

THE LINK

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

MARCH 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

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

Sat 1	Village breakfast	Burmington VH	09:00
	Theatre: Old Herbaceous	The Hall, Stourton	
Thurs 6	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Fri 7	King Cypher Quintet	Townsend Hall Shipston	19:00
Sat 8	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
	Movie: <i>High Noon</i>	Brailes Picture House	19:15
Tues 11	Cameo Club lunch	Burmington VH	12:00
	Walking Group	Red Lion LC	09:30
Thurs 13	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Sun 16	Charity Quiz	Red Lion Long Compton	19:30
Tues 18	Willow weaving course	Long Compton Chapel	
Weds 19	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	14:30
Thurs 20	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 21	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 22	Fish and Chips Van	Great Wolford	18:15
	Bingo Night	Burmington VH	19:30
Mon 24	Screen printing course	Long Compton Chapel	
Weds 26	Garden Club	Long Compton VH	19:10
Thurs 27	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 28	Carers 4 Carers	Kineton VH	10:30

Save the Date

Sat June 21 Summer Fete Barton on the Heath

Sat June 28 Long Compton Fete

Please note the copy deadline for April 2025:
March 13th

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the March edition of The Link. I have only one wish for this month and that it to wear something other than wellington boots for a change, so bring on the March winds but please keep it dry for a while!

This month's LINK is full of activities to get you out of the house and back in circulation. Whether its jazz in Shipston, theatre in Stourton or simply a morning coffee and chat with friends there is always something to do across our villages so take time to peruse the pages and get involved.

This issue also includes a 'news' item which will be of interest and concern to locals regarding proposed housing developments. Thank you to David Cleave for being a LINK 'reporter' and do feel free to send in any news items you feel are pertinent to the local community.

I am always on the look out for Pets of the Month. These have been thin on the ground recently so whatever beasts you are harbouring in your household do send in a photo with a short bio for all to admire.

If you are new to our community or if have not already done so, please remember to set up or renew your 2025 Link subscription either in cash to your distributor or (preferably) by BACS to South Warwickshire Link Ltd Account: 6326 8260 Sort Code: 30-98-26

Sara Billins



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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



Happy Birthday!
March 2025



Matthew Baldwin
Isabelle Sophia Jansen van Rensburg

Stourton 14
Great Wolford 10

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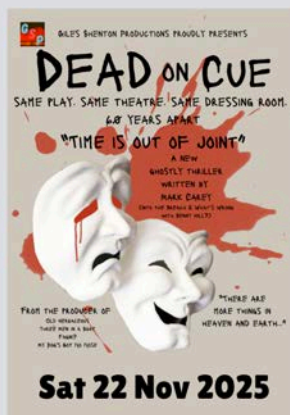
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Cherington, Stourton & Sutton Hall Pop Up Theatre Coming In 2025!



www.buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions



www.gilesshentonproductions.co.uk

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

£15 / £8 under 16's

Direct From The Hall: 07775 765572 / info@thehallevnts.org.uk
Or Online Box Office at www.buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions



Carers4Carers

We'd love to welcome you to our monthly carer support meeting at Kinton Village Hall, Friday 28th March 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. There will be plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits and the chance to meet with other carers. Our March speaker is still to be finalised. Please bring along your loved ones - they can join our Companionship Group while we meet.

For further details about our carer support group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian 07947893504
E: kcarers4carers@gmail.com, www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



CAMEO

Dates for your diaries: CAMEO lunches -T uesdays 11th March and 8th April 12:00 noon for 12:30 pm

CAMEO St George's Day Tea Party Wednesday 23rd April: 14:30 pm

All three events held in Burmington Village Hall.

Please book with Brenda Fitch on Tel. 664313

**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

Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm

Thursday from 10.30am - 12.30pm

Friday from 10am - 12 noon

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



Shipston on Stour CV36 4QG

Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH

Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0DS

Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE

**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

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



What you need to know...

- Quiz starts at 7.30 (ish)
- Teams of up to 6 people (£2 entry fee per person)
- Each quiz supports a different charity
- Book a table to guarantee seats for your team
- There is a raffle with great prizes at each quiz

   @redlionongcomp

Quiz dates & charities

Only two more quizzes left in the 2024-5 season, supporting two fantastic local causes:

02.03.25 - Shipston Home Nursing

16.03.25 - Chipping Norton Lido

Plans for Shipston to have another 3000 New Houses

Over 1600 houses are proposed for the fell Mill Site between Barcheston and Honington

After the massive house building project that doubled Shipston's population in the last 10 years comes another building plan. The major part of the proposed development involves over 1600 houses between the Brailes Road and Honington on the east side of the river.

Warwickshire County Council have published their proposed possible sites for new settlements and the expansion of existing settlements. Shipston has been singled out as the main town for development in South Warwickshire.

Why is this a terrible idea?

Sustainability

The flood plain divides the site into two parts. Shipston bridge was closed three times this winter and Honington bridge once. The development would significantly add to the run-off water to the Stour which would increase the flood risks to villages downstream. Both bridges are unsuitable for additional traffic both through congestion and danger to foot traffic. The road around the site to the east is single track. Shipston is badly located for access to motorways and there is no rail and minimum public transport.

Location

The site is undeveloped usable agricultural land. The western portion of the Fell Mill site is designated in the Shipston plan as an area of restraint which discourages building. The Shakespeare Way goes through the centre of it. The site lies between the two ancient settlements of Barcheston and Honington which are both mentioned in the Domesday Book and have never had significant development.

Infrastructure

The site is too far from the schools, medical facilities and shops. The Fell Mill development alone will increase the Shipston population by over 50%. There is very little employment in Shipston. This means that new residents would be commuting long distances to major conurbations for work. Traffic and parking are already overloaded.

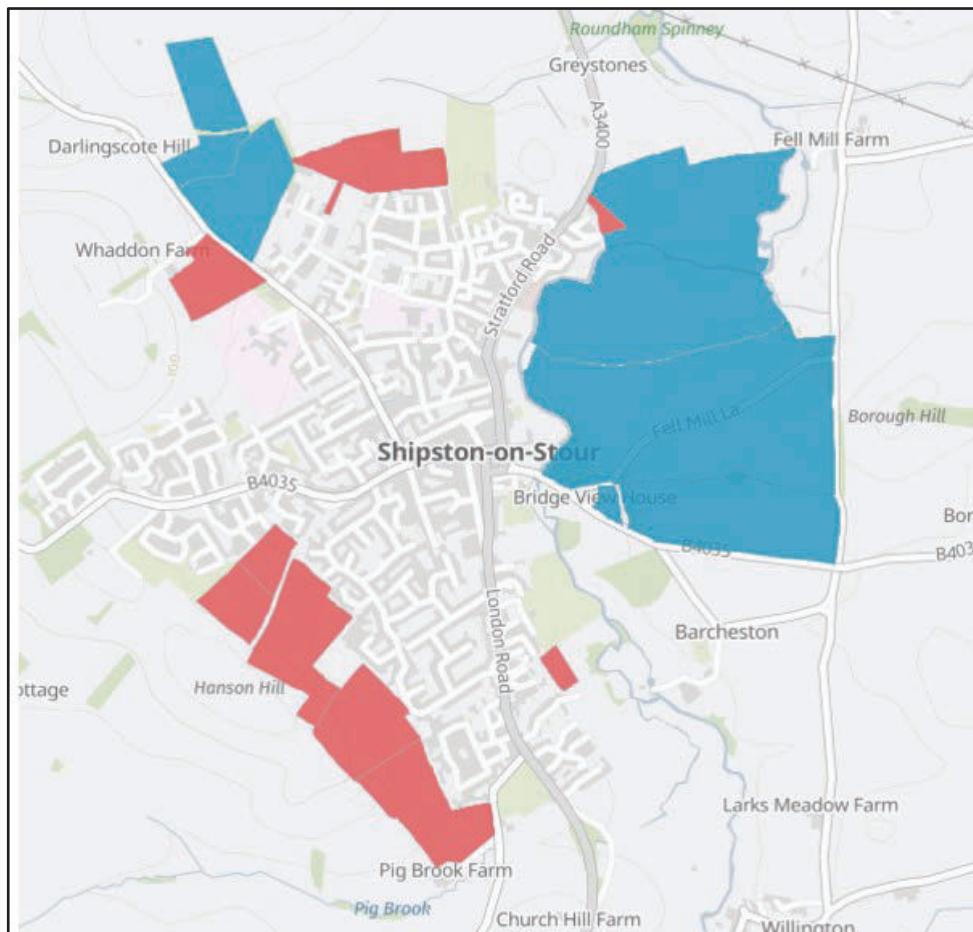
What can you do about it?

Comments can be made to the Stratford online planning portal by the 7th March. This is tricky to navigate but contact lindseytwalker@outlook.com for a crib sheet.

Join the action group 'SOS. Save our Shipston'. Alice is contactable at hanscomb@globalnet.co.uk.

Also, Facebook '**Say No to another 1600+ houses**'.

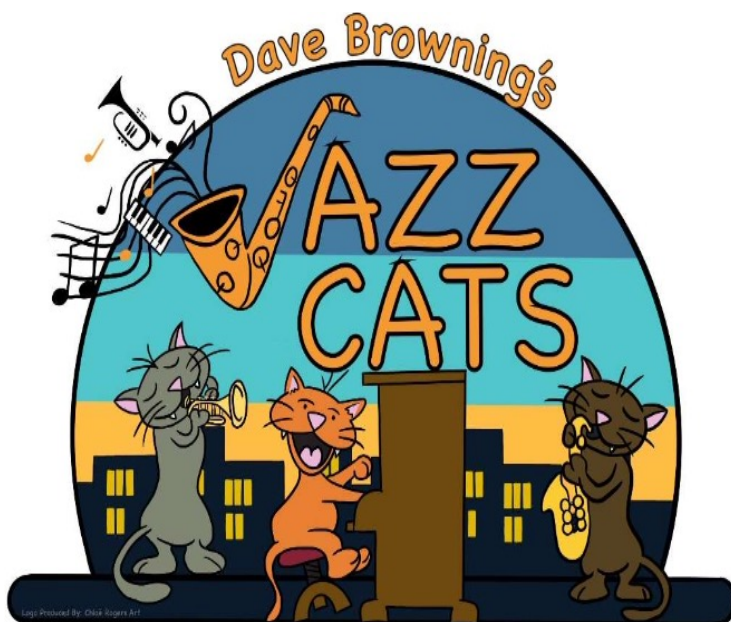
Every new objection assists us to save our very special town and surrounding area. **Please help.**



Shipston potential housing development under WCC plans

David Cleave On behalf of residents of Barcheston, Honington, Willington & Shipston

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...
On Friday, 4th April 2025



Led by Dave Browning - Piano
Allen Beechey - Cornet
Richard Exall - Clarinet / Sax
Brian Butler - Trombone
Keith Donald - Double Bass
Graham Smith - Drums

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00

Tickets £15

**From the Flower House, 3 Market Place,
Shipston and online
ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or
townsendhall.co.uk**

Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone Peter on 07711-562317



52 Sheep Street,
Shipston-on-Stour,
Warwickshire, CV36 4AE

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...

The Kim Cypher Quintet

"An incredibly vibrant musician driven by passion, who is always innovative and surprising" – Nick Lea – Jazz Views



Friday 7th March 2025.

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00

"This is a band capable of appealing to jazz 'newbies' and hardcore aficionados alike" – The Jazz Mann

Tickets £15 from The Flower House, 3 Market Place, Shipston and online:
ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone Peter on 07711-562317



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.

We have themed weeks featuring exotic cuisines, or focusing on a seasonal ingredient such as asparagus.

For more details of these, check out our social media – **Facebook, Moreton in Marsh Noticeboard, Shipston Noticeboard and Instagram.** We can also be contacted by email, mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or mobile, 07933 141410

A big thank you to all our customers for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming new customers.

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



Giggle Tots

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



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

March 2025 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7	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
2 nd March The Sunday before Lent	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	10:30am CW Village Hall Service (RS/LM)
5 th March Ash Wednesday		10:30am Ash Wednesday Service (CLW)				
9 th March 1 st Sunday of Lent				9am BCP Morning Prayer (Rst/AB)	3:00pm Connect At the Village Hall (KP/BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion Village Hall (BD)
16 th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	
23 rd March 3 rd Sunday of lent			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	
30 th March Mothering Sunday			10:30am CW Family Service (BD)		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	

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/LAW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Claire Wells/JP = Heather Parbury/AD = Andrew Dow/RG = Richard Smith/RS=Richard Stevens/ABD = Archbishop Barry Dugmore

BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/SAC = Informal Service

By Way of the Heart

Poetry in Lent



March 11th Ilmington Church

Soul Space

*poetry, music and art led
by a team from Tidmington*

March 18th Ettington Church

Canon Dr Mark Pryce

*poet and practical
theologian, Director of
Ministry in Birmingham
and Chaplain to the King*

March 25th Whatcote Church

Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke

*exploring poems we enjoy –
bring a poem with you or
come & hear others' choices*

April 1st Shipston Church

Grapevine Theatre

*Director Phoebe Edmonds
explores using poetry as an
agent of change*

*Tuesday Afternoons in
Shipston Deanery
2.30pm – 4.00pm*

Further details:

*drinaheighton@gmail.com or
rector@shipstonchurch.org*

April 8th in Tredington Church

Revd Beren Hartless and Lesley Turner

*poets Beren and Lesley will
bring their Good Friday
Stations of the Cross poems*

April 15 Old Chapel, Oxhill

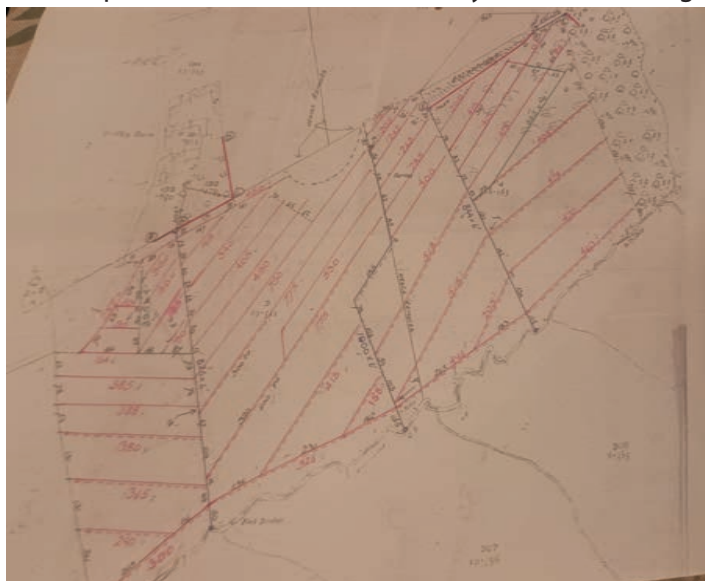
Poetry Mass

*Revd Dr Paul Edmondson,
Director of the Stratford
upon Avon Poetry Festival*

It's a nice day today; however, yesterday, I got soaked to the skin and hurt my back. It seems to have eased a bit so I thought I would do my farming notes a little earlier than normal. Dan finished ploughing at the mill and has about another 30-odd acres to do. After a brief drier spell in January, it's been endless rain again, I must admit I was always a climate change sceptic, but the last three years have got me thinking there must be something in it. The experts talk of cycles of wet and dry, at the moment, I think I'd like to be in a dry cycle, but I see little hope in the short-term weather forecast.

At the moment, Dan is drying some barley. It is sold for next month but is just over 15% moisture, and we are bound by contract to 15% or under. It's been stored on what's called an under-floor system to storage – air is blown through perforated ducting, driven by a large capacity fan. It kept the grain safe, but to avoid deductions from the agreed price, Dan is drying it through our mobile dryer to remove around 1.5% to make sure all goes to plan when the wagons arrive.

Dan has also spent a lot of time sorting out field drainage problems as well. Our little digger has proven to be a useful addition to our range of implements. The field in question was drained in 1969 by our local drainage firm B A Hull. In those



days we received up to 70% grants for 'land improvements', so a lot of drainage was done on this and other local farms. I remember unloading many thousands of 3 and 4-inch diameter clay pipes, known

Original farm drainage plan 1969. Used to locate pipes.



as 'tiles'. A man from Long Compton, Mr Burt Aston, drove a digger and Mr Ralph Print drove the actual chain trencher. Burt made all the 'connections' to the mains, as they were called and drove the gravel cart, which by means of an offset conveyor, put shingle on top of the laid tiles. All would be inspected by the man from the ministry and if approved, Burt Aston with an angle dozer on the front of old international 4 wheel-drive tractor would push the soil back over the pipes. The farmer paid Brian



Hull, and the Ministry of Agriculture paid us 70% of the total bill. After that, Mr Walter Tidmarsh, nicknamed 'Gravel-guts' would turn up with this tracked Marshall crawler and mole plough or subsoiler to do the whole field at 5ft centres to lift any 'plough pan', as it was called, which is a compacted area at the bottom of normal plough depth that would impede the water getting to the drains and thus off the fields into a watercourse. Over the next ten years all the farm, bar free-draining land at the top was done. Of course, when the grants were lowered or came to an end, very little full-scale draining is done these days.

Now, as of old, due to the geology of our area, springs are a common occurrence. The ironstone is layered above the blue lias clay, where folds occur, the water drains through the porous ironstone, then meets the impervious clay, forcing it out the side of the bank to form a spring. Many are piped down to water troughs or old yards, as a valuable source of water for livestock in the past.

Still, on the 4th February, I have booked myself in for hip replacement surgery, so I am hopeful that when I pen the next farming notes towards the end of February, or early March, all will have gone well and I am on the mend for late spring work, and God willing, another harvest.

I hope the next will be more bountiful than the last, but of course by then, we may well be in a drought situation. As you will remember, last year's lack of sunshine depressed grain fill and therefore lack yield and bushel weight at harvest.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

Gardeners like to talk about weather. It governs our gardening and growing plans and often scuppers them too: our gardens and plants are at the mercy of it being too wet, too dry, too hot, too cold, too windy; to be honest, horrid weather tends to mean I stay indoors and my gardening tasks get added to next week's To Do list.

There's only so much we can do to mitigate the effects of our weather - protective fleece or glass if it's too cold, extra water if it's too dry, firm staking if wind is forecast, but it's often not enough. We've all lost plants or crops due to weather and climate change: our entire garlic crop disappeared last winter because it was just too wet, and I couldn't really grow lettuce last summer at all because the wet and warm-ish winter had contributed to a huge growth in the slug population. No matter what I tried, the slugs found and devoured every row of lettuce I planted.



As I write this in February, it's damp and grey and cold and altogether grim. I've been trying to cheer myself up and get in the mood for gardening by flicking through the seed and plant catalogues and websites and convincing myself that the arrival of March and meteorological spring will bring a bit more joy and optimism.

March comes in like a lion but goes out like a lamb: the days get longer - quite apart from the lengthening days, the clocks go forward, so the afternoons and evenings seem longer and there's a bit more sun, sometimes even with a bit of spring warmth in it, helping the soil to heat up. The vernal equinox (the start of astronomical spring, defined by Earth's relationship to the Sun) is around March 20th, so not long to go.

You can tell that the soil has warmed up enough to allow germination of hardier seeds by the arrival of annual weeds. Don't let them hang around though, pluck them out quickly. You can sow early potatoes now, and broad bean and beetroot seeds are worth a go, as long as the soil isn't frozen or too wet. You could try a

row of peas: they may well germinate but will be slow to grow unless we get a really good warm spring. You might as well wait another few weeks. It's your last chance to sow sweet peas outdoors but if you can get hold of some autumn-sown sweet pea plug plants, you'd be better off putting those in - they'll have stronger root systems and you'll get superior blooms as a result.

Deadhead your spring bulbs, but let the leaves die back naturally. This allows them to harness the power of the sun to create energy within the bulb so that it can flower the following year. While you're thinking about bulbs, why not plant some summer bulbs like gladioli, lilies and tuberose for summer colour and scent?

Cut back dogwoods and cotinus to encourage bushier growth and better autumn colour. Take a look at your climbing roses and perhaps do some preparatory light pruning to get the shape and direction as you want.

As the weather warms up, this is your cue to look out for pests. Aphids may start to arrive on tender new shoots, so keep an eye out and pinch or wash them off. With any luck, some hungry blue tits will spot them and keep the population down. Or over-wintered ladybirds will track them down and eat them. Slugs will come out too. I despaired last year, as many gardeners did, about slug damage. There were so many of them, so huge and so greedy. Nothing we tried seemed to make much difference. In the end I gave up using the more natural slug defences, and fell back on the blue slug pellets, the ones they advertise as okay to use in organic gardening, which are not as poisonous to wildlife as the old (now banned) sort.

Whatever the early Spring weather throws at us, I hope you have a successful and unsluggish gardening year.

Miranda Arnold

Garden Club: Wall Shrubs and Climbers, talk by Walter Sawyer

There was an excellent turnout for our first talk in January which was given by Walter Sawyer who has gardened all his working life, the last 44 in Oxford. He has an absolute wealth of horticultural knowledge and he explained about some of the different plants that you can use for vertical planting, Euonymus, Wisteria, Pyracantha, Clematis, roses, ivy and jasmine to name but a few. Whether you have a fence, wall, pergola or obelisk there will be a suitable plant to clothe it whether it is a shrub or a climber, thereby adding interest in your garden. Mostly, these are perennials, or you can use annual climbers for seasonal interest, these are great fun and can be changed each year. He told us that the first and most

important thing to consider is to choose the right plant for the right place. Give it thought before you rush out to the garden centre and buy the first plant that takes your fancy. It may be beautiful but equally it may be totally unsuitable for the particular spot in the garden that you have in mind for it.

Things to consider are:- How vigorous is it? Do you have enough space? Will it need lots of pruning? Is it self-clinging or will it need to be tied in? Then there is the right aspect for the right plant, some needing full sun, others being happier in a little shade. There are lots of things to be considered, but get it right and you can effectively clothe your vertical spaces with beautiful plants, thus avoiding bare fences, etc. You can, for example, plant a rose up a wall and also a clematis, by choosing carefully they will intertwine and flower at different times, thus extending the flowering period and giving even more enjoyment. Happy gardening!

Celia Sawyer



Clematis: 'Broughton Bride'



LONG COMPTON & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

March 26th ALPINES IN THE WILD AND CULTIVATION

Speaker: Diane Clement has been visiting the Alps for over 40 years observing where and how these specialist plants grow and learning how we can adapt our gardens to grow them here. Diane is an exhibitor and AGS Judge. She has a wide range of plant interests, hepaticas, cyclamen, bulbous and woodland plants which she grows in her shady Wolverhampton garden. Her talk will contain lots of first-hand practical advice.

April 23rd A YEAR IN THE GARDENS AT ADWELL HOUSE

Speaker: Colin Roberts has been Head Gardener at Adwell House near Thame for the past 15 years. The garden at Adwell extends to about 4 acres and has year-round interest. Colin is a member of the Professional Gardeners Guild and was their vice-chairman for the south of England.

All welcome, please do come and join us!

Annual membership £14, guests £4 per meeting

Meetings are held at the Long Compton Village Hall

Doors open at 7:10pm for a 7.30 pm start Contact: Julie Reardon

julielcdgc@gmail.com

We are just putting together our summer visit schedule (see below) more details to follow.

May 19th - Kiftsgate www.kiftsgate.co.uk

June 17th - Moor Wood Roses www.moorwoodroses.co.uk

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

Let's start the month with a bit of alliteration and muse on the much maligned and mostly molested mole. It's hard to ignore their efforts at the moment – every verge in Stourton looks like a mini-Somme and the local social media pages are being bombarded with '*let us sort out your mole issue*' messages. Last weekend I stopped to chat with Roger, the village squire, as he was surveying mole hills on his estate, and we came to the conclusion that one 6 inch long velvety-skinned mole could do an awful lot of damage in a very short space of time.

That said, you've got to feel for these industrious subterranean mammals who go about their business without the faintest idea of the havoc they are wreaking above ground. They aren't blind, although it's fair to say their eyesight is pretty shocking and instead of external ears, they have internal ears located around their shoulder blades which are accessed via their delicate nostrils. It's quite an impressive olfactory set up.



In early spring they ramp up their excavations in anticipation of reproduction, with the males heading nearer the surface to sniff out the pheromonic scents left

by the females. On a good day these guys can shift up to 540 times their body weight in earth and aside from trying to sniff out a partner the males also increase the volume of their underground runs in the hope that a potential mate might just 'drop in'. Finally, they throw in a bit of squeaking as well. Bearing in mind the females are receptive (oestrus) for a mere 24 hours every year, it's not hard to imagine how desperate the males start to get if their efforts aren't bearing fruit.

All this digging gives them quite an appetite and their major food source is earthworms that drop into their tunnels. An adult mole can eat half its body weight in worms. They also create 'larders' in their runs where worms that have received a well-aimed incapacitating bite are kept for future consumption. If you find yourself hosting one of these velvety miners bear in mind they are brilliant for aerating the soil and that there are less drastic solutions to deterring them than killing them. As always, the internet is your hunting ground for solutions.

Moles aside, other signs of spring are now here. The first snowdrops emerged by Cherington Mill on the 18th Jan and there's a fabulous carpet of winter aconites under a tree in a Sutton garden. The days are getting tantalisingly longer. Walking Bella in the mornings we are now serenaded by the first efforts at a dawn chorus which will be ramped up to a crescendo in May. So far, it's mainly robins and blackbirds with the odd song thrush thrown in, but as the weeks progress, more species will join in. As I write in mid-February the local rooks are already nest building and they could have young even before the end of February.

Everywhere, there are signs that the countryside is starting to wake up and for me there is an intoxicating optimism about the arrival of spring. Locally there are good birds to check out. Head up the north side of the valley behind Sutton – the footpath cuts through Joyners orchard by the church. In the woodland alongside the concrete farm track you have a very good chance of hearing and seeing ravens and there are bullfinches in the hedgerows of the fields beyond. There's also a stunningly smart grey wagtail hanging out in the roadside ditch by the distillery and if you can't find it there try the footpath across the field to the back of Stourton Mill – it's often in the bit of flood water by the first kissing gate.

Give it a go, use it as an excuse to get out, the fields and woods around our villages are teeming with wildlife. Step lightly, don't let the gates slam shut and keep your ears as well as your eyes open and it's amazing what you can see!

David Sewell

WALKING NOTES

Long Compton and District Walkers

Editor: Stuart Brown

Walker's Notes: Distant Thoughts

Gazing out on a grey day with intermittent sleet showers and knowing that outside the temperature has barely reached freezing point thoughts turn to ambitious (and as yet unfulfilled) plans for long-distance walks. Back in Yorkshire we tackled the Lyke Wake Walk (many years ago) and Dales Way, and, in sunnier climes, several in Italy, Morocco and the Azores.

Since moving here, we have noted how often we see signs indicating we are on a stretch of one of the numerous long-distance paths crossing this part of the country. Best known are the Cotswold Way (102 miles from Chipping Campden to Bath) with local stretches featuring Stanton and Winchcombe, and the Thames Path (182 miles from Tower Bridge to the river's source at Cricklade). Both feature within their respective guides' "bite-size chunks" or day circular suggestions.

The (custom) O.S. map centred on Long Compton shows sections of the Macmillan Way (287 miles from Boston, Lincs. to Abbotsbury, Dorset) and the Monarch's Way. This last follows the escape route taken by King Charles II from Worcester via Bristol to West Sussex and must meander dramatically as it measures 615 miles.

Less ambitious and closer to home are the Diamond Way from Moreton (65 miles) and the two routes from Winchcombe to Bourton. Both are said to be 14 miles long but one (the Warden's) takes you through a succession of Cotswold villages and the other (the Windrush) is across the hills.



My research also revealed a relative newcomer, the Shakespeare Way (pictured) founded in 2006 and running 146 miles from the Globe Theatre to Stratford, the playwright's birthplace. However, I confess to some scepticism, having agreed to question the author's true identity at the local History Society in May.

Many more can readily be found on the National Trails website but whether any will be attempted is, I fear, dependent not only upon the weather but perhaps more on ageing limbs. More immediate thoughts focus on the Long Compton Walkers monthly (2nd Tuesday from the Red Lion at 9.30am) somewhat shorter (5 mile) outings with a welcome pub at the end. **DO JOIN US.**

Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

At Acorns Primary, we have officially launched the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project to the children and also to parents/carers who were able to attend our Family Assembly on Friday 31st January. We are very excited to be opening up more of our outdoor spaces to be used at lunchtimes, so children can choose where to play and what to do from a large variety of options.



The first space additional space to open has been the Science Garden which will offer a quiet, social seating space for children; tuff trays for small world/creative play; opportunities for digging, gardening and pond dipping; a space and chairs for anyone wanting to put on plays or shows, and much more! In the coming months, we hope to also open the orchard at lunchtimes and use this valuable space whatever the weather!

As mentioned previously, if there are any villagers who would like to help with any maintenance or resourcing jobs linked directly to the project, please get in touch with the school on admin2639@welearn365.com to arrange a catch up with Mrs Young or Miss Taher. We are also recruiting for a Play and Wraparound Leader, so please see the vacancies section at the end of this article for the weblink.

The new year has also seen the launch of the Junior Duke scheme which aims to encourage independence, confidence, resilience and self-motivation in our pupils. We have been very fortunate to be able to offer this enrichment activity to all children in Years 1 to 6, following generous donations and funding from the PTA. The activities within the programme are all aimed at helping children to learn a large variety of life skills as well as broadening their horizons and understanding other cultures. Each of the awards has a selection of challenges and, in order to complete an award children need to complete 10 challenges; these include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Eco Awareness, Drama, Music, Sport and

other life skills such as cookery and budgeting and will be completed by children outside of school hours with the help of their friends and family, and then shared in school with selected assessors. We have already seen several brilliantly completed journal pages and can't wait for children to share more in the coming months.

In the wider curriculum, children across the school have been taking part in extracurricular activities, trips, performances and competitions. Class 2 (Years 3&4) performed a superb flute concert to their family members, having learnt the instrument for the first half of this academic year with our visiting music teacher from Warwickshire Music. Class 3 (Years 5 and 6) have been on a local village walk for their geography field work and have travelled to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. The children and staff had a fantastic time, and they all came back bubbling with excitement from the day.

Four children across Years 3 to 6 have also taken part in a curling workshop and competition within our cluster of schools, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Class 1 also enjoyed a village walk, looking at the features within our village and came back to produce a map of their route showing what they saw, as part of their topic: Bright Lights, Big City – comparing places in the UK.

Finally, the Stour Federation Trust held a Poetry Slam across the five schools, during which children in individual schools practised a selection of poems, performed and competed against their class members, and then finalists travelled to Kineton Primary for the grand final. The children were excellent and enjoyed this opportunity to visit another of the schools in our Trust, taking great pride in representing Acorns.

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.

Please view DfE Teaching Vacancies for two roles currently available: Play and Wraparound Leader and level 2 SEND Teaching Assistant: <https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/organisations/acorns-primary-school-shipston-on-stour>

Hannah Young

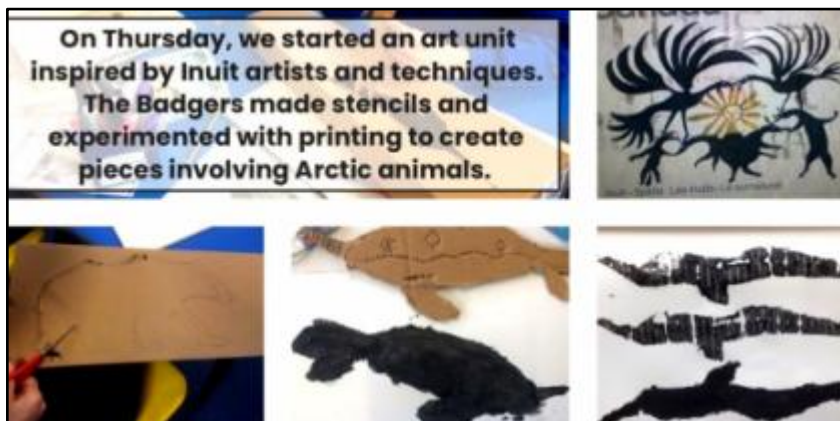
News from Brailes

Spring at Brailes. Topic learning has moved from the Engage stage of learning to the Develop stage where knowledge is acquired and built and skills learnt and practised. There is an energy, joy, determination and a focused learning buzz throughout the school. There is listening to understand, nurturing of relationships, critical thinking and curiosity collaborating proactively to find solutions, looking forward, being hopeful, encouraging one another, growing together and being our best.

In Owls class topic 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' there has been abundant curiosity investigating different types of rock: sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. They have also found out how fossils are formed and enjoyed learning about the incredible dinosaur footprints which hit the headlines earlier this month and were found only a few miles away in Oxfordshire.

In English they have been reading a wonderful new book called, 'The Fossil Hunter' which tells the story of Mary Anning's life and the fascinating discoveries that she made. As one of history's inspirational hidden figures, they have enjoyed learning all about Mary Anning's invaluable contributions to palaeontology and have expressed their understanding by writing diaries from her point of view.

Badgers Class have been brimming with enthusiasm as they embark on an exciting study of the Arctic and Antarctic. Inspired by books *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill and *The Island* by Nicky Singer, they have been captivated by tales of resilience and survival in these extreme environments, eagerly discussing the challenges faced by early explorers and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions. Their curiosity has led them to explore Inuit artwork, carefully recreating traditional designs using a range of materials and



techniques. Through this project, they have started to gain a deeper appreciation of Inuit culture and the ways in which art reflects the harsh yet beautiful landscape of the Arctic.

All children across the school have taken part in the very first Trust-wide Poetry Slam this term. The aim of the poetry slam was to promote poetry as a form of oracy, to give children an opportunity to develop confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way that leads to its life-long enjoyment. They all did so well participating, showing confidence and courage sharing their chosen poem to each other in class, celebrating the remarkable performances of the Brailes Poetry Slam winners from each class who then brilliantly represented Brailes in the Trust final at Kineton CE Primary School with all the winners from the other schools in the Trust.

Heather Childs

VILLAGE NEWS BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON PARISH MEETING ADVANCED NOTICE



The Village Annual General Meeting for Barcheston and Willington will be held on

Thursday April 3rd at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Burmington.

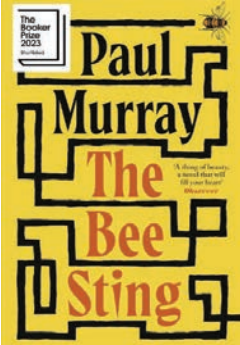
This is an opportunity for you to keep in touch with Village and District affairs, to raise any concerns or opportunities you may have and to become part of the village discussion .

The agenda will include: Election of Officers, Matters arising at the last meeting, Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan, Housing needs survey, update from your Local Councillors and other village business.

Please come and give your support. We look forward to seeing you all.



Book Club



We enjoyed meeting to talk about *'The Bee Sting'* by Paul Murray. It is a long saga-type novel set in a small town outside Dublin. The chapters are focused on each of the main characters, some purposely written as 'stream of consciousness' without any punctuation. Most of those who managed to finish the book had enjoyed it and found the characters real and tragic in different ways. It is beautifully written but is perhaps not for everyone.

Meanwhile, happy reading!

Gillian Cathie



VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Village Breakfast: Burmington Village Hall

Saturday 5th April 2025

PLEASE NOTE – NO THERE WILL BE NO VILLAGE BREAKFAST IN MARCH

To book for April, please call / text Robyn 07966 849 149



Book early to avoid disappointment
Special dietary requirements catered for.
Please state when booking.



**BVH would love to invite you for an evening of prizes
and laughter.**

Saturday March 22nd 7.30pm

6 games for £10.00 Ticket with a £25.00 flyer.

Raffle

Tea / Coffee, cakes and savouries will be available.

Please feel free to BYOB

New Arrivals in Burmington

Three new households arrived in Burmington in the last few months.

One of them, the family who have taken Jane Holder's house - Steve Austin, Emily Cook and son Toby - are keen gardeners which would delight Jane, herself a devoted gardener.



Both Steve and Emily work for Bordon Hill Nursery in Stratford. The firm produces annuals from seeds for wholesale markets all over the country. Steve, who is director of production, specialises in garden and ornamentals whilst Emily takes care of HR and focuses on houseplants.

Toby (7) has happily settled in at Acorns School in Long Compton.

The family are keen bird watchers and have set up numerous bird feeders in the garden.

Steve and Emily comment:

"We have brought with us over 250 plants from the previous house and

our plans for the garden include restoring the vegetable garden, enhancing the front borders with existing plants and making this a haven for bird life, we may make the drive a little wider to park both cars at the front and fence off further up the drive. First of all, we just want to weed and prune the existing garden and wait to see what emerges."

Both Steve and Emily are keen to get involved in village life, once the growing season is over and they have a bit of spare time.

We wish Steve, Emily and Toby every happiness as they settle into life in Burmington

Graham French

Burmington Curry Night

Saturday 26th April

6.30pm

Poppadoms and dips

Mains

Chicken Korma

Chicken Tikka Masala

Pork Vindaloo

Sides

Aloo gobi

Sweet potato and chickpea curry

Roti and Rice

Pudding

Peach and Passionfruit Pavlova

£15 per adult £7.50 for children

Please book on 01608661418



Save the Date

Coffee morning at Burmington Village Hall

Saturday 12th April 10:30 am.
until 1:00 pm

Tombola, Raffle, Cakes and Refreshments– Coffee and Tea

We will also have on display pictures of Burmington in the old days

Proceeds to Burmington Church

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



Coffee Shop

Saturday March 8th

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, so if you want to get involved, please contact me.

Christine Dudfield

Brailles Picturehouse

Saturday 8th March (Week early) - *High Noon*

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start

Former marshal Will Kane is preparing to leave the small town of Hadleyville, New Mexico, with his bride, Amy. He learns that local criminal Frank Miller has been set free and is coming to seek revenge on the marshal who turned him in. When he starts recruiting deputies to fight Miller, Kane is discouraged to find that the people of Hadleyville turn cowardly when the time comes for a showdown. He must face Miller and his cronies alone

Stars : Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Fred Zinnemann, Lloyd Bridges

Future Dates : Saturday 12th April LEE

Saturday 17th May CONCLAVE

Saturday 14th June A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

(Festival time so bring a picnic)

Deirdre and Team

Village Lottery Draw

1st. Stella Mills £80, 2nd. Alan Holmes £45, 3rd. Vanessa Streets £30.

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

Averell Kingston

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675



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 sew a few extra seeds for us please ?

Contact Barbara Babbage on 07876501949 or barbara@cheringtonmill.com

A Winter Wedding in Cherington



George Williams (who grew up at Home Farm in Cherington) and Hattie Robinson (who grew up in London) enjoyed their wedding in Cherington on Saturday 1st February, holding the ceremony in the church, followed by celebrations at The Stourton and Cherington Hall, hosting a grand total of 120 guests.

As George said in his speech, *'it takes a village to raise a child, but we should probably add 'organise a wedding' to that list.'*

We would like to say a huge thank you to Helen and Mat and the team at The Cherington who were so welcoming to the influx of guests having drinks and dinner on Friday, and lunch on Saturday; everyone was raving about the quality of the food so thank you for all of your hard work.

Also, a big thank you to Reverend Ben Dyson who led the service at St John the Baptist, Sarah Scotter and her team for the bellringing, and Jules Harris who led our ramshackle choir and played the organ so beautifully. Sue Bradley,

Stella Mills, Jane Upson, Christine Dudfield and Georgie Morris who put together the gorgeous flowers in the church, thank you so much - we hope you will continue to enjoy them.

The Hall was an excellent venue, it's without a doubt the best village hall in the country, and we want to thank Erry for helping with our booking and everything that came with that.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years, it means a lot and it was lovely to see some of you at lunch on Sunday!

Hattie and George





Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Dates for your diary are Fridays 7th and 21st March 2:00pm to 4:00pm at The Hall.

I'm pleased to advise that we'll be running an Easter Family Prize Bingo at The Hall on Saturday 12th April; doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. Please bring your children and grandchildren.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Vanessa Compton



Cotswolds National Landscape

This list is the walks in the Oxfordshire South Warwickshire area of the Cotswolds

For all the walks available use www.cotswolds-nt-org.uk click on walking and exploring to see Self-Guided Walks and guided walks. You can contact cwv.east.guidedwalks@gmail.com for any queries.

Friday 28th March

Women. Toil and Trouble

Moderate: 6.5 miles 3.5 hours

Start: Ascott under Wychwood Village Shop OX7 6FY

A circular walk from the village with far reaching views.

Please park considerably on the village street



Could spring be just around the corner? Let's hope so! However, February proved to be a good month for Social Saturday with a lot of people wanting to escape the cold and rain. It was a good turn-out with over 50 people visiting the hall to enjoy the delicious homemade savouries and cakes. Just a quick reminder that most of our savouries and cakes are lovingly made by our volunteers, so please do give a generous donation when you arrive so that we can continue to provide this valuable service.

We continue to forge links with The Long Compton Sports Club and the table tennis has proved popular. We will be running more table tennis events as well as The Shipston Town Band event, Quiz Night, Race Night and the proposed Call My Bluff event. There is even talk of an 80s Party Night; for those of us who remember that era or those who just enjoy the music.

A possible Sloe Gin Tasting is also on the agenda.

The next big event is our Quiz Night on 5th April so please do reserve your place by contacting Mo on 07814 802814 or email lcvilleagehall@yahoo.co.uk. Booking is essential for catering purposes so that we can provide you with the legendary cheeseboard as brain food! Finally, a big thanks to everyone for continuing to support the village hall.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee

100 Club

The February Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 8 February and the winners were:

1st Jilly Hancock

3rd Billy Corbyn

2nd Mr and Mrs Battle

4th David Castle

Chris Galloway 684234



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



MARCH	8th Social Saturday, TBC Table Tennis
APRIL	5th Quiz Night, 12th Social Saturday
MAY	10th Social Saturday and AGM, 16th Call My Bluff
JUNE	14th Social Saturday
JULY	12th Social Saturday
AUGUST	2nd Shipston Town Band, 9th Social Saturday
SEPTEMBER	13th Social Saturday, TBC Race Night
OCTOBER	11th Social Saturday, TBC Quiz Night
NOVEMBER	8th Social Saturday, TBC Sloe Gin Tastings
DECEMBER	13th Christmas Tea Party



Join us for

Social Saturday **8th March 2025**

11am - 1pm

Long Compton Village Hall

Free entry - savouries - cake - chat



Join us for

Quiz Night

7pm, Saturday 5th April 2025

Long Compton Village Hall

Enter a team of up to 7 people

Pay bar and cheese sharing board

Entry £10 per head

Booking essential for catering purposes

To book call Mo Read on 07814 802814

Or email lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk



Comptonians

We shall meet at 2.30pm on March 19th at the Village Hall when Bill Cook is giving a talk on "*Agent Sonya our Local Spy.*"

Tea and Cake will also be served.

All welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238

Combined Charities

The trustees of the Combined Charities met recently to approve formal business and consider grant applications received. As the name suggests the charity is an amalgamation of a number of historic funds left for the benefit of villagers. Sadly, it does not generate a huge sum annually and the remit of the charity is to *"To relieve either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parish of Long Compton who are in conditions of need or hardship or distress"*. In recent years grants have primarily been made to the Comptonians Group to support their work providing social activities for the elderly but last year a grant was also made to the Sports Club to help support their work. The trustees have agreed a grant of £600 to the Comptonians but would welcome applications from others meeting the criteria.

The trustees are comprised of the Vicar, a representative of the Parish Council and village residents, currently two but we could appoint a third so if this is of interest, please contact Elizabeth Gilkes who acts as clerk.

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 office@gilkesenterprises.com

Long Compton Chapel

Another busy month for Chapel members, mainly in terms of obtaining quotes from insurers but at long last the dehumidifiers have been removed from both chapel and Manse.

On the basis that life goes on, the flood barriers were removed for our whist drive and there was much chat and laughter as 6 tables enjoyed an evening of play (before flood barriers were reinstalled as another storm was forecast!). The next whist drive will be on 22nd February at 7.00pm, which tables will be switched around ready for our Screen-Printing course on the 24th and 25th February. More reconfiguration then required for the Willow Weaving Courses

on 17th and 18th March. There are a few spaces available on both courses so contact Elizabeth for more information.

Acorns Primary School PTA are organising an Easter Trail on 6th April and will again be using the chapel as their refreshment base. In conjunction with this the chapel will be running a Spring Craft Fair and although we already have some new and old exhibitors signed up, there is still space for a few more so please make contact to express an interest.

The chapel will again be hosting a Plant Sales Table for Shipston Home Nursing in May and welcome all donations – so when sowing seeds or splitting plants do please bear this in mind.

Members continue to meet to share prayers and refreshments and to agree on arrangements for the chapel but anyone is welcome to join us – just message for details

Elizabeth Gilkes (07791 621778) and Sally Franklin

Church Flowers

A plea for some volunteers to help on the Church flower rota. Can you spare a couple of times a year to pop some fresh flowers in a vase/jug to help make the Church welcoming and beautiful. (Vases can be provided) . We don't expect anything exotic and you certainly don't have to be a qualified flower arranger.

Charlotte Field Charlottefield0651@gmail.com or 07792974288.

Long Compton Church Community Coffee

During the winter months (November to March) we will be continuing to meet, not in the church, on the 1st Wednesday of the month, but in people's homes around the village.

Please contact Liz Bradnam on 07975 678625 for more details.

Long Compton Church Electoral Roll

This year all Church of England churches are required to prepare a new Electoral Roll. This roll is the list of parishioners who are members of the Church of England, are baptised and who are either resident in the parish or in the habit of worshipping here. The PCC of Long Compton church is compiling this list in readiness for the church Annual Meeting on 29th April. Everyone who is already on the previous list has to re-apply, as well as those wishing to join.



A notice of the revision with full details is in Long Compton church and there are forms available at the back of the church to take away and fill in. If you think you are eligible and would like to be on the new roll, please take a form and when you have completed it return it to our Electoral Roll officer, Elaine Hobday. As many of you know, Elaine lives at The Old Barn, on the main road opposite the church, and you can put the completed form through her door. We encourage all who are eligible to put their

(Photo by Tony Wells)

names on the roll as this is a way of showing your support for the church in this village and entitles you to take an active part in the election of the PCC and its officers, should you so wish.

Thank you very much.

Elaine Hobday and Jill Kirby, St Peter and St Paul Long Compton PCC



Final Update for 2024 Poppy Appeal

I am delighted to report that, following news from the British Legion that 3389.00 was raised from BACs donations, the final total for the Long Compton District was £3684.85. This is a record amount for the area, so I must again thank all who donated, and all our volunteers who helped achieve such an excellent figure.

David Whatley- Appeal Organiser

VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

The February Reading Room Draw will take place at the end of February, to give villagers time to return their draw renewals for 2025. February and March winners will be announced in the next issue.

Jenny Scrivener

Jumble Sale



We're delighted to say that we had a very successful sale at St Michael's on Saturday 8 February with a lot of keen visitors and very good sales. There will be a full report in next month's issue, once proceeds have been worked out.

Thank you very much to everyone who donated items to sell, cakes for the tea and cake stall, to everyone who helped run stalls, and to those who helped with the setting up and clearing after, all very much appreciated.

Sophie Corlett

WARNING

This is the scene from a recent waste collection from Whichford, where a fire was sparked in the rubbish apparently by only a small lithium battery, just up the hill from Peckett's Piece, with the fire brigade having to come out. Do all please make sure that rubbish is disposed of/recycled correctly.



WASP Events



Thank you to those who made it to our two recent events. Many thanks also to the author James Macdonald Lockhart, for a fascinating and well-attended talk on his book *Wild Air: In Search of Birdsong*, back in mid-December.

In the New Year we spent a cold January evening stargazing outdoors with Robin



Smitton from the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group, when we were blessed with a clear sky and plenty of stars. Robin brought along his telescope so everyone could get a really good look. Many thanks to Robin, and to the Kiln Shed for the essential fire pit.

WASP

VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The February winners were as follows.

1st – Christopher Wolverton 2nd – Sue Elliot

3rd – Geoff Shuttleworth

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

Please Support the Save The Fox and Hounds Pub Campaign

Following bitterly disappointing and devastating news that the appeal decision by the Planning Inspectorate has allowed the residential development to proceed, a claim for a Planning Statutory Review has been served on all relevant parties to quash this decision. This is the only means available to prevent losing the pub for ever.

The grounds for this claim are the mode of determination where a written procedure was used not a hearing or inquiry given the significant level of local interest and also, material consideration was not taken into account as there are 2 current buyers for the pub.

Whilst this 1st stage of the claim has been funded by the campaign, further legal expenses will be incurred and hence, a GoFundMe fundraiser has been set up and can be accessed from the campaign web site www.savethefoxandhounds.org.uk. In just 2 weeks, half of the £20,000 target has been reached, so huge thanks for all your support and donations made!

We really will appreciate any further donations, no matter how small or large, made to allow the continuation of this legal action.

Thank you so much

Save The Fox and Hounds Pub Campaign

Burns Night Celebrations

On Saturday evening (1 February), some 45 guests gathered at the village hall for an evening celebrating all things Scottish. Everyone enjoyed a haggis feast provided by Fionna Shilling of Little Wolford, and after the eating, whisky was drunk and merriment provided by the customary toasts to the lassies and laddies, and by recitals of Robert Burns's poetry. Ceilidh band Brimstone, led by Keith Finlay, set the scene for the evening by playing in the haggis and afterwards encouraged everyone onto the dance floor to work away their excesses with some energetic Scottish dancing. It was such a fun event, and a rousing success raising a whopping £760.00 for the village hall!

Heartfelt thanks go to the volunteers and to all those who contributed time and money to achieve such a great outcome. The event was so well enjoyed that there have already been calls to run it for a third time next year, so watch this space....!



Dark Sky Discovery Site for The Wolfords

Robin Smitten from Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomers gave a slide show and talk at the Wolfords village hall on Friday 7 February to encourage us to apply for the Wolfords to be a Dark Skies Discovery Site (DSDS).

Avoiding the obvious problems of weather and light pollution we have probably one of the best sites in the south of England. There are only two DSDS in the Cotswolds, the Rollright Stones, which received the designation in 2014 and more recently, Long Compton recreation ground. The Wolfords would be a welcome addition and is probably as good.

The star patterns have been important to man for thousands of years, it is thought the wonderful paintings in Lascaux's caves from 20,000 years ago have depictions of the night sky. Dark skies are important to wildlife and local eco systems and discouraging overuse of lighting will reduce electricity costs.



Even in an area as good as here or The Rollrights there is still sky glow from the local towns, Banbury, Chipping Norton and Shipston, if we can spread Dark Sky sites further, light pollution will be controlled for future generations.

An official DSDS means that every planning application in the area has to take this into account. DSDS does not mean a ban on all exterior lighting, but it does

mean that lighting should be carefully considered, cowlis can be used to direct lighting downwards onto the desired area, while time switches and movement monitors can be used to minimize overuse. All the local councils covering this area have Dark Sky policies as well as government bodies such as the Environment Agency and NGO's such as CPRE.

To qualify for a DSDS, we must provide a site that is publicly available and if possible wheelchair friendly, the village hall car park will probably be the initial suggestion with the church another possibility.

From the proposed site you should be able to see at least 7 stars within the main stars of Orion constellation which would give a 1* rating, if you can see the Milky Way we should get a 2* rating. The Wolfords should clear these requirements quite easily.

The weather on the evening of the meeting was particularly unpleasant so we were unable to look at the sky but Robin has promised to come back in the spring with his telescope to help us appreciate the night sky.

The Wolfords JPC is intending to apply for this designation in the near future



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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.

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. £12:00 per serving

We will also be running our raffle with lots of prizes - tickets £1:00 per strip or 6 for £5:00

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