

# THE LINK

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

June 2021

£1



■ 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)

## Events Update

Events are being planned again in anticipation of the expected end of lockdown measures on Monday 21 June. Let's hope all goes smoothly and Monday 21 June is only the 'longest day' in terms of its hours of daylight. Please do check events are still going ahead beforehand. I'm afraid that even The LINK can not be exactly sure what's going to happen after we go to print!

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

Wed	02	Wolfords WI (by Zoom)	19.30
Sun	06	Ebenezer Congregational Chapel, Long Compton – Thanksgiving Service	15.30
Sun	06	Beneficial Book Group, Open Air Meeting	17.30
Tue	08	Long Compton and District Walkers, Depart Red Lion car park...	09.30
Thurs	10	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	12	Coffee Shop at The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat	12	Social Saturday, Long Compton Village Hall	11.00
Sun	13	Wolfords Village Hall, Car Park Tidy-Up	10.00
Sat	19	Summer Garden Party at the private Whichford Pottery Garden open to the public	
Sun	20	Whichford and Ascott Open Gardens. Commences...	13.00
Mon	21	Cherington Parish Council Meeting, The Hall	20.00
Fri	25	<i>My Darling Clementine</i> Music Event, Long Compton Ch. Doors Open...	18.30
Sun	27	Benefice Service. Farewell to Stuart and Vicki. Long Compton Church	10.30



**LINK cover:** *'Between a Rock and a Hard Place'*.  
A flowering saxifrage found in Long Compton.  
Photograph by Celia Sawyer.  
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.

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Farming Notes	Lynn Mathias	farming@swlink.org.uk

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Long Compton	Jean Taylor	684806
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Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
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Monday 14 June

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## Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2021

As many of you will know, we have recently moved from Burmington. As a result, I am going to find it impossible to carry on as Shoebox Area Collector for the SW7 Benefice.

I am hoping that someone would be prepared to take over from me. This would entail displaying a poster in each village, making leaflets available (in village churches, shops etc.) and then receiving completed boxes. This is not at all arduous, and only really demands your attention in September and October. If you are interested, please contact me and we can have a chat about what you might be committing yourself to.

**Sue Bradley, 01608 661635**



# Stour Valley Lions (CIO)

Charity No 1191826



## 'Pop up' Bring and Buy Plant Sale



## Saturday 5 June – 10.00 am onwards

On the grass area, south of Scout Hut,  
New Street Car Park, New Street  
Shipston on Stour CV36 4EV

For more information contact Stour Valley Lions by email at  
[stourvalleylions@gmail.com](mailto:stourvalleylions@gmail.com)

## Royal British Legion – Long Compton & District Branch

### The Changing of the Guard

Last month, two valuable members of our community, Jon and Josie Bayliss, left to start a new life in Stratford. Jon was not only a long-term member of the Long Compton village hall committee, but also an equally long serving member of the British Legion Branch, particularly as our standard bearer. Many will remember him proudly carrying the standard on Remembrance Sunday and other appropriate occasions.

We now need to identify and train a replacement, and if anyone is interested in exploring what the role would involve, please contact the members below. Appropriate training will be provided (not onerous!) and candidates should be willing to become members of the Royal British Legion.

The news broadcasts on 15 May carried news of the Centenary of the RBL, founded in 1921 with the aim of supporting ex-service men and women in whatever needs they might have in resettling back into civilian life. This need is as relevant today as it was after the Great War. New members of the District Branch are always welcome – we have two suppers a year in the Red Lion (typically May and November) along with our Remembrance and poppy selling activity. Any volunteer support is always welcome, including presence at the suppers, simply as a valuable 'Friend of the Legion'.

**Chris Brown (Chairman) 684360 and Chris Galloway 684234**

### Aluminium Collection Scheme Expanding

The aluminium collections from local households and businesses from Brailes, Long Compton, Whichford, Burmington, Cherington and Stourton and the Wolfords (so far) by Barbara and Brian Hands and helpers, in aid of Katharine House Hospice is growing. We hope to get all the villages in SW7 involved soon.

So far, £166 has been raised this year; very satisfactory to recycle and raise money for a good cause.

Please remember to put only aluminium foil, cans and trays in the bins - not soup or food tins which have to be removed.

Thank you very much.

**The Ally Team**

It's probably **FREE** – Subscription to The LINK online is free for existing subscribers within the SW7 distribution area so please do sign up...



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



Email [online@swlink.org.uk](mailto:online@swlink.org.uk) for more details

*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>*

**DATES AND FETES\***

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events. We are continuing this listing even though events may be restricted. Please check this list before you plan a new event.

Sat 03 Jul	Summer Fete, Long Compton
Sat 07 Aug	Barton-on-the-Heath Village Fete
Sat 28 Aug	Long Compton Congregational Church - Plant & Produce Show
Mon 30 Aug	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete
Dec 10/11/12	Friends of Long Compton Church - Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 19 Dec	Christmas Service, The Chapel, Long Compton

**\* Events could be affected by coronavirus cancellations.**

**LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES**

**Chipping Norton**, Masses: Contact the parish priest for mass times – 01608 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: Contact the parish priest for mass times - 01608 685259

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

**Local Congregational Services and local Quaker Meetings**

If you have any up-to-date details on services/meetings, please email editor@swlink.org.uk



Lilacs by Jenny Wilson

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### *Barcheston St Martin*

Churchwardens David Hodges 664310  
 Secretary Nick Jackson 01926 640658  
 Treasurer David Cleave 666002

### *Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas*

Churchwardens Sonia Baker 661459  
 Michael Macdonald 662483  
 Secretary Graham Lancaster 663265  
 Treasurer Sue Bradley 661635

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

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

### *Wolford St Michael & All Angels*

Churchwarden John Wrench 674389  
 Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

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

Churchwardens Hamish Cathie 674303  
 Secretary Gillian Cathie 674303  
 Treasurer Mandy McPherson 674734

### *Cherington St John the Baptist*

Churchwarden Roger Maycock 686404  
 Secretary Paul Levitch 686353  
 Treasurer Rory McLeod 686278

### *Whichford St Michael*

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479  
 Sophia Corlett  
 Secretary Lucy Simpson  
 Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

## Parish Councils

Barcheston  
 Barton-on-the-Heath  
 Burmington  
 Cherington  
 Long Compton  
 Whichford

## Chair

David Sutton  
 James Coker (674601)  
 Robert Hutchings (661496)  
 Philip Townsend (686529)  
 Simon Bing (684827)  
 Peter O'Kane (684888)

## Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)  
 Julia Gotrel  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Sam Weller (698870)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 clerk.whichfordandascott@hotmail.co.uk  
 Sue Finlay (661157)

Great Wolford Lynn Mathias (674247)  
 Little Wolford Parish Meeting Helen Bostock (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

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



*Happy  
 Birthday!*

## June Birthdays



1st	Isobel Jones	Whichford	10
2nd	Milly Blake	Cherington	15
6th	Elena Swift	Burmington	17
13th	Isabella Parsons	Long Compton	13
14th	Alexander Banner	Willington	14
16th	Tom Simmonds	Stourton	17
20th	Millie Kinch	Long Compton	15

If you wish to add, delete or edit birthday details published – email editor@swlink.org.uk

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

<b>JUNE 2021 CHURCH SERVICES</b>							
<b>SW 7 Sunday Worship</b>	<b>St Martin Barcheston</b>	<b>St Lawrence Barton</b>	<b>St Barnabas &amp; St Nicholas Burmington</b>	<b>St John the Baptist Cherington</b>	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Long Compton</b>	<b>St Michael Whichford</b>	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels Wolford</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June First Sunday after Trinity</b>	9am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)				4pm GAP All Age Service (SPA)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (SPA/BD)	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June Second Sunday after Trinity</b>			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)				10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June Third Sunday after Trinity</b>		9am BCP Holy Communion (SPA/LM)		10:30 CW Morning Prayer (SPA/LM)	4pm GAP All Age Service (SPA)		
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>					10:30am CW Benefice Holy Communion (SPA)		
<b>4<sup>th</sup> July Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>	9am BCP Morning Prayer (LM)				(No GAP Service)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (LM)	

SPA = Stuart Allen/BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/BCP = PrayerBook/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

## Thank You and Goodbye

Since this will be my last article for The LINK Magazine as Rector of South Warwickshire Seven Benefice, it seems only right that I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to a few people.

Firstly, I am very grateful to Keith Murphy and his dedicated team of fellow volunteers that work so hard to make sure that this publication arrives through your letterbox each month. It is a really good community magazine, and the best way of finding out what is happening across our seven parishes and many villages. I would also like to thank you - the faithful readers of The LINK - for taking the time to read this page, and for the handful who have given me encouraging feedback over the years. It was much appreciated.

Secondly, I would like to thank everyone in our parishes who has given so generously of their time and energy over the years to leading or running the many different village groups, organizations, and activities. One of the things that struck me when we first arrived here in August 2010 was the vibrancy of local community life - something that has sadly disappeared from so many rural villages. We will certainly miss many of the village fetes when they eventually come around again - especially the one held on the village green at Barton-on-the-Heath, which friends of ours one year thought was so delightful that they 'couldn't believe it was real', and was like 'going back in time'.

Thirdly, I must thank all those who have supported me in my ministry here over the past ten and a half years. Many of you have done so in hidden and invisible ways, through faithfully praying, and sending the odd email or letter of encouragement. I cannot tell you how much those have meant to me. I would also like to express my appreciation to everyone who has served as churchwardens, on our PCCs, and as volunteers in our churches and various church activities. It has been a privilege to serve you and to work with you in the cause of Christ in our Benefice.

Fourthly, I must thank my family: Vicki, Beth and James. The pressures of living in a Vicarage and being in the public eye are often underestimated by outsiders, and I am so grateful to them for all their love, patience, and kindness over the years. My two children in particular made the burden of leading numerous evening PCC meetings that little bit lighter by coming up with alternative definitions: 'Pizza, Chips, and Cream' and 'Peanuts, Crisps, and Coffee' being my two favourites!

Finally, I must thank my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If any good has come from my ministry here, it is thanks to his grace, and the work of his Spirit through his word. If you want to know why I am so passionate about him, and why I have made telling others about him the focus of my ministry here, then please read the Gospel of John. My final service is at 10.30 am on Sunday 27 June in Long Compton, to which all are welcome.

**Stuart Allen (Rector)**



## South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

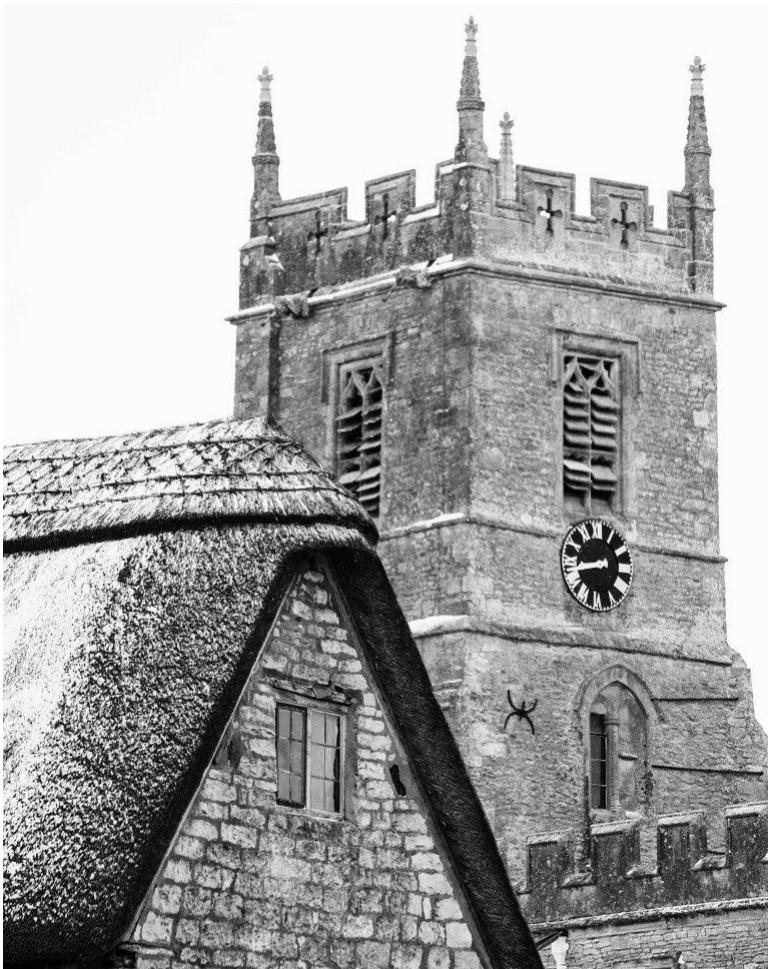
Tel: 01608 685752 - [pioneersw7@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersw7@gmail.com) (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Liz Clarke

Tel: 07425 868855 Email: [officesw7@gmail.com](mailto:officesw7@gmail.com)

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

[facebook.com/sw7 churches](https://facebook.com/sw7churches)



Long Compton Church - Photograph courtesy of Steve Lavelle – [www.flickr.com/stevelavelle](http://www.flickr.com/stevelavelle)

## Wolford Wood

As many will have noticed driving down the road to Four Shire Stone, a lot of work is going on in Wolford Wood. Petra and Marcus very kindly invited me to have a look around to see the work they have done and explain some of the things they are hoping to do.

Many of you know Wolford Wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is a conservation designation denoting a protected area in the UK. This puts a lot of protection on the area but has no financial value. As owners of such an area, Petra and Marcus need to manage the wood to maintain its health and very important biodiversity, as well as using the wood to create an income. A lot of the work you can see being done now is being carried out under the auspices of DEFRA through the Higher-Level Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme. This provides grants for works which will enhance the biodiversity and health of the wood.

The work that can be seen alongside the road is to remove the ash trees and any dangerous trees. Many ash trees are succumbing to ash dieback which is nearly always fatal for the tree, so felling them if they show signs of disease will reduce the chance of it spreading. A few ash trees may not be susceptible to the disease, so landowners are encouraged to leave them to see if they show signs of dieback. This may mean that any resistant trees can be used in the future to produce strains that can be replanted.

The hedgerow along the road has also been cleared and is being replaced with a new hedge along the historic hedge line which will provide an important wildlife corridor between areas of woodland and also other hedges. Petra tells me that at the moment they are unsure how to dispose of all the brash from this particular clearance, but it may well be left to decompose in situ to provide an amazing habitat for many woodland insects, small mammals and fungi.

Within the wood itself, a programme of thinning is taking place to open up areas so there is more light for the plants underneath the trees to prosper and a lot of trees are also being coppiced. Coppicing works by cutting trees right down to the stump which then regenerates. This is a traditional method and was often used for the production of charcoal as the regenerated growth provides ideal wood for charcoal burning. I remember Tom Cowley, the previous owner, telling me of evidence of coppicing being done for hundreds of years.



**Bluebells in a thinned area**



**Brush protecting stumps**

Wolford Wood is home to many deer, both Roe and Muntjac, which can do a lot of damage by eating the sweet new growth. Petra is experimenting with how best to prevent this. In some areas, stumps are being protected by high fencing and close by, other stumps are having brush placed over them to prevent the deer getting to the young growth. CS also allows for the provision of high seats to be provided at suitable spots, which stalkers can use to cull the deer safely.

All the thinning has provided a lot of material which will be used for the Wolford Woods business, the larger logs being cut and split to provide firewood and the more spindly branches making good bean and pea sticks.



**Bean/Pea sticks**

Faggots of the more spindly wood are also being used by The Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) in the provision of leaky dams and in wetland areas that they are creating on the brooks that run into the Stour, such as the Nethercote Brook at Long Compton. These provisions slow the water from the higher catchment area getting into the Stour so fast. SAFAG has created 25 leaky dams on the Nethercote Brook in Long Compton alone.

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

# SCHOOL NOTES

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

With all children back at school since Monday 8 March and a full curriculum being taught, the start of the summer term has felt almost normal. But not quite. As the Prime Minister announced that the country is moving to step 3 of the roadmap out of the pandemic, there was hardly any change for primary schools at present. We continue for the time being with our risk assessment and systems of control that have essentially been in place since September - class bubbles, no mixing classes, virtual assemblies and parents/visitors wearing a mask on site - for a few more weeks before further relaxations expected on Monday 21 June. This isn't about hospital admissions now, this is about all children having a full uninterrupted education for the rest of this term. We are leveraging digital technologies as much as possible by holding virtual staff meetings, virtual parents' evenings and a virtual art and book week, with an artist in residence being beamed into classrooms every day.



Acorns Primary

Children are underway with their summer term topics and the work in books is of an excellent standard. Our Trust School Improvement Team for reading, writing and maths have recently been conducting covid-secure learning walks around all three schools and were so impressed with the quality of teaching, learning and behaviour. The learning stamina is gradually returning, and children and staff are all working their socks off. I'm very grateful for the parental support both in supporting learning at home and following our covid rules on site.

It looks as though all Reception classes in The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust will probably be full for September 2021. I'm delighted so many families have chosen our schools.

**Christian Hilton – Executive Headteacher**

## Brailes Caretaker Vacancy

Brailes C of E Primary School, part of The Stour Federation with Shipston-on-Stour Primary School and Acorns Primary School in Long Compton, is looking for an outstanding caretaker for our wonderful school site and buildings, including a brand-new nursery classroom extension. We would be keen to hear about your experience and what you can offer.



**The new classroom extension at Brailes**

Hours of work (with some flexibility): 7.30 am - 9.00 am and 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Monday - Friday during term time, plus 22.5 hours per week flexible working during school holidays. 20 days holiday per year (to be taken in school holidays) plus bank holidays.

Salary: Scale D SCP 4 £18,933 pro-rata.

Please read the job description and the person specification at <https://www.brailescofprimary.org.uk/vacancies/> before completing the application and equality forms and return to: [admin3014@welearn365.com](mailto:admin3014@welearn365.com). Visits to the school are encouraged with COVID-19 secure measures in place. These can be scheduled by calling the school office on 01608 685253 or by email: [admin3014@welearn365.com](mailto:admin3014@welearn365.com).

## Acorns Nursery

We have limited nursery spaces available in our brand-new Little Acorns building at Acorns Primary School. It's a wonderful space designed specifically for nursery and reception children. Please go to <https://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/nursery/> or email [admin2639@we-learn.com](mailto:admin2639@we-learn.com) to arrange a visit after 3.30 pm Tuesday - Thursday.

## Nurse Wraparound at Brailes School

Brailes C of E Primary School has extended wraparound care to cater for nursery children as well as provision for Reception - Year 6. Places for nursery children at wraparound are limited to ensure that each session is fully compliant with Early Years regulations and ratios for safety. Our before and after school care provision is run by the school under our OFSTED registration, meaning we can care for children under 8 for more than two hours a day (Childminders legally have to be registered with Ofsted if they look after children under the age of eight for more than two hours a day.)

Breakfast Club runs from 7.50 am- 8.45 am each morning during term time for children in nursery to Year 6. The cost is £4.20 a session. Includes breakfast. Please email [admin3014@we-learn.com](mailto:admin3014@we-learn.com) to make a booking.

The school is set up to accept payment for most childcare vouchers and Government tax free childcare for all Wraparound care sessions.

After School Care sessions and prices for nursery:

After school until 4.30 pm	£6.00 includes a snack
After school until 5.00 pm	£9.00 includes a snack and hot cooked tea
After school until 5.30 pm	£12.00

Further details and booking information can be found via the school website - <https://www.brailescofprimary.org.uk/after-school-care-2/>

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

As I write this, in what must be the wettest and coldest May ever, it is hard to believe that June is generally a beautiful month in the garden. The 21st is the longest day, so we have those lovely June evenings to enjoy outside. The long hours of light (and hopefully warmth), give your garden plants just what they need to put on growth and come into bloom.

This of course means that weeds will be flourishing, and you will need to keep on top of them with your hoe, or with regular hand-weeding. It's time to stake or tie in that new growth on your perennials or shrubs.

The surge in growth applies to annuals like sweet peas and tomatoes. For top quality sweet pea flowers, pinch out the side shoots to focus the plant's energy on producing blooms, and keep tying the stems to their bamboos. If you want straight stems, nip off the little tendrils so they don't wrap themselves around the stems and contort them.

This pinching out process is similar to that used with cordon-grown tomato plants - pinch out side shoots so you get larger and better quality trusses of tomatoes. When the fruit start to set, give them a weekly specialist tomato feed, which has the right combination of nutrients for that stage of growth. You should also give your container-grown plants a bit of a fillip with a liquid feed.

You should be able to start harvesting your vegetables and summer fruit. Lettuce, some types of potato, radishes, early carrots, and broad beans will all be ready for the table. As will strawberries and summer-fruiting raspberries, so you can get eating. You can continue succession sowing of salads, beetroot, peas, and carrots to ensure a decent supply later on in the summer.

Keep on dead-heading flowering shrubs and roses to prolong their display and encourage new growth. If you want flowers for the house, you can be picking sweet peas, lilies, peonies, and Sweet William, amongst others.

It's also time to deal with spring flowering plants. Cut back shrubs after they've flowered, to give the new growth time to mature to ensure good flowering next spring. Prune back clematis montana, to keep it under control, and to detangle its growth. Lift tulip bulbs, and store in a cool dark place before replanting them in the autumn.

I'm really hoping for a warm June - my sweet peas have been sulking for the past three weeks and refusing to grow, and the peonies and irises have been on the verge of coming out but holding themselves back for some sunshine. They are fed up with the rain (and so am I), even though it was sorely needed.

**Miranda Arnold**

A reader emailed to say that he has seen both a redpoll and a blackcap. I wrote recently of a friend spotting a redpoll, which is a bird I have never seen around here. So, two sightings must indicate that they are becoming established. Blackcaps are migrants but recently, they have started to remain due possibly to winters becoming less cold and there being sufficient food and roosting places. The female perversely wears a brown cap! Whilst with migrating birds it is worth mentioning that the British Trust for Ornithology has tracked a cuckoo making a 5,000-mile trip five times from the Sahara to here and back via France and Spain. Well, at least it should know its way by now!

Let us come back down to earth and view an animal about which I have never heard a bad word - the hedgehog. The hedgehog is not, as may be supposed, related to the porcupine, but rather to shrews and moles. Its spines are angled so that were it to fall heavily upside down, they would not pierce its body. It eats mainly insects, worms, frogs and even snakes. The male is a boar, the female a sow. Again, with warmer winter weather, we see that they are emerging earlier from hibernation. Hedgehog numbers sadly are in decline. Why is this? One reason is the ever-present danger of road traffic. A hedgehog will curl into a ball at the sound of an approaching car and of course stand no chance of avoiding it. The name hedgehog stems from its habit of sniffing and snuffling under hedges at night in search of food. There was once a belief amongst countryfolk that hedgehogs sucked the milk from resting cows. Hedgehog nests can often be made in disused rabbit holes. The young will lie on their mother for a month. If you wish for information on protecting this delightful animal, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society will assist. If you wish to feed a visiting hedgehog, crushed dog biscuits will find favour, though not fish-based ones.

Now we are noticing the flowers in our gardens. But it must be said these are not just for our pleasure. They serve a purpose. I refer to the plants ability to increase their own number and at the same time, assist their companions in the garden – that is to say the myriads of insects which come to them. Within the flower head are the pistil and stamen for reproduction, and also pollen, which is going to be transported by bees and insects to other plants. Therein comes the combination of interests. Bees will be entering the plant head not for anything other than its own interest. For within the flowerhead is nectar, a vital substance for bees. But all nectars are not the same. Made up with numerous sugars, different nectars are favoured by different bees and insects. Now, your well-brought up hive bee would not deign to accept a nectar made for one of those rather common ones who live in holes in the ground. No way! Unknowingly of course, your bee is transferring pollen from one flower to another. Interestingly, whilst we are all slumbering in our beds many insects are busy at night entering flowers and taking their own particular brand of nectar.

And having written about hedgehogs, I wonder if my children still possess their Beatrix Potter books which of course will include the tale of Mrs Tiggywinkle. But I daren't tell them that I may wish to read it, as this is only going to add to their belief that their old man is going more peculiar than they thought!

## Beneficial Book Group

It was a great pleasure to meet again outside at a suitable distance on Sunday 25 April.

We talked about *In Extremis* by Lindsey Hilsum. This was a biography of the late journalist, Marie Colvin. Marie's great heroine had been Martha Gellhorn and her own reporting from some of the most dangerous war zones was highly acclaimed. It was fascinating to read of her exploits and rather chaotic private life. We all enjoyed the book, but some felt that the writing style was inadequate for the job.

The next time will be on Sunday 6 June at 5.30 p.m. and we very much hope that we can meet again outside to talk about *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan.

Gillian Cathie

## Village Fete – Save the Date

The Barton-on-the-Heath Village Fete will take place on Saturday 7 August - more details to follow in the next issue of The LINK. In the meantime, for any offers of help, please contact Jules, Suzie or Helen.

## April in Barton – A month in two halves

Well, that is how a football commentator would describe it! The first half was cold with roughly 13 days of frost making it the coldest April in the last 60 years. Some days also saw some sleet and snow, which did not last - and then the weather changed, to make April the second sunniest since records began in 1929.

On Monday 12 April, step 1 of 'covid unlocking', made it feel as if Barton had come out of a big hibernation. First, our large population of jackdaws, instead of fighting and falling off roofs, started pairing and protecting their chosen chimney pots; tulips replaced daffodils; pheasants - until then hidden, started to want to 'cross the road', and the pot hole in the dip (Kitebrook road again) reappeared (just like 'normal'), making the road into an Olympic 'hop, step and jump' with its 50 traffic cones marking the dangerous ruts down either side; and my territorial robin started to appear with a partner at the bird feeder – he also seemed more tolerant of the other birds too.

The beautifully restored bench adjacent to the village green appeared. Oak planks from Hamish Cathie; prepared by Simon Hayman-Joyce (Calarel Joinery - Moreton in Marsh); Jim Sked (our village blacksmith) did some welding and Chris Seymour-Smith, Brian Radford and Adam Jones, (blood sweat and toil) managed the construction and assembly. The history of the bench is not known exactly, possibly installed when the road through Barton was realigned early in the 1900s. The bench is now back in pristine condition.



BT then appeared, making sure the conduits into the village from the telephone junction box (just past the village boundary), where the present fibre optic cable ends, are clear and ready for the cables to be extended for 'fibre to the premises' (FTTP) which is promised for some time later this year.

The month was rounded off by the disappearance of the post-box on its wooden post beside the A44 at Kitebrook. Rumour amongst the Kitebrook residents is that there has been a spate of post-box thefts in Gloucestershire and the Kitebrook box was an easy target - not just the post-box but its wooden post too. Scrap metal or a garden ornament? All we need now in May is for the first house martin to bring with it some sunshine from south of the equator.

**John Castle**

## **2020 - The 400th Anniversary of the Enclosure of Barton-on-the-Heath**

In St. Lawrence Church in Barton, on the wall of the nave, facing the porch, is a memorial to William Sands which reads 'who was born in this parish in Dec 1720 being the hundredth year after the enclosure'. Despite spending years searching for further recorded evidence of the date of enclosure as 1620, the memorial in the church is the only direct indication I have discovered for the enclosure of Barton, except for a minor earlier enclosure dated 1518.

Enclosure (or 'Inclosure') is a process that has been in existence over the last 1,000 years in most parishes or villages, and even in towns in England. For those who would like to know more about enclosure, further reading on this subject is recommended to help understand this complicated topic. Enclosure, as suggested by the name, involved dividing land into fields whose boundaries were then determined by hedges, fences or ditches and by ploughing up some of the ridge and furrow formerly in use. Enclosure often involved reducing the area of common land used by the parishioners to feed their livestock. Poorer families would have thus suffered with the reduction in their means of making a living.

Despite the lack of direct evidence of the results of enclosure, which was both good and bad for the Barton villagers of the time, there is, however, circumstantial evidence of the date of the final enclosure of the lands in the village. From examination of the parish registers it is evident that baptisms, and therefore birth rates, fell after 1620 but recovered again by 1629. This suggests that many younger villagers left Barton for

perhaps 10 years but returned later. It is also of interest that although the year of enclosure was 1620, the parish lands were not sold to Walter Overbury by the owners William Brent, William Bury and a son also named William Bury, until 1625. Enclosed lands were generally held to be of greater value than unenclosed lands and it is quite feasible that the enclosure of Barton was not completed for 5 years after 1620.

From medieval until late Tudor times, Barton village was surrounded by two open fields known as the 'north' field and the 'south' field, each of about 500 acres. Each field was divided into smaller areas known as 'furlongs' of 10 to 15 acres, themselves further divided into 20 to 30 strips (or 'selions') whose boundaries are the ridge and furrows that we can see today. Before the enclosure, each villager had the right to farm varying numbers of strips scattered around the village. After enclosure, some villagers may have been given the rights to more strips, others perhaps fewer strips, scattered around the village. The Lord of the Manor would have the rights to the largest number of strips, perhaps 200, the Rector 100, with some poorer villagers enjoying few, or no strips at all.

Before enclosure, many villagers' strips were scattered around the village lands. However, after enclosure, the efficiency of crop production and animal husbandry in Barton would have been greatly improved, especially where villagers had all their allocations of strips concentrated into smaller areas which would no longer required long journeys around the village.

Looking around now, we can appreciate the continuing success of the agricultural industry in our village since 1620 despite problems such as the diseases brought by the Civil War of the mid-17th century and the agricultural recession of the later 19th century.

We can celebrate the 400th anniversary last year, as one of the most important developments in village life over the last 400 years. We can still see the existence of the ridge and furrow which currently accounts for about 35% of the total area of the village. An absence of enclosure may well have resulted in an absence of improvement!

**Colin Maynell**



## **Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market has re-opened!**

**Find us in the WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh,  
every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

**We are back to a full market offering Bakes & Savouries, Veg & Eggs,  
Preserves, Crafts, Cards, Gifts and Plants**

**Pick up an order form - pre-orders are welcome**

Phone Angela 07933 141410 / [mimcountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:mimcountrymarket@gmail.com)

or find us on Facebook

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

## Letter to the Village Editor

Dear Mr. French,

My name is Monty Bothwell and I am 10 years old. During the lockdown, we have all been at home so much more and I have seen lots of people walking with their dogs and family, enjoying the local countryside and getting exercise. I have been on lots of walks with my family and there is something which has always puzzled me. Every time I go out on walks, I see plastic, cans and rubbish in the ditches and hedges and sometimes full dog poo bags left on the side of the road. There is also a lot of dog poo which doesn't get picked up and is left for other people to come across in the fields nearby which grow our food, on the country walkways and on the grass verges. The rubbish and plastic is especially damaging for our wildlife and our environment and I think we could all do more to keep our environment safe and clean.

I have asked the Parish Council to think about putting a bin at the crossroads but I hoped you could put a reminder in The LINK magazine to encourage local people to pick up rubbish and to collect their dog poo. It is very important to protect our wildlife and for our environment to be safe and clean. It costs little to do this and benefits everybody, especially the animals. I have designed a poster to remind people to pick up their dog's mess and put it in a bin. Hopefully, the parish council will think a bin is a good idea and will help me to make this better. I will be picking up rubbish on my walks with a grabber and a compostable bag and I hope others could be encouraged to do the same. Thank you for any help you can give me with this problem.

Yours faithfully, Monty Bothwell.



## Wartime Bomber Aircraft Crash at Burmington

It was almost 80 years ago last month, on 11 April 1943, that Burmington residents were awakened in the early hours of the morning by the sound of an enormous crash followed by a loud explosion. A Wellington wartime bomber aircraft, HE422, had nosedived into the ground now occupied by Hazelwood Manor Farm.

The aircraft was unmanned. It had taken off from a Durham airfield the previous evening and completed a successful bombing raid against factories in Frankfurt. The crew were all members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, captained by Flying Officer Charles Jackson. It was only their second combat mission after completing training and only the second mission by the Wellington after delivery from its Vickers factory. On their return flight to Durham, the crew had lost their way and were actually approaching Tenby, South Wales, hundreds of miles off course. When the gauges indicated they were in danger of running out of fuel, the young captain gave the order to bale out, having first selected the automatic pilot. The crew abandoned the aircraft by parachute. All survived except for the pilot, Flying Officer Jackson who is believed to have drowned in Carmarthen Bay. The decision to bale out was perhaps taken prematurely because the Wellington then flew on for a further 150 miles on auto pilot when, its fuel finally exhausted, it nosedived into the ground at Burmington, blasting a crater 20 feet deep.

We now move on to 1989, when Burmington villager Robert Aston, sister of Julia and nephew of George, an aircraft enthusiast and model maker and flyer, and active member of a wartime air historical association, 'Aircrew Remembrance Society', initiated the excavation of the crash site with a group of aeronautical archeologists and a JCB digger. Their aim was to recover as much of the plane as possible and in this, they had the blessing of the RAF and the late Bill Joynes who owned the field at the time.



George Aston looks on (in green coat and glasses) as excavations take place

Robert recalls that the first object he excavated was Charles Jackson's forage cap. Other relics recovered included the tailplane, part of the fuselage and engine and wheel parts. Unfortunately, the winter weather precluded the safe excavation of further major

items and the ground was then hastily recovered and levelled. So the bulk of Wellington HE422 remains buried in its Burmington grave under, or near, Hazelwood Manor Farm house.

George Aston remembers turning up regular quantities of the Wellington's 303 mm ammunition for years afterwards when ploughing the field around the crash site, ammunition which would have been on the aircraft in readiness for use by the six Browning guns in its three gun turrets.

Readers might like to know that more Wellingtons were built than any other British bomber aircraft during the war; 11,400 of them. This two-engine medium bomber was the mainstay of RAF Bomber Command over the early war years and until supplanted by the Lancaster and other four-engine bombers. Thereafter, Wellingtons were deployed on maritime support roles. The aircraft is also remembered for its unique complex, but immensely tough, geodetic structure designed by Barnes Wallis of Dambusters fame.



Robert Aston (in JCB) with a recovered wheel

HE422 was not the only wartime aircraft to crash in and around Burmington. That same year, 1943, another Wellington blew up in the air over the field across the road from Hazelwood Manor Farm when one of its cargo of flares ignited. All of the crew of five were killed.



Photographs courtesy of David King of the Aircrew Remembrance Society.

**Dennis Cummings**

## Burmington Village Hall - Afternoon Tea

Come and have a cuppa with friends and family on Saturday 3 July from 2.00 pm onwards.

Treat yourself to some delicious savories, scones and cakes. Soft drinks will be available for all ages. The event will be held outside on the green by the hall and in the churchyard - with gazebos to protect everyone from the hot summer sun!





Please Come and support our

# COFFEE MORNING

Raising funds for the

**CHILDREN'S LIVER DISEASE FOUNDATION**  
**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 from 10.30 – 12.30**

At Kenrene, Burmington, CV36 5AR

Any contributions of cakes, raffle prizes and donations  
gratefully received.

Contact Irene Clarke (661418) or Justine Clarke (661892)

## VILLAGE NEWS

### CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

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

Tel: 686682

### Shirley Bray

Many of you will have heard that sadly, Shirley Bray died at the end of March. She lived in Stourton for many years before moving to Shipston and then into care. She was a lady who was very much involved with village life here, being very active in the church, Women's Institute, the Seniors' and all things village.

There will be a Memorial Service in St. John the Baptist Church, Cherington on Friday 11 June at 2.00 pm. Due to covid restrictions, numbers will be limited, so anyone wishing to attend should contact Stuart Allen by telephone 01608 684207 or email [rectorsw7@gmail.com](mailto:rectorsw7@gmail.com)

**Pam Brookes (PCC)**

## Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the May lottery were:

1st Theo Borland - £80    2nd John Pymm - £45    3rd Richard Stevens - £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining please contact Steve Allkins.

**Steve Allkins**

## Coffee Shop - Saturday 12 June



10.30 am - 12 noon.

At The Hall, Stourton - CV36 5HG

Table Service, Covid Safe, Bacon Baps,  
Teas, Coffees including cappuccino,  
latte etc. and cakes

## The Gardening Group

Cherington and Stourton Garden Group is a small band of gardeners who meet once a month in The Hall. We chat informally about our gardens and any problems, we arrange garden visits, and occasionally have experts to speak to us. We are inviting all members, others and any newcomers to our villages, to drop into the Cart Shed in The Hall on Wednesday 7 July from 7.00 pm for drinks and nibbles, and a chance to catch up after the long absence, or to get to know us.

We plan to start regular meetings in September all being well. Any queries to Kerrith or Chris Carr on 01608 686403.

**Kerrith Carr**

## Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 8.00 pm on Monday 21 June and will be in the village hall.

Sarah Brooke-Taylor will be attending the meeting to inform the council and parishioners of the progress of the low-cost housing.

**Sara Cole (Clerk)**

### Long Compton Village Editor

I'm pleased to say that Sally Franklin has kindly stepped forward to edit these pages for Long Compton. This is great news to be able to find a village editor so quickly. Sally's now up and running and has put your items together this month. Our thanks go to Sally for giving her time to this task. I hope she finds it a rewarding experience.

If you haven't yet made contact with Sally, please do if you have any items. She can be reached on [longcompton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:longcompton@swlink.org.uk) and you will see her name and number appear from time to time in items on these pages.

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

### Long Compton Village Hall

With a quick change of plan midweek, the Committee made the decision to change Social Saturday to Social Sunday in May. The latter being less of a washout than the former with its nonstop torrential rain. Relying on a lot of positive thinking, we altered posters, emailed, texted and phoned regulars and updated Facebook to let people know of the change of plan. Not easy to do with your fingers crossed!



Sunday morning arrived and didn't look too promising at first, but, buoyed up by the old adage 'rain at 7, fine by 11', we got everything ready. Finally, the rain stopped, and the sun appeared, so we were able to welcome regulars and new faces. The change of day had meant some people could now make it whereas others could not, but plenty turned up and all the cake went; the last pieces going to a group of walkers from Stratford-upon-Avon who initially just needed the loo but stayed for a cuppa and a couple of rounds of cake.

During the event, the committee gave a heartfelt thank you to Geoff Dewhirst for his time on the committee and for his continuing practical support with maintenance issues. We were also witness to the 'lopping of lockdown locks' to raise funds for the hall. A big thank you to all who contributed!



Looking forward, dance classes are well underway, Pilates is starting and Social Saturday (this month with our AGM) on Saturday 12 June at 11.00 am is back inside, so we won't be dependent on the weather this time!

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



# Summer Fete

**Saturday 3rd July at 2pm**

**Long Compton Village Hall**

Grand raffle, children's races, bar, refreshments, local stalls including jewellery, Hearts and Pearls, Aromahotties, Mandala Arts, Memory Lane Vintage Clocks, Flamingo Paperie, Tropic Skin Care, Sweet Heart Bakes, original artwork, hand-made gifts and more!



**A great event for all ages!  
Come along and join the fun!**

The Friends of Long Compton Church present

# MY DARLING CLEMENTINE

"King and Dagleish have re-invented the country duet - the mingling of these two voices is just heavenly."  
Mojo

#FRIENDSOFMOJO.COM  
PHOTO BY ANDREW SHAW  
STYLING BY SHANE FROM THE HISTORY

Friday 25 June at 7.00 pm - St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Long Compton  
Doors and Donation Bar open at 6.30 pm

Early bird tickets £15 to 18 June then £18 - (under 16s accompanied by an adult £5)  
Tickets from [fccsec@gmail.com](mailto:fccsec@gmail.com) or on the door  
or Eventbrite - <https://bit.ly/3taAV6Y> (full price only)

The Friends of Long Compton Church Registered Charity Number 1141040

# **Social Saturday is back!**

**Saturday, 12th June 2021, 11am–1pm**

**including AGM**

**Long Compton Village Hall**

**Entry Free!**

**Subject to current COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing**



## **The Chapel Long Compton Congregational Church Butlers Lane**

### **Services**

**Sunday 6 June 3.30 pm**

Service of thanksgiving post-pandemic led by Reverend Marion Hartwell with participation of representatives of the community. New members will be welcomed.

**Saturday 3 July** – Social Evening with History Presentation and light supper.

Tickets £10, Wine available.

**Sunday 4 July 3.30 pm**

Bicentennial Anniversary Service - Celebrating 200 years of worship.

Refreshments follow (if permitted).



For details contact: Sally Franklin 01608 684739/07870 545431  
or Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

## Ebenezer Congregational Chapel

It was very special to be able to welcome visitors to our Chapel Open Day in May when the refurbished kitchen was admired, and an impromptu sharing of thoughts was led by Reverend Marion.

The Plant Stall outside the chapel has helped to contribute to an amazing £10,000 raised by the 14 villages participating to raise funds for Shipston Home Nursing. The stall will remain as long as plant donations continue to be made.

As thoughts turn to life after lockdown, arrangements are in hand for a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 6 June at 3.30 pm when villagers have been invited to contribute based on their specific experiences, i.e. teacher, shielder, health worker, etc.

The Bicentennial Celebration of the Chapel will commence on Saturday 3 July with a Social Evening and an illustrated talk reflecting on the long history of The Chapel. This will be accompanied by a light supper with soft drinks and coffee. Wine available. Tickets at £10 will be available from Elizabeth, Sally or from The Stores in June.

On Sunday 4 July, there will be an Anniversary Service at 3.30 pm and we are delighted that Reverend Janet Wootton is able to attend. She was last at our Chapel for the Induction of our Minister and proved a very popular and entertaining speaker with her own memories of attending Chapel whilst training. Hopefully, this will be the first service at which we are able to raise the roof again with joyful voices.

Thursday 15 July is our first monthly evening craft market with light refreshments available.

Thanks to generous support from villagers', grants from the Parish Council and a Charitable Trust, work will commence on our drystone wall followed by improvements to the car park. A planning application has been submitted for a replacement toilet block and a larger grant application for this, and other works, has been made.

**Sally Franklin 07870 545431 or Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778**



Long Compton  
book club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10 June at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing *Hons and Rebels* by Jessica Mitford

All Welcome - Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938  
carole.r.clements@googlemail.com

## Shipston Food Bank – Long Compton Collection

Shipston Food Bank are very grateful for donations received from Long Compton as they are still experiencing high levels of demand. Donations can be left either in the porch of the Congregational Chapel in Butlers Lane, or at The Village Stores.

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

## Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch



Our local co-ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and emails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public. Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at [jordanboswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanboswell@hotmail.com)

## Andy's Memorial Cricket Match

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the cricketers who took part on Sunday 9 May in the first match of the season and collected an amazing £175 for Andy's Motor Neurone Disease Fund.

Special thanks to David Smart and Andrew Badham for their continued support.

Marianne (Village Stores)

## Long Compton and District Garden Club



### Visits Summer 2021



#### **Monday 5 July – Pettifers near Waddington, Banbury, OX17 1RU**

A beautiful 1.5 acre private garden, designed for year-round interest. Lawns and flower filled borders give way to open countryside views. Own cars. Arrive 1.00 pm, guided tour 2.30 pm. No refreshments, so bring a snack. £8 entrance.

#### **Wednesday 8 August – Rousham, near Steeple Aston OX25 4QU**

An important historic 18<sup>th</sup> Century William Kent garden in the landscape style. Long vistas and follies so you'll need comfortable shoes. A walled garden, parterre and pigeon house. Own cars. £8. Arrive 2.00 pm.

#### **Thursday 9 September – Waterperry Gardens just east of Oxford off M40 OX33 1LA**

There is something for everyone in this eight-acre garden. Beautiful trees, classic borders, long vistas, a garden museum, plant centre and shop. Own cars. £8. We are hoping to arrange lunch together. More details later.

Please let Anthony Wells or Lesley Roberts know if you would like to come. We are using our own cars for all these visits, and we would like to share cars if possible. Please let us know if you would be happy to do this.

Anthony Wells: 684337 [anthonymgwells@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonymgwells@btinternet.com)  
or Lesley Roberts: 684545 [lesleyroberts46@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyroberts46@gmail.com)

## 100 Club Draw

The May draw took place at the Social Sunday held at the hall on 9 May. The results are as follows:

1st Prize	6	Diana Richardson
2nd Prize	102	Ann Lattimore
3rd Prize	133	Robin Makepeace
4th Prize	190	Alan Edwards

The next draw will take place at the Social Saturday coffee morning on Saturday 12 June.

Chris Galloway 684234

## St. Peter and St. Paul, Long Compton



Farewell to Stuart and Vicki.  
Benefice Service  
Sunday 27 June at 10.30 am

Morning Service with Holy Communion (CW)  
followed by refreshments and farewell presentation  
All Welcome

## Long Compton & District Walkers

At last, it looks as though we shall be able to restart our monthly walks after having to suspend them for over a year.

If the relaxation of government restrictions goes according to plan, from 17 May, groups of up to 30 people will be able to meet outdoors. This means that Tuesday 8 June will be the first scheduled walk.

We will meet as usual in the car park at the Red Lion at 9.30 am. Please be aware that building work is going on at the pub and vans and lorries are about so do take care when entering the car park.

If there are any changes to regulations before that date, I will contact as many people as possible, but hopefully we will be able to meet up again and begin to enjoy our monthly social get fit!

**Jan Treadaway 684553**

## Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club - Contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545

Compton and District History Society - Contact Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians - Contact Margaret Welsh 684238

Village Hall - Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Long Compton & District Walkers - Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls - Club Contact Adrian on 684024

Long Compton Bridge Club - Chris Galloway 684234

The Friends of Long Compton Church e: [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com) f:  
[@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com/)

<https://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com/>

Long Compton Sports Club:

Secretary: Andrew Lund-Yates 07813 032144/ 01451 820467 [andrewlundyates@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlundyates@gmail.com)

Cricket: Andrew Badham 07900-466339 [andrewbadham@icloud.com](mailto:andrewbadham@icloud.com)



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**Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.**

Please email [adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

We can offer new advertisers an introductory 'advertorial'!

Also, if you can help with the management of the advertising, we are looking for a an Advertising Manager please. The LINK needs volunteers – please consider helping if you can. Contact [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk) for more details.

### The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Kath Adams who was the winner of the May Reading Room draw.

**Jenny Scrivener**

### Whichford and Ascott Gardens Open National Garden Scheme - Sunday 20 June, 1pm-5pm

Six gardens will open: the private garden of The Whichford Pottery, The Old Rectory, Ascott Rise, Whichford Hill House, Plum Tree Cottage and Belmont House.

Combined entry - adults £6 (children free).

The home-made teas on offer are in aid of St. Michael's Church. There's a plant stall and a raffle to win a Whichford Pottery Voucher.



### Whichford Pantry

Now that this project has been underway for almost 5 months, we thought we should give an update and more information to everyone, so they know how it works.

A little over a dozen meals get distributed each week. Currently there are about 6 recipients, but this has moved up and down over the months. So far, 270 meals have been made, including current stock in the freezer in the Reading Room. Meals have gone to people for whom a healthy, home-cooked hot meal is a huge help, and the distribution is a great neighbourly asset to the community.

Local people have helped by not only delivering the meals, but also volunteering to cook them, and making donations so they can continue to be provided. Donations are also made by those who request meals. Accounts of donations and all money spent are kept.

Do get in touch if you would like to help, request meals, would be interested to join in in any way, or know someone else who might.

**Whichford Pantry**

## Whichford and Ascott Car Drivers for Medical Appointments

If you need transport for a hospital or doctor's appointment within a 15-mile radius, do give us a ring.



Caroline O'Kane 684780  
Jenny Scrivener 684564  
Sophia Corlett 684369  
Mandy James 684479  
Mary Manville-Hales 684679

A donation to St. Michael's Church would be much appreciated. Please try to give us as much notice as possible and we shall do our best to accommodate you.

**Mandy James**

## Aluminium Collections

We continue to collect aluminium cans, foil and foil trays for Katharine House Hospice. Together with Brailes, Long Compton and Burmington, our contributions together have recently raised £70. Keep it rolling!

**Brian and Babs Hands, with thanks to Tim and Marcelle Adams**



**Photograph by Mary Manville-Hales**

## Great Wolford Fish & Chips Takeaway

Well, we certainly finished our series of takeaways with a flourish on Saturday 8 May with an amazing 143 orders. Over the 6 takeaways we have done since October, we have served an incredible 817 portions of fish & chips and raised nearly £4,000 for St. Michael's Church. Thank you so much to everyone who has joined in over that period and supported us. A huge thank you to Natalie, who has been there with me every time through wind, rain and freezing temperatures. Decked out in thermals and reindeer ears for Christmas, she has never once complained! I couldn't have managed without her.

It has been lovely to meet the new people who've moved into Great Wolford during lockdown– Marie, Pippa, Tim & Judy and Phil & Sue and also to meet people from other villages who've joined in and seem like old friends now.

We are in the process of obtaining estimates for the repair of the dry-stone wall in the churchyard and for the church heating, so with matching grants that we are able to access now we have raised funds, we are hopeful of completing these repairs over the next few months. We also need to complete repair work in the bell tower. With a 200-year-old church, maintenance is an ongoing expense.

There appears to be support for us resuming the takeaways in the autumn and if that is the case, we will do that. So, watch out for the notice in The LINK. In the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful summer. Thanks.

**Ann McKenna**

## Katharine House Hospice – Aluminium Recycling Bin

There is now a recycling bin in Great Wolford where you can deposit your aluminium drinks cans, aluminium foil and foil trays (clean ones preferred please). Please note that food tins of any type are not accepted. This will enable money to be raised to support Katharine House Hospice near Banbury. Several villages in the SW7 area are already participating in the scheme, and updates on the money raised will be published from time to time in The LINK.

The bin is located in the drive to a house called *Glasfryn* between the pub and the crossroads. You can't miss the bin as you walk up the drive.

The Parish Council have had a hand in setting this up and our thanks go to Stratford on Avon District Council who supplied a new bin for this effort. Thanks also to Mandy James from Whichford, who prompted us to set this up in Great Wolford.

**Keith Murphy – Great Wolford Parish Council**





One from the archives - a photo of the street party to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Some recognizable faces – Neil and Shirley Wilson, Natalie and Simon Parker, Martin McKenna and a glimpse of Anne! Thanks to Shirley Wilson for sending this in.

## Nethercote Redevelopment Scheme

### Background

Nethercote Sewage Treatment Works is operated and maintained by Severn Trent Water. Located in Nethercote adjacent to Great Wolford, it treats wastewater from; Little Wolford, Barton on the Heath, Great Wolford and Todenham. First constructed in the 1970s, Nethercote performs well, but now requires redevelopment to meet today's environmental requirements and an increasing local population.

### Project Objectives

The construction works will install new assets to allow it to comply with the new discharge permits that are being imposed in December 2021 as part of the Water Framework Directives - National Environmental Programme (WFD NEP). A new discharge permit will be imposed on the site of 1.5mg/L Phosphorus from 22 December 2021. An Iron permit will also be imposed from 22 December 2021. The main objective of this project is to provide a treatment facility which shall comply with these revised permits.

### What will the new Works look like

MWH Treatment shall complete the design, construction, commissioning, and handover of the following items;

- New inlet pumping station
- Improvements to the existing storm balancing tanks
- New integral Rotating Biological Contactor (iRBC)
- New storm route
- New reed beds

- New chemical dosing facility
- New potable water booster pumping station
- New final effluent monitoring system

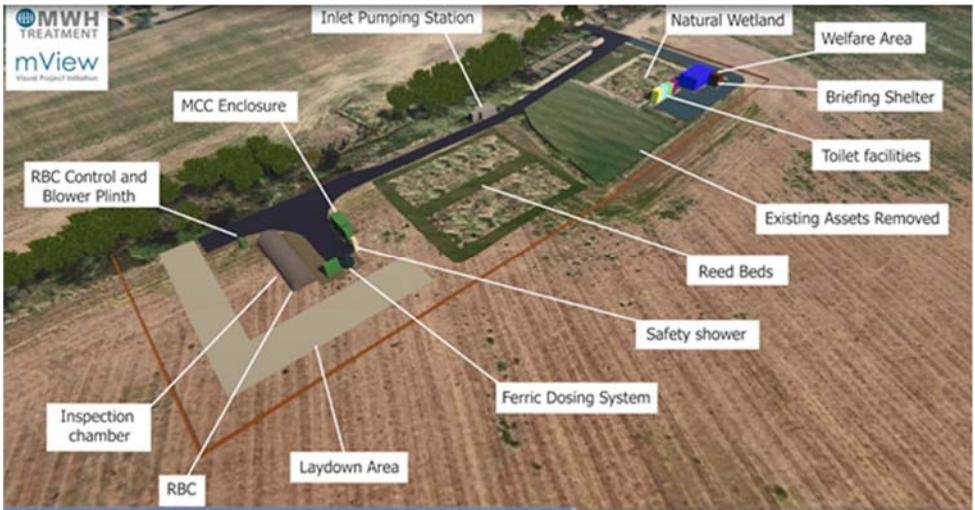
**Improvements to the Environment**

Alongside meeting the new environmental permits, MWH are working with Severn Trent to improve net biodiversity by 12%. MWH Treatment shall be planting a total of 17 new trees with species chosen to add biodiversity value to the site, as well as a new hedgerow, which shall be planted to provide habitat and screening of the works.

MWH will also be providing:

- The installation of bird and bat boxes on suitable trees.
- Creation of log piles / hibernacula along the woodland edge to provide shelter for invertebrates, common amphibians and reptiles;
- Creation of species rich wildflower grassland to replace amenity grassland within the existing sewage treatment works.

The existing works includes a Reedbed which shall be retained at the end of the scheme as a natural wetland, further increasing potential habitats for birds and other wildlife.



**Badgers and Nethercote**

Before construction, an ecology survey identified the presence of a large badger sett on the site boundary. As badgers are a protected species, MWH Treatment have taken a number of precautions to avoid disturbing the family of badgers. A five-foot fence made up of straw bales has been erected around the sett perimeter creating an acoustic and visual barrier to the surrounding works. Video footage of the sett last month confirms they are undeterred by the neighbouring site construction.



## **Community Support**

Severn Trent Water and MWH Treatment are committed to supporting local communities when embarking on construction projects in their area and MWH Treatment are in communication with Great Wolford Parish Council to look at how MWH Treatment can offer them support in their latest ventures.

## **Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale- Great Wolford**

Sarah, Carol and I would like to thank everyone who donated plants and produce, or came and supported the stall over the bank holiday weekend. People's generosity was amazing, and it was a good thing for our communities. A chance to meet people and chat as well. So thank you.

*[Village Editor - Shipston Home Nursing made £551 in the village and about £10,000 in total from all the participating villages.]*

**Sue Rew**

## **The Wolfords Village Hall Reopening**

Following the Government announcement that all remaining Covid restrictions are planned to be removed on Monday 21 June, it is confirmed that the village hall will be opened from this date onwards.

The reopening will of course be dependent on any delay in this date due to concerns of any covid variants leading to increased prevalence of the virus. Please refer to the village hall web site for any further updates – [www.thewolfordsvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.thewolfordsvillagehall.org.uk)

In order to have the hall ready in time for this date, we are requesting volunteers to help on Sunday 13 June at 10.00 am to tidy up the car park. If you can spare a couple of hours at this time that would be greatly appreciated. Please bring garden tools such as rakes etc. to clear up the dead weeds. Many thanks in advance.

**James van Helden**

## **The Wolfords WI**

The 'Little Edi Foundation' was founded after a little Romanian boy called Edi suffering from meningitis was thrown out of hospital after three days because his family couldn't afford the care. Teresa Griggs, the founder, heard about this and was moved to do something. They believe all children should have equal access to education and learning development, enabling them to reach their full potential. Teresa and volunteers went to Romania and Moldova buying rucksacks and uniforms for children, so they looked the same as their peers enabling them to go to school.

But then the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK changed their focus responding to the needs of local communities in Essex, to protect the safety and wellbeing of disadvantaged and at-risk children. They supported over 150 disadvantaged children, partnering with four local businesses to provide over 700 meals to 40 households. As Teresa said, every family has a story.

Teresa gave us a lot to think about and to be thankful for. It is amazing what she and her charity organisation has achieved. To see more go to [www.littleedi.co.uk](http://www.littleedi.co.uk)

At our meeting on Wednesday 2 June at 7.30 pm, we are 'Looking good with colour' with Sue Burton, Stylist and Image Consultant. If you would like to join the zoom meeting, please contact Sarah Franklin 674615, President Sue Elliot 674295 or Secretary Roz Warriner 684223.

## The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The May winners were as follows;

1st prize – The Murphy Family 2nd prize – Dick Goodman 3rd prize – Henry Warriner

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. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

**James van Helden**

**FAMILY  
LINK**

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

*[Ed – Margaret Shepard, who wrote about her own memories of Great Wolford in April, has kindly supplied these Little Wolford memories from her mother, Catherine Shepard. This is the second and concluding part of Catherine's story.]*

## Little Wolford Memories by Catherine Shepard (née Cox) 1899-1997

...Hay making time was very different from to-day with all the machinery. The mowing was started at three o'clock in the morning, so that the horses could be rested for work in the afternoon. Earlier mown hay was then ready for horse raking and side delivery raking into tidy rows ready for carrying. This consisted of two horses, a wagon and a hay loader behind, I did my share of raking and leading horses along the rows. I even tried my hand at rick building and remember the continual instruction to 'keep the middle filled'. I wasn't alone on the rick, my father was inclined to build big ricks. From the wagon a pitcher threw the hay into an elevator, which took the hay up to the top of the rick. The days always seemed hot and dry, and continual hard work.

The farm was mainly grass, but we did grow wheat, oats and roots. Most of the oats were used for the horses during the winter, and the tail wheat was given to the hens.

Like hay making, harvest time to-day *[Ed - late 20th Century]*, when everything seems to be done in one operation, is a very different affair to that of the early part of the 20th Century. First, we cut the corn with two horses and a binder, which tied it into sheaves,

and then make it into stooks (various names for this). The eight or so sheaves stood upright like little wigwams. When considered dry enough, they were loaded on wagons and made into ricks. Oats had to stay until the church bells had rung for three Sundays.

Then came threshing – great preparations for this. Sacks had to be hired –there was a sack hire business in Moreton. The next step was getting the steam engine out from the barn where it was kept, covered with a rick sheet, and also the threshing machine. The engine had to be warmed up with a fire – a door opened in front to put in wood and coal, and steam had to be sufficient for it to move – and out it would come, dragging the threshing machine into the yard and then round to the rickyard to the corn that had to be threshed. It needed a lot of men, and a woman to cut the bonds, i.e. the binder twine round the sheaves.

The threshing machine was a wonderful contraption made of wood. The sheaves were thrown in, it shook and shivered, and out of the back came the corn in separate shutes, one for the good corn and one for the tail corn to be used for poultry etc. Chaff came out from somewhere, and straw from somewhere else. Sacks were tied to the shutes, and a man had to be ready to tie on a fresh sack. The full sack was carried to the granary on a sack cart. Another man had to attend to the engine, one or two to throw in sheaves, and another to move straw as it built up. It seemed as busy as a beehive. The engine was attached to the thresher by a wide leather belt.

Before the First World War, when harvest was finished, my father held a Harvest Home. We usually all sat round the extended kitchen table, all the men and their wives, and any old men from the village. If the evening was fine, we had it on the lawn. We had either a small roast pig or a lamb, whole, with plum puddings to follow, some of them containing thruppenny bits or sixpences. My father carved and my mother, with her helpers, served the puddings. After supper, most of the men sang songs such as 'Neath the shade of the old apple tree' and 'It was only a beautiful picture in a beautiful golden frame'. Sometimes they sang comic songs. They always finished by singing 'For he's a jolly good fellow and so say all of we'.

At Christmas, my father always bought a side of beef, and we cut it up into joints. All the men had a joint, all the widows in the village had some, as well as anyone else who needed it. There was an old widow in the village who had no money at all, this was before the first five shillings a week old age pension, and my father found she did not have the baker to call. He asked her why, and she said she had no money, so only lived off the garden. After that, my father bought her a loaf of bread every week for years, and after he died, my mother continued to do so.

Now, there is no need for this kind of thing, but then there were many poor in the villages with big families. An agricultural worker's wage was 14 shillings a week, sometime less. When my parents first married, my mother kept the accounts and paid the men. Being a builder's daughter rather than a farmer's daughter, she was greatly distressed by the small amounts of money she found herself handing out.

I remember some of the families who lived in the village. Jane Hall was our faithful helper, on Saturdays scrubbing the two big kitchen floors and the hall, doing the washing on Mondays, and helping if anything else was needed. As well as the Halls, I remember the Edgingtons and the Sharlots. Henry Aston was a shoemaker, and made shoes for most of the village. The other farmers were the Haines, Irelands and Kilbeys.

As a schoolgirl before the First World War, I used to spend a lot of my Saturdays in the rickyard. It was some distance from the house, with all the other buildings in between. It was often a very interesting place. There was a long open fronted shed where the elevator stood when not in use, together with the binder, wagon and other implements.

At the far end, was a Blacksmith's Shop with an anvil and huge bellows. There was no blacksmith in Little Wolford, and one used to come from a neighbouring village with a boy to relight the fire and blow the bellows. I often used to go and watch them – people would bring their horses to be shod, mainly heavy cart horses with an occasional pony or hunter. The fire was already lit before I went to watch, and it was nice and warm in there. A horse would be brought in with a loose shoe, or sometimes with one missing, and the smith would have to make a new shoe. He would take a piece of iron and put it in the fire, and the boy would blow the bellows until the fire was glowing. The piece of iron was put in the fire until it was more than red hot and put on the anvil and hammered into the shape of the horse's hoof, fitted for size to the foot and often returned to the fire several times to get a good fit. It always worried me when the nails were hammered in – I thought they were going into the horse's foot and must hurt.

Another interesting thing in the rickyard was hurdle making. There would be a heap of ash poles which were chopped and sawn into long pieces flat on one side, then shaped into the required length and chipped and nailed together, and a beautiful new white hurdle would be made. Sometimes there would be an order for a dozen, or half a dozen, which took some time. The hurdle maker was a nice Mr. Arthurs from Long Compton.

There were various ricks of hay or corn, and I learnt how to thatch a rick. Later, my brother told me where to find a young cuckoo in a hay rick – I had to go up a ladder to see it in a robin's nest. The poor robins were busy time feeding it, I suppose they thought it was their duty. It was an unattractive, unsightly creature with its feathers all stubby, and was very spiteful if anyone went near it, and made little dashes at my hand, with the robin scolding.



**Catherine (holding the sheep), with her three brothers and older sister Amy.**

On my 21st birthday in January 1920, I became engaged to Harold Shepard from Parsonage Farm, Great Wolford, who had returned from the Great War where he fought at Gallipoli. Very shortly afterwards, my father died of cancer at the age of 50. We were very touched after the funeral to hear a muffled peal of bells from Great Wolford Church. A few years later my youngest brother, Roland, a big strong boy, died at the age of 15.

**Catherine Shepard (1899 – 1997)**

The poem this month has been written by Stuart Boreham from Long Compton. Thank you Stuart. The line - '*A sky criss-crossed by vapour trails*' led me to think of the photograph we use for our website. This was taken by reader Pam Haworth for the February 2019 LINK. Unfortunately, there's no hill in the photograph but it was a Cotswold sunrise and most importantly, it has the vapour trails.

## On a Cotswold Hill

The eager song of the morn bird  
Breaks the still of the new dawn;  
A fresh sun climbs quickly  
To take its place in a clear blue sky.

A gentle breeze, crisp as an orchard apple  
Caresses the snowdrops from their slumber;  
The last of the morning dew drips  
From leaf and bough, fence and gate.

Tapestry fields of rich brown earth  
Strewn with the debris of ploughed stubble;  
Down the escarpment and across the valley  
Stands a distant church tower, proud and tall.

Branches bend under their leafy loads  
In shades of red and gold;  
Hedge and shadow in equal measure  
Screen the hen pheasants in the verge.



Up above, a helicopter clatters noisily across  
A sky criss-crossed by vapour trails;  
The cattle oblivious to all as they track lazily  
Across the slope, towards the water trough.

Through the day, vehicles whizz along the ridge  
With no time to pause and wonder at the vista;  
Those splendid surrounds unnoticed by humanity as  
the sun dips once more, the birds hush and the sky  
darkens.

Until sunrise on a Cotswold hill.

*Copyright Stuart C. Boreham*



**View over Selsley, Gloucestershire from the Cotswold Way – Photograph by Keith Murphy**

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)**

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## Compassionate Care for people of the Cotswolds



Shipston Care

Shipston Care is a leading home care provider based in the Cotswolds. We offer a Live-in care service that can be a great alternative to leaving the familiar surroundings of your own home.

Our success is built around the quality of our carers and support staff who will carry out a **free, no obligation needs assessment** to establish what your individual needs are.

Whether you require personal care, assistance with daily activities, or would just like some companionship, we are dedicated to delivering the highest possible standards of live in care to enable you to continue living in your own home.

**For an informal chat, please give our friendly team a call on 01608 663377**



*"I knew, through my work as a nurse at a local Hospital, of your good reputation and responsiveness before you started caring for my mum. However, it was only when she needed your help that I realised quite how good you are. It's been quite reassuring knowing that mum had been safe at home with your carers. I know that she is also grateful for the stability this has provided. Without your support, my mum wouldn't have been able to stay in her home for so long - and the way you have been able to increase care rapidly when she needed it helped with this." Philip Vial.*

### We have built our reputation on:

- Carefully matching the carer to you, our client
- Our support for daily activities
- Empathetic Personal Care
- Respectful Companionship Care
- Safe Medication Handling
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- Catering for your requirements and ongoing needs
- A personalised service

enquiries@shipstoncare.co.uk | 4 Granville Ct, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4PP | 01608 66 33 77

Shipston Care Limited is fully regulated by the Care Quality Commission



Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

## Summer Garden Party

To celebrate 45 years of Whichford Pottery, Jim & Dominique Keeling invite you to explore their much-acclaimed and romantic private garden at the Pottery.

Enjoy hidden wonders in the paradise garden, an abundance of roses in the cottage garden, a bountiful veggie garden, inspirational planted-up pots and rolling countryside vistas.

- Garden Open • Windrush Willow • The Straw Kitchen
  - Plants for Sale by Marina Christopher of Phoenix Perennial Plants
- The Pottery will be making a charitable donation to the National Garden Scheme.*

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

## Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens

Six glorious gardens, including Jim & Dominique's garden, will be open for the National Garden Scheme.

*As the situation with Covid-19 can change quickly, please check our website before visiting.*

Whichford Pottery, Whichford, Nr. Shipston-on-Stour, Warks, CV36 5PG  
Tel: 01608 684416 [www.whichfordpottery.com](http://www.whichfordpottery.com)