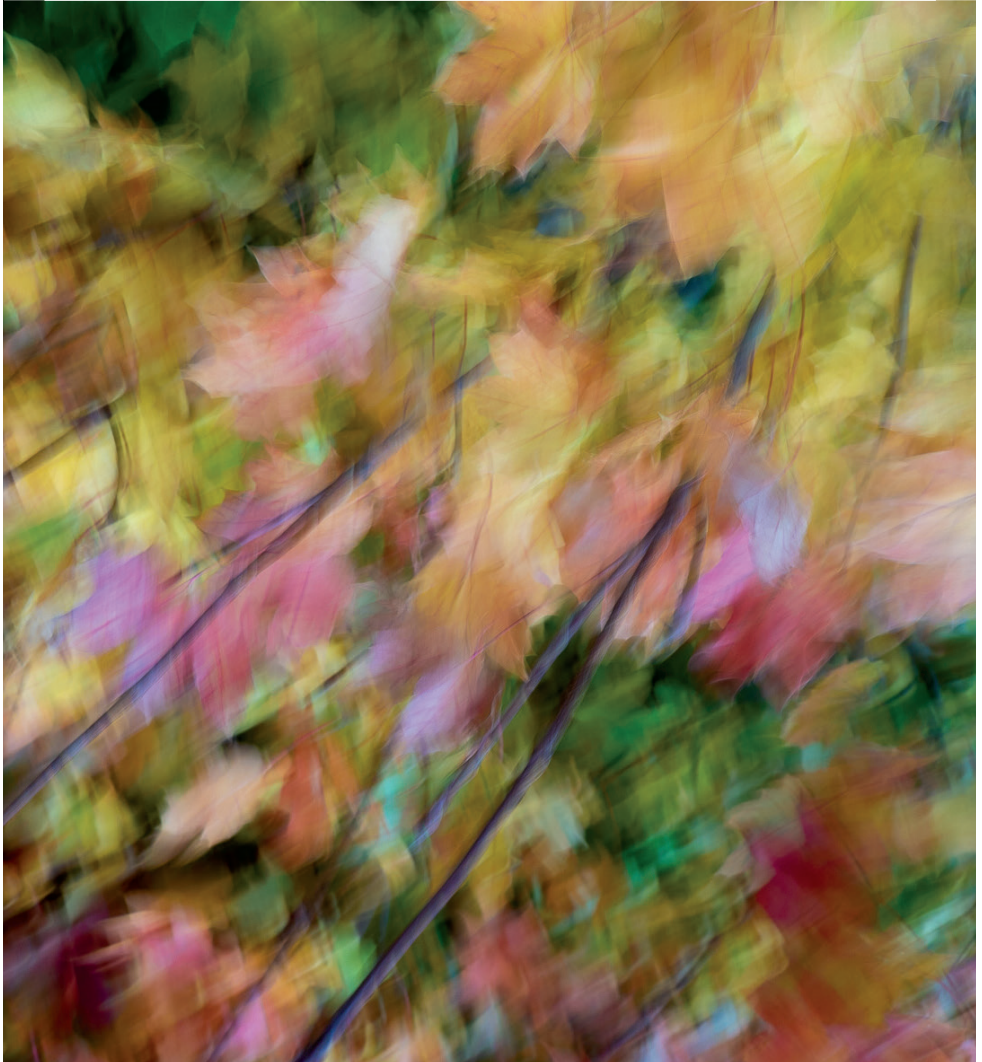


THE LINK

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

AUGUST 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

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

Sat 2	Fete	Cherington/Stourton	13:00
	Picnic Concert	Long Compton VH	13:00
Thurs 7	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Farmer's Market	The Hall, Stourton	18:00
Sat 9	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
	Family Bingo	The Hall, Stourton	19:00
Weds 13	Garden Club Outing	Bourton Hse Gardens	10:30
Thurs 14	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Sat 16	Tennis Tournament	Cherington/Stourton	Morning
	Theatre: Three Men in a Boat	The Hall, Stourton	18:00
Sun 17	Tea and Open House Garden	Manor Little Compton	13:00
	Teddy Bear's Picnic	Stourton Hse	15:00
Thurs 21	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Mon 25(BH)	Car Boot Sate	Moreton	07:00
	Fete and Flower Show	Whichford/Ascott	1:30
Thurs 28	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Sat 30	Produce Show	Long Compton Chapel	09:00



Happy Birthday!
August 2025



Thomas Collins

Long Compton

15

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the August edition of The Link . This month is all about the produce fairs, so it's time to dig out those jars of jam and bottles of elderflower cordial and to inspect the allotment for your prize vegetables. I remember the joy of our first prize certificate for 'Best beginner onions' at the Enstone fete some years ago and the thrill of winning 'Best jar of marmalade' at last year's Long Compton produce show. Mine came out a bit runny this year, so I will have to consider some alternative entries. Do get involved if you can, it is so much fun and great to have a go or just to visit and take a look at the wonderful entries. Whichford fete has lots of categories for children to enter so it's a great way of keeping them occupied and away from screens in the school holidays with some imaginative craft categories. I'm off up to my plot to assess what is shaping up as a potential winner.

Happy holidays!

Sara Billins



Cover photograph: by Steve Lavelle (www.stevelavelle.com)

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

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

**Please note the copy deadline for September 2025:
August 14th**

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Carers4Carers - a peer support group for local family carers.

There is **no** August meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Please look out for details of our informal August get-together in our newsletter or get in touch.

For details or assistance with transport, contact Gillian or Lisa on 07947 893504, email kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or visit www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Carers4Carers, an Omega Umbrella group

Lisa Barnett - Assistant Coordinator

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

Please visit one of our dementia friendly cafes locally

Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm

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)**

Google



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 Bell Ringers

Thank you to everyone in Shipston on Stour who took the time to chat to the Shipston Bellringers at our recent road show on one of the hottest days of the year on 21st June.



Our roadshow was a big success, with many conversations had and four people who have shown a keen interest in learning to ring the church bells.

Our bellringing team turned out in force from Shipston, Tredington and Long Compton and explained to interested people the benefits of bellringing. These include: a great work-out for the body and mind as well as a chance to meet

new friends and to foster a real sense of team spirit with a ready-made, like-minded community from different walks of life.



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

You don't have to be strong to ring bells, nor a churchgoer. Yes, it does take time to learn how to ring the bells, but you'll have a great team around you, and you can ring to any level once competent, whether ringing for pleasure, for a wedding or in a formal competition.

If you fancy trying bellringing for yourself, then please do not hesitate to contact us and one of our friendly team will be in touch to arrange a practice at the venue that suits you best.

Drop us a line via email at shipstondistrictringers@gmail.com.



GSP
proudly present

Three Men in a Boat

(to say nothing of the dog)

adapted from the hilarious book by Jerome K. Jerome

Starring Giles Shenton

(Old Herbaceous & Much Ado About Falstaff)

"the nearest thing
I've heard to
audio slapstick"

"a masterclass in
stagecraft &
delivery"

"seriously funny"
The Guardian

"amazing, energetic
& totally engaging"

"95 mins of
pure delight"

"timeless appeal"
The Independent



The Hall Cherington, Stourton & Sutton

Pinfold Lane, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Sat 16 Aug 2025 6pm

Seating section (limited number available) £15 adult £8 U16

Picnic section (bring your own seats/blankets) £12 adult £6 U16 £30 Family of 4 (max 2 adults)

**Open air
theatre!**

Tel - 07775 765572

email - info@thehallevnts.org.uk or online at

www.buytickets.at/gillesshentonproductions or
www.gillesshentonproductions.co.uk

**Indoors
if wet!**



CHARITY No 522997

Bossa Gringo Latin Quartet Comes to Shipston

Save the date in your diary, Friday 19th September 2025.

This exciting quartet of crack musicians breathe new life into well-known and not so well known Latin rhythms (Bossa Nova, Samba, Rhumba, etc) – think of those who famously played this style (Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Antonio Jobim, etc). The result is exciting stuff, with some spectacular solo work from all four members. We promise you'll love it!

The band includes the brilliant Toliy Vyacheslavov on saxophone, flute and percussion; the ace guitarist Hugh Turner on acoustic nylon and steel string guitar; acoustic bass man Paul Jeffries; and Ralph Mizraki playing congas, bongos, acoustic bass, electric bass, melodica, cello and whatever else is in his recording studio on the way out of the door! Not to be missed!

Watch out for tickets, which will be available from August 11th from The Flower House in Shipston, or online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, and check out our website www.townsendhall.co.uk for news.

Jenny Glover Townsend Hall Trustee



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tuesday 12th August at Burmington Village Hall
(12.00 for 12.30)

At our lunch, CAMEO will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day (15th August).

CAMEO's four surviving ex-National Service members (eligibility limited to over-84-year-olds)

prepare to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ (Victory over Japan) Day and the end of the Second World War.

Lest we forget; they will remember the 30,000 British service members who died in the conflict in the Far East war with Japan between 1941 – 1945. Many, aided by troops from the Indian subcontinent and East and West Africa, were in the 'Forgotten Army' of Burma, involved in the bloodiest battles of WWII where the jungle terrain demanded hand-to-hand fighting, with malaria, dysentery, malnutrition and monsoons also common enemies.

They will remember that, unlike much of the war in Europe, it involved gruesomely basic warfare until it was ended with the most advanced and terrifying hi-tech weapon the world had ever seen, the atomic bomb.

Call Brenda on 01608 6643131 to book please



The LINK is your local monthly Community Magazine.

It has a circulation of 700 across the South Warwickshire Seven Benefice covering the villages of Barcheston, Barton, Burmington, Cherington, Long Compton, Whichford and The Wolfords.

We're always pleased to welcome new subscribers. At just £12.00 for a calendar year subscription, this represents excellent value and is a great way to stay connected with the news of events and stories in your local community.

We're keen to expand our circulation, so sign up and we'll add you to our readership and deliver to your door each month. Just contact our Subscriptions Manager David Cleave subs@outlook.com

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	John Boulter and Mary Scott (joint treasurer) 07968 450331	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

2025 has seen the sunniest Spring on record in the UK, and the driest in 50 years. Our water suppliers are struggling to keep up with demand – by the time you read this there will probably be hosepipe bans in place. High temperature records are being broken all over Europe, some 40% of the continent is suffering from some degree of drought. We are seeing more extreme weather, both here and in the rest of the world, with droughts, storms, floods and wildfires increasingly common.

These fundamental changes in our weather will have far-reaching implications across the globe, including migration patterns, and the cost and availability of much of the food we buy. These trends will force changes in the food that we produce and how it is produced. Fortunately, most of us in this country are blessed at present to have more than ENOUGH to eat, thanks to the relatively high standard of living and the safety net provided by the State and excellent charities such as the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Crisis and the Foodbanks. Our

local foodbanks, including those in Stratford and Shipston, deserve a special mention for their great work to help those in need.

Elsewhere in the world, we see a very different picture caused by conflicts, disease, and natural disasters, in addition to climate change affecting many countries. Charities such as UNICEF, Save the Children, Tear Fund, Open Doors, and World Vision are doing their best in difficult circumstances to fill the gaps left by the reduction and removal of Foreign Aid budgets by many of the world's major economies. World Vision is working in some 100 of the poorest countries in the world to help the most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. In response to the worsening

hunger crisis in many countries World Vision launched a global hunger and

South Warwickshire Seven Churches
Giggle Tots

Long Compton Village Hall
Free on Thursday mornings
Term time only 10.00-11.30

**Come and join us for fun,
friendship and playtime.**

**For all care givers with
children 0-4.**

*More information from
Kim Petty 079499449215*



Serving our Communities

malnutrition campaign called ENOUGH, and our seven churches in South Warwickshire will be holding a fundraising walk on Saturday September 20 to support the work of World Vision. During his ministry Jesus always demonstrated his compassion and generosity by serving others, and throughout the Bible we are urged to help those in need (for example Matthew 25:35 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink").

You will see a notice in this edition of the LINK giving details of how you can support this event and World Vision. If you can help us to help the poor and disadvantaged, this would be greatly appreciated.

Richard Stevens, Member of The SW7 Ministry Team.



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

August 2025 CHURCH SERVICES							
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burnington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whitchford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
3 rd August 7 th Sunday after Trinity	6:00pm BCP Evensong (KM)		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (MH)				10:30am CW Holy Communion (MH)
10 th August 8 th Sunday after Trinity				10:30am CW Morning Prayer (RM//RST)			
17 th August 9 th Sunday after Trinity						10:30am CW Morning Prayer (Rst/LM)	
24 th August 10 th Sunday after Trinity					10:30am CW Holy Communion (CLW/AW)		
31 st August 11 th Sunday after Trinity		10:30am BCP Holy Communion (HS)					

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/AY = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clive Wells/HP = Heather Pebody/AD = Andrew Dow/PS = Richard Smith/RS=Richard Stevens/LDBD = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
 BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informa Service

Last time I wrote, I was pleased that we'd had some welcome rain. The fact is that we have had little or none to speak of since. Crops then were hanging on well, and with the sun, grain fill looked to be on the cards. In fact, in the next two days, the winter beans were covered in flowers and setting embryo beans well, suddenly started turning yellow, and like gardeners 'July Drop,' many pods fell off.



All plants have in the back of their minds is '*I must reproduce;*' so, if things get difficult, like drought stress, the top ones fall off and all the plants energy goes into saving some pods to grow on the next year.

The barley, all drilled in very good tilths in the spring is faring better and filling. Even if it rains now, I don't think it will have much effect on the barley or wheat. We grow two sorts of wheat that are bearded. Much of the wheat grown in hot climates is bearded, like barley, the awns or 'beards' trap dew and have an effect on helping grain fill.

I know the harvest will be lighter than first hoped; but now I hope, at least, we don't get endless rain when the drought breaks, making harvesting difficult.



In the third week of June, Diana and I had few days in the Isle of Man. After a long, hot, crawl through Birmingham airport security, and not too long a flight delay, we duly landed to a green oasis. As I looked out of the plane window as we flew Northwest, it got greener and greener until we flew over Liverpool and on to Ronaldsway. A lot of the rain we missed in Long Compton had gone further north and they have fared better. The Isle of Man is a lovely place to visit - not much traffic, lovely rural countryside, small fields, real family farms and good mix of crops. I find the people friendly and food cheaper than here; quite a lot is grown and produced on the island.

Getting back to farming, Dan is cutting up the area we left fallow - where we repaired all the blocked or broken drains - with a set of heavy disc harrows. He then followed that with the subsoiler to lift and aerate the soil. This will now be left till the autumn and drilled with wheat.

Then, he got the combine out, ran it up and checked everything. He always cleans the combine off after we finish harvest and blows off all the dust etc. with compressed air. I always do the table or the 'cutter bar' at the front of the combine which cuts and feeds the crop into the machine, with aerosol liquid grease. I



lift the reel up as high as possible, set the lot into motion as slowly as possible and use a couple of cans of spray on grease to cover all the shiny metal to stop it rusting. In the old days of acres of flat, wet corn, rusting cutter bars didn't go well at all.

By the time you read this we may well have started harvest. At least if it isn't brilliant, it will be early.

**John 'Tufty'
Richardson**

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

One of the main tasks for gardeners during June and July has been watering. Not only is it best to water in the early morning or in the evening after the temperature has dropped to some extent, but it is also the best time to garden if you want to escape the midday sun. At least we had some much-needed rain in two heavy downpours, but it did not penetrate far into the dry soil.



Priority for watering will vary for different gardeners but containers will need daily watering as will plants in the greenhouse. Vegetables like peas and beans will require plenty of water for their pods to develop. Newly planted trees and shrubs and bedding plants etc will also need to be watched for signs of wilting. Rhododendrons and

camellias are forming next year's buds now so should also be watered thoroughly. If lawns have not been watered, they will appear brown and desiccated but should recover once the dry weather is over.

There are, of course, other jobs needing attention in the garden. Long shoots will have developed on rambling roses. Tie these in and cut back a third of the oldest stems to the base and shorten the side shoots by two thirds. The whippy growth of wisteria can be cut back to 5 or 6 leaves. Trim back lavender taking care not to cut below the green soft wood. Cuttings can also be taken to obtain more plants. In August, conifer hedges including yew can be trimmed after checking for birds' nests.

Prune summer fruiting raspberries to the ground after they have finished cropping to leave food and space for new canes to grow. Feed them with a general-purpose fertiliser, water and mulch. Blackcurrants can be pruned as you harvest the fruit. Remove 2 or 3 of the oldest stems. Summer prune espalier apples by cutting back side shoots growing from the horizontal branches to 3 or 4 leaves.

Keep feeding tomato plants about every 2 weeks with liquid potash food or comfrey "tea" and remove any large leaves covering the fruit so that the sun can

penetrate and ripen the tomatoes. Pinch out the tops of the plants to limit them to about 6 trusses.

Pelargonium and clematis cuttings can be taken now. They should root quickly, in about 6 to 8 weeks.

Pelargonium stems should be cut beneath a node but with clematis take internodal cuttings by cutting between each set of leaves. Place the cuttings in a mixture of sand and compost, water well and place a polythene bag over the pot to retain moisture. Stand somewhere cool.

Other jobs for August include lifting and drying onions once the foliage starts to die down.

Watch out for potato blight - yellow leaves with brown spots. Any such foliage should be destroyed and not put on the compost heap. Check roses for black spot and remove any leaves that are on the ground before too many fungal spores have been released.

A pleasurable job is scanning catalogues and choosing and ordering spring bulbs ready to plant from September.

Margaret Welsh

Come and join us for tea and cake

Sunday August 17

1:00-5:00pm

St Denys's Churchyard Little Compton



In collaboration with the NGS viewing of

The Manor Gardens, Little Compton GL56 ORZ

What3words/// charm.appear.passively



Our **August** garden visit is to **Bourton House Garden**,
Bourton on the Hill,
near Moreton in Marsh on
Wednesday 13th August at 10.30am

We are extremely fortunate to be so close to this beautiful garden which features luxuriant terraces and wide herbaceous borders with stunning plant, texture and colour combinations. The plantings contain an outstanding collection of tender perennial plants which will be looking at their best in August, a garden not to be missed at this time of year.

Features include a topiary walk, a White Garden and several spring-fed water features including a raised basket pond from the Great Exhibition of 1851.

You will also find a Shade House, colourful borders with unusual tender perennials and many creatively planted pots.

A raised 18th century walk provides an enticing visual link to the Cotswold landscape beyond.

www.bourtonhouse.com

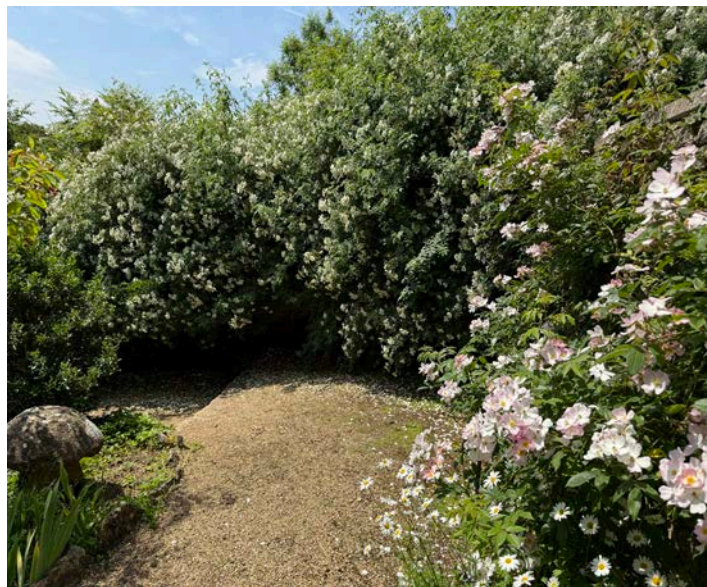
For further details contact Walter Sawyer secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com



Garden Club visit to Moor Wood Roses

On the most perfect June day a group of 21 club members visited Moor Wood Roses, Woodmancote, near Cirencester where they hold the National Collection of Rambler Roses.

The owners, Henry and Susie Robinson were delightful hosts and Henry gave us an excellent guided tour which was interesting, informative and amusing in equal measures. We caught the roses at their absolute peak, shown to their



best in a gently undulating setting. Everywhere you looked there were exuberant roses covering walls and growing up trees. There are over 150 different varieties.

The collection was established in 1983 with the aim of preserving as many rambler rose varieties as possible. There are also many other

rose varieties.

We were also shown a majestic and most enormous Cedar of Lebanon which was thought to be about 300 years old.

Susie then provided us with a delicious two course lunch after which a few stayed on to walk through glorious meadows to see beautiful pyramidal orchids. It really was a memorable day out.



Celia Sawyer

NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

Firstly, thank you so much to Caroline for the picture of the grass snakeskin and for taking the time to let us know about it. What a fantastic find! It reminds me of an afternoon spent watching F1 in my pal's villa in Indonesia. When the racing was over, I cast my eye around the room and realised there was a 7ft long snakeskin draped over his wall light.....that wasn't there before the racing started!



Coincidentally, I'm writing this from the same villa. I'm having a couple of weeks bird watching in Bali and eastern Java. One of my target species to photograph is the Javan banded pitta. Google it and you'll see why this region is so exciting to bird nuts like me!

It's good to go further afield occasionally and

heaven knows I've indulged in my fair share of weird and sometimes far from wonderful destinations; but the lovely thing about being interested in natural history is that even a small change in location can yield dramatically different fauna and flora. The vineyard I look after near Stow on the Wold is only a few miles away yet the ground there is very different, being brackish limestone rather than the heavy clay we have locally. That, along with sympathetic farming practices, has created a haven for wildflowers and insects. A couple of weeks ago, I was walking Bella around the farm before starting work and it was immediately evident that a huge hatch of large white butterflies had taken place (remember last month I mentioned butterflies hatch in 'waves'?) There were hundreds and hundreds of them, fluttering and dancing over the chicory dotted barley fields, in the hedgerows and on the track along which I was walking. It was breathtaking and I haven't seen the likes of it since childhood. Couple that with wildflowers like common toadflax, lady's bedstraw and the whimsically named gypsy rose and I felt I was being transported back 50 years to a time when insects were plentiful and every bramble patch was alive with buzzing

and humming and busy fluttering wings. Everything was slower and calmer then, and I miss that peace.

Earlier in the spring, I was starting to harbour thoughts of a bumper autumn harvest of fruit and nuts. Everything was going so well - warm wet weather to encourage flowering and give pollinating insects a chance to prosper and then bags of sunshine to set the fruit and help it ripen. But as the wall-to-wall sunshine became so relentless it was obvious that everything was suffering with fruit and crops failing to gain size. Fortunately, nature has a canny knack of correcting itself given half a chance, so I'm interested to see how the wet weather you've been having over the last couple of weeks has changed this dynamic. But in the meantime, I've got two more days grovelling around in the forests trying to photograph that pitta - will I succeed?!

David Sewell



Photograph by Trish Wilson (Cherington)

In last month's edition, I foreshadowed our waterways walk along the Thames from Wolvercote and back along the canal through Jericho. In early July, eighteen of us set off under a bright sky with no fear of rain ready for over 5 miles easy (flat!) walking. We soon discovered that there was more than a literary (Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Morse) interest to be had.

History Plaques on bridges indicated for just how long our forebears had made this journey - the canal dates back to 1790. Soon after starting, we passed the ruins of Godstow Abbey, the initial resting place of "Fair Rosamund," King Henry II's mistress. Then on to Blossoms' boatyard dating back to 1830.



Nature The river section is stunningly beautiful, with grazing horses on Port Meadow, overheated cows cooling off in the river, a variety of birdlife including a watchful heron, and wildflowers galore.

Industrialisation and Modernisation Before reaching Jericho with its (now gentrified) Victorian town houses, interspersed with new build blocks of

apartments, all dominated by the imposing campanile of St Barnabas's church, we stopped at the Grade II listed Rewley Road swing bridge for an interesting



talk on Oxford's railway connections (past, present and future) before making our way along the canal, now dotted by brightly coloured canal boats.

Food - Time had not allowed a coffee break at the Perch Inn, but a splendid lunch was enjoyed back at the Trout Inn, spoiled only for some by an influx of wasps from a nearby nest. The view from the terrace was a fitting

end to a quite excellent outing.

It will be difficult to better this in August, but who knows?

VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



We so enjoyed meeting again to talk about *'The Magician'* by Colm Toibin. This is a novel concerning the hugely revered German author, Thomas Mann.

It encompasses both world wars, the facts of Mann's life and imagines his inner self in a most compelling way. Mann fathered six children and remained married to Katia his whole life yet was secretly attracted to young boys. The film of his book *'Death in Venice'* probably illustrates this and is well-known. Colm Toibin, a major writer himself, has done so much detailed research and gives us his meticulous writing and passion for Thomas Mann.

Happy reading!

Gillian Cathie

Refurbishment of The Bird Memorial

With the agreement of the Parish Council, James Hayman-Joyce arranged for the memorial to be cleaned and repointed and Richard Podd, the stonemason who carried out the rebuilding and restoration of the Four Shire Stone in 2023 conducted the work in June 2025.

The work briefly involved cleaning off moss growth from the cupola and the supporting circular mouldings and the lion's head from which the water used to flow; cleaning out loose and open joints and repointing with natural hydraulic lime mortar and clean out the water trough.

The memorial is Listed Grade II and comprises a polygonal and circular limestone plinth with a precast concrete cupola supported by three pillars; it was erected in 1876 by Major and Mrs RW Bird of Barton House in memory of their son who died in his 20s at Barton House in 1874. There was originally a gravity feed from Barton House which flowed from the Lion's head into a lead lined trough around which is the inscription *'Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely'* (Revelations Ch 22 v 17)

There is also a well weathered inscription which reads



"This fountain is presented to the Parish of Barton on the Heath by Major and Mrs RW Bird in memory of their eldest son RWM Bird who died at Barton House on 12 July 1874. Loved in life he lives in loving memory when dead"

There is speculation that the Memorial is modelled on, or a re-erection of, a late 17th or early 18th century Well House

James Hayman Joyce

Fete

The Barton-on-the-Heath village fete took place on 21st June and unlike last year we were blessed with beautiful warm weather.

Held on the village green, the fete had an array of stalls selling homemade produce, plants, pre-loved designer clothes, housey things, books, toys and delicious pizza. There were competitions, tombolas, a raffle and an auction. Live jazz music provided the perfect atmosphere for having fun and relaxing with a drink from the bar or tea and a piece of cake.

Thank you to all who donated, helped and most of all to those who came to help raise funds for the village and local charities.

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Hello Burmington

I hope this finds you all well. This postcard is not from Cairo, but from Cyprus. We have decamped for the summer ...to an equally hot destination! Making the



most of the sea, and a change in food!

We are in a small village, not dissimilar to Burmington., a few houses and a church, but the bonus of a pub! The church is in a village called Karmi

Best wishes to all

Guy and family

Jam Making Festival and Competition



Burmington Church is holding a **jam making festival** with a competition to find the best jam and jelly. There will be different categories including best made by a child, best jelly, best jam and others - with prizes.

Entrance is free to anyone, but you will need to submit two jars, one for tasting and the other to be sold for church funds

at the tea event.

Winners will be announced at a **cream tea event** at the beginning of November to be held in Burmington Village Hall. Jams will also be sold.

Entrance forms and further details will be distributed in villages and churches and announced in August and September. Jams will be collected during October.

Please contact Jan Lennon 01608 662755 for further information

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Don't forget the Summer Family Prize Bingo is

Saturday 9th August doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. Please bring your children and grandchildren, we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Social Afternoon dates for your diary are Fridays 22nd August, 5th September and 19th September 2:00pm to 4:00pm at The Hall.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Summer Tea Party on Friday 11th July. We had a lovely, albeit very warm afternoon and even managed to squeeze in a TV theme tunes quiz and 2 games of bingo.



For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320



Vanessa Compton



Coffee Shop

Saturday 9th August

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cake. Eat in or takeaway

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

Christine Dudfield

Village Lottery Draw

1st Bill Law £80

2nd Joanna Mitchell £45

3rd Nick Mills £30.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining, please contact me on 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675



CSS Village Tennis Tournament

Saturday 15th August

Do you play tennis? Have you ever played tennis? Why not join in the Village Tennis Tournament? Whether you're a seasoned player or just enjoy a casual hit, you're very welcome—as long as you live, or have lived, in one of the three villages.

The tennis will be played around the villages in the morning and will finish with the final followed by a pot-luck lunch. Non-players are welcome to watch and join the lunch – just let us know.

If you're interested please contact Sally Clubley on 07989 330729 or sallyclubley@gmail.com



SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST
AT 1PM

Join us for a day of live music, food, drink and family fun



MIGHTY SMITH DOG SHOW
SPARKY THE BARNEY PORTER MUSIC
SPANISH STALLION BAR TEAS & CAKES
VINTAGE CARS, TRACTORS & MOTORBIKES
ICE CREAM VAN FACE PAINTING
BOTTLE MAGICIAN CHILDRENS GAMES
STALL JACOBS LADDER FLOWER SHOW
COCONUT SHY PLUSH PIZZA

The Hall & Playing Field,
Pinfold Lane,
Stourton,
CV36 5HG

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Under 5's **Free**
Family Ticket **£10**
(2 adults & 2 children)

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**Warwickshire air
ambulance**
&
**Cherington & Stourton
Playing Field Project**

Brailles Picturehouse

August Holiday time

Have a lovely Summer and see you in September

Deirdre and Team

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

Open Air Theatre – Saturday 16th August, at The Hall!

Come and enjoy a wonderful adaptation of the hilarious classic “Three Men In A Boat,” by Jerome K. Jerome. Bring a blanket & a picnic, and settle back as Jerome, (aka Giles Shenton), expertly takes the helm and pilots you through the ridiculous and hilarious tale of men - and a dog! - behaving badly while messing about in boats on the Thames...

Bar and Refreshments from 5:00pm. Pre, post and interval drinks, coffees, ice-cream and popcorn.

Performance starts 6:00pm. Finish approx. 8pm.

- Seating Section Tickets on patio (limited) £15/£8 u-16

- Picnic Section on grass (BYO blanket/picnic) £12 /£6 u-16 /£30 family ticket for 4 (max 2 adults)

****Get your tickets now, direct from The Hall at info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572 – or see us at The Flower Show on Sat 2nd to buy them!**

****Online Box Office at:** <https://buytickets.at/gillessentonproductions>

The Hall Dates for your diary:

2nd August: Cherington & Stourton Show

7th August: Farmer's Market, 6:00-8:00pm

9th August: Coffee Shoop & SHWP Family Prize Bingo, Bar open from 7pm

16th August: “Three Men In A Boat” Open-Air Theatre, 6:00pm, Bar open from 5:00pm (indoors if wet).

13th September: Coffee Shop

20th September: SW7 Benefice Sponsored Walk, in aid of World Vision – Start 1:00pm at The Hall

2nd November: The Cantamus Choir Concert, 2:00pm

22nd November: “Dead On Cue”, 7:30pm, The Hall Pop-up Theatre with GSP

29th November: SHWP Christmas Family Prize Bingo, Bar from 7:00pm

World Vision®

Hope and a future for all children

SW7 Benefice Sponsored Walk

Starting at Cherington Village Hall

Saturday 20th September at 1pm



Do you enjoy walking?

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You can by walking with us, helping on the day or by donating

If you can help please contact Richard Stevens

richardastevens235@gmail.com

To donate please search - justgiving.com/page/sw7benefice

Thank you for your support

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VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Email: editor@swlink.gmail.com



Social Saturday will be back in August for all those who have missed it. We hope that you continue to support this event as we look to improve the format of Social Saturdays. We are planning all sorts of interesting talks, stalls and music to accompany our

Social Saturday offering of delicious homemade cakes and savouries.

In August we have our Picnic Concert, so join us and the Shipston Town Band for


Join us for
Social Saturday
9th August 2025
11am - 1pm
Long Compton Village Hall
Free entry - savouries - cake - chat
Music - talks - stalls

this picturesque picnic concert which will take place on Saturday, 2nd August at 1:00pm at Long Compton Village Hall. The concert itself will start at 2.30pm and the day promises to be a perfect blend of brass melodies and outdoor charm. Pack your picnic and rug

and enjoy the tunes and licensed bar. The picnic concert is free to attend so please reserve your place by ordering your tickets from Karen at lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk or turn up on the day. See you there!

In November, we have a fruit spirit event. The blackberries and sloes will be ripe for picking soon, so all those who enjoy making sloe or damson gin, or indeed other spirits, don't forget to prepare your finest 2025 vintage for judging!

As always, a big thank you to everyone for continuing to support the Village Hall. You can always contact us at the email above if you'd like to hire the hall for your next party or group event.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee



Long Compton Village Hall Events 2025

AUGUST	2ND SHIPSTON TOWN BAND 9TH SOCIAL SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER	TBC RACE NIGHT 13TH SOCIAL SATURDAY
OCTOBER	TBC QUIZ NIGHT 11TH SOCIAL SATURDAY
NOVEMBER	TBC FRUIT SPIRIT TASTING 8TH SOCIAL SATURDAY
DECEMBER	13TH CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY



Long Compton Chapel: Community Fete Dog Show



We were very appreciative of not only having the Red Lion as principal sponsor of the Dog Show but also their Shady Hydration zone that proved very popular. Sadly, it was decided to cancel the Agility Display, but the Dog Show was able to go ahead and was well supported. Thanks go to Roger Clarke of Fulready Dog S'cool !for judging and Sally for compering. Other sponsors were Long Compton residents – Cotswold Hipster who provided each entrant with a commemorative key ring and prizes from their range for 1st Prize winners, Creature Comforts of Shipston also generously provided vouchers for other winners. Approximately £300 raised for Chapel funds

Elizabeth Gilkes and Sally Franklin

LONG COMPTON
CRAFT, FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW
@ THE CHAPEL

Saturday 30 August 2025

CLASSES

WINES & LIQUEURS

- W1** Bottle homemade Cordial
W2 Bottle of home made fruit liqueur

BAKING

- B1** A Classic Victoria sponge
B2 A Savoury Tart
B3 A plate of Cheese Scones
B4 A Chocolate Cake
B5 A plate of Flapjacks
B6 A plate of Cup Cakes



PRESERVES

- P1** Jar of Jam
P2 Jar of Fruit Jelly
P3 Jar of Chutney
P4 Jar of Marmalade



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- FV1** Collection of Vegetables in basket/box
FV2 Collection of Fruit, in basket/box
FV3 Collection of Culinary Herbs
FV4 Collection of Salad Vegetables

FLOWERS

- F1** A vase of garden flowers
F2 One specimen bloom
F3 Vase of roses
F4 Fragrant rose
F5 A pot plant

FLORAL ART

- FA1** In the green - leaves and flowerheads
FA2 A Table Decoration
FA3 In a basket
FA4 Fusion: A mix of silk/dried/fresh - in any combination

ART

- A1** Painting - flowers
A2 Painting - landscape
A3 Painting - something living
A4 Abstract
A5 A Portrait



CRAFTS

- C1** An item to wear
C2 Greeting card—any medium
C3 An item to display - textile
C4 An item to display - other media

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART

- PA1** An Animal
PA2 My Favourite Place

A set per person fee of £3.00 to cover costs (for any number of entries) and prizes will be in the form of Award Certificates.

Entries to be staged from 9am to 11am on Saturday 30 August.

Details: Sally Franklin 07870 545431 or Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

longcomchapel@hotmail.com

Comptonians

We shall meet on August 20th at the Village Hall at 12.30pm for a buffet lunch.

Margaret Welsh 684238



**SHIPSTON
TOWN
BAND**

PICNIC CONCERT

**Conductor:
Alex Bland**

Join Shipston Town Band for a picturesque picnic concert starting at 2.30pm – a perfect blend of brass melodies and outdoor charm. Pack your picnic and rug, revel in the tunes, and enjoy the licensed bar. Make memories under the open sky!

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 2025 | 1PM GATES OPEN

Long Compton Village Hall

Main Street, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5JJ

Long Compton Community Fete- Highlights



VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



Photographs courtesy of Steve Lavelle (www.stevelavelle.com)

The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for July is Beryl Brooks.

Jenny Scrivener

Whichford and Ascott Garden Competition

The winners of the Flower Show Garden competition held bi-annually are as follows:

Hamlyn Challenge Cup for the best large garden.	Charlotte Copley
Old Chapel Challenge Cup for the best medium garden.	Diana Atkins
Scott-Cockburn Challenge Cup for the best small garden.	Janet Knight
Elsa Jones Memorial Cup for the best vegetable garden.	Kevin Adams
Robert C Blakemore Memorial Cup for the best Greenhouse.	Kevin Adams
Chairman's Cup for the best newly developed garden.	Fiona Robertson

The cups will be presented at the Flower Show and Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday 25th August. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Sophie Corlett



NGS Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens

This year on Father's Day eight gardens in Whichford & Ascott opened for visitors. It was a lovely afternoon, and we were thrilled to find we were visited by over 400 people who helped raise just over £3500 for a number of nursing, health and garden charities. Everyone was really appreciative of the wonderful gardens on display with the garden owners on hand to



answer questions about specific plants and how to grow them. Many months of hard work go into these gardens in preparing them for the afternoon, so enormous thanks to the garden owners. Visitors were also treated to tea and homemade cakes in St Michael's Church. Many thanks to Sophie Corlett and her team of helpers in addition to all the people who kindly made cakes as it enabled them to raise £1200 for the upkeep of the church.

Katharine Wood

Lenticulars



The Old Rectory

Whichford War Memorial



The War Memorial in the centre of the village has been given a facelift, using a specialist company to remove all the dirt, moss and lichen. The surrounding area has new gravel and the edging stones reset.

All the names of those local men who gave so much for us during the war can now be clearly read.

The project has been funded by proceeds from the Flower Show.

Jan Knight

Wasp Swift Talk Follow-up

This July we have been treated to frequent sightings of swifts, wheeling across the sky screaming as they go, an experience largely denied to us last year. This reflects both the favourable weather, which has resulted in more plentiful food compared with last year, and the return of youngsters that fledged 2 or 3 years ago and have remained in the area. As the nesting season draws to a close and swifts start to depart for Africa again, it's a good time to reflect on the fascinating talk given last year by Jacey Jackson of Shipston Action for Swifts and how that was followed up in Whichford this year.

The talk explored the extraordinary life cycle of swifts and discussed some of the challenges they face today – in particular, the loss of their nest sites and the decline in available food. The aspiration of the talk was to raise awareness of their plight and support some local activities to help them. The talk was very generously sponsored by the Whichford and Ascott Flower Show, and their grant in conjunction with donations raised on the night has provided scope to fulfil some of that ambition.



Our older, traditionally constructed buildings have often had numerous gaps in walls, as well as spaces under eaves and irregular roof tiles, and common swifts have adapted to use these spaces almost exclusively for their nest sites. However, new builds tend not to provide these opportunities and house renovations frequently remove them, resulting in loss of swift nest sites. It is therefore important to identify and protect existing natural nests sites and also to provide artificial ones in suitable locations.

Following the swift talk, four active nest sites in Whichford were identified – three in buildings and one in a nest box. As swifts prefer to nest in colonies, new nest boxes

have been erected close to two of the natural nest sites where younger birds will naturally look for new nesting opportunities (the third faced south-west which makes the location unsuitable for a box mounted on the wall).

To complement the swift boxes and help other red-list birds, two house martin cups have been installed in Ascott (relieving the bird of having to find the mud to create and maintain its nest can improve its breeding success), and a roosting box has been erected in the churchyard which can be used by marsh tits, house and tree sparrows.

Thank you to everyone who came, donated and assisted in the project, including the Kiln Shed who kindly hosted the talk.

John Moulson

Stella Saves the Day



A brief visit to Whichford to meet friends turned into a potentially dangerous drama for Stella and her owners. Stella is a beautiful gentle, placid, red and white half-Australian Collie, four years old, whose other career is as a Therapy Dog at her local care home in East Anglia.

In the very early hours of a recent Wednesday morning, Stella sensed something wrong and dangerous was happening outside. She was disturbed by explosions (caused by burning roofing material) and a smell of smoke. She woke her owners and urged them out of their holiday cottage – and that was when her owner saw the smoke and flames leaping

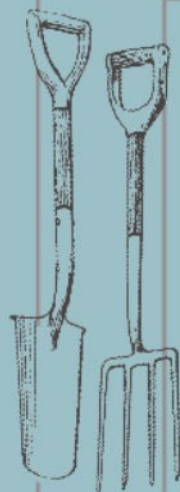
from the roof of the huge grain store at the Leasowe Farm redevelopment site.

Stella's owner immediately summoned the Fire Brigade who responded quickly with three fire tenders, accompanied by other fire officers. Fortunately, the smoke was drifting up the hill, away from the houses, and there was no wind, otherwise this may have been a different story.

Thankfully, the fire was extinguished by 7 o'clock, with a single fire tender remaining to ensure no further flare-ups occurred, and Whichford gradually returned to its quiet and peaceful self, thanks to the lovely Stella!



Iris Birch

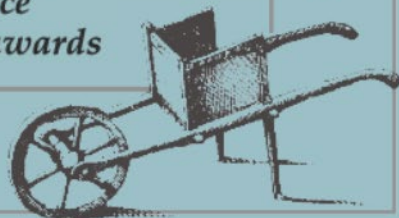


Whichford & Ascott Flower Show & Fete 2025

***Monday 25th August
Bank Holiday***

***Starts at 1.30 pm on
The Village Green***

***Interactive Display of
Exotic Animals
Schedule of classes for
flowers, fruit, vegetables,
produce
Prizes & awards***



VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



St Michael and All Angels Church Wall

The church wall at St. Michael and All Angels, Great Wolford separating the cemetery and the footpath had collapsed over some eighteen months and was getting worse by the month. There was about six meters of wall that had collapsed and a further few meters unstable, this was costly to repair. A group of us decided we could have a try at repairing the wall as we had some skills and the call went out to residents within the village to do a two hour stint on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th June 25, to help pick up all the stone,



measuring in 1", 2", 3" etc., place them into size bays, and clear the wall.

All together twenty residents turned up to help, most on both days, plus help from providing tea and coffee, assisting with timber for A frames, tractors to move stuff, filling pot holes in the village with some of the rubble, and some residents supplying additional stone, a lot of the community working together, it was a sight to behold and

brought me back to the old days doing the bonfires.

A small group, Tom Baker, Roy Behnke, Geoffry Shuttleworth, Haydn Jones, Nick Rew and minor help from Archie Green worked in shifts two hours each morning starting Thursday 19th June. We had completed ten meters and were about to finish the dry-stone wall when we became aware that another couple of meters was about to fall. We thought we might get away with it, but unfortunately on the only night it rained heavily, that collapsed also, and like all dry-stone walls it takes more out, so we set about restoring that part of the wall as well. Altogether twelve meters of continuous dry-stone wall were repaired and finished on Wednesday 16th July.

A big thank you to all those of our community who helped, a proud moment for all of us.

Tom Baker

St Michael's and All Angels Church Kneelers



On Sunday 13th July, Reverend Anthony Wells, led an excellent Dedication Service of the Church Kneelers.

All you "doers" of the tapestries have a unique tale to tell. If you are able to share your story, please write an entry and put it in the Kneelers book at the back of the church for posterity.

Many thanks to Bernie Van-Helden for her expertise with the image display book.

If anyone has been inspired to do a kneeler, please feel free to have a go.

Many thanks to all.

Jane Baker



Coffee, Cake and Chat at Wolford Church

Tuesday 19 September 11am-12.00

Come and join us for a chat over coffee/tea and cake at St Michaels Church

Come and meet new friends or old.

Share your interests and just chat

Everyone welcome

Huge Thank You from Wolford PCC

Wolford PCC would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who turned up for the churchyard clear up last month. We made great progress although there's always more to do so we will hold another clear up in the Autumn.

An even bigger thank you to Tom Baker and the team of villagers he rallied together who have rebuilt the large part of the churchyard wall that had fallen down. It was a mammoth job, and we are in awe of your skills and the time you all gave to complete it particularly after the rain that knocked a further section down when you'd almost finished. Roy, Geoff, Simon, John. Haydn, David, Graham to name but a few sorry for those we have missed out but thank you all.

It is so wonderful to see so many villagers come together to help the church. We are now working on the refurbishment plan for the church and as a result of Tom and his team's hard work we have more money to spend inside the church as we don't have to pay to repair the wall.

Anyone who would be willing to help with our refurbishment programme by doing research for quotes/grants please contact me on 01608 674009 or annmckenna3@sky.com

Ann McKenna

Moreton Car Boot Sale – Monday 25 August 2025

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

The members of the PCC are giving up their August Day Bank holiday lie in to be at Moreton Car Boot sale at 7am on 25 August!

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

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John Wrench 01608 674389 or Ann McKenna 01608 674009

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THE LINK

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Then you can promote your event **FREE** of charge in The LINK. If the event is outside the Benefice but would be of interest to our readers, you can advertise for:

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Please contact Cathryn Aitken
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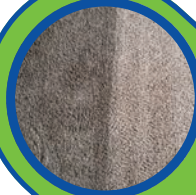
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