

# THE LINK

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

MAY 2019

70 pence



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

# EVENTS DIARY

Contact: The Editor  
Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

## May (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Wed	01	Wolfords WI Resolutions Meeting, Wolfords VH	19.30
Thurs	02	North Cotswold Farmers Market, The Hall, Cherington	18.00
Sat	04	Great Rollright Market, Great Rollright VH	09.30
Sat	04	Organ demonstration and recital by Paul Hale, Barcheston Ch	15.30
Sat	04	Whist Drive at the Ebenezer Chapel, Butlers Lane, Long Compton	19.30
Sun	05	Bluebell walk and service, Whichford Wood. Leave Whichford Ch	10.30
Sun	05	Organ recital by Edward Higginbottom, Barcheston Ch	15.30
Mon	06	Family Picnic and Boules, Long Compton VH	14.30
Tue	07	Wolfords WI Cake and Coffee morning at Fosseyway Garden Centre	10.00
Tue	07	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Wed	08	Long Compton & District History Society, VH	19.30
Thurs	09	SW7 Benefice Lunch time talk for Women, The Old Forge, Stourton House	12.30
Thurs	09	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	11	Social Saturday, Long Compton VH	11.00
Sat	11	A Tale of Two Cities – A Stour Singers Concert, Shipston Ch	19.30
Mon	13	Long Compton PC, AGM at the village hall	18.30
Mon	13	Brailes Mechanical & Craft Society, Brailes VH	19.30
Tue	14	Long Compton & District Walkers, depart Red Lion car park	09.30
Tue	14	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Thurs	16	Long Compton and District Garden Club, Trip departs VH	09.15
Thurs	16	Rural Cinema, <i>A Star is Born</i> , Wolfords VH	19.30
Fri	17	Cherington Seniors AGM, The Hall	16.00
Sat	18	Long Compton Litter Pick, Start at The Chapel, Butlers Lane	10.00
Sat	18	The Coffee Shop at The Hall Cherington with full English Breakfast	10.30
Sat	18	Brailes Picturehouse, <i>Widows</i> , Brailes VH	
Sat	18	Cheese and Wind Bluff Quiz Night, Long Compton Ch	18.30
Sun	19	Charity Car Wash for God's Minions at Long Compton VH	10.00
Sun	19	Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton, Open Chapel with Tea	15.30
Sun	19	Dedication of new Barcheston Organ, Barcheston Ch	18.30
Tue	21	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Tue	21	Great Wolford Parish Council AGM, Great Wolford Ch	19.30
Tue	21	Burmington Parish Meeting, Burmington VH	19.30
Tue	21	Open Deanery Synod, Tredington Ch	19.30
Wed	22	Annual Parish Assembly, Long Compton VH	19.00
Wed	22	Little Wolford Annual Parish Meeting, Wolfords VH	19.00
Wed	22	Patient Meeting, Shipston Medical Centre (meeting at Shipston Primary School)	19.00
Mon	27	Family Picnic and Boules, Long Compton VH	14.30
Thurs	30	Deanery Ascension Day Service, Stretton on Fosse Ch	19.30

**LINK cover:** *Wolford in Bloom*, photograph by Chris Mathias, Cover design by KMS Litho, Hook Norton

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk). LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.



@TheSW7LINK



<https://editor794.wixsite.com/sw7link>



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Please note copy deadline for June 2019:  
**Monday 13 May**

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## It's No Walk in the Park

For most of my working life, I've sat at a desk (sometimes with air-conditioning, sometimes with windows, occasionally both), staring at a computer screen and bashing away at a keyboard. Having a sedentary job often makes one consider what it would be like to work in the great outdoors, breathing in all that fresh air, feeling the warm sun on your face – unfortunately however, not everyone possesses the level of fitness or the skillset to become a farmer, a thatcher, a tree surgeon, a builder or even a firefighter.

Hang on, though. What about being a postman – how hard can it be? Surely, all they have to do is drop off a bundle of letters and parcels, have a chat with a few residents along the way, and avoid any dogs that look (or sound) menacing? You're finished by early afternoon, and the rest of the day is yours. How marvellous is that?

Don't be fooled. I've done some research and it's a lot harder than you would think. Firstly, postmen (and postwomen) are required to walk at a minimum speed of 4 miles per hour in order to complete their rounds on time. That's quite fast – the average person strolls along at 3 to 3.5 miles per hour. Secondly, the distances covered are worthy of Sir Mo Farah. After walking up and down long driveways, climbing and descending stairs and steps, looping round cul-de-sacs, a postie could cover 15 miles or more. Every single day. If a second (or even a third) round is required (e.g. at Christmas), or to provide cover for an absent colleague, then it's possible that marathon-like distances are achieved.

To help transport their letters and parcels, some posties have vans, bicycles or trolleys – but not all do. The average weight of a postman's laden bag is about 10 kgs. In many cases though, this increases to a (supposed) maximum of 16 kgs (35 pounds) – maybe even heavier. Imagine carrying that around as you embark on your 15-mile (or more) walk. To put this into perspective, when the military do their initial training in the Brecon Beacons, a soldier's rucksack weighs 20 kgs (45 pounds).

In addition to the Olympian distances covered and the heavy loads carried, the humble postman has to cope with the British weather. Come rain, shine, hail or snow, deliveries must be made. Whether it's -10 C with a foot of snow, or a 2018-style heatwave, the postman has to battle the elements to ensure that you receive your post. Oh, and with the increasing popularity of online shopping (not to mention junk mail), there is even more to deliver to your door. And all this is to be done with a cheery manner.

But there is still more. Before the postman sets off, the deliveries have to be sorted into a logical order of varying bundles so that they can be delivered as efficiently as possible. So, being a postman is not such a walk in the park after all. With the preparation at the start of the shift, the long arduous walks, and the potential of multiple rounds, that early afternoon finish sounds more like a myth than a certainty. On reflection, a cushy number in an office may not be so bad after all – the grass is always greener, as they say...

Next time you see the postman trudging up your path, please spare him or her a thought (and give a quick wave/smile) – they deserve our respect.

**Simon Lewis-Beeching, Chairman, The LINK**

# The LINK Crossword

Solution to the April Puzzle...



## Shipston Medical Centre *Patient Meeting*



We want to hear your comments and opinions



Wednesday 22 May 7.00 – 9.00 pm - Shipston Primary School, Station Road

Update on practice team and premises

The NHS Plan and what it means for Shipston patients



Light Refreshments will be provided

# INFO LINK

Contact: **The Editor**  
Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

***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 Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 3.15 pm and 8.30 am to 12.15 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Bank Holidays.***

## DATES AND FETES

Please send us the dates of all your significant 2019 social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

06 May	Picnic and Boules, Long Compton VH
18 May	Cheese and Wine Bluff, Long Compton VH
22 May	Long Compton Annual Parish Assembly
27 May	Picnic and Boules, Long Compton VH
01 June	Cherington Stourton and Sutton Village Tennis Tournament
22 June	Barton on the Heath Fete
30 June	Barcheston Church Fete and Open Gardens
06 July	Long Compton Summer Fete with Dog Show
03 August	Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Country Fair and Flower Show
26 August	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete
14 September	Barcheston with Willington Fete
22 -24 Nov	Christmas Tree Festival, Long Compton Church

## LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

**Chipping Norton**, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 26 London Road, Mass on Saturday evening, 6.00 pm and Sunday morning, 11.00 am. Tel: 642703

**Stow-on-the-Wold**, Our Lady and St Kenelm, 5 Back Walls, Sunday 9.00 a.m. and Our Lady Help of Christians, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Tel: 01608 674354

**Brailes/Shipston/Kineton** Masses: *Saturday*- Vigil 5.00 pm at SS Peter and Paul, Brailes. *Sunday*- 9.00 am at Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston and 11.00 am at St. Francis of Assisi, Kineton.

**Chipping Campden**, St Catharine's Lower High Street, Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. Tel: 01386 840261

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## LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Minister Marion Hartwell attends to conduct seasonal services. For details of these, and interim services and events, contact Secretary Sally Franklin 01608 684739 or email [longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com)

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## LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

**Broad Campden**, Friends Meeting Hse, Broad Campden, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 10.30 am  
**Ettington**, Friends Meeting Hse., Old Halford Rd, Ettington, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 11.00 am  
**Sibford**, Friends Meeting Hse., Sibford Gower, Meeting for worship: Sunday at 10.30 am

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### *Barcheston St Martin*

Churchwardens David Hodges 664310  
 Secretary Nick Jackson 684846  
 Treasurer David Cleave 666002

### *Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas*

Churchwardens Sonia Baker 661459  
 Michael Macdonald 662483  
 Secretary Sonia Baker 661459  
 Treasurer Sue Bradley 661635

### *Long Compton St Peter and St Paul*     *Whichford St Michael*

Churchwardens Jill Kirby 684923  
 Secretary Zoë Wrigley 650404  
 Treasurer Walter Sawyer 684755

### *Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence*

Churchwardens Hamish Cathie 674303  
 Secretary Gillian Cathie 674303  
 Treasurer Christopher Wolverson 674677

### *Cherington St John the Baptist*

Churchwardens Valerie Flint 685022  
 Roger Maycock 686404  
 Secretary Paul Levitch 686353  
 Treasurer Rory McLeod 686278

### *Wolford St Michael & All Angels*

Churchwardens Janet Piller 674396  
 John Wrench 674389  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

## Parish Councils

Barcheston  
 Barton-on-the-Heath  
 Burmington  
 Cherington  
 Long Compton  
 Whichford  
 Great Wolford  
 Little Wolford Parish Meeting

## Chair

David Sutton  
 James Coker (674601)  
 Robert Hutchings (661496)  
 Philip Townsend (686529)  
 Bill Cook (684771)  
 Geoff Bromage (684454)  
 Lynn Mathias (674247)  
 Ralph Döring (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

## Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)  
 Colin Maynell (674104)  
 Meeting Sec. – Graham French (239032)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Janet Piller (674396)

*If you wish to update information on this page, please email the Editor: editor@swlink.org.uk*



*Happy  
 Birthday!*

May Birthdays



12th	Natalie Georgia Streets	Stourton Hill	16
14th	Theo Stapleton	Cherington	15
31st	Luke Barker	Stourton	16
31st	Lucie Cottam	Cherington	16

**SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – MAY 2019 CHURCH SERVICES**

<b>SW7 Sunday Worship</b>	<b>St Martin</b> Barcheston	<b>St Lawrence</b> Barton	<b>St Barnabas &amp; St Nicholas</b> Burmington	<b>St John the Baptist</b> Cherington	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul</b> Long Compton	<b>St Michael</b> Whichford	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels</b> Wolford
May 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (SPA) 4:00pm Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am Bluebell Walk and service in Whichford Wood (meet in church) (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD)
May 12 <sup>th</sup> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Village Service (SPA)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>
May 19 <sup>th</sup> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	6:30pm Choral Evensong and Dedication of New Pipe Organ (Rt Revd John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (CLW/BD)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA/AW)	4:00pm Informal Service (with kids/youth groups) (SPA/BD)	<i>(Support Cherington or Burmington)</i>	10:30am Ecumenical Service at Little Wolford Village Hall (SPA/AW)
May 26 <sup>th</sup> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>		10:30am CW Benefice Communion (BD/SPA)					
<b>Thurs May 30<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day</b>	Deanery Ascension Day Service 7.30pm, Saint Peter's, Stretton-on-Fosse (The Rt Revd John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick)						
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD) 4:00pm Informal Service (with kids) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)

SPA = Stuart Allen/BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/\* = No Hymns

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

## Spring/Summer Events

We wanted to draw your attention to a number of exciting events organised by our churches which are coming up in May and June...

### **Bluebell Walk in Whichford Wood – Sun 5 May**

Last year saw our inaugural bluebell walk and short service in Whichford Wood, attended by 30 adults and children, 10 dogs, and 3 horses! This is due to take place again on Sunday 5 May, beginning in Saint Michael's Church, Whichford at 10.30 am, then walking up to the woods where we will sing a couple of springtime hymns, and share refreshments together. Children and dogs are especially welcome. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. We would like to express our gratitude once again to Henry and Roz Warriner for their kind permission to hold this event on their land.

### **New Pipe Organ for Barcheston – Weekend of 4/5 May and Sunday 19 May**

Many of you will have already seen the beautiful oak casings for the new organ in Saint Martin's Church, Barcheston, or have perhaps sponsored one of the pipes? After considerable fund-raising efforts led by our churchwarden David Hodges, with the support of the PCC, the new organ is about to be unveiled. There will be an open weekend on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May when visitors are welcome to simply come in to the church and listen to the new organ being played. The official dedication will take place at a Service of Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm on Sunday 19 May, led by The Right Reverend John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick.

### **Songs of Praise with Solid Ground Gospel Choir – Sunday 16 June**

We are delighted to be welcoming back Solid Ground Gospel Choir for our annual summer Songs of Praise. This year we have decided to be brave and hold an open-air event! Thanks to the generosity of Michael McDonald, this will take place in the gardens of Burmington Manor at 6.00 pm on Sunday 16 June. It will include music and songs performed by Solid Ground Gospel Choir, a hymn nominated by each of our seven churches, a talk on a famous hymn writer, and summer refreshments. The event is free of charge and all are very welcome.

### **Sponsored Walk – Saturday 19 June**

On Saturday 19 June the younger men's Bible Study group from SW7 Benefice is taking part in a sponsored walk in order to raise money for North Cotswold Community Awareness (Registered Charity No. 1175482). We aim to walk around the whole Benefice in a day stopping at each of our seven churches.

North Cotswold Community Awareness is a charity involved in fundraising to support local authorities in their efforts to reach and help deprived families in rural communities

in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. You can find out more about their work by visiting their website: [www.cotswoldca.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldca.co.uk). If you would like to support us, then please visit the Virgin Money Giving website (<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/make-a-donation/?null>) and search for 'Cotswold Community Awareness'.

**Stuart Allen (Rector) & Ben Dyson (Pioneer/Associate Minister)**

## Deanery News

May and June seem to be extraordinarily busy – so here goes:

The next BCDM course in the Deanery *Introducing Christian Ethics*, is taking place at St Edmund's Shipston in April/May. Chris Goble is delivering it, on Tuesday evenings 7.00 – 9.30, 30 April - 14 May, with the final two sessions on 4 and 11 June. Any queries to him, or check out the BCDM part of the Diocesan Website.

The Archdeacons' Visitation, at which Church Wardens are licensed and affirmed in their ministry, is this year in St. Edmund's, Shipston, on Thursday 16 May at 7.30 pm.

There will be a special Open Deanery Synod in Tredington Church on Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 pm. The Deanery videos we have been making will have been put together into a single presentation, which will allow us to discover a little of the work of the wider diocese, and make an informed decision about the level of support fund contribution for 2020. I am delighted that Katie Wilson, the Resourcing Churches Mentor is coming, to explain about the parish giving scheme and contactless giving (on which she is an expert) – which should be really helpful to all of our churches. All are invited, particularly Church Wardens, Treasurers and PCC members, as well as Deanery Synod reps.

The Deanery Ascension Day Service will this year be led by Bishop John, and will be on Thursday 30 May at 7.30 pm in Stretton on Fosse Church.

There will be a Confirmation Service, led by Bishop Christopher, on Sunday 23 June at 4.00 pm at Tysoe Church.

And finally, Deanery Synod will also meet on Tuesday 25 June at 7.30 pm in Long Compton Church. This is the regular June meeting, and we are delighted to be able to welcome Richard Cooke as our speaker that evening, leading us through Luke's Gospel. Enjoy the summer!



**Jill Tucker, Rural Dean**

### INVITATION To a Series of Lunch-Time Talks and Discussions For Women

The Old Forge, Stourton House 12.30 pm  
**JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY Thursday 9 May**



**The Third Age – (Anna):  
Discovering How to make the Most of the Rest of Your Life  
Bridget Poulson**

Simple Lunch Provided - donations please  
RSVP: Sarah Scotter: 686303 ([sarah.scotter@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah.scotter@hotmail.com))  
Liz Maycock: 686404 ([lizzymaycock@gmail.com](mailto:lizzymaycock@gmail.com))



# Car Wash



Sunday 19 May 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

God's Minions (SW7 Benefice youth group) will be once again opening a temporary car wash with free refreshments on offer while you wait.

Long Compton Village Hall

All money raised will go towards future activities for the youth group.



South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

Tel: 01608 684207 - Email [rectorsw7@gmail.com](mailto:rectorsw7@gmail.com) (off duty Thursday)

Reverend Ben Dyson

Tel: 01608 685752 - Email [pioneersw7@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersw7@gmail.com) (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - Email: [officesw7@gmail.com](mailto:officesw7@gmail.com)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 – 4 pm

## Great Rollright - Great Market!

### Friendly Local Market & Café

Start your weekend with a delicious cup of fresh coffee and a tasty bacon roll or traybake.

Browse local seasonal produce,  
handmade crafts and gifts.

1st Saturday of each month  
Great Rollright Village Hall  
9:30am - 12:30pm

## Bats, Beetles and Birds

Chris and I were recently asked to a meeting of wildlife recorders in Warwick, we went with some trepidation, but it was in fact fascinating. The first talk, by Richard Wright, was about beetles, a subject on which we knew very little.

There are 4,131 species of beetle recorded in the UK with Warwickshire having 54% of the UK total recorded. Initially this may seem a small percentage but when you think that there are no coastal, upland, heathland or moorland habitats in the county, Richard felt this was quite a positive number. The most common beetle recorded is the ladybird, of which there are up to 26 recognisable species in the UK. The number of beetles recorded depends very much on the skill and knowledge of the recorder, many species can only be recognised after dissection and detailed inspection of the anatomy. The number of beetles seen on a casual walk will not indicate how many are present as they need to be collected by specific methods, perhaps tapping the vegetation or using muslin over some form of suction.

The second speaker, Tricia Scott, gave a talk on UK bats. There are 17 resident species of which 13 are found in Warwickshire. There has been a project monitoring barbastelle bats in Whichford Wood running for several years. Boxes are set up in the wood which are monitored twice a year with some bats being radio tracked. As habitats are improved, it is hoped that the River Stour will become a foraging route. Horseshoe bats have roosts in Ettington but are probably more common than had been thought. Barbastelle and horseshoe bats are probably at the northern edge of their range in Warwickshire.

The third speaker, Ben Wood, explained the problems that frogs and particularly toads have at this time of year with road kerbs and drains. When toads and frogs are trying to get to the spawning ground, they will often cross roads. If there is a kerb stone it may be too high for them to climb which means they will move along the edge of the road looking for a lower kerb. Inevitably they will come across roadside drains and will fall down to an unfortunate end in the gully pot. Volunteers have devised a way of making some plastic mesh ladders which Warwickshire County Council has allowed them to experiment with in Snitterfield. These have been reasonably successful, but are very labour intensive so probably not a practical solution on a larger scale. In our rural area with few kerbs, our toads and frogs can get into the verge but may come to a sticky end under the tyres of a passing car.

The results of the Big Farmland Bird Count are now in. Over 1,400 farmers took part and recorded 140 species over an area of one million acres. Blackbirds and wood pigeon were the most common. A total of 30 species from the Red List for Birds of Conservation Concern were recorded with 5 appearing in the 25 most commonly seen species list, (fieldfares, starlings, house sparrows, yellowhammers and song thrushes), with the first four seen by over 30% of the farms taking part. In total, 66% of the farms were arable and 48% of the participants were in some form of Agri Environment scheme.

**Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford**

## Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

### Manor Adventure

At the end of March, Acorns Year 5 children, Brailes Year 5/6 pupils and Shipston Year 5 pupils joined together for the residential trip to Manor Adventure in Powys, Wales. This was the first time Brailes children had been on the joint residential. Over the three days away from home, the children experienced wonderful activities bathed in beautiful sunshine! We broke up the journey by stopping for a few hours at the excellent Owl and Small Breeds Centre in Kington (Herefordshire). The children were shown various animals up close including guinea pigs, goats and owls. The keepers were impressed with the children's answers to their questions and their impeccable behaviour. We arrived at the Abernant Lake Hotel shortly after lunch and pupils were soon participating in their first activity. Over the three days, children were always active in nine physically and mentally demanding challenges such as the zip wire, abseiling, climbing, archery and an obstacle course.



The children learned how to canoe and kayak on the lake. We updated parents and carers with photos posted on Twitter and there are videos and a photo slideshow available to watch on the school website. The staff and I were very proud of the pupils as they were a pleasure to take away and they challenged themselves in every activity, often surprising themselves with their hidden abilities, collaboration skills and determination to overcome their fears. Acorns, Brailes and Shipston children made new friendships across the schools - they know each other quite well from sporting fixtures and the Curriculum Cup.



## Rollright Stones

Over the last half term, Class 2 at Acorns have been learning all about prehistory. They have spent many afternoons becoming expert historians. Towards the end of March, they were lucky enough to go on a class trip to the Rollright Stones. The children really enjoyed learning all about the legends behind the stones, and discussing the different stones with George and Hattie, their guides for the morning. When talking about the stone circle, George was really impressed with everything the class had already learnt, the children were happy to show off their fantastic knowledge and develop their learning further with the information that George and Hattie shared with them. During the trip, everyone had the opportunity to learn how to move stones using Bronze Age equipment. They made it look easy, but the children couldn't imagine how difficult it would have been to transport any of the larger stones like those found in the stone circle. The children were an absolute credit to the school.



## Towers and Turrets



Rabbits Class at Brailes School have really enjoyed their *Towers, Tunnels and Turrets* topic, which has included two super visits to two very different locations. Earlier in March the class had the great privilege of seeing inside St. George's Church tower in Brailes. Stuart and Michael Cummings were instrumental in planning and executing the tour, making it accessible for both the children and adults who went along. Nothing was off limits during the church tower tour; they saw the

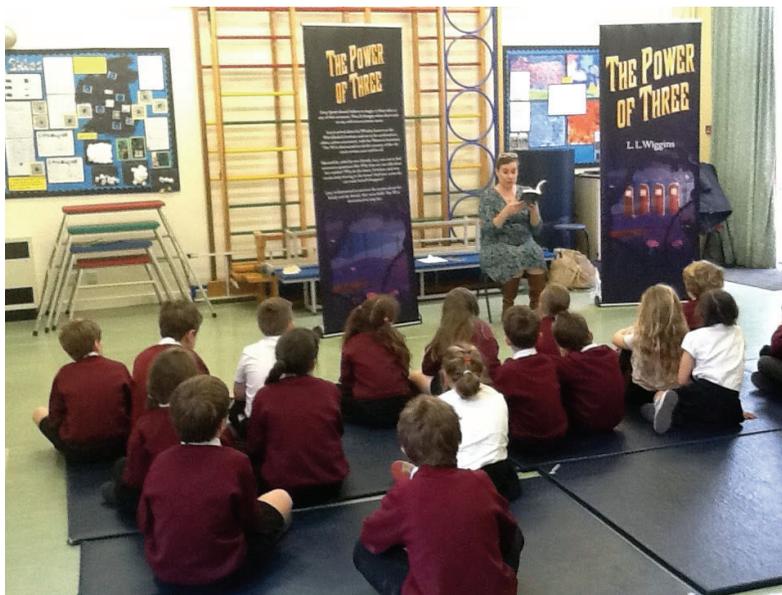
workings of the original church clock and the buttresses of the tower dating back to the church's beginnings in the 12th century. Rabbits were allowed to go up to the church roof and walk around on it, admiring the views for miles around. A favourite moment was seeing Michael and Stuart ring the bells in the tower, demonstrating the importance of timing and precision whilst bell ringing. It was very impressive! Many of the children chose to go up even higher into the belfry where the bells chimed their loudest. Several children took a turn playing tunes on the church clock. It was an unforgettable trip and the school are so grateful to the Cummings brothers for using their own time to give the children and adults in attendance such a thorough and well-planned tour of a spectacular edifice.

At the end of term, Rabbits Class had a sunny and marvellous visit to another outstanding local treasure - Warwick Castle. The children took in the battlements and towers, the Kingmaker exhibit, the gaol, the mound (site of the original castle), the beautiful gardens (complete with peacocks) and best of all was the Falconry Quest

display down by the river. Ms Host's lasting impression of their visit to Warwick Castle was witnessing the giant Andean Condor (wingspan of 10 feet) soaring majestically above their heads in a simply stunning display of grace and might. At one point during the show Caitlin turned to Ms Host and said, 'We are so lucky to be able to see this'. Ms Host was thinking exactly the same!

### Author Visits

Acorns Class 2 and Class 3 were lucky enough to have a visit from Brailes parent governor and published author, L.L. Wiggins, who has already visited the other schools in the Stour Federation Partnership. She read some of her new book, *The Power of Three*, to the children and answered some questions. We were also lucky enough to have been given some of her top tips for writing our own stories. Perhaps that could explain where some of the great ideas in the adventure narratives came from?



Best-selling author Jasmine Richards visited Acorns as part of the ChipLit Festival and shared the influences and inspirations behind her popular stories. The children were fascinated to hear how she gets her ideas from such a wide range of sources, even people-watching whilst on the train! Jasmine showed the children how easy it can be to create ideas for stories - she invited the children to choose a 'mystery object' and then create a back-story as a starting point for a narrative. The ideas were varied and extremely imaginative - there are definitely some budding authors at Acorns!

### Allotment

Acorns children in Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their Spring Term Allotment topic. This year's allotment proceedings were more of a mission due to the relocation of our old allotment; luckily Forest School Club had helped move over the raised beds from the old chapel allotment and then Class 3 were able to begin the Science Garden transformation. Children loved being part of a 60-minute makeover challenge - well

actually it took a couple of whole mornings along with some careful propagation and indoor growing in our new mini greenhouse!

Children have planted seedlings from the classroom into their beds and have already noticed some of our outdoor plants germinating and sprouting. The *Innovate* project for this topic will actually be completed in the Summer Term; Class 3 will be holding their very own Farmers' Market where they will be selling their tasty, home-grown produce. If anyone has home-grown produce or has any free-range eggs for example, which you would like to donate to our market, the teachers are sure the children would very much appreciate it. Any funds raised will be used to further enhance our outdoor space and to restock on seeds.

## **Bikeability**

Acorns and Brailes teachers are very proud of the Year 5 children who have all successfully completed their Bikeability training. The instructors commented on how enthusiastic and confident the children were and how they took all aspects of the training very seriously. Well done to all the children on completing such important training and remember to use all the skills you have learnt when riding on the roads!



## **Acorns Admissions for September 2019**

Acorns Primary School has a few places available for Nursery and Reception classes for September 2019. For Nursery admissions from the age of 3, please speak to Mrs. Wixey or Mrs. Weatherhead in the school office - 01608 684654 or email [admin2639@we-learn.com](mailto:admin2639@we-learn.com). Reception applications for Acorns Primary School must be made through the home Local Authority:

If you live in Warwickshire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns Primary School:  
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>

If you live in Oxfordshire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns Primary School:  
[https://admissions.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ccsenterprise\\_admissionsonline/](https://admissions.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ccsenterprise_admissionsonline/)

If you live in Gloucestershire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns Primary School:  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-or-infant-school-place/>

**NEW VENUE**



# PLANT & HOME PRODUCE SALE

**Saturday 11th May**

10am - 12 noon **Free Entry**

**Brailes Village Hall**

**OX15 5AS**



Plants (including vegetable plants), Jams, Chutneys, Cakes, Biscuits, Marmalades, Pickles, Pies, Garden Produce etc.

## PLANTS & PRODUCE WANTED PLEASE

Delivery of plants and produce to Brailes Village Hall from 10am - 2pm on Friday 10th May.

For more information please call Fudge Ramsay 01608 680000 or Caroline Gunn 01608 663508

[www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk)

Registered Charity: 1162586

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

**Margaret Welsh**, Long Compton Garden Club

**Miranda Arnold**, Whichford Amateur Gardener

May is a relentlessly busy month in the garden as the last of the spring flowers overlap with new growth of the summer perennials. Tulips need to be dead-headed after flowering and once the leaves have died down lifted and allowed to dry out before storing in a cool place until November. If tulips are to be left in the ground, they should be planted deep with plenty of grit. As the spring flowers fade, crowded bulbs can be divided. This is especially important if they have not flowered well. Primroses and polyanthus can also be split and replanted.

Spring flowering shrubs such as berberis, choysia and forsythia can now be pruned. Cut down the oldest stems to maintain the size and shape of the shrub. Quinces can also be shaped and tied in, but do not do this too severely if you want the fruit for jelly. If early flowering clematis montana has become over-large, this can also be cut back now.

Start hardening off tender plants before planting out towards the end of the month. Dahlias can also be planted out once the risk of frost has past. Dahlia cuttings can be taken from the new growth if you wish to have extra plants. Seedlings and cutting-raised plants need to be pricked out and potted on as appropriate. Container grown plants should be given liquid feed to boost their growth. If replanting and mulching in borders drifts of self-seeding annuals can be thinned and it summer flowering bulbs may still be planted.

If you are growing potatoes, start earthing them up when they are 20-25 cms high. Sow salad crops in succession and sow sweetcorn and French beans directly in the soil. Plant tomatoes in their final pots or grow bags when the first flowers show colour. Plant out marrows and courgettes towards the end of the month.

Fruit bushes romp away once the weather warms up especially after they have been fed and mulched. It is a good idea to remove overcrowded and surplus shoots of raspberries. Tie in the new growth of blackberries and start summer pruning vines. Put straw under the foliage of strawberry plants to protect them from the wet and net to prevent birds eating the fruit.



Lawns will need regular cutting now and may benefit from a high nitrogen fertiliser together with a selective weed killer if weeds are a problem.

April weather was variable with some heavy frosts and we still need to remain alert to frost warnings in May. On the other hand, we may also need to ventilate and shade the greenhouse to prevent over-heating. Despite its unpredictability, May is an exciting and enjoyable

month in the gardening year as the flower and vegetable beds fill with new growth.

**Margaret Welsh**

When you read these notes, signs of spring will be well under way. Biblical figures, we are told, when presented with a major problem would 'gird their loins'. I am sure if all things in our natural world were they to possess this physical attribute, would now be doing the same. Included here of course are all flowers and plants which increase in size each day. Imbedded in the stalk of the flower, the perianth, are numerous proteins whose job it is to encourage the growth of the plant. Lower down in the plant are similar though different proteins activating the increase in size of the root. The tip of the root is the main part which is instigating food absorption in the plant. Let us not forget the mass of tiny adventitious roots which, joined to soil fungi, give out and receive food. The whole operation being one of mutual benefit. All this is of course dependant on increased light and warmth. Out on the stalks and branches are appearing tiny buds which will rapidly transfer into leaves, the surface of which are responsible for photosynthesis, while beneath is taking place the absorption of carbon dioxide. Later still will appear the buds of the flowers, the most important part of all, for in them rest the burgeoning seeds which are the future of the species. They will be dispersed in many ways including by wind and by birds. Thus the plant will ensure its future survival.

Up to a year or two ago, a blackbird with white feathers was often seen around here. We all naturally assumed it to be an albino. It is very likely that we were all wrong. The fact is that true albinos are relatively rare and a true albino is identified by reddish coloured eyes. I never got near enough to this bird to confirm or deny this feature, but I feel that one of us would have noticed such an outstanding fact. To produce black feathers, the blackbird needs the compound melanin and the true albino naturally lacks any of this. But there are birds which whilst having whitish feathers possess melanin which lacks another ingredient of this compound and therefore are not true albinos. The fact is that greying or even whitening of feathers can be caused by a number of factors. Poor diet is one, old age is another (after all many of us go grey in our later years!) Illness too contributes to this condition. A loss of the melanin pigment with each moult can be a contributing factor. Protein eating birds such as gulls rarely if ever suffer from feathering discolouration. Perhaps blackbirds and corvids do not absorb enough protein to prevent a loss of melanin in their feathering. The whole question is one still under examination. But take it mostly for granted that the white feathered blackbird you see on your bird table is not an albino.

From mysterious feathers to mysterious birds. Step – or rather hop – forward that African migrant the cuckoo. Its habit of laying in other bird's nests is well-known. Which is why this appendage has been given to a species of bee. The cuckoo bee will enter the nest of an unrelated species, will kill the queen and commence laying eggs in the readymade cells prepared for the larvae of the host species. The cuckoo bees larvae, when mature enough to emerge, will do so having produced their own new queen and fly off to pastures new.

I am wondering if there is a brotherhood amongst male pheasants, whereby they dare each other to stand as long as they can summon up the courage in front of an approaching car, before disdainfully strutting off. I ask this because recently more and more of these birds have been behaving in this way. Let me approach a cock pheasant stepping out onto the road and instead of making a rapid scuttle to the opposite verge more and more of them have paused in the middle of the road, turned their heads towards the car and regarded my vehicle with an air which can only be construed as insulting. Having waited for a few moments in a static position it will stalk majestically across the rest of the road, like Caesar at the head of a triumphal march. Curiously, pheasants learn to fly earlier than most young birds, understandably since being mostly born and bred on the ground they have to get out of the way of predators very quickly. We have a male pheasant who visits ours and friends' gardens whose manners are impeccable. Can it be that someone has bred a new sub-race of pheasants that are altogether more forward, more aggressive? Time is going to give us the answer I am sure.

**Tony Partridge**



***A Walk in the Park* by Stourton artist Colin Beckett**

### **Cantamus in St Martin's**

Cantamus, Shipston's a capella choir, under musical director, Richard Emms, came to St. Martin's to *Sing Joyfully* on Sunday 14 April as part of the Organ Fund series of concerts.

It was indeed joyful: a programme rich in song and also readings. The latter were chosen and for the most part, delivered by Cantamus member and local actor, Anne Hume. She held us wrapt during such highlights as Paul Tortellier's account of being closely accompanied by a butterfly during a cello recital, and a poem by Cornish poet, Charles Causley, read expertly in his native accent.

The choir sang an exceptionally varied range of songs from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries: Orlando Gibbons to The Beatles! They revealed the dedication and ambition of the choir which exploited to the full the lovely acoustic of our church.

Unusual, lesser-known pieces such as the madrigal, *Draw on Sweet Night* by John Wilbye and a Victorian 'domestic' song by Julius Benedict, *Invocation to Sleep*, were full of warmth and tenderness, as was the encore, *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes*. They drew us to the close of a spring afternoon very well spent and we very much hope to welcome Cantamus back again next year!

A big thank you to everyone involved and present who helped raise another £410 for the Organ Fund.

**Dianne Smith**

### **Young Musicians' Concert**

The Young Musicians' Concert will be at Barcheston Church on Wednesday 26 June at 7.30 pm. All are welcome, details to follow in next month's LINK.

### **St. Martin's Update**

The project for a new pipe organ at St. Martin's has been a lengthy business. The first sign of real progress was last October when two specially designed and constructed oak cases were erected, one on each side of the west window. They look absolutely magnificent. They stood empty for about three months, settling in, while the organ builders, Henry Grove & Son of Nottingham, made the various component parts of the organ at their workshop. Then in February, they began work in the church by installing the wind supply system, one in each case. This was followed by the assembly of the pipes, console with two manuals and pedals and draw stops and a great deal of electronic equipment and wiring. As I write this on Easter Monday, there is still some work to be done but the organ is scheduled to be complete by the end of this week.

I have visited the church several times while all this has been happening and it has been very interesting to get some idea of what is involved and how much technical skill and expertise is required. I have taken lots of photos as a record and Jonathan, from Groves, has been very helpful in answering umpteen questions from me. I now have much more idea of what it takes to build a pipe organ and can't wait to play it!

The organ will be launched with two events during the first weekend in May.

Saturday 4 May at 3.30 pm. A demonstration and recital by Paul Hale.

Sunday 5 May at 3.30 pm. A recital by Edward Higginbottom.

Other dates for your diary - Sunday 2 June at 3.30 pm an organ recital by David Saint. For further information please contact David Hodges at david@famington.co.uk This is the first of a series of monthly recitals ending in December.

**David Gardner**

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## A Tale of Two Cities – In Concert!

Stour Singers, directed by Richard Emms, will be presenting a concert reflecting two cities (Venice and London) and two centuries, in their concert at St. Edmund's Church in Shipston on Saturday evening 11 May, at 7.30 p.m.

Handel composed the *Foundling Hospital Anthem* in 1749, in support of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital. Handel not only wrote this anthem for a benefit concert, but he also donated an organ (a musical one!) to the hospital and gave an annual performance of *Messiah* in the chapel there for the last nine years of his life.



Some 50 years earlier, Venice's 'red priest', Vivaldi, composed his *Dixit Dominus* for soloists, double-choir and double orchestra, with the two choirs echoing and blending voices, combining with solo arias and the double orchestra.

Then, a century before Handel wrote the *Foundling Hospital Anthem*, Monteverdi - Maestro di Capella in Venice's St. Mark's Cathedral - composed his beautiful *Beatus Vir*, where the melody passes back and forth across the voices of the choir, to delightful effect.

Together with a solo performance of Handel's *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, from *Messiah*, these are the treats in store for the audience in St. Edmund's Church, with soloists Susannah Fairbairn (soprano), Cathy Bell (mezzo), Tom Raskin (tenor), Julian Debreuil (bass-baritone), and the Queen's Park Sinfonia.

Tickets are available from A. Clarke, 27 High Street, Shipston, at £12.50. Under 16s are welcome to come, accompanied by an adult, at no cost. For additional information, contact the choir's coordinator, Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587.

# VILLAGE NEWS

## BURMINGTON

Editor: Jenny Banbury

Email: [burmington@swlink.org.uk](mailto:burmington@swlink.org.uk)

### Cameo Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club meeting will be held in Burmington village hall on Tuesday 14 May at 12 noon for 12.30 pm.

All are welcome: most villages in the Benefice are represented in the growing membership. A charge of £4 is made towards expenses and all dietary needs can be met. Please bring your family, friends and children. Transport to and from the village hall can be provided.



Please book with Brenda Fitch on Tel: 664313. The next Lunch Club meetings will be on Tuesdays 11 June and 9 July.

## Full English Breakfast is being served at BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



Saturday 4 May - 10.00 am to 12.00 pm  
Gluten free and vegetarian diets catered for  
Call Irene (661418) for details

## Burmington Parish Meeting

Will be held on

Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Do come along and air your views.

If you can't be there but would like an issue raised please contact:

Robert Hutchings, Chairman Tel: 661496 or

Graham French, Meeting Secretary, [gfrench@enterprise.net](mailto:gfrench@enterprise.net) / Tel: 239032





# BIRMINGTON SUMMER SOIRÉE

8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019

6PM - LATE



*Join us on for an informal gathering in Michael's Field. Pull up a hay bale or bring your own seating and enjoy some good food with great company.*

PIG ROAST

PIMMS & PUDDINGS

MUSIC & DANCING

RAFFLE & TOMBOLA

GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN

(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS)

*Adults - £10.00*

*Children aged 5-16 - £5.00*

*(under 5's are free)*

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

CALL IRENE: 01608 661418

OR EMAIL:

BIRMINGTONVILLAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM



Benefice Songs of Praise  
with  
Solid Ground Gospel Choir  
and Band  
Sunday 16 June – 6.00 pm



In Burmington Manor Gardens

With drinks and snacks

**VILLAGE  
NEWS**

BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH WITH LITTLE COMPTON

Editor: Barney Henderson

Email: [barton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barton@swlink.org.uk)

Tel: 674424

### Village Clean Up

A fine group of villagers led by Christopher Seymour-Smith met on the green on 13 April equipped with shovels and brooms doing grand work. The volunteer spirit was self-evident leaving a worthwhile result.

Our thanks to all who took part. Penny Mead kindly provided coffee and rolls for all the workers.

### The Village Fete

This event will, after all take place again this year. I believe the date is to be 23 June.

**Barney Henderson**

# VILLAGE NEWS

## CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: [cherington@swlink.org.uk](mailto:cherington@swlink.org.uk)

Tel: 686682



### THE COFFEE SHOP at THE HALL Saturday 18 May 10.30 am - 12 noon



Full English breakfast cooked by Dick and Sue Maaz  
Plant stall and craft stall of the month

Would you like to spend a fun couple of hours helping out as part of our team?  
Please ring Christine Dudfield 01608 686288 or Trisha Wilson 686279

### Village Lottery

1st Jamie Glanvill - £80 2nd Eric Clubley - £45 3rd Chris Thompson - £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining please contact Steve Allkins or, better still, drop in on our third Saturday coffee mornings (10.30 am – 12.00)

**Steve Allkins**

### Brailles Picturehouse

Saturday 18 May - *Widows*

A story of four women with nothing in common except a debt left behind by their dead husbands' criminal activities in a heist that went wrong. The gangster whose money they stole, wants the millions back. Trouble is, the money was destroyed. Set in contemporary Chicago, tensions build when Veronica, Alice, Linda and Belle take their fate into their own hands and conspire to forge a future on their own terms.

Starring: Viola Davis, Elizabeth Debicki, Michelle Rodriguez, Cynthia Erivo, Liam Neeson, Colin Farrell and Robert Duval.

Future Screening – Saturday 15 June *Stan and Ollie*

**Deirdre Carney**

### Help Needed

Is there anyone who would be willing to distribute copies of the Shipston League of Friends Annual Report in the villages of Cherington and Stourton?

The League of Friends does valuable work in support of The Ellen Badger Hospital and other voluntary activities in Shipston. If you do feel able to help, please contact Jean Le Breuilly (686834).

**Jean Le Breuilly**

## Brailes Mechanical & Craft Society

On Monday 1 April the village hall was virtually filled to capacity when over 90 members and guests learnt about the history of lost villages, particularly in the Oxfordshire and Warwickshire area. Deborah Hayter, our speaker who lectures in Oxford, took us back to the 1100 and 1200s and villages recorded in the Magna Carter.

Thousands of long forgotten villages haunt Britain when, for various reasons, they were suddenly deserted and left to ruin. Following the Second World War when photography for aerial reconnaissance was developed, it was then possible to identify landscape features indicating earthworks, thus allowing more detailed exploration. Ridge and furrow created for farming and divisions of land from early days showed up well and an area of building foundations proved early occupation. The walls of abandoned villages occasionally reappear in long periods of dry weather.

There are a number of reasons for the decline and subsequent disappearance of once thriving communities that succumbed to natural or human forces like disease, coastal erosion, industrial decline, reservoirs or war. Flooding made some places uninhabitable, the Black Death in the late middle-ages reduced populations of villages that never recovered and land including villages was commandeered for military purposes during war and was never released. Changes from arable to sheep farming meant less workers and their cottages were left empty while wealthy land owners with large mansions destroyed surrounding villages for privacy. Villages built for local industry like mining were often abandoned when the area was exhausted. Deborah gave us a most interesting talk illustrated with aerial pictures and plans showing outlines of settlements and their spread throughout the country.

Our next meeting is on Monday 13 May, not the usual first Monday. On this occasion, well known speaker, Ray Sturdy will be presenting *China's Ancient & Modern Treasures* which should be of great interest. Visitors, as usual, are most welcome if you can fit in the hall at 7.30 pm.

Also, on Saturday 13 July we are taking a coach to Gloucester Waterways Museum and may have a few spare places. Interested? Contact Mick Woods on 685017.

**Mick Woods**

## St. John The Baptist Church

I suspect that many of you will not know much about turret clocks (I didn't until six months ago), so you may find some background helpful. A turret clock is a clock intended to make the time known publicly, either by striking a bell(s), or showing the time on an external exposed dial, or both. Although the practical need for turret clocks has virtually vanished, they remain an important part of our heritage and culture and are often highly valued by local communities. They were used in such diverse settings as country house stable blocks, army and navy barracks and factories. Many of the old buildings housing turret clocks have been demolished and those turret clocks that remain are predominantly found in our churches.



Mechanical clocks as we would recognize them, first made their appearance in the late 13th century, and the oldest turret clock in this country is reputed to be the one on display in Salisbury Cathedral (c.1386). Our turret clock in St John the Baptist church in Cherington is some 500 years younger than the one in Salisbury but is beginning to show its age. Our clock was made in 1876 by Evans of Handsworth, considered to be one of the leading manufacturers of clocks during the Victorian period. Our turret clock had an automatic winder fitted several years ago so we do not have to wind it by hand. It is known as a 'two-train' clock which means it has one mechanism to record the time and another to chime each hour. Some more complex clocks have a third train to chime the quarters and half hours.

It was not until the early 20th century that turret clocks declined in importance following the import of cheap pocket watches from America. Today turrets clocks are largely obsolete as most gadgets and machines have clocks built in, and most people carry a mobile phone as well as, or instead of a watch of one kind or another. Despite the changing times (no pun intended), church clocks remain a valued part of our local (and national) heritage, and warrant preservation for future generations. If you are still reading this article then you must either be interested in clocks and/or heritage preservation, and hopefully you will continue reading through to the end.

The point of this article is to highlight the need for some investment in the future to ensure that our 150 year-old clock will continue to perform reliably for future generations. The clock is sitting in a dusty bell tower, and the ceiling above the clock is deteriorating which is increasing the amount of dust showering the clock. Dust plus oil produces an effective grinding paste which increases the rate of wear on the moving parts of the clock. Remedial work is required and this includes putting a casing around the clock to keep out some of the dust, stabilizing the ceiling above the clock and carrying out a thorough clean ahead of taking out an annual maintenance contract. Initial indications are that the upfront cost of this work will be in the region of two thousand pounds. This is not an expenditure that has been anticipated within the church budget, and we are exploring whether someone in our local community would be willing to make a contribution to the cost of this remedial work. If you can help, please contact Roger Maycock (686404), Paul Marriott (686317) or Richard Stevens (686599).

**Richard Stevens**

## **May in The Hall**

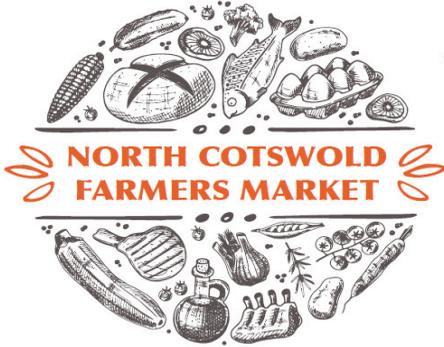
In addition to all the regular events in The Hall, the Farmers' Market will be on Thursday 2 May, 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

A treat at the Coffee Morning on Saturday 18 May will be a full English breakfast cooked by Dick and Sue Maaz. Art classes will include a Watercolour Workshop on Sunday 5 May 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 'Mixed Media' Saturday 11 May 2.00-5.00pm. The Seniors will be holding their AGM on Friday 17 May at 4.00 pm.

Don't forget the regular exercise, art and other classes held at the Hall as well as the various interest groups, including craft, gardening and photography. For a full programme see [www.thehallevents.org.uk](http://www.thehallevents.org.uk).

**Sally Clubley**

*Bar and Hot Supper available*



## **A monthly market every 1st Thursday of the month**

from 6pm until 8 pm  
@The Hall, Stourton,  
Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 5HG



*Supported by The Cotswolds Distillery*

CHEESE, BREAD, MEAT, LOCAL CRAFTS, CAKES, EGGS,  
QUICHES, FLANS, FRESHLY GROUND COFFEE, PRESERVES,  
MARMALADE AND HONEY

## **The CSS Village Tennis Tournament**



will take place on  
**Saturday 1 June**  
(All standards welcome)



Open to all current and past residents of Cherington, Stourton  
and Sutton under Brailes

Tennis in the morning followed by finals and lunch at Stourton Farm House  
For more info [sally.clubley@braidholm.com](mailto:sally.clubley@braidholm.com) or ring 685190

## **The Farm Buildings at North Farm, Cherington**

Those who occasionally travel along the old public 'drift' road below Brailes Hill to North Farm, will be familiar with the redundant farm buildings, which after more than a decade of neglect are a rather sad sight on the landscape. Planning permission has been granted for their demolition.

However, despite being redundant and scruffy they are a unique survival from the post-war period and worth a final view – from a safe and legal distance! They were constructed in the early 1960s largely from recycled materials, army and air force surplus, former pre-fab homes and materials from the closure of railway lines and surplus railway rolling stock.

One building was constructed using ex Great Western Railway (GWR) steam railway engine boiler tubes, purchased from the legendary Woodham Brothers scrapyards near

Barry Island, now more famous for the steam engines it did not scrap. The wood framework for another building came from the chassis members of dismantled railway goods trucks and the roof trusses from the former RAF officers' mess at Barford St. John airfield near Bloxham.

Closer inspection will reveal a lean-to built from railway sleepers and roof from pre-fab homes and grain walling made from the ends of steel GWR railway goods vans. The large, curved roofed 'Romney' building, was the former War Agriculture Committee building from Moreton in Marsh. Hidden from view is Jack Walker's old wooden veterinary dispensary from Burmington.



**Walling made from the ends of steel GWR railway goods vans**



**Roof trusses from the former RAF officers' mess at Barford St. John Airfield.**



**Jack Walker's old wooden veterinary dispensary.**

By the mid 1960s grants were available and wide span multi-purpose farm buildings became the standard. In the immediate post-war period when building materials were scarce and expensive, almost every farm had some form of building made from recycled or army surplus materials as farmers improvised to increase food production with limited resources. Today these farm buildings from the immediate post-war period have almost totally disappeared from the landscape, largely unrecorded.

**Howard Day**

*[Ed - Derek and Joan Day lived at North Farm from 1959 to 2006 and Howard grew up at the farm before leaving home in 1974.]*

## Highlighting our Hedgehogs

Did you know that it's Hedgehog Awareness Week from 5 -11 May? Have you seen a hedgehog in your garden at dusk? Maybe you have evidence of hedgehog poo on your lawn (which, incidentally can look like a slug sunbathing on the grass)!? I know a number of villagers in Cherington who have reported regular hedgehog sightings. This is great news - we can all take care to encourage them into our gardens and protect them. I adopted Matilda in 2017 and had the joy of seeing her return to my garden last year with her mate – lots of nocturnal grunting and huffing in the overgrown part of my garden.

She should be back any time soon but will have had to overcome many dangers. They face all sorts of challenges throughout the year, not just during hibernation. These dangers include: keen gardeners with strimmers and lawn mowers (do check your undergrowth because the hogs roll up and freeze on the spot when scared – give them time to escape to safety); eating slugs and snails contaminated with slug pellets and even getting caught up in garden netting or falling into ponds (they can swim, but can't climb out because of the steep edges – so please do put in a wee ramp).

They can travel a couple of kilometres every night – and a male can travel up to 3 km per night looking for a female! So, this May and June they will be clocking up the miles as they start courting. We can help them by building a hedgehog highway – connecting gardens by making a hole the size of a CD at ground level in our fences or garden walls so that they can travel safely and forage without being forced onto the roads.

If you would like any more details, or if you find an injured hedgehog and need advice, please get in touch with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society at [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk). You can also find out about making a Hedgehog Highway or recording your sightings on a special map at [www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/)



Louise Turner

## Cherington, Stourton & Sutton Flower Show

**Saturday 3 August** - August will be here before you know it, so time to start planning your entries for this year's show. Volunteers always needed for setting up and on the day itself; if you are able to help in any way, contact Helen on 01608 686586.

Helen Beaumont

## Harvard Krokadiloes – Save the Date

Many of you will remember the fantastic concert given by the Harvard Krokadiloes a *capella* singing group in the Church two years ago. They sing everything from traditional ballads through classic American 40s swing to 50s and 60s rock. Following the great reception they received, we are lucky enough to be included in this year's world tour.

On Tuesday 6 August they will perform in the garden of Jacques House, with a back-up plan for wet weather. There will be time for picnics. The concert will begin at 6.30 pm and tickets are £10.00. Contact [sally.clubley@braidholm.com](mailto:sally.clubley@braidholm.com) or telephone 685190.

Sally Clubley

# VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Editor: Harry Dodds

Email: [longcompton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:longcompton@swlink.org.uk)

Tel: 684606

## Village Hall News

This month we have our usual selection of classes, groups and meetings along with the Village Hall AGM on 13 May at 6.30 pm. This is an open meeting for anyone to attend to hear about what the Committee have been doing over the past year and their plans for your village hall for the future. Do join us in the hall if you can, we'd love to have your support.



We also have the two Bank Holiday Monday 'Family Picnics and Boules Tournaments'. Get yourself organised into a team or just turn up and join in the fun. Don't worry if you don't know how to play, there will be people to help you with the rules, all you need to do is bring your picnic, make use of the barbeque if you wish and lots of enthusiasm!

**Mo Read 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)**



*Long Compton Village Hall*

*Social Saturday*

*Saturday 11 May 11 am – 2 pm*



*We serve delicious home-cooked meals, soup, home-made cakes and hot drinks.*

*Do pop in and join us!*



*You are invited to the*

*Long Compton Village Hall AGM*

*Monday 13 May – 6.30 pm*



*Come along to hear about all the things that have happened at your Village Hall over the past 12 months, the plans for the future and how you can get involved.*

## Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

We meet at the village hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 2.00 – 3.30 pm. New members especially welcome.

**Contact Adrian on 684024 to learn more**

## Parish Council

### Long Compton Litter Pick

Saturday 18 May 10.00 am at The Chapel, Butlers Lane, Long Compton. (Opposite the Village Hall).

To help keep Long Compton looking lovely, we would like to invite you to join us for our first village clean up. Why not trade your morning dog walk for a litter picking session with them instead? Your help would be greatly appreciated. We will provide the bags and will have a few litter picker sticks available but please bring your own if you have one, along with some old gloves (gardening gloves are ideal) and a high vis (if you have one). Refreshments will be available at the Chapel for all volunteers at 11.15am

Contact Jennie Steenkamp 07855 765402 or Charlie Baughan 07851 607024 for further details.

### The opening of Weston Court



Warwickshire Rural Housing organised the formal opening of Weston Court and kindly included an Easter egg hunt laid out in new play area for the children's entertainment. All the principal parties were there to celebrate and have their role acknowledged – the scheme commenced when Ken Treadaway was Chair of Parish Council and started by collaborating with Warwickshire Rural Housing to conduct a housing needs survey. Agreement was then made with Stratford District Council for the Parish to purchase the land and a Public Works Loan obtained. Obtaining planning permission was the next step and once obtained, WRHA collaborated with Orbit Housing and Heyford Homes to finance the scheme. The result is that five houses are now let to local residents and four further properties are available for sale on the open market – one of which has also recently been sold to a local couple.

The inclusion of the play area, funded by the Section 106 contribution from developers, is an added bonus.

WRHA have other local schemes in progress at Stretton and Stourton and as they rely on volunteer directors if you would like to know more about their work do contact them.

### Arboricultural Works and Tree Charter Tree

Various works have recently been undertaken to trees on Parish land and sadly several have had to be removed including some at the Recreation Ground. However, at least one

new tree is due to be planted shortly as the sapling donated in recognition of Village Tree Charter Status is to find a new home at the village hall.

## Council Elections

As there were just seven nominations for the eight vacancies as Councillors this was an uncontested election and so Parish Councillors remain as Bill Cook, Lindsay Forbes, Janet Blackwell, Simon Bing, Harry Dodds, John Foster and Linda Griffiths. Thanks were expressed at April meeting to Colin Stagg who had decided not to run for election again but whose work in respect of Aunt Phoebe's Play Area had been much appreciated. This leaves one vacancy for a Volunteer who can now be co-opted to office. Contact the Clerk for more information if interested in knowing what this involves.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14 May at the village hall.

## Annual Parish Assembly - 22nd May

Looking forward to an interesting evening reflecting on the changes to the properties sold in 1919 over the last century. This starts with the reason for the Marquis of Northampton having to sell properties in 1919. In addition, each of village clubs has been challenged with bringing along an item representing their group in 1919, 1969 and 2019 so there should be some interesting displays. Refreshments available.

Long Compton Village Hall now has a Salvation Army Donation Bank  
The Committee hope you are able to make use of this  
facility to give new life to your unwanted clothes, footwear, bags,  
belts, towels and bed linen.  
For more information, visit the Salvation Army  
website: [www.satcol.org/donating](http://www.satcol.org/donating)



	<b>Ebenezer Chapel</b>	
	Congregational Church	
	Butlers Lane, Long Compton	
	<b>Whist Drive</b>	
	First Saturday of the month	
	4 May, 1 June, 6 July at 7.30 pm	
	Entry £2 incl. refreshments - Details: Sally 01608 684739	

## Long Compton Ebenezer Chapel

The Ebenezer Supporters Group is now operational and if you would like more details of how to join, please either pick up a leaflet at The Shop, or contact Sally on 07870 545431 or Elizabeth 07791 621778, or message [longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com) Keep up to date with news via our Facebook page.



In keeping with a desire to ensure that the Chapel is accessible to all, the door was left open at Easter Service and we hope that all passing by were uplifted by the songs of praise resonating out into Butlers Road from a congregation and choir in good voice. Communion was offered and in the chapel manner it is passed round congregation in an informal way rather than being served at the altar. After the service, those attending enjoyed socialising over tea.

As formal services are limited, the Chapel members now hold monthly 'Open Door Chapel' events on the afternoon of the third Sunday of the month – informal gatherings, with tea and cake, that are proving popular and interesting forums for discussions and reminiscing (next is on 19 May). The Annual Chapel Anniversary Service will be on Sunday 9 June at 3.00 pm – followed by tea.

Work is progressing well on The Manse renovation and we hope to have it available to rent shortly. Do get in touch if you are interested in knowing more. It is very much hoped that it can be let to a local person interested in village life.

Arrangements are being made for the Chapel car park to be available to Acorns school for extra parking provision whilst building works taking place.

If you would like to play Backgammon, Rummikub, or Scrabble or other games on a regular basis please contact Sally on 01608 684739 or 07870 545431.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 23 June - *The Spirituality of Summer* - A concert as part of Shipston Proms.

Wednesday 24 July - A Floral Lunch. Flower arranging demo and lunch fundraiser for Shipston and Chipping Norton home nursing charities.

Saturday 28 September - Macmillan coffee morning.

Friday 25 October - Charity film show and supper.

Details from [longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com).

## Ringling Matters

To lament the devastation to Notre Dame cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury asked churches throughout the country to ring their bells at 7.00 pm on Thursday 18 April. We didn't have enough ringers available to ring all six bells, but we were able to toll the Long Compton tenor bell for the requested seven minutes.

Long Compton, like many churches, is short of bellringers, in fact so short that we couldn't even ring on Easter Sunday. We need volunteers to come and learn to ring, or these bells which have rung out for over 350 years will fall silent.

**Trevor Hobday**

## Family Picnics and Boules Tournaments

### Long Compton Village Hall

May Bank Holidays, 6th and 27th 2.30 pm onwards



Bring your picnic and drinks to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the Bank Holiday sunshine, with a barbecue available for adults to use. The fun boules competitions are for junior (12 and under) and senior (over 13) teams of two.

Entry fees (50p juniors and £1 seniors) go into the pot as prize money. Registration at 2.30, with matches starting at 3.00 pm. Boules and instruction will be provided as required. Please note that juniors must be accompanied.

The Friends of Long Compton Church present

## Cheese and Wine Bluff



A fun evening for those who love their cheese and wine as well as a chance to test your knowledge and taste buds. Why not make up a table of eight with friends or join in the fun with others on the night ?

More details in the leaflet available in the Village Shop and being distributed around the village



The Friends of  
Long Compton  
Church



**Saturday 18 May 7.00 pm**  
**Long Compton Village Hall**  
**Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £20**



Tickets from [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com) or 01608 684813 or on the door.

## Compton Creatives

The Compton Creatives met in March for a full day workshop on hand book binding. We each made two books, one bound with Japanese stab stitch technique and one with a coptic binding. We plan another bookbinding session in the autumn to consolidate our technique/refresh our memories. Our April session was on smocking, and we each made a bag with a smocked front. Future plans include a session on patchwork, and a repeat visit to Kelmscott Manor, which was much enjoyed last year.

We meet monthly on the third Monday, and occasionally at other times for workshops and outings. New members are always welcome.

Contact - [caroline.nixon@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.nixon@btinternet.com)  
or [jhburras@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jhburras@yahoo.co.uk)



## Long Compton and District Garden Club – 24 April

### *Wildlife in the Garden* - Nick Martin

Would we know a nuthatch if it visited our bird table? Did we know that the reason the carrion crow mucks up our lawns each year in Autumn is because they feed on leatherjackets which are the larvae of the European crane fly or Daddy Long legs as we commonly know them? How long do Robins live and are they the same ones as we saw in our gardens last year? Is selfheal a weed? Where are the hedgehogs?

These are just some of the questions that were answered by Nick Martin, a freelance wildlife photographer, who last month gave us a spectacular photographic account of all the animals and birds that live in our gardens. Nick lives in a suburban road between Dorridge and Knowle, with a small footprint of a garden that opens on to an area of disused land which helps him attract numerous visitors of the right kind around the year. Whenever he sees something of interest, he is out with the camera recording wonderful close-ups of aphids, toads, barn owls, badgers, butterflies and even, once, a kingfisher!

When I think of the beauty of my own garden and how much is actually going on within it all the time, I am a little embarrassed by my inattention to detail and lack of more than passing concerns. We all of course have our special interests. But all of us have gardens and even in small space there are always more things to observe. Garden club slide shows do not always excite, but this one certainly did!

**Anthony Wells.**

## Long Compton and District Garden Club – Trips 2019

**Thursday 16 May** – Ravensthorpe Nursery (am) and Coton (pm with lunch available). 10 acre garden with extensive herbaceous borders and nursery. Start LC Village Hall 9.15 am - £7.50

**Wednesday 12 June** – Rodmarton House and Garden (lunch included). Rodmarton Manor is a supreme example of a house built and all its furniture made according to Arts and Crafts ideals. The garden has been rated as outstanding in recent articles in The Telegraph and others. Start from LC Village Hall 8.45 am - £22

**Tuesday 16 July** Kiftsgate (teas available) Magnificent situation and views, many unusual plants and shrubs, tree peonies, hydrangeas, abutilons, roses. Start from LC Village Hall 1.00 pm - £9

**Wednesday 18 September** Midsummer house (am) Owners previously at Mill House and brought many plants to this new garden. Lunch at Cotswold Plough in Clanfield. Radcot House (pm with afternoon tea). Approximately 3 acres of dramatic yet harmonious planting, pond, fruit and vegetable cages, grasses and unusual perennials and sculpture. Start from LC Village Hall 10 am - £18

To book your places, please email [lesleyroberts46@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyroberts46@gmail.com) or call Lesley on 01608 684 545 or Anthony on 01608 684 337

## Comptonians

Last month we had a most enjoyable talk about the History of the Punch and Judy show. Our speaker, Phil Collins, engaged with the audience throughout and was ably assisted by one of our members, Sam, who accompanied a short Punch and Judy show by sportingly dressing up and simultaneously playing a penny whistle and shaking a tambourine. The rest of us tried our best to sing along.

The talk was followed by a delicious tea provided this month by June and Marianne. Many thanks to all who made this such a lovely afternoon. We have welcomed several new members recently and more will always be welcome. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

Next month we shall visit Millets Garden Centre.

**Margaret Welsh 684238**

## The Friends of Long Compton Church

2019 Events are listed below.

Saturday 18 May – Cheese and Wine Bluff in the village hall

July - Know your Village Quiz (free entry)

Friday 2 August – Photographic Exhibition in the church plus quiz results

22-24 November – Christmas Tree Festival in the church

Saturday 7 December concert - tbc

Our information and contact points: [e. friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:e.friendslcchurch@gmail.com)

f: [@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com) [www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com](http://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com)

**Sue Klatt, Chairman**

## Long Compton & District Walkers

A very local walk starting at Cherington awaited a large group of walkers, who, after ordering lunch at 'The Cherry Arms' set off towards Sutton under Brailes church. Several of the group took the opportunity to have a quick look inside, before we set off up and over Cherington Hill, which caused a few huffs and puffs.

The weather was fairly damp and drizzly and the rain during the previous weekend had made the underfoot conditions very 'claggy'. Feet felt several pounds heavier when crossing some of the fields, but everyone coped admirably. A couple of slippages fortunately did not lead to any injuries, other than slightly dented pride, and in spite of not being able to appreciate the views fully, everyone found the route very enjoyable.

A full circle past Burmington Grange and down the hill we had just walked up, brought us back to Cherington, where soggy boots were replaced with something drier, before 18 of us enjoyed lunch. Thank you to our two leaders for planning the walk.

The walk next month will be on Tuesday 14 May, meeting as usual in the car park at The Red Lion at 9.30 am. Do please join us.

Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton  
book club

Next meeting – Thursday 9 May 7.00-8.30pm

we will be discussing

*Where my Heart Used to Beat* by Sebastian Faulks

As always, all welcome

Contact: Sue Klatt 01608 684813 or [sueklatt@gmail.com](mailto:sueklatt@gmail.com)

## Compton District History Society

Tim Bridges gave us an enthralling talk on the Churches of the North Cotswolds. He explained that our area was fortunate to contain excellent examples of churches from all of the historical periods. Supporting his presentation with many splendid photographs, Tim took us on a journey across the north Cotswolds covering Saxon churches, the Norman period, the Middle Ages (including the wonderful 'wool churches') the Impact of the Tudor reformation, some lovely Stuart and Georgian churches, the Victorian neo-Gothic revival and Arts and Crafts movement right up to the present day modification of churches to make them more accessible to the community. In this last context, our own St. Peter and St. Paul was given an especially honourable mention.

Tim went on to provide some remarkable examples of surviving wall paintings, brass memorials and sculpture to be found in our area.

Quite simply, it was a tour de force which left his audience amazed at the extraordinary riches available to us within three quarters of an hour's drive of our village. In answer to a request from a quick-thinking member of the audience, Tim agreed to



### The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Jane Hall who is the winner of the April Reading Room draw.

**Jenny Scrivener**

### Whichford and Ascott Garden Flower Show Competition

The biannual garden competition is being held on Friday 21 June. Judging will take place during the afternoon from 1.30pm onwards. We are delighted to welcome Victoria Logue from Whitehall Plants to judge the gardens.

Please do enter your garden, vegetable plot or greenhouse in the competition. It need not be perfect or even finished and RHS rules don't apply.

There are lots of cups to be won including one for a 'child's garden' - this may constitute something as simple as a row of vegetables or wild flowers, or a small cultivated patch - just as long as it has been the child's responsibility. We can arrange to visit when the children are back from school.

For details contact Sophia Corlett on 01608 684369 or via email at [sophiacorlett@btinternet.com](mailto:sophiacorlett@btinternet.com).

**Sophia Corlett**

### Whichford and Ascott Crafts Morning

Monday 3 June, 10am – 11.30am at the Old Rectory, Whichford. By kind invitation of Caroline O'Kane. Any craft activity welcome. If you have a query, please ring Diana Atkins (01608 684025) or Sophia Corlett (01608 684369).

**Mandy James**



### St. Michael's Church - Bluebell Service in Whichford Woods Sunday 5 May at 10.30am

Do come and join us! We will meet in the Church at 10.30 am and then walk to Whichford Woods for an informal service followed by refreshments.

Dogs are Welcome too!

By kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Warriner. Please do wear appropriate footwear as the paths are uneven and may well be muddy!

## Nature Encounters

Three long-tailed tit chicks peer out of their nest in Whichford Woods. There could be another 10 of their siblings stuffed into this cosy structure. A mixture of moss, lichen and spiders' webs allows the nest to expand as the young birds grow. Patrick is pleased to report that they fledged successfully on St George's Day.



Patrick Fox

## Join us for a Fun Evening of Wine Tasting

Shane Slater will challenge you with his choice of wines from



Followed by Supper in the Garden on  
Saturday 8th June, 6.30 pm at Melbourne House, Whichford  
(by invitation of Bernard & Joanna Cook)

Tickets £30 to include champagne on arrival,  
wine tasting and a glass of wine with supper  
Further drinks available for purchase  
Raffle

For tickets email: [cook@thesmithyltd.co.uk](mailto:cook@thesmithyltd.co.uk) or 01608 684357  
In aid of The Friends of St. Michael's Church

## Great Wolford Litter Pick

On the last Saturday in March a group of stalwarts left the green spreading out down all the roads entering the village; hi-vis waistcoats, latex gloves and black plastic bags to the fore. We collected the usual array of plastic bottles, tin cans and sundry bits and pieces which have now gone in the rubbish and recycling collection. There was not as much as last year, and no large items such as cooker tops which we had found previously. The asbestos drain pipes which had been left earlier, have been collected by Stratford District Council.

A big thank you to all who took part and hopefully next year we will come back with completely empty sacks!

**Lynn Mathias**

## The Wolfords WI

Trevor Langley was an excellent speaker at our April meeting guiding us through the history of Warwick and inspiring us to visit the town.

The next Coffee and Cake morning will be on Tuesday 7 May at the Fosseyway Garden Centre at 10.00 am. Bring your craft work or just join us for a chat.

Wednesday 1 May is the Resolutions Meeting which provides the opportunity to enjoy a lively discussion and vote for or against this year's resolutions which are

1. A Call against the decline in local bus services
2. Don't fear the Smear

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) in The Wolfords Village Hall, Little Wolford at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome, please ring Sue Elliot 01608 674295 for further details.

## Great Wolford Annual Parish Meeting

Great Wolford Parish Council will hold its AGM on Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 pm in the church. This, like all our meetings, is open to any member of the public but the AGM is a particular opportunity for the Parish Council to inform the parish of its activities through the year. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to bring forward any ideas for the village which can be discussed in an open forum.

If you have anything you would like us to consider please let either the Clerk, Janet Piller, or myself know at [clerk.pc@greatwolford.com](mailto:clerk.pc@greatwolford.com) or [chairman.pc@greatwolford.com](mailto:chairman.pc@greatwolford.com) so that they can be added to the Agenda, or come along to the meeting for an open discussion. Our local District and County Councillors will normally be present so this is an opportunity to talk to them.

**Lynn Mathias, Chair, Great Wolford Parish Council**

## Last Call for Car Boot Collection

No, it's not too late. We're still collecting for our carbooting bonanza on the late May Bank Holiday (Monday 27 May) at the big Moreton car boot sale at the cricket ground. The object is to raise much-needed money for the maintenance of St. Michael & All Angels church and the churchyard at Wolford.

Can you please check and see if you have anything tucked away in your garage or loft or your garden shed that you'd be glad to get rid of – china, ornaments, tools including garden ones, small household and kitchen goods, old watches, radios and cameras, unwanted gifts, sports equipment, toys and games, jigsaws, costume jewellery, pictures, books, cds and DVDs, and bric-a-brac of any sort – please let us know before 24th May and we'll either arrange to collect from you or you can deliver to us. So please have a good sort out now and we'll help you to recycle stuff you no longer need. We'll be grateful for any contributions and look forward to hearing from you. Thanks very much.

Contacts: Janet Piller (674396) John Wrench (674389) Ann McKenna (674009)



**LITTLE WOLFORD  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**7pm, Wednesday, 22nd May 2019**  
**The Wolfords Village Hall**

This statutory assembly provides an opportunity for the electors of Little Wolford to raise and discuss issues affecting the Parish, to review the Parish Meeting's accounts for the year ending 31 March and to quiz their District and Council Councillors regarding local service provisions, planning policy or indeed, anything else.

The agenda for the meeting can be found at:  
[www.littlewolford.org.uk](http://www.littlewolford.org.uk)

Photograph by Ralph Döring at Tower Farm

## Coffee Morning – Saturday 13 April

A huge thank you to all those who supported the above Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research. As a result of the most generous donations, cakes and raffle prizes, we managed to collect the amazing sum of £430.80 on the day with still more cash promised.

An absolutely fantastic result, thank you all again for helping to make the event such a success.

**Betty Bryan and The Team**

## The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The April winners were as follows;

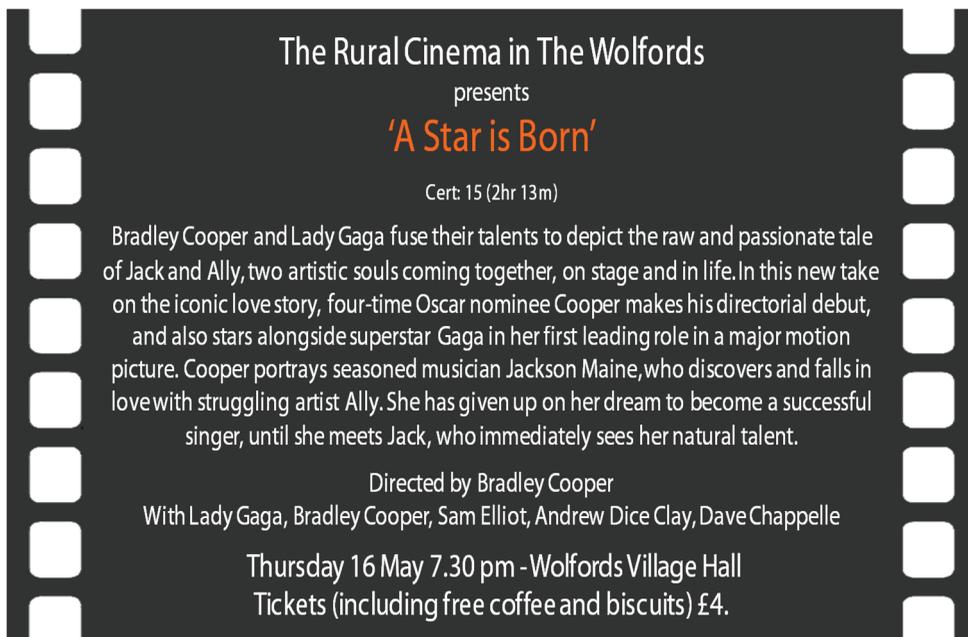
1st prize – Gill Ablewhite

2nd prize – Christopher Wolverson

3rd prize – Tony Dyer

Many congratulations to the above. Just a reminder to contact myself if you require any more shares in the club which will help with the upkeep of the village hall.

**James van Helden**



The Rural Cinema in The Wolfords  
presents  
**'A Star is Born'**  
Cert: 15 (2hr 13m)

Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga fuse their talents to depict the raw and passionate tale of Jack and Ally, two artistic souls coming together, on stage and in life. In this new take on the iconic love story, four-time Oscar nominee Cooper makes his directorial debut, and also stars alongside superstar Gaga in her first leading role in a major motion picture. Cooper portrays seasoned musician Jackson Maine, who discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally. She has given up on her dream to become a successful singer, until she meets Jack, who immediately sees her natural talent.

Directed by Bradley Cooper  
With Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliot, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle

Thursday 16 May 7.30 pm - Wolfords Village Hall  
Tickets (including free coffee and biscuits) £4.

## World Challenge – Imogen Murphy

I have recently been fundraising for a schools' expedition trip to Malaysia and Borneo in 2020. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of the people around the local villages who have helped me get closer to my goal. Whether it be by donations, attending the recent quiz, dog walking, cat feeding, car washing, babysitting or gardening, everyone has helped me enormously and I could not be more grateful.



If anyone is in need of assistance for jobs around the house or completing tasks, you can contact me by email through [imogenmurphy@btinternet.com](mailto:imogenmurphy@btinternet.com) or phone me on 01608 674005 and 07598 744711. Thank you.

**Immi Murphy**

# Poetry Notes

Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

This month's Poem is *In May* by Welsh born poet W.H. Davies. The poem was suggested by Maggie Robinson from Cherington. Many thanks Maggie.

Davies was born in the Pillgwenlly district of Newport, Monmouthshire and is said to be related to the famous British actor Sir Henry Irving. Although born in Wales, Davies spent much time in various location in the UK and US living as tramp and a hobo. His most famous line has to be - *What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.* The principal themes in his work are observations about life's hardships and the ways in which the human condition is reflected in nature.

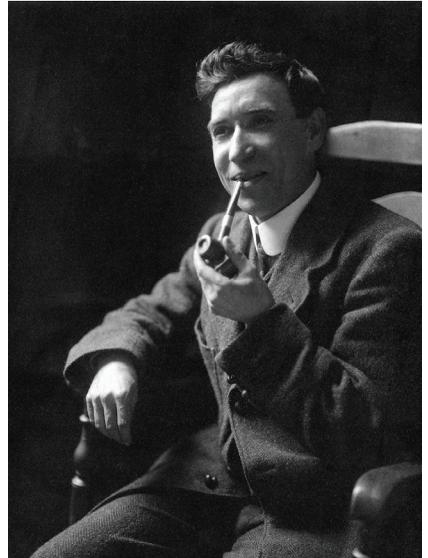
## *In May*

Yes, I will spend the livelong day  
With Nature in this month of May;  
And sit beneath the trees, and share  
My bread with birds whose homes are there;  
While cows lie down to eat, and sheep  
Stand to their necks in grass so deep;  
While birds do sing with all their might,  
As though they felt the earth in flight.  
This is the hour I dreamed of, when  
I sat surrounded by poor men;  
And thought of how the Arab sat  
Alone at evening, gazing at  
The stars that bubbled in clear skies;

And of young dreamers, when their eyes  
Enjoyed methought a precious boon  
In the adventures of the Moon  
Whose light, behind the Clouds' dark bars,  
Searched for her stolen flocks of stars.  
When I, hemmed in by wrecks of men,  
Thought of some lonely cottage then  
Full of sweet books; and miles of sea,  
With passing ships, in front of me;  
And having, on the other hand,  
A flowery, green, bird-singing land.

**William Henry Davies 1871 -1940**

Please keep your poetry suggestions coming; writing them for us would be even better! Please be sure to submit your suggestions in good time bearing in mind that more recent poems will often be protected by copyright and if this is the case, the publisher's permission will need to be obtained.



**Keith Murphy, [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)**