

THE LINK

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

December 2020

£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

Events Update

There are a few events that I have put on this diary page. Please do not assume that because the event is listed, it will go ahead. Also, the events may or may not be complying with the relevant coronavirus restrictions, although I am sure that organisers will be doing all they can to comply with whatever restrictions there are at the time the event takes place.

December Church services had not been announced at the time of going to press.

Please may we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas, even if the usual events at this time of the year have been severely curtailed.



December (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Tue	01	Long Compton Chapel, Christmas Display Switch On	17.00
Thurs	03	Advent Prayer – Expectation (by Zoom see page 13)	19.30
Sat	05	Fish and Chip Takeaway Evening (by appointment only), Great Wolford	
Sun	06	Beneficial Book Group, planned at Barton House	17.30
Thurs	10	Long Compton Book Club (by Zoom)	19.00
Thurs	10	Advent Prayer – Hope (by Zoom see page 13)	19.30
Thurs	17	Advent Prayer – Promise (by Zoom see page 13)	19.30
Sat	19	Start and Judging of Long Compton Christmas Decoration Festival	
Wed	23	Al Fresco Carol Service, Long Compton Chapel Car Park	17.00
Thurs	24	Advent Prayer – Comfort (by Zoom see page 13)	19.30



LINK cover: *Christmas Door Wreath.*
Photograph by LINK reader, Gill Cox.

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.

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Please note the EARLY copy deadline for January 2021:

Monday 7 December !

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Important – 2021 LINK Subscription Payments

Payment by cash is obviously at present a problem. The 2021 annual LINK subscription of £10 is due during January and this is normally a cash transaction on the doorstep. This year, for your safety, and the safety of our distributors we'd like to encourage as many of you as possible to pay electronically by bank transfer (BACS).

In order to do this, we need to make sure that we don't lose track of who has paid and who hasn't. We therefore need a unique reference number to be inserted when making the BACS payment. If you are willing and able to pay your subscription by BACS, please email treasurer@swlink.org.uk with your name and address details and by return, you will be sent your assigned reference number along with the payment details you need for BACS.

Alternatively, a cheque can be sent (along with your name and address details please!) to:

The LINK Treasurer,
Leylands,
Great Wolford,
Shipston on Stour,
Warwickshire,
CV36 5NQ

We'd prefer BACS, but a cheque is better than cash at present. The 2021 payment window is now open, and we will later review payments and remind those subscribers who have yet to pay.

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

editor@swlink.org.uk and treasurer@swlink.org.uk



EDITORIAL

LINK Talk

Well, 2020 is coming to a close. In the January 2020 issue of The LINK, I quoted from a hymn I used to sing at school – *Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart* and the 2020 vision has certainly been something to behold. I think 2020 is probably best left there and let's hope that we can all find consolation in The Christmas season that's now upon us and trust that 2021 holds something for all of us, that is far more hopeful.

From January, the Barton pages will have a new village editor. I'd like to thank Karyn Sassella for her time at The LINK and for even managing to produce pages for us when she was the other side of the world in Australia. The new Barton village editor will be John Castle, who will be known to most of you in the village. John can be contacted on barton@swlink.org.uk Many thanks John for stepping forward.

Please be aware that I am still looking for editors for Little Wolford and Barcheston. I have so few items for each of these locations and the presence of an editor 'on the spot', will bring about an increase in the copy for these villages. Please do help if you can.

A reminder – it always catches someone out! The copy date for the January issue is very early. This year it's Monday 7 December. This is so we can produce the January issue before Christmas. Copy is always scarce for January, but this year is likely to be particularly difficult. Please do contribute something if you can. Perhaps a response to this month's letters page?

Please be aware that advertised events may or may not comply with the current virus restrictions. Items we receive are published in good faith and we wish to make it clear that we cannot guarantee compliance, or otherwise, with any necessary restrictions.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

Another CAMEO Lunch Club member's view of life in the pandemic

Take Care and Carry on

You could be forgiven for thinking that the NHS is putting all of its resources to fight the coronavirus pandemic. I think I can give you some comfort that it is carrying on with the many other strands of medicine and treatments that many of us need.

In the early 1990s, I experienced several episodes of sudden loss of consciousness. The fainting lasted a few minutes at most and I had no obvious aftereffects. They were months apart and always happened at home. Thus diagnosis was difficult. I had to stop driving and using machinery and you can imagine how it impinged on life. Eventually it became clear that my heart either stopped beating or the pulse dropped to a very low value for several seconds. Tests showed that I had a strong heart but the signal from my brain to control the beating rhythm was briefly interrupted. So, the 'cure' could be to install a heart pacemaker.

I have now had three pacemakers fitted into my left breast, each one about 10 years apart. The most recent implantation was on 5 November 2020 - in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

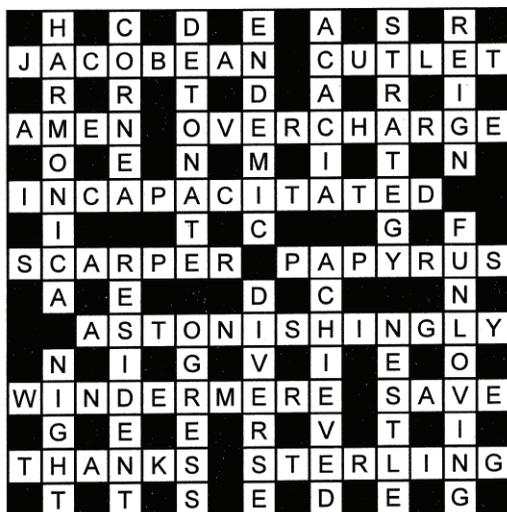
Since this is my third device, I can claim some experience but I was fascinated when, upon my discharge from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, I was given a monitor which now rests at the side of my bed to monitor the performance of my pacemaker and the condition of my heart continuously. It is connected to the John Radcliffe via the internet and I need to do nothing. No more check-ups. No more visits to clinics. In the midst of this massive virus attack our brilliant NHS is still doing ground-breaking things. Isn't that something!

I have since discovered that the NHS installs 18,000 pacemakers in a normal year, each costing around £4,000 including hospital costs for a single day's admission. The device in my chest is installed under local anaesthetic, is about the size of three 50p pieces, weighs little more than an ounce and most of that taken up with batteries which, as in my case, last for 10 years before the device needs changing.

And, isn't that something!

[Ed – Thank you for this personal story of life in the time of coronavirus. If readers would like to share their experience, please do make contact.]

The LINK Crossword



The Solution to the November Crossword

Integrating healthcare in Shipston and developing the Ellen Badger Site

[An item from Mary Powell, Head of Communications and Fundraising, South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust]

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust has been working closely with Shipston Medical Centre to identify the best option for progressing the Ellen Badger redevelopment. Both parties are fully committed, and we are delighted that business cases detailing the costs and project plan has been approved by the Trust's Board and the Primary Care Committee. This is fantastic news that enables us to progress with our

exciting plans to achieve an integrated healthcare hub for Shipston and the surrounding villages.

The impact of Covid-19

Coronavirus has had a huge impact on all aspects of healthcare, and it has become a major consideration for all future developments.

There are no changes to the overall vision for the site, however, the development will now proceed in two phases, commencing with the new GP surgery and a modern, integrated Health and Wellbeing Centre.

This approach will provide maximum flexibility for the future of the site, as well as limiting the impact on services which is going to be vital with the added pressures from Covid-19.

Conserving the history of Ellen Badger

We recognise the rich history of the Ellen Badger Hospital and have spent considerable time exploring options for how we could utilise the current building. Unfortunately, restoring the current site is not possible due to the age, condition and infrastructure of the building meaning that it would not meet future compliance regulations and therefore does not offer a sustainable, long term solution.

We do want to retain as much of the history of the building as possible and have done a detailed evaluation of all the historical artefacts within the current building and will be working closely with designers to come up with a way to sensitively incorporate these items into the new hospital.

Developing in Phases

Phase 1 will include construction of the GP surgery, construction of the Health and Wellbeing Centre, which will include clinic facilities, integrating shared spaces for community nursing teams and Shipston Home Nursing and construction of new car park and landscaping. The phased approach supports plans to develop the inpatient ward, day hospital, outpatients in a subsequent phase.

Throughout Phase 1, the day hospital and outpatients' services will remain operational onsite and the beds will be temporarily relocated, work is ongoing to understand where this will be (please note that 85% of patients using the beds are not from the local area, so it will be minimal disruption for the community).

What is a Health and Wellbeing Centre?

The Health and Wellbeing Centre will support the health and wellbeing needs of the community in Shipston and the surrounding villages, by delivering conventional healthcare alongside activities to address social factors.

The centre will be community led, so we will be working with *Healthwatch Warwickshire* to gather public feedback on what services this facility could benefit from. Over the coming months *Healthwatch* will be asking residents of Shipston and the surrounding villages to take part in surveys and telephone interviews, local input is really important so please take part and share your views.

Using local data to provide the right services

As well as input from local people and partner organisations, we will also use detailed information that has been gathered from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

A JSNA is a process that looks at the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of local residents to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services. Data from the latest JSNA has highlighted some key health conditions that could benefit from the facilities provided by the Health and Wellbeing Centre including cardiovascular disease. GP data shows that there are higher numbers of people with high blood pressure, heart failure, stroke and coronary heart disease locally compared to the rest of South Warwickshire and nationally. There are a number of activities that will be delivered through the Health and Wellbeing Centre to support those living with cardiovascular disease, and also act as early intervention to prevent those at risk of it. These will include: education on healthy lifestyle habits, healthy eating classes, physical exercise groups, regular health checks and support groups.

We will get as much information to you as we progress the development and really want to get your feedback at every stage. Due to Covid-19, we aren't able to meet as large groups face to face however if you have any further comments or questions, we would encourage you to send them to EBHdevelopment@swft.nhs.uk

For more information on the development plans including a site map of the Phase 1 developing, more details on what the Health and Wellbeing Centre could offer please visit: www.swft.nhs.uk/our-hospitals/ellen-badger-hospital

Mary Powell

The Ellen Badger Hospital - League of Friends

Back in November 2017, the League of Friends of Shipston Hospitals committed £635,000 to the South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust (SWFT) to buy land next to the Ellen Badger Hospital. We knew there was a moratorium on further maintenance of the hospital and indeed the Fire Service promptly found the existing wards unsafe and required urgent re-arrangements to be undertaken simply to keep beds open in Shipston as a short term arrangement.

Since then we have joined a Project Board with SWFT - and subsequently the Medical Centre - to develop the new hospital. To our delight we now hear that the Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to fund the relocation of the Medical Practice onto the Badger site.

It was always the League's hope that the GPs would agree to join the Badger on the same site to secure much better integration between their service and the inpatient services. This really was the cherry on the new hospital cake! The League has further committed to enhance the basic hospital development to secure the kind of twenty first century environment and finish many will have seen in Moreton Hospital with its 22 ensuite individual rooms, out-patients and therapy services.

You will have seen back in late May the published plan for such a development, joining hospital, GP surgery and a Health and Wellbeing Hub into a building to replace the existing hospital. This was to be done in a single development to minimise cost, delay and disruption. Since May, however these plans have changed and SWFT now propose a two-phase development with the GP Surgery and a Health and Well-being Centre (with a Cafe and meeting spaces) being built first. Later, Phase Two may go ahead if NHS capital is made available for SWFT to build an in-patient hospital with diagnostic facilities, urgent care facilities and other health care resources.

Of course, the League is disappointed that we are no longer planning to replace the hospital at the same time as the Surgery and the Public Health facility. Naturally our concern - as our constitution states - is primarily the future of the Hospital. Nonetheless we are all, SWFT, the League of Friends and the Medical Centre, totally committed to hearing from Shipston's residents and those in the surrounding South Warwickshire villages as to what their priorities for health care are.

The League of Friends preference was based on what we believed was the most efficient and cost-effective way forward, that is; the original plan for a single development phase. The League must be the servant of the residents of Shipston and South Warwickshire, so we need to hear your views:

- 1) Are you happy with a two-phase solution to this development?
- 2) How important is it to have inpatient hospital care?
- 3) How would you like it to be organised -in a single ward or in single ensuite rooms?
- 4) What do you think the League of Friends money - given in legacies and donations by residents of Shipston and South Warwickshire - is best used for?

Tell us by writing to The Shipston Forum, putting your views into Shipston Facebook or by writing to The Secretary, League of Friends of Shipston Hospitals c/o Wyse House, Halford, CV36 5BT. This is one of the most important changes that will affect Shipston and South Warwickshire in the next twenty years. Getting your voice heard will never be more important than now.

INFO LINK

Contact: **The Editor**
Email: 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 but an appointment has to be booked at
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>

DATES AND FETES*

Please send us the dates of all your significant 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.

Mon 30 Aug 2021 Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete

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

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES, LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

Should you be able to provide any up to date details on services/meeting please email me at editor@swlink.org.uk

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor

On seeing this month's LINK magazine's front cover [*November*] I was really interested to read about this soldier.

To my disbelief this man in uniform had no connection with the war effort within any of the SW7 villages.

There were many hundreds of village residents that took up the call to fight for King and country in far flung parts of the world that many had never heard of. With the loss of more than thirty souls in the SW7 parishes losing their lives, occasionally more than one from the same family.

I was saddened that the editor did not think that these great unexpected towers of strength and resilience were not worth of mention. No, instead it features the grandfather of editor who never made it out of the barracks.

It goes to show that The LINK 'community magazine' is for the airing of editors and his families views and little about the natives of these glorious villages.

Robert Hutchings (Reader from Burmington - 8 November)

Dear Mr, Hutchings,

Thank you for your email concerning the November issue of The LINK.

At The LINK we welcome views expressed by readers and you raise some interesting points so consequently your email to me, I will be publishing in the next issue of The LINK and also on our website - <https://editor794.wixsite.com/sw7link/link-forum>

I, like you I hope, will be interested to see if your views are shared across the readership.

You may recall that from 2015-2018 there have been items in The LINK about all the soldiers on the Great Wolford war memorial. There were also quarter peals rung for their centenaries on the Church bells. These acts of remembrance were documented in a book I published in 2018 called Bells to Remember and it's still available for purchase from Amazon - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1726883213>

You will note that all proceeds from my book go not to me, but to The LINK and Great Wolford Church. Perhaps you'd consider buying a copy?

The LINK is not a vehicle for me to air my views, it's a magazine for SW7 residents but hopefully the publication of your email will maybe prompt others to express their view on your contentions.

We are of course, more than willing to publish any information about soldiers from the SW7 villages should we be sent it. Perhaps you have some items that you'd like to contribute for any soldiers from the SW7 Benefice known to you?

Regards, Keith Murphy - LINK Editor (8 November)

[Ed – please do send any responses to editor@swlink.org.uk]

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

Barcheston St Martin

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

Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence

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

Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas

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

Cherington St John the Baptist

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

Long Compton St Peter and St Paul

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

Whichford St Michael

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

Wolford St Michael & All Angels

Churchwarden 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)
 Helen Bostock (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)
 Sara Cole (686250)

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



*Happy
 Birthday!*



December Birthdays

7th	Milan Clifton	Whichford	16
12th	Bethany Allen	Long Compton	16
13th	Eleanor Duck	Great Wolford	17
16th	Rosabella Stock	Little Wolford	3

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

Fake news or Good news

'You are fake news'. Those words were spoken three years ago by Donald Trump as he refused to answer a question from a CNN journalist. Since that press conference, the term fake news has become universal; used to describe genuinely false reports but also news that doesn't fit in with the listener's opinions.

Sometimes spotting fake news can be easy. Some stories are so obviously false that we safely dismiss them. But sometimes fake news stories can be more subtle and difficult to spot. And in a world where fake news is on the rise, it can be really hard to know who to trust. We don't want to be duped and taken in, so we start to approach stories we hear with a great degree of scepticism.

And maybe that's your approach to the Christmas story. Maybe if you're honest, you think the Christmas story is fake news. Nice to hear at Christmas time, probably harmless, but fake news nonetheless.

One of the common ways that fake news operates is by claiming something sensational in order to draw us in. The Christmas story recorded in the bible isn't really like that. It's a remarkably factual and unsensational account.

This is how the Gospel of Luke describes the birth of Jesus and its historical context.

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Factual straightforward and unsensational. It doesn't sound or feel like fake news.

Have you ever thought why fake news is so successful? Usually, we're taken in by stories that we're predisposed to believe. Fake news tells us what we want to believe.

In many ways the Christmas story does exactly the opposite. It tells us what we'd rather not hear. Most of us tend to think of ourselves as fairly good individuals. Sure, we're not perfect, but in general we're decent law abiding and moral people.

In contrast, the Christmas story says we're not moral people; that the mess of our world is due to the mess in our hearts; that we need rescuing and that we can't rescue ourselves. The Christmas story is humbling for those of us who think of ourselves as decent people. It tells us precisely the opposite of what we're inclined to believe.

Again it doesn't sound much like fake news.

So if the Christmas story isn't fake news. What is it? This is how it's described by the angel in Luke's Gospel speaking to the shepherds.

'Don't be afraid!' the angel said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.'

It's not fake news. It's good news. And if it's true, the Christmas story really is good news. It tells of a God who is real and there, and who cares about his world. It tells of a God who loves us so much that he didn't leave us to our own devices. It tells of a God who comes in humility to sort out both the mess of our hearts and the mess our world.

It's not fake news. It's good news. News too good to be dismissed without investigating for yourself.

Ben Dyson (Associate Minister)

Christmas Services

The December edition of The LINK usually contains details of all the services happening in the month including Christmas services. At the time of writing, we are still unsure of what the situation will be over the Christmas period. When we have more clarity, we will communicate details of Christmas services as widely as possible.

Deanery News

As I write, we are in our second lockdown and worshipping together but apart as church services go online again. However, as you read this, Advent will have begun and we may be able to be back worshipping in person again, although that is by no means certain.

This year, we are offering a Deanery Advent series, thanks to Jill Tucker. We hope you will be able to join us from the comfort and warmth of your own home as we look towards Christmas.

Advent Evening Prayer: a gentle evening prayer for four Thursdays in Advent, exploring themes of Expectation, Hope, Promise and Comfort. The fourth Thursday in Advent is Christmas Eve, so Evening Prayer that day will be especially for those who find Christmas difficult: a place where, among all the festivities we can bring our pain and hurt to God, and claim the supreme promise of Christmas, that of his presence and comfort in our lives and in our world.

Advent Evening Prayer will be at 7.30 pm until about 8.00 pm on:

Thursday 3 December, Expectation	Thursday 17 December, Promise
Thursday 10 December, Hope	Thursday 24 December, Comfort.

Anyone is warmly invited to join these Zoom sessions. The link is: Join Zoom Meeting, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9121061734>, Meeting ID: 912 106 1734

Reverend Sarah Edmonds (Rural Dean)

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2020

A sincere thank you to everyone in SW7 who donated in any way to this year's appeal. Despite many Covid-19 related difficulties I have received some beautiful boxes and lots of other items that will be used to bring some Christmas cheer to some of those in need in Eastern Europe.

Sue Bradley



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

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

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - officesw7@gmail.com

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk

SCHOOL NOTES

Editor: Harry Dodds

Email: longcompton@swlink.org.uk

Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

Play Leaders

All Brailes children in Year 4 have been learning how to be Play Leaders and have completed the Play Leader training course with our sports coach, Nick.

In play leading, you learn how to lead others in playing games and having fun. We have needed to be creative and adapt things so that the games we play are covid-friendly and can be played safely in the outdoor space we have.

For play leaders, PACE is really important and this stands for:

P = participation A = area C = communication E = equipment

PACE is important for us to use to be successful leading games for others. We needed to make sure that no one was left out, and to think carefully about the space and

equipment we had. We are becoming more confident communicating with each other, listening to each other, sharing our ideas and explaining things clearly to others.

Year 4's learnt how to make fair and equal teams so that everything is fair and fun. We had to learn how to choose teams wisely and this helped us to be able to explain, demonstrate and organise games for others. We each have a play leaders' folder in which we have been recording our learning and progress as play leaders. As part of our training, we have been working in teams to lead games activities for Year 3 as they are in our class bubble.

It's very fun to be leading others and making sure they enjoy the games as much as we do.

by Caitlin (Year 4 Play Leader)

Squirrels Classroom Extension



The extension to Squirrels classroom at Brailes School is looking fantastic and we are already on the first fix. Outside, the stonework matches beautifully to the existing building and inside there is a lot more space for our Nursery and Reception children to learn and play.

We are hoping for the room to be finished by Christmas.

Little Acorns

Our Nursery and Reception children have continued to impress with their enthusiasm for learning and their compassion for each other, those that help them in school, at home and in the wider community, which has been a major part of our topic work. The children reflected thoughtfully on their time at home during the lockdown period and considered how key workers have helped during these challenging times. They were keen to share their experiences of clapping for the NHS, painting rainbows to put in the window at home and going on teddy bear hunts during their daily exercise. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using the ever-changing role-play area to act out the roles of firefighters, doctors, nurses, vets and postal workers.

The *Innovate* stage of our topics offers children a creative opportunity to use and apply what they have learnt, through collaboration, discussion, decision-making and

using their own judgement to solve real-life and imaginary problems. During the *Innovate* stage of our 'Do you want to be friends?' topic, the children reflected on what they have learnt this term about friendship and people who help us. Our Nursery children used puppets and small world toys to consider different friendship scenarios and how they might solve problems that arise by listening to each other, taking turns, sharing and expressing their feelings. Our Reception children took this a step further by creating collaborative drawings of what good friendship might look like and using jelly babies with the small world toys to demonstrate their ideas. The children then photographed their friendships scenes before using their emergent writing skills to describe their pictures.

At the end of our topic in *Express* stage, the children shared their experiences by creating salt dough hearts to say thank you to someone who helps them at home. The Reception children also created thank you cards.



Vista

Class 2 at Acorns have been busy working through their *Innovate* journals and have applied their knowledge to mountains and rivers in the Lake District. They have located the source and the mouth of the River Esk, researched Great Gable and found lots of activities to do around the Lake District. After completing their journals, the children wrote an information leaflet to inform tourists about activities, geographical features and specific areas in the Lake District.

Class 2 have also worked through an *Innovate* project for our 'Vista' companion project. In this, the children had to create their own piece of artwork using an existing image. They then made a digital copy of their artwork and edited them to change colours and textures. The creativity has been great throughout the 'Vista' project and the children have shown excellent knowledge of vocabulary and techniques.

Sports Captains

At the moment, due to Covid-19, schools are unable to hold sporting competitions mixing with other schools or even mixing between different classes in school. This has presented Henry, Eirene and Zach (this year's Sports Captains at Brailes School) with new opportunities to lead sports events in different ways as part of the School Games Pupil Leadership Award scheme which they are working on and hoping to achieve this year as part of Brailes' School Games Gold Award.

The Sports Captains have been given the responsibility for organising and leading Brailes' participation in four virtual competitions this term as part of the School Games programme. These have included Y1/2 Agility and a Y5/6 Pentathlon so far this term with further competitions for Y3/4 and Y5/6 coming after half term. For each of the competitions, Sports Captains have got the resources ready for the competition in advance. They have used their own set of demonstration equipment when working with children from a different class bubble and have been successful in leading warm-ups and activities for other classes from a distance on the playground to make sure that everyone stays safe. Whilst they are sports leaders for each of the house teams, they are collaborating to take turns to lead and support to make sure each event runs successfully and safely.

Henry (Sports Captain for Bishop) led the KS1 Agility. This included speed bounce, an activity where you jump sideways over two cones. Another one of the agility activities was *Thrower*, where the sports leaders demonstrated and explained how to do the activity, then supported and encouraged Y1/2 to practise. Eirene (Sports Captain for Sheldon) led the Y5/6 Pentathlon and Zach (Sports Captain for Gilletts) will be leading Y3/4 competitions after half term.

All the competitions need to have taken place by 20 November and our school results will then be entered into the School Games virtual competitions against other Warwickshire Primary Schools. Results will be shared in the November newsletter.

by Henry, Eirene and Zach (Sports Captains)

Lacrosse

The new addition of the sport lacrosse as part of Year 5/6 Games lessons at Brailes this half term has been a great success. Focused concentration, determination and teamwork have enabled children in Badgers class to learn how to throw the lacrosse ball, scoop it and catch it. Week by week, skills have developed, and it has been a brilliant sport which has been new to the whole class. We are so proud of how far the class have already come as lacrosse players. It's a fast-paced, covid-friendly, energetic game which Badgers class are loving learning, a game they can all enjoy and shine. Many thanks to Nick for bringing this sport to Brailes.



From Open Mornings to Open Evenings

Usually at this time of year we welcome lots of families to The Stour Federation Partnership to show them around our wonderful schools, whether it is for new starters in Reception the following September, Nursery parents whose children will soon be 3 years old, or mid-year moves.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to show groups of families around while the children are in school, but are delighted to offer tours of the school every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4.00 pm.

Please book your appointment for a tour of the school:

Acorns

Telephone: 01608 684654

Email: head2639@we-learn.com

Prospectus: <https://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/prospectus/>

Brailes

Telephone: 01608 685253

Email: head3014@we-learn.com

Prospectus: <https://www.brailescofepprimary.org.uk/key-information/>

The closing date for Reception 2021 applications is 15 January 2021.

Brailles Church of England Primary School

Open Evenings

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 4pm
(by appointment only)

www.braillescofeprimary.org.uk



Part of the Stour Federation Partnership
with Shipston-on-Stour Primary School and Acorns Primary School



Starting School in September 2021?

- Tours of the school will take place after the children have gone home to maintain the integrity of class bubbles.
- One adult per appointment. Please wear a mask and hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Learn about our curriculum, Breakfast Club from 7.50am and After School Care until 6pm.
- Nursery places available from age 3.

Please contact the school office to arrange your visit.

Email: admin3014@we-learn.com

Tel: 01608 685253

Web: www.braillescofeprimary.org.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brailleschool>





Acorns Primary School



Open Evenings

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 4pm
(by appointment only)

www.acornsprimary.co.uk

Part of the Stour Federation Partnership with
Shipston Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School



Starting School in September 2021?

- Tours of the school and our brand new Nursery/ Reception classroom will take place after the children have gone home to maintain the integrity of class bubbles.
- One adult per appointment. Please wear a mask and hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Nursery places available from age 3.

Email: primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

Tel: 01608 661266

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/shipstonhead>



Watching an owl staring down at you from the branch of a tree, with its wide wise-looking eyes, its well-preened feathers, and its almost aristocratic hooked beak, it is not hard to see why this bird has been given the appendage 'wise', and you are in fact facing a philosophical old professor standing by his desk. And indeed, so well adapted is the owl and so different from most of our birds, that it must be one of the most intelligent. We have five species in this country: the tawny, barn, long-eared and short-eared, and the little owl (this last being an introduction early in the 19th century). If you are standing in a wood, in all probability, it is a tawny owl you are watching. Its call is a low hoot, not the too-wit-too-woo (or too-wet-too-woo as one wag once put it). The barn owl is that wide ghostly one which flies in front of your car at night mainly roosting in nest boxes, so few these days are opportunities in modern house roofs. Its piercing screech (hence its other name 'Screech Owl' may wake you from your dreams at night. The short-eared owl is partially migrant, and is ground nester (How do birds nesting on the ground get away with it? Well, the answer is their unique ability at camouflage).

Up till this year, we had little owls regularly nesting in the barn in the meadow behind our cottage. But this year we have sadly seen no sign of them. Perhaps one has died, or they have nested elsewhere. But it is in its hearing ability that the owl outdoes and outshines all other birds. Its facial disks channel sound to its ears – one ear set lower than the other for perfect reception. On hearing its prey, the owl takes off – its feathers designed to be soundless in flight, and the days, or probably nights, as this is when the birds mainly hunt, of the prey are numbered. The owl's feathers though soundless, are not waterproof, a supreme disadvantage as this can slow its flight and indeed may give it several days being unable to feed itself. The owl lays its first egg and immediately sits on it to hatch unlike other birds, which lay the whole clutch before sitting. Thus, the first hatched chick has a major advantage over its brothers and sisters.

Last month I wrote about ivy-leaved toadflax, a charming little flower which favours sites such as old walls. I have, growing in my garden and around the house, another plant which is also to be found growing from walls. Pellitory-of-the-wall is a plant of the nettle family, and florally just about as attractive! Yet so much does it favour my garden, that from every crack in between house and paving stone, in every gap in stone walls, it springs with unabandoned joy! Nowhere is free from it. But as I say, its flower is the same as that of the nettle and even if one tries, one can see no attraction whatsoever in it. But I understand that it once had medicinal uses as the juice from its leaves was once used to make an ointment to cure sores and piles. A brew from it, boiled, was used to – supposedly – cure kidney stones. To be fair to it though, sometimes the stems can be reddish colour, bringing a cheerful aspect to grey stone walls from which it springs. But I shall not give it the benefit of using its leaves or stems to cure any disorders I may be experiencing!

Beatrix Potter gave us Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle but since then, fictitious hedgehogs have been rather neglected. Sadly, it is a creature whose numbers are diminishing rapidly. One reason of course is traffic. The numbers of cars on the road increase annually. But what can you do? If you have a hedgehog walk in front of your car as you are driving, and you

are being tailgated, you are not going to jam on your brakes! Hedgehogs are said to have been in existence for some 15 million years and it is a creature which has seen persecution. In the fifteenth century a bounty was offered for all hedgehogs slaughtered in the belief that they sipped milk from cows during the night (milk is actually bad for them, so if you are feeding any, stick to water). A badger can open one, and a viper can sting one to death. They will feed on all form of insects, including caterpillars, beetles and slugs. But there is hope that with various hedgehog preservation societies up and down the country, their decline can be arrested. Moreover, a large building firm putting up houses in Lincolnshire has designed 'doorways' in garden fences so that hedgehogs can pass through them into other gardens. As there are to be a hundred houses built here, there could be a lot of wandering hedgehogs!

It is now generally agreed amongst ornithologists that bird calls and songs can vary in different parts of the country as do human dialects. So that song or call you have religiously been memorizing on the bird song tape may in fact, when hearing a bird calling whilst you are on holiday in some remote part of these islands be slightly, but confusingly different. I recall whilst in St. Davids, West Wales walking down to the cathedral, I suddenly heard a number of birds in the hedge adjoining the road chirping away in the strongest way. 'Ah', I murmured to myself, 'here I have a rare Welsh bird'. I waited, and suddenly from the depths of the hedges' greenery quickly emerged four sparrows!

Tony Partridge



Wolford Wood

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-Burmington-

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We have a selection of trees available:

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We look forward to seeing you!

FARMING NOTES

Editor: Lynn Mathias
Email: farming@swlink.org.uk

This month I have asked our Agronomist, Ben Taylor Davies of REGENBEN to explain the thinking behind the changes you may be seeing on this farm, and others around the country.

Lynn Mathias

Regenerative Farming

I wonder if Matthias Claudius when composing the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' ever wondered if this was actually an unsustainable practice? Of course, I doubt it and back in the 18th century, farm equipment was either man powered, or horse powered. So, what is happening on the modern forward-thinking farm? Why is ploughing becoming so outdated? The simple answer is soil! The most incredibly diverse species rich habitat in the world, yet something that we walk across every day with little or no consideration for - why? Because it's uninteresting, brown and boring. However, my own role in the farming world (bioagricologist - the study of biology, agriculture and ecology) starts to unravel the mystery and intrigue that is soil.

One teaspoon of a 'healthy' soil contains approximately 7 billion living organisms, more living things than humans on planet earth! Funnily enough these organisms have developed throughout earth's history for literally billions of years, they have evolved in a way that form the most incredible relationships with plants and between plant and soil, having developed methods of using the natural resources, air, water and rock to provide each other with nutrients in which they grow. These soil organisms are mainly aerobic (air loving) and therefore colonise the top 10 cm (4 inches) of soil.

Regenerative agriculture is a fairly new term in the world and is used to describe farmers who are literally regenerating their soils in order to provide a far more sustainable future and to leave earth in a far better condition. The main asset of most farms is the soil, and this is something that extreme care should be given to on the understanding that it is a living organism.

For about 4000 years, ploughing has been the mainstay of agriculture. The problem is for the last 3920 years the ploughs were pulled by animals which had huge limitations and meant ploughing was only a very shallow operation, keeping the soil biology in an aerobic situation and soils continued to function well. Over the past 80 years, with the anything but 'green' revolution, farms became larger which meant machinery got bigger, bigger heavier machinery pulling larger and larger ploughs deeper and deeper tending to bury the top layer (In order to plough wider with a plough, you have to go deeper). This together with the invention of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, destroyed the living soil biology.

The idea behind regenerative farming is making a transition between the soil destroying methods of farming to methods that increase soil health and provide a much more sustainable future for farming. There are 5 main principles which we try and supplement what nature has formulated well for well over half a billion years.

- 1) Soil armour - keep soil covered at all times. Mother nature puts plants on bare soil at every opportunity, which is why garden weeding is often a futile job.
- 2) Living roots - roots put sugar rich carbon into soils naturally feeding the soil biology. In return, soil biology provides plants the nutrients locked up in the soil.
- 3) Disturbance - soil disturbance should be kept to an absolute minimum. Nowhere does mother nature plough or add synthetic fertilisers and hydrocarbon pesticides.
- 4) Diversity - mixtures of plants and species wherever possible. This will reduce the pressure that nature places on a mono-crop system by trying to balance these unnatural environments by invading them with what we call pests, weeds and diseases.
- 5) Animals - where possible integrate livestock and their manures in the system. Nowhere in nature are animals devoid. (For those wondering about the 'greenness' of meat, liken it to the production of electricity, coal powered versus solar powered, both produce the same result but by very different environmental methods. This is the same for meat production).

So the flowers you saw all summer at Manor farm? These were doing our natural cultivations with their roots, they were feeding the underground biology ready for the next food crop. They were providing armour for the soil and protecting it against weather events, such as erosion, and of course the diversity of different plant species prevented disease and pest issues - all of this whilst providing a great habitat for foraging insects, small and large mammals and many other species of amphibians and reptiles. Surely this farming is a win win for food production and environmental protection?

Ben Taylor Davies



Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

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

THE LINK

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THE LINK

Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

Beneficial Book Group

It was a pleasure to 'meet' again and talk through Zoom about our latest book, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

This had a rare-book restorer, Hanna, discovering multiple tiny remnants within the pages and binding of the priceless medieval prayer book, the Sarajevo Haggadah, telling its journey through the ages and through stories of its survival. With scenes from all parts of Europe through the ages, it is fascinating although some felt that the modern-day story of Hanna and her mother was rather irritating. This was fluently written and easy to read.

Next time we very much hope to be able to meet in person again. We will talk about *English Passengers* by Matthew Kneale at 5.30 pm on Sunday 6 December at Barton House. Happy reading!

Gillian Cathie

Ordinary General Parish Council Meeting

An OGM, using 'Zoom' was held at 6.30 pm on 8 October. The council and 8 members of the public joined the conference call. The Chairman introduced, and gave a warm welcome to Julia Gotrel, who had kindly volunteered to take over from Colin Maynell as Clerk to the Council.

It was agreed that the ancient bench on the village green, in need of some TLC, would be repaired by Chris Seymour-Smith using some oak planks kindly donated by Hamish Cathie.

There was a thorough discussion of speeding traffic through the village. The discussion centred on two topics; enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit and the possibility of having the limit reduced to 20 mph. Councillor Rickett agreed to speak to the management at Kitebrook School, because the worst speeding occurred during school collection times for school children. The council also wondered about more use of the speed camera held by the police, purchased by South Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch with a contribution from Barton Parish Council. This needed to be followed up in due course.

The treasurer reported that the village finances were in good order with a forecast surplus from the precept of £1000 of £387. The council noted that some of the trees on the approach to the village on the Great Wolford road needed attention and the chairman said that a quotation from a tree surgeon would be obtained for consideration at the next meeting. The agenda item was concluded with an agreement to consider a possibly reduced precept for the next financial year at the January meeting of the council.

The council considered two planning applications. Restoration of The Lodge at the second entrance drive to Barton House which needs some under-pinning and

modernisation. The plans were presented by Helen-Seymour Smith and Hamish Cathie and approved unanimously.

Two applications for pruning some trees adjacent to Rainbow Farm were also approved. Simon Lofthouse informed the Council that he had acquired the field adjoining Campden Farmhouse and that it would continue to be used for grazing. The Chairman closed the meeting with a brief report that he was still in contact with BT Openreach about the Community Fibre project.

The chairman and councillors thanked Colin Maynell, the outgoing Parish Clerk for keeping the council on the straight and narrow during his term of office.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14 January 2021.



4.00 pm Freight Pulling Out by Stourton artist Colin Beckett

Heads Down in the Burmington CAMEO Kitchen



Our picture shows cooks, Janet Lennon, Sonia Baker and Michael Macdonald, packing the CAMEO lunch club lunch packs for delivery to members in November. Following the cancellation of meetings in March due to the pandemic, the club has remained active with the delivery of monthly hot meals to the homes of members across SW7.

Rules prohibit close personal contact and the collection of cash at the time of delivery. But, thanks to generous donations from Burmington Church and some club individuals, the lunches remain free to members. SW7 villagers are urged to ring Brenda Fitch on 664313 if they know of a neighbour who would benefit from a hot CAMEO lunch. The delivery of Christmas lunches is planned for Tuesday 8 December.

Our thanks, as ever, go to the small band of cooks and deliverers for their time and dedication. If you would like to help out with cooking or delivering meals, please contact Dennis Cummings on 661755. He will be delighted to hear from you.

Armistice Day, Burmington

The church bell tolled and at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day Burmington residents up and down the village paid tribute – socially distanced - to the fallen.

We stood silent for two minutes (the silence only broken by several clueless individuals driving past us) after which those outside Pond House sang two verses of the National Anthem, beautifully accompanied on her violin by Bryony Lennon.



League of Friends (Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston)

Julia Sykes would like to thank everyone who returned their blue envelope to her and gave so generously to this worthwhile cause.

VILLAGE NEWS

CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: cherington@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 686682

Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the November Lottery were:

1st	Antony Granville	£80
2nd	Rosie McArdle	£45
3rd	Jo Thompson	£30

For more information on joining, please contact Steve Allkins.

Steve Allkins

Brailes Picturehouse

Oh dear, here we are again full of disappointment. We can only look forward to 2021, maybe not until March. That will be a year before we start up again. The fear is a lot of films will have been shown on television.

We wonder if you would like to suggest a favourite, or missed screening. Please email deez.cottageproducts@gmail.com. with your request. All mail will be answered.

In the meantime - Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Best wishes and keep safe.

Deirdre Carney and Team

Remembrance Sunday

You will all be aware that a decision was taken to cancel the Remembrance Service planned for Sunday 8 November at the Cherington and Stourton War Memorial due to the stringent Government imposed health and safety precautions.

However, in spite of these restrictions, the village community gathered spontaneously at the War Memorial. The names of the fallen were read out, the wreath was laid and the two-minute silence observed. The Church bell was tolled and the Last Post and the Reveille sounded to bring a conclusion to this informal but appropriate occasion.

Village Editor



The LINK can offer your local business.....

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

Please contact Simon Lewis-Beeching adverts@swlink.org.uk

CSS Village Tennis Tournament

The tournament is not normally held in October, but then not much is normal this year. Eighteen players came out on a lovely sunny Saturday morning and a rather drearier Sunday one to enjoy playing tennis and catching up in a new covid-secure format.

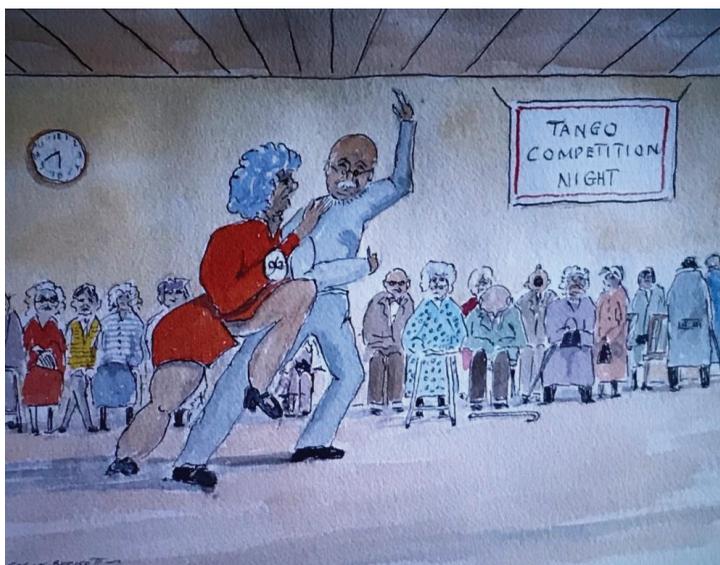
After some fiercely competitive tennis on four courts across all three villages, the final was broadcast over Zoom with Jonathan Stolerman, (shown climbing a ladder to fix the camera) commentating.



This year's champions were Averell Kingston and Piers Marshall (front of photo), with Vanessa Streets and Derwin Jenkinson runners up.

Thank you to all those who played, lent their courts and organised. We hope next year's tournament can be played in the summer, with the traditional lunch to finish.

Sally Clubley



*Village hall dancing
competition for the
over 70s
by Stourton Artist
Colin Beckett*

Long Compton Village Hall

Can we? Can't we? Should we? Could we? It seems the village hall committee have had to wrestle with these choices off and on over the last nine months. Now, (November), we have reluctantly had to close with the hope of opening up in December or the New Year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the events and classes we have been able to hold and please be assured we will be open again as soon as we can.



In the meantime, why not put your mind to what you might be able to use your village hall for? With two rooms available, as well as the kitchen, it could be the venue for tea parties, film nights, table top sales, slimming groups, evening parties, pop up restaurants, exercise classes, art exhibitions, children's parties, amateur dramatics, Mother & Toddler groups, book clubs, coffee mornings, adult education classes, Brownies, Guides, Cubs & Scouts... The list is endless so why not put your thinking hat on, work out if you could organise something for your family or the community and put your plans in place. The hall will be absolutely ready to book you in!

Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Compton District History Society

Our committee has decided that there will be no further meetings this year but that they will start again next March provided things are back to normal by then. Our idea is that we should rebook the same speakers as those we had originally booked for March to June this year. If you have paid a membership subscription for 2019/2020 that will carry forward to cover March to June 2021. We will of course keep you informed through this magazine as and when circumstances change.

Diana Cook 684771

Notice for Comptonians

We would like to wish all our members a Very Happy Christmas and New Year. We hope that you are keeping safe and well and we look forward to when we can meet again. With Best Wishes.

Margaret and Anne

Remembrance – 2020

Our resounding church bell tolled out
Till church clock struck eleven.
The Legion colours lowered, wreaths laid.
Lorry, van and cars stopped voluntarily
Alongside dog and walkers pausing in journey.
Our village was still, not forgetting the untimely fallen.

Elaine Hobday's reflections on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month 2020.

Compton Creatives

To find out more about joining this sociable group please contact jhburras@yahoo.co.uk or caroline.nixon@btinternet.com

The Friends of Long Compton Church

Let's decorate Long Compton this Christmas like never before! We cannot hold our Christmas Tree Festival, so instead we are having a Christmas Decoration Festival. No entry fee or forms – just decorations. You can decorate your door, fence, window, gate – anything that will brighten up the house and street. For ideas, see our website.

On the weekend of 19 - 20 December, judges will walk round the village and make a decision on the most creative effort. Anyone with a decoration will be deemed to have entered. They will award the winner a prize – a magnum of champagne. Don't forget it will be about how creative you have been, not how much money you have spent.

And with all the planned publicity, we hope to attract people to walk around admiring all our handiwork. So... all you have to do is decorate your door, window, fence or gate. Then for the 5 days before Christmas, walk round the village admiring everyone's efforts!

Sue Klatt, Chairman

Long Compton Chapel

It has been a difficult and peculiar year for all of us. At the Chapel, we have tried to use the time when we can't open to improve and repair the premises. The Arden Room needs to have its roof replaced (whoops!) and the kitchen needs updating. But we remain convinced that God will give us the necessary energy and ideas for us to continue to move forward. The Chapel remains available for private prayer to all.

However, we feel that the Christmas period needs to be marked and enjoyed within our limitations. To that end we have plans:

Firstly, for a Christmas display in the front of the Chapel, the 'grand' opening of which will be on Tuesday 1 December 5.00pm. The Christmas Tree will be lit, of course. However, we would like some input from the Community.

We would like you to give a tree decoration for the display, together with a line or two of what Christmas means to you, or a happy memory. The decorations can be anything you want, made, bought, or found but suitable for outdoors! The decorations will be added to the Display each day of Advent, 1 -24 December. The words will be posted, each day, on our Facebook page. Please let us have your decorations and words. You can leave them in the porch at the Chapel (which remains open for donations to the Food Bank). Or give them to us or leave at The Stores.

Secondly, we are holding an *al fresco* Carol Service on Wednesday 23 December at 5.00 pm in the Chapel car park. We may not be able to sing out loud, but we can listen with the 'Joy of the Season' in our hearts and hum to Bridget playing our favourite carols, and speak the words if we want. We will give thanks for all we have and hope for in the future and we'll have 'socially distanced' hot drinks and mince pies. Face coverings are a must, so let's make them festive, go mad with glitter and tinsel!

May the Peace and Joy of the Season enter your homes and hearts and give strength to all to overcome all their difficulties. Happy Christmas. Contact: Sally Franklin, 01608 684739 / 07870545431 or Elizabeth Gilkes: 07791 621778



Long Compton Chapel Christmas Display

With
Community Decoration Contributions
Switch on

Tuesday 1st December

5pm

Please let us have a tree decoration
(made, found or bought but suitable for outdoors!)
together with a sentence or two of what
Christmas means to you.

Please leave these in the Chapel Porch
or at the Stores.

They will be added to the display each day 1-24
December the words will be posted on Facebook.

Contact: Sally Franklin, 01608 684739 / 07870545431 or

Elizabeth Gilkes: 07791 621778

longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

100 Club Draw - November

In the absence of a Social Saturday this month, the November Draw was done after the Hall AGM and Committee Meeting on 16 November. The results are as follows:

1st Prize 40 Emma Ledbury	2nd Prize 63 Gary Stokes
3rd Prize 121 Mr & Mrs Black	4th Prize 15 Bob Whittaker

The next draw will take place at the Social Saturday coffee morning on Saturday 12 December, or after the subsequent Committee meeting if this is cancelled. As a reminder, it is a double draw to make up to 12 Draws for the year.

Chris Galloway 684234

The Friends of Long Compton Church invite you to get creative

**MORE DETAILS
ON THE FLCC
FACEBOOK PAGE
& WEBSITE**

All you have to do is decorate your door, gate or a window (for ideas go to the FLCC website).

All village decorations will be judged - there are no criteria but imagination and creativity will score more than money spent!

The judges will walk round the village on **19th & 20th December** to make their decision.

The best decoration will be announced on **22nd December** and the winner will get a magnum of champagne kindly donated by Steve Lavelle Photography.

www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com
www.facebook.com/FriendsofLongComptonChurch/

And don't forget to walk round the village admiring everyone else's decorations!

**NO
ENTRY
FEE**



LONG
COMPTON'S
Christmas
DECORATIONS
FESTIVAL
2020

TO REPLACE OUR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Main
sponsor



**ENLIGHTENED
WINDOWS**

Supported by
Steve Lavelle Photography



The Friends of Long Compton Church
is a registered charity number 1141040

Long Compton Chapel

Al Fresco

Carol Service

Come along and enjoy your favourite Carols

Hot Drinks and Mince Pies

Wednesday 23 December – 5.00 pm

(in the Chapel Car Park)

If we can't sing, we can listen with the Joy of the Season in our hearts and hum to Bridget playing our carols, and speak the words if we want.

Socially distanced and obeying prevailing guidance.

Face coverings are a must - make them festive, go mad with glitter and tinsel!

A Thank You

As this strange year draws to a close, and we may or may not be able to spend some time with family and friends, we may spend a little time reflecting on 'whatever happened to 2020?' There were lots of wonderful and well-deserved accolades for the many at the front line who carried on regardless during Covid-19.

From our reflection on 2020, Ed and I would like to send a big vote of thanks to two very special groups; Sid and our other lovely posties and Marianne, Judith, June and Colin at the Village Stores. No matter the weather, the virus, the road closures or diversions, or any other personal struggles they had, the shop opened faithfully every morning and Sid and his colleagues arrived every day with a cheery smile even if was a 'none for you today'. Thank you for continuing to provide the village with your unfailing service and for supporting us all during these tricky times. You are truly appreciated. May 2021 bring us all a few more smiles and very good health.

Rosemary and Ed Macalister-Smith

Long Compton and District Walkers

As we sit through another period of lockdown, the prospect of the walking group being able to resume our monthly outings seems as remote as ever. As currently we are only supposed to meet one other person outdoors, that does not under any stretch of the imagination constitute a group! We must just be patient and be satisfied walking with our households or meeting up with a friend, until such time as restrictions are lifted.

Another casualty of the restrictions is our annual lunch, normally held after the December walk. For obvious reasons, we cannot plan such an event which is a great shame, but we can look forward to next year and a change of fortune.

As soon as we are permitted to meet as a group, I will be in touch with everyone. Meanwhile, there are plenty of local walks to explore and enjoy over Christmas, when hopefully we will be able to at least meet up with family. With best wishes to everyone who has walked with us during the year and we look forward to meeting again in the New Year.

Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton
book club

Our next (Zoom) meeting is on Thursday 10 December at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing *A Time of Gifts* by Patrick Leigh Fermor

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

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 jordanlboswell@hotmail.com

Bridge Club

Sadly, we cannot restart the Bridge Club until the socially distancing rules are relaxed. We will contact all members and announce the restart in The LINK as soon as we can. In the meantime, if you haven't already tried it, we suggest online bridge with either BBO, Funbridge or 247Bridge. The bidding is difficult, so 'go with the flow', but playing the hand can be good practice.

Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton and District Garden Club

We are planning a *Gardeners' Question Time* - Wednesday 24 February 2021

More details will follow. All are Welcome.

Lesley Roberts 684545

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

Compton Creatives - caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or 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

Friends of Long Compton Church, our information and contact points:

e: friendslcchurch@gmail.com f: [@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflongcomptonchurch) or www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

Thinking of Our Wildlife



It seems a long way off to spring, but it would be such a wonderful idea if we could encourage and persuade Warwickshire Council to take notice of *Plantlife's* policy on cutting verges. We did try last year, and WCC agreed to take a more ecological approach with the triangle between Ascott and Whichford, called Peckett's Piece. Unfortunately, the grass cutting regime was hard to crack and the communications to the cutting machine didn't make it. We will have another go next year.

It would be great to hear back from anyone who is interested in improving the biodiversity of our area. Sadly 97% of our unimproved meadows has disappeared and one of the obvious areas for improvement for wildflowers are our verges. It is difficult to get the council to change the contractor's routine but if pursued, in time, costs of maintenance could be very much reduced. If we could all get together to write to express our wishes to reduce cutting along the *Plantlife* guidelines, then we could increase the biodiversity of the flora and fauna of our countryside. The general contact at Warwickshire can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grassverge> [Ed - the writer of this item can supply a specific email contact.]

We live in a rural area which should allow all wildlife to flourish, sadly the more you cut grass, the more you cut out other species of plants and herbs. Grass on its own doesn't benefit a wide variety of wildlife, however native species of flowers, shrubs and trees benefit a vast array of insects, fungi, and other microscopic biota that are often hidden out of sight, all of whom connect together to form a web of mutual support and interdependence. Less tidying and leaving garden 'rubbish' to die back naturally to encourage and preserve the natural fungi, and biota to degrade vegetation is something we can all do, like leaving some leaves for the worms.

If you have a chance and know any farmers, it would be great to get them to consider further what they can do for nature and in doing so, improve their soil resilience. As an

example, if hedges are allowed to grow to 2m (or more) this would very much benefit the songbirds, both for the supply of berries and for the chance to build nests high off the ground to avoid attack. The wider the hedge, the more it will benefit livestock and crops by providing good shelter for livestock, sequester carbon and may help to prevent flooding.

The government has endorsed their support in the *25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment* and under the new farm grant scheme, public good will be expected from public money, so farmers will be encouraged to improve the biodiversity of their farms and receive grants accordingly.



If you would like to see more wildflowers, butterflies and bees, etc.

do get in touch and we could perhaps organise a survey to find out other villagers' opinions and ideas. Email: Jmacauley99@gmail.com or telephone 01608 684557.

Jules Macauley

[Ed – I am hoping that I can get an item from Warwickshire County Council for next month's LINK on this subject.]

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Mary Bennie who was the winner of the November Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Respect

I feel it is about time we addressed the speeding problems in the villages of Whichford and Ascott. It comes to something when dog poo disposal seems more important than lives.

In both villages, we have 30 mph signs at the entrances but after these, there are either none or very small signs almost impossible to see.

We have many more people parking cars and walking through our villages at this time, so we often have to step out into the road for social distancing. I feel it is only a matter of time before we have a tragic human accident never mind with our animals.

At the very least, we could have '20 is Plenty' put at regular intervals and signs at the village entrances with *Slow down please. Children, dogs and horses.* We need to discourage all the speed merchants, including local ones, so please let us try to work on this together to make our villages safer.



Jane Hall

First Class Fish and Chips – Takeaway Offer

First, I want to thank you for supporting our first Fish & Chips takeaway venture which proved an incredible success with us selling 93 portions all served within an hour! This along with our raffle, meant we made £500 towards the maintenance of our church building and churchyard.

Following this success, we have decided to repeat the venture and the booking is now open for takeaway on 5 December.

This will work the same way as previously in that I need to have 50 confirmed orders by 20 November to go ahead and then after we have reached that number, we can add additional orders in right up until Friday 4 December. There is no limit to how many portions we can serve!!

We will also be running a raffle again but this time it will be a Christmas raffle with some lovely prizes - more details to follow. Tickets will be £1 per strip or 6 for £5



If you would like to pre-order your takeaway, then please email me or ring on 01608 674009. We already have 32 confirmed orders so I am sure we will make the required minimum of 50 orders.

Thanks again for your support.

Ann McKenna

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The November winners were as follows:

1st prize – Jane Revere

2nd prize – Sue Elliot

3rd prize – Janet Pope

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



This month I've selected a poem with a Christmas theme - *Mistletoe* by Walter de la Mare. This poet, I first heard of at school and I had great difficulty processing the name. All my friends were called Smith or Jones or something equally unexotic.

Walter de la Mare was born in Kent in Charlton, (now part of the Royal Borough of Greenwich), partly descended from a family of French Huguenots. De la Mare preferred to be known as 'Jack' by his family and friends as he disliked the name Walter.

His poem *Mistletoe* written in 1913, recalls times where the phrase 'social distancing' was unspoken and unknown. The thought of being approached by, and in close proximity to an unknown person seems today, to be quite shocking. Maybe these times will return when such things, will become quite normal once again.

Mistletoe

Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
One last candle burning low,
All the sleepy dancers gone,
Just one candle burning on,
Shadows lurking everywhere:
Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.

Walter de la Mare 1873 -1956



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

Chairman's Corner

It's a Cracker!

The festive season wouldn't be complete without some terrible pun-filled Christmas cracker jokes and one-liners to make you grin, groan or grimace. Here's a selection for you to 'enjoy'...



- 🎄 A Viking, called Rudolf the Red, was giving his daily weather forecast to his village. 'Today will be clear and warm, but at dusk there will be drizzle, followed by heavy showers, and by dawn there will be torrential downpours', he said. 'He's amazing', said a woman to her husband, 'How are his predictions always so accurate?' 'Well,' the husband said, 'Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear'.
- 🎄 A team of champion chess players checked into a hotel and were standing in the huge lobby revelling in their recent victory. The manager came over to them and sternly asked them to move away from the area. 'Why?' they asked. 'Because I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer'.
- 🎄 Q: What type of shoes do amphibians wear in the summer?
A: Open toad sandals.
- 🎄 This bloke came up to me and said: 'I'm going to attack you with the neck of my guitar'. I said: 'Is that a fret?'
- 🎄 Conjunctivitus.com – now that's a site for sore eyes.
- 🎄 A pair of car jump leads went into a pub. The landlord eyed them suspiciously. 'What do you two want?' the landlord said. 'We only want to have a quick pint' they said. 'Ok, I'll serve you,' said the landlord, 'but don't start anything'.
- 🎄 It's difficult to say what my wife does for a living. She sells seashells on the seashore.
- 🎄 Have you ever wondered what it would be like if there were no hypothetical situations?
- 🎄 Imagine how much deeper the oceans would be without sponges.
- 🎄 I find it really hard to count to ten in French: Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept... Aarrggghh – sorry, I've got a huit allergy.
- 🎄 As a child, I watched Mary Poppins so many times that I suffered from a condition which affected my sight: Umdiddleiddleiddleumdiddle Eye.
- 🎄 Our local school used to have a big problem with drugs – especially Class A.

🎄 Dave: What does 'IDK' mean?

Steve: I don't know.

Dave: Grrr, nobody does!

🎄 Books you won't find on the shelves this Christmas:

DIY House Construction by Bill Jerome Holme

The Lives of Frogs and Newts by Anne Fibienz

Geology for Beginners by Roxanne Minerals

Get Rid of Your Possessions by Lester Worrierbout

Learn to Play the Lute by Amanda Lynne

Snapdragon Cultivation by Anne T Wrynum

Toboggan Racing by Bob Slay

The Digital Age by Anna Logg

Cheap Ways to Get Around Town by Rick Shaw

[Er, that's quite enough of that, thank you...]

🎄 A nun joined a convent where she was only allowed to speak two words per year.

After the first year, the Mother Superior said 'So, Sister Mary, what are your two words?' 'Bed hard', she replied. Another year later, Sister Mary was asked for her next two words: 'Very hungry', she said. At the end of the third year, the Mother Superior asks 'What do you have to say this year?', and Sister Mary exclaimed 'I quit!'

'Pah, good riddance,' said the Mother Superior, 'you've done nothing but complain ever since you got here'.

🎄 Q: What do you call a row of rabbits hopping backwards?

A: A receding hare line.

🎄 Last week there was a knock at the door. When I opened it, there was a six-foot-tall mosquito standing in front of me. He punched me in the eye and then left. The next day he came to my door again. This time he head-butted me, and walked off. On the third day, I saw him coming up my path and when I opened the door to speak to him, he kicked me in the shin. Perplexed, I went to my doctor and told him what had happened. 'I wouldn't worry', he said, 'there's just a nasty bug going around'.

After that lot, you'll probably need a stiff drink and a lie down. Merry Christmas everyone!



Simon Lewis-Beeching, chairman@swlink.org.uk

