beyond.

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## Covid Dreams and Disappointments

*19-year-old Stoke resident Rory Case records how the past year has affected his plans.*

When I first heard about this 'coronavirus' I initially treated it as something which might break out of Wuhan, China and potentially take a few unfortunate lives. Then I would never hear of it again and that would be that. I swatted it away in my head, never thinking that it would affect my life. How wrong I was.

During my Lower Sixth year of school, I decided to take a gap year before University with the intention of spending 11 months on the other side of the world in Australia. I managed to secure myself a job as a teaching assistant in a big private school just outside Sydney where I would live for the year. My aim was to work and have fun during term and then travel around the country (and have more fun!) during the holidays.

Hearing stories from people who had already travelled "Down Under" and worked at similar schools, I was relishing the opportunity to experience something new, and ultimately spend a year with minimal pressures and become more independent. I was very excited. I had booked my flights and sorted my visa by January last year thinking everything would go ahead as planned.

I was also in the process of revising for my fast-approaching A Level exams in May and June. However, news started to develop that this 'coronavirus' was spreading through multiple countries and could reach the UK. Surely we would be able to contain it though? Despite my optimism, I could not have been more wrong. It soon became clear how underprepared the country was for dealing with COVID and how much of an impact it would have on everyone's lives. Eventually, the government announced that all exams, including my A Levels, were to be cancelled and that all schools were to be shut immediately.

I was buzzing about this news. It meant that the 3 months where I would probably have stressed and worked the most I ever had were to be replaced with spending time at home with my family. It was a win-win situation for me - or so I thought.

Nevertheless, a new type of stress enveloped my lockdown as results day loomed. I realised that my future was basically in the hands of my teachers and how they would perceive my grades in the government's new algorithm. Fortunately, I got the grades I needed.

I was due to fly to Australia in July. The flight was cancelled, the travel company went bust and we lost the money for the flight (long story!). The school in Australia told me not to worry - they would be happy to have me in January if travel restrictions were eased. I managed to get a job working at the Covid testing centre in Salisbury which meant I would have some cash when I arrived in Australia. But in late October, I received the email I feared but kind of expected. The school in Sydney politely informed me that my place as a gap assistant was no longer going to go ahead.

I was gutted. I had been looking forward to travelling Down Under for months and I was starting to doubt whether my decision to take a gap year was the correct one. However, I was reassured by my mates who had gone straight to Uni that I had made the right decision as they listed off the struggles they had faced in their first term (which included worrying things like mental health and the lack of support they had received from their respective Universities).

The pandemic also cost me a two-year relationship. We finally decided to break up in December due to the lack of being able to see each other and we just did not know when we would be able to enjoy each other's company again.

For me, as for most people, this pandemic has caused massive disruption and a huge increase in stress and worry. From the first lockdown, I realised that it was impossible to guarantee that any of my plans were going to happen due to the ever-changing rules and restrictions, both nationally and internationally. Despite this, I have since made plans to travel around Costa Rica (fingers crossed!) for a couple of months which I hope will relieve the stress of the past few months.

RC

If you have a Covid story to tell and want to share it with the readers of Hill & Valley, please contact the editor.

## Star Gazing Highlights in March

**At the start of March - Mars, Jupiter and Saturn** - will appear low in **S.E.** as dawn breaks.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** - look towards **S.W.** in early evening for star **Aldebran** - beside first quarter moon in the constellation of **Taurus the Bull**.

**9<sup>th</sup> March - Full Super Moon** - in constellation of **Leo**. This is a super moon due to its proximity, so it can appear 14% larger and 30% brighter.

**20<sup>th</sup> March - Spring (Vernal) Equinox**. This marks the first day of Spring in Northern Hemisphere.

**24<sup>th</sup> March - Mercury** - Look to **S.E. horizon** - before sunrise - it will be faint. **Venus** - look to **S.W.** - just before sunset.

**24<sup>th</sup> March - New Moon** - ideal for star gazing as sky darker.

**28<sup>th</sup> March - 1.00 - the clocks go forward.**

**31<sup>st</sup> March - Jupiter** forms the tip of an isosceles triangle with **Saturn & Mars** at the base.

I hope you were able to take part in the CPRE star count in February? Do have a look on their site for the results to see how our area compared for light pollution.

Clear skies are ideal for enjoying observing dark night skies in our rural location. Please try to minimise light pollution by reducing outdoor lighting. This benefits wildlife, the environment and humans alike.

Remember to wrap up warm when Star Gazing. Make a flask. Use a recliner and enjoy these free shows.



## Postcard from Binley - March 2021

I turned 60 at the back end of last year and so slipped seamlessly from middle to old age overnight. By way of celebration the lovely people at Derrydown clinic added another pill to my daily prescription so now I think I have the full set! I'm not sure what this one does, and I certainly won't ask. I'm told they are preventative rather than curative so maybe this one stops me getting flat feet or something? But they are very good down at the surgery and the sainted Dawn and Anne attend to my every need with grace and charm and believe everything I tell them about my weekly alcohol intake.

One of my sons has cheekily gifted me an annual subscription to "The Oldie" magazine. The first few issues arrived and sat untouched for a while but eventually, emboldened by a couple of sherries I picked one up and leafed through it. It dawned on me that a lot of the writers were doing what I do, rehashing old tales over and over again, living on past glories so to speak, but then I suppose that's what us "oldies" do? And we love it! For what exactly is there to look forward to? A liquid lunch is one thing, a liquidized one is altogether something different and although I still feel twenty-five in my head, my knees and hips and liver are telling me otherwise.

My mood wasn't improved yesterday evening as I hunkered down by the fire as many "oldies" will have, to enjoy an evening's episode of Dad's Army. Just as the programme was about to start and I was poised to sing along to the intro, a BBC announcer said "Now, with discriminatory language that some may find offensive... Dad's Army!" Was I hearing things? Sergeant Wilson, offensive? Godfrey's sister Dolly's upside-down cakes... offensive? I went on an hour-long rant after that and the cork didn't go back in the bottle!

Another sign that I'm a lost cause is that I've moved on from going into rooms and wondering why I am there to doing weird things like putting yesterday's socks and underpants in the fridge or last night's leftover lasagne in the washing machine. I don't leave them there; I realise something's not right and come to my senses but it's most peculiar. To confirm my "oldie" state of mind I have started going through the small ads at the back of the Sunday papers. Did you know you can buy three pairs of crease free, elasticated slacks in varying pastel shades for under a tenner? And if you are vertically challenged you can still buy a gentleman's pair of shoes with "uplifters" which give you another couple of inches (Oooh er Missus!). But what gladdened my heart more than anything was to discover a place called "World of Sheds!" Can you imagine that! A world... of Sheds????!! Brilliant! They've very wisely located it at Coalville in Leicester, quite the dullest town in Middle England. What if they'd put it somewhere racy like... Leamington Spa or Maidenhead? I don't think my old heart could take it! Can you imagine on any given Sunday hundreds of Honda Jazz's stuffed with "oldies", equipped with thermos flasks and Shipham's Paste sandwiches, all sitting in the middle lane of the M1 at 50 mph and diverging on "World of Sheds!" for a day out! What a wonderous sight that must be, and I can't wait to join that happy throng!

In May of 1831 a Primitive Methodist evangelist by the name of Thomas Russell arrived in Binley where he discovered "a God forsaken place where no religious meetings of any kind were ever held." Why am I not surprised? Us Binleyites would have still been ducking

witches, although to be fair the ducking pond was sited at Egbury so we had a bit of a walk. By the time he left, over 200 souls had been converted to Primitive Methodism in a single farm kitchen belonging to the Farr family.

Methodism held strongly here in Binley and surrounding villages in the last century and I mention this because I noticed the old Methodist chapel in St. Mary Bourne has sold and is to be converted to a house. It has been boarded up for some years and is falling into decay, but I remember it as a place of worship when I first moved here in the 1980's. People like Jack Skinner, what a nice man he was, were the last of those Methodists that attended that chapel and as we lost them the place ceased to be. Sad really.

But talking of ducking stools and village punishments I stumbled on some information detailing the whereabouts of these sadistic contraptions here in the valley. Stocks and a whipping post were outside the Summerhaugh in the square at St Mary Bourne, another set further up the village at Swampton and one more near the Blacksmith's shop in Stoke. One eventually got sited at Egbury to replace the ducking stool. How compassionate! But one of the crimes for which you could be placed in the Stocks was for selling bad beer. When I think of the times I've been given a dodgy pint of Marston's Pedigree in the Coronation Arms, or the infamous brew dished up at The Hurdlers, I feel there is a strong case for bringing them back! It surprised me to discover that the stocks remained until around 1850, well into Victorian times and the last known offender to suffer them was a chap called John May, the Saint Mary Bourne Parish Clerk who was sentenced for "intemperance", in other words an excessive indulgence in alcoholic beverages. But then, who wouldn't need a drink after enduring a three-hour Parish Council meeting? I imagine he was positively driven to the stuff!

As I write (9<sup>th</sup> February) we are enduring the coldest snap of the winter so far. The wind is from the East and is Siberian in temperature. Peter Corbett has a nice way of summing up this weather but it is not suitable for these pages so you will have to ask him yourself! The ground with a smattering of snow is like concrete, but for dog walkers like myself it's so much nicer than the mush we have endured for the last month. I was delighted to see the Fallow deer return to Binley at the end of January, though just six of them, four bucks and two does. They are very dark, melanistic I believe, and nothing like the Fallow you encounter say in Richmond Park. At this time of year, they are in smaller groups but in autumn they come together to form larger herds. One of the males was obviously dominant and led them around. He was quite magnificent in stature and one morning I chanced upon him coming out of the fog as I rounded a bend in the track. What a heart stopping moment that was! Memorably I watched about forty cross over from above Cold Harbour to Richard Edward's ground last autumn and then saw them again up at Pill Heath. Although they are gone now this morning was just as satisfying because I chanced upon two groups of our native brown hares charging around like crazy and doing their "Mad" thing. I have a soft spot for these beautiful creatures. They will start to be more active and seen in greater numbers over the next month or so. Please look out for them as you are driving around as they make poor judgements when it comes to cars and will often double back on themselves. If you could just ease off the gas when one crosses in front of you and see them to safety, I would be most grateful. Thanks.

NA



## Toad Patrol Request

Last year on 15<sup>th</sup> February ten frogs an/or toads were squashed along Gangbridge Lane in one night when we were very busy at the lake with the toads.

Please can people keep an eye out for

squashed bodies or sightings on warm wet nights so we can find out which are active there and let us know on 01264 **738579** or email

[sustainablebournevalley@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebournevalley@gmail.com).

Toads crawl slowly across, are fairly road coloured and hard to see while frogs leap across and are much easier to avoid. Frogs can be any shade of green, yellow or orange contrary to the popular image!

We have put up 'frog crossing' signs at both ends of the lane and at the definite frog crossing by Denham Terrace, so please be careful there too.

FROG



CROSSING



In November, we co-organised the 'free-range' *Big Breakfast* with Karen Crofts and Jo Boxer with the aim of raising funds and promoting sustainable food choices. All the bacon, sausages and eggs were sourced from local free-range farms and the jams, marmalades and apple juice were also locally produced. Information about our group and sustainable food choices was provided at each table.

Also in November, we invited children from St Mary Bourne Primary School to join us in planting trees and seeds at Hirst Meadow. All together we planted 11 trees, which included spindle and hazels, and an assortment of wild flower seeds and the children had a great time learning about nature and jumping on the seeds to bed them in!

Having done the lion's share of the winter groundwork in Hirst Copse, our attention turned to toads in December. After hearing reports of toads being squashed on the roads between The George and the Derrydown Clinic, we decided to register the site as an official 'toad crossing' with Froglife. In just one wet and windy evening alone during Storm Dennis, we saved an incredible 93 toads and 12 frogs from being squashed. Many thanks to committee member Caroline Hoyes for being our toad patrol manager and spending many hours coordinating our volunteers and weather forecasts!

2020 was a difficult year for everyone. Nonetheless, we continued to carry out essential work at Hirst Meadow and before the lockdown began, we managed to organise a second session there with children from St Mary Bourne Primary School who helped us plant some more trees and flowers. We also organised two excellent volunteer sessions to help dig up the blackberry roots to stop them taking over the planned woodland area.

Thanks to our fundraising, and a generous donation from the Flower Show Committee, we have been able to buy plants and tools for Hirst Meadow and we are also planning to install an eco-friendly sign at the site to explain the work we're doing there and what we hope the project will achieve.

There are a number of people we would like to thank by name, without whom we would not have made such great progress. Special thanks go to Allan Hitchcock, Jenny Cutbill, Chris Palmer, Gill Evans, Jonathan Rau, Sophie and Peter Martin, Oliver Madge and Jeanette Davies.

I would also like to thank my fellow committee members, Kay Bone, Caroline Hoyes, Hannah Shaw, Katie Dixon and Nik Cross for all their hard work and commitment to all our projects in both fair and foul weather.

Covid restrictions permitting, we look forward to developing our projects further during 2021 – beginning with our toad patrol – and we look forward to working with our growing band of volunteers to help protect the environment and promote sustainable living in our beautiful Bourne Valley.

Charlotte Reid

*Chair, Sustainable Bourne Valley*

## Sustainable Bourne Valley Annual Report 2020

It has been a busy, event-filled, and educational first year for Sustainable Bourne Valley. Founded in January 2019, the group – led by its committee of six – was established to protect the environment and to promote sustainable living in the Bourne Valley.

Our first job was to create a logo and identity for the group and to build networks that would enable us to promote and share ideas for sustainable living. This led to the creation of a logo, a Facebook Page and a group website [www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk) where we post news and articles about sustainable gardening, planet-friendly food choices, and renewable energy as well as a detailed A-Z local recycling guide. So far, almost 700 people have visited our website and on Facebook we have reached around 1,500 people each month and engaged with an average of 500.

In April 2019, we applied to St Mary Bourne Parish Council for permission to use a plot of Council-owned land behind Hirst Copse to create a wildlife haven. The transformation of this land, now known as Hirst Meadow, was to become our first hands-on project. After consulting with Hirst Copse residents at the Annual Parish meeting, we left the plot to flourish over the summer to see what was already growing there. In September, the meadow was mown and the huge brambles which had taken over one side of the plot were heavily cut back to make space for tree planting.

In October, we organised a successful art exhibition at the Club Room Art Space on the theme of 'improving our environment'. The event attracted numerous local artists -including painters, potters and woodturners – and raised £168 through commissions on work sold. Huge thanks to Kay Bone for organising this event.

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## LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

### REPORT FROM MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON 8th FEBRUARY

#### Planning

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

- Demolition of existing stable block, and erection of replacement stable block at **Longparish House**
- Retrospective planning application for 5 replacement footbridges and 1 new footbridge at **Watercress Beds, Nun's Walk**

The Parish council **objected** to:

- Single storey rear extension at **3 Forton Lane, Forton**

#### The Plough Inn

The Chair of the Committee reported that the purchase of The Plough Inn was completed on 3rd February, making the Parish Council the new legal owners of the property. The PWLB loan of £300k to facilitate this purchase has been drawn down. LCPL have been issued with the keys to the property. The Chair of the Committee thanked everyone involved, in particular members of the Committee and LCPL.

#### Village Hall car park drainage repairs

Work to install a land drain and soak-away and re-surface the Village Hall car park is scheduled to begin on 22nd February. The car park will be closed to the public from 22nd February to 5th March inclusive to allow this work to take place, and regular users of the car park have been notified.

#### Revised cemetery regulations

The Council approved revisions to the Cemetery Regulations. Amendments had been added to give clear guidance to cemetery visitors of items permitted to be placed on graves, to allow for easy maintenance of the cemetery.

#### Parish Council Meetings

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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March. 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](mailto:christian.drydenpc@longparish.org.uk))

Minutes of previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk)

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**at 12 noon**

**St Nicholas, Longparish**

The Annual Parochial Church meeting of St Nicholas will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 by Zoom at 12 noon.

All are welcome to attend. If you are not a regular church goer, but are interested in your village church, please do link in. The Zoom link will be sent out by email by [stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com](mailto:stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com).

Regular information about church services is sent out from this email account and please indicate, if you would like to be added to the circulation list or contact one of the church wardens: (John Young 01264 720233 or Georgi Leask 01264 720829)

## SNOWDROPS OF LONGPARISH

**Calling all Snowdrop growers and lovers!**

During the recent LCA Committee Meeting, the beautiful 'snowdrops of Longparish' were mentioned; I'm sure you will agree that they are truly magnificent.

With this in mind the LCA would like to produce a Snowdrop Map for people to follow through the village – perhaps stopping at The Cricketers or The Plough for a spot of lunch or afternoon tea!

If you have spotted a particular area in the village, or if you have a sensational snowdrop collection in the garden, please do send to me, so that I can add you to the 2022 map!

Clare Sykes email : [clare.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:clare.sykes@gmail.com)

**P.S. more plants will be available 'in the green' in March for planting in new areas.**





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

Lifts can be arranged to the vaccination centres.

Please call 07765 467 006 or email

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

**Longparish Support Fund** – The purpose of the fund is to provide financial help to individuals or families whose income has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Call 01264 720215 or email

[stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com](mailto:stnicholaslongparish@btinternet.com)

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

## FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

### WORDSEARCH

W	P	L	O	O	K	I	N	G	I
E	F	R	I	D	A	Y	Q	J	W
L	G	E	D	C	R	O	C	U	S
C	L	U	N	C	H	B	A	C	K
O	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	L	Y
M	E	S	F	O	R	W	A	R	D
I	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S
N	P	B	A	S	A	P	R	I	L
G	C	L	U	B	L	F	M	A	Y
T	A	J	K	S	P	R	I	N	G

Looking Forward Welcoming Back

Friday Lunch Club Spring May

Daffodils Crocus April Hopefully

## March 21<sup>st</sup> - Census day is here!



Census 2021 is in full swing in Hampshire. Letters, with unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

*"A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales,"* Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said. *"It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future."*

We've had a fantastic response so far, with so many people completing the questionnaire on their laptops, phones and computers.

*"It takes just 10 minutes per person to take part and if you can't get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history."*

Operating in line with the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

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

If you need help with responding online do ask your family, neighbour or Longparish Support group who will find someone to assist you, or look for information about a paper copy in the letter you should be receiving. Alternatively, to find out how you can get help, please visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call 0800 141 2021.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk)

## Longparish Fete 2021

On the basis that we think things will be back to somewhere near normality by September, we have decided to plan to go ahead with the fete this year.

**Save the date!**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

If you would like to be involved, please let me know as soon as possible, as we have a lot of catching up to do. We need to form a committee and get planning!

Please contact John Young on  
Email: [j.young233@btinternet.com](mailto:j.young233@btinternet.com) or Tel: 720233

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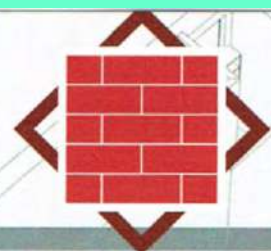
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### A MARCH UPDATE!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT US THROUGH THESE RATHER STRANGE TIMES.

OUR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY LUNCHTIME DELI SHOP AND CAFÉ HAVE BEEN A BIG HIT, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS UNTIL AT LEAST WE CAN REOPEN, ALONGSIDE OUR EVER-POPULAR EVENING TAKEAWAY SERVICE.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO SPRUCE UP THE PUB, INSIDE AND OUT, WITH NEW AND EXCITING ADDITIONS STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE IN THE FORM OF A SMOKEHOUSE AND WOODFIRED PIZZA OVEN.

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### TEAM CRICKETERS



Calling all the 'Green fingers' out there, don't forget to sow a few extra seeds for the Plant stall. Who knows yet if we can have a school May Fayre or Village Fete, but if we cannot, fear not the plant table at Tudor Cottage will make a re-appearance.

So, start thinking about any plants that you may lift and divide over the next few months or any vegetable or annual seeds that you are sowing, can you donate any to raise funds for our school?

**Sylvia and Martin Crook**



Longparish Community Pub Ltd

### The Plough Inn at Longparish

Since we last wrote, a lot has happened at The Plough!

The village now owns the pub. We completed on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, which is great news and means Longparish can now boast two pubs again.

We took possession of the pub keys a few hours after completion and the Parish Council, represented by Chair Christian Dryden, formally handed them over to Andy Joliffe later that same day: you may have seen the photo in the Andover Advertiser and on our website.

Our banner is up on the front of the Plough ("*Coming soon!*") and now the hard work has begun.

The first thing was to move the security fence over to open up the car park. The pub's windows were opened to let the building breathe again. Electric heaters and dehumidifiers have been installed to start drying out the damp.

Outside Paul Knipe has already started clearing the undergrowth in the garden. He has also submitted a tree works application to TVBC Planning. The artist's impression below gives some idea of what the garden and carpark might look like once Donna Hillier's landscape plan is put in place.

Back inside, an asbestos survey has been carried out so we can ensure a safe working environment for builders and volunteers and plans are being drawn up to reconfigure the toilets and bar areas. By the time you read this the actual building works will have started.

Talking of volunteers, please do join us – we need your help! This month we are looking for people with carpentry skills - and for anyone who would like to wield a paintbrush and help with the decorating. We also need lots of help with clearing the garden. Just to reassure you that under the Covid rules, volunteering is allowed, as long as we all follow current distancing and hygiene guidelines.

Finally, calling all gardeners: Can you donate plants for the garden? We would be so grateful for any donations.

To volunteer or donate plants, please contact us: [volunteer@lcpl.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lcpl.org.uk) or call Andy Joliffe on 720207.

Thank you and we really look forward to seeing you! For more information, please visit [ploughinn.org](http://ploughinn.org)



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## Longparish CE Primary School

Learning through lockdown at Longparish CE Primary School!

Our school continues to go from strength to strength, in spite of all the extra pressures we are under during the pandemic. The children of critical key workers have continued to attend daily during lockdown and all our staff are always on hand to supervise and help.

One of our greatest successes has been to establish a long-awaited learning platform via 'Microsoft Teams'. We must thank Mrs Brewer for all her devoted hard work to set up and implement this school initiative across all the year groups. We are very grateful to her and our other school colleagues and staff who have worked hard to ensure their part of the project is successful. The vast majority of children now access their learning from home, join in with live lessons and tutorials on daily basis. This has been fantastic for maintaining links with school, safeguarding, learning and allowing the children to socialise with their peers as regularly as they would normally. Thank you to the children and parents for their encouraging remarks, helpful suggestions and cakes on a drizzly Friday!

The governors and senior leadership team have been busy recruiting new staff and ensuring all the children are safe and well. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Jordan had a baby girl, Isabelle, so many congratulations and welcome to Isabelle. Mrs Jordan's maternity leave cover, Miss Donlan, has settled so well into Herons class. We also have the pleasure of a student teacher Miss Murrells, who is completing her training with us.

Spring is almost here; please keep our school in your thoughts and prayers as we move towards Easter, a time of reflection when we learn about the power and light of the Easter story. Themes of sacrifice and forgiveness are prominent. I never get over how much children can teach us. I heard a child say recently "Thank you God for Covid, because it has taught us all so much". Children say it as it is; sometimes a little clumsily but nevertheless, with a heart full of gratefulness and love. I think we all know what this child means!

**Trudie Cawthra, Headteacher**

## FoLS 100 Club Winners

Mary Jo Darrah £20  
Penny Billingham £10  
Korrim Woodward £5



## CREATIVE CORNER

Springtime is Competition Time

Calling all Arty Crafters!



Have you noticed a very boring noticeboard outside the Community Hall at school? I thought it could do with some Springtime colour, and I need your help! Open to all children from the Longparish Community, I would like you to send me your colourful, Springtime ideas. Some suggestions for this might include a:

- Picture of Springtime
- A Springtime collage
- A poem about the spring (I know Herons Class are a whizz with acrostic poems!)

Use your creative skills to produce something eye-catchingly beautiful!

Please drop your entries to me at Longparish Primary School in the bucket outside and I will make a beautiful display from your amazing work!

Winners will be notified in the April edition of the Hill and Valley – so make sure... you put your name on the entry!

Thank you, Clare Sykes

## Maggie's Marmalade and Jam



Thank you very much to everyone who bought jam and marmalade last year. I am delighted to report that I gave £140 to Andover Foodbank. I made around 100 jars of marmalade in January so please contact me if you would like some. I also have raspberry and damson jam. Proceeds will go to the Andover Foodbank. Maggie Barber 720459 or [mrjeremybarber@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeremybarber@gmail.com)

## LITTER PICKING in LOCKDOWN LONGPARISH

Thank you to everyone who helps keep Longparish beautiful by picking up litter. Special recognition this month goes to Flint, Milo and Drake who have been litter picking the 21 miles of footpaths around Longparish with their Grandad, during Lockdown 3. Their Grandad started the **Adopt a Road Scheme** many years ago and it is great to see his grandsons following in his footsteps, caring for the environment and developing their map reading skills. Do read his account of this great achievement:



*"In Longparish there are over 20 miles of footpaths and green lanes. These have seen a huge increase in footfall since the start of the pandemic and when we entered the third lockdown it dawned on us, as they were not in school, that our grandchildren could go around the village and pick litter. We gave them an A3 OS map of Longparish and encouraged them to choose and mark their own routes. The idea was for roughly a two hour walk each so during a period of ten days (approximately 20hrs) all the footpaths and green lanes were covered; some needing to be done twice.*



*In total they collected 15 black bin bags! The "nicest" thing was found in the cleft of a tree by Drake - a small silver-coloured "goblet" the size of an egg cup. This was polished and is now amongst his prized "Litter" possessions. The most bizarre thing was a Morphy Richards iron, found by Milo hanging in a tree! Flint discovered a smugglers hoard of glass beer bottles – sadly empty. All in the middle of nowhere.*

*The kids learnt about map reading whilst having fresh air and exercise. They are already country kids but they had additional experiences learning more about the countryside they live in and visiting a few places they hadn't been to before. They have seen all the usual animals such as deer, kites, buzzards and hares and have enjoyed themselves being dragons and other interesting mythical creatures! I am an extremely proud Grandad and the children worked very hard and deserve to be acknowledged for the huge effort they put into the project. And now the footpaths are spotless once again!"*



Why not join the band of litter pickers in Longparish by adopting a road or footpath as a household? The Parish Council can provide litter picking sticks, and bags. Tel Christian Dryden 720 398

## Derek Phillips Hands Over To New Mowers

Derek Phillips has been running Derek's Garden Machinery since 1993. As many of you will know, over the last 28 years Derek has helped service and maintain much of the Hill & Valley's garden machinery including several of the local cricket clubs. With his lovely, relaxed persona, there is very little that Derek does not know about when it comes to service and maintenance needs. He has developed an ear for diagnosing faults speedily and is quick to respond and repair.

After leaving school Derek joined the original 'Lynn's Lawnmowers' at the rear of Lynn's shop at the bottom of Andover High Street. There he was trained to service and repair all types of garden machinery. He then moved to Canada for 6 months where he worked with large chainsaws used by the loggers. In 1993 Derek set up Derek's Garden Machinery which has been trading successfully ever since... Now, after almost 30 years of running Derek's Garden Machinery, he feels it is time for the next chapter of the business to unfold and has now partnered up with Longparish residents Philip Cotton and Jimmy Hibbert in setting up **Test Valley Garden Machinery Ltd.** Philip and Jimmy are keen to preserve Derek's reputation and continue to service all of Derek's valuable

customers which he has built up over the years. They are confident they can grow the business through particular attention to efficiency, professionalism, reliability and friendliness – something Derek hopes will continue his legacy. They are offering all local customers a free pick up or drop off their machines and will never knowingly be undercut! Please visit [www.tvgm.uk](http://www.tvgm.uk) for more details or call them on 0800 107 3263.

Derek plans to spend his retirement working on his hobby building and tinkering with model steam engines at home but stresses he will always be on-hand to help or give advice on your mower when needed. We wish Derek all the best in his retirement.



Jimmy Hibbert, Derek Phillips and Philip Cotton



## TREASURE !

There were 238 wishes in the font at the Ash Burn Rest when I cleaned it recently. If they came true then it is no wonder that *Longparish* is such a good place to live. The value of the coins came to £10.97 which has gone to the Andover foodbank.

The Ash Burn Rest is a piece of Victorian street furniture that has been a part of Longparish's village history for 152 years. It was first built and set in place by a notable Longparish character of 19th century, the Rev. Henry Burnaby Greene. The Reverend Greene married Amelia Woodcock, great aunt to John Woodcock. He built a new Rectory by the church in 1823, and was also responsible for improving the church during his remarkable 63 years' incumbency.

The Ashburn Rest is a substantial double seated oak structure, sitting astride a small well or font fed by a spring. At one time, the Ashburn Rest included a tin cup on a chain, to allow pedestrians to slake their thirst before moving on.

I asked various people about the cup, thinking it might be possible to track it down. They had all heard the story but could not remember the cup. Eventually I consulted Mary Snow who is 100 years old. She said she could remember her father telling her about the cup when she was a child. But she never saw it as it had gone missing years previously. Clearly it has been absent for some time!

Jeremy Barber



## A MID WINTER WALK

By Chris Bowman

One misty morning the dog and I set off down the back path, first spying **Goldfinches** on Chris's feeders. At the bottom of the path the **House Sparrows** were very quiet so I turned left at the shop, spied a **Woodpigeon** and a **Collared Dove** sitting on the wires. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew over - I've not seen many of them this winter. On we go: only a few **Jackdaws** are in with the sheep and a **Robin** singing in the hedge. We stop at Richard's to see what's on his feeders: only **Goldfinches** and a **Blue Tit**.

In the hedge is a **Long-Tailed Tit** looking for food. In the field are a few **Redwings** and a **Magpie** flies over calling loudly. We turn right into the Cleeves; it's nice to see all the snowdrops all out in flower. There's a pair of **Mallards** on the stream besides me. I can hear a **Song Thrush** singing at the top of an ash tree - it takes me a while to find it. I turn right at the crossroads where a couple of **Blackbirds** fly out of the ivy, the berries are a very important food source for the winter. At District Villas a **Sparrow Hawk** is high up circling around looking for a meal. We stop at Vale farm - another **Magpie** up the track so we carry on. At the lake it's nice to see what's on it now the vegetation has died down - just a pair of **Swans** and a **Little Grebe**.

I can hear a **Nuthatch** calling while it's climbing up the tree trunk. Carrying on, a **Grey Heron** is sitting on the riverbank; they will soon be nesting. We turn right over the wooden bridge and on to the fishing **Canada Geese**, **Herring Gull**, **Black-Headed Gull**, **Moorhen**, **Coot** and a **Carrion Crow**. We turn right onto the bridge it's very quiet so on we go - at the little paddock a pair of **Pheasants** and a **Great Tit** are in the tree above me. I can see a **Raven** at the top of a pine tree honking loudly. At the pony paddock there are a few **Jackdaws**, **Rooks** and a **Pied Wagtail**.



We turn left at the shop up the back path where a **Coal Tit** is on Arthur's feeders and a **Dunnock** is on the path in front of me as I get home. I hope you enjoyed our walk; we saw 34 different birds.



## LONGPARISH CRICKET CLUB



In anticipation of a full cricket season, Longparish Cricket Club is already preparing the ground to meet our ongoing high standards and finalising the fixture list. New practice net facilities are due to be available from May 2021.

The Club's aim is to interact and service the local community, providing an inclusive opportunity for sport and recreation, within a safe environment. We are always happy to welcome new players, both junior and senior, with no prior experience needed at junior level.

Longparish CC runs junior teams at U11, U13 and U15 age groups, who compete in the local junior cricket leagues. We organise weekly junior coaching sessions for Year 4 (age 8 or 9) upwards with fully qualified ECB coaches. Progression of juniors into the senior teams is actively encouraged and effectively managed.

The Club will continue to run three senior teams playing league cricket on Saturdays, as well as a midweek 20:20 team and a Sunday Friendly team, with the aim to give as many playing members as possible the opportunity to play matches.

Please contact the **Junior Coordinator, Justin Jackman**, ([jackmanjustin@aol.com](mailto:jackmanjustin@aol.com)) for further details of membership at junior and senior levels.



Mark Benzing, Chairman and Treasurer

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## WEATHER – JANUARY 2021

Total rainfall for month	126mm	4.96in
It rained on	21 days	
Rainfall same month last year	125mm	4.92in
Total for 2021	126mm	4.96in
Total for 2020	125mm	4.92in
Max temp (on 28 <sup>th</sup> )	14C	58F
Min temp (on 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	-4C	24F

January 2021 was the coldest January for 10 years. The coldest January ever was in 1963.

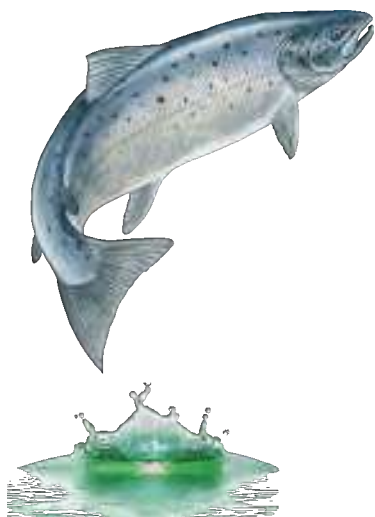
*John Smail*

MOTHERING SUNDAY – 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH

There will be a special Benefice Service on Zoom for Mothering Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11am. This will be for all ages and we do hope that you can join us. If you are not already on the mailing list for Church services, and would like to receive details on how to join the Mothering Sunday service on Zoom, please email [fenella.williams@btopenworld.com](mailto:fenella.williams@btopenworld.com)



## WORD OF THE MONTH



Flowing on from last month's word, we seem to have a watery theme developing here!

**DIADROMOUS FISH** are split into two categories: **ANADROMOUS** - spend their adult life at sea, returning to freshwater to spawn. and **CATADROMOUS** - spend most of their adult life in freshwater, returning to salt water to spawn.

*Barbara Carrodus*

## FAREWELL GRAHAM AND DOREEN

After many years as stalwarts of the village, Graham and Doreen Finlayson are leaving us for sunny Somerset and April Cottage will have new owners.

Graham was for many years the Hurstbourne Priors editor of *Hill & Valley* and set up the Parish Website which he continues to manage and run on behalf of the Parish Council. Doreen arranged the ladies' coffee mornings, ensuring that everyone who wanted to host had a turn, and that no-one got competitive about biscuits!

Graham and Doreen helped Brian Mehaffey on the Tombola stall at the May Fair and ran a very efficient stall raising lots of money for the village. When the bonfire and fireworks evening was running they both manned the very popular drinks stall dishing out mulled wine to thirsty visitors.



*Doreen (as the White Rabbit!) and Graham at the May Fair*  
We shall all miss them enormously, their enthusiasm for Hurstbourne Priors and their support for our community here. In due course we hope that we will be able to hold a 'proper' farewell and get them back to visit. We wish them the best of luck in their new home, safe travels and we hope to see them again soon. Somerset's gain is our loss.

*From all your friends in Hurstbourne Priors*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meets every other month on the final Wednesday at 7.30 in the Village Hall and the next meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Due to the Covid restrictions Parish Council meetings have been held via Zoom. Please check the parish website for details.

All Parishioners are very welcome to attend. You do not need to give any notice, however, if there is a particular item which you would like to discuss and which you feel it would be beneficial for the Councillors to look into prior to the meeting, please contact either the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman, on [richard.waterman150@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) or Clare Read, Chairman, on [clareread@aol.com](mailto:clareread@aol.com) or 07711 917375. Minutes from previous meeting are available to view on the Parish Website.

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## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

**WHITCHURCH SILK MILL Covid-19 Update**

At the time of writing, restrictions mean the Mill, café and shop are closed to the public. It's impossible to say when we'll be able to open the Mill buildings; updates will appear on our website.

Meanwhile, the Mill team and the weavers are working hard, and we'll continue our digital programme of talks and virtual group tours and social media and blog posts (see below). Our online shop offers a free local click and collect/delivery service, and we're running a fundraising campaign at:

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill)

**Ripping Yarns and Objects in Focus**

We hope you've been enjoying our continuing digital media 'Ripping Yarns' videos, including the ones about Glad Rags and Shoddy by local celebs Mike Bushell and Paul Sartin. Nowadays something described as 'shoddy' means it's poorly made or done, but the term is actually an example of early recycling, dating back to at least 1813. Shoddy was an inferior wool yarn originally produced in West Yorkshire by grinding woollen rags into a fibrous mass and mixing this with fresh wool to create a new, cheaper cloth. It made clothes much more affordable and also created a huge demand for rags and waste wool. Shoddy came to mean 'second rate' or 'cheap and nasty' when less scrupulous cloth manufacturers began adding shoddy in their weaving process but passing the cloth off as top quality made with new wool.

We're very excited to announce that future Ripping Yarns will include one presented by 'Antiques Roadshow' expert Lars Tharp.

Also soon to come will be a new series focussing on objects in use around the Mill, such as the weaver's bench. Further announcements will follow.

**Blogging from the Mill**

We're currently creating blog posts on various subjects, historical and otherwise. Watch this and our digital spaces!

**Beamed Off!**

Are you looking for things to fill long lockdown days? Did you enjoy our many creative ideas videos last year? Or did you not know about them? They are still available via Beamed off!/Whitchurch Silk Mill.

**Regular Events**

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

Contact: [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) – 01256 892065 – [www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)



## ANDOVER FOODBANK

We have started our annual Easter Egg scheme when we will be distributing Easter eggs via local agencies, to children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

We are now taking donations of medium sized eggs at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road - opening hours Monday to Friday 9.30-12.30. Because of the potential difficulties in distributing the eggs due to ongoing lockdown restrictions we would ask that all donations be with us no later than Friday 19th March.

This month we are in need of the following items:

Food Items : Tinned potatoes, Long life Milk

Non-food Items :- Laundry powder (small), Multi-surface cleaner, Shampoo, Bleach/loo cleaner

*Thank you.*

*Jenny Lelean*

**Andover Foodbank**

**Tel: 01264 362111** [www.andover.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.andover.foodbank.org.uk)



This fluffy girl is Bronte. She is 3 years old and looking for a home with a safe garden as she likes to be out and about. She will need regular brushing to keep her gorgeous coat in tip top shape.

Our feature cat from last month, Suki, went off to her new home a couple weeks ago and has settled in really well.

We don't have many cats available at present but we are still hands free homing when possible. If you are looking to adopt a cat, please get in touch as we can put you on a waiting list.

For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries; Telephone: 0345 260 1501 or

Email: [sylvia.cp@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.cp@outlook.com)

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit [www.andover.cats.org.uk](http://www.andover.cats.org.uk)



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## NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

It has been a challenging term for all students and teachers while we have all adjusted to work from home. Whilst the savings afforded by our ability to reduce commuting time are welcome, the lack of face-to-face interaction proved a challenge; this is particularly so for our teachers attempting to deliver engaging lessons to students. Teachers enter the profession for the rich and numerous interactions in a day and are trying to recreate the magic of face-to-face lessons via live video lessons.

At Testbourne Community School, as we have adapted our approach to teaching, our students adapted their learning. We started using new learning software (Microsoft Class OneNote, SAM Learning and The National Tutoring Programme) as well as ensuring all our teaching staff had the correct tools such as laptops, visualisers, microphones, and webcams to effectively teach from home. We have continually evaluated and refined the online teaching process from the start of January, knowing that it seems likely that this situation will consider for more time than originally anticipated.

Nothing beats the buzz and inspiration afforded by classroom teaching, yet we feel we are as close as we can be to the physical classroom experience using the virtual classroom. You can find some exceptional examples of our students' hard work on our Testbourne Facebook page, which I would encourage you to look at so you can get a sense of what we are doing. We have also received a lot of positive messages from parents and carers which is not only reassuring but also fantastic in keeping staff morale at a high.

Change can be difficult but with the collective support from parents, teachers, and members of the community, we hope that most have found the transition a little easier to cope with. We hope that schools will open soon but, in the meantime, we could not be prouder of our staff, students, parents and wider community for the work they are doing during this pandemic.



Stay safe, Mr Jon Beck, Headteacher Testbourne Community School 01256 892061,  
<https://www.testbourne.school/>,  
[admin@testbourne.school](mailto:admin@testbourne.school)

## VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

As an alternative to the usual Wyatt-Tilby curry and quiz night in the Village Hall, on 6<sup>th</sup> February, the full span of generations in Hurstbourne Priors embraced the power of Zoom to take part in Sarah and James' Covid friendly version to help raise funds for the May Fair.

A total of 23 teams took part, ranging from whole families to individuals, with most people keen to try to earn extra points by donning some fabulous hats and wigs. Clare Read's very tasty cheesy snacks were distributed in advance as an alternative to the usual curry, and the quiz retained its usual fun and ever so slightly competitive edge. It was a close-run thing between team Family French, team Family Adeney and team Josephine & Helen, with the French's ultimately taking the trophy. All three podium positions received a generously donated bottle of fizz, while £140 was raised for the May Fair pot. Thank you to everyone who took part in such good spirits.



*Intrepid on-line quizzers*

## NEW ARRIVALS IN THE VILLAGE

A flock of sheep with their lambs have moved into the field beside the church. A welcome sign of spring!



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## FUN IN THE SNOW AND PANCAKE TUESDAY



Crepes St Jacques!  
Seafood pancakes with  
scallops, prawns and smoked  
haddock! All cooked by  
Chef John Lavers!



In recent years, we have held a Big Breakfast and Pancake Races event in the Village Hall on a February weekend to kick start the May Fair organisation for the season. Sadly not this year, but we didn't let the occasion go unmarked. Thanks to everyone for sharing their pancake adventures!



Award for the highest calories?  
The Urquharts had a jolly nice 'American' experience baking peanut butter cookies and then making a huge American-style fluffy pancake topped with bananas and brown sugar served with a side of Nutella. Rose gave up first!



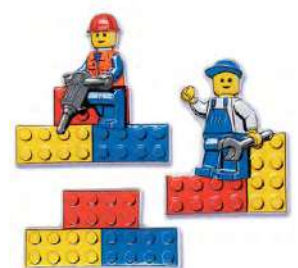
Archie and Henry and their frosty friend.



Flora enjoyed her first pancake.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE HALF TERM LEGO CHALLENGE

Hurstbourne Priors villagers of all ages have been busy building their own Lego creations for the Half Term Challenge. A reminder that judging will take place in early March with prizes for each category, so please remember to send your final design photos to [hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com](mailto:hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com) by end February. To date we have raised the fantastic sum of £75 from entry fees, which will go the May Fair fund to benefit village amenities, so a big thank you to all the master builders for taking part!





Households across Longparish, St Mary Bourne, Woodcott and Hurstbourne Priors will be asked to take part in **Census 2021 on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**. For details see page 2, Longparish pages inside.

## ST MARY BOURNE

5<sup>th</sup> Horticultural Society AGM  
Zoom meeting at 7.30pm

## LONGPARISH

8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> Census Day 2021  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
12 noon, St Nicholas' Church

## HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Parish Council meeting



**Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall:** Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: [helenford62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenford62@hotmail.co.uk)

**Longparish Village Hall:** Mrs Jacqui Healey, ☎ 07748 322533, e: [villagehall@longparish.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@longparish.org.uk)

**Longparish Community Hall:** During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

**St Mary Bourne Village Centre:** Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: [smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

**The Village Halls remain closed for most bookings until further notice**

**Copy date for the April 2021 Hill & Valley edition: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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

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## Websites

\* Hill & Valley pages on-line

### Hurstbourne Priors:

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

### Longparish:

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

### St Mary Bourne:

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

Village Centre: [www.stmarybourne.co.uk](http://www.stmarybourne.co.uk)

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

The Bright Waters Benefice: [www.brightwatersbenefice.com](http://www.brightwatersbenefice.com)

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