

THE LINK

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

FEBRUARY 2024

£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

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

Thurs 1	Country Market	Moreton VH	10.00
Sat 3	Village breakfast	Burmington VH	09.00
Sat 3	Three's a Crowd	Long Compton VH	08.00
Sat 3	Onside Coaching	Long Compton rec	09.30
Fri 9	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sat 10	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11.00
Sat 10	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat 10	Movie: <i>Haunting of Venice</i>	Brailes Picture House	19.15
Sun 11	Barton Book Club	Barton House	17.30
Tues 13	Cameo Club lunch	Burmington VH	12.00
Fri 23	Carers 4 Carers	Kineton VH	10.30
Fri 23	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Weds 28	Garden Club	Long Compton VH	19.30



Cover photograph: Red Kite by Tony Wells

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

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

Please note the copy deadline for March 2024:

February 8

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Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	emilymajzub@gmail.com



Link Talk

Welcome to the February edition, we've gone pink for Valentine's Day!

We have two new features in this edition. Our *Local Hero* piece celebrates all those, young or old who, whether it's volunteering, caring, or just giving up time, go the extra mile in our villages to make life better for everyone. So, if there is someone you would like to recognize for their contribution do send in their details along with a reason for your nomination and if possible, a photograph. They may not make the Honours List but at least we can thank and recognise their efforts here!

We have been receiving a few letters recently in response to articles so thought it might also be nice to include a *Letters to the Editor* column. If there is anything (good or bad) you would like to say the do send in your thoughts and if they are publishable, we will publish them! Our first letter below is from a regular contributor Tony Wells who also provided this month's spectacular cover photograph.

Have a warm and romantic February, the daffodils will be with us soon!

Sara Billins

Letters to the Editor

Well done David Sewell for picking up the Nature Notes. Tony Partridge's wonderful page was always my first "port of call" when The Link arrived each month and I was bereft when they ceased. Judging from his first contribution, David will be a splendid replacement, get well soon and keep up the good work! Another contributor who has also filled the metaphorically large Farming Boots of Lynn Mathias is Tufty Richardson, I cannot wait to hear about the old lads from 1960's Long Compton.
Regards Tony Wells (Cherington)

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Pet of the Month



This handsome moggy is 6-year-old Charlie who lives in Long Compton.

Charlie was found wandering in the snow as a stray kitten and we rescued him from the rehoming centre in Welford on Avon. He is incredibly friendly but likes to wander; he is often found schmoozing with visitors at the recreation ground and gets frequent mentions as a ‘lost cat’ on social media. He was also clearly taught some life skills before he was found as a kitten as he is a skilled and dedicated mouser preferring a ‘takeaway’ to cat food... not nice, but we still love him!

Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to editor@swlink.org.uk



Happy Birthday!

February 2024



Jessie Kowalski	Great Wolford	4
Rowan Thompson	Cherington	18
India Thornton	Whichford	9

Local Hero

Our first local hero is Oscar a visitor to Long Compton who rolled up his sleeves and got stuck in. Thank you, Oscar, we look forward to your next inspection!

I thought you might like to see the efforts of a helpful lad of 11, called Oscar Fowler, (our godson), who was staying with us from his home in another part of Warwickshire. He noticed the bus shelter had a huge amount of litter and leaves accumulated in it and decided to take action himself to clear it out with broom, litter grabbers, gloves and filled a whole sack.

Dear The Link Magazine,
 On my visit to Long Compton I happened to observe a fair amount of litter in the bus shelter next to the village hall. I was appalled at how many cans and cigarette ends there were. I then went through this whole procedure of sweeping and picking up litter which took me about an hour. I also observed the lack of care gone into the shelter. Now what I mean by this not just the absurd amount of litter but also by the lack of paint on the seat and the couplings on the walls. More people need to help and sort this problem out. Not now because this is the nicest part of the county.

He was so shocked that we live in the 'most beautiful part of the county' but don't look after our bus shelter that he wrote a letter about it. I think he's been doing something about community service for his school in Warwick which spurred him into action and comment! Anyway, whatever motivated him, the bus shelter did look better afterward his visit. He'll be back a half-term to check on it!



Mary Palmer

Carers4Carers

Monthly meeting. Friday 23 February 10.30 - 12 noon, Kineton Village Hall.



Come along for refreshments and the chance to meet with other local carers. Find out about the role of a social prescriber and meet the carer champions from Hastings House surgery. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meetings.

For more information about our support group for carers, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



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

The Market will reopen **Thursday 1st February 2024** offering Bakes & Savouries, Veg & Eggs, Preserves, Crafts, Cards and Gifts.

Seville oranges are now in season, so make the most of our homemade marmalade. Plus heartwarming soups and casseroles, just the thing for this winter weather. We look forward to welcoming you.

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

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



The LINK has been kindly supported during 2024 by The National Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

Marine Quay, Salcombe



A spacious waterfront apartment for sale/rent on a timeshare basis in **Salcombe, Devon**. Sleeps 4-6. Available the first week in November. Peaceful and autumnal with stunning estuary views from the apartment balcony and rooms. Parking for 1 car and charging facility for EV's.

No Dogs.

Contact 07792974288 or 07976700763 for further details.



Iona Scotland Acrylic on paper. By Colin Beckett



Sonnet 116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

William Shakespeare

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim Soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

W.B Yeates





2023-24
SEASON

THE RED LION

CHARITY PUB QUIZ SEASON 2023-24

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY - LONG COMPTON SPORTS CLUB

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY - MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



What you need to know...

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

NEW YEAR PILATES

with Body Control instructor

Complete beginners and intermediate level welcome.
Starting **Tuesday 2nd January**
at 9.00 am and thereafter
every Tuesday morning.

Please bring your own mat.

In The Wolfords Village Hall,
Little Wolford
Max 10 people. Cost £12 per
session
Contact Stephen by Text on
07734083257.

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 every third 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	Vacancy
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Councils

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	Peter O'Kane (684888)	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

CHURCH NOTES

The most important question of all

I wonder what words come into your mind when you hear the word '*Christianity?*' Rules, church, community, helping people, services, cold buildings, boring sermons, RE lessons?

I want to say that none of those really gets to the heart of what Christianity is all about. The key can be found in the name itself. Christianity is all about Christ. The man, Jesus of Nazareth.



It is a well-established fact that Jesus existed and few can doubt the influence he has had on the course of human history. All of the moral values we hold dear in this country are based on his teaching and influence. Across the world, over 2 billion people claim that he is alive and that they are his followers. We even date our calendars on the basis of his birth; but who was this man? Was he just a good teacher who was tragically killed by an unjust regime? Or was he more than that as he himself and his earliest followers claimed?

In the coming months, the SW 7 benefice will be running a course designed to help think through some of these questions. The course is called *Hope Explored* and we will go right to the source of the Christian faith as we look at the Gospel of Luke together. Luke was a historian who carefully investigated the events he describes; basing his account on the eyewitness testimony of those who knew Jesus best. We'll explore what Jesus claimed about himself, we'll look at some of the amazing things that Luke claims he did. We'll investigate the final week of his life, where Jesus was put to death and then according to Luke rose again three days later.

The course itself is very relaxed and informal and has lots of space to ask questions and discuss the issues that come up. You won't be asked to pray, read the bible aloud or sing.

Who is Jesus? If you want to get to the heart of Christianity that's the question you need to grapple with, and the *Hope Explored* Course is a great way to do that.

To register your interest and for more details please contact Ben Dyson on vicarsw7@gmail.com or 01608 628229

SW7 Women's Breakfast

Wolford Village Hall Saturday 9th March 2024

At 8.30

Mike Hill

*Certainty in a
Changing World!*

RSVP

Liz Maycock 01608 686404

lizzymaycock@gmail.com

Sarah Scotter 01608 686303

sarah.scotter@hotmail.com

Continental Breakfast @ £12 per head



CAMEO LUNCH CLUB 16th Birthday



The next Lunch Club meeting, which celebrates our 16th birthday, will be held in
Burmington Village Hall

on Tuesday, 13th February at 12 noon for 12.30 pm.

Our meeting will also be celebrating an early St. Valentines's Day.

All are welcome: most villages in the benefice are represented in the current membership. A charge of £4.00 is made towards expenses. 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 Tel: 664313

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

February 2024 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford
4th February 3rd Sunday before Lent	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4pm GAP Service (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD) Little Wolford Village Hall
11th February 2nd Sunday before lent			9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
14th February Ash Wednesday			10:30am Ash Wednesday Service (TBC)			
18th February 1st Sunday of lent		9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	4pm GAP Service (BD)	
25th February 2nd Sunday of lent				9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	

South Warwickshire Benefice

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

BD = Ben Dyson, LM = Liz Maycock, LW = Clare Wells, HP = Heather Pebody, AD = Andrew Dow, RS = Richard Smith, RSa=Richard Stevens, ADSD = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
 BCP = Prayer Book, CW = Common Worship, GAP = Informal Service

It's the January 3; I wrote last time that Claire and Dan were expecting a happy event between Christmas and New Year. I'm pleased to say that in the evening of the 2nd they were blessed with a baby boy named William, John Richardson. I remember once reading in a book entitled '*Country Kate*' in which after a long and difficult childbirth a father asked his daughter "*What did you have gal?*". She said, '*I've got a little boy dad,*' at which he replied, '*my cup runneth over.*' I know now how he must have felt and I'm so pleased for them both.

On a more sombre note, a dear friend and I think the oldest farmer in Long Compton passed away in early December. I speak of Peter Whittaker of Butlers Road Farm. Peter was born on August 24 1929 at Sutton Coldfield. He later farmed at Blue Boar farm, Dunchurch near Rugby. He married Eileen in 1957 and they had Lynn and Bob. They all moved to Butlers Road farm in the spring of 1969. They took over the farm from George Watts, it's fair to say it was in run-down state when Peter took it on. He brought down around 30 cows to milk and by the time the cows went they were milking around 100 cows.

I've known Peter since I cut some barley for him in 1969. Peter was a very practical and enterprising man; I remember he built a large green house from second hand Dutch lights in which he grew wonderful crops of tomatoes. He also had a large and bountiful vegetable garden. I enjoyed helping in the past clearing up the muck in the collecting yard and sitting down to one of Eileen's farmhouse breakfasts, the coffee always tasted good with the full fat milk fresh from the morning's milking.

I could always ask Peter how much rain we had had, as he kept an accurate daily record for many years. Eileen now does the same. I asked a few days ago how wet 2023 was. She recorded 36.00 inches, 13.4 more than we had in 2022 in which the total was 24.5 inches. It was interesting to learn last October we 5.25 inches. In November, we had just over 7 inches of rain and up to the end of December a further 4.74 inches. I can honestly say I have never seen a back end of the year so wet. We did have a few drier days leading up to Christmas and Dan tried to plough a wheat stubble but couldn't do it as the waterlogged ground wouldn't take the machinery. With 65 acres of spring corn to drill on heavy clay soils which won't dry until ploughed over or lifted up to air and lax with dry and better still frosty weather. Unless something really does change, I can see spring drilling being as difficult as the last autumn.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

February is the time when I start to think about properly getting back to work in the garden, after spending January recovering from Christmas and New Year excesses. (And, frankly, rather enjoying not to have to do too much work outdoors.) It's getting a little bit lighter and a little bit warmer. The bulbs start showing, rewarding your forethought last autumn.

Luckily, February's jobs are not overly demanding, so you can take it relatively easy. You can begin to sow certain vegetables under cover - in an unheated greenhouse, a cool light windowsill, a cloche or cold frame. Lettuces and other salad plants can be started off now but do try and be patient - not everything is worth early sowing. Get your seed potatoes ready for planting by leaving them in a cool light room to chit. For those who are unfamiliar with potato growing, chitting is the process of stimulating the potatoes into growth, and they send out small shoots as a result.



There is some winter pruning to be done, particularly for winter-flowering shrubs. It's an important time to prune your wisteria to stimulate flowering shoots. The east-to-remember pruning rule for wisteria is "2/2, 7/7". This means that in February, you prune new growth back to two or three buds, and in July, to seven leaves or buds from the main stem. Mulch shrubs with some good organic matter after pruning, to help them back into healthy growth.

As for garden flowers, you can start your dahlias into growth in February. Get the tubers out of their cool dark winter quarters and give them some light and warmth. You may have to mist them with some water to prevent them drying out. If any of your herbaceous perennials are showing signs of shooting, make sure you've got your plant supports in place before the growth gets too vigorous and while you can still see what you are doing. Cut hellebore leaves to expose the flowers.

It's worth planting lily bulbs in containers for a glorious floral show and fabulous scent in the early summer. I keep them by my back door, so I get a noseful every time I go out. If you didn't sow any sweet peas in the autumn, there is still time

to do it now. Sow them in roomy pots under cover or in a cool room. They need fairly deep pots to allow their roots to develop properly. Don't let them get too straggly - pinch out the main stem when the seedlings have developed two sets of leaves. This will encourage additional stems. You can then plant them out in March or April for beautiful cut flowers in the summer.

I must say, I can't wait for even longer days and warmer weather. Roll on April.

Miranda Arnold

NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

Hi all and I hope your year has started well. As I write we are experiencing a cold snap which is a quite a relief from the relentless wet weather of late.

February snowdrops tease us with a glimpse of hope that spring might be just



around the corner. Surprisingly, the humble *Galanthus nivalis* isn't native to the UK but was probably imported from mainland Europe around 400 years ago. By the 18th century it had escaped from private collections and was populating wild areas, and it hasn't looked back since. The snowdrop has captured the imagination of many plantsmen over the centuries and from 20-odd known species they have created over 1000 named varieties. In my mind the best place to enjoy a superb display locally is Batsford Arboretum where the acres of snowdrops are quite breathtaking.

Contrasting nicely with the white snowdrops you might also find winter

aconites. Originally known by the far cooler name of winter wolfs-bane, these bright yellow flowers also aren't native, but were imported from Europe in the 18th century. Good old Capability Brown was especially keen on using them to add swathes of colour at a time of year when there wasn't any. His enthusiasm was probably enhanced when it became apparent that they were poisonous to deer and rabbits.

February is the time of year when things start to shift up a few gears. Locally, herons, long-tailed tits and ravens have already started nest building, while most of our garden birds are starting to think about it. Bird song is changing from contact-calling to full blown courtship and around the bird table fights will start to break out. Whereas the male robins are generally happy to tolerate each other through the winter, they're now starting to defend territory and a fully laden bird table is a mighty useful thing to have in your territory.

On a practical note, hole nesting species like tits, robins, sparrows and starlings are starting to scout out suitable places to rear their young. So, if you're planning to put a nestbox or two up (and you should!) then now is the time to do it. If you have existing boxes, it's worth cleaning them out and pouring a bit of boiling



water into them (don't use insecticides) to kill off any bugs. If you do this try to return the box to its location on the same day just in case a bird is using it for roosting.

While you're sorting the bird stuff out check the feeders. Food tends to clog the bases and every few months they really benefit from being dismantled and cleaned. If

space allows, maybe even move the feeders for a few weeks to keep ground-dwelling pathogens at bay, bearing in mind a lot of birds in one space can...how shall we put it...create a build-up of bacteria on the ground. Each year I get the odd chaffinch with furry feet and legs which is a fungal infection known as *Fringilla papillomavirus*. The birds seem to cope with it OK but clearly, they'd be better off without it.

February underground can be quite busy too, especially if you're a badger. Although the adults' mate in the Autumn, they have what is known as 'delayed implantation' or even better, 'embryonic diapause' so the cubs aren't born until February. They then spend around 8 weeks underground before heading out into what can be quite a lonely world these days. If you're a badger anyway. Although we do still have the odd set locally it's clear that the badger cull has had a significant impact on local populations.

However, every cloud has a silver lining and, in this case, it seems to be an uptick in hedgehog numbers; but they won't appear until March, so we'll chat about them next time!

School Days

Class 1 at Acorns have enjoyed planning and completing their innovate project for the *School Days* topic. They were tasked with working collaboratively to gather their knowledge and prepare to partake in a debate, answering the question: *Which is better, Victorian schooling or present-day schooling?* Class 1 were fantastic at working as a team, and all their historic knowledge from the history topic shone through. Not only could they remember all the learning, they worked hard to articulate it and linked their thoughts to the other's teams points. They had some super debates!

Community Tree Planting and Surveying

At the start of December, members of Class 3 were fortunate to be invited to



take part in a community tree planting project with local residents of Long Compton who own land across the road from school on the Macmillan Way footpath. The children planted 40 trees and were treated to some drinks and biscuits afterwards. Well done to the 10 children who represented Acorns extremely positively and were great role models and advocates of our school.

The Year 5 and Year 6 children have completed their geography unit, which finished with the class taking part in a fieldwork and questionnaire project in Long Compton. Thank you to everyone who completed our survey; the results



were very interesting. Almost all responses commented on the speed at which traffic travels on the road and there are some great suggestions for improvements to the road. The school was very popular in the *"Can you tell us what you especially like about Long Compton"* question...as well as the pub, shop, community feel, country walks. A thought-provoking project.

Climate Action Plan

A part of the Acorns Transform Our World Climate Action Plan, pupils on the School Council have been busy thinking about ways to reduce waste at lunchtimes, including food waste and packaging that cannot be reused or recycled. They decided to hold a Waste Free Lunch Day and invited Ruth Payne, a Waste Projects Officer from Warwickshire County Council, to run Wipe Out Waste at Lunchtimes workshops for the School Council Reps.

The School Council carried out an audit of the food and packaging waste from a typical lunchtime at Acorns. They weighed the scraped food waste from hot dinners and food waste from packed lunches, collected packaging from packed lunches that cannot be reused or easily recycled and weighed this waste too. Using the information they had gathered, they led a whole school assembly to promote their Waste Free Lunch Day.

The School Council then held their Waste Free Lunch Day, monitoring closely the food and packaging waste and rewarding those who had a clean plate or empty lunchbox, as well as looking for good examples of packaging free lunch boxes.

The event was a great success with the food waste more than halved on the Waste Free Lunch Day in comparison with the initial audit. School Council will continue to promote Waste Free Lunches to help reduce the school's carbon footprint.

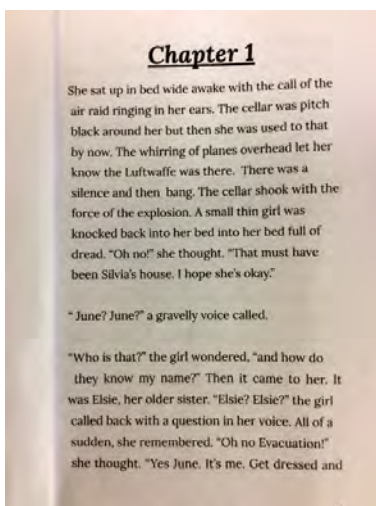


Through the Ages

Owls class at Brailes School have celebrated history learning from throughout the Autumn term, looking back and making links with what they know and remember. The Owls' families came into school to be part of an engaging

innovate stage where the class travelled back through time and demonstrated their knowledge of the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages to families. Mr. Harcourt didn't know if parents were expecting to build a hill fort, paint a cave and speak to real palaeolithic cave dwellers, but they did!

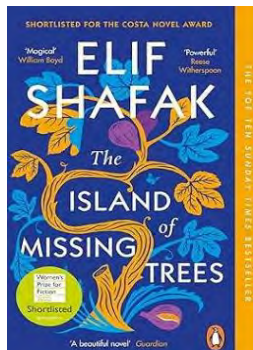
Authors in Badgers



At Brailes School, children in Badgers class became both authors and publishers as they wrote, edited and then printed their own evacuation stories for the end of topic 'Innovate' project. All members of the class demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the events at the start of the Second World War, which they then coupled with vivid imagination and creative zeal to write a story with strong atmosphere and emotion.



Book Club



We really enjoyed meeting again for a New Year's discussion of 'The Island of Missing Trees' by Elif Shafak. She is a well-regarded Turkish novelist who now lives in Britain.

The main story is the love between two young people on the island of Cyprus at the time of the 1970's brutal civil war. He is Greek Orthodox and she is Turkish Muslim. Years after their departure for London, we are introduced to their teenage daughter, Ada, who is unaware of her exact background and the profound impact on her family

of the deep divisions on the island of her conception.

Shafak also introduces many aspects of ecology into various chapters of the book, in the form of a Cypriot fig tree, acting also as a kind of narrator.

Most in the group had enjoyed reading the novel very much and appreciated the delicate and sympathetic writing. It made a great subject for discussion.

Next time will be on Sunday February 11 when we will meet at Barton House at 5.30pm to talk about 'Lessons' by Ian McEwan.

Until then, Happy Reading!

Gillian Cathie

Benedicte Wield

We are very sorry to write that Benedicte suffered a stroke and very sadly died in the John Radcliffe Hospital in the early hours of New Year's Eve. Her son and daughter were with her and we send them our sympathy, prayers and love.

Carol Service Cheesy Biscuits

After the Carol Service on December 17, 2023, in St Lawrence Church, Barton-on-the-Heath, refreshments were served including Gay Stallard's Legendary Cheesy Biscuits. Many people asked for the recipe so here it is!

Thank you to Gay.

Gay Stallard's legendary Cheesy Biscuits

Makes 18-20 biscuits

Ingredients

- 120g mature cheese, grated
- 60g plain crisps crushed (roughly 3 small bags)
- 60g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon mustard powder
- Pinch cayenne pepper – a good pinch if you like it spicy!
- 60g butter, melted

Method

Mix the dry ingredients together then stir in the melted butter to make a “crumbly” dough.

Use a heaped teaspoon of the mixture and press together into a rough ball and put on a greased baking tray and press down lightly.

Bake at 180 degrees centigrade for 15-20 minutes – if they are browning too much drop them down a shelf part way through cooking.

NB, I have already tried making these and can confirm their deliciousness- Editor

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



'Hairy Bikers' visit Burmington

Following January's item about the Hairy Bikers' visit to Burmington Farm, we asked Rachel Tame to tell us a little more about the visit...

'We were approached by the production company back in Spring 2023 about the possibility of the Hairy Bikers coming to film our walnut production. Two of the producers came in June to have a look around and a date was set provisionally in October, dependent on Dave Myers's health.

On October 9, a team of 13 including camera operators, sound engineers, lighting engineers and runners arrived. They took initial drone shots of the farm before the bikers arrived to complete their interviews with us.

The bikers were lovely and exactly as you see on the TV. They spent three hours completing the shots before they headed off to Stratford on their motorbikes, but not before trying out Sheila's fruit cake which they thought was delicious.

We were invited to the banquet at a venue in Staffordshire and felt very privileged to be part of such an intimate gathering. All in all, a fantastic experience for the whole family.'

Rachel Tame



Postcard from Cairo



First off, a happy new year to all Burmington! Hope you are all well!

Our postcard for Christmas was more a postcard from Milan. We spent Christmas with good friends not far from Lake Como and made the most of good food and wine!!

On returning to Cairo a quick break to the beach before everyone headed back to school!

Best wishes Guy and family

New Church 'Welcome' and Information Panel

You may have noticed that there is a new '*Welcome to our Church*' panel just inside the churchyard gates.



In addition to welcoming visitors to our village church, the panel provides information about our church's history including what (little) is known about the remains of a "preaching stone," recently re-pointed by Pete Gardner's team. No one knows how old it is (does it pre-date the church?) and experts can't be sure exactly what it was used for. One theory is that it was a place where itinerant priests or monks preached to villagers. Other possible purposes are mentioned on the panel.

A photograph of a stone in another churchyard shows what our stone might have looked like. So, whatever sat on top of the pillar originally, the stone itself remains a mystery.

BREAKFAST AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Saturday February 3

9.00am – 11.00am

To book please call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Special dietary requirements catered for.

Please state when booking.

Opportunity - Marquee Available

On June 22, there will be a marquee in Michael's Field in Burmington Village. It will be used on Friday June 21 for the CAMEO Tea Party and on Sunday June 23 for a Benefice Songs of

Praise. However, on Saturday 22nd June it will be vacant. If any responsible group or organisation would be interested in using it and contribute to the cost (in region of £150), please contact Sonia Baker

(01608 661459)



Cherington, Stourton and Sutton under Brailes Hall Lottery

The Lottery has two functions, to raise funds for the Hall and to reward members with prize money. The Hall needs funds for maintenance, repair and replacements in order to remain in excellent condition and the Lottery income is very valuable in achieving these objectives; but over than half the income is distributed as prizes!

Each month a draw is held and three prize winners chosen. In every month, apart from December, first prize is £80.00, second prize is £45.00 and third prize is £30.00 but In December the prizes are doubled.

To stand a chance of winning you need to be a member of the Lottery which will cost you £5.00 per month. Your membership fee will be paid by standing order from your bank account.

You need to be in it to win it!

Village Lottery January Draw

1st Susie Dockar Drysdale £80, 2nd Alan Thompson £45, 3rd Robyn Durie £30.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support. For information on joining the Lottery please contact me.

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675

Christmas Greetings Donations in support of St John the Baptist Church

Huge thanks to all who have donated to St John the Baptist church in lieu of sending cards to our friends in the villages. The grand total of £1,296 has been raised. Thank you once again for your tremendous support of our beautiful church.

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

Brailes Picture House

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start.

Please Note, Change dates Feb & March Feb. 10th and Mar.9th - one week earlier

Sat. Feb 10 - A Haunting of Venice

In 1947, in Venice, Hercule Poirot is retired and reclusive, and protected by his bodyguard, the former police officer, Vitate Portfoglio, who stops any stranger from contacting him. However, Poirot gets an invite to a Palace, to attend a Halloween party and seance to expose a fraud or validate the medium, Joyce Reynolds, who was a nurse in the War. The Palace was an orphanage and a place with plague in the past and has a reputation that spirits kill nurses and doctors that come inside. During the seance, Poirot finds that Joyce is a fraud..... Oh, so gripping ...

Stars: Kenneth Branagh, Micelle Yeon, Jamie Dornan, Joyce Reynolds, Kelly Reilly to name a few

Future Dates and Titles

Saturday March 9 Barbie

Saturday April 20 Oppenheimer or Holdover whichever is released in time.

Saturday May 18 Wonka or Saltburn whichever is released in time.

Deirdre and Team

Coffee Shop

Saturday February 10

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes
Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall,
meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

There will be a bring and buy stall in aid of the
village playing field funds.



Christine Dudfield and Tricia Wilson

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Dates for your February diary are Fridays 9th and 23rd

2.00 pm to 4.00pm at The Hall.

We hope to hold an Easter bingo towards the end of March, details to follow in March's Link.

We have launched a new FREE Pickleball activity on Tuesdays at Brailes Village Hall, please see poster below for all details.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Vanessa Compton



PICKLEBALL

FREE ADMISSION

Tuesdays 12noon - 1pm
BRAILES VILLAGE HALL

A photograph showing a black pickleball paddle with a blue triangular pattern on its face, resting on a blue surface next to a green and yellow pickleball. In the background is a black net, likely a tennis or badminton net, with a blurred outdoor scene visible through it.

A fun sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis.

**Turn up on the day or for more information please contact Rowena Webb on
07967 479375 or e-mail admin@shwp.org.uk**

This is one of the range of FREE activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership. This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with Stratford-on-Avon District Council as the lead authority. For more information on other activities please visit: www.shwp.org.uk

Stratford-on-Avon District Council
SHWP
UK Government

My Life in Stitches : Alison Hulme

Alison will be telling her intriguing and inspiring story a great experience for everyone, all genders, teenagers upward.

"I've met this inspirational lady twice now, her energy and attitude to life is infectious."

£6.00 per person to include glass of wine/soft drink and time to chat and mingle before and after the talk.

Thursday 21 March 2024

7.00pm for 7.30pm at The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Full Day Screen Printing Workshop



Friday 22 March with accomplished textile artist Alison Hulme

£65.00 per person includes all tuition, screens, inks etc; please bring fabric for your projects (Alison will have some available to purchase as well)

Combined ticket for the Workshop and 'My Life in Stitches' £66.00

This is being run at cost, the number of places on both events are limited to ensure the best experience for participants and will be on a 'first come' basis.

Email anniethpatch@yahoo.co.uk to register giving your name, telephone number and email address please. Bacs payment will be requested to secure your place.

AUTUMN-WINTER 2023-2024: ACTIVITIES & OPEN CLASSES AT THE HALL

MONDAY	9:15-10:30am	- Yoga with Claire: 07980 543437 www.inspirehealthandwellbeing.co.uk
	11am-12noon	- Functional Pilates with Juliet: 07899 966303 www.julietrobbins.com
	6-7pm	- Pink Belt Ladies Kickboxing with Demi: 07984 377069 demimcaleenan@gmail.com
	7-9pm	- Bi-monthly 3 rd Monday, Parish Council Meeting – 18 th Dec, 19 th Feb
TUESDAY	10-11am	- Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
	11:30-12:30pm	- MELT Method with Debbie Williams: 07966 746794 www.debbie-williams.co.uk
	3:30-5pm	- Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	6:30-7:30pm	- Pilates with Pam: as above
	6:30-7:30pm	- LAST TUESDAY: Feldon Wildlife Group, Cart Shed gpwilliams20@sky.com
WEDNESDAY	4-7:15pm	- Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes, The Barn and Gallery: as above
	10am-1pm	- ALTERNATE WEEKS - 1st & 3 rd Weds: Stour Valley Stitchers, Cart Shed: contact stourstitchers@gmail.com
	8-10pm	- FIRST WEDNESDAYS: Garden Group, Cart Shed: contact Chris Carr chris@homefarm2.co.uk
	9am-4pm	- 14 th February: Curious Creators children's art & craft holiday workshop
THURSDAY	9:15-10:15am	- Pilates with Pam: as above
	11:15-12:30pm	- Yoga with Claire: as above
	6-8pm	- FIRST THURSDAY: Farmer's Market – produce stalls, bar, tea & coffee, supper
FRIDAY	11:15-12:15 & 12:30-1:30pm	- Improvers MELT Method with Debbie Williams, pre-booked blocks of 5 classes - - Beginners MELT Method with Debbie Williams, pre-booked: as above
	4:15-8pm	- Atomic Dance children's classes: as above
	1:30-4:30pm	- FORTNIGHTLY: Cart Shed & Lobby: Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Feel Good Fridays - Health & well-being, social, games etc. Vanessa (01608) 663320. Forthcoming Dates: 12 th Jan, 26 th Jan, 9 th Feb, 23 rd Feb
	6-9:30pm	- LAST FRIDAY OF MONTH – Pop Up Pub, come along and socialise with friends & neighbours in the lovely Lobby Bar! 29 th Dec, 26 th Jan
SATURDAY	9:15-10:15am	- Zumba with Rachel: 07948 250616 shipstonzumba@gmail.com
	10:30-12noon	- 2 nd SATURDAY OF MONTH (dates below) : Coffee Morning, Cart Shed & Lobby – Hot Drinks, Bacon Butties, Cake, everyone welcome: 13 th Jan, 10 th Feb,
	10am-12noon	- 3 rd February: Fused Glass Workshop, Helen Cooper hc90352@gmail.com
Sunday	10am-12noon	- 14 th January: Mini First Aid, children & infant first aid training session, £25 pp https://warwickshire.minifirstaid.co.uk/classes/open/14996
	10am-12noon	- 11 th Feb: Fused Glass Workshop, Helen Cooper hc90352@gmail.com

For Hall Hire information: www.thehallevents.org.uk Email info@thehallevents.org.uk Tel: 07775 765572

VILLAGE NEWS

Long Compton

Editor: longcompton@swlink.org.uk



Every month I worry that no one will turn up for Social Saturday but, good folks of Long Compton, you never fail me! We got off to a great start in January 2024 with lots of you tempted by the prospect of catching up on news whilst downing mugs of tea or coffee and sampling the glorious fare. Perhaps it was the thought of things settling down to normal after the excesses of the festive period, or was it the thought of winning on the raffle? Either way, it was so good to see you all and to those regulars who couldn't make it, we missed you and hope you can join us next month. If transport is an issue, let us know and we can come and fetch you. We don't charge for this regular event, simply ask you to make a donation for what you consume so it really is available and accessible for everyone.



Coming up in February is the absolutely fantastic Three's A Crowd. A great opportunity to shake off those winter blues and join in with this local covers band. Get in touch to book your place, £10 a ticket.

As ever, thank you for your support and remember the hall is there for your use at competitive rates, so why not organise your own event for 2024.

Mo Read

Three's A Crowd

ROCK AND POP COVERS



At

Long Compton
Village Hall

SAT 3RD FEBRUARY 2024

8PM



Join us for

Social Saturday

Saturday 10th February 2024

11am -1pm

Long Compton Village Hall

Free entry - savouries - cake - chat



Long Compton
book club

We have now introduced a waiting list for new members, in order to keep discussions manageable. If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact:

Imogen Brown 07710 129181 brownimogen@gmail.com

You may not know that Jaffe and Neale – our wonderful local independent bookshop in Chipping Norton – also runs a monthly Book Club.
Details from me, or direct from them.

For those interested in reading along with us anyway, our February books are:
"Swimming Lessons" by Claire Fuller
"The Road Home" by Rose Tremain

Long Compton Walkers

Traditionally our first walk of the New Year has been in Blenheim where underfoot conditions can usually be relied upon. This year we took a chance with a canal side walk beginning in Thrupp, just outside Kidlington. The reconnaissance party, 5 days earlier had found that the planned route was impossible with the towpath under water in parts and the whole area east of the canal seriously flooded.

However, after 4 rain-free days and under a bright sky we braved the cold and set off. The waters had receded somewhat allowing us to head North until, after a coffee break at Shipton lock (pictured), our way was blocked with a succession of fallen trees. We returned past countless narrow boats in various states of repair and lunched at the Jolly Boatman spotting swans and a solitary deer as we ate. A place to return to in the summer but a good way to have started the year.

New recruits always welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Stuart Brown at scbqc1@gmail.com





New activities at the Rec

Do you have any budding footballers who want to start playing? Onside Coaching have established the Long Compton Cubs (boys and girls aged 5-6) and the Long Compton Lionesses (girls aged 7-11). This starts on Saturday 13th January and the first session is free. Sessions can be booked via

<https://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk/select-team 'Long Compton Football'>. You will need to sign up before you can book.

Clubhouse Renovations!

A lot of work has been done in the clubhouse over recent months. A “new to us” kitchen has been installed. A massive thank you to Taryn and Kahlila for giving everything a deep clean whilst Simon, James and Shaun changed the units over.

If you want to get involved, there is plenty more to do, so please do get in touch.

Upcoming Fixtures

These are all weather dependent:

Saturday 13 th January 9.30 – 11.30	Onside Coaching – Cubs and Lionesses
Saturday 13 th January 10.30 – 12.30	Shipston Excelsior FC U16
Saturday 27 th January 9.30 – 11.30	Onside Coaching – Cubs and Lionesses
Saturday 27 th January 10.30 – 12.30	Shipston Excelsior FC U15
Saturday 3 rd February 9.30 – 11.30	Onside Coaching – Cubs and Lionesses

We will do our best to have the clubhouse open during these times for teas, coffees and hot chocolates. Ideally, we need to build up a team of volunteers to help run this, so if you can spare an hour or two on a weekend, then let us know. This will continue throughout the year when we also have cricket fixtures.

Sean Kench

Long Compton and District Garden Club

	<p>Long Compton and District Garden Club</p> <p>2023/24 Programme</p> <p>Long Compton Village Hall 7.30pm</p>	
Feb 28	Propagation (cuttings, plant division, sowing, composts) Robert Longstaff, trained by MAFF, TV and radio talks, practicing 'no dig' since 1981.	
March 27	The healing power of plants-why plant derived treatments are not an alternative but the real thing. Timothy Walker, ex director Oxford Botanic Gardens and lecturer in botany and conservation.	
April 24	Foraging in gardens, hedgerows, riverbanks and forests Fred Gillam lectures to many institutions and gives workshops on foraging.	
<p>Contact Lesley Roberts 01608 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com or Anthony Well 01608684337</p>		

Long Compton Chapel

There is a book swop operating in the Chapel Porch. It is very well stocked at present with no scope for extra donations, so I hope we have some avid readers keen to replenish their shelves.

Elizabeth Gilkes



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023

This year's appeal was, as usual well received and a huge thank you to all who supported it so generously.

The Long Compton District (which includes Barton on the Heath, the Wolfords, Whichford and Ascott) total so far stands at £3,332.85. Hopefully, this will rise as for the first time this year donations could be made electronically using a smartphone and a QR code. When RBL notify me of the final figure raised locally by this method I will ensure the revised total is published in The Link.

David Whatley-Appeal Organiser



Long Compton Sports Club

Annual General Meeting

Monday 26th February 2024

7pm

Long Compton Village Hall

Everyone is welcome!
Stay informed and get involved.

Refreshments available on a donation basis.



VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Andy Deller who was the winner of the January Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener



VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club: January 2024 Winners

1st prize – Bob Large 2nd prize – Dick Goodman 3rd prize – Charles Hobbs

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

James van Helden

Wolfords WI

Oh, my goodness what has the weather been doing? Rain (and more rain), snow, freezing and then suddenly mild ... and that is just in one day!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015



As of January, The Wolfords WI has been in operation for a tremendous 102 years! How amazing is that? Sadly though, our doors closed on February 5. We were a small group and to operate we needed to have a minimum of three committee officers. Sadly, we could not find those. The majority of our members had been on the committee at one time or another, some for many

years. It is a commitment people do not take lightly and we have always been supportive of each other when it is sometime difficult to balance all our priorities.

We will still be running our clubs, albeit as independent groups – book club, walking, supper and crafting, as well as getting together for coffee mornings and interesting events we come across. The groups are open to everyone – it's just now you do not need to be a WI member to come along.

If you are interested in any of the groups, please let me know, and I'll contact the relevant person. You can contact me by txt/WhatsApp or email Gilly 07812 344598, or gillyhd99@hotmail.com.

I would like to say I have had a great time being president for the last two years and have made many treasured friendships that will continue for a long time. We have had lots of laughter, learned about different things – women in





space, English civil war, WW2 exploits, crystals, dreams, and new skills, even trying to improve (without much success) my crafting skills ... and I still want to learn how to hoola hoop properly.

I am convinced The Wolfords WI will flourish again in a couple of years. If/When that happens, all the assets (should you need a few hundred pompoms lol!) and remaining funds will be made available to the new group.

Meanwhile, here are a few pictures of the fun times and creations we have had over the last couple of years. Thank you, Gilly.

Wolford Carol Service

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported, helped and joined in to make our wonderful carol service such a great success.

There were over 80 people in our church which looked beautiful thanks to Sarah and her team of ladies – June, Sue Elliot, Mel and Linda

Thanks to all our readers who read so beautifully – George, Toby, Rose, Halina, Rhian, Alice, Abi and Nigel

To our 3 Kings – John, Graham and Ben. To Tom and Archie for the wonderful light show

For Fred stepping in to serve the mulled wine and for all the ladies who provided mince pies and other delights for after the service – June, Sarah, Sian and Jane

To John and Shirley putting up and decorating the tree and to Ben for his inspiring sermon. This was such a wonderful carol service – it was magical so thank you to everyone who came and supported it and joined in the carols with such gusto!!

Ann McKenna



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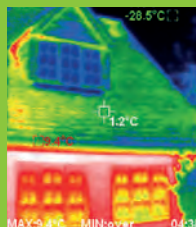
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