

Issue No. 275

Hill & Valley

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

50p

February 2024





The Rev Canon Dodie Marsden shares some thoughts about Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs

One of the books I studied at school was called “**The Getting of Wisdom**” by an Australian author, Henry Handel Richardson. This name was the pseudonym of Ethel Richardson, a writer who was born in 1870 to a reasonably well-off family which later fell on hard times. Because of their precarious finances, Ethel’s family had to keep moving house and so she attended boarding school.

Her book is about a young girl called Laura who is imaginative, clever, and both proud and sensitive. Laura struggled with those more fortunate than her at school and suffered if any information about her family was discovered. She then faced ridicule and was scorned. But at the end of the book she undergoes a form of redemption when she finishes her final year and leaves – free at last from the constrictions of school, the expectations of teachers and the cruelty of her peers. Free at last to be herself and take her own path through life.

It was a seminal book for me. Not just because of the story but because of the references to the biblical Book of Proverbs; in particular Chapter 4: 7 *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.* (King James’ version).

That verse has stayed with me all my life. I read it for the first time in a school assembly, feeling hopelessly bumbling and fearful. Thankfully, I didn’t make a complete hash of it!

Over the years I have remembered those words and thought about the wisdom mentioned in the Book of Proverbs and what it really is.

“Wisdom”, says the writer of Proverbs, “is like silver or hidden treasure”. This brings to mind two connotations:

1. Wisdom is extremely valuable. It is essential for making good decisions or knowing what to do in perplexing or puzzling situations. So, it is a treasure of inestimable value.
2. Like silver being mined or hidden treasure, wisdom doesn’t reveal itself unless we search for it diligently. But it is worth the pursuit.

The Book of Proverbs then talks of a certain kind of wisdom. It may encompass common sense, scientific

knowledge and emotional intelligence, but it also has a moral quality.

The author of Proverbs writing as a parent to an older child wants the best for him/her. And the wisdom spoken of here therefore involves what is right and just and fair. It talks about the pursuit of a ‘good life’ where compassion and kindness are by-words for lifestyle, and the wisdom spoken of is greater than mere human wisdom.

Then I found myself asking: “How do I do this? How do I gain such wisdom?”

The answer wasn’t far away.

The author speaks about trusting the Lord and warns us to ‘lean not on your own understanding.’ If we trust in God ‘He will make your paths straight’. The writer compares life with a journey; a path where its character, quality and destination are determined by the decisions and behaviour we adopt along the way. The wisdom of faith is a way, a direction of life, a following along the right path to keep us safe and from acting foolishly. A way to avoid becoming an unwise old fool!

But also in gaining wisdom, Proverbs invites us to look back and hold onto some traditions set by our forebears. And at the same time to look forward to care for the next generation. We are invited to think about the values of our tradition of faith. We are encouraged to draw on the work of those who have gone before us to help our young face the challenges ahead.

So, wisdom is the path. A path that has been made by others who lived before us. Our task is to learn it, walk it, and tell of it. The book of Proverbs tells us: the getting of ‘Wisdom is the principle thing’, and it reminds us that ‘with all thy getting, get understanding.’

May you find the right path through difficulty and disappointment, through joy and celebration in 2024.

Dodie



On **Monday 12th February** Dodie will be giving a talk about Mityana and the most recent visit in October 2023, at St Mary’s Church Rooms in Overton.

It will be from 12 noon with soup and bread and fruit for lunch, and a donation box to cover the cost of the food. But a quick email to let us know if you are coming would be helpful for catering purposes.

If anyone is interested there is also an opportunity to talk about 2024’s October trip. There are some places available.

Phone: 01264 738211

Email: dodie.marsden@gmail.com

February 2024

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

Sunday 4th - 2 Before Lent

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

Wednesday 7th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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Sunday 11th - Transfiguration Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	<i>No Service</i>	
St Nicholas', Longparish	9.00am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St James', Woodcott	<i>No Service</i>	
Church of England Zoom Service Online		

Wednesday 14th - Ash Wednesday

All Hallow's, Whitchurch	7.30pm	<i>Ashing Communion</i>
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Sunday 18th - Lent 1

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Matins</i>
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 25th - Lent 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Family Praise</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Praise</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	<i>No service</i>	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		



St Mary Bourne High Street - 19 January 2003

Photo: M Widén

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

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

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

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

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

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

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

We celebrate with their families and friends the baptisms of

Remy Mafham - St Peters - 2/12/23

Madeline Grace Phoebe Waller - St Peters - 3/12/23

Idina Elizabeth Gerrard Corbesier - St Peters - 16/12/23

William Henry Charles Ward - St Peters - 16/12/23

Millie Jane Towns - Woodcott - 17/12/23

Cora Jane Towns - Woodcott - 17/12/23

Funerals

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

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

Peter Charles Keeling - St Peters - 1/12/23

Josephine Hutchinson - St Andrews - 5/1/24

Norman Bunce - St Peters - 15/1/24

Mike Crofts - St Peters - 26/1/24

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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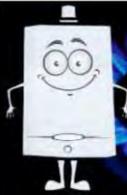
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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman
clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01264 738716

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 8 JANUARY

PLANNING

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to:

- Single storey extension and air source heat pump at **3 Gladstone Terrace**
- Garage conversion and rear extension at **Juniper House**

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Parish Council 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!

The Parish Council is grateful to Becky Hopkinson and Kim Lampard for their valuable contribution as councillors. Becky was elected in May, and was a valued member of the Open Spaces working party. Kim, a councillor for more than five years, was the driving force behind the new-look website, and skilfully steered the Parish Council through the acquisition of The Plough Inn for the community. Both will be very missed, and we wish them well.

We are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like help us to co-ordinate the Speed Indicator Device in the village.

Sewers and Drains

Christopher Duxbury, our village liaison with Southern Water, presented a report to the PC about the recent sewer issues caused by a fractured outflow pipe, and other issues exacerbated by recent bad weather. Christopher and others, maintained contact with Southern Water throughout, who, in turn, did an excellent job of keeping us informed and responding quickly to make a temporary repair. Plans are afoot for Southern Water to return in the spring once water levels have receded, to make a full repair, and survey other areas of pipeline. Published on the website is some useful information and contact details for reporting problems with sewage waste, power, or roads which can be viewed here:

<https://www.longparish.org.uk/news/how-to-report-a-problem-sewers-drains-power-roads>

Budget and Precept 2024/25

The Budget and Precept for the forthcoming financial year were approved at this meeting. The Precept request of £20,295 has been submitted to TVBC for approval.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 12 February**.

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

Wanted – Toad Patrollers 2024.

Help save amphibian lives in Longparish!



Each year frogs and toads make their annual migration back to the pond that they were born in to produce their own young. They will follow the simplest trajectory possible and, often, this means that they end up crawling straight across roads and are crushed by traffic. Frogs and toads are an essential part of the ecosystem and their survival is unfortunately being threatened due to so many deaths on the roads. One such area of concern is Nuns' 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 **1171 lives** but 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 mid-February and the end of March to make a real difference then please email me on urquhartinteriors@outlook.com.





Please join us for the next Friday Lunch Club

12-2pm

23rd February, 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

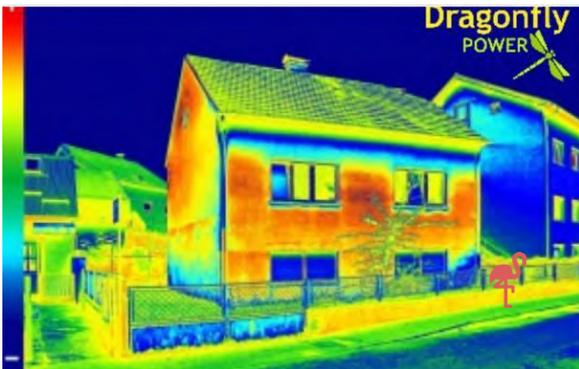
LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2024!!



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

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 thermal imaging camera which works with an iPhone and is available to borrow.

Best results are when there is a 10-degree difference between the temperature outside and inside. **If you would like to get involved or borrow the camera Contact green@longparish.org.uk**

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

Tuesday, 27th February 7 pm
Longparish Village Hall, SP11 6PB
Subject: TBC
Members Free (Visitors Welcome £5.00)



LONGPARISH WILDLIFE



For all you lovely people who feed the birds please remember to keep your feeders clean. This week I saw a House Sparrow with Trichomoniasis which is a disease caused by a Protozoan Parasite. It's responsible for the rapid decline of the Greenfinch. The disease was first noted in 2006 it's also often called Canker. It has now spread to Chaffinches and House Sparrows. Trichomoniasis typically causes disease at the back of the throat and in the gullet. Affected birds show signs of general illness, lethargy, fluffed up plumage, and may show signs of difficulty swallowing, laboured breathing. This can also be accompanied with some wet plumage around the beak and drool saliva, or regurgitated food that they cannot swallow.

So, if you see a bird with these symptoms please clean your feeders and water as there is no cure.

Chris Bowman

Coffee Mornings



The LCA would like to say thank you very much to both our wonderful pubs for providing such a welcoming setting for the monthly coffee mornings.

If you haven't come along yet you will be very welcome to attend any coffee morning. The next few dates are

Friday 9 February at the Cricketers and Friday 8 March at The Plough.

The LCA would also like to say thank you to all who donated to the December coffee morning which raised £65 for the Enham Trust charity.

LCA Coffee Morning Team

Longparish Little School



Our curriculum is based at developing the children's roots. Just as trees with robust roots are more likely to withstand environmental challenges and flourish, children who receive a rich and nurturing early development are better

equipped to thrive throughout their lives. Our aim is that all the children are given the opportunities, support and resources so they all have strong roots and are ready for their shoots to start emerging when they leave us for the next stage of their journey.



One area we really focus on is moving our muscles. As well as keeping fit and healthy, balance, coordination and being able to have movement and strength in our arm pivots is vital so children can go on to

be able to write later in their development. Every Friday, we use the school hall to support physical activity. Our sports coach, Ed, assists us in developing various aspects related to our physical development. Currently, we are focusing on gymnastics, specifically flexibility and control. The children have been having fun playing games that teach them how to shape their bodies into different positions, such as straight, pike, and star. They then try to balance using one foot or hand off the floor in these positions. Although we may sometimes be a bit wobbly, it's important to keep trying and build our resilience.

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:
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**.



Longparish CofE Primary School

The Spring Term is always the shortest term of the three. But it feels a long way till the end of March when the clocks change, spring will have hopefully sprung, and the challenges of winter are behind us. We have already experienced extraordinarily high rainfall, resulting in a steady flow of water tankers stationed outside the school, trying to reduce the high level of water in the village system. Thankfully, as I write, it did not cause any major difficulties for the school or village. Snow is forecast and there is lots of weather to consider. The biggest concern always being the forced closure due to extreme weather. We always plan for the worst and expect the best.

That doesn't stop us from making sure the term is full of a wide and rich set of learning experiences for the children. We have another whole school poetry recital planned, various class trips including a return to London for Year 5 and 6, this time to the Natural History Museum. We have an artist visiting, to share some skills and tips on how to paint in the Fauvism style, and our Year 3 and 4 will have an Egyptian Workshop to learn more about life in Ancient Egypt. As a class they are all learning the violin this term which culminates in a performance for their parents. They will also be putting on a play at the end of term based on the Ancient Egyptians. Alongside all that will be plenty of sporting events against other local schools. Hopefully the weather will not cancel any of the above!

Mark Ward

Longparish Cricket Club



Through the dark winter evenings, Longparish CC have had 2 teams playing in the indoor leagues at Dummer Cricket Centre. To date, both teams are unbeaten and top of their respective leagues. Fixtures finish in March so we are hoping for some silverware to display at the club!

The materials for the new ball stop net between the play park and the cricket ground have been purchased and work will commence in the spring to put the net up. It will be completed prior to the start of the outdoor season in April.

Finally, the Club is actively looking for a Junior Admin volunteer to help with arranging fixtures for the junior teams. If you would be interested in volunteering for this role please contact Justin Jackman or James Hillier via longparishcc@gmail.com

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We have challenged the children of Longparish Primary School to raise money for the Longparish Lookout project, our new outdoor classroom and replacement trim trail. This month they will be undertaking their choice of sponsored events – from sponsored walks to sponsored reads, we can't wait to see what they come up with.

Keep an eye on our social media for If you would like to support the project, you can donate online at gofund.me/f74def35

Children's books wanted

We are holding a book sale for pupils on World Book Day in March. All the children will receive a free book, and can purchase others. We are looking for donations of second-hand children's books. We particularly need books for older primary school age readers. Please drop them at school or contact us to arrange collection.

The Longparish Run

Join us on the morning of Sunday 19 May for the second Longparish Run! Lace up your trainers and take part in a 10km, 5km or 3km route around the village. Registration will be open nearer the time.

Volunteers needed to help with refreshments, registration and course marshalling – please let us know if you can help.

Summer Fayre

Save the date! This year the Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday, 8th of June, 12pm-4pm. All are welcome! Nearer the time we will be asking for donations of second-hand toys and books, bottles for the tombola, and cakes for the refreshments stall.

Do you work for a company that could donate a raffle prize? Tickets, vouchers, products or even a box of chocolates, all donations are appreciated.

We are also looking for local companies to sponsor the event. It's a fantastic way to advertise to the local community while supporting a local charity.

Please contact us for more information.

For more information about FoLS visit www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish or follow us on Facebook at fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool and Instagram [@friendsoflongparishschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflongparishschool)

Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)

Longparish 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 to see how we operate please do get in touch.

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



Tuesday Talks

Our next talk of the season is on
Tuesday 13th of February

We are delighted to welcome **Tom Bremridge**, discussing "Colombia, Historic, Beautiful and Occasionally Violent"

The talk will begin at 7 p.m.

Village Hall doors open at 6.30 p.m.

Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the Hall.

There will be a cash bar

BINGO NIGHT

Tuesday 6th, February 7:30 pm
Longparish Village Hall

Doors open at 6:45pm for a prompt 7:30pm start
Refreshments available

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

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Laura Harding on 01264 720298

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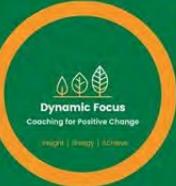
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AWARD WINNING

We are proud of our reputation and proven track record

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

Congratulations to Andy Smith who has reached the milestone of 100 races. Andy was in the first race back in 2006 and is a regular helper, putting out the signs. Thank you, Andy and well done.

We welcomed new runners Megan and Jo Brunwin from Hurstbourne Priors to the January race.

Conditions were good, if a little chilly, apart from flooding at The Cleeves. With long stretches of the route under water, no-one was going to avoid getting their feet wet. But that did not deter our runners and, despite wet and heavy feet, six of them managed to break their handicaps.



First home was Dave Henery from Forton who was our Most Improved Man. Most Improved Woman was Claire Collier. Charlie Grant, our Rising Star, is also a Fortonian.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber for marshalling, Graeme Capper for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results. Thanks also to the



Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is **on Sunday, 11 February** starting at **10am** 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>

Jeremy Barber
01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Longparish · Since 1721

Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website www.ploughinn.org

Email: info@ploughinn.org

Meet Rhomeo, our new manager!



Rhomeo joined us in December, and is already bringing lots of enthusiasm and plenty of new ideas. He says "I'm a people person, passionate about food, music and football. I believe people genuinely want The Plough to succeed and I'm hoping to bring our fantastic team together to really bring the Plough to life".

Rhomeo and Chef Billy have been busy planning some delicious winter-warming **midweek specials** to tempt you with:

Who cares if it's a school night?

Burger Wednesdays (£28 for 2 - choose from our famous burgers)

Pie Night Thursdays (£28 for 2 – Chef's pie of the day).

Something for the weekend?

Fish and Chip Fridays (£28 for 2)

Steak Saturday (£42 for 2 - cut steaks with all the trimmings).

Shaken, stirred, however you like

Plough Cocktail Night! Happy Hour from 6 and 8.30pm every evening.

Two cocktails for the price of one.

Come and meet Rhomeo! Have a pie, have a cocktail! Bring a friend! Sit by the roaring fire. Get out of the cold and settle into the warm, welcoming pub.

See you there!

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Saint Nicholas Church 100 Club

Results of the December 2023 Draw

First of all - Thank you to all those who signed up for this scheme in December 2023. Your participation in the scheme is greatly appreciated.

There were 54 members/numbers, who joined in December.

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 December $54 \times £5.00 = £270.00$. The draw was made on the evening of 22nd December 2023 by an independent person.

First prize:	No. 38	£67.00
Second prize:	No. 39	£40.00
Third Prize:	No. 20	£15.00

We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members, so please think about joining the scheme this year. 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

We would be extremely grateful if you would consider becoming a member of the club and supporting your parish church in this way.

Again, just a reminder that the church is open each day from 9.30am to 5pm. It is beautiful, and don't forget, it belongs to you! I also believe we have an obligation to look after it for future generations.

Christmas Fayre

It was lovely to bring back the Christmas Fayre to Longparish.

Father Christmas and his elves were kept busy with lots of children, who were all on the nice list.

Everyone was welcomed to the Fayre with the sound of Molly who kindly played the piano so beautifully, thank you.



Thank you to the wonderful team who made it happen and thank you all for coming along and raising about £850 which was divided between, Andover food bank, Mityana and the outside classroom at school.

Smooth Movers Ladies' Exercise Class



Low impact exercise and stretches to music. Aids fitness, co-ordination, balance, physical and mental wellbeing. Led by Lauren, a fully qualified dance and fitness instructor.

Come and join our friendly group on Thursday mornings, 9.15am at Northwood Farm Buildings, Andover Down. £5 a session and free parking. Car share and lifts available from Longparish and St Mary Bourne.



If you are interested please phone **Sarah 07789 472820** or email sarahharris33@gmail.com

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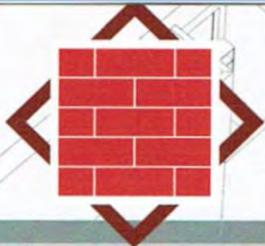
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WEATHER: DECEMBER 2023

Total rainfall for this month	131mm/5.51in
Total for 2023	1190mm/46.85in
Total for 2022	867mm/34.13ins
Max temp	14°C/58f (13 th)
Min temp	-4°C/24f (2 nd)

The year 2023 featured the driest February for thirty years, and the hottest July since records began. It was one of the ten hottest summers on record, the warmest Christmas Eve for ten years, and the warmest Christmas Day since 2016.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREWS



Without wanting to panic anyone unduly, at time of writing there are just 339 days to go until Christmas. If that hasn't sent you into a frenzy of planning and preparation, why not look back at all the festive goings-on at St. Andrews in 2023. Our carol

service was held on December 17th, with a packed church enjoying carols and readings, while the children played 'Christmas carols musical bumps' and made some very sparkly salt dough decorations in the vestry. The residual glitter may yet be adorning carpets throughout the village, should you need any cheering reminders of Christmas Past...

There was a magnificent array of small angels, shepherds, wise men and some very Christmassy dogs (bringing a whole new meaning to dogs in mangers), at our carols and nativity on December 23rd. We had wonderful accompaniment from members of our church band, and some excellent young readers, and we sang our way through the Christmas story, followed by mince pies and hot chocolate.



With thanks to all those who organised, decorated, catered, sang, played and read, and as we now face the bleak mid-winter, we'll leave you with Dodie's parting Christmas joke: The three wise men came to see Baby Jesus, bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. "Now," they said, "these are very special presents. In fact, they're so special, they are for your birthday and Christmas as well."



LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our February Coffee Morning will be held by Amanda Briant-Evans at No.1 Cressington on Wednesday, 28th February 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)





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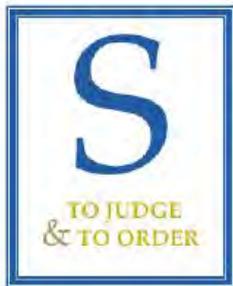
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PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR 2024

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, please do contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman (richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) and he will circulate relevant information to the Councillors.

The dates for meetings for this year are:

31st January
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 mid-February and the end of March to make a real difference, then please email Susie Urquhart: urquhartinteriors@outlook.com

SAFARI SUPPER

Hurstbourne Priors
Safari Supper - 2nd March 2024

Invitation

All villagers are invited to join the next Hurstbourne Priors Safari Supper. We would like to welcome anyone who has not been before or is new to the village.

Each couple hosts one course, going to other houses for different courses, meeting different people at each location.

The programme for the evening will be:-

6.45 pm	Drinks/nibbles
7.30 pm	Starter
8.15pm	Mains
9.15pm	Pudding/cheese
10.00pm	Coffee in the Village Hall

Those who do not have a partner can join with someone else to form a 'couple' for the evening.

If you would like to participate, please email by Wednesday 14th February to:

SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com
to register and for full details.



BIG BREAKFAST AND PANCAKE RACE



Sunday 11th February from 10.15am to 12 noon

Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground

Bring your frying pan and come and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast, have fun pancake racing and find out how you can help with the May Fair this year. Lots of different races for all ages, abilities, and even your dog!

Please email hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com to book your place.

Many thanks for your continuing support,

The May Fair Team

And on that note ...

THE MAY FAIR 2024

A date for your diary! This year, the May Fair will be held on **Monday 6th May, from 12 noon to 4pm.**

Preparations are underway for our major fundraising event for our three village amenities: St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground.

We welcome new committee members who would like to join our friendly May Fair Team and would be most grateful for offers of help both beforehand and on the day.

There are many ways that you can help: planning, putting up and taking down tents, running or helping on a stall, baking cakes, sorting donations, to name but a few. Come along to the breakfast and pancake race (*see above*) to find out more!



GARDENING CLUB

Calling anyone who is a little bit green fingered, or who would like to become more green fingered!

We are now into full seed sowing ahead of the May Fair, so this month we thought it would be nice to have two sessions, one in the evening and one during the day over coffee/tea, as we appreciate that some people have childcare issues in the evenings.

The two dates are **Thursday 8th February at 10.30am** and **Wednesday 28th February at 7pm.**

Both will be at Hurstbourne Priors House, in the kitchen, so don't worry about getting frostbite. We will provide all seeds, compost, pots etc., but if you don't want muddy fingers then do bring your own gloves. 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)
and Clare (07711 917375)*

Chutneys, Jams and Marmalades 2024

Denise has a selection of marmalades, chutneys and jams for sale and hope you will be tempted to purchase some of the following. All funds raised will go towards Hurstbourne Priors village amenities.

Chutneys	£4.00
Banana Chutney	
Tame Bengal Chutney	
Traditional Apple Chutney	
Plum Chutney	
Rhubarb & Gooseberry Chutney	
Jams	£4.00
Apple Ginger Preserve	
Apple Berry Jam	
Apple & Walnut Jam	
Blackberry Jam	
Damson & Apple Jam (with stones)	
Mirabelle Jam	
Rhubarb & Apple Jam	
Rhubarb & Ginger Jam	
Rhubarb, Apple & Ginger Preserve	
Marmalades	£4.00
Apple & Orange Marmalade	
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Orange Marmalade	
Whisky Marmalade	

To make your purchases, please email:- PreservesHBP@gmail.com

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

2023 was a successful year for the Mill, thanks to our hard-working volunteers, Mill Team and, of course, our many visitors. Here are some numbers for you to enjoy:

- **7959** visitors to the Mill and our various events
- **1505** Group visitors toured the Mill
- **5363** tubs of duck food sold
- **131** friendship bracelets sold
- **42** Whitchurch silk-dressed felt mice sold
- **£1843** raised at Rotations Charity Shop
- **£1651** raised from tombola and raffle ticket sales
- **£1252** raised through the sale of second-hand books
- and thanks to the amazing efforts of our Fundraising Team we raised just over **£90,000**.



What's On at the Mill

Gallery Exhibition, 13th January to 17th March

Our current exhibition is 'Crossing the Warp – Thread by Thread', presented by the Seven Sisters Handweavers. 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.

An Evening with Sarah Monzani, 7th February, 7–8.30pm

Sarah is an Oscar-winning movie make-up and hair designer who, over the last 30 years, has created unique and memorable looks for dozens of Hollywood films, and has worked with the likes of Kevin Kline and Madonna. See more about Sarah under this event on the 'What's On' page on our website. Tickets are £15, and they must be booked in advance. Doors open at 6.30pm. Coffee and tea will be available for donation.

Beer Tasting with Longdog Brewery, 24th February, 7.30–10pm

Enjoy a convivial evening of beer tasting and food, hosted by Hampshire's Longdog Brewery. Tickets £30, and must be booked in advance. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

Gin Tasting with The River Test Distillery, 22nd March, 7.30–10pm

Celebrate springtime with an evening of gin tasting and food, hosted by Longparish's award-winning distillery. Expect relaxed fun! Tickets are £30, and they must be booked in advance. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

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 8th February we'll be learning how to sew a lucky flower, which are like fortune cookies and can be used to hide a good luck message. Tickets are £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 from our website via the 'What's on' page.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065. Keep up to date with what's on at the Mill by following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via our website.

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



Coffee at The George Inn

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to a social coffee morning at

The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 13th February at 10.30am

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

The Lunch

Started in September 2004, we continue to provide a monthly low cost, light lunch and social occasion for everyone in the community.

Over ninety people attended our festive Christmas Lunch in December. With sherry on arrival, all enjoyed a traditional roast turkey meal followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. There was a superb raffle and once again children from St Mary Bourne Primary School kindly came to sing for us.

Our thanks go to everyone who supports us each year. In particular: the Vitacress company, the Village School, Bourne Valley PYO, Ken White Distribution, The Flower show, and everyone who generously donated raffle prizes.

Our next lunch will be on **Wednesday 21st February** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre as usual, serving at 12.30pm. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris Smith on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.

The Christmas Lunch



The older students from the primary school in Sycamore Class came to sing at the Christmas Lunch in December, leading them was Mrs Davies from Hampshire Music, and they sang carols to 'gladden the hearts of all those enjoying the Christmas meal'.

It is now a well-established tradition for the children to come to sing and our thanks go to all involved at school preparing them and giving everyone at The Lunch such an excellent performance.

A peal to remember!



The Waller family, complete with Maddie, recently baptised, rang a quarter peal. Mum, Dad, both grandparents and aunt and uncle rang a new, never rung method called 'Baptism Doubles'. The quarter peal lasted ¾ of an hour and not a single mistake or disobedient bell!

A wonderful celebration at which we noted there were further members of the family unable to ring (we only have six bells in St Mary Bourne) but joined us for the baptism, including one in California.



St Peter's Church
Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 25th November

Many thanks to Vicky Pettit, Sandra Grunsell, Angie Cook and all their helpers for running the event and raising the amazing amount of **£1,680.18.**





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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



12 A • 1 h 30 m

Ballygar, Ireland, 1967. A hard-knocks community in outer Dublin marches to its own beat, rooted in traditions of loyalty, faith and togetherness. There's just one tantalising dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom and escape the gauntlet of domestic life: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. And with a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night.

Tuesday 20th February 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 Film: 19th March 2024



Save the Date

Plans for the 2024 show are well underway and this year the show will be on **Saturday 27th July from 12.30pm.**

To get the green fingers warmed up and the competition started we are launching a **POTATO**

GROWING COMPETITION! Competitors can collect seed potatoes from the Boundary Shop on **Saturday 24th February (from 10am to 12 noon).** The potatoes will need to be planted into large buckets/pots or bags in March. The competition is open to all and full instructions will be provided. The grower with the heaviest yield on show day wins. Please note that only the seed potatoes provided can be used in the competition.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (St Mary Bourne Flower Show and Fête) for more free plants, seeds, gardening tips and new competitions. *AV*

Village Centre Caretaker Position



St Mary Bourne Village Centre is looking for a reliable and practical individual to attend to general tasks including but not limited to:

- Security checks of windows and doors
- Procurement of consumables and replenishment
- Oversee minor repairs • General tidy of the amenities.

6 hours per week, pay negotiable, timing flexible

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melissa.cavell@btinternet.com

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.**

MW



Indoor winter cricket coaching has already started for juniors (year 2 and upwards) on Saturday afternoons. The main changes to summer 2024 youth cricket is having more girls' teams (U9 and U11), home matches to

be videoed, a U15 team and an improved women's loo. The usual Friday night madness (incl Bar/BBQ for all the parents/locals) will continue in 2024 from late April onwards.

2024 registration for summer coaching is already underway with spaces for new members to be offered from February onwards

If you want to get involved - contact Jonny and team on stmarybourne.cc@outlook.com.

The club is also running a fund raising event:

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.

We hope to publish future plans about a new pavilion - details to be released by the Parish Council.

The adult cricket team is always looking for new members - we have more midweek 20-20 matches this year.

The club will have midweek training - nets, matches for beginners, rusty players, decent cricketers and all in between. Please contact the club via the above email or on socials. *JO*



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At the end of the December meeting Oliver Madge, chairman since May 2022, resigned and stood down with immediate effect, having given enormously generous use of his time and energy over that period to steer the Council back into safe waters after an unsettled phase. We should all be grateful for what he

has done, wish him well and hope that he might join us again when he feels he can spare more time. Patrick Foote, his former deputy has taken on the chairmanship until after the Annual Parish Meeting in May and the council will seek to co-opt a new member to fill this vacancy at the next meeting in February.

One parishioner has already put himself forward but if anyone else wishes to be considered for co-option please contact the parish clerk (clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk) as soon as possible so that eligibility can be confirmed in time for the meeting on 13th February.

High water levels and Sandbags:

Inevitably, with the current high levels of stream and ground water and the attendant drainage problems, council members and particularly the Flood and Emergency Group are in constant communication with Southern Water and the Environment Agency to try to prevent flooding in the vulnerable parts of the parish and tankering has recently been stepped up and is subject to continuous review as to positioning and intensity in both Stoke and St Mary Bourne. Group members can be contacted through flood@stmarybourne.org or via the clerk as above.

There is a recent posting on the Parish Council website (www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk) and noticeboard, and Bourne Valley Signpost and the Real Bourne Valley Signpost about sandbags and how to acquire them for those who may think this would prudent.

Recent planning applications:

- T/00564/TCA 2 Pound Cottage - *Work on trees*
- 23/02982/HSE The Barn, Breach Farm - *Garage and gym*
- 23/02465/FUL Medhurst - *Pool and solar panels*

Contact emails:

Finance parishcouncil@stmarybourne.org	Highways highways@stmarybourne.org
Flood and Emergency flood@stmarybourne.org	Rec (Inc Stoke Play) rec@stmarybourne.org
Planning planning@stmarybourne.org	SMB Lake lake@stmarybourne.org

Next parish council meeting: **13th February 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



ST MARY BOURNE PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

If you have some financial difficulties getting through the winter, this local community fund

may be able to help. Information from: Ruth Widen ruth.widen@btinternet.com .
 01264 738250



Volunteering!!!

It's good for you!

The start of the year is a time when we often make resolutions for the year ahead. As the years go by, these for me have become more health focused with a greater awareness of the actions I need to take to live well and live longer.

Experts say that by adopting the right lifestyle, you may live up to a decade longer. I've recently been enjoying a whole library of podcasts, and I was fascinated by the findings of National Geographic Explorer and author Dan Buettner who leads teams of researchers across the globe to uncover the secrets of Blue Zones - geographic regions where high percentages of the population are enjoying remarkably long, full, and happy lives. The formula for success seems to be a focus on community, lifestyle, and purpose. From his findings the piece of advice that Dan offers above all other is that **signing up as a volunteer in your local community is a long-term investment in your health** if you do it regularly and you will also be investing in your community for the benefit of others.

At The Boundary we rely on our team of volunteers to run the shop from 8am to 6pm 5 days a week. This allows us to support and maintain the Shop and Café, pay salaries, and provide valuable jobs for people in the local community. We also have volunteers who don't operate the tills but come in to help with the delivery of all the products once a week. There is a time slot and job to suit everyone who would like to volunteer! We offer full training, and we are such a friendly fun bunch of people to be with. We also have get-togethers to ensure it is not all work and no play!

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering in The Boundary Shop & Café please get in contact. I'm always happy to answer any questions you have. Caroline de Penning - cedepening@gmail.com CdP

We were saddened to hear of Mike Crofts passing. He was an amazing volunteer and a great friend of The Boundary. He was instrumental in getting our amazing space built and will be missed by us all.

Many thanks to all our lovely existing volunteers. Caroline x

The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

December 2023 draw:

£50 - Serena Coulton £20 - Adam Rimmer
 £20 - Rachel Butterworth £10 - Vicky Pettit

The 1☺☺ Club Christmas 2023 Draw:

£50 - Jane & Stuart Meaney

January 2024 draw:

£50 - J & S Meaney £20 - Kate Coldicott
 £20 - Camilla Woodhouse £10 - J & K Croser

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 10th February
All proceeds in support of our Boundary Shop & Café



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WATERCRESS & WINTERBOURNES

Bourne Valley resident wins Chalk Stream Conservation Award



Our congratulations to Sarah Cooney, one of the wonderful Watercress and Winterbournes scheme volunteers, on receiving the 2023 Vitacress Conservation Trust Award. This accolade is awarded annually to an organisation or individual that has done outstanding work to improve river habitats.

Sarah first became involved in chalk stream conservation in 2014. She has a stretch of the beautiful Bourne Rivulet running through her garden in Stoke and joined the St Mary Bourne Flood & Emergency Group after a major flood event. She then joined the Bourne Rivulet Initiative and volunteered with Natural Flood Management efforts in the area.

When Watercress and Winterbournes began its development phase in 2018, Sarah became a Chalk Stream Champion - a role to which she remains hugely dedicated. She now undertakes regular riverfly monitoring in the Bourne Rivulet and Upper Test, using both the ARMI and SmartRivers methods to gather crucial data on the health of these streams.

Sarah said of her achievement, *"The journey has been amazing, and I have learned so much along the way. There are many riverfly volunteers out there month-on-month, in all weathers, poring over trays and looking down microscopes - and that sense of belonging to a broader team creates a motivating and inspirational volunteering experience."*

If you would like to join Sarah in monitoring the Bourne Rivulet, please contact the Watercress and Winterbournes team at winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk or 01489 774400.

Chalk stream poetry competition and literature festival

2024 brings two exciting new ways to celebrate our rare and precious local chalk streams. 7 to 18-year-olds can get inspired to enter a poetry competition - winners will receive up to £75 in book tokens and have their poem published in special booklet.

Then, this summer, both children and adults can enjoy a watery literature festival. Hear talks by prominent nature writers like Amy-Jane Beer and Tom Moorhouse and explore your own creativity with chalk stream-themed writing workshops.

Learn more at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes/tales

Free Online Talks

'The Devastation and Restoration of England's Chalk Streams'
8th February, 7pm.

Are chalk streams really "man-made habitats"? We explore how modification impacts these precious habitats, and how restoration can help return them to good health.

'The Future of the UK's Water Resources'
14th March, 7pm.

A growing population and changing climate are putting our water resources under mounting pressure. How can we avoid a future of shortages?

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes .

February Freezer - A Hill & Valley Exclusive

Revd Henry White (1733-1788), youngest brother of Gilbert, celebrated author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, was rector of Fyfield (four miles west of Andover, nine west of Hurstbourne Priors) from 1759 until his death. Their father taught his family to observe the natural world and record in detail what they saw. Henry wrote his up into 'Logs', diary notes on his activities each day: work on his farm, the rectory garden, his visits and what he observed on the way, plus the daily weather report. We can look at his account of the weather on 1 February, transcribed from the surviving, unpublished 'Logs' from the 1780s. They give an idea (in 'old money') of what it might have been like in these parishes too:

Thursday, 1 Feb 1781: A very wet morn and Day until noon. Barometer 29 ⁷/₁₀; Wind SW to NW; Thermometer 50.

Friday, 1 Feb 1782: Hardest Frost this Year, & very white. Windows very much flowered; Perfectly Bright & calm Day, continued freezing in y^e Shade; [...?], in S.W. Barometer 29 ⁸/₁₀ to ⁷/₁₀; Wind N; Thermometer Mnt [*midnight*] 20—day 36—Night 27.

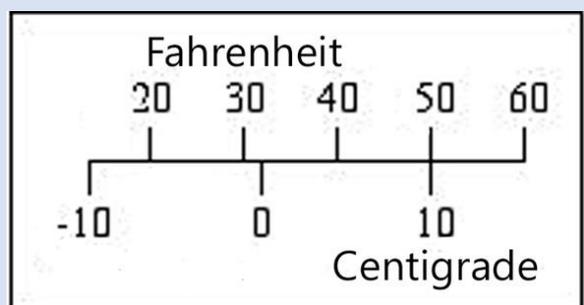
Saturday, 1 Feb 1783: White frost rather hard, bright clear Morn & Day; This thickens p.m.—Wind rises, dark cloudy Even, wind, & small misty Rain. Barometer 29. ³/₁₀; Thermometer 46; Wind W; Rain total in Jan^y 20 inches as nearly as can be gauged.

Sunday, 1 Feb 1784: Very bright clear Morn', & y^e. hardest frost this Winter excepting y^e. 31.st of Dec^r but quite calm, & still. Barometer 29 ⁷/₁₀ turned up to ⁹/₁₀ at p.m.; Thermometer 29.-35. Night 24. Wind N.

Tuesday, 1 Feb 1785: Frost hard, but not violent. — very bright clear Sunshine, & y^e. Wind quite calm, & still, -- y^e. Ground rough & hard, & bad for riding; —keen Air in y^e. open Fields & frozen all Day in y^e. shade; —very bright Starlit Night. Barometer 29 ⁸/₁₀ to ⁹/₁₀ ½ ; Thermometer mnt.28.—39. p.m.—Night 27. Wind N. to N.E. Rain

Friday, 1 Feb 1788: Smart Frost, dark, cloudy morning; very cold & raw air: light night hard frost. Barometer 29 ⁵/₁₀. ½; Thermometer 30-30-28. Wind N.E. Rain
Lowest temperature recorded, 20 (-6.7C); highest, 50 (10C): five of the six years frosty...

Some of us will remember with a shiver the beautiful flowery effect of frosted condensation on the inside of windows. How will 1 February this year compare? *MC*





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Postcard from Binley

It was one of the quietest Christmas's in Binley I think I've ever seen. Barely anything happened and we were even spared the sight of bewildered, lycra clad houseguests stumbling around the lanes on Boxing Day all trying to run off their Christmas pudding. Where did they all go? Mystery. But as quiet as it was, I did get to see my first live polecat cross the lane up by the Frogley's. Bizarrely at first, I thought I'd seen a skunk. You never know with those Frogley's but after a while it dawned on me what it was. So, another box ticked. Of course, when one thinks of skunks one thinks of Pepe le Pew, the animated Warner Bros cartoon character. Portrayed as an amorous French skunk whose over attentive behaviour coupled with an obvious personal hygiene problem caused any female in his sights to run a mile. Very reminiscent of one or two members of the farming community here in the valley but I'll go no further than that.

But the highlight of the season had to be the party thrown by "Ronnie" and Beebs Corbett. All the great and the good of Binley and beyond were there with a fashionable sprinkling of ruffians like me. What dear Colin Ponting used to refer to as "the Its and the sh*ts."! Always tickles me, that, but it was wonderful to catch up with neighbours, some of whom I haven't seen for months and old mates too as we compared ailments. I thought I was doing quite well on that front until I got top trumped by dear old Brian Hague from The White Hart in Stoke. What an absolute gent Brian is and I am very much looking forward to his steak and kidney pie on the 1st February. Nobody makes a better one. The Rev Dodie Marsden was there of course, she's always a sport as I have a habit of pulling her leg on a regular basis. That woman must have a liver as tough as Ayer's Rock! I'm kidding, she doesn't drink! Allegedly! When I think back to the crusty old vicars of my childhood, I'm reminded how very lucky we are to have the old bird here amongst us. She can have a suck of the sauce bottle any time she likes, as they say back in Alice Springs.

Binley, as I've always said is a great social leveller. I mean this quite seriously. And it has always been thus. I suppose that is its charm. You could never, for instance walk in the Hurdlers Arms and buy a drink for yourself and your party. You HAD to buy for the entire pub. And it cost you £5. Unless Jack didn't like you in which case it cost you £15. How I miss those days.

But going back to Christmas I'm finding myself at an age where I am more and more attracted to Boxing day as the main event. To spend the morning on the rec watching the game, a couple of pints in the pub and then home for the racing and the footie in splendid isolation, picking over the carcass of the goose, peeling satsumas and cracking walnuts... and just as I mention that the wife has walked in to inform me the King has gone under the knife for an enlarged prostate! You really cannot make this stuff up! God save the King (literally) and Happy New Year!

NA



Farewell

On Epiphany Sunday we said goodbye to Nigel and Maddy Winter from our beloved parish of Woodcott as they move to their new home. They have been such stalwart supporters of St James, Woodcott. For over 20 years Nigel has played the organ in church,

whilst Maddy has helped with all aspects of the church from delivering the Parish Magazine to flowers, cleaning and all other duties involved in supporting the church. We are sad to lose them from our community and wish them much happiness.

During the time Woodcott and St Mary Bourne have been together as a Parish and later as a Benefice they have been involved at both churches. They have helped and supported our youth work and that led to visits to Uganda, when they accompanied young people to see what Africa could teach them and what they learnt whilst in Mityana – the first year was 2005. They have maintained an interest ever since and when things have been hard and we were up against it, they offered help and support, guidance and wise counsel. Now as they leave Dunley we want to say thank you for everything they offered, we are deeply grateful for all they have given to St James' as well their help and support across the Benefice. We are sad to lose them from our community and from St James and wish them much happiness.

DM

Go Stargazing in February

9 Feb - New Moon. Moon will be located on same side of the earth as the Sun & will not be visible in the night sky. Best time of the month to observe galaxies and star clusters.

24 Feb - Full Moon. Moon will be located on opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon known by early Native American tribes as the Snow Moon as heaviest snows usually fall during this time of year.

RS

Andover Astronomical Society - next meeting Thursday 15th February 7.30pm - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre, SP11 0AX. Talk given by Mary MacIntyre on **Women in Astronomy**. This talk tells the stories of some of the trailblazing women working in astronomy after Caroline Herschel.

You might be interested to have a look at Mary's website - <https://marymacintyreastronomy.co.uk/>.

Andover Astronomical Group has NIGHT SKIES pages on the website - have a look at THE WINTER HIGHLIGHTS page. There are spectacular photographs and find out what is good to see at the moment.

Please try to **minimise light pollution** by reducing outdoor lights as this negatively impacts on the environment, wildlife, and humans alike. Thank you.



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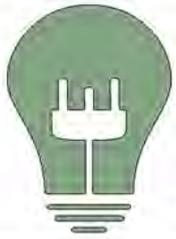
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Remembering...

Peter Keeling

10th September 1927 - 3rd November 2023

Peter was born on 10th September 1927, one of eight children of Harry and Grace. He had five brothers: Leslie, Albert, Francis (Frank), Jacob (Cyril), Leonard (Luvvie) and two sisters: Mary (Poppy) and Pamela.

The Keeling family can be traced back to 1745, most of whom were born and lived in St Mary Bourne and Ashmansworth. Peter, like his siblings, went to St Mary Bourne primary school. He left school at an early age and worked for Mr Culley as a farm hand before leaving home around the age of 16 to join the army.



He joined the British Army of the Rhine. He served with the battalion of the Black Watch in 1942 during World War II and was stationed in Germany. Towards the end of the war, he was a guard for the last prisoner Rudolf Hess at Spandau Prison. Peter continued his education whilst in the army passing all subjects in 1951.

He met his future wife, Dorothy who was also in the army working in the NAAFI. They got married on 8th February 1950 in Barking, London whilst Peter was on leave.

In 1952, they had a daughter, Susan, in Hamburg. After he left the army, the family returned to England and eventually moved to Fosbury where Peter took up a gardening job. Later on, he got a job as a gardener for Lord and Lady Rochford in Binley. During this time Peter won many prizes in the local flower show and won the Fuller cup in 1957 for all-round best entrants in the show.

The family got a council house at Stoke where they lived for many years. Peter then started work at Portals Paper Mill during which time he was diagnosed with blood cancer. Oncologists told him nothing could be done, but with the intervention of Mr Russell whom Peter used to work for as a part time gardener, Peter received treatment that cured him. Although he had his spleen removed, Peter did not take medication and continued to have a normal, healthy life. During this illness, Peter and Dorothy moved to a bungalow in Stevens Green, St Mary Bourne where they found life easier and soon settled in to the village.

Peter and Dorothy liked to go to the Hurdlers Arms in Binley, the Bourne Valley Inn and the George Inn in St Mary Bourne where they made many friends. They particularly enjoyed many a merry night at the Hurdlers Arms especially when there was a lock-in with other regulars.

In his later years, Peter took up beating for Wyndham Culley. When Dorothy died in 1998 at the age of 75, Peter continued to live in the bungalow. Over time he became a close companion with his neighbour Joan Goodyear. They used to go for long walks round the village together with her beloved dog Bobby. Sadly, when Joan died, Peter became unwell and developed dementia. He spent the last four years of his life in the Arbory Care Home where he passed away.

Peter had a good sense of humour. Having left home and joined the army at a young age, he was very self-reliant. He was stubborn and knew his own mind. Notably he didn't carry any truck with doctors or other professionals. When he became really frail, his daughter arranged for him to receive meals at home but Peter point-blank refused. Nevertheless, Peter was always in good cheer and never complained about his own situation.

Peter leaves behind his only daughter, Susan and his grandchildren Samantha and Richard and a great grandson, Arlo.

Norman Bunce

9th June 1934 - 6th December 2023

Norman was born in St. Mary Bourne in 1934 to parents Harry and May. Norman was the middle of three boys, Den being the eldest and Ron the youngest.

He had a carefree childhood roaming the countryside with family dog Laddie, tickling trout in the river, ferreting for rabbits, and helping out at Breach Farm. A Sunday walk to Link to visit his grandparents was a regular thing.

He attended St Mary Bourne and Whitchurch schools but didn't like school much and on leaving, he started work as a trainee plumber for Freddie Taylor at Link. After learning his trade, he spent several years working on the Upper Drove Estate in Andover for the developer Charlie Bowyer.

When the estate was finished, Norman decided to branch out on his own. His brothers, Basil Willis, Tommy Gibbons and himself formed the nucleus of a building firm and other men were taken on as the years went on.

At about this time, he met Kay at a dance in Southampton. They married in 1963 having bought and renovated a house at Riverside. Two children, Susan and David, were born. Family holidays were spent mainly in a caravan and later in a cottage in The New Forest.

The business thrived. Norman was happy in his work and prided himself that he carried out his jobs to a high standard. Riverside was sold and Brookside, opposite the church, was built.



Norman retired at the age of 61 and wanting something to keep himself busy, he suggested to Kay that they buy The Firs, Picket Piece as it needed complete renovation and had two acres of land. After getting things straight at The Firs, Kay and Norman decided to travel, making trips to Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, America and Canada.

A motorhome was purchased and trips were made around the UK and Europe. Friendships were made and regular meetings at various camp sites around the UK kept the friendships going. By this time, two grandchildren Joe and Amy had arrived and were a great joy. Norman loved being a grandad and watching the children grow up.

After 18 years at Picket Piece, they agreed that the upkeep of the garden was getting too much, so the house was sold and the move to Longparish made. The move was not regretted. The neighbours were very welcoming, the house and garden were enough to keep Norman busy and there were coffee mornings, garden club and village lunches to attend.

All was well until February 2022 when bone cancer was diagnosed. Norman gradually slowed down and got more tired and frustrated at not being able to do the things he had been accustomed to. The motorhome was sold and a mobility scooter and two walking sticks were obtained. There were still trips on fine days to The Cleaves, with Kay on her electric bike and Norman on his scooter which were greatly enjoyed and Norman still tried to get in a short daily walk when he could.

Medication kept the pain at bay and with the help of carers from the Hospice in Andover during the last few weeks, Norman was able to stay at home and passed away peacefully on December 6th.

Norman Bunce - A loving husband, dad, grandad and brother - Sadly missed. RIP

LONGPARISH

- 6 7.30pm - Bingo - Village Hall
 8 10am to 12 noon - Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
 11 10am - L2SOTM Race - Cricket Ground
 13 7.00pm - Tuesday Talk 'Colombia'
 12 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
 23 12 noon to 2pm - Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 8 10.30am - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
 11 10.15am - Big Breakfast & Pancake Races - Pavilion
 28 10.15am - Coffee Morning - No.1 Cressington
 28 7pm - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 3 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 13 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 13 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room
 15 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre
 20 7.15pm - 'The Film' - *THE MIRACLE CLUB* - Village Centre Main Hall
 21 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall
Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library** - Village Centre

The Vine Trust is an independent Christian charity that runs a bookshop on Bridge Street, Andover. We are currently looking for more volunteers to help run the store; we especially need help on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday afternoons.

We operate two shifts per day (10 am to 1 pm and 1pm to 4pm Tuesday to Friday and 9.30am to 12 noon and 12 noon to 2.30pm on Saturday). We have two volunteers helping in each shift.

If you are interested in joining us, you can collect an application form from the shop or we can send you one electronically by email:

vinetrustandover@gmail.com

All our volunteers get full training on working at the shop. *Trevor Sleath*

Front cover photograph: M Widén



The Andover foodbank would like to thank everyone who donated so generously over the Christmas period. We are, as always, so grateful.

Currently we are in need of the following food and non-food items:

- Potted Noodles • Tinned Meat • Rice • Tinned Fish • Tinned Fruit • Long Life Milk
- Deodorant • Bath and hand towels (can be second hand but must be in good clean condition)
- Spray cleaner • Shampoo • Can openers • Saucepans (small)

Andover foodbank - St John the Baptist RC Church, Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD, T 01264 362111, www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk. *There is a collection point at the Boundary Shop & Café in St Mary Bourne.*

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: helenford62@hotmail.co.uk

Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk

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

St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com

Copy date for the March 2024 Hill & Valley edition: Wednesday 14th February 2024

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

Printed by **The Andover Printing Company Ltd** ☎ 01264 334220 www.andoverprinting.co.uk © Hill & Valley Parish Magazine 2024

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