

Issue No. 276

Hill & Valley

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

£1

March 2024



Hill & Valley

Mary Jo Darrah and Graham are shortly to leave Longparish after 63 years. We asked Mary Jo to write her reflections on the development of our magazine. We are truly grateful for her leadership, diligence and inspiration in bringing Hill & Valley to its current much respected status.

Michael Widén and Tom Bremridge, Editors

The first issue of Hill & Valley appeared in January 2000. Until 1993 Longparish, like most villages had a church Parish Magazine for subscribers which was a diocesan publication including a section relating to the local church, St Nicholas. When Rev. Bill Robson became Rector in 1993 and Longparish was linked with the churches in Barton Stacey and Bullington as well as Hurstbourne Priors he was keen to bring the villages closer and with the support of the Parish Councils started *The Parish News* which was partly financed by advertising and included news of all village activities including Parish Council reports. As Chairman of Longparish Parish Council from 1983 I had produced occasional newsletters about the Parish Council which were delivered to all houses. *The Parish News* was delivered free to every household by volunteers. After Bill Robson left the village in May 1998 there was another reorganization of the benefice and after an interregnum Longparish and Hurstbourne Priors joined St Mary Bourne and Woodcott under the leadership of Rev. Martin Copen at Easter 1999.

St Mary Bourne had a well-established Parish Magazine with subscribers, a system it did not initially want to change, but the Longparish and Hurstbourne Parish Councils (PCs) valued the ability to reach every household and agreed to subsidise the new magazine which was called **Hill & Valley**. Jeremy Barber, then chair of Longparish PC, was extremely supportive of the project through the first months and was foundational in steering it towards the success it eventually enjoyed. St Mary Bourne PC adopted the principle of free distribution by 2002. The system Martin set up with an organizing committee, representative of each of the PCs and parochial church councils, and local editors who produce copy for their own villages has worked well and spread the load. Initially Charles Cardiff edited Hurstbourne pages, Jane Snow St Mary Bourne and I Longparish, with Peter Hartland of St Mary Bourne preparing the complete final draft for the printer. Michael Widén with Ruth soon became a key co-ordinator dealing with the back page, the final edit, liaising with the printer, and distributors. Marion Collins who had organised the advertising for *The Parish News* continued until 2007 when her husband, John, took over until June 2017. In Longparish David Gould and Jeremy Barber made our pages available on the village website. Developing IT and printing technology have made the magazine increasingly professional and now in full colour. Over the last 24 years many people have generously given their time to make it happen.

Mary Jo Darrah

Longparish history

This spring we are moving to Winchester after 64 very happy years here. I have quite a lot of material on the history of Longparish which I think would be better kept in the village. Is there anyone who would be interested in it? Please contact me at Saddler's Cottage, SP11 6QQ, tel: 01264 720320, or email gmj@thelittleacorns.net.

Mary Jo

Vicar's Letter - March 2024

When is the best time of year to run a marathon?

During Lent. That's when you fast!

It always surprises me how quickly time flies the older I get! What happened to January and February? We are well into the season of Lent now and Easter is rapidly approaching. I wonder if you have been doing anything for Lent this year? Many who observe it often choose to give something up like chocolate, or alcohol, or caffeine. Others choose to give up watching TV or social media and use the time to focus on reading the Bible and prayer, or spend more time with family and friends.

Lent comes from an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is in spring, when the days begin to get longer or lengthen. It's believed the Church has kept a period of fasting in the weeks before Easter for at least the last 1,500 years. This fast reminds Christians that they are dependent upon God for everything, just as Jesus was when he spent those 40 days in the wilderness being tempted. Hopefully those spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, reading the Bible, self-denial, giving to help those in need, self-examination, and penitence draws Christians closer to God and prepares them for the great celebration of Easter.

I'm aware that it's sometimes easy to give something up, like chocolate, for Lent but in the busyness of life to not actually go deeper and examine our own lives in order to bring about some personal change that will benefit us and others. It is also an important time for Christians to draw closer to God through repentance as they do at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and throughout those 40 days, remembering all that Jesus has done for them.

I encourage you then, to use the remaining time of Lent to think about your own lives; your hopes and dreams, the person you have become, and the person you would like to be. Why not make one change to your life to become that better person, or to draw closer to God.

You are very welcome to join us for our Holy Week and Easter services in our churches. We look forward to seeing you soon.

And finally, someone asked me if I had given anything up for Lent this year. I said yes, procrastination. I'm working on it!

*Revd Russell Smart
Associate Priest
Bright Waters Benefice*

Services in the Parish Churches

March 2024

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

Sunday 3rd - Lent 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Church of England Zoom Service Online

Wednesday 6th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 10th - Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service
St James', Woodcott		No Service

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 17th - Lent 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 20th

All Hallow's, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 24th - Holy Week - Palm Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	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

Thursday 28th - Maundy Thursday

St Nicholas', Longparish	7.30pm	Holy Communion
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Friday 29th - Good Friday

St Nicholas', Longparish	2.00pm	Meditation Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	12.00 noon	Meditation Service

Church of England Zoom Service Online

Sunday 31st - Easter Day

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

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

Weddings

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

Congratulations to

Rowenna Mari Thomas Mortimer and Guy Robert George Myram

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne - 23/2/24

Funerals

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

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

William Percey Vertel Read (Bill)

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne - 5/2/24

Anthony Blake

St Nicholas', Longparish - 16/2/24

Linda Clear

St Nicholas', Longparish - 28/02/24

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.



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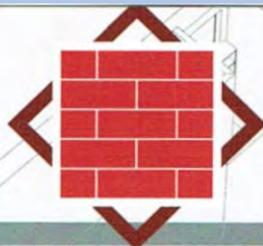
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Canon Martin Coppen, former incumbent of Hill & Valley parishes, has written about our parishes' main highway in a series of articles which will extend through to the end of the year and will be on the first page of parish copy in the ensuing magazines. *M Widén & T Brembridge*

An invitation to take a trip along the B3048, Highway to the North

The *Roaders' Digest* describes the road as 'an unofficial Andover eastern bypass'. Perhaps, but if anyone thinks they can drive from the A303 to the A343 in ten minutes, they are deluded. The B3048 follows a winding and indirect path through Longparish, Hurstbourne Priors, St Mary Bourne and Stoke. But then it was not designed as a bypass, it just came to be, probably to connect the wealthy Wherwell Abbey nunnery (986-1539) with its local estates. The Abbey farmed Forton, Gavelacre, Middleton, East Aston - i.e. most of Longparish - plus Wyke in St Mary Bourne. Now Wherwell Priory, more recently two noteworthy characters have lived there, who have both left their mark on the wider area.

Lt. Col. William Iremonger lived with his family in the Priory from 1811 until his death in 1852. His legacy is the tall Deadman's Plack cross (1825) in Harewood Forest (SU 40097 44818). It commemorates the legendary killing (c.963) of his courtier, Æthelwald, by King Edgar, contrition for which led Ælfthryth (at different times, wife to both) to found the nunnery.

Contributing rather more to the common good was Marjorie Pratt, Countess of Brecknock, DBE JP CStJ, Superintendent-in-Charge St John's Ambulance Brigade, who lived at Wherwell Priory until her death in 1989. She founded Andover hospice, The Countess of Brecknock House, which opened in 1990, recently enlarged and refurbished.

Our journey starts outside the attractive 'Rose' (actually 'Shepherd's') Cottage, Wherwell, at the junction of Winchester Road (B3420) and the B3048, which begins here. Why the B3048? It comes from the national classification of primary (A) and secondary (B) roads in 1923. The Ministry of Transport map of that year shows that, initially, it was only the section from Wherwell to Hurstbourne Priors. The northern stretch, linking the two Hurstbournes, was unclassified, but it was added in 1935 to make the 11.1 mile long B3048 we know.

A channel of the River Test runs on the other side of the road. Silver rivers, water meadows and farms feature throughout the length of this valley road. Up on the left is the dismantled track of the Fullerton Junction to Hurstbourne railway line, which runs alongside the road to the A303. Wherwell Primary School is on the right, the first of five schools (in 1935) - Hurstbourne Priors County Primary closed in 1969, leaving four flourishing now. There is also the first of the five cricket pitches.

A mile along the road, just before the houses, Harewood Forest looms on the left, its straight edge at right-angles to the road, marking the course of Roman Road 43, Chichester to Wanborough, near Swindon. A further fifth of a mile, in a dip with a steep railway embankment on the left, a scrubby roadside copse on the right, is the unmarked Longparish border. Without fanfare we enter **Hill & Valley** territory!
MC



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

The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 100 Club
February 2024 draw:

£50 – Camilla St Quintin £20 – Pearl Prichard
£20 - Ruth Widén £10 – Bob Harrel

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 9th March
All proceeds in support of our Boundary Shop.



Coffee at The George Inn

All ages are welcome, from all the villages, to a social coffee morning at

The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 12th March at 10.30am

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

The Lunch

Our next village lunch will be held on
Wednesday 20th March at St Mary

Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12.30pm. Suggested donation is still only £3. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



ST MARY BOURNE
PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

This fund can assist anyone living in the parish of St Mary Bourne who is worried about cost-of-living

expenses due to illness, employment changes, family difficulties, medical conditions, or unexpected events. For more information please contact: Ruth Widén - ☎ 01264 738 250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com in complete confidence.



PRE EASTER-CHURCH CLEAN

Saturday 23rd March

Please, please come and help.
Many hands make light work

It is a great social time.
Meet new people!

Come any time between 9.30am and 1.30pm.

We are preparing for Easter.

Please put this date in your diary now.

If you could spare just **half an hour** to help with a thorough clean of our church that would be wonderful. It's all hands to the pump.

Refreshments provided

For any information call me on ☎ 738 681.
Look forward to seeing you then. Many thanks.

Eve Lind-Smith

Rev John Dawson is giving a talk.

Tuesday 12th March - 'Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone' ?

Longparish Village Hall - Doors 6.30pm - Start 7pm

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Donations welcome towards the hiring of the hall -



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EASTER LILIES

The Easter Sunday flower arrangements each year traditionally contain many lilies donated by relatives and friends in memory of those in their thoughts at the Festival of the Resurrection. It is a gift symbolizing hope and beautifying the Easter services with sight and scent. We also make a display of the names of those who are being commemorated.

If you would like to donate in memory of a member of your family or a friend who has died, please deliver it to Eve Lind-Smith at The Cottage, High Street or to her personally by **Palm Sunday 24th March at the very latest.**

We ask for £1 for each person remembered, in an envelope marked **Easter Lilies**, with the name(s) **printed** on the outside of the envelope or on a card inside. NOTE: only list the usual Christian name and surname rather than full names - e.g.: Bill Jones rather than William Edward Jones. *EL-S*



I'm writing this on a dank, grey

Tuesday in February. The cold rain outside hangs heavily in the air and is just enough to make you cold to the bone. I think I dislike February more than January - its only redeeming feature being that it doesn't last very long.

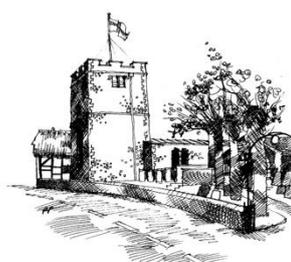
Another redeeming feature is, of course, that it is the last month of winter. March heralds the beginning of Spring and carries with it all the hope and promise of longer, sunny days; bulbs poking through the ground giving way to beautiful blooms and the start of the crescendo of the dawn chorus that reaches its peak in May. And if that wasn't enough, Spring brings us Easter - that lovely religious celebration of the resurrection that we mark by gorging ourselves on enough chocolate to sink a battleship... hoorah!! So, we've made it! Through another long winter and we can finally see the other side. It looks glorious. To mark the changing of the seasons the menu in the café will soon change to incorporate our lovely salads and we hope to revamp the whole menu to bring a fresh change.

The deck will be pressure washed down and the furniture given a touch up. The shop will be stocked with Easter Eggs, Mother's Day cards, flowers and gifts as well as all the usual goodies to keep you going. Fresh fruit and vegetables continue to arrive every Monday, Wednesday and Friday along with the delicious sourdoughs from Hoxtons on a Friday. Fresh local meat comes in on Thursdays from Greenfields, Bere Mill and Chalk stream Trout and our lovely Scotch Eggs get replenished every Wednesday. The Boundary will emerge clean and fresh for the Spring and Summer ahead and we cannot wait to have another bustling, busy warmer season.

The Boundary Team are raring to go, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Happy longer days everyone!

LM xx



St Peter's Churchyard

It is that time of year when we clear away all the remaining Christmas wreaths, faded or dead flowers and look forward to the wildflowers and daffodils.

So, any flowers that look tired or arrangements blown

about will be cleared away.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stoke Litter Pick and Spring Clean

Sunday 17th March at 10am
Meet at playground for refreshments first



Some litter pickers will be provided but please bring your own if you have them

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com

Stoke Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6th March
10am - 11.30am
Garston, Stoke, SP11 0LU



Stoke Village Fund is hoping to have a monthly coffee morning on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome, if you're happy to help or host a future morning please let us know.

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com



EMII 54.3° CMIII 112.1°

Go Stargazing in March

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. A wonderful object to explore in the night sky. Easily visible to the naked eye as an extremely bright "star" after sunset. Its moons can be seen through binoculars. Through a

telescope we can resolve the storms & even the **Great Red Spot**. Image captured by Mark Radice - Andover Astronomical Society.

Mark also runs a YouTube channel called 'Refreshing views' showing the beauty of the night sky.

Want to observe night skies? Search on App Store for "Sky Walk". This free App gives a star map that moves with your position.

RS

Andover Astronomical Society Meeting, Thursday 21st March 7.30pm, Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre SP11 0AX

"A Universe of Infinities - Colin Stuart."

Free to new members

Want to observe Dark Night Sky Highlights? Visit Andover Astronomy Website. Select, **"Night Skies"**.

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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

At the Council meeting on February 13th two candidates, Dave Burlison and Phil Heath, stood for possible co-option to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Oliver Madge in December. After introducing themselves and speaking about what they hoped to offer if chosen, Council members elected Dave Burlison who duly joined the council table. It was heartening to have two candidates who showed interest, and we are grateful to Phil for his willingness to offer us the benefit of his expertise and experience in local government if we need it.

Although water levels have dropped since last month the **Flood and Emergency Group** continue to monitor and work closely with Southern Water and the Environment Agency to ensure that drainage remains as effective as possible and leakage contained. Sarah Cooney who has been an important member of that group for several years is now standing down from her valuable representation of Stoke so there is a vacancy in that part of the parish.

We would welcome enquiries from anyone who is interested, please contact:

clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Litter picking

There is a litter picking session planned for St Mary Bourne on **Saturday March 9th at 10am**, meeting in the **Summerhaugh**. All volunteers welcome (at your own time if 10 is not convenient). Please contact Patrick Foote on 738 **105** for more information. The Stoke Village Fund are planning the **Litter Pick in Stoke** for **Sunday March 17th**, please join the group at the Stoke Play Area at 10am. For both events bags, orange hi-vis jackets and litter picking tools can be supplied, but if you have your own, please bring them.

Recent planning applications

T/00041/24/TCA	SMB Parish-Rec and Lake	<i>Work on trees</i>
T/00587/23/TCA	Springhill House	<i>Work on trees</i>
23/03162/FUL	Coldharbour Farm	<i>New dwelling</i>
24/00045/FUL	Horse Paddock, Stoke Rd	<i>Change of use</i>
T/00079/24/TCA	Longhouse Stoke Rd	<i>Work on trees</i>
T/00028/24/TCA	Romans, Upper Link	<i>Work on trees</i>
T/00076/24/TCA	Lime Kiln Cottage Stoke	<i>Work on trees</i>

Next Parish Council meeting 12th March, 19.30

in the Village Centre Club Room. Copies of minutes are available on the parish council website and notice boards. Please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk . PF



Snowdrops! Snowdrops!

Now is the time to ask me for some. **£1** for a good-sized clump for transplanting in April. **In aid of St Peter's Church.**

Elizabeth Maclay
☎ 01264 738229

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



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ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHNNY FLYNN BONHAM CARTER
ONE LIFE



12 A • 1 h 50 m

British stockbroker Nicholas Winton visits Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and forms plans to assist in the rescue of Jewish children before the onset of World War II, in an operation that came to be known as the Kindertransport.

Tuesday 19th March 2024 - 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

smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Films: 19th March & 16th April 2024



Saturday July 27th, 2024

Potato Growing Competition

Did you collect your seed potatoes? If so plant them now!! The sooner they're planted the bigger the yield.

We will also be running a competition on our Facebook page (St Mary Bourne Flower Show and Fête) to win heirloom tomato seeds from champion grower Niall Radford. His Black Beauty variety - grown by Kristen - won 1st prize at last year's Flower Show.

This year's show classes will be confirmed on the 1st of March and will be listed on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069772480774 and Website as well as the village shop and notice boards.

The **AGM** will be held on **Friday 8th March at 7pm** in the Village Centre. All villagers and any members of the public with an interest in the Flower Show are very welcome!



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Postcard from Binley

Jonathan Foster is thatching at the house. He's been here three weeks now and things are coming on well. I've known Jon since he was in short trousers and his father John as well, a true countryman, a man of few words and one of the nicest people you could ever meet. Jonathan on the other hand is a man of many words and I have been well and truly educated about straw. Straw I always thought in my ignorance was exactly that... straw. But no, you have Combed Wheat straw, Long straw, Water reed straw, with evocative names like "Red Standard", "Maris Huntsman", "Maris Widgeon", "Square heads Master", "Little Joss" etc and some are waxy, or brittle or stiff or bendy. The straw Jonathan is using on our roof goes by the unglamorous name of N59. As I look out of the window now, he is whittling away at some hazel sticks making his own spars.

Jonathan has an encyclopedic knowledge of old buildings, and it has been fascinating passing the time of day discussing a subject that interests me greatly. At one point, digging deep into the rotten old straw he removed a clump with dark discolouration that he told me would have been a part of the original roof when there was no second floor, no chimneys and a fire would have been lit in the middle of the mud floor which would permeate up into the thatch above and out through the glassless shuttered windows. The straw would become smoke damaged and discoloured. Many of what look now like chocolate box cottages here in the valley would at one time have been nothing more than damp miserable hovels, and I can recall many years ago when I had to re-lay the old brick floor in the sitting room a large black patch scorched into the mud where the original old fires would have been lit.

The oak and the hazel woods are beautiful throughout the year, whether bathed in winter sunlight or the lush green of high summer, but a winter oak under a cloudless winter sky is quite a thing to behold. And I have my favourites here in Binley - walking past them is comforting and reassuring and I like to give them a passing pat. Funny how trees can become so important in your life, I barely gave them a thought in my youth, but I even have favourite dead ones now. One sits in the middle of a hedgerow as you come over Cold Harbour farm looking toward Egbury. The sun rises behind it and there is invariably a kite or buzzard sat at the top of it. Most often it's a majestic sight and if you get your timing right almost biblical. It's a stunner. Another favourite is in Stoke on your left as you head out toward HBT. On a grey stormy day and full of crows, their beaks turned to the distant hill line, it's bleak and mournful and I love it.

I have been trying to research the existence in these parts of no less a bird than the great black woodpecker. My father-in-law mentioned this creature to me a long while ago but just recently browsing through an old book by George Dewar, "Wildlife in the Hampshire Highlands" first published in 1899, I find it mentioned again. It is said to possess habits resembling those of the Yappingale (green woodpecker) but with coal black plumage relieved by a little red. If anyone can enlighten me do get in touch.

Lastly, if you read the small print at the back of this magazine you will see Nigel Dickinson is the Parish Editor for St Mary Bourne and it's he who must make sense of this nonsense. Without wishing to come across as a brown-nosed toady I have always liked Nige'. I first met him and Harriet some thirty-seven years ago in the Hurdlers Arms where one met all the best people. I remember Billy Ponting

who had the fishing on the lake at the time invited us down to fish and we spent a very pleasant afternoon down there before they invited me back to their cottage in Baptist Hill for supper. We were joined by my neighbours, the Widéns and I thought I'd died and gone to Bohemian Heaven. Nigel as you know was for many years the church organist and he and Harriet, a matriarchal figure in this valley have done so much for music and the arts here and continue to do so. I sincerely hope they raise our cultural standards for many years to come.

NA



Village Centre Vacancy

St Mary Bourne Village Centre is a registered charitable trust set up for the benefit of the community. Trustees are responsible for controlling the management and administration of the Village Centre. The Management Committee consists of five Trustees and a number of co-opted members. Trustees are elected for a term of five years at the Annual General Meeting.

The Village Centre is looking for new members on the management committee which meets quarterly, and the trustees usually have a couple of additional meetings, so there is not a large time commitment. Joining the committee is a good opportunity to give something back to your community. The current members have been on the committee for many years and some of us feel it is time to hand on responsibility for this community asset.

Village Centre Admin Manager position

We are looking for a volunteer with basic PC skills to support the bookings secretary • communicating with hirers • recording bookings • raising invoices • checking & banking payments • keeping general records

To apply and discuss further please email
smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

It really is vital now that the next generation step up and get involved so that we have new candidates to join the committee and to become trustees before any of us is next up for re-election in 2025. To express an interest and for further information please write to smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com or contact the secretary Mike Case on 01264 738 235.

St Mary Bourne Village Centre AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Monday 4th March** in the Village Centre and all are welcome to attend. As well as a review of 2023, this is a chance for you to give the management committee your feedback and ideas for your community facility.

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

SMB CC Presents... PIG RACING

Join us for a fun filled evening of Pig Racing!
SMB Village Centre - 23rd March 2024 - 7 to 11pm

Tickets - £20.00 include a Curry, Free Drink, Free Bet and entry to Main Raffle

• Raffle • Pig Auction • Betting

For tickets contact stmarybourne.cc@outlook.com

All the proceeds to go towards the club and new pavilion.



SBV Top Tips

Top tips this month are plastic related as SBV take part in **The Big Plastic Count 2024** (see below)

- 1 - Say no to Single-Use plastics
- 2 - Choose reusable options
- 3 - Recycle responsibly
- 4 - Reduce packaging waste

Soft plastics can be recycled at most supermarkets, such as bubble wrap, crisps, bread and biscuit wrappers, cling film etc. See a full list on our website:

www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk. Avoid packaging as much as possible by buying loose fruit and veg, or reusable cloth or paper bags.

The Big Plastic Count 2024



From 11th to 17th March, schools, households, community groups and businesses are all coming together to help build evidence to convince UK ministers to lead the way at the Global talks that could finally phase out plastic

pollution for good. Please join SBV to find out how much plastic we throw away!

Go to <https://thebigplasticcount.com/> to register.



The Repair Café

has been running since September 2022 on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 12.00 noon in The George Inn, St Mary Bourne, and we are most grateful for this central and convivial place to hold it.

It is part of a countrywide organisation with the aim to repair household and electrical items which otherwise would be expensive or unable to be repaired. Three expert volunteers give up their time to come and take up the challenge of items that are brought in. (Some are just not repairable).

There is also a seamstress who comes from time to time. Please look at the calendar in the Hill & Valley for when she is coming. Some examples of items that have been repaired are vacuum cleaners (sometimes just need emptying or changing the bag!), lamps, a piano stool, a roller blind, knife and scissor sharpening, iron, coffee machine etc.

The aim is to repair items during the session, and any donations are gratefully received and contribute to expenses. A disclaimer must be signed for legal purposes. Come along, bring your broken things and hopefully have them repaired. The next Repair Café is on Saturday 2nd March. See you there.

Remembering...

William (Bill) Percy Vertel Read

26th June 1938 – 28th December 2023

Bill was born on 26th June 1938 and lived at Upper Wyke Farm with his parents Percy and Freda until he was 10 years old. Getting labour was difficult so his parents gave up the farm and bought Lower Wyke Down.

Bill went to school at Rookwood and then to West Holme School in Andover. He often played truant! When he left school he helped his father doing contract work. They also sold petrol and Calor Gas as well as keeping a few cattle.

In April 1976 a phone call was made to Bill from Mary at Ashley Warren asking him if he would like 2 orphan lambs. When he collected them, Mary said to Bill "See you next year". Bill's reply was "well, let's not leave it till next year. Perhaps we can go for a drink?" To which Mary said "yes please".

In September Mary received the call from Bill asking her for a drink and to bring some wellies because he was going to look at a caravan in Hayling Island. Mary didn't drink so her sister Lydia suggested that she should ask for a Dubonnet and Lemonade. A pub was stopped at on the way there and on the way back! So a romance began.



Bill and Mary were married in 1978 and together with their son Peter worked to develop the caravan park and to obtain a licence to open the Wyke Down Public House which successfully ran with the caravan park.

In 2003 Bill and Mary decided to retire and bought a bungalow along the Ox Drove and Peter moved into Wyke Down to manage the pub and caravan park. Bill and Mary enjoyed being retired and they travelled to New Zealand to see their nephew and spent a month in Canada. More recently they enjoyed a cruise to Norway.

Unfortunately, Bill was diagnosed with delusion dementia and his memory deteriorated, but he was still active and enjoyed playing bowls and attending the Kingfisher Centre at Freefolk. He also enjoyed going down to the farm and going to Salisbury market with Peter.

Bill was admitted to Winchester Hospital before Christmas with different problems and he passed away on 28th December.

*Bill Read – A Loving Husband, Father and Grandad.
R.I.P.*



Remembering...

Michael Jonathan Crofts

22nd March 1959 – 20th December 2023

Mike was the second child of Jean and Fred Crofts and had one older sister, Gill. He never corrected the assumption that he was a true Yorkshireman, but in fact he was born in North Hykeham, Lincolnshire. The family moved to Bradford, Yorkshire in 1962 where Mike finally began to talk, and his life took root and flourished. Most definitely Yorkshire bred!

Throughout his schooldays Mike's enthusiasm and outgoing personality found him playing the timpani in the school band (winning a national competition and going on a European tour), performing in and producing plays and editing the school magazine. Aged 8 he joined a local cub pack starting a lifelong commitment to the Scout movement (a highlight being the World Jamboree in 1975 in Iceland and Norway), which provided a perfect outlet for his sense of adventure and fun and many enduring friendships.

In 1976 Mike discovered the joy of speed when he passed his driving test. Not content with just going fast on land, he joined Halifax Canoe Club to test his speeding skills in white water (the club won the Yorkshire Championship in 1981). Training included competitive drinking, fiery curry eating and dealing with troublemakers in the curry house and "The Queen" pub where he worked at weekends. He later added scuba diving, skiing and fast motorbike riding to his repertoire of thrilling hobbies.

On leaving school in 1977 Mike went straight into a job in insurance leading to a 41-year career providing insurance to the British military, including a ten-year period from 1983 to 1993 living near Osnabruck and serving British forces in Germany. Mike believed it was important not to just sell policies but to provide a full service helping to expedite claims and reassure claimants and their families. He always appreciated the way the military treated him (described as being the most wannabe soldier!) and was humbled to be made an honorary member of the Officers' Mess of the Adjutant General's Corps in March 2019. Just before he died, he learnt that the Corps had further honoured him by naming a trophy for the best all round performer at their annual ski championship after him. At the thanksgiving service in St Peter's a heartfelt tribute to Mike was given by Lt Col (Retd) Mick Cotton MBE, someone Mike had been pleased to know as a good friend since 1982, and as Mike had hoped, two buglers played the Last Post & Reveille.

Mike met Karen on a group skiing trip in 1989 and so began a long friendship which, when they both found themselves single in 1998, evolved into them giving into what their friends saw as the inevitable by becoming a couple. They were married in an art gallery in Bradford in September 1999.

April 2000 saw the great move South from Yorkshire to 1 Homefield, St Mary Bourne (followed in 2011 by a much shorter 100m move to Wendover House). Merlin the dog

was added to the family and in September 2001 their son Sam was born. Ruby completed the family when she arrived in March 2004.

Mike and Karen really appreciated the warm welcome they received and immediately got stuck into village life. Having won a prize at the Flower Show for his courgettes, Mike was surprised to find himself chairing the committee and hosting judges' lunches, which he managed to bluff his way through! His fund-raising skills were harnessed to good effect for the multi-use games area in 2004 and he subsequently organised a series of rugby dinners, auctions of promises, bonfire evenings and other events. He participated in village drama productions and loved how sociable St Mary Bourne is. Nothing made him happier than getting people together to have a good time and if it involved music, dancing and raising money for a good cause it was even better. In 2022 he put his fundraising skills to good use again helping to raise £250,000 in just a few months for the Boundary shop and café extension.



Mike thoroughly enjoyed volunteering in the village shop and delivering orders to those who were isolating or housebound during the Covid lockdown. He also helped out with driving for the neighbour care scheme. He was a big man with a big kind heart, always ready to chat and help anyone out and a thoughtful and loyal friend.

More than anything Mike loved people, meeting them, learning about them and keeping in touch. If he had your number

he would be likely to turn up on the doorstep, even if you were on another continent. He felt privileged to be part of a great group of close friends formed in St Mary Bourne who enjoyed many ski-trips, nights out and celebrations together. He had many other friends in this country and worldwide, particularly in Louisiana, some of whom he first met in 1995 on a dive trip to the Red Sea.

Mike's diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma in March 2023 was a shock to many and, despite the treatment putting the leukaemia into remission, the lymphoma proved resistant. He was glad to have the opportunity to tell so many people how much they meant to him and bore his diagnosis and treatment with typical Yorkshire grit, good humour and understatement. It was a great joy to Mike to live in such a special village and a comfort that his family would continue to have the support of such a marvellous community. Mike thought Karen's epitaph should be "her gravy wasn't bad" and said that he would like his own to be "Mike Crofts – he was something in this village".

Karen, Ruby and Sam would like to thank all those who have been such a support to the family over the last year. It is very much appreciated and has made an incredibly difficult time easier to bear.



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REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 12 FEBRUARY

The meeting was cancelled at short notice.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies, and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the clerk for more information. We welcome with open arms anyone who wants to get stuck into projects, is willing to join working parties, produce reports, monitor and research, with the aim of making a difference for the good of the community. This role is a lot more than just attending the monthly PC meeting!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

Clerk: Miss Sally Lawman - Tel 01264 738716, or email clerk@longparish.org.uk

Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website



Please join us for the next Friday Lunch Club **12-2pm**

22nd March

26th April

£3 for hot soup and freshly baked cake.



A chance for warmth, conversation and meet up with Longparish folk.

Open to anyone of any age but please book for catering purposes.

To book lunch and or transport for any date ring **Andrea 720 457**

Save the Date for the Village Fete

The Village Fete Needs You!

The village fete needs your ideas, support, and commitment. We have convened a new committee to help elevate our fete, but a fete is more than a small group of people. The village fete is a community event that raises funds for the village, the church, and the local community.

This year's fete is scheduled for **September 7th, 2024.**

- We need **Fresh Ideas**
- **Volunteers** to help run stalls
- **Stall Sponsors** – donate to sponsor a stall
- **Outside Vendors** – New and returning vendors
- **Grand Draw Prizes**
- **Silent Auction Items** (Art, jewellery, experience packages etc)
- **Donations** for the stalls such as cakes, produce, books, toys, clothes, etc

Can you help? Email us! Fete@longparish.org.uk

Making homes warmer and more energy efficient.



Find the leaky spots in your home. We are planning to hold one of the Leaky Homes Road shows by Dragon Fly Power supported by Test Valley Borough Council, in October 2024. If you missed the Road Show in Kings Somborne in January, Longparish does have its own FLIR one Thermal imaging camera which works with an Iphone and is available to borrow. Best results are when there is a 10 degrees difference between the temperature outside and inside. If you would like to get involved or borrow the camera Contact green@longparish.org.uk



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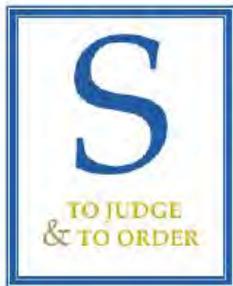
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LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2024!!



Next Group Litter pick is on **Friday 8th March**. We've missed a few months and the litter is building up along the roads in Longparish. Meet behind the Village Hall at **9.15 am**, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags. Coffee at the Plough afterwards.

For more information
Tel Christian Dryden 720 398

Longparish Wildlife Stoats



A lot of people have never seen a stoat or have only had a brief glimpse as one runs across the road or footpath. Stoats have a long thin body with a tail that ends in a black bushy tip. Their fur is sandy-chestnut with creamy white underneath. They are small 30-40 cm long and weigh about 200 – 400 grams. It is thought the black tip is to distract birds of prey. Some stoats turn partially white in winter which is called Ermine Blue. This colour variant usually occurs up north so they can blend in with the snow. Stoats have a reputation of dancing in a bid to mesmerise rabbits, they have been observed leaping and thrashing around in a motion that seems to hypnotise their prey. Rabbits are a stoat's favourite food even though they can be five times their own size. Stoats will also take voles, mice, rats, as well as birds and even their eggs. They are energetic hunters, stoats will pursue their prey underground and up trees. Stoats are solitary for most of the year only coming together to breed. A litter of 6 to 12 young, known as kits are born in spring. The female will care for the kits for around 12 weeks after giving birth. They have a process known as delayed implantation which means the young are not born until next spring.

Chris Bowman

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

A watery sun broke through as the February race began and the floods at The Cleeves had subsided so conditions were pretty good.

Megan Brunwin led from start to finish and became our Rising Star. Close behind was Ian Beveridge, our Most Improved Man and Jo Clare was Most Improved Woman.



Andy Smith was presented with his 100 runs tee-shirt and cracked open a bottle of prosecco to celebrate. Graham Capper kindly provided fruit cake (part of our five a day) and there were chocolate biscuits (chocolate's a vegetable, isn't it?) and tea or coffee to supplement the fizz.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs, Roger Bradley for timing and David Gould for processing the results. Thanks also to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on Sunday, 10 March starting at 9am at the Cricket Ground. 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 me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us. For more information please see <http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

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Sustainable Living

This decade of human history is vastly different from those that came before. We have endured a global pandemic, the change in our country after leaving the EU, global supply chain disruptions, and now food scarcity is causing prices to rise. What does our food future look like? During the past conflicts we saw a rise in Victory Gardens. These gardens helped the war effort, removed some pressure off the supply chain, and ensured a family had food. During the Covid-19 pandemic the world saw an increase in small home gardens, as people had the time in lockdown to tend to them. It is a good time to consider that garden once again.

There are many low maintenance, high reward plants to grow. They can grow in the ground or in containers and do not require a greenhouse. Consider growing: cherry tomatoes, courgettes, potatoes, carrots, radish, parsnips, mint, and chives. If you have the space, beans and cucumbers, typically climbers, are also a good idea. With a little planning you could easily grow these, they generally don't have major pest issues, apart from the occasional slug.

Don't deter hedgehogs in your garden as these little omnivores love to eat worms, beetles, caterpillars and even slugs!

Slug prevention tip: wrap a bit of raw wool around veggie starts to deter slugs



If you don't have the mobility or the outside space, you could consider a window garden. All you need is a window that faces south or west, with a few pots, soil and seeds you could have a cute little garden year-round. Just about anything with a shallow root system could be grown inside. For this, herbs, lettuce, green onions, hot peppers, spinach, baby beets, radish, and even edible flowers are good choices.

Angie and Archie Curtis



St Nicholas – Easter Lilies

If you would like to contribute towards the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one, please contact

Clare Francis on 720361 or 07801 414906



**St Nicholas Church
100 Club**

Results of the January Draw 2024

Many thanks again to all those who have signed up to the scheme. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

However, there were no new members joining in January, which meant that we are still at a level of 54 members/numbers. **Please think about joining the scheme in order to help preserve the fabric of your church.**

Prizes are allocated on a percentage basis. First prize is 25% of the total income for the month, second prize 15% and third prize 5%. So, for January 54 x £5.00 = £270.00. The draw was made on the evening of 22nd December 2023 by an independent person.

First prize:	No. 31	£67.00
Second prize:	No. 08	£40.00
Third Prize:	No. 46	£15.00

We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members (Clue is in the name!). 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, you may well have the letter and application form still at home, but if you require another one, please let me know:

Or, if you have any other queries, please contact:

John Young, PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club

Tel: 01264 720233
 Mob: 07860 630489 or
 Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

P.S. If you're interested to learn more about the finances of the church and how it is funded etc., I would be very happy to have a conversation with you any time. Just give me a call.



Spring Tidy up – Save the Date!

The next village clean is scheduled for **Saturday, 11th of May** (Afternoon)

More details to follow in the next edition of Hill & Valley.



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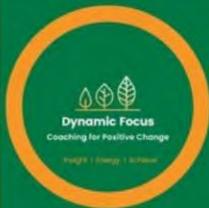
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**Tuesday 5th of March at 7:20 pm
Longparish Village Hall**

Doors open at 7 pm for a prompt 7:20 start.
Refreshments available

If you have anything suitable for a raffle prize, please bring it along.

All profits go to Andover Food Bank

For more information, please contact Laura Harding on 01264 720298

Longparish Gardening Club

Tuesday 26th March, at 7 pm
Longparish Village Hall, SP11 6PB

A Talk by Julia Parker of Parker's Patch
On Vegetables



Members Free, Guests Welcome
Any queries please contact **Rosie Lowry**
01264 720325 or Marion Bell 01264 720205



Village Hall

We are seeking a **Treasurer, Vice Chair and Bookings Secretary** to join us on the Village Hall

Committee for 2024 due to long standing members ready to handover. We are in a great position to offer a thorough handover with time on hand to ensure a smooth transition and continued support. We meet four times a year in person, three one-hour committee meetings and a one-hour AGM.

We have a wonderful multipurpose facility here in the village which is available for hire and supports many regular clubs and a storage facility for village equipment.

If you would like to know more about the roles (which could be split between a couple of people) or visit the Hall, or come and join us at our next meeting which is **February 29th at 8pm**, to see how we operate, please do get in touch.

Chairman – Stuart Montague villagehall@longparish.org.uk
www.longparish.org.uk/village-hall



Longparish Little School

At Little School the children have been enjoying exploring different techniques they can use with paint. As well as developing their creative skills

these techniques support their physical development, knowledge of cause and effect and exploration of different textures and sensations.

It is lovely that they have so much enthusiasm to express themselves freely and are able to focus on the process and not a perfect outcome, but as you can see they still produce some amazing works of art.



If you would like to see some photos of all the exciting things we do at Little School, you can go to our website www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup Or our Instagram account www.instagram.com/longparishlittleschool/

We are now taking bookings for September 2024. If you would like to come and look around please give us a call on **01264 720455**.



Don't Forget! Just for fun, every Hill and Valley has a hidden flamingo in its pages! Have you seen it? It can be anywhere in the 6 Longparish Pages.



We're thrilled to announce our upcoming Fundraising Wellbeing Event at Longparish Village Hall on **Saturday the 16th of March** from **10am - 2pm**. Building on our past successes, we're offering an even more enriching experience this time.

Tickets are £10, and include Refreshments, a Goody Bag, 1 Raffle Ticket and a complimentary Tropic Hand Treatment. (Proceeds from the raffle go to Little School) There will be a talk and taster meditation with local Reiki Master and Author Sarah Blocksidge, who will be sharing how to establish a 10-minute daily mindfulness practice to manage stress and anxiety.

For those seeking a little extra pampering we will be offering optional 20-minute mini wellness treatments at an additional cost. Professional therapist Rachel Parkins will be offering Back or Head Massages and Holistic Practitioner Kare Maggs will be offering Reiki and Chakra Balancing. Seated Express Facials and local craft stalls will also be available.

To book a place please email info@positivehappyme.co.uk or text **07752 827098**.

Pre-booked tickets only for this event.

Longparish History Weekend



I would like to organise a weekend celebrating the history of our beautiful village. If you would like to help or have any suggestions on what to add please get in touch.

Email: lpchristmasfayre@outlook.com



Tuesday Talks

Our next talk of the season is on **Tuesday, 12th of March**.

We are excited to have **John Dawson**, who will be talking about **'Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone.'**

The talk will begin at **7 p.m.**
Admission is free, but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the hall.
There will be a cash bar.



Longparish · Since 1721

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Email: info@ploughinn.org

News from the Plough!

The Longparish roads might be sodden, the footpaths muddy, and the lanes cluttered with road blocks, but inside the Plough it's relaxed, warm, welcoming and cosy. The fires are lit, the bar is stocked and the kitchen is a hive of activity!

So, what's happening?

A South Indian taste sensation

Thursday 29th February is "Taste of South Indian Cuisine Night"
From 6pm come along and light up a dull Thursday evening with the warming, exotic and eastern flavours of Southern India. Give us a call or go online to let us know you're coming. (We ask for a £10 deposit when you book at table).

Mothering Sunday

Show your mum how much you appreciate her! Treat her to one our famous Plough Sunday Roasts on Sunday 10th March. Every mum gets a delicious glass of Prosecco. Two courses for £26 and three courses for £32. Do book early – this is always a really busy day.

To reserve a table at The Plough please go to www.ploughinn.org or give us a call on 01264 720069.

Signs of Spring?

Talking of beautiful Plough roasts, we thought we'd let you know we're already busy hatching a plan for a special Easter lunch: Watch out for details on social media - and in the pub.

Two pints of lager and a share in the pub, please

Want a piece of the Plough action? Since our last share offer, we've had many enquiries from people wanting to buy shares in the pub. So, for the first time, we are launching an Open Share Offer so you will be able to buy shares at any time. (They make a wonderful Mother's Day or Easter gift!)

Come and join all 309 of us shareholders! You can find out more on our website and collect a form in the Pub.



The Toad Patrol is working even harder this year due to a big increase in nightly toad numbers and unfortunately a lot more traffic than in previous years due to road closures. The migration also started unexpectedly early due to the warm Winter and unrelenting rainfall. We have been out in force fairly consistently since the toads' early arrival on February 3rd. In addition to toads we have been seeing an increased number of newts this year making their own journeys.



Longparish Toad Patrol

Proudly supported by
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We are also pleased to have received sponsorship for 40 Hi-Visibility vests. Stannah has kindly paid for the purchase and printing of these so we look more official as we escort our amphibian friends to their respective ponds.



These photos were provided by Yvette, Eliza, Jasmine, and Tracey. If you are interested in seeing more you can find them on the Longparish Wildlife Facebook group.

As a reminder please drive slowly as there are toad migrations after dusk along

Mill Lane, Southside Road, and Nuns' Walk.

Toad Facts

- Toads don't live in lakes and ponds. They live in gardens, rough grassland, hedgerows and woodland.
- In the UK, each year in February and March toads make the journey back to the ponds and lakes in which they were born to mate and produce their own young.
- The Nuns' Walk site is one of the biggest road sites in the UK with over 4 different migrations of toads going to different ponds and lakes.
- It gets VERY confusing knowing which toads are going where so our patrollers are all fully trained in differentiating the various migrations. Even then, mistakes still happen and a toad taken to the wrong patch of water will turn straight around and walk away!

- Male toads start the season off with females joining later. The boys are smaller and have a cute mating call. The ladies have bellies full of eggs waiting to be fertilised and can be quite large.



- Male and female toads often 'hook up' along the way (and in our buckets!). The male will climb onto a pregnant female's back and she will carry him to their mating destination.

Susan Urquhart and Angie Curtis



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Hello all! What a start to the new year – The Village drainage problems resulted in "Road Closed" signs at each end of Longparish, even though the road was not closed! This prevented the usual flow of people through and resulting in less footfall, thank you to all those who still made it out to us.

Coming up we have Mothering Sunday, 10th March, why not book a table and bring your loved ones for a roast lunch?

Easter Sunday, 31st March, will see a children's Easter egg hunt, and the reopening of our super pizza oven, open 5-7pm – please book, as we usually sell out!

Once again, I would like to thank all our lovely customers for your continued support, from Matt and the team.

See you all soon!

Murder in Play Review – February 2nd, 2024 was a wonderful evening in the village hall. A play within a play kept us all gripped and laughing throughout. Even the children that attended enjoyed the evening. The cast were incredible and played out both of their roles incredibly well. The younger ones who came to watch described the evening as "creative and very well put together" and "I really enjoyed the cheesy jokes." To top the evening off we even had a four-legged star guest at the end, Chilli, who played her part magnificently.

-Laura Harding

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WEATHER: JANUARY 2024

Total rainfall for this month	88mm/3.46in
Total for 2024 (to date)	88mm/3.46in
Total for 2023	134mm/5.27in
Max temp	13°C/56f(11 th)
Min temp	-8°C/18f(19 th)

We have started the year on a drier note, with nearly 2 inches less rain than last January.

We also had a -8°C night last January!

John Smail

THE MAY FAIR 2024

Hurstbourne Priors May Fair

Monday 6th May, from 12 noon to 4pm



We are looking forward to our annual May Fair and a small team of village volunteers is already at work preparing for the big day but, as we all know, the real May Fair Team is the entire village, who every year do their bit to make the day a great success.

We hold our traditional village fair on our lovely recreation ground, with villagers running a pub from the Cricket Pavilion and a tea room in the Village Hall. There will be live music, children's entertainment and games, tombolas for young and old, a barbecue, hog roast, ice cream and candy-floss. We'll have our popular village stalls selling homemade cakes and preserves, plants, pre-loved toys, books, clothes and bric-a-brac, alongside a small selection of local artisan traders selling their wares.

The May Fair usually punches well above its weight in terms of visitor numbers, rain or shine, thanks to our prominent location and great reputation as a good, family/dog-friendly day out. See our Facebook page for photos from previous events. Fair proceeds go to benefit our village amenities: Village Hall, Church and Recreation Ground.

Even if you missed the Big Breakfast and Pancake Races (photos opposite...) please do get in touch if you'd like to help with the Fair in some way. And keep an eye on the *Hill & Valley* over the next few months for more news and reminders.



Here are just a few ways you can help (there are plenty more and feel free to do as many as you are able):

- Help with the set-up and dismantling of marquees
- Run a stall (if you have a bright idea for a new stall or attraction, please talk to us!)
- Join the car park marshalling rota
- Shadow our treasurer with a view to taking over the role next year
- Publicise the Fair by delivering flyers, social media, etc.
- Donate! Do you work for a company who could donate an attractive tombola prize? Are you a home baker who could make cakes and biscuits for the Fair? Perhaps you are de-cluttering your home – please donate your good quality unwanted books, clothes, toys, games and gifts. The bottle stall will gratefully receive donations of bottle of wine etc., too

If you'd like to know more about how to get involved, please contact anyone from the organising team or email: hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com. We really cannot run the Fair without you!

The May Fair Organising Team: Jim Vyse (Chairman), Kate Chisnall, John Perry, Clare Read, Susie Urquhart, Fenella Williams



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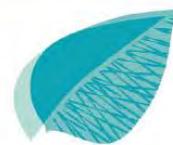
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LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our March Coffee Morning will be held by Susie Sorby at No. 53, Bourne House, on **Thursday, 21st March 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)



VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

The Hurstbourne Priors Annual Village Clean-Up will be held on **Saturday 9th March** this year. Please meet at the Church or Cricket Pavilion from **9.30am**, where we will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and homemade brownies to help you keep your strength up.

There are a range of tasks, from dusting and polishing in the church, to clearing in the churchyard, recreation ground and play area with a bonfire to get rid of all the debris following the very stormy winter. And there will be general litter-picking along the lanes.

Please wear suitable clothing and gloves are recommended for outside tasks. We will have pick claws and rubbish bags available in the Pavilion. Cleaning products will be available in the Church for those wishing to take part in "inside" activities.

Everyone is welcome; no-one is too small or too old for a useful task!

Many thanks,

Your Parish and Parochial Councils

GARDENING CLUB

Calling anyone who is a little bit green fingered, or who would like to become a bit more green fingered, or who would just like to help with plants for the May Fair! Seed sowing is well underway and we now have lots of little seedlings which need to be pricked out. There are also some vegetable seeds, which are faster to germinate, which need planting.

Following the success of running both daytime and evening sessions in February, we will be doing the same again in March and April. As there is quite a lot to get potted on, we've decided to do three sessions in March. The dates are: **Thursday 7th March and Tuesday 19th March at 10.30am**, and **Wednesday 13th March at 7pm**. All sessions will be held at Hurstbourne Priors House. If the weather is nice for the morning sessions,

we will try to be outside. Otherwise we shall be the kitchen so don't worry about getting hypothermia. We will provide all seeds, compost, pots etc., but if you don't want muddy fingers do bring your own gloves.

Dates for April are **Tuesday 9th at 1030am and Tuesday 16th at 7pm**. If you could let one of us know if you are able to come that would be very helpful.

Many thanks,

*Kat (07748 598890) Rosie (07817 919268)
or Clare (07711 917375)*

PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR 2024

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council meets every other month at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents of the Parish can attend. If you would like to bring something to the attention of your Parish Council you are welcome to come along. If it is something that may need a bit of looking into, or research, do contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman (please email: richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) and he will circulate relevant information to the Councillors.

The remaining dates for meetings for this year are:

27th March

29th May

31st July

25th September

27th November

Parish Clerk

TOAD PATROL 2024

Every year, frogs and toads make their annual migration back to the pond where they were born to produce their own young. They follow the simplest trajectory possible and, often, this means that they end up crawling across roads and being crushed by traffic. Frogs and Toads are an essential part of our ecosystem and their survival is unfortunately threatened by so many deaths on the roads. One area of concern is Nun's Walk in Longparish. Our toad patrollers come out when conditions are dark and wet (and therefore suitable for toad movement) and help the creatures on their journey.

Last year, our toad army not only saved more than 2000 lives, but also captured essential data for the wildlife conservation charity Froglife. Full training is given, and there is a great deal of camaraderie and satisfaction involved in the job, not to mention the serious upping of your daily step-count! Children supervised by adults are welcome, and many intrepid young amphibian fans helped us last year. If you can spare some evenings between now and the end of March, then please email Susie Urquhart: urquhartinteriors@outlook.com



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WHITCHURCH RAMBLING CLUB

On Monday evenings between April and September (except bank holidays) the Whitchurch Rambling Club meets at 7pm at the Bell Street car park in Whitchurch and sets off for a walk, either within the environs of Whitchurch or further afield with a drive to the starting point. The 2024 walk programme will soon be available at www.whitchurchramblers.org.uk.

We're a friendly bunch of people of all ages and ability and we ramble rather than stride. Membership is £2 for the season. Dogs are welcome. If you're interested in keeping fit while enjoying the beautiful Hampshire countryside why not join us?

SPRING EVENTS AT THE SILK MILL

Current Gallery Exhibition, until 17th March

Our current exhibition is "Crossing the Warp – Thread by Thread", presented by the Seven Sisters Handweavers, who studied at the Handweavers Studio and Gallery in Seven Sisters Road in London. Their work involves different yarns including silk and cotton recycled from surplus industrial weaving waste, and embraces the diversity and richness of handweaving and its continuing relevance to contemporary culture. The exhibition is included in your entry ticket to the Mill building.

Family Paper Weaving Workshop, 2nd March, 10am–1pm

Join the creators of the current "Crossing the Warp" exhibition to learn how to weave patterns using paper strips. As a family, you'll make your own paper weaving loom so you can produce examples of a variety of patterns to take away with you, along with one framed and one made into a greetings card with a woven insert, a handout to remind you how to do various patterns and your own little loom so you can carry on at home. All materials are included. Suitable for adults and children aged 8+ accompanied by an adult. Tickets £30 per adult (over 16) and £15 per child.

"From Chalk Streams to the Open Ocean and Beyond, 14th March, 7–8.30pm

This illustrated talk given by award-winning wildlife photographer Paul Colley will show you what the underwater world of a chalk stream looks like from the perspective of the wildlife living in it. Paul visits the Mill to document its fish, birds and other wildlife using his unique, remote-controlled, underwater cameras. He'll take you on a stunning photographic journey from our rivers to the open ocean, and then into space with remarkable images from his latest project, photographing deep space objects. Tickets £15. Doors open at 6.30 and coffee and tea will be available for a donation.

Easter Egg Hunt, 10th April, 10.30am–12.00

Join us in the Mill's grounds to search for chocolate eggs. Collect bags on arrival or bring your own baskets. Each participating child will be given an information sheet to help them collect 15 chocolates from different locations within the grounds of the Mill. Booking at a ticket price of £4.50 is required for all children wishing to participate. Accompanying adults go free. Please note: if you are booking for a child requiring a dairy free option please email jessica.bone@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk once you have made your booking.

"Enigma: The Making and Breaking", 17th April, 7–8.30pm

A talk by Alan Watson, OBE, about cyphers and cypher machines. Alan is a former Merchant Navy radio and electronics officer whose duties included codes and cyphers, sparking a lifelong interest in the subject and a collection of machines including a German Enigma, which he'll demonstrate. There will be an opportunity to get hands-on with four machines: a German three-rotor, a Swiss NEMA, a Swedish Hagelin, and a Russian Fialka. Tickets £15 and must be booked in advance. Tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Pins and Needles Craft Group

Our adult crafting group meets on the **first Thursday of the month, from 2–4pm**, and is open to all. On 7th March we'll teach you how to create your own basket using the knotting technique used in Fair Isle Strawback Chairs, which is a critically endangered heritage craft. These small rope baskets are ideal for containing your small bits and bobs around the home or could make a thoughtful gift. Tickets £12.50 per session including tuition, materials and a hot drink. Booking is essential as places go fast.

Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or on our website via the "What's on" page.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via our website.





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IN MEMORIAM

On December 3rd 2023, thirty years to the day since she first moved to Hurstbourne Priors, Josephine Hutchinson died at Andover Nursing Home after a short illness. Josephine was a wonderful friend and neighbour to many in the village and is greatly missed; our love and thoughts are with Russell, Joseph, and all her family. The following is a letter from Josephine, written in her own inimitable style, and read by Ann Ball at her funeral.

Oh, my darling family and friends. If Ann is reading this, I must be dead at the moment! It might seem strange to say this, but I know how lucky I have been. In amongst some spectacular disasters and miseries (nay, even the odd drama), I have found out how loved I am. Not many people can be the centre of attention to the extent I have been, surrounded by such love and care. And I have relished and appreciated everyone's kindness.

From frustrated actress to a true Drama Queen: nobody does it better! But I had dreams and ambitions, as we all do. I was going to be a dancer, an entertainer – I was going to be famous. The only *minor* things that got in my way were the complete inability to remember any script and crippling stage fright! So, being a pragmatist, I chose the only Drama School to offer a Speech Therapy course, and ever since, I have basked in the reflected glory of "I trained with X and Y, you know ..."

On that note, throughout my adult life, at the end of every training session or presentation I have delivered, or even just a casual interaction, there have come, unwavering, the words: "Has anyone ever told you, you're just like Dawn French?" I taught her everything, you know. But how I went from a nervous, newly qualified Speech Therapist to a hospital manager, I'm not quite sure. And, given that I was in Remedial Arithmetic at school, whoever thought giving me a 10 million pound budget was a good idea *must* have been bonkers. (Which reminds me: please spare a thought for Amazon and eBay. As a consequence of my demise, it is quite likely that they will both go out of business.)

No-one is perfect – and I am very close to being at the top of the list of imperfect beings. I wasn't the best Speech and Language Therapist, or hospital manager or any of the other jobs I did. What I did have was an instinctive understanding of people, particularly children. And that seems to be what people remember me for. Oh! ... and my sense of humour ... and my total inability to

under-cater ... and my compulsive wine-buying. And no, I haven't died of liver cancer because I was a lush – but by God I tried!

Rather than go on (I do rather hope that someone else might offer a fitting and glorious tribute to my fabulousness and many tremendous achievements), I would just like to express my gratitude to all of you for being in my life. I have been enriched by my loving family, my dearest school friends, my incredible neighbours (Fenella and many others), a wide, fabulous assortment of work colleagues, much-loved college friends, the fiercely loyal and protective Luxembourg contingent, and by anyone who doesn't fit into one of these groups but has become cherished and dear to me.

Thank you all for putting up with the swearing (a sign of my huge intelligence), the awful puns, the moods and *occasional* temper and the unexpected intolerance of something completely petty. Thank you for the laughs, the inebriated evenings, for listening to me at my lowest ebbs, building me back up from the awful bottomless pit, when I thought I couldn't go on. Just as my life was at its very best, I get cancer. Well, bugger.

Some special mentions: Ann, for reading this and so, so much more; Tom and David, for being fabulous friends and neighbours; my sister, Claire, who I love and adore (sorry I pipped you to the post!); all my cousins, nieces and nephews; Mary, my best bosom buddy; and Katie and Katy (you know why). An extraordinary mention to Helen and Gary – I can't even begin to put *that* into words! And a special mention to Iain, who is not my stepson, but I feel like he is. Thank you for

keeping me close and making me very much part of your family

And most of all to you, my darling, darling boys. I truly cannot possibly express how much I love you. I have been the most blessed mother ever, and I thank God for bringing you to me. I wasn't the best parent, but I hope that I got better and that you have always, always known how much I love you. I am *so* proud of you both – and how you have overcome the difficulties you have faced. I promise to watch over you, so look out for the robins, the white feathers and other odd phenomena. It's me, still loving you, and Priya and Katerina.

Enjoy this service. I want laughter, tears and lots of love. It is my best production yet (and I haven't even mentioned chutney, jam or marmalade. Denise, forgive me for leaving you – we were a great team). Finally, as I may have said on more than one occasion, perhaps after a small, sweet sherry or several (!) ... I bloody love you, I do!!!!

BTM



ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 2 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 - 4 7.30pm - Village Centre AGM - Village Centre
 - 6 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Garston
 - 8 7pm - Horticultural Society AGM - Village Centre
 - 12 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 - 12 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room
 - 17 10am - Stoke litter pick and spring clean - Playground
 - 19 7.15pm - 'The Film' - 'ONE LIFE' - Village Centre Main Hall
 - 20 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall
 - 21 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre
 - 23 9.30am to 1.30pm - Pre-Easter Church Clean - St Peter's
 - 23 7 to 11pm - SMB CC Pig Racing - Village Centre
- Saturday mornings** - 10.30am to 12.30pm -
The Community Library - Village Centre

LONGPARISH

- 5 7.20pm - Bingo - Village Hall
- 8 9.15am - Litter Pick - Village Hall
- 10 9am - L2SOTM Race - Cricket Ground
- 11 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
- 12 7pm - Tuesday Talk - Village Hall
- 16 10am to 2pm - Wellbeing Event - Village Hall
- 22 12 noon to 2pm - Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall
- 26 7pm - Garden Club - Village Hall -
- 31 5 to 7pm - Easter Egg Hunt - Cricketers

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 2 6.45pm - Safari Supper
- 7 10.30am - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
- 9 9.30am - Village Clean-Up - Cricket Pavilion and Church
- 13 7pm - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
- 19 10.30am - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
- 21 10.15am - Coffee Morning - Bourne House

ROSE FEST
 27TH APRIL 19:30
 St. Mary Bourne Village Hall
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Rose Fest is to celebrate what would be Rosie Carter-Desai's 30th birthday. Rose, a much loved villager, tragically lost her life in 2013 aged 19 to SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy)

She loved a party and a festival so come celebrate what would be her 30th. Even if you didn't know Rosie personally please come celebrate with us for a good drink & dance with friends whilst raising money for an amazing cause.

For all info & buy tickets see our website:
rosefest2024@gmail.com
 (If you cannot make the date but would like to kindly make a donation this is also possible via the website).

<https://RoseFest2024.eventbrite.com>

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newburyspringfestival.org.uk

Front cover photograph: M. Widén

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