

THE LINK

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

January 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

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.

Please may we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Happy New Year and hope that we can all get 2021 into better shape than 2020.



January (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Thurs	14	Long Compton Book Club (by Zoom)	19.00
Fri	15	Closing date for Reception applications at Brailes and Long Compton	
Fri	15	Cut-off date for Fish and Chip Takeaway orders in Great Wolford	
Sat	30	Fish and Chip Takeaway Evening (by appointment only), Great Wolford	



LINK cover: *The Stable*

A painting by Jenny Henderson from Great Wolford
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.

LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.

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Please note the copy deadline for February 2021:

Monday 18 January

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All subscription monies paid to The LINK are non-refundable in the event that the South Warwickshire LINK Ltd ceases to operate.

Important – 2021 LINK Subscription Payments

Payment by cash is obviously at present a problem. The 2021 annual LINK subscription of £10 is now due 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 made payable to South Warwickshire Link Ltd. can be sent (along with your name and address details please!) to:

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

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

To date, we've had an encouraging response from readers to pay their 2021 subscription by BACS (online banking). This is really helpful in reducing the amount of cash that has to be handled by our collectors. January is now upon us and we'd like to encourage even more of you to pay by BACS if you're able.

All that's required is to send an email to treasurer@swlink.org.uk with your name and address and you'll be sent by return, payment details and your unique reference number that will allow us to keep track of your payment and make sure that you're not asked again by our distributors for your subscription. This is the first year we're open for BACS subscriptions, so please do bear with us whilst we implement this change.

On another topic, I have received several responses to the letter published in last month's LINK from Mr. Hutchings from Burmington. None of the readers who've responded to me have supported his view on my editorship of The LINK and I am now closing the matter. To see a selection of the correspondence received, please go to <https://editor794.wixsite.com/sw7link/link-forum>

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

Shipston Medical Centre

There's a lot happening at the moment and we at Shipston Medical Centre, would like to ensure as many of our patients as possible get information and advice that they need. With that in mind, we've increased our posts on Facebook (Shipston Medical Centre) and tweets on Twitter (@ShipstonGP), so if you're not signed up to follow us then please do.

We know there are many in our communities that don't use social media, so we are putting updates in this, your local magazine. If you do use social media and the internet, please look on website <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/> for news. We've recently produced a newsletter, and this can be found on our website under Patient News, so we'd encourage you to look at this.

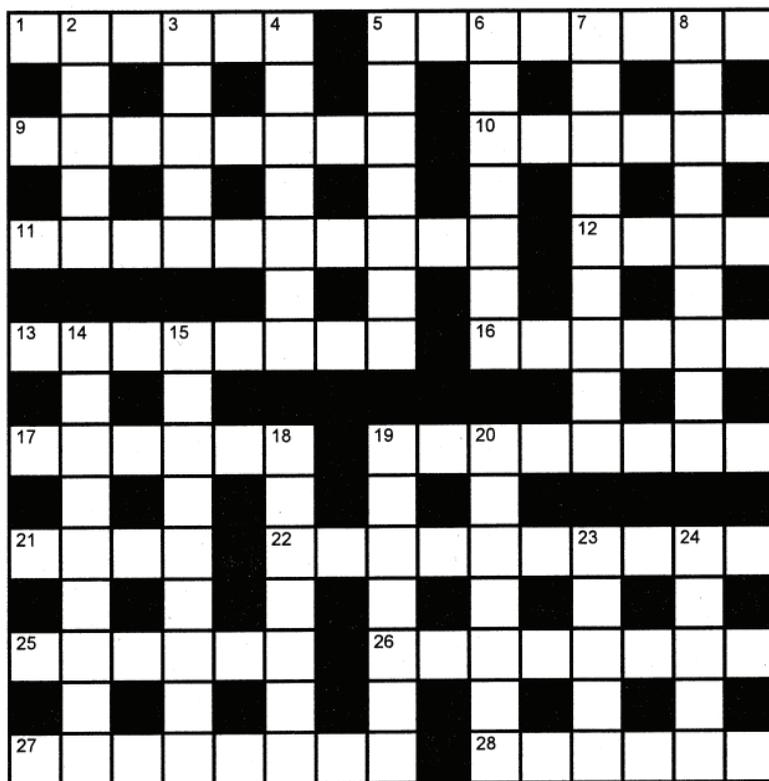
A key focus at the moment is flu clinics for those aged 50-64 and we're planning coronavirus vaccinations. Please ensure you have updated us with any changes in your contact details so we can contact you when we need to.

We are increasing our clinical team. As many of you may know, Dr. Sue Pritchard is on sick leave at the moment, but she is home and progressing well. We'll be welcoming Dr. Barcoe back in January and Dr. Dixon has also joined the team for a number of months.

We remain open and are offering face to face appointments where they are clinically warranted. Our phone lines are very busy so if you can complete an online consultation document that would help us and your fellow patients. This can be done via our website – Contact Our Practice On Line. If you can't use the internet, then you can still call us on 01608 661845.

Sue Sturges - Medical Records and Special Projects Manager

The LINK Crossword



Across

- 1 Screen version of a life. (6)
- 5 Why change the middle to an entrance in Dorset. (8)
- 9 Parallel line gives plenty of scope. (8)
- 10 Could be untied but in fact it's the opposite. (6)
- 11 Building the defences. (10)
- 12 One has an inkling about this clue. (4)
- 13 He may be a rotter but he could just need a wash. (5,3)
- 16 Take off here. (6)
- 17 Lacier but could disperse as a cake. (6)
- 19 Prince cooked here with duck. (8)
- 21 Don't take too long to solve this. (4)
- 22 Usually followed by a signature. (5,5)
- 25 See your way to get this. (6)
- 26 Little Polly was in Australia? (8)
- 27 Move towards this. (4,4)
- 28 Said to be highways but look in the Aegean Sea. (6)

Down

- 2 The perfect state of an insect. (5)
- 3 Reading this means you are looking at it. (5)
- 4 Could not be more pleased. (slang) (7)
- 5 Sound made by a tiny bell when working in the garden. (7)
- 6 Junior. (7)
- 7 Has a viewpoint. (9)
- 8 The European Politician is on Noah's boat in Disneyland for example. (5,4)
- 14 Unlikely to be recognised in Congo, perhaps carrying it. (9)
- 15 Transfer body fluids. (9)
- 18 Two for one in Buckingham Palace (5,2)
- 19 Water supplier, who, in France, is gripped by terrible fear. (7)
- 20 The Teller is thrown out. (7)
- 23 A way of signalling through Space. (6)
- 24 Molecular genetics includes a huge amount of information. (5)

Compiled for us by our
friend Campden John

The Plague and I

When the call came from CAMEO inviting words on Covid-19 experiences, I was facing another plague and could not concentrate on any other subject. I had just spent an hour building to incandescent rage trying to get my computer to accept a simple instruction. Such was my frustration that my mind conjured up visions of thrashing the thing to death, on the lines of John Cleese's attack on his car in *Fawlty Towers*. I even had visions of altering every computer's software so that its final utterance on lying in mashed pieces on the floor would be to say, 'Sorry'. Fortunately, and not for the first time, the beast was saved from complete destruction once again by the intervention of my young granddaughter to suggest I should try another of my many passwords.

Pondering my love-hate relationship with my computer (a mere ten-year-old PC), I cast my mind back to calmer years in my experience with things electrical and electronic. Then, if a fault occurred with simple devices such as a kettle or telephone, a call would be made to young Ben in the Post Office who stepped round and effected an immediate cure. Sadly, Ben departed years ago along with the Post Office. I recalled the arrival years ago of the first bit of serious electrical equipment in my home; a princely vacuum cleaner. It was delivered by two men. One to drive the van and the other to demonstrate the appliance. The demonstration lasted one hour and included repeated warnings of the need to empty the dust bag, with the tale of a customer who had failed to do this and complained after 12 months that it was not working.

The team came back a few months later with our first TV, a miniscule black and white number. This demonstration lasted two hours. The TV's arrival coincided with that of our first baby and daily visits by the health visitor throughout Wimbledon 1955. But today? What support did we receive when we purchased this PC 10 years ago? Absolutely zilch! We collected it, puzzled over the flimsy instructions in the flimsy pamphlet; we were left abandoned to stir into life a piece of equipment only marginally less complicated than the flight deck of a 747 airliner.

Having vented my spleen, I must admit to the mind-bogglingly huge benefits bestowed on this home by this PC during lockdown. The ability to have regular video links with family and friends at home and abroad. (Will we have to start calling it 'Europe' or the 'Continent' again). The opportunity to order online anything I can eat, drink, read, watch or work or play with. For delivery next day if needed. My mail can be delivered in seconds, so much faster than 'snail mail'. I can watch streamed church services, from the Diocese and local services - thanks to Stuart and Ben. I can store my letters, photographs, bills, books and tax demands in accessible and uncluttered fashion. In theory, at least. I can download music and films and gain immediate access to vital information such as, for example, where did Gracie Fields go to school. Or, for younger researchers, who was Gracie Fields?

So, I grudgingly admit, the benefits of my PC together with an iPod, iPhone, router, keyboard, monitor, mouse etc. etc. are boundless – just so long I remember the b_____ password. End of rant!

Warwickshire Verges

Warwickshire County Council has more than 1,400 miles of rural highway verges. It is one of the most valuable natural resources that the authority is responsible for managing.

The authority commits a vast amount of resources each year maintaining our verges and green spaces. The main focus of the maintenance regime has traditionally been to ensure road safety, so we cut grass verges to ensure that vegetation does not restrict visibility for highway users and to provide a safe refuge for pedestrians.

The release of *The Good Verge* guidance by the conservation charity *Plantlife* and the discussions around climate change, have brought sustainable verge maintenance into focus. As an authority, we are looking to do more to consider the wider issues of biodiversity and environmental impact when managing our rural highway verges.

Warwickshire's highway and ecology teams have been working with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to develop an approach to verge maintenance that is sustainable, affordable and adheres to the principles set out in the *Plantlife* guidance. A number of areas within the county have been chosen for a conservation verge trial. The trial, which commenced in December 2019, involves *Yellow Rattle* being seeded on selected highway verges. *Yellow Rattle* is an annual grassland plant strongly advocated in the *Plantlife* guidance, which suppresses grass growth and encourages other wildflower species to flourish. This reduces the need for mowing and attracts pollinating insects.



Yellow Rattle

The *Plantlife* guidance has gained a significant amount of publicity since its release. This has led to the authority receiving a number of enquiries from local groups interested in small parcels of land across the county becoming wildflower habitats. On occasion, this has involved residents risking their own safety to sow seeds on sections of the highway that we would consider it unsafe for them to do so.



Verge Conservation Trial Site

The complexities in having different maintenance regimes on so many small unconnected sites across the county and the concern for public safety means we are concentrating on the official trial sites for the time being. The trial will be further extended next year and in time we will be getting in touch with Parish Councils and interested groups for their views and participation.

Matt Thomas - Environment Services, Warwickshire County Council

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.

Sat 07 Aug Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Show
Mon 30 Aug Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete

* 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 (All socially distanced.)

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.)

Please note: Special arrangements are being made for the Christmas season.

Local Congregational Services and local Quaker Meetings

Should you be able to provide any up-to-date details on services/meetings, please email editor@swlink.org.uk



A Christmas card
painting by LINK reader
Jenny Wilson

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)
 Julia Gotrel
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Sue Finlay (661157)

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



*Happy
 Birthday!*

January Birthdays



8th	Faith Hands	Burmington	13
11th	Rebecca Parmenter	Stourton	7
14th	Cameron Taylor	Cherington	16
16th	Poppy Kinch	Long Compton	13
18th	Bethany Parmenter	Stourton	9

Your Chance to Vote

Please Choose the 2020 Cover of the Year

Please email me with your choice by Monday 18 January so we can publish the results of the vote in the February issue of The LINK. Thank you.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

“Your Police Your Views”

*What do police do well, what could they do better?
Which types of crimes should have the greatest focus?
How should the police be funded in the year ahead?*

Tell us your views today!

Go to: surveymonkey.com/r/WPFundingSurvey



You can also write to us at Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 3 Northgate Street,
Warwick, CV34 4SP, email us at opcc@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01926 412322.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – JANUARY 2021 CHURCH SERVICES
 (also Online at “SW7 Benefice Churches” on YOUTUBE)

	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
SW 7 Sunday Worship							
January 3 rd Epiphany				9am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA/AW)	4pm GAP All Age Service (SPA/BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA/AW)	
January 10 th Baptism of Christ	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)				9am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)		
January 17 th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany		9am BCP Morning Prayer (BD/SPA)			4pm GAP All Age Service (SPA/BD)		10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/SPA)
January 24 th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany					10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)	9am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)	
January 31 st Presentation of Christ in the Temple			9am BCP Morning Prayer (BD/SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/SPA)	4pm GAP All Age Service (SPA/BD)		
February 7 th 2nd Sunday before Lent	9am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)				4pm GAP All Age Service (BD/SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA/BD)	

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

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

The famous Russian writer, Fyodor Dostoyevsky once said, that to live without hope is to cease to live. I wonder if you've ever felt hopeless? It's a grim position to be in. Feeling as if the darkness will never lift that there's no light at the end of the tunnel, nothing to live for.

2020 certainly felt like a pretty hopeless year and most of us, I'm sure, will be glad to see the back of it. The news in December that vaccine doses had been made available for use in the UK felt like the first ray of hope we've had for a long while. There was finally light at the end of the covid tunnel, a chance to return to normal, whatever that might mean. The release of a vaccine has brought hope, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all who participated in its development.

In one of his letters, Paul describes hope as being one of the greatest things can have along with faith and love. Christian hope, however, is not based on anything that we as human beings can do. Christian hope relies on the promise of God, to one day restore all things when Jesus returns. Here's how the apostle John describes that day.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'. (Revelation 21:4-5)

It's a wonderful vision of a world restored, everything that spoils banished forever. But is it true? Or is the Christian hope a fairy-tale something that simply brings false comfort? I'm convinced that having this hope is neither irrational nor unfounded, because it is based in an event that has already happened in history - the resurrection of Christ from the dead that first Easter morning. He has already defeated death the enemy which, if it has the last word, destroys all hope. The resurrection of Jesus gives those who come to him a hope that nothing can take away; not a deadly virus, not even death itself. It's my hope and prayer that all in the SW7 Benefice would know this hope for themselves at the start of the New Year.

Ben Dyson (Associate Minister)

January Services

At the time of printing, physical services are planned for the month of January (see service grid). This is, of course subject to changing regulations. We are also continuing our online services. You can find them every Sunday at www.youtube.com. Search for 'SW 7 Benefice Churches'.



But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



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



Hillside Moon by Great Wolford Artist, Jenny Henderson

Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

Space

As part of Class 1's 'Moon Zoom' topic and Class 3's 'Stargazers' topic, the two Acorns bubbles received an exciting virtual visit from The Explorer Dome, which would normally be installed in the school hall for children to physically enter. During Class 1's session, the children learnt all about how planets were named, the moon, an astronaut's outfit and different constellations that can be seen in the night sky. They found out that three very bright stars that can be seen in our winter sky are from the story of Orion's belt, and nearby is his dog, Sirius. Class 1 travelled around the sky spotting lots of different constellations and have been trying to spot them in real life too. Did you know that Earth is the only planet that is not named after a Greek or Roman God? After learning this, Class 1 talked about what each planet name meant and why it was given to the planet. At the end, there was of course time for children to ask their own space questions too.



CRASH LANDING AT ACORNS PRIMARY!

PIC-COLLAGE

Class 1 made an amazing discovery! They found what they thought was an alien crash site on the orchard. They couldn't be sure because the crash site was a bit of a mess and the children didn't see any aliens, but from the children's evaluations they thought they had found pieces of a spacecraft. This stimulated wonderful learning in writing and science lessons, plus designing and making a moon buggy in Design Technology.

Class 2 learnt all about our solar system, constellations, black holes and planets as well as viewing stars and planets using *Stellarium* astronomy software.

Writing in Class 3 has been really excellent over the last few weeks and the children must be commended for the content and presentation of the myths they have written: Yi and the Ten Suns. The quality is exceptional. To go alongside these beautiful myths, pupils completed a fabulous textiles

project in Design Technology. After carefully planning their Moon/Spacescapes, they set to sewing, glue gunning and stapling their designs in place to complete their mixed media textiles. Creativity, determination and perseverance have really played a part and all the children have demonstrated this half term's value of 'Excellence'.

In Art and Science, moon printing has been the order of the day, as well as learning about how and why day and night occur. Investigations linked to gravity have been a hit this week as we've focussed on changing variables in our experiments to see the effects on the results. Pupils have also been studying significant people: Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei.

Rabbits and Badgers children at Brailes School have been studying the same space-themed topics. Badgers class have been finding out how rockets work. A rocket is a launch vehicle used to carry astronauts or a payload into outer space. In order to reach orbit, a spacecraft has to reach an incredible speed of 17,500 mph to overcome the pull of Earth's gravity and enter orbit. In English, pupils have been using both research skills and their imaginations to think about what it would be like to travel that fast and leave Earth's protective atmosphere. The children have written incredible accounts from the point of view of an astronaut leaving Earth for the International Space Station via the Russian Soyuz Spacecraft. Their writing was out of this world! They also learnt marbling techniques on different surfaces to design space collages.



Books of the Month are Back

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum, inspiring curiosity, wonder and imagination through empowering our children with the essential knowledge and skills that they will need now and in their future. All children are encouraged to read widely to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum.

We are very grateful to Sheldon Bosley Knight for sponsoring The Stour Federation Partnership's Books of the Month over the past three years. We have a brand-new sponsor for the books Miss Bayliss (Stour Federation Reading Leader) selects for all three schools this academic year - Peter Clarke Estate Agents.

Peter Clarke

The Stour Federation Partnership
Books of the Month

Why do squirrels hide their nuts?

In Nursery and Reception, children have been enjoying finding the answer to the topic question 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?' They began their learning with a leaf hunt through the Forest School area which inspired some lovely story telling. Some bulbs were planted before the frosts came and they are looking forward to seeing the green shoots in the spring. The class have spent time learning about woodland animals that hibernate and what it means to hibernate as well as thinking about migrating birds and why they choose to fly away for the winter. Children made hedgehog houses and covered them in leaf piles in the Forest School area in the hope that any passing hedgehogs would be able to use them to escape the frost and winter.

Squirrels class have worked closely with the text *Pumpkin Soup*, and have learnt what a 'pipkin' of salt might look like as well as using favourite vegetables to make their very own soup, which the children peeled and chopped the vegetables for, before sampling their cooking.



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.brailescofeprimary.org.uk/key-information/>

The closing date for Reception 2021 applications is 15th 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/braillesschool>





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>



Many years ago, I played a (very small) part in a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. I cannot remember which one it was, but a line in a song remains in my memory. This is 'Winter is the time for sleep'. As I look over the meadow behind our cottage at the oak standing in its centre, I am reminded of this line. For the tree, as are all other trees, is asleep. Little or no food in the tree passes through its interior, and the mechanisms, if they may be so called, which help detach the leaves from their twigs have been successful, and the leaves have floated gently down to the base of the trunk. But the tree has not yet seen the last of its leaves. For, waiting in anticipation at its base are myriads of insects and creatures of indeterminate shapes and sizes who will fall upon these leaves, bite them, chew them, devour them. After which they will descend into the earth, there to take a place in or by the roots of the tree as nourishment for that tree and await spring. Nothing, but nothing, is ever wasted in nature. As the weather gradually changes, so activity will again start. But more important for the tree is the change in daylight, its increase being vital in affecting all the spring's changes in both trees and flowers alike.

I look around me further to see if there are any flowers in the lanes or meadows which have survived the sudden rigours of autumn and early winter, but see none. So I am constrained to look in my own garden where I see a single yellow poppy – a Welsh Poppy. This is unlike the red poppy which we have all recently been wearing to commemorate the thousands of men who died, so that I may have the freedom to sit here and write these Notes. The Welsh Poppy is so called, understandably, because many years ago someone brought it from the Welsh uplands to this country, where it has thrived in gardens, and introduced itself to the surrounding countryside. It is not entirely natural to Wales, being found in Spain and Portugal. It is a true poppy belonging to the same family as the common poppy. Other poppies such as the Opium Poppy and Rough-Headed Poppy are seldom seen in this area.

So now, let us turn to voles. 'Just a minute' I hear you cry, 'we have never seen one'. Do not be alarmed. Few of us have. Taking the field vole first, this is a very small secretive animal which learns in its cradle that to reveal itself too much is to invite the attentions of a passing owl, since it is high on this bird's list of favourite foods. It feeds on leaves and berries and roots. And you may occasionally be lucky enough to catch sight of one in your garden. But so small and tiny is its appetite, it really won't do much damage to your newly-planted out bedding plants and will, I think, be quite enjoyable to watch. The other vole – the water vole – is of course one of the heroes in *The Wind in the Willows*. There is a character too in the book called *Comfort Farm* that talks to them. But the water vole has numerically had a very hard few years, its numbers having declined dramatically (partly due to the releasing of mink by so-called animal-rights activists whose stupidity includes ignorance of the fact that this is one of the most vicious creatures ever created). But sterling efforts all over this country are being made to revive the numbers of water voles. They are being specially bred, and then released in appropriately safe places on streams and rivers. They are totally harmless – indeed, their grazing of grasses on streams and river borders often makes room for the introduction of wild flowers.

December 2020

At this time of year there is little going on at the farm apart from the daily feeding and other chores if livestock are involved. The ground, especially this year, is too wet to travel on and the days are short. Traditionally, hedge maintenance was a winter occupation or fencing - anything to keep the labour force employed. This is not so relevant today but is why many farmers go away in the winter, or would if they could.

We are selling a few cattle at the monthly store cattle sales (stores are animals that are not quite ready for the butcher, we rear them from calves for around 18 months) these are sold on to fatteners which is a more specialist job where they are 'finished' with concentrates for a few more months. Like everything we sell off the farm, we have to provide a 'passport' for each animal. This records date of birth, parents, what farm it was born on and the details of this farm and any other it has passed through in its life. We are not allowed to move any cattle without an accompanying passport. Every movement off or onto the farm has to be recorded within three days with British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), now a relatively simple online record. Even if an animal goes to market and is not sold for some reason, both the off movement and the on movement back to the farm have to be recorded.

A similar system works for any grain leaving the farm. Each load of approximately 29 tonnes goes with its own passport indicating variety, harvest year and whether it has been treated with any pesticides in store. We also have to confirm that it has been grown on land that meets the Renewable Energy Directive Criteria, i.e. we have not felled a forest to plant a crop, probably more relevant in the Amazon than Great Wolford where the forest was felled hundreds of years ago.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

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Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

January is the month when, like the God Janus, we traditionally not only look forward to the new gardening year but also look back at successes and failures of the previous year. It is a good idea to keep a gardening diary to remind you of plants you resolved to move, divide or take cuttings from but never did. When the perennials have died down, you can look critically at trees and shrubs and see their shape and size more clearly and judge what degree of pruning needs to be done. Also, once the leaves have been lost it is easier to spot diseases such as canker which should be cut out and the wood binned or burnt.

Even in the shortest, coldest days you can find cheering jobs to do in the garden, shed or greenhouse. Remember to look at your winter flowering shrubs and cut some shoots for the house. They often have a powerful scent e.g. chimonanthus (wintersweet) and also look in catalogues to find others to add, such as daphne. Sort out seed packets to see what you need to order and if you grow vegetables, work out the rotation plan. More mundane tasks include cleaning pots and trays and tidying up the shed or greenhouse, including washing the glass. Make sure you have compost ready for early seed sowing. For example, sweetpeas can be sown under glass this month.

Gardening in January will tend to be governed by the weather. There will be few clement days, so it is good to try to make the most of them. Make sure that emerging spring flowers are seen at their best by clearing dead leaves from around snowdrops and cut off the old leaves of hellebores. Winter bedding plants such as pansies and violas should be regularly deadheaded and any leaves with signs of mould removed. Root cuttings can be taken from dormant perennials such as acanthus. Pruning of gooseberries, white and red currants can be tackled by removing any dead wood and low-lying shoots and reducing the length of main branches by about a quarter, to an outwardly facing bud. Cut side shoots down to two buds. Natural stakes and pea sticks can be prepared from prunings of hazel, willow or even birch which is very twiggy.

Check that the stakes and ties of young trees and climbing plants are secure. Winter wet is more likely to kill plants than winter cold so raise containers on 'feet' or bricks to aid drainage and if prolonged frost is forecast, vulnerable pots and/or containers can be protected with a wrapping of bubble wrap and hessian (for appearance sake). We may get snow in January which is not a problem for most plants. I have been reading that some plants e.g. roses and tulips, often flower more profusely after a covering of snow and it helps to protect perennials and keeps them 'resting' and dormant. Evergreens can, however, be damaged by heavy snow so shake it off where possible. If hedges are tapered at the top it can help to prevent snow collecting and causing damage.

Hyacinths and paper whites are often given as Christmas gifts. After the flowers are spent, hyacinths can be put outdoors, deadheaded, fed and left to die down and can then be planted in the garden. Paper whites are less reliably hardy, and the bulbs are best kept to replant indoors next autumn.

In conclusion, I should like to wish all LINK readers a very Happy and Healthy New Year...and an enjoyable gardening year.

Margaret Welsh

Barton through the Looking Glass (with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

And so we say farewell to the second decade of the twenty-first century. In terms of the history of Barton, mentioned in the Domesday Book 1085-86, twenty years in the custody of the present villager's is just a short time in the life of the village.

Nonetheless, for a small community of about 168 adults and children the village can, with some pride, record that it has moved with the times.

In the last decade the village has gained one 'Passivhaus' completely independent of gas, electricity or oil supplies, three houses with ground source heating, three sets of solar panels and three with their own deep natural water wells. The roof of St. Lawrence Church has been completely replaced, the Village Hall gable-end repointed (both these by public subscription and support) and the village furniture has been carefully restored, added to and maintained. Some new trees have been planted in strategic locations.

With the availability of better national landline communications, Barton has 'fibre to cabinet' and is negotiating for 'fibre to property'. The village now conducts council business by e-mail, and where necessary with proper face-to-face meetings, or, during the present restrictions, by Zoom. Taking advantage of mobile communications (which could definitely be more reliable) the village has a mobile phone group which has proved particularly useful during the lockdown when combined with a village produce table set up outside the village hall. Thanks to Susie Coker for this and also to all the families who contributed food, fruit and produce and those who took orders for food when going into Moreton and Chipping Norton.

Road access has improved with the full resurfacing of the road to Long Compton and the frequent closures, due to bursts in the ageing mains water pipe to Long Compton, have been resolved with a new polyethylene mains water pipe. Water quality in the village has also been improved by a new water supply pipe to the reservoir at Salters Well on the hill above Little Compton.

Although not village facilities, the rail link from Moreton to Paddington has improved with a regular hourly service and it is now possible to link up with the Chiltern Line at Oxford. Medical services have been modernised with new health centres in Moreton and Chipping Norton.

So, what might we expect in the next ten years? More houses with air sourced heat pumps which can be discretely fitted to properties in our Conservation Area because solar panels are more difficult. Possibly more electric cars, although the fragile grid supply to the village may not be robust enough without an upgrade. A second, even more high-tech 'Passivhaus Plus', already being built and filmed for a Grand Designs series. More of us 'working from home' using the internet and more shopping online and home deliveries. Perhaps more home learning without daily school visits. And definitely a change in farming heralded by Brexit and the government's intention to change the assessment of farming subsidies.

It really will be a different 'return to normal' with us no longer in the European Union. Perhaps our lifestyles will mean more people in the village each day, recycling more of our rubbish, with eco-friendly heating and electric/hybrid cars.

Carpe diem?

John Castle

The Barton Christmas Diorama

Vic Charles and his wife Ivy, affectionately known in the village as Bubbles, moved up from Sussex in 1963 to take up a position as the resident farrier and blacksmith for the Barton House estate. Two farriers in the Moreton area had retired and Dr. Cathie in Barton House decided to create the position with a tied dwelling, Rose Cottage, for their accommodation with the smithy in an adjacent building.

Vic was in great demand as a farrier and besides his village work, provided a service to a large number of members of the Heythrop Hunt with patterns for each of the horses' shoes hanging on the smithy walls. Vic was a skilled blacksmith and his wrought iron work can be seen throughout the village. The gates to St Lawrence Church, the seat on the path up to the church gates, the seat around the oak tree on the village green, and the gates to The Old Smithy are all examples of his work. He also made many of the features in the gardens of Barton House.

Vic and Bubbles were keen members of the St. Lawrence congregation and Bubbles organised and helped to make the kneelers which are still in use today. Vic made regular exhibits in wrought iron for the craft competitions at the County Show. He won several gold medals. Nearer to home, he and Bubbles made a Christmas diorama depicting Jesus in the Crib with the Star of Bethlehem above to provide light (electric) for illumination. The crib is surrounded by animals and the traditional visitors paying homage grouped around it. It was displayed outside Rose Cottage every year and became a regular attraction for people in the area. Bubbles pre-deceased Vic, and when he died, the diorama was given to the village so that each year it could be set up outside Rose Cottage in order to continue the tradition. This year is no exception and the photograph shows it on display over the Christmas period just as Vic and Bubbles would have wanted. The diorama is kindly stored by Gillian and Hamish Cathie, set up by Richard Ward and John Castle, with electricity by Jenny Rigby – continuing a nice tradition fortunately excluded from Covid-19 rules.



Barton Village Hall

Colin Maynell, chairman of the village hall committee, was able in his annual report circulated by e-mail to confirm that all the statutory tests for health and safety had been completed for the year. Use of the hall had been curtailed to comply with lockdown requirements and, as a result, income had reduced, although a donation of £2,000 was received from other village activities and the hall's funds remain in surplus.

For 2021, bookings had been received from Stratford District Council for elections in May for the Police and Crime Commissioner and for the Parish Council, postponed in 2020. A difficult year had been managed successfully.

Parish Council Ordinary General Meeting

A short meeting was held using Zoom on Tuesday 24 November to consider a planning application for the erection of a single storey extension to Leys Farm. After a short discussion, in which Mr. Hicks confirmed that the style and appearance of the extension would match the existing design, the Chairman of the Council directed the Clerk to report the village support for the application to Stratford District Council.

New Residents

The village is delighted to welcome Andy and Emma Baker, and Hannah Robok and family, all of them in houses in Camden Close.



Christmas Eve by Great Wolford Artist, Jenny Henderson, showing the full width of the cover picture.

'Au Revoir' to John and Sue Bradley

Burmington villagers gathered outside John and Sue's house to wish 'bon voyage' to them (with a cup of bubbly) on the day they moved to Shipston.

The Bradleys have lived in their house since 1989 having played a major role in life here for a very long time. John, a prize-winning architect who designed many houses in Shipston and the surrounding area, including his own, has lived in Burmington, man and boy since 1952. A keen cricketer, he was a member of the Burmington cricket team in the 90s and an umpire for Shipston cricket first team for many years.



Sue was a teacher and, for over thirty years a magistrate, rising to be Chairman of the Bench. She was a Burmington churchwarden, is currently treasurer of Burmington PCC and, we understand, will continue in that role and attend church here (rules permitting) for the foreseeable future. She was an active member of the village hall and fete committees, a founder member of the Cameo Lunch Club and ran the village annual raffle single handedly for many years. A keen singer, Sue was in the Stour singers and SHOUT choirs, also (phew!) finding time to be Membership Secretary of the Friends of Ellen Badger Hospital.

The couple have two daughters – Becky and Catherine and three grandchildren - Jake, Molly and Lola. John says 'We share sadness at now leaving Burmington but know that the smaller house we have chosen in Shipston, close to our daughters, will offer us more quality time and enjoyment together. We have the fondest memories of our years in Burmington and of the many friends we have made in this, to us, very special village which we will continue to support after our move. We certainly look forward to welcoming our friends at our new home in Shipston'.

Friends and neighbours in Burmington wish John and Sue every happiness in their new home and know that it's 'au revoir' and not goodbye. We all want to keep in touch with them.



Midwifery and Covid...

Thoughts from Burmington Midwife Kathryn Payne

The start of the Covid-19 pandemic feels distant now but for a while, my work as an NHS Midwife was busier than ever. A tsunami of new protocols, procedures, directives and guidelines hit us in the spring along with an earthquake of staff sick leave and redeployment to support other parts of the service. What an experience it was!

But mothers still have babies - they can't be postponed like some services can - and so keeping Maternity Services at full capacity was a challenge. Day to day, I work in clinics and on wards either looking after pregnant women or those who have had their babies. Some nights I can be heard driving out of Burmington in the wee small hours on my way to, or back from, a home birth. For me, my role is very much the same (just with much more PPE) - but for the mothers and fathers it has been an extremely challenging time to have a baby.

Being pregnant brings all sorts of health concerns, and coronavirus just adds to those. Then they are faced with the sad fact that, to keep vulnerable patients and vital staff as safe as possible, we cannot allow anyone but patients into the hospitals; not even to be present at a scan. But the exception is (and always will be) for the birth; no mother has had to have her baby without a birth partner. We have just passed 800 births at the Horton Maternity Unit where I am based and hope than for the next 800, there will be much less worry and more freedom than during this strange year of 2020.

Kathryn Payne



Burmington's Thomas Banbury in University Challenge Win

Thomas Banbury, currently studying for a Masters in History at Durham University, was part of the team that beat Edinburgh University in a convincing 165 to 145 win. It wasn't all plain sailing for Durham, though, as they got off to a slow start and, at one time, it did look to those of us watching that they might be heading for a defeat. But the team rallied and, thanks also to a large extent to Thomas' history and music knowledge, the team is through to the next round.



Well done, and good luck to Durham going forward!

Village Lottery

Winners in the double draw for the December lottery were:

1st	Liz Maycock	£160
2nd	Liz Harwood	£90
3rd	Susie Dockar-Drysdale	£60

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

Steve Allkins

Parish Council Meetings 2021

The Parish Council meeting has been changed to the third Monday in February and then the third Monday every second month as our district and county councillors wish to be involved.

Philip Townsend, Chairman

Christmas Greetings Donations 2020

A big thank you to all who have donated to St. John the Baptist church in lieu of sending cards to friends in our villages. At the time of going to print we still have some donations to collect, so we don't have a final figure. Hopefully, the final amount will be in the February LINK. Thank you once again for your support.

Sherry Barker and Pam Brookes (on behalf of the PCC)

Local Donkey wins Bell Trophy



Bourneville (right) with Ramsay

Bourneville, one of Stourton's donkeys and originally from the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary in Wallingford, has been awarded the prestigious Bell Trophy. It is given annually to a donkey *...who has come from difficult circumstances and is now enjoying and taking part in all the fun of public events and in promoting the Donkey Breed Society (DBS) and the welfare and care of donkeys.*

The Regional Chairman of the Society nominated Bourneville for the trophy having heard reports of his visit to Oaktree Mews Care Home in Moreton

last Christmas (2019). He went there at the suggestion of a friend and neighbour Alison Maxwell, whose mother was in the care home. This from Tracey, the manager at Oaktree Mews:

'How absolutely amazing that our Christmas donkey Bourneville, has won a bravery award. Bourneville came to our care home last Christmas and our residents fed him with carrots and had cuddles. This was a lovely afternoon of fun and laughter and Bourneville loved it as much as our residents. He is such a gentle soul and didn't have the best start in life being a rescue donkey, but he's found a wonderful forever home and has become Oaktree Mews Christmas donkey. Well done Bourneville for your bravery award - couldn't have happened to a more deserving Donkey - Forever our hero Bourneville.'

And Bourneville?

'I'm not going to lie to you, I thought I did a decent job, meeting the residents and well...not doing a Blue Peter Elephant. Don't get me wrong, it's not for every donkey. Take Ramsay, we're inseparable but he wasn't getting into that horse box not for nuts, not for carrots, not even for me. So, he had to stay behind: I'm not being funny or anything, but I couldn't have done it without him. Anyway, it's good to give something back and I'm a better size for people in wheelchairs. And yes, the Trophy is small but so is the Ashes Urn. What counts is what went into bringing it home.'



You can watch a video of Bourneville at the Home - <https://youtu.be/NkhhOxyYoyA>

Eric Clubley

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Editor: Harry Dodds

Email: longcompton@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 684606

Long Compton Village Hall.

What a difference a year makes! This time last year we were busy organising a year of events to raise money to sort the drive out and then it all 'went to pot' in March. As we start the new year, we are faced with many of the challenges of last year but also the hope that the situation will improve gradually. The hall committee are looking forward to welcoming you back as soon as we can. The hall is there for the use of the village so hopefully you've been giving some thought to how you could use your hall for your own events next year. I think we've all missed out on social events and realised how important it is to join in with things when we can. See you soon, fingers crossed!



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

Compton District History Society

Covid-19 suspension of activities

Our committee has recently decided that there will be no further meetings this year but that they will start again this coming 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

Long Compton Combined Charities – Annual Distribution

Long Compton has been fortunate to be the recipient of the various legacies over the years. These were designated for various purposes, i.e. provision of coal for those in distress, etc. Latterly the seven funds have been combined into one known as the 'Combined Charities'.

It is primarily designated to help the elderly and in recent years, the annual donation has gone to the Comptonians to help fund their expenses. However, as they haven't met this year the Trustees would welcome suggestions as to how this year's fund (c£600), might be best allocated.

Please contact the Clerk to the Trust – Elizabeth Gilkes at office@gilkesenterprises.com or 01608 684336 (13 Compton Court). Thank you.

Long Compton Chapel

Happy New Year everyone!

'Always look on the bright side of life' could have been the Chapel's mantra for 2020. We exchanged a programme of bicentenary celebrations for Covid-related support and community activities: fabric drop, foodbank drop, plant stall for home nurses and aluminium can collection. We will be adding an exchange library in the Porch soon too and essential maintenance, of course!

For 2021, we will obviously have to continue adopting this flexible approach to all that we hope to do, which includes:

- Reconvening for proper services
- Celebrating our bicentenary (a year late!)
- Updating our kitchen
- Redecoration and refurbishing
- And, most important, a new roof for the Arden Room!

Huge thanks to all who have supported our work throughout 2020. Contact: Sally Franklin, 01608 684739 / 07870545431 or Elizabeth Gilkes: 07791 621778

longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

What makes a Villager?

The majority of filming has now taken place and the video producer has commenced editing the footage and produced a short trailer which can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xiyd7z-NUKymdi6yLjk3R_zEFCI9YqLi/view?usp=sharing

As is evident from this snippet, the children are fully engaged in the process and were excellent interviewers and drew out many interesting observations from the wide cross-section of village residents interviewed about 'What makes a villager?'. An unintended added note of social history was recording interviews during a pandemic and obviously, the public launch of the finished video will also be dependent upon any Covid restrictions in place when complete.

As part of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, an allocation was included for Acorns School for photographic equipment so that they can continue to view and record further input to the project.

Elizabeth Gilkes

Long Compton and District Garden Club

We are planning the following meetings.

Wednesday 24 February – *Gardeners' Question Time*

More details will follow in due course. All are Welcome.

Lesley Roberts 684545

Compton Creatives

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

Notice for Comptonians

We would like to wish all our members a very Happy 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

Long Compton
book club

Our next (Zoom) meeting will be on Thursday 14 January at 7.00 pm

Book Title and Author – still to be decided

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 jordanboswell@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

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: @friendsof longcomptonchurch or
www.friendsof longcomptonchurch.com

Whichford and Ascott Parish Council Website

The Whichford and Ascott Parish Council now has an updated website covering such matters as planning applications, agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings and contact details. It can be seen on www.whichfordandascottpc.co.uk.

Christabel Shawcross, Cllr. Whichford and Ascott Parish Council

Whichford and Ascott Flower Show

Despite the necessary cancellation of the Flower Show last year due to Covid-19, the committee voted to make donations to the following charities: Shipston Home Nursing (£250), Warwickshire Air Ambulance (£250) and the RAF Benevolent Fund (£150).

We are looking forward to putting on the Flower Show this year which will mark the 100th anniversary of the first Whichford and Ascott Allotment Holders Flower Show. All last year's bookings, including displays of sheep herding, are in place for this year and an application for the RAF flypast has been lodged.

We very much look forward to seeing everyone on Whichford village green on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 August.

The Whichford and Ascott Flower Show Committee

Holycombe during 2020

When Holycombe Retreat and our glamping and camping site went into lockdown on 23 March, we went into a frenzy of upgrading activity, wanting to keep everyone employed, and to be able to do so at a distance. We ripped out an old bathroom and re-decorated the ground floor of our retreat accommodation which doubles up as a holiday let. We put a new en-suite bathroom onto a yurt, built a sort-of shepherd's hut and erected a new yurt. Getting supplies when local people were shut down made life difficult.

We received a grant from the Government and were therefore able to keep everyone on, despite having none of our normal income. So, our cleaner who couldn't come in our house, was painting and decorating and tiling in the holiday let, our ironer was gardening, our admin were sending back deposits, etc. By the time 4 July arrived, we were fully booked on the campsite, and in the holiday let. It's cost us a fortune getting 'Covid ready', especially with cleaning 3 times a day.

The popularity of staycations meant our turnover doubled with the glamping for 4 months (thank goodness), until we had to lockdown again, and cancel all our bookings, being in Tier 3. Even in September, because of the 'rule of 6', we couldn't hold many normal classes or retreats as they were unviable with the social distancing required. As

we only allow couples on site, on the campsite, we're pretty safe Covid-wise. We've no idea when we'll be able to hold retreats again though, with the restrictions. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, we've also supported local businesses and had a lot of take-aways from the Norman Knight, bacon sarnies and cappuccinos from the Straw Kitchen and some hot toddies from the gin distillery. As many of our children and grandchildren work for us in one capacity or another, and the little ones have been here for childcare, we've at least been surrounded by our family. We're some of the lucky ones, being in beautiful surroundings, and our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, been ill, or been trapped in a high-rise.



'Little Dutch'

Sally Birtwell, Holycombe

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Iris Birch who was the winner of the December Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Some Village Christmas Decorations - December 2020





Photographs by Melanie Arnold

First Class Fish and Chips – Takeaway Offer

Following the success of our fish & chips takeaway and due to popular demand, we have decided to run it again. We are delighted by the number of orders we are receiving and it has all worked so well. We're very pleased to be able to offer delicious traditional takeaway fish and chips served straight from the van in the centre of Great Wolford.

On Saturday 30 January you're invited to come and collect your pre-ordered fish and chips in a specified time-slot direct from the van we've always used at the village hall. Regulars have said it's the best fish and chips around. The van will be parked by the crossroads in Great Wolford from 6.45 pm.

Here's how it works - we need at least 50 meal orders to make the van's visit viable so now is the time to express an interest by emailing Ann McKenna (see details below) with the number of meals you would like.

Cut-off date for pre-ordering is Friday 15 January and to keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient, we're asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order. And of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect, then you're very welcome to place an order.

£10 per serving.

To order please contact: Ann McKenna (email: annmckenna3@sky.com) (tel: 01608 674009). You could be a lucky winner on the night as well. Wonderful prizes to be won in our raffle. Tickets are on sale when you order your meal at the usual rate of £1 a strip (5 tickets) or £5 for 6 strips.

All this is in aid of Wolford church upkeep. Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The December winners were as follows:

1st prize – Chris Heritage

2nd prize – Janet Pope

3rd prize – Linda Jeffcutt

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

Fish & Chips - Second Takeaway Success

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us in our second venture in an effort to raise much needed funds to maintain the church and churchyard in Great Wolford. We were absolutely staggered with the 126 orders we received – even more than last time!

A big thank you to Mark, our Fish & Chip man and his son, who coped marvellously with the orders and served them all within 90 minutes. So many people have emailed to say how much they enjoyed their takeaway. I also want to say a huge thank you to all those who donated raffle prizes, without whom we could not have such a successful raffle.



The whole evening with our Christmas raffle raised an incredible £700, a fantastic success and as a number of people have asked when the next one is, we plan to repeat in January – (see the leading item in this section). Finally, thank you to Natalie who was not put off by helping last time and this time, reluctantly donned her sparkly reindeer antlers to help me make sure everyone had the correct orders on time.

Ann McKenna

The Wolfords WI

We are learning in these strange times to embrace new technologies and move with the times. So in December, we had a craft Zoom meeting to put us in the Christmas mood. Our president, Sue Elliott, had provided all our members with a craft kit pack for a hanging felt star, heart or Christmas tree. They all came with beads, bells, decorations and instructions all put together by Sue.

Nine of us participated in the Zoom demonstration and it was a chance for our newest member to meet us and see how the kits could be turned into lovely decorations. There were also other ideas for cards, hazel wreaths and bottle covers. It is so satisfying to make something, and everyone has different ideas so they are all unique.

New members are very welcome.

The Wolfords Village Hall AGM

The date for the village hall AGM has been set for Monday 8 February starting at 7.30 pm and will take place via a Zoom meeting. If you would like to join the meeting, please contact me (details below) so a link can be sent.

If you would like to become a Trustee of the village hall and join the management committee, please contact me as new ideas are always very welcomed. You would be very welcomed by the existing Trustees to carry on with much needed support to maintain the village hall and take part in fund raising activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

James van Helden, jamesvanhelden@btconnect.com or 674244

'Jumping Over the Fence'

In the course of my local history research, I sometimes encounter a personality whose life story captures my imagination. Recently I came across Walter Wiggins, a native of Great Wolford, whose migration journey initially interested me because it was effectively the reverse of my own. I now travel along the lanes of rural Warwickshire that would still be recognisable to him, 150 years after his childhood in the village, whereas he ended his life in parts of industrial south Wales, familiar to me, as I grew up. Further investigation revealed a remarkable case study in rural migration and the part the railway played in facilitating that, which I felt may be of interest to the wider community.

The arrival of the OWWR (the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway - later the GWR) in Moreton in 1853 had a profound effect upon the future lives of the children of Joseph and Jane Wiggins, who, at the time of the railway's construction, were living in Great Wolford, three miles distant, with Joseph's widowed father and their three oldest children. Joseph was an agricultural labourer, as both their fathers had been. At the time it was the expectation that their family would follow this century old tradition and that they would remain in the vicinity. Jane Wiggins was born in Birmingham and may have met Joseph when he was a farm labourer there, his location in the 1841 census. They had married in Todenham in 1846; the boundaries of their world were compact.

The family's exact location in the village is difficult to ascertain. Specific addresses in a small hamlet were superfluous - even today there are no road names! In the census, major farmhouses were listed and if one assumes that the enumerator recorded households in some sequence, by 1871 the Wiggins family lived close to Chalk Pit farm. It would have been a tied cottage and Joseph probably worked for Richard Green, the farmer. To date I have not been able to locate Chalk Pit farm on contemporary maps so would welcome any information about it.

Over a period of 20 years, Joseph and Jane had nine children. The larger gaps between some of the births suggest that there may have been more children but there are no baptism or burial records to support this. The surviving children were: John, James, Emma, George, Mary, Caroline, Walter, Robert, and Joseph. Also in the village, were five of their cousins, the children of their father's brother. Collectively they must have made an impact on everyday life, but by 1894 Joseph and Jane had died, and all the children had left. The only connection was Joseph's grave in the churchyard.

Railways have been considered pivotal in hastening rural depopulation, but the emphasis has been on them enabling people to move quickly from the countryside to the towns. This argument fails when the real cost of rail travel is calculated, and it is realised that most agricultural workers were priced out of the rail fare market and continued to walk or hitch rides with carriers until well into the twentieth century. The case of the Wiggins family illustrates a different facet of the railway's influence; how it provided one family with the career progression and contacts to abandon their traditional destiny and, to use contemporary terminology, 'jump over the fence' from the fields to work on the railway. The opportunity for immediate improvement in their circumstances is evident from a wage comparison. In the 1870s agricultural workers in the area earned approximately 11 shillings per week; the wage for the lowest status railway employee began at 15 shillings. Unlike agricultural work, railway work was not weather or season dependent and there were opportunities to progress.

Family introductions into railway work were a common occurrence and probably greatly valued and closely guarded. Walter, who first attracted attention, left Great Wolford, sometime during the 1870s to live with his oldest brother John, and his wife, in Moreton. John was working as a porter at the station and Walter began at the bottom rung of the ladder as an engine cleaner. Over the following 30 years, Walter's career progressed via a position as a stoker at Kingham, a period at Swindon, GWR's main centre, and finally as an engine driver, first in Swansea and finally in Cardiff, where he would have commanded an enviable wage. What did he make of grimy south Wales in comparison to the greenery and birdsong of his birthplace?

Of the remaining siblings, Robert and Joseph also became railway men, while Mary and Caroline married railway workers. Were these introductions facilitated by their brothers? James and George worked as gardeners while Emma, married a bootmaker. By 1901, the family was dispersed to Kingham, Streatham, Alcester, Godstone, Erdington, Walsall, Swansea, Wolverhampton, and Aston. The only Wiggins left living in the Great Wolford was Joseph's widowed sister-in-law.

Isobel Murphy



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[Ed - In the November issue of The LINK, I invited readers to send in their family stories showing how previous generations had met the challenges that life had thrown at them. I'm delighted to share LINK reader Ann Holland's memories of her maternal grandfather, Samuel Jones and incidentally, what a great picture!]

Samuel Jones – Gunner and Grandfather

Thank you for your great items which permit readers to learn and write about our families.

My maternal grandfather Samuel Jones was born in Monmouth, then part of England. He moved to Shropshire where he worked in Jones Ironworks (no relation!). He then moved with the Ironworks to Ellesmere Port which used the Shropshire Ship Canal leading onto the Manchester Ship Canal which led out down the Mersey Estuary to the Irish Sea and eventually to the Atlantic Ocean.

Samuel joined up for King and Country as Gunner Jones. He fought in the trenches and was put on the big guns. Eventually of course he lost his hearing and was demoted to Private Jones when he worked in the trenches.

After the Great War, he continued working in Jones Ironworks in Ellesmere Port, was very involved in the new Catholic Church and was in the Home Guard in World War Two. He kept his iron helmet and grew plants in it after the war. I was fortunate to know him for ten years; a very kind gentleman who looked after his grandchildren.

My paternal grandfather died in Brandon Colliery in 1920 having been told to see the rock fall...but that's another story!



Ann Holland

When searching for poems about January, pretty much the first to come up, for obvious reasons, is *January* by Folgóre da San Gimignano. Now here you'll have to bear with me; Folgóre da San Gimignano was the pseudonym of Giacomo di Michele or Jacopo di Michele, an Italian poet (c1270 – c. 1332). The translation into English we see below was made by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who whilst not Italian by birth, had Italian parents.

The most famous of Folgóre da San Gimignano works were those dedicated to the days of the week and the months. The language used was a derivation of the Provençal then ruling in Italian poetry. The translation was likely no easy task and there are other versions of this poem in English which differ slightly from that offered to us by Rossetti.

Despite the poem being called January, I can't help feeling that it has a warm Italian glow about it.

January

For January I give you vests of skins,
And mighty fires in hall, and torches lit;
Chambers and happy beds with all things fit;
Smooth silken sheets, rough furry counterpanes;
And sweetmeats baked; and one that deftly spins
Warm arras; and Douay cloth, and store of it;
And on this merry manner still to twit
The wind, when most his mastery the wind wins.
Or issuing forth at seasons in the day,
Ye'll fling soft handfuls of the fair white snow
Among the damsels standing round, in play:
And when you all are tired and all aglow,
Indoors again the court shall hold its sway,
And the free Fellowship continue so.

Folgóre da San Gimignano (c1270 – c1332)



**Portrait of Dante Gabriel Rossetti
at 22 years of age by
William Holman Hunt**



**The Tuscan hill town of
San Gimignano**

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

2020 Vision

Well, that was a year, wasn't it? As this is being written at the beginning of December, there's still a few weeks remaining of 2020, so anything could have happened between typing the final sentence and the January 2021 issue of The LINK landing on your doormat. Hopefully, the year finished on a high note - or did it all end in tiers...? (sorry). We innocently entered 2020, with our resolutions and plans, emboldened with the usual optimism, excitement and (maybe) reckless abandon, hoping or vowing that 2020 was going to be 'much better than last year'. If only we knew!



The old saying 'that we don't know what we've got 'til it's gone' was never truer than in 2020. Human contact, sporting events, going to the pub, parties, jobs, travelling abroad – all suddenly replaced with social distancing, lockdowns, face coverings, online video calls, closures of shops, hostelrys and restaurants, grounding of airlines, furloughs/redundancies, and 'staycations'. In the March 2020 issue of The LINK I wrote, purely by chance, about the concept of happiness and being grateful for what we have, rather than wanting things that we don't need. Well, we certainly found out the hard way – all those things which we took for granted and which made us happy, were hugely missed when they were whisked away from us last spring.

In 2021, we probably won't quite be returning to how we were living our lives before the pandemic, but this could be a good thing. Will we become a kinder, more compassionate, and less judgemental society? Will we learn to slow down our pace of life a little, enabling us to make time for the things that we really value? Let's hope so.

Another reason to be cautiously optimistic about the future, is the news of several vaccines being trialled - one of which has already received regulatory approval in the UK. Fingers crossed, all goes well and we'll see a major rollout of vaccines during the first half of 2021. (Personally, I would still like to see more information about these vaccines - not that I'm doubting anyone, or that I think they are unsafe, but I prefer to be reassured by data, facts and transparency, in order to make informed choices. After all, it's our right to challenge and to ask questions. Recently, some of the leading institutions told us that their respective vaccines had potentially been 70-95% effective in clinical trials. That's fantastic, but were all their findings published in peer-reviewed papers, or just via press releases? Are these institutions meeting certain transparency criteria? Will the vaccines provide long-term protection? Will they prevent transmission of the virus? Public trust is essential if we are to have a high percentage of uptake of these vaccines.)

This year, because 2020 was so restrictive and full of uncertainty, I think we should dispense with all those traditional New Year's resolutions and replace them with unresolutions. For example, let's not have a 'dry January', or give up our vices, or starve ourselves in order to lose some weight in time for the summer. The start of 2021 should

be celebrated with extra vigour, and the determination that it definitely will be better than last year. We should - when it's safe to do so, of course - go to the pub more often (once they've properly re-opened), eat out more often, see friends and family more often - and above all, we should try to enjoy life to its fullest and celebrate what we do have.

A very happy New Year to you all!

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



Physalis - by Jenny Wilson