

THE LINK

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE
SEVEN PARISHES IN THE SOUTH
WARWICKSHIRE 7 BENEFICE

JANUARY 2024

£1.20

Happy New Year



■ BARCHESTON with WILLINGTON ■ BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH
■ BURMINGTON ■ CHERINGTON with STOURTON ■ LONG COMPTON
■ WHICHFORD and ASCOTT ■ THE WOLFORDS

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor:

editorswlink@gmail.com

January Events Update (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

Weds 3	WI Meeting	Little Wolford VH	19.30
Sat 6	Village breakfast	Burmington VH	09.00
Tues 9	Cameo Club lunch	Burmington VH	12.00
Fri 12	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sat 13	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat 13	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11.00
Weds 17	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	14.00
Fri 19	<i>Movie: Rocky Horror</i>	Long Compton VH	19.30
Sat 20	SW7: Men's breakfast	Little Wolford VH	07.45
Sat 20	<i>Movie: The Great Escaper</i>	Brailes Picture House	19.15
Tue 23	Coffee morning	Great Wolford Ch	11.00
Fri 26	Carers 4 Carers	Kineton VH	10.30
Fri 26	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Fri 26	Burns night event	Little Wolford VH	19.00
Thurs 30	Wolfords Parish council	Little Wolford VH	19.30



Cover photograph: Mushroom in Weston Park by Tony Wells

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation and good quality photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to editor@swlink.org.uk

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Please note the copy deadline for February 2024:

January 11

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Link Talk

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the festivities across our villages and are probably, like me quite relieved to put the house back together and get back to normal.

I am delighted to introduce our new Nature Notes editor David Sewell who gets to work this month with his first article, taking over from Tony Partridge who we sadly lost last year. Thank you, David, for stepping forward to take on this role and we look forward to reading your pieces.

The Link always welcomes contributions from within our community, so if one of your new year resolutions is to get more creative then feel free to submit your articles, photographs and artwork, we would love to include them. It would also be nice to show case more of the local businesses and organizations who contribute so much to our community; so, if you have an idea please do get in touch, it all makes for a more interesting, useful and informative magazine.

Sara Billins

LINK Subscription Reminder

Your £12.00 LINK Subscription is now due.

Thank you if you have already paid by BACS, cheque or cash for your 2024 subscription. If you have not yet done so, please try to make this payment by the end of February.

If you wish to pay by BACS, please email subs.swlink@outlook.com with your name and address and you will be sent a reference number along with the payment details you need for BACS.

If you still wish to pay by cash to your distributor, please make sure that he or she is happy to accept this payment from you.

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CAMEO Christmas Lunch 2023

Santa was brave enough to make an early visit to CAMEO's Christmas lunch on December 12 to offer gifts to thirty members packed into Burmington village hall to celebrate with a traditional festive meal with all the trimmings, with wine, carols and memorable theatrical performances from even braver members.

Santa eventually escaped after wishing members a Happy New Year and a reminder that the **next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 9** at 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm in Burmington village hall with bookings made with Brenda on Tel: 664313.

Dennis Cummings



The LINK has been kindly supported during 2024 by The National Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

Pet of the Month

We start the year with lovely Lily who lives with her owner Sally Franklin in Long Compton. Nice hat Lily, what a cutie!



Lily is a Cavachon (bichon frise/cavalier. She came into my life in June 2013 at 10 weeks old. So sweet and soo naughty! She is the friendliest dog, loves a fuss from anyone and loves children and men in particular! She will do anything for a chew and takes up most of the bed - a great feat for such a small dog! My best girl.

Sally Franklin

Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to editor@swlink.org.uk



Happy Birthday!

January 2024



Faith Hands	Burmington	16
Rebecca Parmenter	Stourton	10
Poppy Kinch	Whichford	16
Bethany Parmenter	Stourton	12
Liliana Stock	Little Wolford	1
Orlando Matthews	Whichford	6

Carers4Carers

Monthly meeting. On Friday 26 January 26 10:30am - 12 noon at Kinton Village Hall. Come along for refreshments and the chance to meet with other local carers.



This month's speaker will be from Shipston Home Nursing. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meetings. For more information about our support group for carers, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

For everything homemade, home grown, home cooked and home crafted.
Every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh

The Market will reopen

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2024

We will be back to a full market offering Bakes & Savouries,
Veg & Eggs, Preserves, Crafts, Cards and Gifts.

We are also looking for new producers and helpers. Why not make some
money from your cooking and crafting! Contact Angela on:-

07933 141410 / mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

A big thank you to all our customers for your continued support.

SW7 Men's Breakfast

Rico Tice

Battling the Enemy Within

Little Wolford Village Hall

**Saturday 20th January 2024 at
7.45am**

**Includes
Full English Breakfast**

**Book Now
£10.00**



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tamjackson52@hotmail.com
Tele: 07799057475

epfield98@gmail.co
Tele: 07976700763

Rico Tice, Evangelist, Author, Co-founder of Christianity Explored Ministries

NEW YEAR PILATES with Body Control instructor

Complete beginners and
intermediate level welcome.
Starting **Tuesday 2nd January**
at 9.00 am and thereafter
every Tuesday morning.

Please bring your own mat.

In The Wolfords Village Hall,
Little Wolford
Max 10 people. Cost £12 per
session
Contact Stephen by Text on
07734083257.

INFO LINK

editor@swlink.gmail.com

The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 -11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.

Shipston 'tip' is open - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>.

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

Holy Trinity, London Road. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 11.00 am Tel: 01608 642703

Stow-on-the-Wold

Our Lady and St. Kenelm, 5 Back Walls. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 9.15 am Tel: 01608 674354

Shipston and Brailes

Shipston, Our Lady and St. Michael, Darlingscote Road. Sunday 9.15 am.

Brailes, SS Peter and Paul, Friars Lane. Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm (for Shipston and Brailes Tel: 01608 685259)

Chipping Campden

St Catharine's Lower High St. Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 10.30 am Tel: 01386 84026

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

Broad Campden, Quaker Meeting House, GL556US - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Ettington, Quaker Meeting Hse, Old Halford Rd, CV377TH -Sundays at 11.00 am.

Sibford, Quaker Meeting House, Sibford Gower, OX155RX - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Shipston on Stour, in St Edmund's Church - last Thursdays (not Dec) at 2.30 pm

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton every third Sunday at 3.30 pm.

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i>Barcheston St Martin</i>	<i>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</i>
Churchwardens	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
Secretary	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Vacancy
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Councils

Parish	Chair	Clerk
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Peter O'Kane (684888)	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – SW 7 – Seven Parishes ~ One Church

January 2024 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
7 th January First Sunday after Epiphany	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4pm GAP Service (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD) Village Hall
14 th January Second Sunday after Epiphany			9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
21 st January Third Sunday after Epiphany		9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	4pm GAP Service (BD)	
28 th January Fourth Sunday after Epiphany					10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)

South Warwickshire Benefice

Reverend Ben Dyson Tel: 01608 628229 email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke Tel: 07425868855 email: officesw7@gmail.com

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk

facebook.com/sw7churches

BD = Ben Dyson, LW = Liz Maycock/LW = Clea Wells /HP = Heather Peckury/AD = Andrew Dow RS = Richard Smith /RS=Richard Stevens/ADB = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

I've just waited in the shed for yet another downpour to pass. The weatherman has just said we have had the wettest October since records began 120 years ago. Looking round the crops today I think he may well be right. I waited for the storm to pass to go round the crops on the quad bike with Molly the terrier on my lap for company.



Last time, I wrote of completing the drilling and mentioned some of the headland in the shade of the brook were pretty wet. I can now confirm that most of the headlands have failed. They stayed waterlogged for too long. If wheat has just chit, that is just started to germinate, and is waterlogged for 36 hours or so, it rots and that is the end of it. I am

pleased to say it's not a large area and the main body of the fields here came up and are just about hanging on – 75mm of rain in Storm Babet didn't help at all, and ever since storm after storm has never let the ground dry out. On the lighter land, the rape looks ok, and the beans pulled into ploughed ground are also holding their own.

Last week, we looked through some of the governments new environmental scheme options. Now we can plant 1 year clover crops as well as the 2-year clover options. We have booked up, if approved, another eight hectares of the 1-year scheme and we'll also keep the 2-year scheme. As we have planted no winter barley this year, we will have quite a bit of spring barley to plant. We think it may work out to sow some of the clover seed in the barley. This is called under sowing and is a method used many years ago to establish a grass or clover crop. The barley will nurse the young clover plants and when the barley is cut the little clover plants will be exposed to the sun and grow in the stubble to survive the coming winter to flower the following summer.

Last week when we had a trip to Pershore to purchase a small, tracked digger as we have many blocked drains to dig out and repair as a result of this very wet weather. The days of digging them out by hand with a spade are long gone as far as I am concerned. Hopefully with the drains fixed, Dan can plough the ground up to weather over winter to drill in the hopefully nice spring.

Recently, Dan and Claire had a trip to Venice, Dan remarked going across France by train that they have had a lot of wet weather too. Lots of fields with big bare places and water lying everywhere. I remember in the past writing of the old saying, *'there will always be a seed time and a harvest, and sometimes a poor one'*. I fear that next year may not be good and wet crops overwinter tend to be shallow rooted, and I guess after all the rain a drought may be on the cards.

I normally write something positive and one thing we are looking forward to is Claire and Dan are expecting a happy event sometime between Christmas and New Year!

As not much will be happening on the farming front in my next article, I might write of some of the old lads now long gone that I worked with when I first came to Long Compton in the late 1960s.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

The weather in December has not been kind for gardeners, with a great deal of rain and wind and some heavy frost. This was just when I needed to get out in the garden to catch up on jobs I was unable to do having broken my ankle in September. My New Year's resolution is to go out gardening whenever there is suitable weather even if it is only for an hour or so.



When the cutting back of unsightly dead foliage of herbaceous plants has been completed, snowdrops can be shown off in their full glory, as can hellebore flowers when their old leaves are removed. Other beauties of the winter garden are the cyclamen and the coloured winter stems of dogwoods and willow. Conifers and variegated evergreens such as euonymus also come into prominence to add interest to the garden. If you got garden vouchers for Christmas it is worth considering getting a hamamelis. They are rather expensive but produce beautiful spidery flowers in a variety of

colours. There are tangerine, lemon and reddish varieties to choose from and they have a lovely scent.

January is the month when garden books advise you to take a good look at your garden, including any photographs you have taken during the year, to help you to decide what changes you want to make, what needs to be divided, what would be better in another position etc. It is also a time for looking at your seed collection and deciding what seeds to order for the new season. Seed potatoes start appearing in garden nurseries and advice is also given to buy them now before the favourite varieties sell out; however, I find this rather early.

Before you start sowing seeds in the greenhouse, make sure that it has been cleaned. This includes the seed trays and plant pots and supports e.g. canes as these can harbour disease. Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days, as this too can cut down on diseases. If you have not already sown sweet peas in the



greenhouse this can be done now. Broad beans can also be sown under glass ready to plant out in March or April.

If the weather permits, continue to weed beds and mulch but do not apply compost if the ground is frozen as this will trap frost. Similarly, if you are shaping shrubs or trees by winter pruning do not do so in very cold weather. When winter pruning gooseberry bushes, cut the leading stems by half and side shoots to two buds to encourage fruiting spurs on old wood. Check that the framework

is open to make fruit picking easier.

Other jobs that can be included this month are rhubarb forcing, to get an earlier crop, cutting hazel to make pea sticks and the continued raking up of leaves on the lawn. The latter job certainly helps you to keep warm on chilly days.

Margaret Welsh

A Happy New Year to all LINK readers !

Big shoes to fill. That was my first thought when I offered to pen a few lines of nature notes after the sad passing of Tony Partridge. Tony's gentle style and the way he described the natural world around him always reminded me of the great Victorian naturalists. With meticulous descriptions and articulate prose, Tony encouraged his readers to take a fresh look at our countryside and to see that the wonders of the natural world are all around us, should we care to look.

To be honest, I didn't want to see a Link without its nature notes, so here we are.

I have a lifelong passion for wildlife and I've been living in Stourton for 17 years now. Over that time, I've walked the footpaths and lanes of this area countless hundreds of times, sometimes with binoculars and camera and a desire to see if 'anything's about'. And other times I'm just keen to rack up my 10,000 steps and keep a slightly annoying arthritic hip from playing up. But I'm always conscious of the season's rhythms and the coming and going of our local wildlife. My hope is to share some of that with you.

Having said that, and with a deep sense of irony, I'm writing this with a big orthopaedic boot strapped to my leg and instructions to take it steady for a few weeks. A broken ankle being the offending injury, sustained stepping the wrong way from the garden shed while sorting out timber for nestboxes. So, for now, I'm not going anywhere, let alone up the valley sides where my inspiration for this first piece was going to stem from. You couldn't make it up!



So instead of a nature walk I'm going to paint a picture of what birds we have on our doorstep this month and hopefully give you some inspiration to look for them.

Birds are the most obvious of our neighbours and those with feeding stations will be filling

a vital role in keeping our garden visitors alive through the winter. A spell of cold weather can bring some interesting birds down from the fields and woodlands into our gardens. Aside from goldfinches, the nyjer seed may well attract redpolls and siskins with the male siskin being particularly beautiful (see photo).

Also look out for blackcaps. Small numbers of this migratory warbler now overwinter in the UK and I usually see one or two at the bird table. If you have space remember to throw some seed onto the ground. In a really cold snap this may attract yellowhammers, reed buntings and if you're lucky, bramblings. Keep an eye out for those winter thrushes – fieldfares and redwings. By now they will have stripped most of the hawthorn berries so expect to see them feeding on fallen fruit. As with any feeding birds in the garden, if they are approachable, it's probably because they are starving, so try not to get too close.

Out in the fields and woodland areas look for bullfinches. Relatively common but very shy, they give themselves away with their single note 'piping' call. Also, in the hedgerows you can find overwintering chiff-chaffs. In the spring these warblers are easy to separate from the very similar willow warbler by the song



from which their name derives. In winter they still vocalise a great deal but with a single plaintive 'sweet'. In winter they often accompany long-tailed tits as they move around in their familiar noisy feeding parties. Other birds that get caught up with them can be great, blue and coal tits, treecreepers and even the odd nuthatch (left). A trick to get them hanging around long enough to sort them out is to make a 'pishing' noise which often piques their

interest.

Finally, a fast-moving flock of pigeon-sized birds overhead could well be golden plover. Beautiful birds that roam around in groups ranging from a few individuals to flocks of many hundreds.

These are some of the many birds we have around us in the winter. I see them every year, and so can you if you keep your eyes peeled!

David Sewell

Computing

In computing, Class 1 at Acorns have started to explore programming and algorithms through the app Scratch Jnr. Children are learning lots, especially the art of debugging by trying, testing and reprogramming. Pupils have been enjoying creating knock knock joke storyboards using two characters on the app.



Marvellous Machines

In Little Acorns the children have been enthralled by the topic 'Marvellous Machines' and have enjoyed finding out about everyday technology, communication devices and emergency vehicles. The children have experienced many hands-on activities, including using a toaster to make a snack, taking photographs, using walkie talkies and torches, and making their own string telephones. They have also enjoyed exploring some of our new resources including wind-up toys, a cogs and wheels construction set and remote-control

cars, finding out how things work. There have been many opportunities for some wonderful creative work, with the children producing some Jackson Pollock inspired firework paintings, emergency vehicle observational drawings and paintings, and 2d shape printed vehicle pictures.

Romans on the March

Children in Class 2 at Acorns have enjoyed reading and writing their own Roman myths. They had wonderfully imaginative ideas and made excellent links with elements of ancient Rome and Roman Britain that they have learnt about throughout sequences of history lessons. The children have continued to learn more about the Romans and Roman Britain by completing a local history study - finding out about the Lunt Roman fort in Coventry. Through their research, they discovered that the Lunt site has been dated to around the time of Boudicca's rebellion.

Plants and Animals



In science, Rabbits Class at Brailes School have moved from plants to animals, learning about all their different body parts, grouping them in a variety of ways and looking at their habitats. The class briefly adopted some new class pets (woodlice!) and conducted an investigation to see whether they preferred their habitats to be dry or damp, and light or dark. Children found several other minibeasts while woodlice-hunting, including a spectacularly long centipede, a tightly curled millipede and lots of enormous earthworms.

Poppies

Children in Badgers class at Brailes have been finding out how a small red flower came to be a powerful symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

Firstly, children learned that these resilient little flowers had been the only thing to grow and flourish in the bleak and barren landscape of the Western Front. As a result, soldiers in the First World War often picked the flowers and pressed them into the letters that they sent home to loved ones. The class saw examples of such letters in the Imperial War Museum's online collection.

Next, pupils found out that in the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was moved by the sight of these poppies and penned the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. His powerful words then inspired other people to wear a poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the First World War.

Using artwork created by official First World War artists as a stimulus, Badgers Class created their own poems inspired by the Flanders poppies that grew amidst the desolation of the Western front. The class also learned that the Royal British Legion has been selling poppies since 1921 to raise funds to support veterans and their families. This year, a new plastic-free poppy was launched - the first time in 28 years that a new poppy has been developed. Our House Captains then did a fantastic job of selling these poppies to members of our school community on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



In Art, children explored the work of American pioneer Georgia O'Keeffe whose famous paintings of red poppies were painted in the 1920s. By experimenting with watercolours, especially through the careful blending and mixing of colours, children then created their own poppy artwork to accompany their poems.

The children's creative work in response to this theme is both powerful and striking.

Wilmcote joining the Stour Federation

The Stour Federation has been asked to be the academy sponsor for Wilmcote C of E Primary, a small school in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Although the official academy conversion will not be complete until the summer term the DfE would like The Stour Federation and Wilmcote C of E Primary School to start working together immediately. This will not affect the running or performance of the existing schools in the Trust.

We warmly welcome Wilmcote C of E Primary School into the Academy Trust.

Open Mornings

We have held very well attended Open Mornings for our schools. If parents were unable to attend but would still like to visit the school for a September 2024 Reception place or an in-year move, please contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you. The deadline for applications for Reception in September 2024 is January 15.

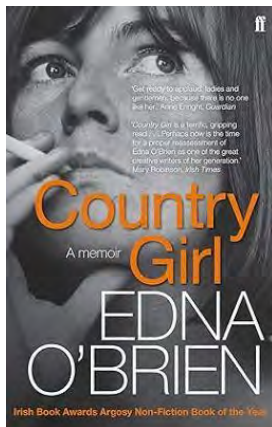
VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



We enjoyed meeting to talk about Edna O'Brien's autobiographical reflections 'Country Girl'. Her first and most famous novel 'Country Girls' a hit from the beginning, written during her period of trying to be the perfect wife to Ernest Gebler. It was interesting to read about this period of her life, before she became a 'darling' of the literary and society scene.

Although the writing was brilliant, there were sections which were not so compelling; it was felt that her publishers had tried to squeeze one more book from her at an age when she might have preferred to retire.

The next time we will meet on January 7 at 5.30pm at Barton House talk about Elif Shafak's novel, *The Island of Missing Trees*.

Until then, happy reading!

Gillian Cathie

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Burmington Poppy Appeal



Thank you to everyone for a truly excellent 2023 Poppy Appeal fundraiser. The Burmington village tin raised £255.27 and contained collections from both the village and the church.

It was one of just 6 out of 46 tins in the Shipston area to break the £200 mark.

The Shipston Royal British Legion branch thanks us all for our fantastic effort!

Becky

Hairy Bikers visit Burmington Farm

There was great excitement, back in October, when the BBC's Hairy Bikers, Si King and Dave Myers, visited Burmington Farm.



They were filming for a one- off Christmas special to thank the nursing staff who have helped Dave Myers through his cancer treatment. The episode will include a banquet for the staff and our walnuts were included in their menu.

The episode is to be aired on December 19 (watch again on BBC iPlayer). It was a great day, but we think our skills lie in farming and definitely not acting!!

David and Rachel Tame

Postcard from Cairo

Hello to everyone in Burmington! I hope everyone continues in good health and congratulations to the Tames on their TV appearance with the Hairy Bikers!!



Life in Cairo continues. Winter has arrived so long trousers needed as it's only 25 now.

We are in the midst of an election to see if President Sisi will stay in power. I'm sure he will as nobody else appears to have stood against him.

Next postcard, I will include some of our travels over Christmas and New Year.

Guy and family

WHY NOT START THE NEW YEAR AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON,
....WITH BREAKFAST AT THE VILLAGE HALL?!



SATURDAY JANUARY 6

9.00am – 11.00am

To book call / text Robyn 07966 849 149
Special dietary requirements catered for.
Please state when booking.

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



Cherington, Stourton and Sutton under Brailes Hall Lottery

The Lottery has two functions, to raise funds for the Hall and to reward members with prize money. The Hall needs funds for maintenance, repair and replacements in order to remain in excellent condition and the Lottery income is very valuable in achieving these objectives; however, more than half the income is distributed as prizes!

Each month a draw is held and three prize winners chosen. In every month, apart from December, the first prize is £80.00, second prize is £45.00 and third prize is £30.00; in December the prizes are doubled.

To stand a chance of winning you need to be a member of the lottery which will cost you £5.00 per month. Your membership fee will be paid by standing order from your bank account.

You need to be in it to win it!

Village Lottery December Draw

1st Rory McLeod £160, 2nd M. Granville £90, 3rd Jean Bryant £60.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support. If you would like to join the Lottery and have a chance of winning a prize, please contact me and I will send you the joining instructions.

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675

Coffee Shop

Saturday January 13 10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes

Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall, meet new friends or catch up with old ones. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall in aid of the village playing field funds. All drinks will be free of charge this month as part of the Warm Hub



Christine Dudfield and Tricia Wilson

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons



Thank you to everyone that joined us for our Christmas themed tea party on Friday December 8, we had a lovely festive time.

Dates for your January diary are Fridays 12 and 26 2.00pm to 4.00pm at The Hall, leaflets will be distributed in due course.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Happy new Year

Vanessa Compton

Christmas Donations in support of St John the Baptist Church

Thank you to all who have already donated. A gentle reminder to those who have yet to do so, please let us have your donations as soon as possible, so that the grand total can be included in the February Link.

For online Link subscribers who donate to the Christmas Greetings List and have not received a paper copy of the list, please send your email address to brookes@tonyb51.plus.com and we will send you one.

Pam Brookes

Brailes Picture House

Sat Jan 20 - The Great Escaper Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start.

Based on a true story that made national news about a pensioner, Bernard Jordan who in 2014, absconded from his care home in Hove, Sussex UK to attend an event in France marking the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Armed with a carrier bag and a few quid, he escapes, takes a ferry and heads off on a trip that is going to induce some horrific memories of event in 1945. Along with his newfound traveling companion 'Arthur' they must face their demons past and present.

Stars: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson,

Deidre and team



Off Portland Bill Watercolour by Colin Beckett

Obituary: Bob Compton

Bob was born at Greenhill View, Stourton on the October 19, 1939. He was born into a large family having 3 sisters and 6 brothers. He was educated at Cherington School until he was 15 when he started work for Arthur Taylor on the farm at Sutton. He then moved onto High Ten Industries and Tilemans in Shipston, then following 8 years in the building trade he retired at 65.

From an early age Bob was a great supporter of the Warwickshire Hunt and most Thursdays, when he was a boy, they were in the local area. He used to hide his push bike in the hedge by the school and at the 10:30 am break would escape to find the hounds. Then every Friday morning the headmaster would be waiting for him with the cane, but that never deterred him. As well as hunting Bob loved his football and played for Brailes along with two of his brothers Cyril and Reg and his cousin John "Bunny" Baldwin.

Bob was a true countryman and loyal friend, who could be seen striding through the villages most days and he always had time to stop for a chat to whoever he



met, he loved to recount tales of times gone by. He was always willing to help fellow villagers with their dog walking and local farmers with livestock moving, Bob loved being outdoors. Over the years he had many beloved terriers, he also kept ferrets and enjoyed ferreting near and far with his friends.

Bob was fit and healthy all his life until the summer when he started to feel unwell and losing his two remaining sisters, Joan and Madge within days of each other was devastating for him, he struggled to comprehend that he was the only sibling left from such a large family.

He spent two weeks in Warwick Hospital in early October and it's

safe to say Bob hated being in there, having never stayed in hospital before.

Finally, we were able to bring him home via the country roads he knew so well on October 16.

We were so lucky to have the support of the Community Emergency Response Team and Shipston Home Nursing who made it possible for Bob to have his final four weeks at home. For this we are eternally grateful to them and especially to Janet from Shipston Home Nursing who was with us when he passed peacefully away at home, where he wanted to be.

Bob's final journey took him through the three villages he knew so well, Sutton under Brailes, Stourton and Cherington and he has a lovely resting place in Cherington churchyard.

Thank you for all those that attended Bob's funeral, which Ben led so wonderfully and for all those who have sent cards, messages, flowers, cakes and biscuits to us, we've been overwhelmed by the kindness you've all shown us.

(Photo taken at Tachbrook House, Stourton during the 2012 Jubilee celebrations)

Eileen, Vanessa and Lindsey



Feldons Wildlife Group invites you
to take part in the RSPB's

Big Garden Birdwatch

26-28 January, 2024

Visit the RSPB website to sign-up:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

- Count your garden birds for 1 hour
- Log your results with RSPB, then
- Send a copy (e.g. photo/email) to nickpholmes7@gmail.com

We will collate all the local results into a 2024 Feldons* bird survey!

* Cherington, Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailes



Cherington, Stourton and Sutton under Brailes Village Hall



The Hall – a message from the chairman Jim Walton

We are pleased to present a much updated and improved website. This offers more information and easier navigation. Please check it out at www.thehallevents.co.uk. Thanks to Di Marriott for her painstaking work on this following on from her creation of a village website for Cherington and Stourton; a reminder you can register here for regular updates on village events and activities: www.cheringtonandstourtonvillage.com.

It has been a busy time here recently with the successful Christmas Crafts Market, and the last farmers market of the year which was crammed with stall holders and Christmas shoppers.

The second consultation was held regarding the aspirational plan for the Hall land and playing field with a final plan due to be put in front of trustees shortly for sign off. The next stage will be to look for funding and volunteers to carry out some of the works planned as priority under the Plan. If you are able to provide either, please contact me.

Lastly, the AGM for the Hall was held recently, the Hall funds are in good shape, but vulnerable to increasing costs which mean we need to continue to look to new avenues for the hire of the Hall. As one of the best Halls in the country we

are happy to take enquires for all sorts of functions. Another reason perhaps to check out our new website.

We run community events here, as we did in the past at the old Hall (yes, the Cherington Players are sorely missed). If there is something that you fancy having a go at organising both as a fund raiser and to draw the community together, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Jim Walton jim@ghwalton.co.uk 07860 727467

Happy New Year from The Hall!

It's your community asset and venue, so with a New Year we thought a reminder of what goes on at The Hall would be timely! If you haven't popped along for coffee and cake in a while, or if New Year means healthy resolutions, why not make a date to come to The Hall and make the most of all that's going on right on the doorstep!?

Fitness:

We have regular weekly classes that are open to all, including Yoga, Pilates, MELT Method, Ladies Kickboxing, Zumba

Social:

Monthly Farmer's Market, monthly Community Coffee Mornings, monthly Pop-up Pub, fortnightly Stour Health & Wellness Partnership's Social Fridays

Groups:

Monthly Garden Group, monthly Wildlife Group, fortnightly Sewing Group, weekly Art Group

Children: Several children's dance classes, for ages 5-11+, from Atomic Dance

There are also other frequent classes and activities, so keep a lookout for these on noticeboards, social media, and of course here in The Link!

We would love to host more local events and help create those precious memories, so whether you are planning a 4th or 84th birthday party, we might be just the place! Standard parish resident's rates are just £12/hour for The Barn and £8/hour for The Cart Shed, The Gallery or The Lobby. Please do get in touch with us for any hire enquiries.

Likewise, more community events in The Hall would be wonderful, so if anyone has any ideas and would like to organise something, or to get involved with any of our existing community activities at The Hall, do also get in touch with us, or any of The Hall Trustees.

cheringtonandstourtonvillage.com
<https://cheringtonandstourtonvillage.com>

AUTUMN-WINTER 2023-2024: ACTIVITIES & OPEN CLASSES AT THE HALL

MONDAY	<p>9:15-10:30am - Yoga with Claire: 07980 543437 www.inspirehealthandwellbeing.co.uk</p> <p>11am-12noon - Functional Pilates with Juliet: 07899 966303 www.julietrobbins.com</p> <p>6-7pm - Pink Belt Ladies Kickboxing with Demi: 07984 377069 demimcaleenan@gmail.com</p> <p>7-9pm - <i>Bi-monthly 3rd Monday, Parish Council Meeting – 18th Dec, 19th Feb</i></p>
TUESDAY	<p>10-11am - Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com</p> <p>11:30-12:30pm - MELT Method with Debbie Williams: 07966 746794 www.debbie-williams.co.uk</p> <p>3:30-5pm - Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk</p> <p>6:30-7:30pm - Pilates with Pam: <i>as above</i></p> <p>6:30-7:30pm - <i>LAST TUESDAY: Feldon Wildlife Group, Cart Shed gpwilliams20@sky.com</i></p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>4-7:15pm - Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes, The Barn and Gallery: <i>as above</i></p> <p>10am-1pm - <i>ALTERNATE WEEKS - 1st & 3rd Weds: Stour Valley Stitchers, Cart Shed: contactstourstitchers@gmail.com</i></p> <p>8-10pm - <i>FIRST WEDNESDAYS: Garden Group, Cart Shed: contact Chris Carr chris@homefarm2.co.uk</i></p> <p>9am-4pm - <i>14th February: Curious Creators children's art & craft holiday workshop</i></p>
THURSDAY	<p>9:15-10:15am - Pilates with Pam: <i>as above</i></p> <p>11:15-12:30pm - Yoga with Claire: <i>as above</i></p> <p>6-8pm - <i>FIRST THURSDAY: Farmer's Market – produce stalls, bar, tea & coffee, supper</i></p>
FRIDAY	<p>11:15-12:15 & 12:30-1:30pm - Improvers MELT Method with Debbie Williams, pre-booked blocks of 5 classes - Beginners MELT Method with Debbie Williams, pre-booked: <i>as above</i></p> <p>4:15-8pm - Atomic Dance children's classes: <i>as above</i></p> <p>1:30-4:30pm - <i>FORTNIGHTLY: Cart Shed & Lobby: Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Feel Good Fridays - Health & well-being, social, games etc. Vanessa (01608) 663320.</i> <i>Forthcoming Dates: 12th Jan, 26th Jan, 9th Feb, 23rd Feb</i></p> <p>6-9:30pm - <i>LAST FRIDAY OF MONTH – Pop Up Pub, come along and socialise with friends & neighbours in the lovely Lobby Bar! 29th Dec, 26th Jan</i></p>
SATURDAY	<p>9:15-10:15am - Zumba with Rachel: 07948 250616 shipstonzumba@gmail.com</p> <p>10:30-12noon - <i>2nd SATURDAY OF MONTH (dates below) : Coffee Morning, Cart Shed & Lobby – Hot Drinks, Bacon Butties, Cake, everyone welcome: 13th Jan, 10th Feb,</i></p> <p>10am-12noon - <i>3rd February: Fused Glass Workshop, Helen Cooper hc90352@gmail.com</i></p>
Sunday	<p>10am-12noon - <i>14th January: Mini First Aid, children & infant first aid training session, £25 pp</i> https://warwickshire.minifirstaid.co.uk/classes/open/14996</p> <p>10am-12noon - <i>11th Feb: Fused Glass Workshop, Helen Cooper hc90352@gmail.com</i></p>

For Hall Hire information: www.thehallevents.org.uk Email info@thehallevents.org.uk Tel: 07775 765572

VILLAGE NEWS

Long Compton

Editor: longcompton@swlink.org.uk



For many people (me at any rate!) the Christmas Tea Party is the highlight of the Village Hall year. A strong team of Committee members and their neighbours, partners and friends all work their socks off to put on the event, but the sight of the decorated hall full of delicious food, with community carols and even a short sketch make it all worthwhile! It's like a Social Saturday with added whistles and bells! This year we had 50 folks seated in the hall for the afternoon and we had a blast! It's what living in a village is all about: gathering together, sharing the workload, seeing the happy faces and a good old sense of community.



We've a couple of things lined up for the beginning of 2024, kicking off with the Social Saturday on Jan 13 and the Rocky Horror Film Night on Jan 19. A chance to let your hair down and banish those winter blues! (see the adverts). Hopefully there's something to tempt you or, of course, you can book the hall for your own event, just get in touch.

Mo Read



LCVH presents:

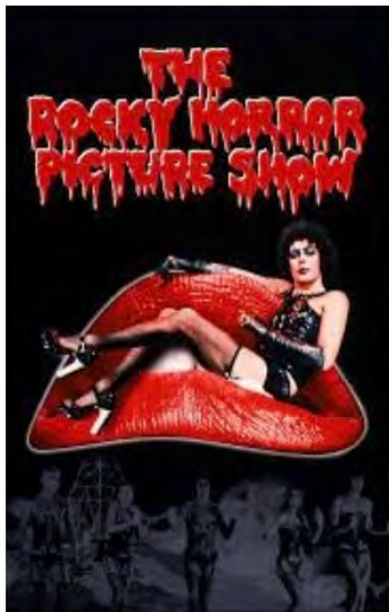
The Rocky Horror Picture Show

7.30pm, Friday, 19th January 2024
Long Compton Village Hall

Tickets £7 per seat and licenced bar

Fancy dress optional but encouraged!

To book call Mo Read on 07814 802814



Join us for

Social Saturday

Saturday 13th January 2024

11am -1pm

Long Compton Village Hall

Free entry - savouries - cake - chat





100 Club

The two December Draws were done at the village hall Christmas party on 10 December, and the winners were:

Draw 1

1st prize: Lesley Roberts
3rd prize: Mr and Mrs Heath

2nd prize: Paul Morley
4th prize: Alan McElvey

Draw 2

1st prize: Mr Barden
3rd prize: Sue London

2nd prize: Nikki Graske
4th Prize: Tina Swift

Collections for the 2024 draws will Start in mid-January and the cost will be £12 per ball for the year. There is no draw in January, with 2 in December to make the 12. The first draw will be done during the February Social Saturday.
Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton Walkers



November's walk led by Clare Wells and Lynn Mathis was based on the Ilmington area. The weather was mixed and underfoot conditions somewhat treacherous, but all was forgotten over an excellent lunch at the Howard Arms.

December's walk is traditionally village based. Tradition was however put aside as the mud became ever deeper and the sky ever blacker so that, perhaps to our shame, we abandoned after 45 minutes and returned to the village to dry off and change for lunch at the Red Lion. Thanks to Lisa, Sarah and the team for another festive lunch -crackers and quiz (courtesy of the Treadaways) included.



Some of you may be able to spot from the photographs that the numbers at lunch somewhat exceeded the bedraggled figures heading back.

The next walk will be on Tuesday 9 January. As ever, new faces would be very welcome. Please contact Stuart Brown at scbqc1@gmail.com

Long Compton Chapel

It is always good to collaborate with other village organisations and on December 9 the chapel became the launch point for Acorns School PTA Santa Trail and the chapel's own Christmas Decorations and Craft Festival. Great creativity was shown in all categories; the chapel's own Santa was very relaxed about the whole event although he may have been pondering what to do with any polar bears he encounters on his deliveries.

Hopefully, January will see a new tenant occupying the Manse and the Chapel members meeting for their monthly service on the third Sunday of each month.



Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

The Comptonians

On January 17 we shall meet at Long Compton village hall at 2.00pm for a talk by Bill cook on *The 1921 Census in Long Compton*. Tea and Cake will also be served. We shall sign up for the 2024 season.

All welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238

Long Compton and District Garden Club

On November 22nd we met for our end of season celebration. We started with a demonstration by Elizabeth Gilkes of flower and foliage arrangements without the use of "oasis" which is now considered non eco -friendly because it is not biodegradable. To support more delicate stems, woven woody stems



such as willow, hazel or even ivy may be used. Alternatively, the container may be filled with robust woody seed heads such as phlomis and other foliage arranged around them. Elizabeth created two arrangements in this way using a variety of foliage which had been collected by club members. These included evergreens, e.g. conifers, variegated shrubs e.g. euonymus and berries including cotoneaster and pyracantha as well as rose hips. She also used a clever technique of placing small containers e.g. jars and bottles within a larger container such as a basket. Hence multiple support was given.

There was then an opportunity for members to make Xmas tree decorations out of small specimens of seed heads, berries, dried leaves and foliage etc. These can also be used to decorate candle holders or wreaths. Several club members used the material to make their own arrangements.

Those who attended said that they enjoyed the hands- on activities. Thanks go to Elizabeth for sharing her ideas.

We then served mulled wine and seasonal nibbles while members formed teams to try a quiz.

Questions included:

1. For the UK to have an official white Christmas according to the Met Office how much snow must fall?
 - a) 1 inch
 - b) 1 cm
 - c) a single flake
2. From where do Amaryllis bulbs originate?
 - a) South Africa
 - b) Turkey
 - c) China
3. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek word for a star?
4. Which King created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?
5. What name is given to the Japanese art of flower arranging?

Margaret Welsh

	Long Compton and District Garden Club 2023 /24 Programme Long Compton Village Hall - 7.30pm	
February 28	Propagation (cuttings, plant division, sowing, composts) Robert Longstaff , trained by MAFF, TV and radio talks, practicing 'no dig' since 1981	
March 27	The Healing Power of Plants - why plant-derived treatments are not an alternative but the real thing Timothy Walker ex-Director Oxford Botanic Gardens and lecturer in botany and plant conservation	
April 24	Foraging in gardens, hedgerows, riverbanks and forests Fred Gilam lectures to many institutions and gives workshops on foraging	
Contact Lesley Roberts 01608 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com or Anthony Wells 01608 684337		

The answers to the quiz.
1. c) 2. a) 3. Aster 4. Nebuchadnezzar 111 5. Ikebana

Long Compton book club

We have now introduced a waiting list for new members, in order to keep discussions manageable. If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact: Imogen Brown 07710 129181 brownimogen@gmail.com

You may not know that Jaffé and Neale – our wonderful local independent bookshop in Chipping Norton – also runs a monthly Book Club.
Details from me, or direct from them.

For those interested in reading along with us anyway, our January book is:
"NW" by Zadie Smith

VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



Christmas Wreaths

Thank you to everyone who ordered a wreath at the Christmas Fair this year. We had enormous fun making them, thanks to Diana Atkins who kept us supplied with mince pies and coffee. We will do them again next year so do get in touch.

Sophie Corlett, Berry's Orchard,
Whichford

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Ann Moulson who was the winner of the December Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: Lynn Mathias

The Wolfords



Wolfords WI

For our last meeting of the year, we held a Christmas crafting workshop. Overseen by Netty our resident crafting queen and fuelled by mulled wine, we attempted to decorate a snowman and a coaster and make a Christmas card. After getting to grips with the glue gun and trying not to stab ourselves with scissors or glue our fingers together (or was that just me?) we spent a pleasant hour and



a half snipping and sticking with a lot of chatting. The finished articles were pretty good, although my snowman was a bit scary looking. Afterwards, we enjoyed a festive supper and some more chat. Traditionally, we do not have a meeting in

January but are planning a coffee morning (January 13 at Fosseyway (Blue Diamond) garden centre). We are also having a celebratory dinner at the start of February, a trip out to see the magician, James Phelam, at Chipping Norton Theatre and a glass fusing workshop!

Our clubs, book, walking and supper, take a step back over Christmas and New Year, but will be back in force come February.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

We are a small and friendly group and would welcome any new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month 7.30pm Little Wolford Village Hall. If you would like to know more about us, come for a look-see, or if you would just simply like to join us, please contact Gilly on 07812 344 596 or gillyhd@hotmail.com

Wolford Church Wreath Making Day

Our annual wreath making day was held on Tuesday December 12 and nineteen ladies met in the Wolford village hall to learn how to make a wreath to adorn our front doors from Alison of Allium Flowers .

To the sounds of Christmas music, she showed us how to make the wreath from all the greenery she provided and then we were like children in a toy shop trying to choose from the array of decorations and ribbons she brought with her to decorate our wreaths.



Once finished we all sat down to enjoy homemade soup, mince pies and mulled wine kindly provided by the ladies of Wolford church and their sons and husbands! A wonderful day was had by all and we went home with a beautiful wreath.

Ann McKenna

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

December 2023 Winners

The December winners were as follows.

1st prize – Lucia Palmer 2nd prize – Bob Large 3rd prize -Christopher Wolverson

Many congratulations to the above. Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. Of course, multiple shares do increase the chance of winning! All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden

Wolford Church Closure

St Michaels Church in Great Wolford will be in use for a private recording on Tuesday 2 January so it will be closed to visitors for a short period between the hours of 10.30am and 11.30am.



Wolford Church Services

For the months of January, February and March our monthly church service will be held in Little Wolford Village Hall rather than in St Michaels and All Angels Church in Great Wolford. The dates of these services are 7 January, 4 February and 3 of March.



The Wolfords Joint Parish Council met in The Wolfords Village Hall on November 28. All members of the council were present, along with District Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins and seven residents from the villages. The discussion was lively with many points raised from all present.

The parish council has completed the new and improved website and full minutes and agendas are available at: <https://www.thewolfordsjpc.co.uk>

If you wish to receive the Parish council newsletters, please contact our Parish Clerk/RFO Elizabeth Gilkes clerk@thewolfordsjpc.co.uk and you can be added to our email list.

Our next meeting is on January 30 at 7.30pm at The Wolfords village hall, we look forward to seeing you there. If you have any matters you wish to raise with TWJPC please contact Elizabeth Gilkes on the above email.



Pippa Lines (Chair)

Vice Chair Cllr Tessa Hankinson, Cllr Lyn Mathias, Cllr Simon Lewis-Beeching, Cllr Marie Crossland, Clerk/RFO Elizabeth Gilkes.

Wolfords Poppy Collection 2023

Thank you to all those in the Wolfords who contributed £686.73 to the collection in our villages. Also thank you to those who undertook the door-to-door collection.

Christopher Wolverson



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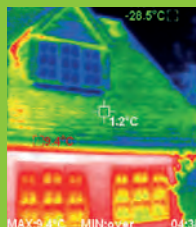
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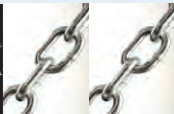
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