

THE LINK

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

MAY 2025

£1.20



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

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor:
editorswlink@gmail.com

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

Thurs 1	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 2	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 3	Village Breakfast	Burmington VH	09:00
Weds 7	Community Coffee	Long Compton Ch	10.30
Thurs 8	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Cameo VE Day lunch	Burmington VH	12.00
Sat 10	SW7 Mens' Breakfast	Wolford VH	08:00
	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday and AGM	Long Compton VH	11:00
Sun 11	Plant stall commences	Long Compton Chapel	All day
Tues 13	Cameo Lunch	Burmington VH	12:00
Thurs 15	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 16	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
	Quiz Night	Long Compton VH	19:00
Sat 17	Movie: <i>The Brutalist</i>	Brailes Picture House	18.45
Sun 18	Plant Sale	Little Compton Ch	14:30
	Open Garden	Burmington Grange	14:00
Weds 21	Feldon Military and Naval Soc	The Hall, Stourton	20:00
Thurs 22	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 23	Carers4Carers	Kineton VH	10:30
Sat 24	Whist Drive	Long Compton Chapel	19:00
Fri 30	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:0

Save the Date

Sat June 21 Summer Fete Barton on the Heath

Sat June 28 Long Compton

The LINK TEAM

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Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	07718955990

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the May edition of The Link; blue, in celebration of the bluebells that are currently carpeting the woods and, along with the decent weather we've been having, cheering us all up and emboldening us to expose our lily-white legs once more to the elements.

Things are getting busy across our villages and fete season is almost upon us. May brings us VE Day celebrations and an awful lot of plant sales! My home has been a greenhouse since early February so I will be grateful when everything can be planted out into the garden and onto the allotment or, failing that onto a table at one of the many plant sales taking place across the weekend of May 10/11. A great way to beat the cost of the garden centres and give some money to a good cause. Happy gardening and remember it is easy to take out an annual subscription for the The Link by contacting David at subs.swlink@outlook.com.

Sara Billins

Cover photograph by

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

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton



**Please note the copy deadline for June 2025:
May 15th**

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Happy Birthday!

May 2025



Isobel Jones
Isabella Parsons
Alexander Banner

Barton
Long Compton
Willington

14
17
18



SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE



SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Meeting for Shipston Medical Centre patients

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.15pm

Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston



Working for the Future of our Community

To include information from..

**Shipston Medical Centre Partners and PPG
The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Shipston Home Nursing**

Any prior questions? Please contact:
Carole Nossiter, PPG CHAIR shipstonppg@gmail.com

No need to book - just turn up on the night!



Carers4Carers

Our monthly meeting will be held at Kineton Village Hall on Friday 23rd May 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Come along to our carer support meeting for refreshments, chat and mutual support. Relax with a mini hand massage from a local award-winning therapist and learn about WRCC Community Food Fleet, our local not-for-profit "meals on wheels" service. Please bring along your loved ones - they can join our Companionship Group while we meet.

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, email kcarers4carers@gmail.com/website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

**Even the word "dementia" can be daunting...
but we believe it's better to get the practical advice
and emotional support you need as a family carer**

Please visit one of our dementia friendly cafes locally

Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm



Shipston on Stour CV36 4QG

Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm



Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH

Thursday from 10.30am - 12.30pm



Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0DS

Friday from 10am - 12 noon

Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE

**1st Tuesday of each month
from 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Compton Verney House CV35 9HZ
(contact us for entrance tickets)**



talkdementia.uk

**Advice and support for carers of loved ones
living with dementia in South Warwickshire**

Contact Paul and Heather Dowler

Phone 01295 688376

Email talkdementia.uk@gmail.com



GILES SHENTON PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY

INTO THE BREACH

GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY MARK CAREY

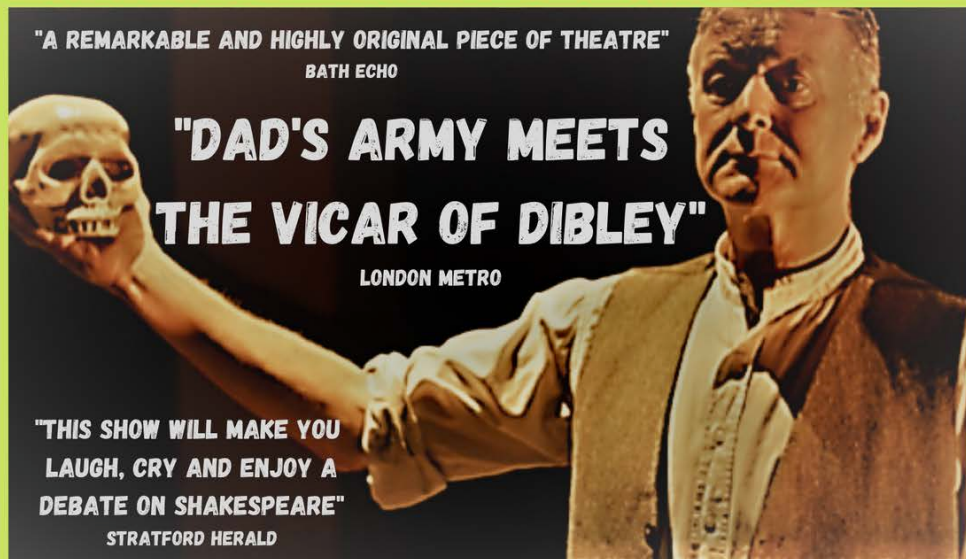
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO

"DAD'S ARMY MEETS THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"

LONDON METRO

"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"
STRATFORD HERALD



The Hall, Cherington, Stourton and Sutton

Saturday 14th June 2025, 7:30pm

Tickets £15 / £8 U16's : Tel- 07775 765572 Email - info@thehallevnts.org.uk

Online Box Office at www.buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions



IS YOUR HOME READY FOR SUMMER?

CALL TODAY TO GET A FREE NO
OBLIGATION QUOTE!



Is your driveway looking dull? Are your windows covered in streaks? Have your gutters seen better days? At Four Shires Exterior Cleaning, we specialise in bringing homes and businesses back to life with expert cleaning services.

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Let the light shine through with a streak free spotless clean.

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Whether you need a one-off clean or regular maintenance, Four Shires Exterior Cleaning Ltd is here to help. Contact us today for a free no obligation quote and let us give your property the care it deserves!



 fourshireswindows@gmail.com
 www.fourshirescleaning.co.uk

 **07716 392 463**



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

All of the food we sell is cooked in the home, not processed in a factory, using locally sourced, seasonal produce and you can speak directly to the producers.

We also have some wonderful crafters with unique, creative products.

Have you thought about getting involved with the market? We are always in need of new producers and volunteers to help with selling our lovely produce. Contact details below:

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

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



Shipston Link runs scheduled local bus services, Tuesday to Saturday, from surrounding villages into Shipston Town Square, via the Medical Centre, plus weekly shopping trips to Banbury, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Norton and Stratford-upon-Avon.



Our friendly drivers can take you right to your destination; so relax and let us worry about the parking. Bus Passes are accepted on all our Services, with flat-fares for cash customers.

We also provide a very reasonably priced Private Hire service, seven days a week, using our comfortable 16-seater mini-buses.

For more information about our scheduled Services call the Travel Line on 0871 200 2233, or click www.shipstonlink.co.uk

Angel Meditations Sessions

With Diana Cooper trained teacher

to help you awaken to the beauty of
Angels in your life.

at Long Compton Village Hall

17th May 2025

10.30 to 11.45 am

Details from tina_burnett@icloud.com

Are YOU A CARER?

Help Improve
Care for Older
Adults – Share
Your Insights!

What's Involved?

Complete short survey (10mins)

Answer questions about
attitudes toward older adults.

Your participation is anonymous,
confidential, and voluntary.

Scan QR code to begin!



Questions? Contact me!

w21042653@northumbria.ac.uk

Who can participate?
Care workers,
domiciliary carers, and
managers working with
older adults (65+).
with at least 6 months
of experience working
in the UK.
Fluent in English.



This study has been risk assessed and obtained ethical approval
through the Northumbria University ethics system(ref:0010)

INFO LINK

editor@swlink.gmail.com

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

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

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

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

Stow-on-the-Wold

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

Shipston and Brailes

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

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

Chipping Campden

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

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton bi-monthly Sunday at 3.30 pm.

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i>Barcheston St Martin</i>	<i>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</i>
Churchwardens	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
Secretary	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Penny Mead 674595
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Kay Sonneborn
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Council

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

CHURCH NOTES

Do you know what SW7 is?

It stands for South Warwickshire Seven and is the name for our group of churches, sometimes called a Benefice. Our goal is to give everyone the opportunity to get to know the God who made us and who loves us through his son Jesus. In our Benefice we have opportunities outside our beautiful church buildings as well as inside.

The logo for 'Giggle Tots' features the word 'Giggle' in a multi-colored font (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) and 'Tots' in a solid blue font.

Baby and Toddler Group

At Wolford Village Hall

Thursday Mornings 10-11:30am

Come and join us for fun, friendship and playtime.

For all care givers with children 0-4

(Term time only)

more information Kim Petty 07949949215

Organised by South Warwickshire Seven Churches

serving our communities

We have a free Toddler Group for all caregivers in Wolford Village Hall on a Thursday morning between 10:00 - 11:30am; all are welcome.

We have Connect, a family style café meeting at Long Compton Village Hall every second Sunday of the month 3:00-4:00pm.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 4:00 pm, we have an informal family service called GAP (God and People) followed by drinks and pizza or hot dogs.

On the 4th Sunday of the month in Long Compton church at 10:30am there is a

service with a children's group.

See your church notice board for the many varied services and celebrations that are on across SW7.

If you would like to know more, we would love to hear from you, please do contact Kim Petty, (family outreach worker) 079499 49215 kimpetty@btinternet.com

SW7 Men's Breakfast

Saturday 10th May 2025
Wolford Village Hall at 8am

Lessons from Loss

*Ben Dyson in conversation
with Roger Maycock*

Full English Breakfast £10.00

Book Now

Roger Maycock 01608 686404
rmaycock287@btinternet.com

Nick Jackson 077990 57475
tamjackson52@hotmail.com



CONNECT

Would you like to meet with other families in your community for an afternoon of friendship, fun, games and crafts and an opportunity to meet some of your local church family in a relaxed setting.

Come to Long Compton Village Hall
Every Second Sunday of the month 3-4pm

Refreshments provided

Connect is being organised by the
South Warwickshire 7 group of churches.

For more details, please contact
Kim Petty, kimpetty@btinternet.com 07949949215

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

May 2025 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
4 th May 3rd Sunday of Easter	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	10:30am CW Village Hall Service (AW)
11 th May 4th Sunday of Easter				9:00am CW Morning Prayer (Rst/LM)	3:00pm Connect At the Village Hall (KP/BD) 6pm BCP Evensong (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
18 th May 5th Sunday of Easter		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	
25 th May 6th Sunday of Easter			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am Confirmation Service (BD/+JM)	

South Warwickshire Benefice	
Reverend Ben Dyson	Tel: 01608 628229 email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)
Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke	Tel: 07425868855 email: officesw7@gmail.com
www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk	
facebook.com/sw7churches	

BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/HP = Heather Paddy/AD = Andrew Dow/RS = Richard Smith/RS+Richard Stevens/ADB = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

It's the first of April, another day of unbroken sunshine. I see by the records we have only have 0.4ml of rain since the 23rd February. Its good in many ways, Dan drilled all the spring barley into good seed beds and it is all emerging as I write this. On the other hand, it would be nice to have some nice warm rain to wash in the first dose of nitrogen that's been applied to all the winter sown crops.

Chris, our agronomist came today and walked all the crops, they are starting to move. This dry weather will encourage the wheat to follow moisture down and not become shallow-rooted, as it has in the last two very wet years. I have started doing a few things on the farm today, helping bag up a ton of spring wheat and around a ton of spring barley. This will be sown tomorrow in our unharvested cereal areas. This is grown and left as a haven of bird life this autumn and into early winter. We have areas in our mid-tier scheme for this and also have areas that have a mix of cereals and many other varied seed-producing species in them – Buckwheat, Millet, Sorghum, Radish and many others. Some produce seed over a long period, and others when they flower, produce pollen and nectar for bees and other insects.



I was alarmed to read in the farming press a week or so ago the Government stopped ALL Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) options overnight. No warning and nothing so far set to replace it. Ours, I think, runs another 2 years; it's an income you can be sure of. I did write in the past of estates putting the whole area into these schemes, which I thought a mistake. It soon got reduced and overnight, gone. I also noticed a deal to open the blocked shipping lanes and 40 million tons of Russian wheat on the market. I see now wheat prices have gone down even further. One could easily get depressed and wonder why you do what you do.

I remember back in COVID, Claire in her work, was often involved with online meetings. We sat one day watching an interesting talk with an American beef farmer in a high, dry part of the states. He pointed out that not only in his country, but many more, had supported agriculture in many different ways, and he suggested that we, as an industry were a simple target to be controlled by any government who wished to do so. It happened here after the First World War and is happening here now. We are being asked to do things for nature and the prices are worthwhile. We go for it and when they worked out the cost, it stops. We can do little about it. I fear the machinery dealer and the man selling clover seed and all the other seeds we plant in our SFI mixes may well be knowing a lean time, like we farmers. As I've written before, trying to beat the weather is hard enough without politics

As I write this, the table is covered with all the records and grain samples that Dan had put out for our annual Red Tractor inspection, but a phone call earlier today from the auditor cancelled. He has a kidney stone and was in agony, so was off to hospital – the audit will be put off until a later date. Shortly after, the phone rang and Adams Transport wanted two loads of wheat, so I managed to load that with the telehandler, and come home for a brew. I was pleased I could do something useful after a long layoff. If I can climb into a telehandler, I guess I can scale the ladder to the combine cab and if all goes to plan, cut another harvest for whatever it's worth?

John 'Tufty' Richardson



Pop Up Plant & Home Produce Stalls
Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May

Barcheston • Brailes • Cherington • Ettington
Great Wolford • Halford • Kineton • Long Compton
Shipston • Stretton • Wellesbourne • Whatcote • Whichford

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

May is often the perfect Spring month, taking us from the fresh new leaves and spring flowers of April through to the lush June displays. Longer days, warmer weather, but still the possibility of a late frost.

The likelihood of a late frost obviously varies from region to region, but you



should be pretty safe from around mid-May. This is the time to plant out your dahlia tubers: dig in some well-rotted manure before planting, and, given the nature of our soil round here, a bit of grit in the bottom of the hole wouldn't go amiss. You definitely need to protect the new shoots from slugs and snails, in whatever way you find most effective.

You can sow half-hardy annuals in May, either from seed or plug plants. If you're buying plug plants, harden them off before planting them out in their eventual destination - put them out during the day, and bring in again at night for a week or so. Try cosmos, with its feathery leaves and pretty flowers; nicotiana and stocks for lovely evening scent; and zinnias for their wide range of colours (zinnias are also

very good for cutting, lasting a good long time in the vase). Nasturtiums grow very quickly and easily from seed and can be very useful in the vegetable bed as a companion plant, attracting beneficial pollinating insects.

As your spring bulbs die down, give them a liquid feed to strengthen them for a good show next year. Deadhead the blooms, but don't cut the leaves down until they've died down a bit. This puts energy back into the bulb.

In the vegetable garden, the battle against slugs and snails begins again. Hopefully, given the relatively dry winter compared to last year, they won't be quite as huge or as virulent as they were last summer. Perhaps this year we won't

need to resort to slug pellets as often as last year, and the barrier methods like copper rings or sheep wool pellets might be sufficient to deter them.

Now that the soil has warmed up a bit, you can sow French and runner beans outside, and peas, or plant out the seedlings you've sown in the greenhouse. Start and keep sowing lettuce, radishes, and other salad leaves.

If you're growing tomatoes, cucumbers, and courgettes, whether in a greenhouse or outside, remember they are thirsty and hungry plants. Keep watering regularly and give them a liquid tomato feed once a week to encourage fruiting.

If you're pruning winter or spring flowering shrubs, be careful to check for nesting birds before cutting. And fill up your bird feeders - they'll be hungry!

Finally, make sure you've put supports in place for taller herbaceous plants and climbers before their growth really gets going.

Miranda Arnold

PLANT SALE

ST. DENYS' CHURCH

LITTLE COMPTON

GL56 0RX

SUNDAY 18th MAY 2025

2.30 – 5.30

Come and join us in the churchyard where we will have a large selection of flower bedding, vegetable and herbs plants for sale.

Tea/coffee and cakes will be available.

Cash and credit cards accepted

Location - What three words// charm.appear.passively



LONG COMPTON & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Summer is upon us and the following garden visits are planned

Monday 19th May – Kiftsgate Court Gardens is situated above the village of Mickleton in Gloucestershire. The garden, famed for its roses, is the creation of three generations of women gardeners.

Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Mickleton, Chipping Campden GL55 6LN, an afternoon visit is planned with tea. www.kiftsgate.co.uk

Garden Club Members will receive more details soon. If you are not a member and would like to join us for this visit, contact secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com

Tuesday 17th June - Moor Wood Roses, are holders of the National Collection of Rambler roses grown within a beautiful Cotswold garden setting. Morning visit followed by a delicious lunch. www.moorwoodroses.co.uk

Woodmancote, near Cirencester, GL7 7EB

Dates for your diary, further details to follow -

July 17th - Dean Manor www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/dean-manor

August 13th - Bourton House www.bourtonhouse.com

September 8th - Chivel Farm www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/chivel-farm

Contact: Walter Sawyer secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com

Alpines in the Wild and Cultivation by Diane Clement

As far as I am aware the Garden Club has not had a talk about alpine plants before. This was rectified when alpine expert Diane Clement enlightened us about the joys of seeing these exquisite plants growing in the wild in their natural mountainous habitat and how you can cultivate them in your own garden. With the use of clever graphics she took us on three virtual walks at various levels in the mountains, taking us from the tree line, through alpine meadows up to the high mountains, along the way showing which type of plants grow where and how you can adapt them. There was plenty of information along the way, about plant names and cultivation and many of the plants, especially those growing in the meadows, were familiar to us. She stressed that what are labelled “alpines” in garden centres are usually a pretty sorry representation and that you need to visit specialist nurseries, some of which do mail order, or you can find them attending shows held by The Alpine Garden Society round the country. You can visit alpinegardensociety.net for more information.



Having been involved with alpine plants for the last 44 years, both in work and leisure I was somewhat biased, but I feel quite sure that Diane convinced her audience to look at these little treasures in a different light and to give them a try.

Dwarf Iberis

Some of the really high alpines are tricky and can only be grown by specialists in alpine houses, but there are hundreds of them that have adapted happily to life away from the mountains. Pulsatilla, or Pasque flower, is a good example, who can resist the intensely hairy foliage when they first emerge. Many of our garden plants come in dwarf versions, bearded Iris, Viola, Aquilegia and Candytuft for example. The smaller bulbs that a lot of us already grow like Cyclamen, Crocus and dwarf Narcissus can all be included. Aubrieta deemed to be “common” by some, is an alpine and what a joy it is.

Celia Sawyer

Last week, as we precariously dangled grain silos from a tele hoist at the Malvern showground, I was struck by the wisdom of starting this build a week earlier when the official H and S officer wasn't on site. It's show garden season again which means spring is well underway.

Aside from the annual Stourton and Cherington allotment holders AGM at the Cherington, one of the most awaited events locally is welcoming back our summer migrants and marvelling at the epic journeys they undertake to reach us.

The 22nd March seems to be a dead cert for chiff-chaffs to reappear and all of a sudden our hedgerows are ringing to their distinctive calls. The chiff chaff is a member of the phylloscopus warbler tribe. Dainty, diminutive and feisty as hell, these intrepid long-distance migrants have travelled as far as sub-Saharan Africa to hit our shores and breed. Astonishing when you consider they weigh less than a £1 coin.

When they arrive the males immediately set up territory and start 'chiff-chaffing' to attract a mate. The first-year males have a disadvantage here because they haven't actually done it before and sometimes get their songs slightly askew. This can result in odd combinations of 'chiffing' and 'chaffing' along with 'choffing' and occasionally some 'chuffing.' But in the end, it all settles down and harmony reigns.

The 3rd April was my first swallow, perched on wires in Brailes. They say that one swallow doesn't make a summer which rings true because so far, I haven't seen another one. But they will come. In days of old the swallow was rather revered and a harbinger of good luck. Our ancestors thought that they hibernated at the bottom of ponds and if a swallow's nest was damaged the cows would milk blood. A bit apocalyptic but I guess given they thought swallows could hold their breath for 7 months, not unfeasible!

When I first came to Stourton 19 years ago a cuckoo would take up territory behind my house in April and every year I waited for it to arrive. Sadly, this no longer happens, and my life is poorer because of it. So to get my cuckoo fix I turned to the BTO cuckoo tracking project (www.bto.org/cuckoos) and in the last few months more specifically to Wilfred, a male cuckoo tagged with a wireless transmitter in Suffolk last year. Wilfred had been draining my emotional energy as I nervously watched his progress south last year and now, he's heading back to the UK. The suspense is unbearable. So far, his status is still 'active' but

every day I log on fearful that it will change to 'presumed dead' which, when you consider his journey, is a significant possibility.



Avian migration truly is a miracle. On July 8th 2024 Wilfred left the UK and headed to France, then Spain, then Portugal before heading out into the Atlantic and dropping back onto land in Western Sahara before moving further south through Mauritania and into Senegal. He then spent the winter dotting about Sub-Saharan Africa notching up Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and northern Angola before the prehistoric pull of migration made him turn and head north. Starting with a massive flight over the Gulf of Guinea he then visited the smaller countries of west Africa before pushing on to Morocco and on the 1st April, he'd made it to Spain. It's now the 14th April and there's been no update. So, everyone who's reading this please send positive energy to Wilfred who's out there somewhere, on his own, battling deserts, forests, oceans and humans as he tries to make it back to the UK. Go Wilfred, we want you home.

David Sewell

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

Shakespeare week:

Throughout the last week of March, we celebrated Shakespeare Week at Acorns and Brailes Primary Schools. The activities began on Monday with an exciting assembly to introduce the play *'The Tempest'*. Children in Class 2 had a superb drama workshop with Mrs Smith (our English Leader from Brailes) and Class 1 had an exciting session with Playbox Theatre. Class 3 pupils have been on a venture to our local town of Stratford upon Avon to visit Shakespeare's Birthplace and complete a walking tour of the town. The aims of the week, which I think all will agree were accomplished, were to:

- To promote a lifelong love of reading and books
- To give children an enriching and enjoyable early encounter with Shakespeare which promotes oracy
- To provide exciting and engaging English lessons in which children produce work they are proud of



A huge thank you to all the staff for planning such wonderful activities for the children as part of this school wide celebration.

Peer Review

This year, we are part of a pilot review process in Warwickshire, during which other headteachers and senior leaders visit each other's schools to share best practice and gain new ideas for further whole school development. We welcomed visitors to Acorns last week

and the children were an absolute credit to the school, as were the teaching and support staff. One of the reviewers commented that it was the best end of playtime routine they had ever seen, leaving the children calm and ready for their learning. The school was described as warm and welcoming with a calm and happy start to the day. Positive relationships were seen between adults and children and between children and their peers. It was noted that our actions already taken as part of our OPAL plan have had a strong impact and the children were settled and happy, and their outside playtime was a joy to watch. Thank you to every single member of our school community who helps to make our village school a huge success.

News from across the classes

Children in Little Acorns concluded their Ready, Steady Grow topic by making their own butter. The children used their muscles to shake a jar of cream until it began to separate into butter and butter milk, before using a hand whisk to complete the job. Their efforts were rewarded with a slice of bread and butter for a tasty afternoon snack.



Class 1 pupils have been back in time to September 1666 to a house in Pudding Lane and have written diary entries as though they were actually there to witness the Great Fire of London. They also planned a trip around London for the newly arrived Paddington Bear and wrote a clear set of instructions on how to have a great day out, including a list of all the important things to take, how

to get from one landmark to another, and what to do when you get to each one!

In Class 2, children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Severn Trent, who delivered an engaging assembly and workshop about the importance of water conservation and how water is treated before it reaches our homes. The children loved getting involved and gained a deeper understanding of the water cycle, linking perfectly with their science lessons.

Class 3 has been incredibly busy with their fascinating *Sow Grow Farm* topic. The children have had the opportunity to explore a wonderful allotment. They were able to learn about the hard work and dedication involved in keeping an allotment, and they asked some truly insightful questions that sparked great

conversations; they also had the chance to see how different plants grow and what is needed to help them thrive.

Cluster Sports:



Children in Years 5 and 6 recently took part in a cluster Bocchia workshop and competition; they learnt how to play the game and then competed against other local schools. They were delighted to come second place – well done team! Children across KS2 (Years 3 – 6) have also recently joined forces

with Brailes to create a swimming team to compete in a local gala; the children worked collaboratively and enthusiastically and were an absolute credit to both schools. Well done to all involved.

Vacancies:

We still have a vacancy for one Community Governor to help set the direction and ethos of our school and be a valuable part in the future success of Acorns Primary. If you know anybody who might be interested, please ask them to come and talk to me (Mrs. Young) or to contact Gary Stokes, our Local Academy Council Chair via the school email address admin2639@welearn365.com. To ensure that the Local Academy Council is properly balanced, these positions cannot be filled by any of our current parents as all of our Parent Governor positions are full.

We are also seeking to appoint an additional lunchtime supervisor – details can be found on the school website. Anyone who is interested, please feel free to make an appointment to come and chat about the role. <https://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/job-vacancies/>

Please view DfE Teaching Vacancies for the Play & Wraparound Leader role available: <https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/organisations/acorns-primary-school-shipston-on-stour>

Hannah Young

News from Brailes

Brailes: Belonging and Building

The replacement classroom building work continues at pace at Brailes, foundations laid, the site prepared and the new modular classroom lifted onto the school site during the Easter holidays. The new classroom has been specifically designed for Year 1/2 and will include outdoor learning classroom provision and sensory and Eco garden learning space for Year 1/2.



Year 5 Eco champions are taking the lead with tree planting to replace trees which have been taken down as part of the building project with new cherry, field maple and silver birch trees planted and being cared for. All the timber from the willow and ornamental plum is staying on the school site and being used within Forest School and OPAL play spaces. As part of the Sustainable Brailes 'Bee Squared' project we have sown 10 squared meters of native wildflower seeds to support our continued

work on biodiversity.

We are thrilled to share exciting news regarding our early years provision. Brailes has been awarded new capital grant funding to expand our current nursery enhancing our excellent offering. School- based nurseries provide invaluable continuity for children and families and enable expert-led learning that builds strong foundations for lifelong success. These developments will increase access to high quality early education within The Stour Federation. Works will be completed by the end of the summer holidays, demonstrating our commitment to providing the best possible start for every child.

Children in Owls and Badgers Classes are continuing their excellent start on their Junior Duke Award Challenges. We are delighted to see the levels of effort and engagement and are very proud of the courage, compassion and curiosity, perseverance and determination children are showing with these wider learning challenges.

Year 5 pupils have been able to get involved with Bikeability sessions, learning a great deal about road safety, confident bike handling and proper procedures for using the road on a bike.



As a school, and as a Trust, we continue to take the lead with our commitment encouraging and supporting a Smartphone Free Childhood, a national campaign which launched six months ago the Parent Pact with one simple idea: delaying smartphones becomes possible when we do it together. If your child knows there are others in their class waiting too, the fear of missing out disappears.

Parents can sign The Pact at

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

You can check the Warwickshire leaderboard here at

<https://parentpactresults.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/warwickshire>

Heather Childs

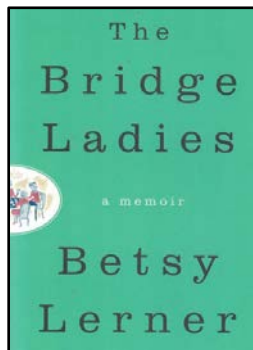
VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



We enjoyed meeting to talk about '*The Bridge Ladies*' by Betsy Lerner.

In an attempt to understand and re-connect with her own mother, the narrator has to penetrate the close bond formed over many years of her mother's bridge group.

These proud and resourceful elderly Jewish ladies have stories to tell and it is interesting to know more of their privileged lives in New Haven, USA. The bridge element met with mixed feelings, some in the group having little interest in the game.

The writing was good and easy to read, but some found the subject a little dull and felt that mother/daughter relationships had been better explored in other novels

Happy reading!

Gillian Cathie



VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



VILLAGE BREAKFAST

BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 3rd May 2025

9:00am – 11:00am

To book please call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Book early to avoid disappointment

No Pill Packs Please

St Katharine's Hospice Foil Collection Bin at Burmington Village Hall

The organisers thank us for our contributions which are very much appreciated and really help with fund raising. They have asked us please not to put pill packs in the bin as they can't be used.

Thank you for your continuing support

Julia Sykes

(Ed: I can see what they mean. Looking at an Ibuprofen pill pack: one side looks like foil but the reverse side is plastic; they can only use unadulterated foil)



CAMEO Lunch Clubs

There will be a special lunch to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8.

CAMEO is marking this special occasion with a presentation by Sue Roe on the publication of her book describing the heroic and remarkable service as a Royal Air Force pilot of her father, Flight Lieutenant Charles Dallas throughout WWII:

On the outbreak of war in 1939 Charles Dallas volunteered for the RAF.



He was commissioned as a Pilot Officer flying Wellington bombers.

In 1940 he was based in Egypt with 38 Squadron for Wellington bomber operations against enemy land and sea forces.

Transferring to 33 Squadron day fighters in October 1941, he supported Tobruk and El Alamein operations. Crash landing in the Libyan desert, he had to walk for three days before rescue and hospitalisation in Cairo.

By January 1942, Charles was ferrying all types of aircraft for the Aircraft Delivery Unit. Then in October he reverted to Wellingtons for heavy bomber operations from bases in Egypt and Malta, now in 104 Squadron.

In December of that year, he was shot down over the Mediterranean by a German JU88 fighter. He survived but had to swim for over three hours before being picked up by an Italian minesweeper following which he was handed over to the Germans. He was flown to Germany and was imprisoned in Stalag Luft 111, East Compound, famous for the Wooden Horse escape.

Between January and May in 1945 he was force marched by the Germans, fleeing the Soviet advance, on a thousand-mile march (known as the "Long March"). Temperatures were as low as minus 20 degrees.

Rescued in 1945, he returned to the UK - just missing VE Day on May 8th.
Finally, as a Flight Lieutenant, Charles was demobbed after six years of service.

Don't miss this talk about an unsung British war hero
Book early for lunch with Brenda Fitch on 01608 664313

Other dates: Lunch on Tuesday May 13 Burmington Village Hall, 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm



BURMINGTON GRANGE GARDEN

Open for the National Garden Scheme

Sunday 18th May 2-6 pm

Do Come!

Refreshments proceeds will be donated to Burmington Church



The House of Bread

Open Day

Saturday 14 June
11am - 5pm
All welcome

- Cream teas
- Book sale
- Plant sale
- Art exhibition
- Guided tours
- Craft sales

Lots to see - relax in the gardens and grounds or take a riverside walk.



The House of Bread • The Mill
Burmington
Shipston-on-Stour
Warwickshire CV36 5AF
thehouseofbread.org
t: 01608 663952
e: contact@thehouseofbread.org



A Christian retreat centre in the heart of England

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



Coffee Shop

Saturday May 10

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes.

Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall,

meet new friends or catch up with old ones. There will be a bring and buy stall in aid of the village playing field funds.

We are always looking for people to help out if you want to get involved please contact me on 07866 127409.

Christine Dudfield

Brailes Picturehouse

Saturday 17th May *The Brutalist*

Doors Open 6:45pm for 7:15pm start

Due to length of film we propose to have two intervals.

The Brutalist follows Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor and Bauhaus-trained architect Laszlo Troth as he immigrates to America, rebuilds his life, and faces challenges while working for a wealthy industrialist, Harrison Lee Van Buren, who commissions him to build a monument.

Cast: Adrien Brody, Felicity Jones, Guy Pearce

Future Screening

14th June *A Complete Unknown*- Festival Time so bring a picnic

Deirdre and Team

Village Lottery Draw

1st Liz Maycock £80

2nd Vicky Clark £45

3rd Steve Alkins. £30.

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

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675



Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons



It was so lovely to see so many of you at The Hall for the Easter Family Prize Bingo on Saturday 12th April. Thank you so much for supporting the event we made £827.00.

Social Afternoon dates for your diary are Fridays 2nd, 16th and 30th May 2:00pm to 4:00pm at The Hall.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Vanessa Compton



This year's plant sale in aid of Shipston Home Nursing will be held on 10th and 11th May at Cherington Mill.

If you have any spare plants that you would like to donate also jars of Jam, marmalade, pickles or a cake then we would be very grateful thank you. Local gardeners are you able to sow a few extra seeds for us please ?

Barbara Babbage on 07876501949 or barbara@cheringtonmill.com



Frog Patrol

Those who read my article in last month's Link re the Wildlife Group's Frog Patrol, might be interested to hear that after some very busy weeks (when the weather turned milder) we finished our frog/toad collection with a total of approximately 1,000 frogs and toads retrieved from the road and safely delivered to the grass verge and ditch close to their breeding pond, so we feel that it was a job well done!

Our total will be registered with the charity Frog Life and recorded, so that it can be compared with next year's total. You may be interested to read that Frog Life estimate that only 50% of the frogs we saved will go on to successfully breed, and only approximately 10% of frog spawn survives to become frogs, so there really is safety in numbers!

No Mow May



The Wildlife Group's request to the Parish Council to adopt No Mow May for the greens in Cherington was met with some opposition in the village last year, so this year we are simply asking all residents if they will consider leaving a small part of their lawn unmown for the month of May and if possible for longer. Those with larger lawns could consider mowing paths through the longer grass. We really need to seriously start thinking about protecting those vulnerable species of bees and insects that are just emerging in the month of May.

For anyone interested, there are some extremely informative articles on the website of the charity Plantlife. The charity instigated the first No Mow May in 1999 and since then the movement has grown annually. Most of the District Councils in the United Kingdom have adopted this theme in May, including our own local District council.

See their Press Release excerpts below:

In 2025, Stratford-on-Avon District Council will again be participating in No Mow May, an important environmental initiative that aims to help reduce the global decline in pollinating insects.

No Mow May will apply to highway verges on urban roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less. This may mean that some grass verges are not cut for up to eight weeks, however, those verges adjacent to main road junctions and roundabouts will be cut as normal to maintain sight lines and visibility for road users.

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, said: "No Mow May forms part of a wider agenda to enhance biodiversity, which is being delivered by Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Other measures that have been delivered include tree planting, the creation of wildflower meadows on Council owned land and the declaration and ecological enhancement of a new Local Nature Reserve"




Feldons Wildlife Group invite you to an illustrated talk on how
'Swifts are Making a Comeback'

Jacey Jackson, lifelong enthusiast and founder of Shipston Action for Swifts
 will be sharing her passion for these birds

Wednesday 11th June @Cherington Village Hall

Doors open at 7:30pm with talk beginning at 8pm

Refreshments will be available and donations towards
 the cost of the talk would be much appreciated

For further information please contact Sue Williams 01608 686414




Hedge Laying



This morning I stopped near Broadmoor Lodge to talk to Mr Mike Hartnell of MDH Forestry Services based in Little Compton, who was carrying out an examination of trainee hedge layers. They were using the Midland Bullock style of laying, this has one side "smooth" and the other "rough" as you can see from the photos. The field to the smooth side would have been planted with corn and the field on the other side would have been for cattle who could not push through the thick uncut hedging.

Interestingly, Mike said that they had not found any old bird's nests in the original hedge, because magpies would have used the hedge as a feeding station and cleared out all the small bird's nests. However, he said that the compacted layed hedge would prevent magpies reaching nests and thus small birds could successfully fledge their young.

Tony Wells

The Hall, Cherington, Stourton and Sutton-under-Brailes

Theatre in 2025

A belated 'Thank You' to all who came to our first professional theatre night on 1 March! The audience were glowing, and a few emotional, after being regaled with the gentle and humorous tale from '*Old Herbaceous*,' aka Head Gardener Herbert Pinnegar, aka Actor Giles Shenton!

Our Hall Bar and Refreshments were well received, particularly ice-creams and coffees, and a very big thank you to those who volunteered to help out.

Our next Theatre Night is coming up on Saturday 14 June, again the Lobby Bar will open at 6:30pm, performance at 7:30pm.

This time, "*Into The Breach*" is the brilliant comedy, written and performed (all 17 parts!) by Mark Carey. It is set during WW2, and sees George Crocker join the village Drama Club to liven up his otherwise dull life what happens turns his world upside down!

It really is a fantastic night of entertainment not to be missed:

Get your tickets now, direct from The Hall at info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572 or from the online Box Office at:
<https://buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions>

Other theatre Dates for your diary: Saturday 16 August, "*Three Men In A Boat*,"
Saturday 22 November, "*Dead On Cue*"

Future events: it would be great to hear people's ideas for the type of future events you would like to see at The Hall – theatre, music, comedy, children's theatre etc, to help inform our plans for future bookings – feel free to email or even contact us on Facebook!

If anyone is interested in helping out with any events at The Hall, such as the theatre nights – they are a lot of fun and only occasional, and help could be beforehand with planning & promoting, as well as on the night – do get in touch to find out more with absolutely no expectation to then commit to anything! Contact Erry, Hall Bookings Manager: info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572

Saturday 17 May – The Bard's Ride, annual charity bike rides and walks: cycle 25 or 60 miles, walk 3 or 5 miles, starting and finishing at The Hall. For full

information and to sign up see: <https://warwickshirechurches.org.uk/about-bards-ride/>

21 May – Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society: contact petercstoddart@gmail.com

28 and 29 May – Atomic Dance Holiday Workshop: contact www.atomicdance.co.uk

5 June – Farmer's Market 6:00-8:00pm

14 June – “*Into The Breach*” theatre night, doors 6:30pm

26 June – Concert with The Pavilionaires: part of the Shipston Proms fortnight. Bar open from 7:00pm, concert at 7:30pm. Tickets £5.00 on the door.

29 June- Broughton Castle Sportive charity bike ride: The Hall is one of the stop-off points. For information: <https://broughtoncastlesportive.co.uk/>

Cherington Playing Field

Work on delivering the Aspirational Development Plan for the land behind the Hall and the playing field continues. Grateful thanks are due to Bill and Anita Law for their kind donation which has allowed the installation of a basket swing; it's great to see this is an instant hit with children of all ages and abilities.

With safety of the young ones in mind a picket boundary fence has been built around the playground equipment to keep any temptation to run onto the road at bay.



Further tidying of brambles has been carried out thanks to a few willing volunteers and most of the concrete posts and rotten timber fence has been removed to the former boundary between the Hall land and the playing field. With the ground cultivated for grass seeding it is hoped that this will soon green up to give the intended appearance of a single community facility.

A planting scheme is to be put together for the autumn, however the most expensive parts of the development plan we hope to be able to commence soon after the Cherington and Stourton Show (1st Saturday in August, don't forget). This will hopefully include additional car parking to the rear of the Hall and land drainage for both fields so that they

are less waterlogged, particularly in the winter. Fund raising will be necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the development plan, so donations will be gratefully received. More on this in due course.

Jim Walton and Lois Dudfield

Cherington Church



Tony Brookes along with his wife Pam took most of the day to carry out a major renovation on the Cherington Church Notice Board on 1st April. This was genuine hard work, not an April's Fool joke!!

Photo by Tony Wells

Easter Flowers

Thank you very much to all who gave so generously towards the purchase of Easter lilies and flowers. Your donations were very much appreciated and helped us create beautiful displays for Easter Sunday.

I hope many of you will have had the opportunity to see them, if not at a service, then simply by calling in at the church. With best wishes and thanks

Sarah Scotter

The LINK can offer your local business...

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

Please email adverts@swlink.org.uk

**For a suitable commitment, we may be able to offer new
advertisers an introductory 'advertorial.'
...and we can put an advert together for you if you need
a hand.**

Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society

the next meeting will be at
The Hall, Pinfold Lane Stourton,
CV36 5HG

on Wednesday, **21 May 2025**
at **8.00 pm** for a talk by
Serena Merton on:-

**An Intelligence Officer's Battle behind
Enemy Lines in Wartime Burma**

contact: Peter Stoddart
at:
petercstoddart@gmail.com



Phew! After a successful Quiz Night, we are ready to do it all over again except this time it will be a quiz with a difference. More of that later, but firstly many congratulations to Bill Cook who was on a winning streak having won both the quiz, with his valiant team, and the raffle. Well done Bill and team! Our next events are all advertised within the pages of the Link but, importantly, we have Social Saturday combined with our annual AGM and a talk on the role of a First Responder on 10th May. We promise not to take too long over the AGM, but this will be a chance to see how we have done financially as well as giving you the opportunity to have your say concerning the management of our Village Hall. Maybe you will have suggestions for new events? We welcome your views as always. Some of our key, long-standing Village Hall team members will be stepping down and will be sorely missed, so, if you feel like joining our committee, it is your chance to volunteer or put your name forward.

Now to our new Quiz Night, which is called Fact or Fake, this will be on 16 May with arrival of teams at 7:00pm ready to start at 7:30pm. It is a quiz night with a



Join us for

Social Saturday

With AGM plus First Responder Talk

11am—1pm, 10th May 2025

Long Compton Village Hall

- Free entry - savouries - cake - chat
- Have your say at our AGM, or consider joining our team?
- Listen to the talk on the role of a First Responder in our community



difference. A combination of the old TV favourite '*Call My Bluff*' and the current show '*Would I Lie to You?*' Teams of up to 7 people, will be asked to guess what a word means, whether some definitions are fact or fake, and whether some events happened or not. It should be great fun! There will be prizes, games and the Village Hall's famous cheeseboards for sustenance; the bar will be open during the quiz with a selection of beers and wines. Please do book a place for your team via the email lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk. Please remember to bring some cash with you to play 'heads or tails' beforehand.

Keep a look out for the Shipston Town Band event and Race Night coming in the summer. In July, we are holding a 1980s Disco Night; for those of us who remember that era or those who just enjoy the music; so, dust off those leg warmers and join us for, what promises to be, a fun evening. Finally, a big thanks to everyone for continuing to support the Village Hall. If you would like to join our committee, we'd love to hear from you via our email lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee

100 Club

The April Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 12 April and the winners were:

1st Prize Bev Burrows

3rd Prize Paul Field

2nd Prize Bev Burrows (her 2nd ticket!)

4th Prize Mr and Mrs Williamson

Extra tickets are always available!!

Chris Galloway 684234

Compton District History Society

Weds May 14 at 7:30pm at Long Compton Village Hall.

Might Shakespeare have been Italian? A talk by Stuart Brown

Christopher Fance 01608 674207



Fact or Fake Quiz Night

7pm, Friday, 16th May 2025

Long Compton Village Hall

A combination of the old TV favourite 'Call my Bluff' and 'Would I Lie to You?'. Teams of up to 7 people will be asked to guess what a word means, if a statement is a fact or a fake, or if an event really happened or not. Lots of fun!

Prizes, legendary cheeseboard, bar and games

Entry £10 per head, bring cash!

Booking essential for catering

email lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

FACT

OR

FAKE

?



Grab your leg warmers, it's

1980s Disco Night

19th July 2025

7.30pm Long Compton Village Hall

Dress in an 80s style or come as you are

Licensed bar

DJ Keith Lane plays 80s dance tracks

Entry fee £5 in advance

Phone Karen on 07815 300645

or email lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk



Long Compton Chapel

The Chapel was pleased to host Acorns Primary School for their Easter Egg Trail with the Arden Room and kitchen being kept busy with visitors collecting their maps and enjoying the refreshments the PTA provided. £1366.15 was raised for PTA funds. The Chapel had organised a small craft market to run alongside the event and as the weather gods were kind it was good to see so many out enjoying the day.

It is hoped that flood restoration works to the Manse will finally be completed late April and that our tolerant tenant will have new carpets installed. The debate goes on re replacement flooring for the Chapel with many different options being researched and measurements being taken for additional flood doors.

May will see the Chapel once again hosting the Shipston Home Nursing Plant Stall commencing 11 May. Please contact Elizabeth re any donations of plants, preserves, etc. that you may have.

The Whist drive will be on 24 May starting at 7:00pm. Come along and keep those little grey cells alive!

In June, we have somehow found ourselves running the Dog Show at the Long Compton Community Fete and so all offers of help on the day (28 June) will be most welcome... sponsorship, prizes, time, etc. Subject to space we hope to have an agility ring for a bit of extra fun! So, plenty of scope for helpers!! If you love dogs get in touch.

Elizabeth Gilkes (07791 621778) and Sally Franklin (07870 545431)



Join us for Community Coffee
at
St Peter and St Paul's Church , Long Compton
On Weds May 7th from 10:30am-12:00



All are very welcome
Young, old, families, dog walkers and newcomers to the village



The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for April is Carol Adams.

Jenny Scrivener



Whichford & Ascott Gardens Open

Sunday 15th June 1.30 – 5.00pm

Nine gardens will open:

Ascott Lodge • Ascott Rise • Belmont House •

Lenticulars • Murton Cottage • Plum Tree Cottage •

The Old Rectory • Whichford Pottery • Wood House •

Combined entry: Adults: £7.50 and Children free.

Home-made teas in aid of St Michael's Church, plant stall,
raffle – win a Whichford Pottery voucher.

VE Day

Thursday 8 May 2025 is the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when we remember all those from Whichford & Ascott who served or gave their lives in both World Wars.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

Excerpt from *For the Fallen*, Robert Lawrence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21 September 1914.



Protecting our Parish's Precious Wildlife

We're incredibly lucky to live in a parish that nurtures a rich variety of habitats—home to an array of plants, birds, and animals. Some of these species are so rare they're on the conservation 'red list,' meaning they are at the greatest risk of disappearing forever.

Have you ever been stopped in your tracks by the enchanting song of a skylark soaring above, or smiled at the sight of a hedgehog shuffling through the leaves on your way to school or work? These everyday moments of nature's magic are gifts—but only if we protect the habitats these creatures depend on. If we don't act, they may be lost.

That's where **WASP** (Whichford and Ascott's local nature group) comes in. We're passionate about preserving our local wildlife and would love to hear from anyone who has spotted a red-listed or vulnerable species in the area. By documenting what's here now, we can take meaningful steps to safeguard these species for generations to come.

Over the next few months, we'll be shining a spotlight on some of the incredible wildlife around us in *The Link*, helping us all appreciate and protect the natural wonders on our doorstep. If you have a favourite local species or an interesting sighting, please get in touch with the WASP secretary—we'd love to hear from you.

The Wych Elm: A Tree of Legends



This spring has been bursting with unexpected delights, and our latest discovery was a real treasure—a mysterious blossom found in the heart of Whichford Woods. After some research, we believe it belongs to a wych elm—a tree once common in Britain but now a rarity, except as hedgerow saplings, due to the devastating impact of Dutch elm disease.

Our wych elm must be at least 20 years old, its bark no longer smooth but deeply ridged like that of an ancient oak. Despite its name, the wych elm has no ties to witchcraft; its name comes from the Old English word *wice*, meaning *supple*. Fittingly, its flexible wood was once prized for making Welsh longbows. Folklore, however, gives the elm an eerie reputation. It was often linked to death—perhaps because elm wood was traditionally used for coffins. Some even believed that those who fell asleep beneath an elm tree would be gifted a prophetic dream.

This tree is not just steeped in history; it also plays a vital role in supporting rare wildlife. The elusive white-letter hairstreak butterfly depends on elm leaves for its caterpillars to thrive. If you're out and about in July or August, keep your eyes on the treetops—you just might catch a glimpse of this beautiful, fluttering gem.



Katie Bertie, WASP

VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The April winners were as follows:

1st -Janet Pope

2nd- Murphy family

3rd- Sue Elliot

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

James van Helden

Wolfords Joint Parish council litter pick March 2025

Wolfords JPC had a very successful Litter Pick round Great Wolford on 29

March, Little Wolford are having their Litter Pick on 26 April. As extras to the



general collection of litter the hedge growth obscuring the two millennium plaques on the Nethercote bridge, recording the population of the two villages on 1 January 2000 has been cleared.

Various road signs and other signs in the villages have also had a spring clean. Thank you to everyone involved.

Lynn Mathias, WJPC

Litter collected between Four Shires Stone and the Crossroads in Great Wolford

Are you interested in preserving historical buildings and our Village's heritage?

If so, then Wolford Church needs your help We are about to embark on a repair and refurbishment project which will involve work on various parts of the church and churchyard for which we will be eligible to apply for grants.

We are looking for volunteers to manage the project which will involve researching and obtaining quotations for the work, researching grants available and working alongside the Church PCC to manage the work through to completion.

You do not need to be a church goer to help us – an interest in preserving the church as a building is all you need and if you have any experience in this type of project and could offer advice then that would also be most helpful

We look forward to hearing from everyone who is interested in helping in some way however big or small to enable us to preserve our church for the future

Please contact Ann McKenna (annmckenna3@sky.com 01608 674009)

Wonderful new kneelers for Great Wolford Church

On Sunday 8 June there will be a dedication service in St Michael and All Angels Church Great Wolford for the new church kneelers which have been stitched by women in Little and Great Wolford and Toddtenham and sponsored by parishioners in memory of their loved ones

The kneeler tapestries were worked by: June Dyer, Jenny Henderson, Sarah Franklin, Marion Hill, Pippa Lines, Marilyn Roberts, Shirley Wrench, Roz Warriner, Deborah Wolverson, Sue Rew, Rose Yates and Jane Baker

Sponsors of the kneelers in memory of departed loved ones included: Wendy Veale in memory of John Scott-Lees, tapestry worked by Rose Yates; Bob Large in memory of Shirley Large tapestry worked by Sue Rew; Sue Elliott to remember one hundred years of the Women's Institute.

Wolford PCC would like to say a huge thank you to Jane Baker for organising this for the Church, all the women who worked the tapestries and the sponsors. We do hope you are all able to attend the service of dedication on 8th June. Everyone is welcome

Moreton Car Boot Sale – Monday 26 May 2025

Have you been clearing out and decluttering and don't know what to do with all those unwanted things? Well Wolford PCC has a solution to your problem.

The members of the PCC are giving up their May Day Bank Holiday lie in to be at Moreton Car Boot sale at 7:00am on 29 May!

What items do we want from you? Well, we are always surprised at what sells so really anything, except we do not have the room in our cars for large bulky items, as long as it is in saleable condition and that includes clothes, bric-a-brac, crockery, glasses, tools, soft furnishings, children's toys and clothes. If you're not sure give us a ring.

You can deliver to us, or we can collect from you so if you have anything please ring John Wrench 01608 674389 or Ann McKenna 01608 674009

Ingram Close Parking

We now have much improved parking for the residents of Ingram Close in Great Wolford which also benefits the whole village by getting cars off the road at the entrance to the village. Thanks must go to our County councilor Jo Barker for providing the funding for this project from her discretionary funds and also to the previous members of Great Wolford Parish Council who got this off the ground initially. Warwickshire Highways commissioned the work and we were also fortunate that there was sufficient land available from Warwickshire Highways who were responsible for the verge which was removed and Orbit Housing who gave the extra strip of land which made this feasible.



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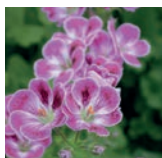
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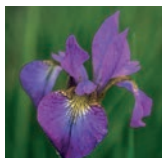
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