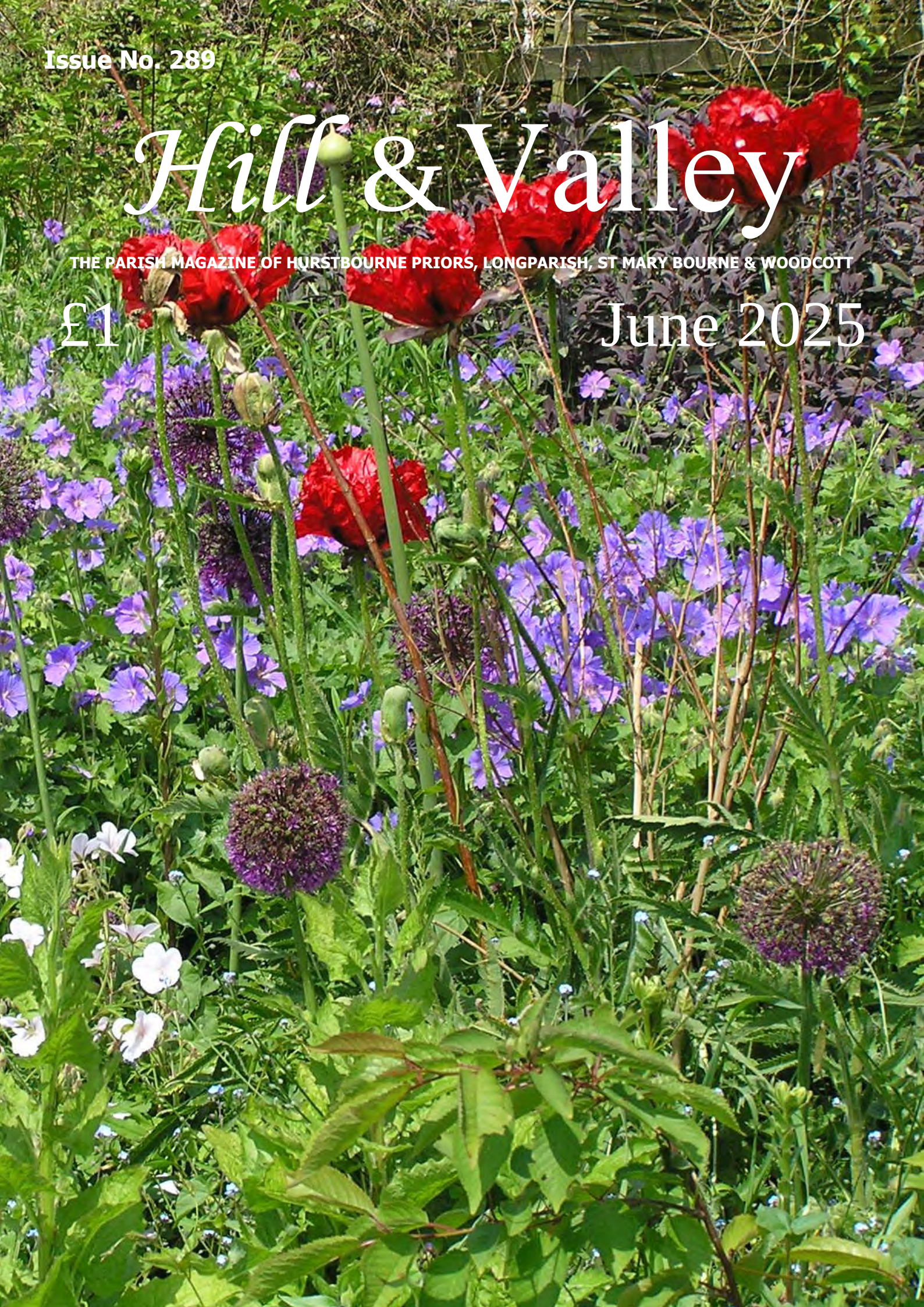
Issue No. 289

Hill & Valley

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

£1

June 2025



Father's Day – what's in a name?

What's in a name? How important are words? Do the words you use make a difference?

As we approach Fathers' Day, I've been thinking about the words and the names we use for each other. When Swee and I were going through the adoption process, I remember thinking a great deal about what I would be called – would an older adopted child call me "Dad" – after all they would likely have, and remember, someone else in their life called Dad. Their experience of fathers might not be a positive one. I kidded myself that I wouldn't mind what I was called, but that was a lie. I was desperate to be a father and to have someone bless me with that name.

Of course, Mac began calling us Mum and Dad as soon as he moved in with us – no more Richard and Swee. I can remember the feeling of joy and fulfilment when he did that, and it is something I have never taken for granted.

When I was training for priesthood, I also thought about what I would be called. My own tradition is one where the term "Father" is commonly used, although locally it is not a term we tend to use for our clergy. But I can still remember the first time another priest called me "Father" and again I felt the feeling of joy and fulfilment.

The word "Father", and concept of "Fatherhood" is such an important one. It is such an intimate description of a relationship. Of course, I know that there are people that have had toxic and destructive examples of fathers – but real Fatherhood is not like that.

The concept of Fatherhood is so important in Christianity. Our concept of God as Father is key to our understanding of that part of the Trinity. And I think when I was younger, I might have felt it easier to relate to God as Son, as human and walking alongside us; now as I have experienced fatherhood, it has given me a better understanding of that relationship of God as Father. I understand more the intimacy of being one of God's adopted children. I understand more his desire to protect us and love us. And I think I also understand more his need to let us go and to let us make our own decisions. I understand his desire and need to give us freedom of choice.

So this year, let's adopt the secular celebration of Fathers' Day, and celebrate all that is good about fatherhood. Let's celebrate the positivity of that particular parenting role – as a complement to motherhood – seeing those aspects of God as Father as our ultimate role model.

From the core of unconditional love, we can celebrate all that we learn from our children, because the one thing I do know is that being a Father has made me an infinitely better person.

Happy Fathers' Day!

Richard ***The Revd Richard Sutcliffe***

Services in the Parish Churches

June 2025

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

Sunday 1st - Ascension Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors		*No Service*
St Nicholas', Longparish		*No Service*
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne		*No Service*
St James', Woodcott		*No Service*
All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	*Holy Communion*
Benefice Service, Farewell Revd David with Archdeacon Howard		
	5.00pm	*Contemplative Prayer*

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Wednesday 4th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	*Holy Communion*

Sunday 8th - Pentecost Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	*Benefice Evensong*
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	*Holy Communion*
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	*Confirmation Service*
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	*Holy Communion*

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 15th - Trinity Sunday (Father's Day)

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

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 18th

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	*Holy Communion*

Sunday 22nd - Trinity 1

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*
St James', Woodcott		*No service*

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 29th - Trinity 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors		*No service*
St Nicholas', Longparish		*No service*
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	*Benefice Evensong*
St James', Woodcott		*No service*
All Hallows, Whitchurch	10.30am	*Holy Communion*
		Priesting Service

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

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

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

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

- For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☏ 01264 352829
- **Methodist Minister** for our parishes: The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☏ 01256 895878 or **rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk**

From the *Church Registers*

• Baptisms

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

Archie White
Hurstbourne Priors - 4/5/2025

Constance Rose Barrington-Martin
St Mary Bourne - 11/5/2025

Poppy Parker
Woodcott - 31/5/2025

• Funerals

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

Linda Mary Hardiman
St Mary Bourne - 6/5/2025

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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Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

The position of editor for the four Hurstbourne Priors parish pages is still vacant. If you would be able to take this on, or like to know more about what it entails, please contact Michael Widén on ☎ **07880 808111** or write to **hillandvalley@btinternet.com**

If no one will come forward to volunteer for this position by 18th June (copy date for the July/August edition), we will be unable to publish the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages for July/August.

May Fair 2025

The Hurstbourne Priors May Fair on Bank Holiday Monday really kicked off the village fête season in style.

After last year's wash out we were delighted that our trusty village stallholders returned with gusto bringing more plants, cakes, teas, books, ponies, beer, popcorn and candy floss, music, pigs in buns, pizzas, paella and burgers, bric a brac, tombolas, car parkers, Cadets, tent builders, bottles and finally Toys and Teddy tombola kindly run by the wonderful Longparish Little School.

This year we welcomed an array of new stalls from our wonderful villagers ranging from the sublime slime workshop, tarot card reading, Puppy Racing and a Dog Show to boot. Even the village children got in on the action with a flower stall and sweetie stall. We were delighted to see the next generation of stallholders joining in so enthusiastically.

With all the usual fun of the fair it was wonderful to see the village green looking so resplendent. Huge thanks to Hurstbourne Park for kindly giving us the car parking field and for all their generous support.

The May Fair committee can't thank everyone enough for the hours, days, weeks and months of time that is put into the day. It is the most wonderful celebration of what such a small, unwaveringly generous and dare I say, determined village can do! Thank you.

The May Fair Committee
Lulu Beasley, Kate Chisnall, John Perry, Clare Read, Susie Urquhart and Fenella Williams

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our June coffee morning will be held by Helen Mehaffey at The Limes (opposite Equestrian Centre) on Thursday, 12th from 10.15am - 12 noon. All ages welcome!

For more information please contact Susie Sorby ☎ 01256 892665.

Spring on Pause: Britain Basks While Rain Takes a Sabbatical

March and April bone dry, May's following suit — and local farmers are starting to sweat (and not just from the sunshine).

If you've been enjoying breakfast in the garden, dry school runs, or the rare pleasure of not smelling like a wet dog after a country walk — you're not alone.

The first two months of spring, March and April have served up a near-unbroken run of dazzling sunshine and virtually no rain. And now May, not wanting to break tradition, seems to have shown up with the same no-raincoat, sunglasses-on attitude.

Across the UK, rainfall totals for March and April have been at record lows. In some areas, barely a fifth of the usual rain has fallen, and sunshine hours have soared — with southern England seeing over 400 hours of bright skies across the two months. It's been less "April showers" and more "April sunstroke."

And here in the Bourne Valley, things look more Provence than Hampshire. One local farmer said to me: *"We've got cracks in the fields big enough to lose a welly in"*.

The fact is that most farmers were getting fed up with the mud this time last year. There seems to be no happy medium in recent years. It's either hosing it down for weeks threatening crop rot, or bone dry with stunted growth.

While the sunny skies have been a dream for dog walkers like me and the village cricket teams, I haplessly attempt to play for (who, unusually, haven't had to open the season in jumpers and hats in between hailstorms), growers and gardeners are beginning to eye the forecast with growing concern. Water butts are running low, fields are dustier than the Sahara, and there's a real risk of crops becoming stunted if meaningful rain doesn't arrive soon.

And this isn't just a one-off blip. Recent years have seen what looks a worrying pattern — the weather can't seem to find a middle ground. We're either bogged down in endless grey and months of rain or locked in by immovable huge high-pressure systems that turn the jet stream into a polite bystander. When the high eventually becomes unblocked, it seems that rather than much needed periodic outbreaks of rain, we go headlong into Noah's Ark territory for several months.

It appears that global climate change is stacking the deck toward extremes. What used to be rare dry springs are becoming more frequent. When rain doesn't show up in March and April, plants — and people — start paying attention."

For now, the sunshine continues. But if May doesn't deliver some proper downpours soon, there'll be more than just brown lawns to worry about. Farmers, gardeners, and even already unpopular water companies may soon start whispering the dreaded words: hosepipe ban.

So enjoy the sunshine, by all means — just maybe do a little rain dance next to your flowerbed and hope for just a bit of the wet stuff in between the gorgeous blues skies of spring and summer.

And on cue, just as I finish this post, the heavens have opened. Just call me Rainman Bob. *BL*

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Baptism at St Andrew's

Archie Jonathan Quirk White was baptized on Sunday 4th May.

Photo by the family's Independent Midwife Kathryn Weymouth

Archie's parents James and Rachel were married in St Andrew's and his older brother Theo was also baptized in St Andrew's.

There was a great gathering of family and friends.

St Andrew's Reels

In aid of St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors
Saturday 27th September at 7pm
at the Barn, Chapmansford Farm House
Dinner & Dancing Black Tie / Tartan / Smart
Calling by the brilliant John Carver
Everyone welcome including beginners!
Contact: St.AndrewsReels@gmail.com
Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, Eightsome, Duke of Perth, Reel of the 51st

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Recently our weaving team has been warping and winding on the top floor, preparing silk thread for **the Mill's 210th anniversary** project. The Mill wasn't initially a silk mill. In 1817 silk merchant William Maddick purchased the Mill with the intention of producing silk in Whitchurch. He altered the building extensively, adding the middle floor that's now our exhibition, lecture and craft space, and he created the millpond and the leat in front of the Mill building, giving the flexibility to store and control water going to the waterwheel channel, ensuring a steady flow and thus keeping the wheel turning at just the right constant speed.

A 100-yard length of our **Bridgerton-design ribbon** cloth has been woven. Our ribbon weaving technique is unusual and this craft skill is unique to Whitchurch Silk Mill.

The Mill will be in residence at **Rotations Charity Shop** from **12–26 June**. Please donate items of clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, books and DVDs by bringing them along to the shop.

Wall-hanging Workshops - if you'd like to try out a variety of weaving patterns and experiment on our Louet looms to create your own wall-hanging, the next beginners' workshops are on **12th and 16th July**.

One-day Weaving Course for Intermediate Learners, 4th June, 10am–5pm. Cost £100; adults only.

Horsehair Tales, 10 June, 7–8.30pm; talk about the history of John Boyd Textiles, the only remaining haircloth weavers in the UK; tickets £15, must be booked in advance.

Whitchurch Open Gardens 2025, 22nd June, 1–5pm; this year more than twenty gardens of varying types and sizes will be open; for more information please see our website.

Regency Picnic, 28th June, 3–7pm; bring your parasol and a picnic to celebrate with us the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth and the cultural activity of Regency England. Open to pre-booked ticket holders only. For more details and to buy tickets, please go to our website.

A note from the HBP Plant Stall

We will re-use any unwanted plastic pots from the May Fair (individual 7cm and 9cm square and 1 litre only). These can be dropped in the box by the village hall any time before the end of June and we will re-use them next year.

Please send any plant requests for 2026 and/or suggestions for what we should keep growing or start growing to hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com
Thank you for supporting the plant stall!

The May Fair parking team

The May Fair in pictures

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

Coffee at *The George Inn*

All ages are welcome, from all the villages, to a social coffee morning at ***The George Inn*** St Mary Bourne on **Tuesday 10th June at 10.30am**

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

The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

May 2025 draw:

£50 - Laura Wurzer **£20** - John Horsham
£20 - Laurie Purcell **£10** - Phillida Goad

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 14th June

Recently built 3-bed cottage in Binley available for rent.
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council social housing criteria apply.
Please contact James Maclay on 07702 334 333 if interested.

The Lunch

Our next village lunch will be held on **Wednesday 18th June** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, starting to serve at 12:30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch**. As usual we will be holding a raffle at our July Lunch** and would be very grateful for any prize donations to be brought along on 18th June.

Family Service
Sunday June 15th

There will be craft activities, Lego builds, biscuits to decorate, cards to make and fresh coffee. Best of all Dads to celebrate with.

10.30 am in St Peter's

community The Boundary shop & cafe

AMM

St Mary Bourne Shop and Café Limited will be holding its Annual Members' Meeting **at 7pm on Monday 2nd June 2025 at St Mary Bourne Village Centre.** The management committee will present the annual accounts and report on the performance of the business and plans for the future.

History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects

5 Bradley Hill, Dunley: Avenue of trees

This gentle avenue of beech trees runs from the top of Bradley Hill and entrance gates to Dunley Park (house built 1999), down to the crossroad, just above Dunley Manor. The house was listed Grade II but delisted in 2019. The documents point to it being a late-19th century building, with additions. Between 1882-7, London brandy merchant, Jean Albert Ovide Rouyer, gradually bought up the Dunley estate, selling it on in 1902 to Francis Holman. Rouyer seems to have built Dunley Manor house.

Judging from the size of the trees, informally assessed by a friend as 100+ years old, this avenue down to the house seems to have been planted more recently than the 1880s. More likely it dates from early in the tenure of Sir Alfred Herbert, Coventry machine tool manufacturer and philanthropist. He bought the estate in 1916 and lived there until his death in 1957. But what a remarkable gift for future generations, whoever had the vision (and means) to plant the beautiful avenue! ***MC***

Remembrance Sunday 2025

This year we are hoping to collect stories from local people whose fathers (or uncles) fought in the 2nd WW. We'd like you to get in touch if you can offer information, stories and photos we could use in Hill & Valley for November when we will again, remember those who gave so much.

Bourne Fest

With Bourne Fest around the corner, we would like to say a huge thank you to our generous sponsors: Ninny's House, Bourne Valley Farming and Carter Jonas. Their sponsorship means that we have a real opportunity to make a good profit this year, raising funds for local charities.

We have an exciting line up of events this year with Friday night's Barn Dance, 10 Mile Supper and Silent Disco, Saturday's Village Sports Day and Picnic (free event), Saturday evening's incredible live music festival and Sunday's Fun Run, Father's Day Football, Teas, Open Gardens and Tennis Tournament. *(See poster on page 6)*

For more information please contact**:** **bournefest@mail.com**

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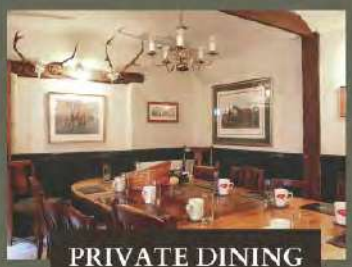

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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

Thank you to the 70+ attendees who came to a very productive Annual Parish Assembly on 6th May, it was great to see so many of you. The Chair, Patrick Foote, opened the proceedings by offering the local community organisations the opportunity to update the parish on the previous year's activities and future plans.

Presentations were given by the Countryside Ranger from Hampshire County Council Access Team, St Mary Bourne Cricket Club, The Boundary, Sustainable Bourne Valley, the Flower Show Chair, the Community Play Space Project team and our County Council Tom Thacker. St Mary Bourne Primary school had a table of information and other organisations provided reports that were displayed for attendees to read. Thank you all. All information is available on the parish website: https://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk/community/st-mary-bourne-parish-council-12760/2025-reports-from-apa/

Councillor Patrick Foote took the opportunity to thank **Bridget Culley** for her years of service to the community and presented a bouquet of flowers as a token of our appreciation.

The **broken benches** in the Recreation Ground, SMB will be replaced with new ones in early June so will the derelict bench at the Stoke end of Gangbridge Lane on the main road.

We have an opportunity to provide the community with training on the **Defibrillators** we have installed around the parish. Although the instructions that you will receive from the emergency services if you need to use one are very good, we think that familiarisation training might give people more confidence if faced with using one. Luckily, we have never had to use any of our defibrillators although we would probably all agree it is reassuring that they are available. To help us get a gauge of whether parishioners are interested in taking training if it were offered, please let the PC know by speaking with any of the councillors or sending a quick email message to clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk, If there's enough interest we'll go ahead and organise a training session.

Planning:

25/00035/HSE	Mac's Field, SMB	Amendments
25/00793/HSE	Medhurst, SMB	Timber Extension
25/00893/AGPD	Jones Farm, Stoke	Agricultural permitted development enq. to BDBC
T/00200/25/TCA	Summer Hayes, Stoke	Trees
25/00978/GPDAG	Swampton Farm, Wadwick Bottom	General Permitted Development enq. to BDBC
APP/H1705/W/25/3364384/86	Swampton House, SMB	Inspectorate Appeal
25/00990/HSE	Wakeswood, Butler's Fm Road, SMB	Extensions & Alterations
25/00986/FUL	Centre of Village, SMB	Relocation of Play Equipment & Car Park & MUGA Alterations

Next parish council meeting: Tuesday 10th June
Village Centre Club Room
Public more than welcome.
www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Copies of meeting minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine Owen on **clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk** .

Facebook: Search for www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage - and like and follow to get updates or arrange to pop along to the parish council office for a chat.

St Mary Bourne Community Play Space - Project Update

Following our fundraising announcement, the St Mary Bourne Community Play Space project team has continued to engage the community. Amelda de Segundo gave an update at The Annual Parish Assembly in St Mary Bourne Parish on 6th May 2025. In the session, the Parish Council also confirmed planning permission is underway for the proposed changes to the car park and MUGA.

Meanwhile, our fundraising efforts continue. As of this month, we have raised a total of £107,682 via the Good Exchange, which includes all successful grant funds awarded to date. In addition, we have received the £30,000 donation from Southern Water. Excitingly, we are getting close to achieving the funds needed to implement the project. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, including individuals and businesses like The George Inn. The Prize Draw remains open at the Village Shop, and our Good Exchange fundraising platform is available for donations. We hope to raise an additional £5,000 to help us reach our target.

For anyone interested in donating (big or small!), all donations can be made through the **Good Exchange.**

The Project Team *(Volunteers: Laura Davis, Amelda de Segundo, Parish Council Members: Dave Burlison, Ed Makgill and Maxine Owen)*

With thanks, ***Amelda***

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News from The Boundary:

Let's start with a thank you - 4 actually!

1st: To all the people who attended the quiz evening on the 9th May and helped to raise £2,000 – amazing! The money will be used to buy parasols for the outdoor seating area and a few changes we want to make in the café.

2nd: The committee of Mills Ahl, Emma Carter and Hilary Gaffney who organised the Quiz – A huge thank you!

3rd: To Paul Gaffney for his amazing skills as a quizmaster – another huge thank you!

4th: To a loyal café customer (Alan) who donated money so that every child who entered our Easter colouring competition received a chocolate bar – their little faces (and that of the 60+ entrant) were a joy to see.

It is examples like these that make our jobs so lovely – we are *very grateful* to you all!

Now the pleas! There are some things in the café that need attention: - can you help?

- The lock on the WC door
- Balancing the tables (wobbly tables are frustrating)
- A tiny piece of tiling on the wall where the cutlery tins are (we have the tiles)
- Repainting of the coloured chairs and sideboards. We thought we might have a 'painting' afternoon to spruce them up. Brushes and paint will be provided, and it should be a bit of fun. See Vicky or myself if you are interested.

Vicky has sourced some lovely summer stock – come and look if you haven't already.

We both felt the walls looked bare in some places so a quick word with our local artist Jane Rist and pictures appeared. They look amazing and are for sale if you are interested. Those bare walls now look splendid!

Other news:

Sadly, we lost 3 of our youngsters at the weekend. They have been fun to have around and hard working. We hope they will have some happy memories of their time with us. Thank you all, we will miss you.
That is all for now, many thanks. ***Sandra & Vicky***

St Peter's Flower Festival

Sat 28th & Sun 29th June

Come and have a look.
All the arrangements will reflect major events in St Peter's life.
Children can bring a jam jar of flowers for one of the pews.
There will be a quiz and colouring for the younger ones.

Sunday Evensong at 6 pm
Our local Gospel Choir will sing for us, and everyone is invited to join us.

And finally, there will be a selection of photos of some of young people from 2000+. Come and see who you recognise. (A number are now married with kids of their own!)

VE Day 8th May

At 6.30 pm the bells rang out, people gathered at the George, joining in with villages and towns all over the UK we sang 'I vow to thee', Maddie brought the candle to the rec. There we read 2WW poems as well as extracts from those who remembered the day.

Stoke Village Fund AGM

Thursday 12th June
SMB Village Centre

7.30pm
All Welcome

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com

On 19th July Mike's Marvellous Mates are taking on another 26-mile Mighty Hike in Mike Crofts' memory to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. This time we will be closer to home walking through the Cotswolds. We are holding a **coffee morning between 10am and noon on Friday 13th June** at **Wendover House, St Mary Bourne** as part of our fundraising effort, so please do come along and support us. Everyone welcome! ***Karen & Jo***

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Postcard from Binland

Someone has kindly stripped the ivy from the old oak going up the track by the field at the back of the house. It now stands like a creaking old dinosaur, its limbs free to the elements, verdant leaves bursting forth. Below, its own young oak saplings line the fence as the meadow beyond is washed cream and yellow by cow parsley and buttercups. The driest spring in recent memory has just broken with a downpour and nature is taking a great swig of it! The air is sultry but vibrant and everything smells of fresh apples. It's wonderful! But we need more.

As far as I know there is only one family of beavers operating in Hampshire, based I think in the Meon valley. But there is talk of more coming and I wonder if it's a good idea or not. I've always considered them the DIY bores of the animal kingdom, and I don't know if they would be conducive to chalk streams and their habitats. To check I've just googled "beaver in the UK" and I'm glad my wife didn't walk past.

No, I find myself with a far greater affinity to otters. I see a lot of myself in otters, they do after all enjoy loafing around and fishing which pretty much sums me up. I'm yet to see one in the Bourne though I have spotted one in the Anton. There is nothing quite like the thrill of seeing your first one in the wild. Mine was on a Highland stream on a hot day when I had been flogging away at a pool for about an hour and had concluded there wasn't a single fish in it. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed what looked like a log floating downstream towards me. As it came past, I realised it was an otter swimming on its back. It proceeded to paddle around in circles in front of me, its face a picture of bliss and I doubt I've ever seen a creature so happy with life. As I fumbled for my camera it rumbled me and was gone. Within seconds salmon were throwing themselves in all directions around the pool, it was the most extraordinary sight.

And now I see on the news and in the papers, we are to get Elk back. Who wants b****y elk? Did we ever have elk? My understanding is they are a bit tricky and the advice from the Grand Canyon National Park Service is to stay at least two bus lengths away from them. If chased don't play dead but climb a tree. That doesn't work with bears, but I can see it would with elk. But why put us in that position in the first place?

Lastly, we said goodbye to dear Jeff Harrison, a Binley resident for many years. He and Jenny have been so kind and so generous to not only us Binlanders but many up and down this valley. Jeff, a true bon viveur was a master of the terrible joke and would weave them into everyday conversation that would leave unsuspecting recipients confused and bewildered as Jeff, his eyes twinkling would just wander off. I recall an occasion when Jeff took a bunch of us old farts on a tour of Lords, though on reflection perhaps Lourdes would have been more appropriate. We warmed up at the house at 10am on glasses the size of goldfish bowls filled to the brim with white burgundy and a few frames of snooker before heading off for what was a perfect day. Dear old Jeff.

NA

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre

15 - 2hrs 10mins

Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) is alone once again, widowed four years ago, when her partner Mark was killed on a humanitarian mission in the Sudan. She's now a single mother to 9-year-old Billy and 4-year-old Mabel, and is stuck in a state of emotional limbo, raising her children with help from her loyal friends and even her former lover, Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant).

Pressured by her Urban Family - Shazzer, Jude and Tom, her work colleague Miranda, her mother, and her gynaecologist Dr. Rawlings (Emma Thompson) - to forge a new path toward life and love, Bridget goes back to work and even tries out the dating apps, where she's soon pursued by a dreamy and enthusiastic younger man (Leo Woodall). Now juggling work, home and romance, Bridget grapples with the judgment of the perfect mums at school, worries about Billy as he struggles with the absence of his father, and engages in a series of awkward interactions with her son's rational-to-a-fault science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

Tuesday 17th June 2025 - 7.15pm
Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£7** at the door
Please reserve tickets in advance by email
villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

The Valley Toads in 2025

We had a lovely crowd of new volunteers this year keen to get out there and get started, but the little creatures have had the weirdest year weather wise since we began patrolling. They like to travel in warm and wet conditions, but it was either cold and wet early on or the complete opposite for the rest of March. Our numbers were right down to 159 toads, but we also saved 18 frogs and an astonishing 57 newts. We normally see 5 newts at the most. Our volunteers did 47 hours patrolling on any faintly possible night and were amazing even when there wasn't an arrival all evening. We were not alone; all over the country some patrols reported similar unusual numbers especially noting the newt explosion! Let's hope they have an easier time year next year.

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St Mary Bourne Primary School

We want to say a big thank you to FOTS for organising the Easter Egg Hunt before the Easter break, it was lovely seeing all the children having fun looking for clues around the school.

Currently, we are undertaking the mental health initiative 'My HappyMind'. This term we are looking at the unit 'Celebrate', which is about understanding our character strengths and how our strengths are like superpowers. We will be thinking about times when our strengths can help us especially during times of transition or change.

There has also been a lot of outdoor learning at school. In forest school sessions Hawthorn and Sycamore classes made their own garlic butter, with wild garlic from the school grounds and toasted it on bread, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Throughout the year we enter several Rural School sporting events locally and recently took part in the football tournament at John Hanson, coming a brilliant second place. The team said "The day was full of teamwork—you couldn't win games without it! We were all very excited and happy to represent our school".

Furthermore, St Mary Bourne School has signed up to the Living Streets 'Walk to School Campaign', encouraging children to walk to school, even if part way, to boast mental health and wellbeing, as well as promoting the environmental benefit. The children are enjoying earning badges and having the Mascot 'Strider' in the winning classroom.

Karate Kids: 1 year on! New time: 6pm Wednesday

Our fledgling Bourne Valley club celebrates one year this May! In that time week-to-week we have had up to 12 students, half of whom have now achieved full membership, and are licensed to practice - but only in the Dojo! The students have been through 2 gradings over in Fleet, courageously performing under exam conditions in front of the World Chief Instructor, Jon Wicks. He travels the world teaching, so we are very fortunate to have his time. Su-Ha-Ri is the club's name, based on a Japanese phrase that invokes respect, attention to detail and ultimately the ability to react with speed and full control. I never knew this when I signed up as a 12-year-old many years ago. I just lucked out that my local sports centre had a very dedicated professional in charge, operating under the instruction of Professor Tatsuo Suzuki (1928-2011).

The Wado-International Karate-Do Federation (WIKF) was established by him in the 1990's. As a frustrated, angry young child, I grew both physically and emotionally with the club and trained on into adulthood as my consulting career would allow. Wado-Ryu, the logo shown, is the 'style' and this means 'Way of Peace' – rather apt for our current times. It is a style that shifts the body to avoid direct attack and trains instant responses with potentially devastating consequences. This is a truly 'martial' art – relaxed, conditioned and accurate – and mostly without gloves or pads. This is a semi-contact sport, however in our adult class we train to hit each other and if you do not move quick enough it is your own fault. This is a great outlet, as I am sure that we all sometimes have moments when it takes great courage not to hit someone.

For the philosophers, we use a technique called *Mokuso* to calm the mind to remove fear and hesitation, taken from the practice of *Mushin* in Zen Buddhism. For the ages of our St Mary Bourne students however, who average 5-8 years old, this is perhaps all a bit too philosophical. We instead build a foundation of calm, self-control and speed. For some kids it has taken longer to rein in the excitement of running around the hall. For others it has been about controlling clumsiness, trying that little bit harder to correct their techniques or better respecting the etiquette. All will come in time, and we look forward to another year of success! A big thank you to all the parents for your encouragement, support and trust. The new training time is 6pm-7pm in the Village Hall on Wednesdays. Kids of all ages are welcome along and try or try again – without fear or favour.

Karate Ni Sentenashi, ***Sensei Simon***

Sustainable Bourne Valley

Himalayan balsam is an invasive plant, which tolerates low light levels and often shades out other vegetation, killing off more useful plants. In August, it can be found in large clumps, with individual stems reaching up to 2m in height, with very shallow root systems, alongside riverbanks, woodland areas and waste spaces. It has a fierce spreading habit, and each stem can produce up to 800 seeds. Between June and October, Himalayan balsam produces clusters of purplish pink, helmet-shaped flowers which are then followed by seed pods, containing up to 16 seeds approximately 3mm wide, that open explosively when ripe. These are dispersed widely as the ripe seedpods shoot their seeds up to 7 metres away – and are then often carried downstream where they reach the banks and spread the plant further as the seeds remain viable for two years. It can be easily uprooted before the seeds set to help reduce its invasive nature. So that is why Sustainable Bourne Valley is supporting a Balsam Pull in the Bourne Rivulet at the Bourne Valley Inn on:

Saturday 15th June at 1pm

Waders will be provided. Please bring sturdy gardening gloves. Come along and join the fun.

If you spot this invasive plant, please report sightings to Sustainable Bourne Valley at:

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Remembering…

Jenny Cutbill

28th March 1941 – 9th March 2025.

Jennifer Long was born on 28th March 1941 in Earley, Surrey. She was the first child of John and Doreen Long and she was followed two years later by a sister Gill. Sadly however, their mother died in childbirth. As it was wartime and their father John was abroad serving in the RAF, their grandparents made a home for the girls and their father when he returned after the war.

However, Jenny and Gill had an unsettled childhood when their father's new partner Jo made it clear that she was not prepared to fill a maternal role for the girls; nor would she marry him until they had left home. The sisters both did so at the earliest opportunity. Jenny dropped out of doing her A Level exams to enrol on a nursing training course at St Mary's hospital in Paddington, and Gill moved to Australia as soon as she was able to leave school.

Jenny had a strong moral compass from an early age, and she would always try to resolve any conflict peaceably. When she met and married Alan, her relationship with her father and Jo deteriorated further but Jenny persevered in maintaining links with them and eventually the rift in the family relationship was healed. Despite growing up without a mother herself, Jenny was a great mother to her children, Paul, Richard and Jane. Not having had any support or encouragement to continue her education when she was young, it was very important to her to ensure that her own children continued their schooling into higher education, and also that they always felt loved, safe and secure.

Jenny met & married Alan Cutbill when she was working as a theatre sister at St Mary's Paddington. Their first son Richard was born in 1967 when they were living in London; Richard followed later in 1969 when the family lived in Kent; and Jane was born in 1972 in Brussels where Alan worked at the European Headquarters of an American insurance company and Jenny was employed in the American hospital. After six very happy years in Belgium, the family returned to Croydon in the UK where Alan worked for various companies dealing in re-insurance and Jenny continued her nursing career.

The family lived in Croydon for 30 years and made many good friends; but there were also some hard times especially when Alan and Jenny had a terrible car accident in 1982 when Jenny received a near-fatal head injury and consequently suffered from epilepsy for the rest of her life.

When their family had grown up and left home and as soon as Jenny retired, she and Alan decided to leave Croydon and move to St Mary Bourne in 2006. They both maintained it was the best decision they made in their lives.

Jenny immediately threw herself into village life. She loved the sense of community and the quieter, gentler pace of things and she willingly made a contribution to anything that was going on. She joined the gardening club and the WI. She helped with props and costumes for the Priors Players amateur dramatics. She did the church flowers, delivered the parish magazine, ran the plant stall at the fête, made soup for the monthly lunch, helped with the local Neighbourcare scheme, and much more. There was nothing that she wouldn't have a go at - even bell ringing. And she made very good friends along the way.

Alan died of a progressive lung disease in March 2020 at the onset of Covid. This was a difficult time because of the isolation of "lockdown". But with the company of her beloved labrador Charlie and the support of a "bubble" group of her family, Jenny remained stoical and uncomplaining. Later on, Jenny's regular walks to the village shop with Charlie in tow inevitably led to bumping into multiple people to stop for a chat. A skill that Jenny was particularly good at and one which improved with age - always with interest and humour.

Her local friends were very important to her and in the final months of her life they were supportive and caring, visiting regularly when she was in hospital and latterly popping in to check she was OK, so she was able to remain in the house which she loved until she died.

But in particular, Jenny delighted in her family and their love and regular visits to see her. She adored them all and she is very much mourned and missed.

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LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Council Chairman: Emma Palmer (emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or telephone 07881 923150)
Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas (clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01256 396868)

CLEAN UP DAY

A successful Village Clean-Up Morning was held on 26th April. Thanks go to Jo Barnard, Paul Knipe, Mick Blocksidge, Collards and all the volunteers who helped on the day. The village is looking much tidier as a result of your hard work.

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 25/00996/TREEN Old Forge – T1 - Salix Matsudana Tortuosa (Willow) - Pollard at 2m
- 25/00917/FULLN Orchard House - Erection of a garden shed and a greenhouse in the front garden of the property
- 25/01018/TREEN Nordale - G1 – 2x Goat Willow – Crown lift by up to 3m and remove deadwood from trees at the rear of property
- 25/01015/TPON The Stream House - T1 - Ash - Pollard to old points.
- 25/01016/TREEN The Stream House - T1 - Mulberry - Remove to ground level and remove stump

THANK YOU TO CLLR ROUSE

The Parish Council would like to extend their sincerest thanks to Cllr Natasha Rouse who has recently stepped down from her role as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Rouse is one of our longest standing councillors; she has brought wonderful enthusiasm to the Council and has been relied on as a sensible voice and a good source of guidance. We thank her for all she has done to support the village.

Longparish Parish Council is currently looking for community minded individuals to fill the rewarding role of a Parish Councillor. Ideally, we are seeking Councillors to represent the various areas within the village, for example Forton, Harewood and the Middleton end of the village. To find out more about the Parish Council and the role of a Councillor, or to put your name forward, please contact clerk@longparish.org.uk

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: **Monday 9th June** 2025 at **7.30pm** in the **Village Hall**. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend. Minutes of past meetings can be found at: www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council

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

It was a beautiful morning for the May race. Conditions were ideal in the shady parts of the course but a bit warm in the sun. We welcomed three new runners: Charlie Webb, Max Tulley and Clive Bugeja.
Ivy Oates was first home and beat her handicap by an amazing 8 minutes to become our Rising Star. Adam Priestley in a personal best time was Most Improved Man and Alice Evans was Most improved Woman. Well done!
By a strange quirk of the handicap system Alfie Brunwin in fourth place and Max Tulley in sixth set new course records for Juniors and Senior Men without being most improved. Well done and better luck next time!

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber, Andy Mountain and Ailsa Wiggans for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs, the adults who accompanied juniors and to David Gould for processing the results.
The next race is on **Sunday 8 June**, starting at **9am** at The Plough. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.
Please do give us a call or send an email if you'd like to join us. For more information please see http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php
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I am happy to collect items from anywhere within the Bourne Valley any time before the fete on **September 6th 2025.**

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Longparish CE Primary School

More than just an academic education at Longparish CE Primary School

From 2012, Ofsted did not routinely inspect schools judged as 'outstanding'. This exemption was implemented by the Department for Education to reduce what they perceived as the "burden" of inspection on highly performing schools and allow them greater freedom. They finally realised the error of their ways and the exemption was lifted in 2020. Longparish CE Primary school was rated 'outstanding' in 2014, and it has taken 11 years for them to finally return.

"As an historically 'Outstanding' school we've been waiting since January 2014 for Ofsted to come back and inspect us." says the Headteacher Mark Ward. "We only have 7 children born before their last inspection of the school, and have had numerous head teachers, teachers, and hundreds of children pass through our school in that time! It was a huge relief to finally have the phone call from them!'

The process was rightly thorough and rigorous, but we are very happy that the inspectors saw the strengths of the school.

'Pupils get so much more than an academic education at Longparish Church of England Primary School. Everything is centred on the commitment to provide them with a rich, well-rounded foundation on which to build an understanding of the world and their place in it.'

Ofsted also recognised, not only that 'pupils appreciate how lucky they are to learn and play in such an idyllic setting' but also that they 'learn how they can help to make a difference to challenges such as food poverty and pollution.' 'Great care is taken to widen their horizons beyond the 'Longparish Bubble'. Weaving the big ideas of 'migration and movement' and 'climate and sustainability' into the curriculum fosters pupils' mature understanding of the changing world they live in.'

Reading and the Early Years provision also were highly recognised. '*Equally successful is the unrelenting emphasis on equipping pupils with the essential life skill of reading'*, '*The experience and expertise that underpin the early years curriculum are evident.'*

Well done Longparish Church of England Primary School. You can read the full report on the school website www.longparish.hants.sch.uk

Mark Ward, Headteacher

Longparish Little School

We have embarked on an exciting new gardening project with the reception class at school. A new planting area has been established where the children will grow and care for a variety of fruit and vegetable plants. They will not only learn about how plants grow and what they need to thrive but also discover the importance of growing our own food. This week, we have planted strawberries, raspberries, peas, beans, and pumpkins, ensuring they are well watered in the hot weather we have experienced. Additionally, the children have been busy planting sunflower seeds using recycled cardboard tubes as pots. Each child will take a seed home to nurture, and we will monitor their growth to see who can cultivate the tallest sunflower. In the art area, this theme was expanded as some children painted their own interpretations of what their sunflower might look like. We certainly have some budding Van Goghs among us.

In addition to studying the life cycle of plants, we are also exploring the life cycles of various animals. Currently, we have three "pets" tadpoles are beginning to grow their back legs in preparation to transform into froglets. This week, we welcomed some tiny caterpillars, and the Bluetit chicks have just hatched in our bird camera box.

We are looking forward to seeing what happens next. We were thrilled to embark on a trip to Hillier Gardens, where we discovered even more about various creatures through pond dipping. We found some newts, dragonfly larva, pond skaters, water woodlouse, pond leach, mayfly larvae and pond snails.

If you would like to arrange a visit, please call us on 01264 720455 or visit our website to learn more: https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/

Come along to this year's rebranded LCA new villagers welcome and AGM met up. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to Longparish or not. With more clubs, activity hosts, drinks and nibbles than ever, meet the LCA team and mingle with neighbours, just let us know by email or PM the team if you plan to come along.

We held a special VE Day event at The Cricketers Inn on Saturday 10th May. The weather was beautiful, our wonderful choir sang, we ate, drank and enjoyed each other's company. All while remembering those who made this possible. We raised £413.84 for The Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all those who supported it in any way and for everyone who came along.
Lest we forget.

Laura Harding

Longparish Cricket Club

It's been a fabulous sunny start to this year's outdoor cricket season and the Longparish cricketers of all ages have been making the most of the glorious weather. The ground is packed out on Monday evenings with junior members learning new skills and practising hard.
Competitive matches have also started for U9s up to adults and currently all 3 adult teams are undefeated in their League fixtures. We also have 2 players who have scored 100s already, congratulations go to Jack Ashmore and Ben Gardner.
The Club held another very successful Quiz Night at the Longparish Village Hall in early May which was very well supported. We would like to particularly thank everyone who sponsored quiz rounds. We also extend our thanks to all who came along on the night to join in the quiz and support the Club. We're delighted to have raised over £1200 from the event to put towards future development of the ground e.g a new artificial wicket.
Our next notable event will be the annual Village Day on 22 June 2025 featuring the Woodcock Cup cricket match at 1.30pm, Village v Club, along with U9s and U11s junior matches scheduled for the morning starting at 9am. From lunchtime onwards there will be a BBQ, Pimm's tents, beer tent, cream teas and refreshments. Everyone is very welcome to come along and enjoy the day's events. Please contact James Hillier on 07831 329772 if you would like to play in the match.
A little later in the summer we will be holding our Junior Presentation and Fun Day on 20 July 2025. This will involve junior cricket matches, a BBQ, refreshments and other children's games. Look out for posters locally for both events!

Finally, the next time you visit the ground, please take a moment to admire our newly updated scoreboard. It is operated using a tablet or phone and is also linked to the Play Cricket website.

Alison Allen

LONGPARISH WILDLIFE
WHIMBREL

I have a new bird for the village — a Whimbrel. It's a good find, spotted at the trout farm on my evening walk. Whimbrels are slightly smaller than a Curlew, with shorter legs and a shorter, downward-curving bill. They are medium to large waders with a speckled light brown back and whitish underparts marked with brown specks.

During the breeding season, 95% of the population is found on Shetland and Orkney. Egg-laying takes place from mid-May to early June, with only one brood. The nest is on the ground, often on bare or short vegetation, just a small scrape lined with plant material. They lay 3–4 slightly glossy, olive-green eggs, well-marked with dark brown blotches and spots. The eggs are incubated for 27–28 days, and the young leave the nest soon after hatching.

Their diet consists of invertebrates and plant material, depending on the season. They also take insects from the upper layer of soil, which they probe for using their bill.

Migration was slow and late this year. I saw my first Swallow on the 9th of April, 5 days later than usual. The first House Martin appeared on the 20th, 8 days late, and the first Swift on the 8th of May, 12 days late. Funny how things change from year to year.

Chris Bowman

Good Festival – 15th June 2025

Good Festival is a day of family fun and music at Dummer Down Farm near Basingstoke on **Sunday, 15th June.**

The festival is a celebration of the great outdoors, offering a multitude of activities for all ages. Enjoy bushcraft sessions, walk alpacas, test your agility with bubble football, join an interactive show about the Amazon rainforest, get a taste of the wild with a crocodile encounter, try the scavenger hunt or learn circus skills. Those wanting to expel energy can tackle the assault course, try axe throwing or test the slippery slide. And for the creatively inclined there is basket weaving, glitter art and flower crown making. Plus, party legends Sharky & George will keep the fun going for younger visitors all day long! Parents can unwind with shopping and food stalls whilst listening to live music. Dogs are welcome too with the family dog show.

Good Festival is about encouraging kids to embrace outdoor adventures and relive the simple joys of childhood, whilst supporting a local good cause - the Hampshire Medical Fund - a charity that buys cutting-edge medical equipment for the NHS hospitals in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover.

www.goodfestival.co.uk

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St Nicholas Church 100 Club

Results of the April 2025 Draw

The membership currently stands at 61, and the prizes below are therefore based on that number. We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members, and we would be extremely grateful if you would consider becoming a member of the club and supporting your parish church in this way.

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%.

April Results

First prize: No. 16 £76.00
Second prize: No. 12 £46.00
Third Prize: No. 62 £15.00

You can join at any time during the year, 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, please let me know, and I will let you have the relevant forms. Or, if you have any other queries about church finances or how the church is administered, for example, please contact me:
John Young, Churchwarden & PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club
Tel: 01264 720233
Mob: 07860 630489 or
Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

N.B. 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 strongly believe we have an obligation to look after it for future generations.

🐾 A Little "Doody" Reminder! 🐾

If your dog drops it, please *stop*... and *scoop it*!
No one wants to step in a surprise that squishes.
Be a good human — bag it, bin it, or take it with you.

Keep our paths poop-free and everyone's shoes happy!

Barton Stacey WI

The WI play an active role nationally in seeking to support environmental issues, including a reduction in waste and improving recycling.

At our April meeting we learnt about a wonderful creative activity that involves making beautiful journals and planners from items that would usually end up in the bin/recycling, including cereal packets, greetings cards, envelopes and magazines. Jackie demonstrated how these could be used constructively to create lasting journals and places to record memories such as holidays and special events. She displayed some of her previous creations and it was hard to believe these had been made from 'junk'. We all had fun making a simple notelet holder, that could be used as a standalone item or incorporated into a journal.

On 8th May, the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the WI were delighted to be able to support the community events taking place by offering a special coffee morning. An abundance of cakes were made by our members, including the official VE Day cake, a lovely orange and ginger sponge. The coffee morning followed the raising of the flag and Proclamation at 9am, and it was really good to see so many members of our community come together to commemorate this special day.

The WI year runs from 1st April to 31st March, and our programme for the coming months has now been finalised. If you would like to find out more about choosing the right colours for your wardrobe, how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator, learn more about the popular craft of quilting, celebrate Oktoberfest, or dress up for an evening at the races (without leaving the hall), then why not consider becoming a member? Annual membership is just £51, enabling you to join all the fun we have. We also hold regular craft evenings for members, separate to our monthly meetings, and plan exciting outings, including our upcoming visit to the American Museum in Bath.

Our May meeting is our Annual Meeting, where all the necessary official reporting is undertaken, and the new committee for the upcoming year are voted in.

We are a small group of ladies who meet on the last Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, from 7.30pm. We offer a warm welcome and encourage guests to our meetings to see what becoming a member of the WI can offer. For more information, please contact Sue Atrill (email: bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk) or Donna Oliver (bartonstaceysec@hampshirewi.org.uk).

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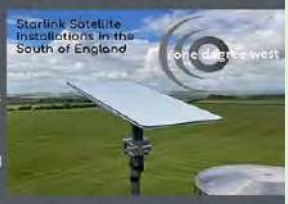

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Volunteers Needed for the Longparish Village Fete!

We're excited to announce that the Longparish Village Fete will take place on **Saturday, 6th September 2025!** This cherished annual event brings our community together for a day of fun, food, and festivities. However, we urgently need volunteers to help make this year's fete a success!

Without the support and enthusiasm of our local residents, this wonderful event may not continue in the future. Whether you can spare a few hours or the whole day, your help would be invaluable— from setting up stalls and managing activities to serving refreshments and tidying up at the end of the day.

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Harriet Major (harrietlily@hotmail.co.uk). Let's work together to keep the Longparish Village Fete alive and thriving for years to come! Thank you for your support.

Longparish Little Library

The Little Library has lived in the village phone box since 2020, serving as a space to **share books** – take one, leave one.

Lately, it's become cluttered and is no longer being used as intended. **Please do not leave books on the ground** – the area must remain clear to ensure **access to the defibrillator** in case of emergency.

✅ Only donate if there's shelf space
✅ Books must be in **good condition** and **appropriate for all ages**
🚫 No books on the ground
🙏 Let's keep it tidy and safe for all

Thank you for helping us keep this a valuable community space!

Thank you to Peter Hull and others for making the effort in May to tidy the library. It would be great to see us as a community work together to maintain this space as it is a village asset. If we can't maintain it, we can't keep it.

Angie Curtis

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Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

The position of editor for the four Hurstbourne Priors parish pages is still vacant. If you would be able to take this on, or like to know more about what it entails, please contact Michael Widén on ☎ **07880 808111** or write to **hillandvalley@btinternet.com** .

If no one will come forward to volunteer for this position by 18th June (copy date for the July/August edition), we will be unable to publish the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages for July/August.

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

2 7pm - The Boundary Annual Members' meeting - Village Centre
7 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
12 7.30pm - Stoke Village Fund AGM - Village Centre
10 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
10 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
13 10am to 12noon - Macmillan Coffee Morning - Wendover House
13-15 **Bourne Fest**
18 12.30pm - *'The Lunch'* - Village Centre Main Hall
17 7.15pm - 'The Film' - BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY
28-29 **St Peter's Flower Festival** - St Peter's Church

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

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is now available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1 mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* in 2024. It can be bought from ***Acre Stores***, *Longparish* and ***The Boundary Community Shop*** in St Mary Bourne.
At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local gift…*and all the sales proceeds go to Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.*

LONGPARISH

5 7.30pm - Bingo Night - The Cricketers
8 9am - L2SOTM Race - The Plough
9 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
13 10 to 11.45am - LCA's Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
17 7.30pm - ***Meet & Greet your Neighbours*** for New Residents - Village Hall
22 1.30pm - **Annual Village Day** - Woodcock Cup - Cricket Field
24 tba - Longparish Garden Club - Polhampton, Overton

Front cover photograph: Michael Widén

Hurstbourne Priors *Village Hall*: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: **hbpvhbookings@gmail.com**
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: **villagecentre@stmarybourne.org**

Copy date for the July/August 2025 edition of Hill & Valley is Wednesday 18th June 2025.
Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date. Please provide editorial copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) with any accompanying images in JPEG format.

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