

THE LINK

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

JULY 2019

70 pence



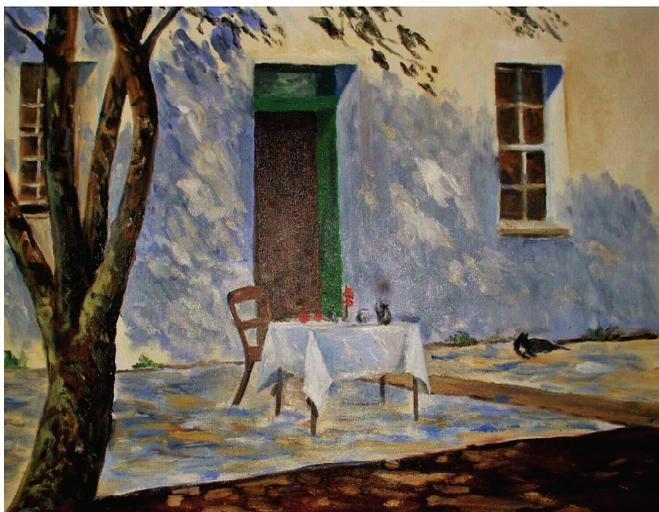
■ BARCHESTON with WILLINGTON ■ BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH
■ BURMINGTON ■ CHERINGTON with STOURTON ■ LONG COMPTON
■ WHICHFORD and ASCOTT ■ THE WOLFORDS

EVENTS DIARY

Contact: The Editor
Email: editor@swlink.org.uk

July (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Tue	02	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Wed	03	Wolfords WI, Wolfords VH	19.30
Thurs	04	North Cotswold Farmers Market, The Hall, Cherington	18.00
Fri	05	Pop up Pub, The Green, Great Wolford	18.30
Sat	06	Great Rollright Market, Great Rollright VH	09.30
Sat	06	Save The Fox and Hounds 'Next Steps' meeting, The Wolfords VH	10.30
Sat	06	Summer Fete with Dog Show, Long Compton VH	14.00
Sat	06	Whist at Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	19.30
Sun	07	Long Compton Ch Lych Gate open	
Sun	07	Organ Recital, Barcheston Ch	15.30
Tue	09	Long Compton and District Walkers depart Red Lion car park	09.30
Tue	09	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Thurs	11	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	13	Brailles Mechanical and Craft Society, Trip to Gloucester Docks	
Sat	13	Whichford and Ascott Photograph Exhibition opens, Ch	11.00
Sun	14	Whichford and Ascott Photograph Exhibition (second day), Ch	11.00
Tue	16	Long Compton Garden Club, trip to Kifsgate Court Gardens, from VH	13.00
Tue	16	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Fri	19	Pop up Pub, The Green, Great Wolford	18.30
Sat	20	The Coffee Shop at The Hall, Cherington	10.30
Sun	21	Ebenezer Drop In Chapel	
Wed	24	Floral Lunch Event, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	12.00



Afternoon Siesta by Stourton Artist, Colin Beckett

LINK cover: *Sunlight in Whichford Wood*, by Janet Deller. Cover design KMS Litho, Hook Norton.

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to editor@swlink.org.uk. LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.



@TheSW7LINK



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



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Monday 15 July

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EDITORIAL

LINK Talk

We have to say goodbye to Jenny Banbury our Burmington Editor who is stepping down as she takes on a full-time job. Many thanks for the time you have spent with us Jenny. This leaves the post of Burmington Editor open to any readers in the area who would like to take this on. Please contact me for further details.

There is also the need for another gardening writer to join Margaret and Miranda. They have kindly stepped up their contributions, but another writer to share the load would be much appreciated. Whilst I'm on the subject of volunteers for The LINK, how about someone from Little Wolford to take on the Village Editor role? It's really not much more than taking care of the village notices in your parish Magazine. I know that The LINK's not quite the same as your nice new notice board, but it would be helpful to have someone in the village just to encourage items from Little Wolford. Please do have a think about all these opportunities.

I'm delighted to be able to say that we've found a replacement proof-reader. Alan McKelvey from Long Compton has stepped forward and now joins the LINK Team. Alan has kindly taken on the job immediately and so has joined me in knowing exactly what's in The LINK before it arrives through the letterbox. Thank you Alan.

Keith Murphy editor@swlink.org.uk

The LINK Crossword



Solution for the June
LINK Crossword

Recognition for Police Volunteers

Horses, Harriet and Bear, having a look at the certificates received by their riders, Mounted Police Support Volunteers, Mary Dawkes and Mark Palmer from Long Compton.

The awards were presented by Superintendent Ben Smith, of Warwickshire Constabulary, at the Police Headquarters in Leek Wootton during National Volunteers Week. Together they have clocked up over 1500 hours of voluntary service since the horses & riders passed their joint training courses at Moreton Morrell College in 2014. They are often seen on mounted patrol around the rural areas of South Warwickshire. Both on and off-road, they provide a valuable contribution to our local community. Linked to Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team Police they typically report suspicious vehicles, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, missing drain covers, fallen trees and other road or bridleway hazards. They have occasionally found odd things including keys, mobile phones (all returned to grateful owners), stolen documents & property stuffed in hedges, directed lost walkers and found lost dogs! Also, they use their road side vantage position to remind drivers not to use their mobile phone at the wheel, when they are spotted doing so, and promote safer rural roads for all users. Both Mark and Mary have other commitments but find the volunteering with the Police is enjoyable, flexible, interesting and rewarding.

Important reminders on our rural roads:

For riders please take a look at the British Horse Society website bhs.org.uk/dead-slow Always wear hi-viz clothing and put hi-viz equipment on your horse – even on bright days, it is surprising how well a horse can be camouflaged against a hedge.



Mary and Mark receive their awards from Superintendent Ben Smith.

For motorists, from the Highway Code - Be particularly careful of horse riders especially when overtaking. Always pass wide and slowly...remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard.

Shipston Area Flood Action Group

The Group (SAFAG) was formed in Feb 2014 following a recruitment drive by the National Flood Forum (NFF) and Warwickshire County Council. Since our formation, we have raised the funding and completed 350 installations in the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire part of our catchment area which extends to 180 square kilometres and also embraces parts of Oxfordshire.



A committee has been established; many members were flood victims and also retired business people. SAFAG followed the well-established NFF formula of meeting with the key Agencies, County, District, Town and Parish Councils, Highways and Water Authorities and the Environment Agency, on a quarterly basis. This confirmed that as a pressure group, we had greater strengths than as individual flood victims, where all we achieved was 'sympathy and sandbags'.

It was obvious from the outset that the Environment Agency would not sanction funding for any hard engineering solutions to resolve our flooding problems, due to the costs/benefit ratios involved. We therefore had to follow the Natural Flood Management route, which entailed visits to established schemes in North Wales, North Yorkshire, Stroud in Gloucestershire, Witney and Shipton under Wychwood in Oxfordshire. These visits highlighted both appropriate and inappropriate measures for our catchment area, as well as building a network of helpful and willing contacts.

We have helped to instigate a review and improvement to the maintenance programme of the ancient drainage system in Shipston town centre. Similarly, Severn Trent Water upgraded the capacity of the pumping station in Newbold on Stour, which pumped raw sewage into the River Stour at times of abnormal rainfall.

We are now a fully constituted organisation, with our financial transactions administered via Shipston Town Council. Our members also report our progress and activities to the Parish and Town Councils on a monthly basis and are available to the public to answer individual flood related concerns. SAFAG meet regularly. If you wish to raise or discuss any issues for the meetings, please contact Len Grey (see below for details). Further information is available from the SAFAG website - <http://www.shipstonfloodaction.org.uk/index.html>

Len Grey, 01789 450347 or 07831 620039 email: lengrey510@gmail.com



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

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

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

INFO LINK

Contact: **The Editor**
Email: editor@swlink.org.uk

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

Shipston 'tip' is open Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 3.15 pm and 8.30 am to 12.15 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Bank Holidays.

DATES AND FETES

Please send us the dates of all your significant 2019 social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

06 July	Long Compton Summer Fete with Dog Show Long Compton Lych Gate Opens; 7 July, 4 August, 1 September - 2.30 pm
24 July	Ebenezer Chapel – Floral Lunch
02 August	Launch Party – FLCC Photo Exhibition, Long Compton Church (6.00 pm)
03 August	Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Country Fair and Flower Show
17 August	Table Top Sale, Ebenezer Congregational Chapel
26 August	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete
14 September	Barcheston with Willington Fete
22 -24 Nov	Christmas Tree Festival, Long Compton Church

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Chipping Norton, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 26 London Road, Mass on Saturday evening, 6.00 pm and Sunday morning, 11.00 am. Tel: 642703

Stow-on-the-Wold, Our Lady and St Kenelm, 5 Back Walls, Sunday 9.00 a.m. and Our Lady Help of Christians, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Tel: 01608 674354

Brailes/Shipston/Kineton Masses: *Saturday* - Vigil 5.00 pm at SS Peter and Paul, Brailes. *Sunday* - 9.00 am at Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston and 11.00 am at St. Francis of Assisi, Kineton. Tel: 01608 685259

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

LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Minister Marion Hartwell attends to conduct seasonal services. For details of these, and interim services and events, contact Secretary Sally Franklin 01608 684739 or email longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

Broad Campden, Friends Meeting Hse, Broad Campden, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 10.30 am

Ettington, Friends Meeting Hse., Old Halford Rd, Ettington, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 11.00 am

Sibford, Friends Meeting Hse., Sibford Gower, Meeting for worship: Sunday at 10.30 am

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

Barcheston St Martin

Churchwardens David Hodges 664310
 Secretary Nick Jackson 684846
 Treasurer David Cleave 666002

Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas

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

Long Compton St Peter and St Paul

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

Wolford St Michael & All Angels

Churchwardens Janet Piller 674396
 John Wrench 674389
 Secretary
 Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence

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

Cherington St John the Baptist

Churchwardens Valerie Flint 685022
 Roger Maycock 686404
 Secretary Paul Levitch 686353
 Treasurer Rory McLeod 686278

Whichford St Michael

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479
 Hilary Blakemore 684142
 Secretary Hilary Blakemore 684142
 Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

Parish Councils

Barcheston
 Barton-on-the-Heath
 Burmington
 Cherington
 Long Compton
 Whichford
 Great Wolford
 Little Wolford Parish Meeting

Chair

David Sutton
 James Coker (674601)
 Robert Hutchings (661496)
 Philip Townsend (686529)
 Bill Cook (684771)
 Geoff Bromage (684454)
 Lynn Mathias (674247)
 Ralph Döring (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)
 Colin Maynell (674104)
 Meeting Sec. – Graham French (239032)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Janet Piller (674396)

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



*Happy
 Birthday!*
 July Birthdays



1st	Lauren Aubrey	Stourton	15
1st	Faith Upward	Long Compton	15
4th	Oscar Plaice	Burmington	18
13th	Arthur Seys	Willington	6
21st	Phoebe Williams	Willington	10
26th	Jake Fairbrother	Stourton	15
26th	Ryan Baldwin	Stourton	11

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

After experiencing a hot, dry summer last year, collecting and conserving water has been very much on my mind. Although we had comparatively dry weather until the beginning of June, as I write these notes we have had many days of heavy showers and the ground is at last wet to a reasonable depth. Take advantage of such weather to weed and then mulch with garden compost or bark to a depth of 2-3 inches to try to retain the moisture and prevent evaporation. Of course, the weather in July will dictate how much watering you need to do. Early flowering shrubs such as camellias and hamamelis need water in summer to form next year's buds and clematis plants, especially those grown close to walls, need plenty of water to help prevent powdery mildew. Pots and hanging baskets will also need regular watering.

The early growth spurt of hardy perennials will have probably slowed down now, but the hopefully warmer days and warm evenings of July will mean that the growth of tender plants like dahlias will really take off. To keep them flowering, dead head continually. Similarly keep cutting the sweet pea flowers. To maintain the blooms on roses, prune spent flower heads down to just above the next leaf axil to encourage new side shoots. Roses are greedy plants so feed them this month with rose food which is formulated to provide nitrogen for leaves, phosphate for roots and high levels of potash for the flowers. Hanging baskets and pots should receive regular liquid feed as should tomatoes. You can make your own food by chopping up comfrey leaves, placing them in a container with a weight and after a few days liquid will build up. Dilute this one part liquid to twenty parts water. While tending tomatoes, remember to pinch out any side shoots to keep the vigour in the trusses on the main stems.

Semi-ripe cuttings of shrubs can be taken from now until autumn. Suitable plants are skimmia, lavender, berberis and escalonina. The wood should have started to harden at the base. Wisteria is best pruned twice a year to control its size and summer pruning involves cutting back the whippy stems to 5 or 6 leaves. It is a good idea to check plants regularly for pests and diseases such as lily beetle, caterpillars and aphids. Apple trees are susceptible to woolly aphids which are tenacious and need to be scrubbed or hosed off. If they are on the soft shoot tips the leaves can be cut off and disposed of carefully.

While cutting back spent flowers, some seed heads can be left to ripen for collection or for birds. You can prolong the growth of geraniums by cutting back foliage very hard and new leaves will rapidly grow and more flowers may be produced. Bearded irises can be divided after flowering to increase your stock.

If you grow vegetables, you will have been harvesting salad crops for some time. The first early potatoes can be harvested now and second earlies towards the end of the month. Dig up garlic when the leaves have turned yellow and flopped. Leeks and cauliflower seedlings can be planted out, the latter firmed well into the soil. There is also still time to sow carrots and beetroot.

I hope this summer proves to be a successful growing season with not too many weather extremes.

Margaret Welsh

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – JULY 2019 CHURCH SERVICES

	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
SW7 Sunday Worship	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/LM)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (SPA) 4:00pm Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/LM)
July 1 ⁴ th Sunday after Trinity	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Village Service (SPA)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>
July 21 st Sunday after Trinity	<i>(Support Cherington)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	10:30am All Age/ Pet Service (EH)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (AW/CLW)	<i>(No Informal Service)</i>	<i>(Support Cherington or Burmington)</i>	10:30am Ecumenical Service at Little Wolford Village Hall (SPA/CLW)
July 28 th Sunday after Trinity				10:30am CW Benefice Communion (SPA/AW)			
August 4 th Sunday after Trinity	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD) <i>(No Informal Service)</i>	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)

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

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

South Warwickshire Seven Sponsored Walk



On Saturday 15 June a group of men, from the South Warwickshire Seven group of churches, walked 15 miles in a day to raise money for North Cotswold Community Awareness. We started in Barcheston walking through Burmington before stopping for a coffee break at Trudy's Tea Garden in Cherington. We then walked on to Whichford where we had an excellent lunch in the Norman Knight. The next stage took us to Long Compton and after a drink at the Red Lion we walked up the hill to Barton. We finished by walking from Barton to Great Wolford. The weather was dry in the morning but the heavens duly opened in the afternoon as we were walking between Long Compton and Barton. By the time we

arrived in Great Wolford at the end of the walk we were all completely soaked. Our spirits were revived by the excellent hospitality of June Dyer who provided us with warm towels from the Aga and an excellent tea. Many thanks June.

The final total raised for Community Awareness was £1434.00. With gift aid included this comes to £1786.25. A big thank you to all those who gave so generously. Your donation will make a difference to families in our local community.

Here is extract from the website of Community Awareness giving details of the work that they do:

It is a shocking fact that even in the idyllic surroundings of the North Cotswolds, rural poverty sadly exists. Children go without basics such as warm clothing, fresh food and a bed to sleep on. Isolated village families on low incomes are forced to cope with inadequate public transport which translates into difficulties in accessing health and welfare support for parents and their children. This in turn leads to a variety of social and financial problems. Through the network of primary school Parent Support Advisers, health visitors, district nurses, and Home-Start, Community Awareness provides help in the form of children's clothing, school uniform, shoes, books, stationery, toys, baby equipment and household goods. Assistance is given with funding when professional counselling or therapy is required for psychologically damaged children, or when it is considered a child would benefit from social interaction or an unaffordable school trip.



If you would like to donate to this excellent charity in the future then please go to;
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charityweb/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1017319>

Many thanks.

Ben Dyson (Associate Minister)

Deanery News

Sarah Edmonds, Rector of Shipston will take over as your Area Dean on 1 July; please do pray for her and support her as you, very wonderfully, have done for me. Sarah's contact details are - Reverend Sarah Edmonds, 01608 661210 (sarah_edmonds@btconnect.com)

Deanery events take a break over the summer, as we concentrate on holidays, holiday clubs and a myriad of village events. The next formal Deanery occasion will be Deanery Synod on Tuesday 15 October at 7.30 pm in Brailes Church. Richard Cooke will be coming to introduce us to the Gospel of Matthew, from which many of the lectionary readings for the next church year are taken. Richard is a brilliant speaker, and I know will bring Matthew alive for us. All are very welcome – you don't have to be a member of Synod to come and hear him.

Wherever you are, whatever the weather, enjoy your summer and make the most of God's wonderful creation!



Jill Tucker (Rural Dean)

God's Minions

God's Minions Youth Group would like to say a big thank you to all those that supported the youth group car wash in May; the money raised helps young people in SW7 Benefice to attend Christian camps, where they have a great action packed holiday and learn more of what it is to follow Jesus.

If you know of any young people who might be interested and would like to know more, please contact any of the SW7 Ministry team.

Kim Petty



South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

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

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - Email: officesw7@gmail.com

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 – 4 pm

Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

Annual Parish Assembly

On Wednesday 22 May, Long Compton Parish Council held their Annual Parish Assembly at the village hall. To celebrate the village centenary, all village groups were invited to bring along items for collective display representative of their interests in 1919, fifty years later in 1969, and 100 years later in 2019. We have lots of old headteacher logs from the 1800s and 1900s in school. In these amazing books, we see that many lessons were based around gardening, which tied in very nicely with Class 3's topic in 2019 – *Allotment*. Mrs. Young and Class 3 showcased their *Allotment* work alongside the headteacher logs at the Parish Assembly. Mrs. Young was very proud of our children at the centenary celebrations. Acorns also replicated the Warwickshire Rural Community Council's Children's Village Survey from 1969 as an online questionnaire in Google Forms, but keeping the same questions.



Urban Strides



Acorns and Brailes pupils embraced their inner groove by taking part in an *Urban Strides* dance workshop, having been hugely inspired by the *Urban Strides* street dance performances at Young Voices in January.

Urban Strides are THE Street Dance Specialists. The Crew were the first crew in the world to open the Royal Variety Performance in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and perform arena shows each year at prestigious

venues such as The O2 Arena, Royal Albert Hall and, of course, Young Voices at The Genting Arena in Birmingham.

The children learnt key moves and cues for break dancing, hip hop and locking; the children then perfected a choreographed routine, performing together as a group as well as participating in a dance off in small groups. A thoroughly enjoyable and memorable experience for all.

Muck, Mess and Mixtures

Yuck! Acorns Class 1 dived straight into their *Muck, Mess and Mixtures* topic and have not been afraid to have a go. They kicked off by putting their mixing skills and taste buds to the test by making four different flavoured smoothies from scratch. Children peeled, chopped, sliced, crushed, scooped and much, much more before sending their concoctions to the blender. Of course, pupils had to try them afterwards. The children were very determined to try new fruits and were interested in their smell and texture as well as the taste. The smoothie that got voted Number One was the orange and peach. Class 1's baking/cooking adventures did not stop there! They went on to make banana loaves, which were scrumptious. The children were careful to weigh out their ingredients and were brilliant at using a range of verbs to describe their cooking actions. Once the ingredients were mixed, they were very careful to investigate the mixture and see how it had changed once it had baked.

Spelling Bee

Many congratulations to Bishop Team who were the overall winners for this year's Brailes Spelling Bee, scoring the most points during the first round and the final. First round winners from each year group from each team took part in a thrilling Spelling Bee final in the hall with all their team members watching and cheering the finalists on.

Very well done to all the finalists for their efforts learning the spellings and the courage and calmness they showed in the spell-off. Each phase final went to a sudden death spell-off!



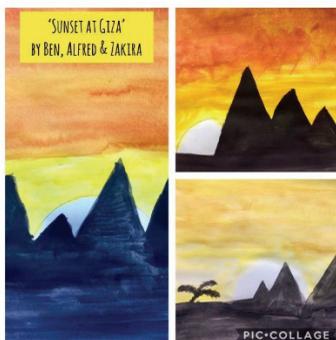
Playing in All Weathers



The recent spells of sunshine enabled Squirrels class at Brailes School to get planting and encourage the 'Growth' that they are investigating this term. Children have planted some seeds straight into the ground and have seen the sweetcorn already begin to show seedlings as well as some seeds into pots ready to plant out when they are a little stronger. The children have also planted two giant pumpkin seeds as part of the RHS competition. We hope that they grow well in our Outdoor Learning Area soil.

The sunshine enabled the class to make the most of the water area, creating different combinations with the guttering pipes and investigating the gradient of the guttering that best suits the movement of water and boats. They also observed that some of the cars would travel along the guttering without the need for water. The sun, however, did not shine every day and we also have enjoyed some very muddy play in the mud kitchen with the blue boat 'painted' brown by some of the more daring of the group.

Pharaohs



Badgers class have been immersing themselves in their 'Pharaohs' topic. They have been finding out who the 'Pharaohs' were and the different dynasties they belonged to. Children have explored the Ancient Egyptian belief system and how they spent much of their lives preparing for their death and the 'afterlife' that they believed would follow. A visit to the Egyptian galleries at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see and handle original artefacts that were thousands of years old really helped bring these ancient people to life for the class by seeing both the objects that they would have used in their everyday lives - such as mirrors, hair combs and jewellery, - and the objects designed to carry them through to the afterlife - such as a sarcophagus, the 'Book of the Dead' and shabti servants.

And...Congratulations to Mrs. Salmon, Nursery/Reception teacher at Brailes C of E Primary School for completing the London Marathon in 4 hours 55 minutes and 30 seconds, with almost £3,000 raised for charity.

**Saturday
September
14th 2019**

Bard's Walk
An 8-mile walk with
beautiful views.

Bard's rides

**Bike rides round the
wonderful South Warwickshire
countryside, with a route for
gentle family cycling (18 miles)
and a 40-mile route for
enthusiasts.**

Online Registration, Cycling or Walk
Adults: £15, Juniors (12-16 yrs): £6
Family/Group of up to 5: £38

On the day Registration, Cycling or Walk
Adults: £18, Juniors (12-16 yrs): £8
Family / Group of up to 5: £42

Start times

40-mile Challenge Cycle Ride:
Starts 9.00am (Newbold Village Hall)

18-mile Family Cycle Ride:
Starts 10.30 (Newbold Village Hall)

8-mile Walk:
Starts 10.30 (from All Saints Church, Honington)

Breakfast and Refreshments
from 8.30am at Newbold-
on-Stour Village Hall.

Finish and Barbecue for
cyclists and walkers, plus
friends and families, in the
grounds of Honington
Hall from 1pm to 5pm.
Cash bar for soft drinks
and barbecue food.

Free Parking

Sign up now!

More information: bardsride.co.uk
Registration: bardsride.co.uk/signup

bardsride.co.uk

Have a great day out and help preserve our architectural heritage for future generations. Proceeds to the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust and local churches designated by participants.



A subject regarding nature I have neglected over the years is that of forestry and the creation and maintenance of woodland. I know I once mentioned that the British Isles is the least forested country in Europe. I must now then rectify this omission. There are two main bodies who are devoted to the creation and maintenance of woodland: they are the charity *Creating the National Forest* and the *Woodland Trust*. In addition, of course, several other bodies contribute to these purposes, including the *National Trust* and the many smaller county natural trusts who own and maintain woodland. The National Forest was founded 25 years ago and has covered 200 square miles with woodland, planting 8.9 million trees, increasing forest cover from 6% to 20%. The *Woodland Trust* offers advice and support to landowners on whose land trees are planted, as well as helping to control pests and diseases. Moreover, it helps restore areas that support wildlife, so have created such habitats over 4,000 acres of wetland and grassland. Public access to several areas is encouraged, as is instruction and aid in schools and classrooms. Many woodland and forestry jobs have been created with a future potential career in these occupations.

The *Woodland Trust* specifically creates and protects existing woodlands. Over 43 million trees have been planted and over 1,000 woods saved and 7,000 acres of woods restored (two very near to us – one at Kineton and the other at Ilmington). The Trust has ongoing battles with local and government authorities when it comes to the question of destruction of ancient woodland – that is woodland thought to be over 300 years old. To destroy such would, of course, mean destroying up to 1,000 years of ecological growth and progression. Other ecological developments include the creation of hedgerows. The Trust claims to have built enough hedgerows to line the M25! There is, it seems, a problem with imported saplings and diseases are indeed being brought in, to the extent that those planting fresh woodland are strongly urged to use homegrown saplings. So it can be seen from all the above that activity in the creation of our wooded countryside is strong and well-supported. Let us remember too that our very existence depends on trees and plants.

Recently, a friend looked out of her sitting room window and to her surprise saw a pure white bird sitting on her lawn. Now I know of only two white wild birds: swans and little egrets. Swans fly in flocks so one is hardly likely to disengage itself to stand on somebody's lawn but I don't see little egrets at all in this area so are there any? A call to Banbury ornithological society affirmed indeed there are. So somewhere our lone egret has companions it had momentarily deserted. Interestingly, this bird has only in quite recent years been a resident in this country. A bird book I purchased longer ago than I care to tell you, described it as 'an infrequently recorded wanderer' whilst another almost as old that it is 'a rarity in Britain till recently'. I saw my very first one on a Devon shoreline. It would seem that lakes and rivers over the country now enjoy flocks of them. Yet another immigrant like the coloured dove that has decided to enjoy our countryside.

Sitting one late afternoon in the garden, we watched a group of flowers as their petals gradually folded and closed. Plants, unlike us, do not have clocks or watches with which

to tell the time, so they have to use their own devices. In their case, they have genes controlling the sugars regulating the opening and shutting of petals. Switched on, the petals receive more sugar than water and remain open. Switched off and the water is retracted and the petals close. They do so to protect themselves from cold and the intrusion of undesirable night flying pollinators.

'What do ants eat?' was a question suddenly levelled at me recently without warning. Well, we know how fond they are of 'milking' aphids, which must be a benefit to gardeners. They will also help soil formation by feeding on organic waste. They will, it seems, eat almost anything from greenery, rotting vegetation, and even dead wood. Whatever we think of them, they are perhaps the most highly organised creatures on earth, and major survivors. The other day I lifted a plant out of a pot and there watched as a myriad of ants already carrying their eggs as they made off to a place of safety. Already it seemed they had places for such interruptions, for when I went back to pick up the pot not one was to be seen, all now safely together with their next generation being installed in a pre-arranged place where I am sure they still are. Clearly, they are as I say, major survivors.

Tony Partridge

Hedgehog Update

Throughout June, I'm pleased to say that the garden continued to be visited by 'my' hedgehog, and occasionally I spotted a couple appear together. However, much to my disappointment, there has been no sign (yet!) of baby hoglets in the garden.

By July the first hedgehog young are emerging. Young hedgehogs which were born in June are now three, possibly four, weeks old and they start to accompany the mother on foraging trips away from the nest. They accompany her to learn what is good to eat; the most important invertebrates and creepy crawlies in their diet are worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes all supplemented by fallen fruits. The young then return to the safety of their nest where they will also suckle the mother's milk. Apparently, female hedgehogs have five pairs of teats.



I wonder how we can help hedgehogs this month? As well as continuing to take care when mowing and strimming areas of grass that might shelter baby hoglets, we can keep putting out water for them (especially in hot weather); encourage wildlife to thrive by leaving areas of natural undergrowth; and when putting out food, we can replicate their natural diet by providing a mix of meat-based dog and cat food, hedgehog food, or cat biscuits. Don't worry - studies suggest that hedgehogs only seek food in gardens as a supplement to their natural diet, and there is no evidence to suggest you are causing them to become dependent on you for food – this means you are free to go on holiday!

As ever, if you find a sick or injured hedgehog please call the BHPS for advice on 01584 890801. The Tiggywinkles Hospital in Haddenham, have an emergency service on 01844 292292 for hedgehogs and other injured wildlife.

Louise Turner

A Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who has been in touch with me during the diagnosis of and surgery for lung cancer. This came out of the blue during recovery from other surgery. I am really overwhelmed by all the kindness and concern shown for me by so many people in the Benefice, but especially my friends at St. Martin's. In addition, Stuart has visited me and been a tower of strength. People often say that they want to do 'something that makes a difference'. Each one of you has made a difference to me and given me the strength to get through some dark days. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

After I had sent this piece to The LINK, I was given the all clear for the lung cancer. 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow' – yes indeed!

Annette Johnston

Dedication of the new organ

Sunday 19 May saw a large congregation gathered in St. Martin's for a special service of Choral Evensong. It was led by the Bishop of Warwick, and a high point of the service was the dedication of our new organ by the Bishop. Nigel Howells directed a choir of ten very accomplished singers placed just in front of the organ, which was played by Paul Hale, making a welcome return visit after his recital two weeks earlier.

It was a truly beautiful service. The choir sounded superb, making the most of the church's fine acoustic, and Paul's accompaniment was, naturally, sympathetic and most effective. He does, after all, know this instrument better than anyone else, having been involved with it as consultant from start to finish. We all enjoyed listening to the choir singing the canticles, responses and the very aptly chosen Psalm 150 about the praise of God, including with an evocative selection of musical instruments. The anthem was by H. Balfour Gardiner, a setting in Latin of a hymn from the Office of Compline. The congregation, not to be outdone, joined enthusiastically in the hymns.

It was fitting that the first lesson was read by Peter Britton, who as one of our church wardens, was involved with the organ project from its inception until he retired a few years ago. It could not have been more appropriate that the other was read by David Hodges, who was Peter's fellow warden and now holds that position on his own. The Bishop's sermon had as its theme the gift of music, and the importance of remembering that it is given by God.

Paul's music before the service was a *Psalm Prelude* by Hubert Howells and the voluntary at the end was a jubilant piece by Kenneth Leighton entitled *Paean*. All in all it was a memorable occasion and we are very grateful to all the participants. The organ has been well and truly launched. It even made it onto Twitter with an appreciative tweet by the High Sherriff of Warwick, resplendent in his uniform among the congregation. Whatever next??

David Gardner

Dates for your Diary

The organ recitals on Sunday afternoons for the rest of the year are as follows. All start at 3.30 pm.

7 July	Adrian Moore
4 August	Charles Matthews
1 September	Jonathan Stamp
6 October	Ian Little
3 November	Richard Stephens
1 December	Geoffrey Holroyde

For further information please contact David Hodges at david@famington.co.uk



Wisteria at the Window - Photograph by Chris Mathias

VILLAGE NEWS

BURMINGTON

Email: burmington@swlink.org.uk

Cameo Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club meeting will be held in Burmington village hall on Tuesday 9 July 12 noon for 12.30 pm. All are welcome: most villages in the Benefice are represented in the growing membership. A charge of £4 is made towards expenses and all dietary needs can be met. Please bring your family, friends and children. Transport to and from the village hall can be provided.

Please book with Brenda Fitch on Tel: 664313. The next Lunch Club meetings will be on Tuesdays 13 August and 10 September.

Burmington Village Hall

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6 July 10.30 am – 12.00 noon



Proceeds in aid of Ellen Badger Hospital
redevelopment appeal

For more details tel 661479

Great Rollright - Great Market!

Friendly Local Market & Café

Start your weekend with a delicious cup of fresh coffee and a tasty bacon roll or traybake.

Browse local seasonal produce,
handmade crafts and gifts.

1st Saturday of each month
Great Rollright Village Hall
9:30am - 12:30pm

VILLAGE NEWS

CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: cherington@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 686682

Brailles Picture House

It's our holiday time in July and August. Our line up for September through to November:

Saturday 14 September *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Saturday 19 October *Mary, Queen of Scots*

Saturday 16 November *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*

Possible future titles - *Dumbo*, *The Aftermath*, *Wild Rose*, *Downton Abbey*, and *Red Joan*.

Thank you again for your support. We wish you a great summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

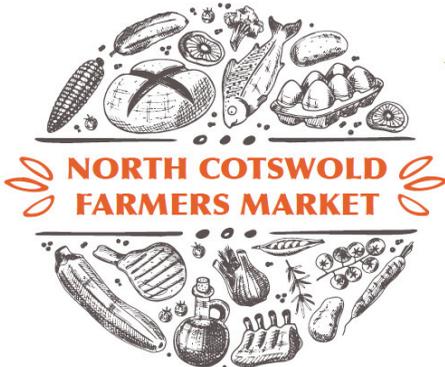
Deirdre Carney and Team

Harvard Krokadiloes

The Harvard Krokadiloes are returning to the village to give a concert in the garden of Jacques House on Wednesday 7 August. The *a capella* singing group sing everything from classic 40s American swing to 50s and 60s rock, along with traditional ballads.

The concert will be at 6.30 pm. Bring your own picnic and chairs. Tickets are £10. Contact Sally Clubley on 685190 or sally.clubley@braidholm.com.

Bar and Hot Supper available



A monthly market every 1st Thursday of the month

from 6pm until 8 pm

@The Hall, Stourton,

Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 5HG



Supported by The Cotswolds Distillery

CHEESE, BREAD, MEAT, LOCAL CRAFTS, CAKES, EGGS,
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CHERINGTON, STOURTON & SUTTON

COUNTRY FAIR & FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 2019
THE CHURCHGROUND - CHERINGTON

BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE TOWNSEND FAMILY

SAT 3RD AUGUST 2019

CAR BOOT SALE

£6
PER CAR
INCLUDING DRIVER
+ ONE OTHER
(ANY OTHER OCCUPANTS
PAY GATE ENTRANCE FEE)

SET UP FROM
12 NOON
FOR SHOW TO
START **1.00PM**

AT THE CHERINGTON
STOURTON & SUTTON

FLOWER SHOW
CHURCH GROUND CHERINGTON

SHOW OPENS 1.00PM
ADMISSION AT GATE
ADULTS £3 • UNDER 5'S FREE

CONTACT NO:
01608 686586
NO TRADE STANDS PLEASE



Brailes Mechanical and Craft Society

Some sixty members were entertained at our June meeting by John Butterworth in his talk entitled *Hitting the Headlines as a Newspaper Editor*. For over an hour, we listened to a fast thinking and talking newspaper editor, and although retired now, the urge to spread the word is still with him.

John has been a journalist for 44 years, and a newspaper editor for 28 of those years. In 1971 he applied for a place on the Daily Mirror training scheme, and during this period met with Marjorie Proops, who was a Mirror executive. He recounted that during this 'grabbing the initiative' period he was put through a series of subtle tests to see if he was a suitable candidate for training. John observed a guy sitting alone at the bar, so approached him and started up a conversation. This is what the paper was looking for. Showing initiative and the need to communicate effectively were critical qualities in getting a good story, and he was offered a place. His career in journalism had begun.

Staffordshire is where he made an initial impact being an editor of the 'Leek Post and Times' newspaper and 'The Stone and Eccleshall Gazette'. This was followed by a period of editorship with the 'Bromsgrove Advertiser', 'Droitwich Spa Advertiser', the 'Shrewsbury Chronicle', and the 'Black Country Bugle'.

In his career, John has interviewed many important household names including Cliff Richard, Sue Barker the former tennis star and Michael Ball the well-known singer.

He related several stories that he had created into headline news during his career. One of the most memorable was the story of the Albanian army captain Berti Dosti, a dedicated communist, and his life under Enver Hoxha, one of the cruelest dictators. Hoxha cut Albania off from the rest of the world for 41 years and proclaimed his country as the world's first atheist state. He destroyed the majority of Christian churches and executed or imprisoned many Christian leaders. Post-communist Albania with its Muslim heritage was dangerous territory for Christians. Meanwhile Captain Dosti (latterly Pastor Dosti), risked his life, as others did, to beam into Trans World Radio, a Christian station based in Monte Carlo. On five nights a week the station broadcast a fifteen-minute programme in Albanian into this secretive and unknown country. This helped lead the new wave of Christian teaching that has swept the country, and he and his colleagues have reached thousands with their Christian message. There is now a church in every community and Dosti's story has become an inspiration. In retirement, John has written the book *God's Secret Listener*, an enthralling story of Dosti who risked everything to spread the word of Jesus.

John was awarded an MBE in 2008 for his services to journalism and in recognition of his charitable work having raised £5m for various community projects. He reflected on one of these projects; his overland journey to Nepal with seven friends, crossing through Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, a journey of 8,500 miles to deliver a Land Rover to a Nepalese leprosy hospital. By the end of the evening, we could appreciate what a fascinating career John Butterworth had enjoyed, and how many remarkable stories he had pursued.

On Saturday 13 July we have our Annual Coach Outing with 'Martins' to Gloucester Docks. This is then followed by our meeting on Monday 2 September in Brailes Village Hall.

Harry Upson

Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Tennis Tournament

Twenty-one players, aged from 14-76, took to the courts of Cherington and Stourton to compete in this year's event. Throughout the morning they could be seen cycling from court to court to play their matches before gathering at Stourton Farm House to watch Imo Simpson-Orlebar and John Beaumont beat Averell Kingston and Tim Stoleran in the final. A delicious picnic lunch followed.

Thank you to those who lent their courts and brought contributions for the lunch and to Rosie and Derwin for, once again, allowing us all to picnic there. Finally of course, our thanks go to all those who played.

Sally Clubleby



THE COFFEE SHOP at THE HALL
Saturday 20 July 10.30 am-12 noon

Bacon Rolls, Toasted Tea Cakes , Fruit Cake , Teas , Coffee,
Hot Chocolate, Craft Stall of the Month

Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall .

If you would like to join our team of helpers Please contact
Christine Dudfield 686288 or Trisha Wilson 686279

Look forward to seeing you there.

FARMING NOTES

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

Musings

As we have been away, I have very little to comment on this month. When we left I was worried that we would come back to drought stricken crops and a parched garden. How wrong can you be?

On our return, the crops look well and the grass in the hay fields is thick and lush, whether we will be able to make the hay in this changeable weather is another matter. The garden is looking lush but a bit battered, our large old wisteria had been blown off the wall. On tying it back up I found we had a bee's nest in the wall behind it. The bees were not pleased to be disturbed and showed their displeasure, but I hope it means they are appreciating my choice of flowers which I try to make bee friendly.

On walking across the field we have planted with pollinator friendly seeds and winter bird feed, I was surprised to disturb a hare. The dogs had passed very close to it but not caused it to move. I however very nearly trod on it, so it felt the need to lope off. It is unusual to see a hare in the fields at this time of year as the crops are so high that they can move undetected but the cover in this field was not so dense, so it was more visible.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

Mac

It was a sad day for Long Compton when Mac Haines died on 26 May. He was a true Long Comptonian, loved and admired by all of us. He was a man of many parts. Everything he did, whether work or sport or public service, he undertook with enthusiasm and skill. He was constantly looking for new mountains to conquer.

In forty years of working life he succeeded in being a worker on a huge cattle ranch in Queensland, Australia, a dairy farmer with his brother Derek, an egg producer, a builder of a house and four bungalows using mainly his own labour and finally owning a successful DIY shop in Stratford before B&Q was invented!

Alongside this interesting life, he was an excellent fast bowler both at school and in Long Compton, a keen and competent golfer and served both on the Village Hall Committee and the Board of School Governors. No record of Mac's life would be complete without a mention of the other love of his life after golf, which was Bridge, and many of us have gladly suffered at his 'hands'. We shall miss him.

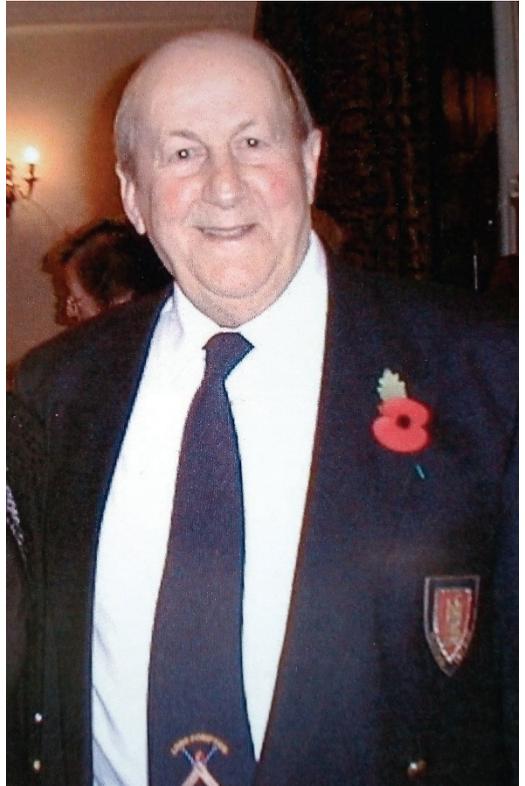
So, as we say goodbye to Mac, our love and thoughts go to Margot his wife, who supported and worked with him for sixty years, and to Jackie and all other members of their much loved family.

Jim Cunningham

Compton Creatives

We meet monthly on the third Monday, and occasionally at other times for workshops and outings. New members are always welcome.

Contact caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or jhburras@yahoo.co.uk





ANNUAL SUMMER FETE
with
DOG SHOW
Saturday 6th July 2-5pm

Grand raffle, cream teas, bar, BBQ, cakes, bottle stall,
Long Compton Community Choir, Atomic Dance
display, jewellery, outdoor games, ice cream van,
original artwork, hand-made gifts and more!

Dog Show Classes

£1 per entry

Most Handsome Dog ++ Prettiest Bitch ++ Best Child
Handler ++ Best Senior (over 12) ++ Best Puppy (under
2) ++ Best Dressed Dog (the winning owner of this class
will win a bottle of fizz) ++ Best in Show



Entries from 2 pm.
First Class at 2.45 pm.



Ebenezer Chapel

Congregational Church – Butlers Lane, Long Compton

Table Top Sale (Tables £5 – to book 01608 684739)

longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

Saturday 17 August – 2.00 pm

Details: Sally Franklin 01608 684739



Village Hall News

The weather in June wasn't much to write home about but we're hoping for a fine day on Saturday 6 July for the Summer Fete with Dog Show. We can't provide you with the exciting football match we had last year, but we are hoping for a fine turn out. There's plenty to see; the dogs, the stalls, indulge in a cream tea and/or something from the barbeque. Afterwards you can wash it all down with a cup of tea, or something a little more from the bar, and generally support this annual village event.



Please note there will be no Social Saturday in July as the fete takes over, but it will be back on the second Saturday in August with a summer barbeque (fingers crossed for the weather). In recent months we have cooked and sold many different lunches including lasagne, beef stew, ploughman's, spicy chicken with tabbouleh, pasta Bolognese and various casseroles (pork, apple and cider, sausage and pheasant). You get a hearty plateful for £4.50 and a choice of homemade soup and cakes as well. If you haven't dropped in yet, why not give it a try?

The Village Hall Committee is a small band of volunteers who meet monthly to maintain your village hall and to keep it running. We are always very grateful for any help we receive so do let us know if you would like to get involved in some way.

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

Long Compton and District Garden Club

Tuesday 16 July

Trip to Kifsgate Court Gardens

Leave LC village hall at 1.00 pm, sharing cars. £9 (teas available). Following on from our talk last year by the owner Ann Chambers, we are visiting the garden at its best. The visit is timed to coincide with the magnificent flowering of the Kifsgate rose, reputedly the largest in England.

All welcome - contact Lesley Roberts 684545 or
Anthony Wells 684 337 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com

Next Trip

Wednesday 18 September Midsummer house (am) Owners previously at Mill House and brought many plants to this new garden. Lunch at Cotswold Plough in Clanfield. **Radcot House** (pm with afternoon tea). Approximately 3 acres of dramatic yet harmonious planting, pond, fruit and vegetable cages, grasses and unusual perennials and sculpture. Start from LC Village Hall 10 am - £18

To book your places, please email lesleyroberts46@gmail.com or call Lesley on 01608 684545 or Anthony on 01608 684337 - All welcome

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

Meets at the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 14.00 - 1530.
New members are especially welcome.

Adrian (684024)

Long Compton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting – Transformed

When I first became Clerk, I must confess I was unaware of the legal obligation to have an Annual Parish Meeting. I inherited a system where this took the form of a meeting which all village clubs were invited to attend and give a report. As most of clubs had already reported their activities via Parish Newsletters, etc. this didn't make for an evening's entertainment – the phrase as exciting as 'watching paint dry' has been used to describe it.

Therefore, when Parish Meetings was the subject of a Workshop at a WALC Training Seminar, I was keen to learn more about what was required and how other Parishes managed. I came away with a very full notebook and lots of ideas, as I had learned that as long as meeting took place in the prescribed time frame and certain regulatory matters were included, then the scope for the format was endless.

In the first year we changed the name to Parish Assembly to differentiate it from Parish Council Meetings. Each village group was invited to put on a small display about their group and the Council Chair generously gave a prize for the best. The Assemblies ran under this system for 2017 and 2018 with the addition of guest speakers.

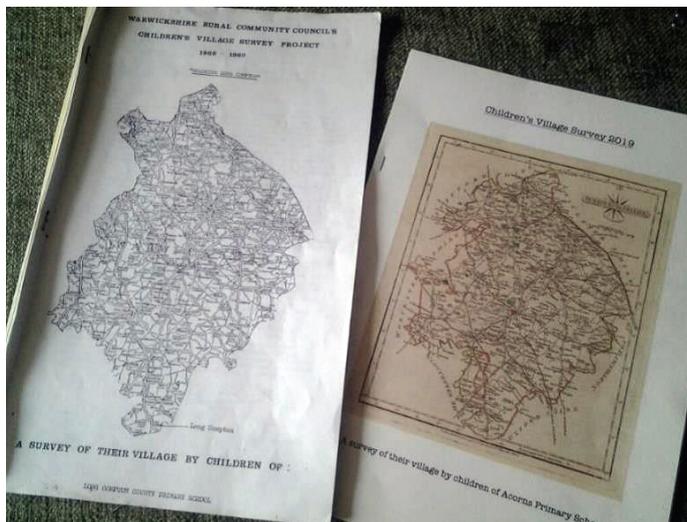


2019 has presented a fresh opportunity for the Assembly as it was the Centenary of year that the village was sold off and this was used as the theme. Residents became involved as original auction catalogues were located, then scanned and reprinted for village archive purposes. Interesting time spent identifying properties and a talk compiled relating to social changes over the century.

Instead of putting on an individual display each group was asked to bring along items representative of their activities in 1919, 1969 and 2019. My personal favourite was Garden Club who produced a sickle for 1919, books for 1969 and a robot mower for 2019! A huge bonus was that the school was fully engaged in the project and put on an excellent display.

So as a consequence of a few hours exchanging ideas with other Clerks and admittedly for a little extra effort, the Parish has managed to reinvigorate the Annual Parish meetings with better attendances and as a result of school involvement, attract a broader cross section of community.

We're already planning for 2020 and talking to the school about how to continue working together. We just need to remember to include popcorn again as part of refreshment provision.



Compton District History Society

The last History Society meeting before our summer break was treated to a fascinating talk by Alan Godfrey on the history of the Post Office, with particular reference to Warwickshire.

Alan began in 1635, when Charles I set up the Letter Office of England and Wales. Both Cromwell and Charles II continued the service, with Charles II appointing Sir Henry Bishop as the first Postmaster General in 1660 (Sir Henry paid £21,500 for the privilege of trying to make the postal service profitable and also invented the first post mark).

We then heard about a series of remarkable individuals who developed the service through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: Ralph Allan who made the service profitable by insisting on efficiency, loyalty and honesty - and paid his staff a decent wage; John Palmer who introduced new lightweight stage coaches and sped up the service enormously; Francis Freeling who invented the 'penny post' - the payment of an extra penny to extend the postal network from its standard routes into the smaller towns and villages; Rowland Hill who, in 1840, introduced the Penny Black and the Tuppenny Blue which made payment for post the responsibility of the sender instead of the recipient - and, by so doing transformed literacy in this country; Anthony Trollope who, as well as writing all those books, found time to invent the post box; and Henry Fawcett, the only blind Postmaster General, who brought in savings stamps, the parcel post and postal orders.

Alan illustrated this theme with some wonderful examples of old letters to and from Warwickshire - including one from the end of the eighteenth century from Shipston to Ramsgate showing a cost calculation of 86 miles from Shipston to London and 75 miles from London to Ramsgate (all post in the country went via the London Recording Office at the time) for a total distance of 161 miles at a cost to the recipient of 9 old pence. A very early 'penny post' letter from Weston Mill to London showed that the postal service had reached Long Compton Parish by the start of the nineteenth century.

Finally, Alan had some lovely pictures of Warwickshire postal employees and post offices through the centuries. It was an enthralling evening for those of us who braved our horrible June weather and ended our 2018/19 season on a great note. The History Society will begin its 2019/20 programme on 11 September with a talk focused specifically on Long Compton; in the meantime the Society will open the Lych Gate on the first Sundays of July, August and September and look forward to sharing its extensive collection with visitors.

Diana Cook 684771

	<h1>Ebenezer Chapel</h1> <h2>Congregational Church</h2> <p>Butlers Lane, Long Compton</p>	
	<h1>Whist Drive</h1> <p>First Saturday of the month</p> <p>6 July and 3 August at 7.30 pm</p> <p>Play - £2 (including refreshments)</p> <p>Details: Sally 01608 684739</p>	
		

The 100 Club

The June winners are:

1st Prize - David Lee

2nd Prize - Philip Boreham

3rd Prize - Margaret Welsh

4th Prize - Pat Miller

Elaine Hobday

Recent Garden Club Visits

Rodmarton Manor House is situated just south of Cirencester and near the 'source of the Thames'. It looks like a medieval house but was in fact built at the beginning of the 20th century. The inspirational owners worked with Ernest Barnsley to build a house inspired by the arts and crafts movement and in the spirit of that movement, using local materials and employing local people. The result is a house full of beautiful furniture, hangings and pottery to delight anyone interested in craft and design.

The garden has three zones: formal, leisure and practical. The formal gardens overlook a large meadow and woodland beyond a small ha-ha. They are divided by clipped hedges and walls, with paving from local rough stone. Of particular note is the 'Troughery' (pictured) an idea which we could all have a go at. You need a rectangular plot, any size, some tightly clipped hedging and lots of stone troughs planted with a range of small plants and bulbs to give year-round interest.



The 'leisure' garden is so-called as at one point in its life it was re-planted with ground cover plants to reduce the need for weeding; this was deemed dull and it has now been re-planted with a pleasing variety of shrubs, perennials and bulbs. At the time of our visit there were no weeds to be seen.

Beyond the tennis court, swimming pool and croquet lawn there are the kitchen gardens. This is a work in progress with fruit trees, fruit cages and beds of cut flowers. There is also a very large topiary pig surrounded by chicks!

The icing on the cake was a swooping barn owl over the meadow. Delicious.



Our May garden visit was firstly to Ravensthorpe Nursery in Northamptonshire, a 'true' nursery where they grow and sell their own plants and have a very good and wide range on offer. The couple have been running it for 34 years without help, it is a real labour of love and we were most impressed. There are various gardens laid out where you can see how the plants look when planted out and we were invited to view their own garden too. An assortment of plants were purchased, with a striking mahogany-purple coloured Iris 'Langport Wren' proving irresistible.

We then drove a short distance to Coton Manor where, suitably refreshed by some lunch, we enjoyed the beautiful garden set round the old, wisteria clad, manor house. This garden never disappoints and there is always something of interest to see. The combination of colours, foliage and form is masterly.

Some beautiful cream tulips, aptly named 'elegant lady' caught the eye, as did the various bearded iris which were in full flower. A particularly pleasing combination by the stream was a fresh green dissected leaved acer with polygonum bistorta 'superba' in front of it, together with the bronze leaves of rodgersia and purple allium. More tulips, this time orange, were almost colour co-ordinated with the extraordinarily brightly coloured flamingos, which always surprise the visitor. Finally, there was the well-stocked nursery to explore and more plants to buy before tea and the drive home.

A most enjoyable day out on a lovely sunny day.

Lesley Roberts (Rodmarton) and Celia Sawyer (Ravensthorpe and Coton)

The Friends of Long Compton Church

The 2019 Photographic Competition is now closed and printing and judging are in the pipeline.

As this competition closes we are starting another 'Know Your Village'. This is free and open to everyone. Keep an eye out on Facebook and our Website for how to take part. The winners of this competition will be announced at the launch of the Photographic Exhibition on Friday 2 August in the church (see separate ad for details).



We will be serving cream teas in the church on the two Sundays which coincide with Compton History Society's opening of the Lychgate – you can see the Photographic Exhibition and learn fascinating facts about the village all at the same time!

2019 Events

- July - Know your Village Quiz (free entry)
- 2 August – Photographic Exhibition in the church plus quiz results
- 4 August Cream teas in the church
- 1 September Cream teas in the church
- 22-24 November – Christmas Tree Festival in the church
- 7th December – Jazz concert –with Smith & Safir

Our information and contact points:
e. friendslcchurch@gmail.com
f. [@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflongcomptonchurch)
www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

Sue Klatt, Chairman: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch

The Friends of Long Compton Church 2019 Photographic Exhibition

You are cordially invited to the Launch Party of the
2019 Photographic Exhibition in Long Compton Church

Friday 2nd August from 6-8pm



Pimms and nibbles will be served
Donations at the bar

Children under 18 to be accompanied by an adult
The Exhibition will run for a few weeks.

You will have the chance to see all the entries in this year's competition

Also

On Sunday 4 August and Sunday 1 September
we will be serving cream teas from 2.30 – 4.30 in the church.

This is to coincide with the annual openings of the
Compton History Society's Lychgate Open Days

Come and join us



Long Compton Ebenezer Chapel

A Congregational Church; what's in a name and what a difference a year makes!

Over time entities acquire different formal and familiar names. Many villagers have always referred to it simply as the Chapel whereas it has a sign reading Long Compton Congregational Church. Another part of its identity is the inclusion of 'Ebenezer' in its title and which members now use as part of subtle rebranding of the building for use as a religious and community space and as a name for Chapel supporters.

The past year has been very significant for the Chapel and at the 199th Anniversary Service, led by Reverend Marion with Bridget Tiffin at the organ, there was much celebration, particularly of the fact that the Chapel is now back under the control of the local community, and in recognising all the positive work that has taken place, notably regular well attended services, refurbishment of the Manse ready for letting, plus increased use of chapel for workshops, charity, concerts and community events.

The 2020 Anniversary Celebrations are already being planned !

Dates for your diary are:

Saturday 6 July – Whist £2/card – beginners welcome

Sunday 21 July – Drop In Chapel – tea, cake and chat

Wednesday 24 July – Floral Lunch – Flower Arranging Demo and Lunch in aid of Shipston and Lawrence Home Nursing Charities – tickets 07791 621778

Friday 2 August Sound Meditation – book www.carolelove.com

Saturday 17 August Table Top Sale – Tables £5

More information can be obtained from longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com
Sally Franklin (684739 / 07870 545431) or Elizabeth Gilkes (684336/07791 621778)

Comptonians

After a very enjoyable visit to Millet's Farm in May, on Wednesday 19 June we were back in the village hall for a slideshow and talk by Ray Sturdy on *The Real Dad's Army*. This was followed by tea and cakes and a chance to catch up with friends from the village and surrounding district.

If you would like to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, usually at 2.00 pm, you would be most welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238

Long Compton & District Walkers

On another wet, cold and windy Tuesday, nine stalwarts met in the Red Lion car park and then drove to Ebrington for a four mile walk to Foxcote House, returning for lunch in The Ebrington Arms. The Rain-Gods were smiling on us because the rain held off and we arrived at the pub dry, in good spirits and looking forward to a convivial lunch when we all convinced ourselves that the gardens need the rain!

Let's hope that proper summer weather returns for the July Walkers.

Tony Wells

A Floral Lunch



Wednesday 24 July – Noon

At The Ebenezer Chapel, Butlers Road, Long Compton

A demonstration of summer floral designs by

Elaine Stoner

followed by a light lunch

Tickets £20.00

From Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 – office@gilkesenterprises.com

In Aid of Shipston and Lawrence Home Nursing Charities

Volunteering and rural policing

Mark and I have just been presented with certificates of thanks and recognition for the many hours of volunteering, which we have done with our horses, Harriet and Bear, as Mounted Volunteers in the South Warwickshire area from our base at home in Long Compton. For a full report please see the item on page 5.

Mary and Mark Palmer

Long Compton
book club

Next meeting – Thursday 11 July 7.00 - 8.30pm

we will be discussing

The American Lover by Rose Tremain

As always, all welcome

Contact: Sue Klatt 01608 684813 or sueklatt@gmail.com

Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch



Our local Co-Ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and e-mails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public.

Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at jordanlboswell@hotmail.com

Nature Encounters

Whilst scouting for fox cubs, Patrick Fox came across this magnificent female grass snake basking in Whichford Wood, a long way from any ponds or lakes. Grass snakes feed primarily on amphibians, so tend to hang out near water, but maybe this large specimen had developed a taste for other prey...



If you have comfrey growing in your garden this summer, look out for these exotic-looking scarlet tiger moths. Whichford has a healthy population, with Patrick Fox's rather weedy garden being particularly popular! He found this freshly emerged pair mating, in time to produce another wave of caterpillars, which love to munch on comfrey leaves. The startling scarlet hind wings that give it its name are only seen in flight.

Patrick Fox

*Stormy Sky over
Whichford Green*

Photograph by
Patrick Fox



Whichford & Ascott Gardens Open for the National Garden Scheme



On Sunday 16 June eight village gardens opened their gates to support the Scheme, which is the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the country. In spite of the challenges of the weather, more than 200 visitors were welcomed into this group of gardens of many different sizes and styles.

Thank you to everyone for their support in making the day such a success by generously opening their gardens, donating and selling plants or making cakes for the teas. Whichford Pottery kindly donated a voucher for the raffle and our thanks also to Joe Harvey for mowing the field to provide car parking. Sophie and her team did a wonderful job in providing the tea and cake which is essential for garden visiting.

The day raised £1,479 for the charity from admissions, the raffle and plant sales. The teas made an additional £330 for St. Michael's Church.



Janet Knight and Diana Atkins



**A Snapshot of Whichford & Ascott Life
An Updated Village Photograph Exhibition**

**Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th July 2019
in St. Michael's Church, Whichford**

**Exhibition Open: Saturday 13th July 11am – 4pm
& Sunday 14th July 11am – 4pm**

Due to the further generosity of kind villagers, we have further photographs and films to add to our already fascinating archive of Whichford & Ascott. If you could loan us any photos, we would copy and return them as soon as possible.

Please contact - Mandy James: jamesgranard@aol.com or 684479

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Ray Ascott who is the winner of the June Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

It's probably FREE – Subscription to The LINK online is free for existing subscribers within the SW7 distribution area so sign up and never have to search the house for your paper copy!

And... It's all in Colour

THE LINK

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THE LINK

Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The June winners were as follows;

1st prize – Henry Warriner 2nd prize – Sue Rew 3rd prize – James van Helden

Many congratulations to the above. Just a reminder to contact myself if you require any more shares in the club which will help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden

Fish & Chips with Bingo

Please make a note of the date - Saturday 12 October at 7.00 pm at Wolfords Village Hall, in aid of St. Michael & All Angels parish church. A really good night out with a first-class fish & chips supper and prize bingo. Full booking details coming soon.

Wolford's Car Boot Sale Collection

Is there anything tucked away in your garage or loft that you'd be glad to get rid of? If so, now's the time to act.

What are we collecting? China, ornaments, tools including garden ones, small household or kitchen goods, old watches, clocks and cameras, unwanted gifts, jigsaws, books, children's toys and games, jewellery, pictures, cds and dvds, bric-a-brac of any sort – anything from a baby's bath to a wedding hat.

When? Any time between now and Friday 23 August.

Why? To raise money for the upkeep of Wolford church and churchyard.

You'd be amazed at what sells and you could save the world by recycling stuff you no longer need. We'll come and collect or you can deliver to us, whichever you prefer.

Contacts: Janet Piller (674396) Ann McKenna (674009) John Wrench (674389)

The Wolfords WI

At our June meeting we were kept entertained by Ann Wooby, ably assisted by her husband, performing some of her delightful poetry. We look forward to our next speaker, Carolyn Walker, who will be presenting her talk *A Stitch in Time* about stitched textiles, to our meeting on Wednesday 3 July.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) in the Wolfords village hall, Little Wolford at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Please ring Sue Elliot (674295) for more details.

An outing is being arranged to Slimbridge Wetland Centre on Tuesday 10 September at a cost of about £20 including coach travel. There may be some spaces available to non-members wishing to join us and the next Book Club selection is *The Prison Book Club* by Ann Walmsley.

Sue Elliot

Taking Notice in Little Wolford

Sunday 16 June was a notable day for Little Wolford, as it marked the first official parish notice to be pinned to the beautifully handcrafted village notice board. Local resident Colin Ablewhite designed and built the board, incorporating brass oak leaf motif and double-sided pin board; one for parish affairs and one for village notices and events.

Fronted with glass doors and topped with a slate canopy, this is a notice board of serious pedigree. Positioned on the green, it's easy to spot. In small rural communities (Little Wolford boasts a mere 100 electors), keeping in touch can be challenging. Notice boards, the parish magazine, an up-to-date email list and a good website are vital. Our current website holds a wealth of information but is not so easy to update and a full overhaul is planned soon - watch this space. (www.littlewolford.org.uk)

As relative newcomers to the area, we can testify these points of contact combined with friendly in-person invites, are invaluable to feeling part of things. My husband Adam and I are grateful the outgoing Chairman of our Parish Meeting, Ralph Döring, knocked on our door just over a year ago to invite us to a LEGO fundraiser event. This community-spirited German had not long beaten us to the village so hats off to him for taking a lead in parish and village life.

A year on and Ralph's commitments in Germany means he has had to step down as Chair, but not before encouraging me to step forward. This he did in true Bavarian style - by inviting us around for 'Kaiserschmarrn', a delicious mix of eggs, flour, sugar and sultanas. If this classifies as bribery, so be it! So it was at the meeting of 22 June that I became Chair.

It is no secret that Little Wolford has struggled in recent years to elect a Chairman. My job with the Royal Horticultural Society takes me to Wisley in Surrey two days a week. But there's still space for gardening, dog-walking and now, parish affairs. It's what being part of a community is all about. So, if you have a pressing matter do drop me an email at chairman@littlewolford.org.uk or should you spot a slightly wild looking lady walking a ginger dog, please say 'hello' - I'd love to make your acquaintance!



Helen Bostock

Pop Up Pub

Come and join us for the next Pop Up Pub on The Green with great food. A chance to catch up with friends in the village.

Friday 5 July at 6.30 pm

Friday 19 July at 6.30 pm

All proceeds go towards saving the Fox and Hounds Pub.

See you there.



Save the Fox and Hounds Pub

The 'Next Steps' meeting is on Saturday 6 July, 10.30 am at the Wolfords village hall. The meeting is planned to update all our campaign supporters on the next steps towards reopening the pub for the benefits it will bring to the village and surroundings.

Please join us to understand what further actions are needed and the time frame for these. Our campaign is entering a critical phase, hence the importance to communicate clearly these steps to maintain the continuing support you have given to the campaign so far.

We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have and we hope you will be able to join us for this meeting. Now is time for you to get involved. All are very welcome.

The Wolfords Village Hall Clothes Bank

A clothes bank has been installed at the village hall to the right of the hall entrance. The bank is operated by The Salvation Army and a share of the funds raised from donating clothes and shoes will go towards the running expenses of the hall.

We hope that you will find the bank to be a convenient location without having to travel further to other recycling centres.

Please make full use of the bank as any funds generated for the village hall would be greatly appreciated to maintain this community hub for both villages.



Chairman's Corner

Pecking Order

This month's contribution could be mistaken as an extract from Nature Notes or Farming Notes, as it relates to the avifauna of the Wolfords (or more precisely, my garden). During the winter and spring we have kept the various bird feeders topped up, and it has been interesting to observe the variety of visiting birds and their antics. Each species seems to have their own personality, and there is a definite hierarchy as to who gets first dibs on the suet pellets or seeds.

Jackdaws are the 'raiders' – but they are also very clever. They will land on the suet block holder, scare off other birds and then scoff as much as they can. They can even open the holder and grab the entire block – one jackdaw stole the holder itself, with the suet block still inside, and flew off. Starlings are like a gang of yobs, squawking and causing havoc, greedily attacking the feeders, scattering seeds everywhere and generally making a mess. House sparrows are surprisingly fussy with their seeds, rejecting the first 2 or 3 (again making a mess) and then consuming the next one – this behaviour is repeated several times until they decide that they've eaten enough.

Elegant goldfinches mind their own business and enjoy almost exclusive rights to the nyjer seeds. Dunnocks are quite timid and tend not to get involved in the ongoing 'battle of the feeders'. Instead, they are content with just foraging around on the ground and in flowerpots for any spillage caused by sparrows, starlings, finches and tits. Likewise, blackbirds, wrens, robins, wagtails, partridges and wood pigeons also help to 'hoover' up the remnants at ground level – although, the pigeons are very clumsy and trample all over any young pot plants, undoing several hours of careful gardening.

When reflecting on the number and types of birds that have benefited from the feeders, it begins to sound like a twitcher's tick list. In the last few months, I've counted at least nineteen different species - twenty if you include the bullfinch (only seen here a couple of times this year) – twenty-one if allowing a goldcrest (just one sighting in 12 years). If you also include other birds nesting in the eaves (house martins), birds flying overhead (swallows, swifts, skylarks, buzzards, kites, kestrels, sparrowhawks, geese, seagulls!), those nesting in nearby bushes and trees (chiffchaffs, yellowhammers, blackcaps, warblers, woodpeckers, jays, magpies, rooks), or spotted wandering in the surrounding fields (pheasants, lapwings), then this figure can easily increase to more than fifty or sixty species, just in this area alone – and this is excluding the beloved kingfisher, regularly spotted along our local rivers.

And then, of course, there are the crepuscular and nocturnal species, such as barn owls and tawny owls, the winter visitors like fieldfares, redwings and waxwings, and the aquatic birds such as herons, coots, moorhens and grebes. I'm sure many of us take the birds for granted and only 'see' sparrows, blackbirds, crows and the occasional robin, but when one stops to think and appreciate how much wildlife exists out there, we can consider ourselves very lucky. Right, I'm off now to top up the feeders...

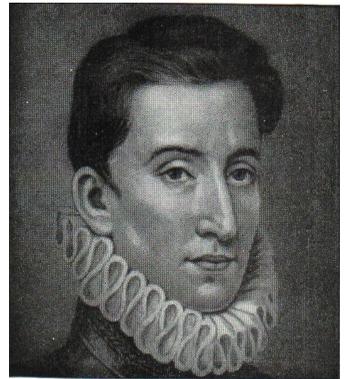
Simon Lewis-Beeching, chairman@swlink.org.uk

Believe it or not, Tuesday 6 July is International Kissing Day. Yes, I kid you not. There are of course plenty of poetry options to mark this occasion. I would like this month to revisit a poet that we've met before, one Sir Philip Sydney; an Elizabethan poet, courtier, scholar, and soldier who died from his wounds at the early age of 31.

His collection of Sonnets, *Astrophil and Stella* is an English sonnet sequence containing 108 sonnets and 11 songs which was eventually published in 1591, five years after Sidney's death. This Sonnet plays with the traditional Italian rhyming scheme which Sydney did so much to develop. Sonnet 79 is more than qualified for an airing this month.

Astrophil and Stella - Sonnet 79

Sweet kiss, thy sweets I fain would sweetly indite,
Which e'en of sweetness sweetest sweet'ner art:
Pleasing'st consort, where each sense holds a part,
Which, coupling doves, guides Venus' chariot right;
Best charge, and bravest retreat in Cupid 's fight;
A double key, which opens to the heart,
Most rich, when most his riches it impart;
Nest of young joys, schoolmaster of delight,
Teaching the mean, at once to take and give;
The friendly fray, where blows both wound and heal;
The pretty death, while each in other live;
Poor hope's first wealth, hostage of promised weal,
Breakfast of love: but lo, lo, where she is,
Cease we to praise, now pray we for a kiss.



Sir Philip Sydney (1554 - 1586)



Please keep your poetry suggestions coming; writing them for us would be even better! Please be sure to submit your suggestions in good time bearing in mind that more recent poems will often be protected by copyright and if this is the case, the publisher's permission will need to be obtained.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk