

THE LINK

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

APRIL 2026

£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

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

Thurs 2	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Easter Meditation	House of Bread	20:00
Fri 3	Good Friday Activities	Long Compton Ch	10:00
Thurs 9	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Barcheston PC AGM	Burmington VH	19:45
Sat 11	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
Tues 14	Coffee Morning	Wolford Ch	10:30
	Cameo Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12.00
	Compton Creatives	Long Compton VH	14:00
Weds 15	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	12:30
	Feldon Mil and Naval Hist Soc	The Hall, Stourton	20:00
Thurs 16	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 17	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
	Music: Roy Gelato	Townsend Hall, Shipston	19:00
Sat 18	Quiz Night	Long Compton VH	19:00
	Movie: Ballad of Wallis Island	Brailes Picture House	19.15
Thurs 23	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 24	Carers 4 Carers	Kineton VH	10:30
	Fish and Chips Supper	Wolford VH	19:00
Sat 25	Introduction to Bee Keeping	Brailes VH	
Sun 26	Introduction to Bee Keeping	Brailes VH	
Tues 28	Wolford's PC AGM	Wolford VH	19:30
Weds 29	Church AGM	Long Compton Ch	19:30
Thurs 30	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00



Cover photograph: Burmington Lane by Emily Cook

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

The LINK TEAM

Editor	Sara Billins	editorswlink@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martin McKenna	treasurer@swlink.org.uk
Advertising Manager	Cathryn Aitken	adverts@swlink.org.uk
Company Secretary	Martin McKenna	secretary@swlink.org.uk
Subscriptions Manager	David Cleave	subs.swlink@outlook.com
Online Manager	Simon Paton	online@swlink.org.uk

Village Editors

Barcheston & Willington	Vacancy	barcheston@swlink.org.uk
Barton-on-the-Heath	Cathryn Aitken	barton@swlink.org.uk
Burmington	Graham French	burmington@swlink.org.uk
Cherington & Stourton	Christine Dudfield	cherington@swlink.org.uk
Long Compton	Sara Billins	longcompton@swlink.org.uk
Whichford & Ascott	Melanie Arnold	msmarnold4@gmail.com
Great Wolford	Lynn Mathias	greatwolford@swlink.org.uk
Little Wolford		littlewolford@swlink.org.uk

Feature Editors

Church News	Liz Clarke	officesw7@gmail.com
Gardening Notes	Margaret Welsh, Miranda Arnold	editor@swlink.org.uk
Farming Notes	John Richardson	farming@swlink.org.uk
Nature Notes	David Sewell	david@thegardenmakers.co.uk

Village Distributors

Barcheston & Willington	Maki Sutton	661539
Barton-on-the-Heath	Cathryn Aitken	07929 639871
Burmington	Sandie French/Steph Bradford	07939 344684
Cherington & Stourton	Ebe McLeod	686278
Long Compton	Anne Molloy	07703 261026
Whichford & Ascott	Iona Grieve	07754 543664
Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	07718955990

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the April edition of The Link. You can tell that its Spring; all of my tables and window sills are covered with seedings, the air is blue with the sound of people trying to get their lawn mowers started for the first time this season, there is a sudden increase in joggers getting ready for summer and my cat Charlie is back to attention seeking at the recreation ground once again. However, the postman is not in shorts yet, so we still have a way to go until summer!

Spring activities are cranking up, and the villages will soon be full of tables selling garden produce. I attended my first meeting for Long Compton fete last week; we are all systems go for a fantastic summer!

Have a wonderful Easter and eat ALL the chocolate!

Sara Billins

THE LINK

How to Subscribe to The Link

THE LINK

At just £12.00 for a calendar year subscription, The Link represents excellent value and is a great way to stay connected with the news of events and stories in your local community.

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.swlink@outlook.com or call your local distributor.

Or you can pay or renew by BACs to South Warwickshire Link

Sort Code 30-98-26 Acc. No: 63268260. Please reference your surname and address.

THE LINK is published by South Warwickshire LINK Ltd, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (reg. no. 07234681), and printed by Kopyrite.net, Chipping Norton.

The opinions expressed in The LINK are not necessarily those of the Editor or any member of the LINK team. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information printed, the Editor/team do not accept any responsibility for the consequences of any errors that may occur.

The LINK does not endorse any products, services, or companies. The appearance of advertisements in this magazine is not a guarantee of those products/services or the companies that manufacture, distribute, or promote such products/services.

All information held by The LINK is strictly confidential and is held purely for administration purposes and not sold or offered to third parties.

All subscription monies paid to The LINK are non-refundable in the event that the South Warwickshire LINK Ltd. ceases to operate.

Pet of the Month



How can anyone resist this Easter offering for Pet of the Month? A friendly and sociable boy, four-year-old Tibetan Terrier Biggles lives in Long Compton. He always sports a jaunty bow but likes to pull out all the stops for special occasions, like this look he put together for Easter.

He takes his job as a watchdog very seriously greeting the arrival of milk, newspapers and letters with equal gusto. He is also partial to a treat from the post van and shop and will not walk past either without popping in to say 'hello'.

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!

April 2026

Amelia Upward
Toby Jones

Long Compton
Barton on the Heath



17

**Please note the copy deadline for May 2026
April 13th**



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

Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...

On Friday, 17th April 2026

Ray Gelato



Ray and the band deliver a non-stop, high energy, show that never fails to get an audience clapping, singing, and dancing the night away!

Accompanied by:
Gunther Kurmayr on piano;
Eleazar Ruiz on bass; and
Simon Spies on drums

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00
Tickets £20 in advance; £25 on the Door
From the Flower House, 3 Market Place,
Shipston and online via
ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or
townsendhall.co.uk

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



The Godfather of Swing, Ray Gelato, son of a G.I. is always on the road with his classic saxophone. Together, they fill venues around the globe taking Ray's sound of swing, jazz and R&B to an ever widening and appreciative audience.

Ray has played some of the most prestigious Jazz festivals - Montreal, Lincoln Centre N.Y., Umbria Jazz Festival and naturally some of the greatest Jazz clubs including Birdland N.Y. Bluenote Milan; in April the Townsend Hall Shipston-on-Stour will be added to the list!

As one of the most popular figures in British Jazz, Ray's events are always very well attended so advance purchase of your ticket is recommended.



Carers4Carers - your local support group for family carers.

We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship

Group during the meeting.

Friday 24th April. The focus is simply on unwinding and enjoying each other's company. Anita will be with us to offer soothing hand massages, and we'll round things off with music. A bit of optional singing together can lift the spirits beautifully — no pressure.

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

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

 25th -26th April  Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING



Led by a local Master Beekeeper our weekend course will give you an insight into, and hands on experience of, the world of the honey bee and the role of the beekeeper.

TOPICS INCLUDE

DAY 1 Village Hall, Brailes 25th April

- ✓ How a honey bee colony works
- ✓ The beekeeping year
- ✓ The essential equipment
- ✓ Harvesting your honey and wax
- ✓ How to get started with your own bees

DAY 2 Apiary, Lower Brailes, 26th April

- ✓ Siting an apiary
- ✓ Assembling hive parts
- ✓ Apiary Safety
- ✓ Inspecting a honeybee colony

Light lunch and refreshments and a copy of the Haynes Bee Manual included

Bee suits will be provided.

Cost £135 (£90 children)



For more information and details on how to register for our annual "Introduction to Beekeeping" course scan the QR code.

www.sbka.org.uk



secretary.shipston@wbka.org.uk



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



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR PROBUS CLUB

COMPANIONSHIP FOR RETIRED AND SEMI-RETIRED GENTLEMEN OF SHIPSTON AND THE VILLAGES



FRIENDSHIP | FUN | FASCINATING TALKS

MEETING FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAY MORNINGS
AT SHIPSTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
21 LONDON ROAD, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR CV36 4EP

ALL WELCOME!



Shipston-on-Stour Area u3a A Friendly and Stimulating Local Community

Are you no longer working full time and wanting to do something new?

Join us at u3a on a fulfilling journey of learning, friendship, and fun, where individuals come together to explore new interests and share experiences.

We offer many different activities including **arts, nature, history, physical activities, music, languages, and social events**. Our welcoming community of over 350 members from all over the Shipston on Stour area encourages you to pursue lifelong learning and discover new hobbies while enjoying the company of like-minded people.

Why Join U3A?

Learn Something New: Explore and join any of our 39 interest groups.

Make Friends: Connect with others who share your interests and experiences. Rediscover the joy of learning.

Stay Active: Join our regular outings, workshops, walks and social events.

Flexible Participation: Choose the activities that suit your schedule and interests.

For more information and a full list of activities, please look at our website www.sosa.u3asite.uk
Come along to one of our monthly meetings which start at 2pm normally on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Townsend Hall, Shipston, or contact Secretary, John Keayes, by e-mail secretary@sosau3acommittee.org to find out more

*An enchanting play for
all the family...*

WOOD OWL AND THE BOX OF WONDERS



A lonely little owl wants nothing more than to fly into the night and join his friends. But how can he, when he is made from wood? The arrival of another lonely soul changes his life as he strives to help. Join Hoglets Theatre on a magical journey of singing owls, fantasy worlds, friendship and love.

Sunday 10th May

Doors & Refreshments 1:30pm

Show 2pm

Tickets £14 / £10 2-16 yrs / Show running time c.40 mins, no interval

Book Now: info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572

Online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thehall-cherington-stourton-sutton>


The Hall
Cherington · Stourton · Sutton-under-Willows

AT THE HALL, CHERINGTON,
STOURTON & SUTTON, CV36 5HG



**LIVE
& LOCAL**





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:

07346 126269/ mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

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

**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 :



Every Tuesday 10.30am - 12.30pm Shipston on Stour CV36 4QG

Every Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm Wellesbourne CV35 9NH

Each 1st Thursday 10.30am - 12.30pm Compton Verney CV35 9HZ
(contact us for entrance tickets)

Each 2nd Thursday 10.30am - 12pm Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0DS

Each 3rd Thursday - 10.30am - 12.30pm Chipping Campden GL56 6HR

Every Friday from 10am - 12 noon Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE



Advice and support for carers of loved ones living with dementia in South Warwickshire & North Cotswolds

Paul and Heather Dowler - Telephone: 01295 688376 Email: talkdementia.uk@gmail.com Website: talkdementia.uk

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

Shipston 'tip' is open - 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 as advertised

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)	Dawn Fisher (663171)
Cherington/Stourton	Philip Townsend (686529)	Dawn Fisher (663171)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Ed Law	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

CHURCH NOTES

Dear Friends

The following is a poem written by the author Malcom Guite – it reflects on Mary Magdalene's experience of the first Easter morning; meeting Jesus outside the empty tomb and at first mistaking him for the gardener. If you want to read the bible passage on which the poem is based, you can find it in John chapter 20 vs 11-18.



He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

Wishing you a very happy Easter

Ben Dyson – Vicar, SW7 Benefice



CONNECT

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

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

Refreshments provided

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

For more details, please contact
Kim Petty, kimpetty@btinternet.com 079499949215

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

April 2026 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford
3rd April Good Friday			10:30am Good Friday Meditation (CLW)		10:00am-12noon Good Friday Children's Activities (KP)	
5th April Easter Sunday	8:30am BCP Easter Communion (BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (CLW/AW)			11:00am CW All Age Communion (BD)	9:45am CW Easter Communion (BD) (Service in Church)
12th April 2nd Sunday of Easter						10:30am CW Morning Prayer (Rst/LM)
19th April 3rd Sunday of Easter				10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4pm GAP Informal Service (BD)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)
26th April 4th Sunday of Easter			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am 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/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/HP = Heather Peabury/AD = Andrew Dow/RG = Richard Smith/RSt=Richard Stevens/ACBD = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

? Are you 11-21yrs ?

Are you anxious about life?

Are you searching for meaning or for purpose?

There will be two new groups meeting in 2026

16-21yrs on the first Sunday of the month,

11-15yrs on the third Sunday of the month

2:45pm at Long Compton Church

We will be meeting to see if Christianity

holds any of the answers for you.

Come and join us

The informal GAP service follows at 4pm

For more information

contact Kim 07949949215

SW7 Families Outreach Worker



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 07949949215**



Serving our Communities

Coffee and Chat



In Long Compton village Hall

8:30am-9:30am

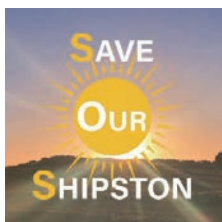
All welcome

Thursdays

only

for more information contact Kim Petty (SW7 churches)

07949949215



Shipston New Housing Developments-Latest News

It has been an incredibly busy month for SOS!

With Lichfields threatening to put in the planning application for Fell Mill by the end of March we have had a number of meetings to plan our campaign going forward. This includes meetings with our Planning Consultants which have been highly productive and importantly a first session with our barrister which lasted over 4 hours and included an extensive walk around the Fell Mill site. We now have a very focused plan which involves commissioning



key specialists to write reports on important aspects we will use in our objections. Planning evidence is crucial to make our case effectively and for that we need the right people working with us.

All this highly specialist and legal input costs money, so we have also been stepping up our fundraising efforts. We have raised our targets and will be doing further fundraising drives going forward.



We are getting donations in for the badges we have produced. If you haven't got yours yet they are available for a donation at The Little Bird Shop run by Katie who is an experienced herbalist, at Little Vins, a lovely café for all the family, and from Larks Meadow Farm in Willington at their pop-up shop on Saturday mornings.

The SOS team can also usually be found in the Market Square on a Saturday morning manning our stall.

There are now posters available which you can pick up at the above venues, or you can print your own from the link on the website. Please put them in your windows, on notice boards or even on gateposts! There are thick paper versions as well as weatherproof versions.



We are doing more face to face events in town to give out information and answer questions. We have a stand at the Rivers Day event on 14th March too and at the great Poster Auction on 31st March in the George. Robert Harper is kindly giving proceeds to a group of local good causes including Save Our Shipston – Thanks Robert!

More banners will have appeared by now on all the approaches to Shipston, and we will be announcing a sponsored walk around the Fell Mill Site. So, keep an eye on social media, our website and if you are on our email list, details will be landing in your inbox very soon – if they haven't already.

Once the planning application has been submitted, we will be holding another public meeting and doing an increasing number of face-to-face workshops.

So, stay tuned, spread the word and get in touch if you have any questions or can assist us in any way.

Save Our Shipston – Protecting Shipston's Future – Together!

To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC

Account Name: SaveOurShipston

Sort Code: 40-18-57

Account Number: 60770736



www.saveourshipston.org



@SaveOurShipston



@SaveOurShipston



Say No to additional 3000+ houses

It's the 4th of March and another fine day after two months of endless rain. It's starting to take its toll on the crops now. Last autumn I was pleased how I drilled 35 acres of beans and how well they came up and how well they looked. Well, to see them now, it's not a pretty sight. We had a couple of sharp frosts in early January and they looked ok, but with the mild wet weather that followed, they suddenly turned a nasty shade of brown. I thought it frost damage, but it soon became clear that they were infected with a fungal disease called Chocolate Spot. It's a common thing in beans but has little effect until the beans are nearing harvest. In fact, in the old day, when old varieties ripened later, it helped defoliate the leaves, helping them ripen a little earlier than the normal late September.



It appears to be a widespread problem. Later drilled crops are affected, but not as severely. The cost of several fungicide applications and the poor prices of beans mean we will leave them for a while and see what new growth they make, but I think the old saying '**the first loss is the least**' may well come into play and we may well scrap them. We are looking into a one-year legume option if our SFI agreement will allow it to replace them. Our advisor is now looking into it for us

Talking of SFI, the Government has now, at long last announced some of its aims for the relaunched SFI. Some of the previous schemes have been scrapped and others have reduced payments. They have now put a cap on total payments so large estates can't, in the future, put vast areas into schemes. Like a lot of things, you are expected to manage with less and keep going.

Today, it's dried enough for Dan to start putting the first dose of nitrogen on the wheat. All the wheat is starting to show signs of stress from endless rain, and they need a leg up to get them going and hopefully get a better yield than last year. We have an old 4 wheel-drive tractor that we can fit with dual wheels. This is ideal for what we call top work; harrowing, rolling, topping etc. The duals help spread the weight and not track the ground so much.



Dan uses the tractor for early top dressing and got going today, only to find after the first field, that a hydraulic problem cropped up and he had to change to a larger tractor, but as the ground has been washed down by the weather it's quite firm and he's getting on ok. So, all is not lost, just another problem to look into.

Still, on a happier note, Adam Shurley has finished the second balancing pond. He managed to do both in very difficult conditions and his skill with a 368 tracked digger is second to none.

He got both done neatly leaving both in remarkable condition, ready to be landscaped and planted in the coming

summer. It's a job I'm looking forward to, I think it's not only helping with the flood defence but also a boon to nature. Its only taken up a small amount of ground that's in the shade of the brook, so not losing much useful cropping land.

The two fields of clover at Butlers Road are now in their second year and looking well. These will be allowed to flower and later killed and topped off, ploughed in and worked down to be sown with wheat this back end. The two fields planted this autumn are also looking well. They established well, all be it with a good amount of Charlock, but this is an annual and already dying. The Buckwheat and Phacelia will be direct drilled into them and let flower as per the scheme, they're in. I'm pleased to see the new SFI schemes still include legume fallows but now at a reduced payment. I'm sure we will be taking up some areas in the future, when our existing scheme ends.

As I write, Mr Trump's war with Iran has taken off. Filling the car with diesel this morning I see the price has gone up 10p/litre overnight and LPG gas the same. I hope we don't get a wet harvest coming. Last year, yields were down but no drying costs. With grain prices low at the moment, any extra cost is only going to make things harder.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

As we all know, April is famed for its showers! But there can also be plenty of sunshine, and the lengthening days give us more time to get out into the garden. There is, however, still a risk of frosts, so don't be too cavalier about putting tender plants back outside from their winter quarters.



Photo: Michelle Hunter

Now that the soil is warming up, you can start to sow annual flowers and vegetables. An old gardener once told me that a sure sign that you can start to sow hardy annual seeds is the emergence of weed seedlings - showing that the soil is warm enough for germination. We are currently being plagued by sycamore seeds germinating all over our garden. We don't have a sycamore tree, but the winter was so windy they have spread everywhere. Even the small

gutter by our kitchen roof is a mini forest of sycamores. I've had to hire next door's teenage boy to lean over the parapet to pull them out for me.

Weeding can be a bore, and there's often a temptation to turn to chemical controls. But there are many reasons to avoid chemical weed controls on all but the most stubborn perennial weeds. The poisonous run-off from weed killer can pollute surface and groundwater and get into our streams and rivers. It can drift onto and damage your ornamentals and vegetables. And it can harm or kill wildlife in your garden - for a start the insects that are on the plant when you spray, and then the helpful pollinators that feed on them. And frankly, now that glyphosate has been banned, they are not as immediately effective as they used to be.

Some weedkillers advertise themselves as "organic", but they also contain ingredients that pose risks to wildlife. And you may also see, on the internet, recipes for home-made organic weedkillers, perfect for the organic gardener. But many of these also pose risks to wildlife and our watercourses. They are often based on salt mixed with other ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda, or washing up liquid. Salt is highly problematic because it gets washed off and into streams and rivers. Vinegar can be effective on moss for example but would need to be reapplied frequently to really have an effect. Washing up liquid is fine for washing aphids off your plants but won't do anything to kill your weeds.

I'm afraid the best solution for weeds is the old-fashioned, non-labour-saving way. Pull up perennial and annual weeds as soon as you spot them, either by hand-pulling or hoeing. They'll then rot down if left on the surface of the soil, thereby adding nutrients to the soil. The key thing is to pull them up before they have a chance to flower and spread their seeds further. For example, deadhead dandelions as soon as you see them putting out buds. Applying a thick mulch to your beds will also help to keep weeds down. Try to put a good couple of inches on.

For perennial weeds, particularly those on hard surfaces such as terraces, patios, and paths, an electric weedkiller can be used to zap them. These can be very effective indeed, and don't come with the same environmental risks as chemical weedkillers.

Miranda Arnold

Long Compton and District Garden Club:

Pip Smith-The Resilient Garden Part 1- Drought

After a long, wet winter it was good to turn our thoughts to summer and hear about strategies for dealing with a spell of prolonged dry weather. Pip is a landscape designer who trained at Pershore College and Birmingham City University. He's been head gardener in several public and private gardens, most recently at the highly acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall in Shropshire.

He began by explaining how heatwave differs from drought. A heatwave is at least three consecutive days with the daily maximum temperatures reaching or exceeding 25-28 (depending on the county). A drought is a long-term shortage of water, typically caused by a prolonged period of low rainfall. Heatwaves are more frequent than droughts in the UK. It is predicted that by 2070 summers will be 60% drier and winters 30% wetter so plant selection is really important. Our traditional plants such as geraniums, dahlias, hydrangeas are all water intensive. Most gardens comprise 75% lawn which dislikes heat and drought. Alternatives such as thyme are much more resilient and creatively positioned trees can have a cooling effect. Pip provided a list of drought resistant plants and explained the various mechanisms that plants deploy to deal with heat and drought. Some roll their leaves, some have cooling waxy cuticles which reflect light (hylotelephium/sedum), some have blue-grey or silver glaucous foliage (euphorbia), and some have fine foliage (rosemary and dianthus). Plants from diverse climatic zones are more adaptable – for example viburnum and cotinus. There are also practical steps like mulching, watering in the evening and using pots for drought-resistant plants. Pip was optimistic that, ultimately, plants are resilient.

Fiona Robertson

Long Compton and District Garden Club

Winter Talk in the Village Hall

22 April Vanessa Berridge - will talk to us about Great British Gardeners.

Our final talk in our winter programme is from the well-known garden historian and writer Vanessa Berridge. She will talk to us about some of the skilled, creative, and influential gardeners stretching from the past right up to the present day. We meet for a hot drink and conversation from **7.10pm**. Our talks begin at **7.30pm**. We do hope that you can join us, visitors are always welcome, there is a small charge of £4 for non-members to join us at this meeting.

Dates for your diary for our 2026 Summer Garden visits -

- 11 May** **Pettifer's**, Wardington, Oxfordshire, a lovely 1.5-acre garden created and developed by Gina Price.
- 3 June** **Vicky Hunt's garden in Stanton St John** near Oxford, a delightful stream side garden with many interesting plants.
- 13 July** **St Hilda's College, Oxford** the college does not open to the public. This is an opportunity to see how the gardens have been developed and restored in the last 9 years.
- 10 August** **Upton Wold**, Blockley, hedges create a series of carefully linked gardens which cleverly use the borrowed views of the surrounding countryside.

September (date to be confirmed) Sezincote Garden

In addition to the entry charge for each garden a charge of £5 is made to non-members for each garden visit.

Our friendly group is always delighted to welcome new members and visitors. Come and join us, we hope there is something for everyone whatever your level of experience and interest. It is also an opportunity to share our gardening knowledge and experiences.

Club Membership costs just £14 per year. Visitors are always welcome.

For further details please contact Walter Sawyer
secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com

WALKING NOTES

Editor: Stuart Brown

The local group seeks to operate a rota with one or two members volunteering (being volunteered!) each month to reconnoitre a walk (and the local pub). Their list of criteria features steepness of ascents, underfoot conditions, livestock (with accompanying dogs in mind) and the number and condition of any stiles. This last is important for a group who will readily admit to being less flexible than in earlier years.



Stiles come in a variety of shapes and sizes with the most common being the simple wooden step followed by stone steps, ladder and squeeze varieties. The most recent Countryside Code advises land managers to replace stiles with gates to enhance ease of access, but their advice prompted renewed interest into the history and variety of stiles, with many lamenting the loss of a local heritage feature.

Stiles have a long history with the name deriving from the Old English ***“stelig”*** (or steps) and feature not only in nursery rhymes but in John Clare’s poetry:

***“He lolls upon each resting stile
To see the fields so sweetly smile”***

And in Jane Austen’s ***Pride and Prejudice***:

“Elizabeth Bennett made her way across Netherfield Park at a quick pace jumping over stiles and springing over puddles”



The Countryside Code has had a real impact, with a number of long-distance walks boasting as being ***“Miles without Stiles”***, and the Offa’s Dyke trail having reduced the number found along its 170+ miles from over 900 to around 250.

By contrast, in neighbouring Gloucestershire, a local group (<https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/stone-stiles/>) sought to identify and preserve stone stiles, with their most recent count totalling over 1,000, and in Dorset, local tradesmen (carvers, stone masons and blacksmiths)



have created a walk with a series of artistic stiles (<https://www.theblackmorevale.co.uk/a-trail-of-nine-stiles/>)

For our part, we perhaps should be better at reporting broken or poorly maintained stiles to the local County Council, knowing the landowner can recover a proportion of the cost of repair and knowing the stile is primarily there

for their (and not our) benefit by enclosing land and livestock.

In the meantime, would any reader with photographs of unusual or interesting stiles let me have a copy.

Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

Spelling Bee Finalists

In a previous issue of The Link, we wrote about the exciting buzz of the Trust Spelling Bee; we are very proud of our children who worked hard to learn their year groups' words and the effort and resilience dedicated to the challenge by our pupils. Huge congratulations to Aggie, Annabel, Elsie, Ned, Lily, Freddie and Finlay who made it to the Trust final at Shipston Primary. In tough battles against children from Brailes, Shipston, Wilmcote and Kineton schools, we are pleased to announce that Annabel and Ned were victorious in taking home the winners' medals. Our children were beautifully behaved throughout the final and showed excellent support to their peers - well done for being good role models and excellent ambassadors of Acorns.

A Night to Remember: Young Voices 2026!

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently traded the classroom for the bright lights of the BP Pulse Arena in Birmingham for the spectacular Young Voices concert. It was an experience that hit all the right notes! The scale of the event was truly breathtaking. Our children joined a massive choir of up to 6,000 students from schools across the region. The sound of thousands of voices singing in unison was nothing short of incredible, and the energy in the arena was electric as they danced along to the professional choreography. It was certainly a long day—





from the afternoon rehearsals right through to the final bow in the evening—but our pupils handled the late finish with great maturity and endless enthusiasm. Watching them perform with such confidence in a professional arena was a proud moment for everyone involved. It was a truly magical experience and a

memory they are sure to treasure forever. Well done to all our young performers!

Success at Shipston High: A Double Podium for Our Sports Stars!

It has been a fantastic term for our local sports stars too! Groups of Year 4, 5, and 6 pupils recently headed over to Shipston High School to compete in two local school tournaments. The atmosphere in the sports hall was electric, and our mixed teams certainly rose to the occasion.



First up was the curling tournament. Our pupils showed incredible focus and strategy, working together to outperform the competition. The team's hard work paid off—they secured first place and brought the winner's trophy back to school! It was a brilliant display of teamwork, and the pupils were rightly thrilled to see their efforts rewarded with the top spot.

Following the curling success, it was time for the Boccia competition. The Acorns team put in a stellar performance, demonstrating great precision and

composure, finishing in a fabulous second place, missing out on the top spot by just a single point! We would like to extend a huge 'well done' to all the pupils from Years 4 to 6 who took part; your sportsmanship was a credit to Acorns Primary.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Jones for his guidance and encouragement and to Shipston High School for being such welcoming hosts.

OPAL - Outdoor Play and Learning

We are still on our mission to ensure all children enjoy their playtimes at Acorns and we are thrilled to see the creativity and enthusiasm each and every day. When asked for their pupil voice, children say that the flexibility, independence and choice at break times and lunch times is one of their favourite parts of the school day, which is fabulous. Friendships, kindness and anti-bullying are regular parts of our assemblies and class discussions and we teach all children to live our values of compassion, courage and curiosity. To further enhance our play, we are currently on the lookout for: Lego, fancy dress clothes/outfits to dress up in, toy cars, bedsheets/shower curtains for drawing/painting on, sand toys including buckets, spades, moulds, action figures, and gardening gloves.

Any donation from members of the local community would be much appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office during school hours.

Donations

We are very fortunate to have such supportive parents/carers and wider school community and are pleased to share we have recently received donations to school and the PTA from the following: Cauliflower Cards, Nathan Allan Photography, Warwickshire Christmas Trees, Cherington and Stourton Flower Show and the Red Lion Pub Quiz. We are extremely grateful and would like to extend our sincere thanks to these local businesses. The children will enjoy shaping their future playtimes with resources and games/equipment to extend their outdoor play and learning.

Governor Vacancy

We are looking for a dedicated individual to join our Local Academy Council (LAC) as a co-opted Governor. This is a vital role in helping to drive our school forward and monitoring our progress. If you are interested in giving back to the community and helping shape the future of our school, our Chair of the LAC (Mr. Norman-Kime) or our Headteacher (Mrs. Young) would love to have an informal chat with you.

Hannah Young: Headteacher

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

7.5 hours per week (Term Time Only)
11.45am to 1.15pm
£12.65 – £12.85 per hour (scale 2-3)
Join our friendly, welcoming team.

- Supporting our youngest children in Nursery and Reception with eating and outdoor play.
- Opportunity to complete paediatric first aid training and Food Hygiene Level 2 certification.

For more information contact the school on 01608 684654 or email: admin2639@welearn365.com

Application forms available from the school office and school website





Acorns Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community, and we seek to promote equality of opportunity for all applicants.

Brailles School - Grow Together. Shine Bright!

Throughout the Spring term, children in Owls class have been immersed in the **'Misty Mountain, Winding River'** topic. In Geography, they have found out about the different stages of a river from its source to its mouth. They have learnt how a river shapes the landscape that it flows through and have been busy using our computing skills to research the world's most significant rivers, and exploring the rivers, streams and brooks in the local area.



Year 3/4 have all been captivated by the exciting adventures and wonderful illustrations of the class text, ***The Last River***. This book is a journal, written by an unknown adventurer, who ventured deep into the Amazon rainforest by paddling a canoe up a small and uncharted tributary. The class used the text to help them imagine what it might be like to explore the Amazon by canoe and wrote descriptive journal entries to record our experiences. They also enjoyed an inspiring visit

from Siobhan Bray who works for Severn Trent Water. Siobhan explained the different stages that water has to go through in order to flow out of our taps,

ready to drink. She taught them how to be responsible water users and gave us top tips for being water savers rather than water wasters.

In Rabbits class the children have been enjoying finding out all about London as part of the '**Bright Lights, Big City**' topic. The children have written thoughtful



postcards describing local landmarks and then scaled up to thinking about the landmarks in our capital city. They have made beautiful drawings of London Bridge, planned tourist trips to take in all the sights, and even written poems about busy bustling city life. The class had a fabulous time learning about Christopher Wren's redesign of London after the Great Fire and then designing and building their own cardboard city! They then enjoyed finding out about Kuala Lumpur; to compare and contrast - the children were interested to see many very similar Malaysian landmarks!



Year 1/2 have also been very busy with Design Technology work. The children have investigated, designed and built their own London taxis, thinking carefully about how to build and join functional wheels and axles. The finished results are very bright and beautiful!

The class have also been getting stuck in some food technology linked to our PSHE work of staying healthy. They have followed recipes to make and taste-test some salads, which were enjoyed alongside lunches in the hall. They've then been hard at work in their teams choosing ingredients, writing recipes and cooking up some tasty salads which they shared with their families in the parent sharing afternoon.

OPAL - Outdoor Play and Learning

Loose Parts

We're collecting loose parts—open-ended, reusable items—to spark creativity, adventure and outdoor play.

Construction: crates, wooden planks, cable reels, small digging tools

Role Play: dolls, prams, small pushchairs, small world figures, dressing up costumes.

If you are having a sort out and spring clean, Brailes School would be very grateful for these items to add to our OPAL play resources. Please bring any OPAL play donations to the school office.

Applying for a Nursery place at Brailes

Places in Brailes School Nursery are made through an application form directly to the school office. Please do contact the school to arrange a visit for Nursery places for September 2026. We would love to meet with you and welcome you to our wonderful school.

T: 01608 685253 E: admin3014@we-learn.co www.brailescfeprimary.org.uk

Heather Childs: Headteacher

VILLAGE NEWS

Barcheston with Willington

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting for Barcheston and Willington will be held on
Thursday April 9th at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Burmington.

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

The agenda will include: Election of Offices, Matters arising at the last meeting, Development of a Neighbourhood Plan, Update on Fell Mill and other Shipston Housing Developments, Update on South Warwickshire Local Plan, Home Visit Service and the local Councillor Update

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

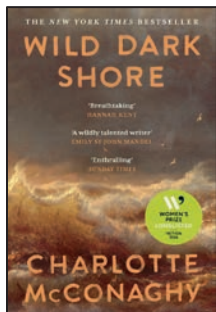
VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



We recently talked about "***The Wild Dark Shore***", written by Charlotte McConagh, an Australian novelist and screenwriter.

The book begins with a woman shipwrecked off the shore of a fictional, remote island called Shearwater, near Antarctica. A large seed bank has been set up there to prevent plant loss in any future climate catastrophe. Alone on the island, a widower and his children are mystified by the woman's sudden arrival.

Her reasons for coming to the island unfold slowly but the emotional tension ratchets up. McConagh's strong characters, who narrate the story from their different perspectives, were not all sympathetic or convincing.

We liked the author's evocative descriptions of Shearwater's beautiful wildlife and her build-up of a dark, intense and foreboding atmosphere. By combining her depiction of the threats to our planet with themes of survival, love and personal loss, some thought this book was over-ambitious, but it was thought-provoking.

Sarah Constable



VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Burmington, Willington and Tidmington Village Hall: Report on Meeting to Discuss its Future



A A well-attended meeting was held on 3rd March.

Robyn Sutton, chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. A brief history was explained: the building, which was originally the village school, had been bequeathed to the school, a

charity later known as 'The Former Church of England School at Burmington', held by trustees from the Coventry Diocese who in turn gave Burmington village a repairing lease in 1973 for 50 years for a peppercorn rent. The leasehold title was vested in the Official Custodian for Charities, on trust for the purposes of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the three villages. This lease expired in 2023. As a charity, the lease must be renewed to continue existing as a village hall, but the first thing to do is to form a new committee and garner support.

John Boulter suggested we look at something called a 'licence to occupy' which would involve no upfront costs, no long-term commitment and no agreement to maintain the building. It was agreed to investigate this, but ultimately it would depend on whether the Diocese would agree to it.

The Village Hall is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with seven trustees. They are responsible for running the Village Hall as a charitable trust. Currently, trustees are Robyn Sutton (Willington, Chair), Dawn Fisher (Secretary/Treasurer), Robert Hutchings, Michael Macdonald, Irene Clarke (all Burmington), and Jonathan Hince (Tidmington).

In addition, there are four permanent volunteers forming a working group, including Dick Faithfull who kindly carries out much of the regular maintenance.

Jo Rice said she would be happy to take care of social media and marketing. Prior to the meeting Emily Cook had also offered to help with social media. Robyn

thanked them and said that people were also needed to take the place of the chair and other roles and to become trustees.

Robyn said that without new volunteers the Village Hall would soon cease to function, and she hoped that others would follow Jo and Emily's example and volunteer for the other posts.

The feeling in the meeting was that people needed time to digest the information and think about what they might be able to contribute, given their personal commitments. Jo Rice added that she would be willing to be part of the new committee. Irene said she would be happy to carry on as caretaker and Steph Bradford offered to help Irene with caretaking tasks.

It was suggested that a 'gentle way in' might be for new potential volunteers to just sit in on committee meetings - without any commitment to take on a role - which would enable them to gain an idea of how things worked.

It was agreed to postpone a trustees meeting about the viability of the hall to allow time for people to think about what they might be willing to do. Robyn suggested convening the meeting in say a month's time by which time, she hoped, people would have had time to think about any commitment they might be prepared to take on.

Graham Lancaster asked whether the hall was viable financially. Dawn said that it is profitable in general, relative to the effort put into fundraising, but costs are high and we haven't had sufficient income recently.

Renegotiating the lease would involve a professional survey and a solicitor to represent us in negotiations with the Diocesan Trustees. To meet the likely terms of a new lease the trustees would need to ensure enough funds were available to bring the hall up to a certain standard. At this stage the trustees had no idea of the order of costs involved, hence the need to engage a surveyor.

Meantime, It was suggested that a list of work needing to be done on the hall should be prepared for the next meeting. Robyn proposed that we reconvene in April, the date to be notified to villagers.

Robyn concluded by thanking everyone for coming along and showing an interest in the future of the hall. She thanked those who had volunteered their time and requested that anyone interested in keeping in touch with a view to participating leave their email address with her.

It was gratifying that at the end of the meeting several villagers came forward to express interest and to leave their contact details.

Burmington awaits with interest developments on the future of our Village Hall.

Burmington Roving reporter

Burmington Village Hall Breakfast



There won't be a breakfast in the hall in April. The first Saturday falls at Easter weekend and Robyn is taking a well-earned holiday.

Please put in your diaries an event at Burmington Village Hall fund raising for Burmington Church- a fabulous, entertaining event

Saturday MAY 9th Start 7:00 pm

Do you remember the old TV show with Frank Muir 'Call my Bluff' where three panelists gave variations of meanings of obscure words? We will do the same with three wine 'experts' describing the same wine with two wrong descriptions. You will join in the fun, blind tasting the wines and choosing which description is correct. We will find some really interesting and original wines.

Teams of four but others can join together. About 5 glasses of wine per person ...not too blotto and softened by cheese and charcuterie. Decent prize for the winning team.

£20.00 per person

To book please ring 07968 450331



New Arrivals In Burmington



Tom and Steph Bradford recently moved from Whichford, having bought the bungalow and land opposite the farm from the Tame family. They are currently living in a caravan on site whilst demolition and building of the new house take place. Demolition of the bungalow has just been completed as I write. Tom and Steph are currently busy, as you may have seen, clearing the site in

preparation for taking out the foundations of the bungalow.

They plan to build a two storey, 4-bedroom family home which will be a timber frame house with Cotswold stone cladding. The couple's aim is, as far as possible, to source materials and labour locally.

Tom laughs that about twenty years ago he joked with David Tame (he and David used to belong to the same running club) that he would one day be happy to buy the bungalow from him.

Both Tom and Steph are engineers, having both been apprenticed at Rover cars. They met at Warwick University where they were both studying for their engineering degrees.

Steph now specialises in computer aided engineering and works for a design company based in Essex and works mainly from home. Tom is a manager at BMW in Oxford, at the Mini plant where he is an engineering project lead.

They are currently awaiting final permission from Stratford District Council to enable building work on the new house to begin. It's just agreement on the materials for the exterior of the house that is outstanding. Their plan is to build the house and to have moved in by the end of this year.

Tom and Steph have a daughter, Jessica who is studying PPE at Belfast University and a son, Luke, studying product design engineering at Loughborough University.

Why did they move to Burmington? Tom says a combination of the location for the new house, Burmington village itself and, not least, Burmington villagers!

We wish them all the best in getting that final permission from the Council, a smooth house building project and a very happy life in Burmington. Not to mention the absence of heavy rain which makes it hard for them to sleep at night in the caravan!

Not to be Missed! Burmington Grange Open Garden



This year, once again, Fudge and Patrick Ramsay will very kindly be opening their fabulous garden to the public under the National Gardens Scheme.

Those who have visited it before will know that not only are the gardens full of interest and wonderful planting but are set against spectacular views across the neighbouring countryside.

Delicious afternoon teas will be on sale, in aid of Burmington Church.

Sunday May 17th at Burmington Grange from 2.00-5.00pm

CAMEO LUNCH CLUB



(early) **St George's Day Celebration**

Tuesday 14th April

Burmington Village Hall

12:00 noon for 12:30 pm

Please book with Brenda Fitch Tel: 01608 664313



Easter meditation ... reflection evening

No booking required

We invite you to join us for a time of reflection and stillness in the lead up to Easter, with candlelight, music, scripture and reflections.

8:00pm (coffee from 7:30pm) on Thursday 2 April 2026

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



April Coffee Shop

Saturday 11th April
10:30am-12 noon
The Hall Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, cakes, fresh coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, Eat in or takeaway
If there's anyone who would be willing to go on the rota to help out occasionally,
please get in touch., thank you. It's a great way to get to know people in the
village and make new friends
You can contact me on 07866127409.

Christine Dudfield

Village Lottery March Draw

1st Liz Harwood £80 2nd Richard Stevens £45. 3rd Freddie McArdle £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support
which provides funds for the upkeep of the Hall.

For more information on joining, please contact me on 07984 003675 or

Averell Kingston 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

"3RD THURSDAY" AT THE HALL!

Delicious fish & chips from your favourites "The Catchy Fish" van
 The Hall Bar open 6-8pm for eat-in & social
 3rd Thursday of the month (excl Aug & Dec)





Starts 16th April 2026

Take-away from 5:30pm
 The Hall Bar & eat-in 6pm – c.8pm

Come just for a drink, grab a takeaway, or stay for chips & chat!
Look out for added events and activities to come!

- At The Hall, Cherington Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailles, CV36 5HG -

Brailes Picture House

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start

Saturday 18th April - The Ballard of Wallis Island

Musician Herb McGwyer, formerly half of folk duo McGwyer Mortimer, arrives on the remote Wallis Island, where eccentric widowed superfan Charles Heath has contracted him to play a show before a select, private audience. After winning the lottery, Charles travelled the world with his late wife Marie, who loved McGwyer Mortimer, spending all their money. They then won the lottery again and retired to the island, where Marie died five years prior to the events when the fun begins.

Cast - Tom Baseden, Tim Key, Carey Mulligan

Future Dates and Titles

May 16th Butch Cassidy (Tribute to Robert Redford)

June 13th The Choral

July and August - Holiday time

Deirdre and Team



Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Afternoons dates
our diary are
ays April 17th, May
to 4:00pm at The

Hall.

Please see the leaflet for dates though
until the end of July

Vanessa Compton
01608 663320



Registered Charity No. 1162586

Coffee Shop at The Hall Sat 9th May



**** All profits to Shipston Home Nursing ****

10:30am - 12noon

Freshly ground coffee, tea etc | Cakes & Savouries | Take-away available!

Produce Stall: jams, chutneys, cakes, plants - donations welcome please!

Bring & Buy stall, Raffle, Craft Stalls

DONATIONS FOR PRODUCE & RAFFLE NEEDED - please contact The Hall
info@thehallevnts.org.uk or one of the Coffee Shop Team

Come just for a drink, grab a takeaway, or stay for a chat!

~ At The Hall, Cherington Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailes, CV36 5HG ~

Obituary: Paul Marriott 2nd April 1940 – 3rd February 2026



Thank you to the many people who attended Paul's funeral at Cherington Church on March 6th. It was lovely for the family to have such a strong show of support from so many friends, near and far. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day with the parking, organising the church, the flowers and the music. Paul would have been particularly pleased with the bell ringing and the excellent quarter peel. We know that many ringers managed to take part, some of whom Paul taught to ring.

Paul considered Cherington to be a real oasis of England, a community of good-hearted folk, living at the The Old Forge

for over 50 years. He was lucky enough to enjoy 20 years of retirement in Cherington and did not feel the need to stray too far, too often. Surrounded by many friends in the local villages, he enjoyed their company immensely.

A keen bell ringer, Paul was determined to keep the tradition alive by encouraging, organising, fund-raising and training as many new recruits as possible. He rang at the local churches whenever he could, which widened his circle of friends further.

Paul is fittingly laid to rest at Cherington overlooking a view he considered to be the best in Warwickshire under the bells and church clock he maintained and the churchyard he tended.

A huge thank you from Jenny for all of the messages, flowers, cards, calls and visits. Your support has been very much appreciated.

The Marriott Family.

Whitsun Art Exhibition at Jacques Barn: May 22/25 & 28/31

Spencer House Gallery present a 'Pride of Place' showing of artists celebrating all aspects of Cotswold Life.

The dozen artists featured in the show are all Cotswold-based or inspired - or both - and most of them live in the Stourton region.

Their work, both figurative and abstract, will cover oil and acrylic painting, various kinds of printmaking, drawing and ceramics. Something for all tastes and pockets.

The Private View - on the Friday evening, 22 May at 5.30 - is a launch event open to all.

Spencer
House Gallery

SAVE
THE
DATE

Pride of Place

JACQUES BARN, STOURTON, NORTH COTSWOLDS CV36 5HG

Celebrating life, lifestyle
and landscape in The Cotswolds



Whitsun long weekends:
**22 - 25 &
28 - 31 May**

Open 10AM - 5PM

PRIVATE VIEW
FRIDAY 22 MAY 5.30 - 8PM

Featured Artists

- Vivienne Beaumont
- Eleanor Campbell
- Carole Condé
- Sara Huxley
- Grenville Moore
- Hayden Price
- Wendy Rhodes
- Anita Saunders
- Angela Sidwell
- Wendi Weller
- Oliver White
- Steve Woodcock

Jacques Barn

@spencer_house_gallery

spencerhousegallery.co.uk

07841 979273

Feldon's Got Talent

Saturday 30th May

A Talent Show for all ages. Show off your skills or cheer on friends at Feldon's Got Talent—where everyone's a star.

Get ready for an unforgettable night at Feldon's Got Talent! Join us in person to witness amazing performers showcasing their skills, from singing, dancing to comedy and more. It's all about fun, energy, and surprising acts that'll blow your mind. Bring your friends, cheer loud, and enjoy.

Application for entries now open.

T: Jim Walton 07860727467 jim@ghwalton.co.uk

FELDON'S GOT TALENT

30th May 2026



A Talent Show for all ages.
Show off your skills or cheer on friends at Feldon's Got Talent—where everyone's a star!

EVENT DETAILS

Starting 7:30pm. Doors open 7:00pm
Entries welcome - please register prior to the event:
Contact: - Jim Walton (07860 727467) - jim@ghwalton.co.uk
Box office: feldonsgt@gmail.com **Venue:** The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG
Tickets £7.50 each. Performers no charge.

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

Where to start?! Things are getting busy at The Hall!

Thanks to all who have come to our theatre evenings – bringing live, professional entertainment into the community is something we are really chuffed to have done. Thanks to all our dedicated helpers for regular events, we couldn't run any community events without you! Anyone out there who is interested in helping at anything, do get in touch.

New events at The Hall

In 2018 we started a trend in the area with our brilliant Farmers Market. Happily, others have followed and there is now a choice of many lovely farm shops and outlets around the area. Whilst Farmer's Market won't be continuing in 2026, the time is right for The Hall to lead another direction, while still offering the opportunity for regular customers to enjoy the benefits of socialising and added events!"

Look out for added activities or events on a 3rd Thursday evening, too. It would be a perfect opportunity for anyone wanting to organise something, fundraise, hold an event, e.g. a quiz night, fashion show, a talk etc - so do get in touch with The Hall if you have ideas.

The first 'extra' booked in is **Stratford Comedy Club, Thursday 17th September**, which we are very excited about. A comedy night packed into the Gallery, 8:00-11:00pm – all details next month!

Markets and Christmas Market

We won't entirely lose markets, as we intend to hold a couple of Mini Markets alongside Coffee Shop and/or 3rd Thursday – look out for info. And we are planning a large and very festive **Christmas Market on Sunday 29th November 2026** – pop the date in your diary now! If anyone would like to get involved in the planning and delivery of this, do get in touch with the Hall, helpers are always needed for everything going on!

Coffee Shop – Saturday 9th May, fundraising for Shipston Home Nursing

Our usual Coffee Shop in May is to be a fundraiser for Shipston Home Nursing, running on the weekend of their famous plant sales. Cakes, savouries & coffees etc (no bacon butties this month). Plus, produce stall of jams, chutneys, cakes etc, plants, Bring & Buy, raffle, craft stalls.

Any donations please contact info@thehallevents.org.uk or one of the Coffee Shop team

Please do come along to help support this wonderful local cause that helps so many people.

Wood Owl and the Box of Wonders – Sunday 10th May, 2:00pm

The next professional live theatre date brings us an enchanting children's production, Wood Owl and the Box of Wonders, for children of all ages, and all the family. We really hope to get a good audience for this, our first children's show:

A lonely little owl wants nothing more than to fly into the night and join his friends. But how can he, when he is made from wood? The arrival of another lonely soul changes his life as he strives to help. Join Hoglets Theatre on a magical journey of singing owls, fantasy worlds, friendship and love.

Featuring beautiful handmade puppets, Wood Owl and the Box of Wonders is a heart-warming, visually enchanting children's theatre experience that blends puppetry, original music, and immersive storytelling. This magical production explores themes of friendship, kindness, and belonging, leaving audiences with an age-old message: the love we show to others comes back to us in time.

Refreshments from 1:30pm, show at 2:00pm, approx. 40 mins, no interval.

Tickets: £14 over 16's / £10 2-16 yrs

From the Hall: info@thehallevnts.org.uk

Online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thehall-cherington-stourton-sutton/t-jxxqlnn>

Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society

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

on Wednesday, **15th April 2026**
at **8.00 pm** for a talk by James Wilkins of the
Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum,
Woodstock:

Leading the charge...
**Memorabilia, artefacts and
memories from the two World Wars**

contact: Peter Stoddart
at: petercstoddart@gmail.com

Activities and Open Classes at The Hall

Monday	9:15-10:30am	Yoga with Claire: 07980 543437 www.inspirehealthandwellbeing.co.uk
	11:00-12noon	Fitness Pilates with Juliet: 07899 966303 www.julietrobbins.com
	4:00-4:30 pm 4:30-5:05pm	Mini Tennis Stars 2 children's tennis classes - movement, agility, coordination. Classes for ages 3-4.5yrs and 4.5-6yrs – contact www.minitennisstars.co.uk/
	6:00-7:00pm	Pink Belt Ladies Kickboxing with Demi: 07984 377069 demimcaleenan@gmail.com
	7:00-9:00pm	Parish Council Meeting Bi-monthly 3 rd Mon, – 16 Feb, 20 Apr, 15 June, 17 Aug, 19 Oct
Tuesday	10:00-11:00am	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
	4:00-5:15pm	Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	6:30-7:30pm	Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
	7:00-8:00pm	Feldons Wildlife Group Last Tuesday gpwilliams20@sky.com
Wednesday	10am-1:30pm	Gurgle & Co 3 x Baby & Toddler developmental sessions. https://gurgleandco.com/
	4:00-7:00pm	Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	10am-1:00pm	Stour Stitchers Sewing group 1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Weds:: stourstitchers@gmail.com
	8:00-10:00pm	Garden Group 1 st Weds:- Chris Carr chris@homefarm2.co.uk
	8:00-9:30pm	Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society: 3 rd Weds: Peter Stoddart peterstoddart@gmail.com - 18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May
Thurs	9:15-10:15am	Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
Friday	11:15am–12:15	MELT Method Improvers , with Debbie Williams, pre-booked blocks of 5 classes. Telephone: 07966 746794 / www.debbie-williams.co.uk
	4:15-8:00pm	Atomic Dance , multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	2:00-4:00pm	Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Feel Good Fridays meetings FORTNIGHTLY: - Health and well-being, a sociable space, games, chat, teas. Vanessa on (01608) 663320 – 6, 20 Feb / 6, 20 March / 17 April / 1, 15, 29 May / 12, 26 June / 10, 24 July / 7, 21 Aug
Saturday	9:15-10:15am	Zumba with Rachel: 07948 250616 shipstonzumba@gmail.com
	10:30-12noon	Coffee Shop 2 nd SATURDAY OF MONTH (but see dates). All Welcome to pop in! – Freshly ground coffee and hot drinks, bacon baps, cakes: Next dates 14 March

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Email: editor@swlink.gmail.com



It is nearly time for the Big Quiz Night on Saturday 18th April at 7:00pm at Long Compton Village Hall. I don't know about you, but we are all starting to miss the end of the pub quiz season, so this will be another chance to enjoy Simon Bing's challenging questions and to test our knowledge. There will be prizes galore and a special live music round as well as the bar and legendary cheeseboard. We have a lot of keen teams already signed up and if you would like to take part then please book your place as soon as possible by emailing thecommittee@longcomptonvh.co.uk. We will need bookings in advance for catering purposes but if you fancy joining one of the existing teams as an individual, please just let us know.

Soon you'll receive a card detailing our forthcoming activities at the hall and details on how to book the hall for your next event or exercise group. We have all sorts of plans for the summer, and we are busy planning our barn dance, with live music for the end of May Bank Holiday. As well as all that, we are going to give our hall a bit of a new look, but more of that later. Oh, and don't forget Social Saturday which is on 11th April at 11:00am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee

100 Club

The March Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 14 March. The results are:

1st	Jean Taylor	2nd	Richard Hill
3rd	Mr & Mrs Battle	4th	Elizabeth Gilkes

Tickets are still available for further Draws – contact below:

Chris Galloway 684234

Comptonians

We shall meet on April 15th at 12.30pm at the Village Hall for an Easter lunch.

Margaret Welsh 684238



Join us and quiz host Simon Bing for

Big Quiz Night!

7pm, Saturday 18th April 2026

Long Compton Village Hall

Enter a team of up to 6 people

Or come and join a team

Pay bar and cheese sharing board

Bring cash for games, prizes to win

Featuring a live music round!

Entry £10 per head, booking essential email:

thecommittee@longcomptonvh.co.uk

Visit www.longcomptonvh.co.uk



Join us for

Coffee and Cake

11th April 2026

11am - 1pm at Social Saturday

Long Compton Village Hall

Free entry - savouries - cake - hot drinks



Long Compton Community Coffee Mornings

The coffee morning planned for Wednesday, April 1st is now cancelled and the coffee mornings will restart on Wednesday, May 6th in Long Compton Church from 10:30 am to 12 noon.

All are welcome

St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton Annual Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Long Compton PCC, to be held in church on **Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm**. Come and hear about the church's activities and finances. Business will include the election of the Churchwarden and other PCC officers and members. All are welcome; those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Jill Kirby Church warden



Photo by Nicky Newby

Obituary: Alan McKelvey, B.E.M. (15 December 1945 – 19 February 2026)

Alan McKelvey sadly passed away, suddenly, at home in Long Compton on 19 February 2026.



Alan was born on 15 December 1945 in Belfast. He attended Fane Street Primary School before entering Methodist College Belfast in 1957. At Methody he distinguished himself not only academically but also culturally: he launched the student magazine **Scope** and performed as Edmund in the 1963 production of **King Lear**. That same year he organised the school's Freedom from Hunger Campaign, raising £1,000 through concerts, a fashion show and even a beard-growing competition.

Alan went on to Queen's University Belfast, graduating in 1969 with a

BSc in Economics and Accounting. During his university years he was active in drama, journalism and student leadership, serving as Treasurer of the Students' Union.

Alan had a varied career, which started off on the graduate scheme with RMC Plc, including almost 15 years as owner of Clarke and Dawe, clothiers, tailors and shirtmakers trading in Belfast's premier shopping area, the Lisburn Road. In 1999, he founded McKelvey Associates, a boutique training and consulting practice which provided, inter alia, CPD programmes for almost 2,000 solicitors and barristers in Northern Ireland.

Alan moved with his partner Anne to Long Compton in 2015 to be nearer to their children and grandchildren. Alan loved living in Long Compton and enjoyed exploring the surrounding area with Anne, discovering new pubs and restaurants throughout the Cotswolds.

As with everything he did, Alan embraced village life with warmth and enthusiasm, making many dear friends and relishing the simple pleasure of catching up with friends over coffee or a drink.

He served his local community, as Treasurer of Friends of Long Compton Church, as well as selling poppies each year.

He was also Chairman of the Long Compton Community Fete Association, playing a key role in making the Fete into the success it is today.

Throughout his life Alan gave generously to civic and sporting life. He was Chairman and President at Belfast Harlequins Rugby Club and was President of the Methodist College Former Pupils Association and the Queen's Graduates' Association.

He was passionate about South Africa, and his charitable work included directorship of Masicorp, a charity which provides education, arts and sports programmes to residents of the Masiphumelele township near Cape Town, South Africa.

In 2016 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Northern Ireland. A sailor, skier, golfer (as he joked, "seldom and badly"), and huge rugby fan, Alan will be remembered for his energy, wit and commitment to bringing people together.

Missed by his partner, Anne Molloy, his two daughters Rebecca and Nicola, sons-in-law Martin and Adam and adoring grandchildren Lucy, Sophie, Harry and Felix as well as Anne's daughter Rebecca and granddaughters Ella and Willow.

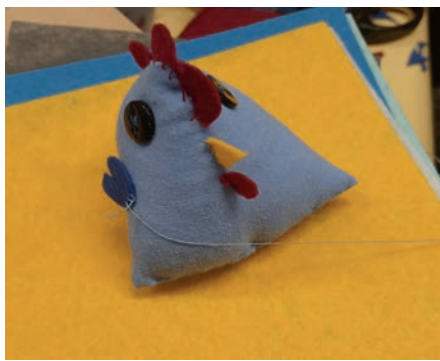
A memorial service will be held on Saturday 9 May 2026 at 12:30pm, at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Main Street, Long Compton CV36 5JJ, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

LONG COMPTON CLUBS AND GROUPS		
Name	Meeting day and time	Contact
100 Club	Annual payment. Drawn monthly at Social Saturday	Chris Galloway 01608 684234
Bell Ringing	Alternates between churches at LC, Whichford and Cherrington Every Tues 7.30-9pm	Sarah Elliot 07866046001
Book Club	Private Houses 2nd Thurs 7-8.30pm	Imogen Brown brownimogen@gmail.com
Bridge	Beginners welcome. LCVH 2nd Tues 7pm and 4th Thurs 2pm	Chris Galloway 01608 684234
Coffee and Chat	LCVH Every Thurs 8.30-9.30am	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
Community Coffee Morning	Church of St Peter & St Paul 1st Weds 10.30-12	Clare Wells 01608 684337
Compton Creatives	LC Congregational Chapel 2nd Tues 2pm	Elizabeth Gilkes 07791621778 gilkesenterprises.com
Comptonians	LCVH 3rd Weds 2.30pm	Margaret Welsh 01608 684238
Connect - local Church Families	LCVH 2nd Sunday 3-4pm	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
Giggle Tots 0-4years	LCVH Term-time Every Thurs 10-11.30	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
History Society	LCVH 2nd Weds 7.30pm Sept-June	Diana Cook 01608 684771 and Christopher Fance 01608 674207
L C and District Garden Club	LCVH 4th Weds 7.10pm in Winter. Outings in Spring/Summer	Walter Sawyer secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com
LC Sports Club	Recreation Ground Cricket Sundays. Junior Football 7-12 years Tues Eve	Shaun Kench. longcomptonsportsclub@outlook.com
LCVH Social Saturday	LCVH 2nd Saturday 11am-1pm.	thecommittee@longcomptonvh.co.uk.
Needlework	LCVH 1st Tues 2pm	Katie Nye 01608 684363 katiénye@gmail.com
Walking Club	2nd Tues	Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com
Whist	LC Congregational Chapel 4th Sat 7.00	Elizabeth Gilkes 07791621778 gilkesenterprises.com

Compton Creatives



The March meeting of Compton Creatives saw local crafters working on Easter projects and was a lovely diversity of skills from painting, embroidery, intricate beading, felted toys, wool pompoms and also recycling of old silk flowers into Easter decorations. All whilst chatting and enjoying a brew. The next meeting will be on the 14th April at The Chapel in Butlers Road meeting at 2:00pm when the theme will be flowers but all welcome to bring any project currently working on or to simply come to chat and socialise. Small contribution towards costs appreciated from participants.



Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for February is Julie Cawley and March's winner is William Shepard.

Jenny Scrivener



Whichford and Ascott's NGS Open Gardens Day

Please save the date of Sunday 21 June for the NGS Open Gardens in Whichford and Ascott. We are planning to open eight gardens this year, including one new garden. There will be home-made teas in aid of St Michael's Church and a plant stall.

More details to follow.

Katharine Wood

VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The March winners were as follows;

1st Tony Dyer 2nd Geoff Suttleworth 3rd Haydn Jones

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 jamesvanhelden@hotmail.com

Wolfords Litter Pick – March 2026

A big thank you to everyone who came along and gave an hour or two of their time to support The Wolfords litter pick.

This annual event was well supported and produced, sadly, a lot of litter as you can see in the photos.



Thanks to Simon Lewis-Beeching and the Little Wolford pickers.

Thanks to Lynn Mathias for providing the vehicle to transport the litter.

Thank you chocolates were given to all who helped.

Hopefully see everyone again next year, pickers at the ready.

Pippa Lines





The days and training distances are getting longer as the 26th of April rapidly approaches! Yes it's the London Marathon and despite some earlier setbacks in training I am back on schedule.

I'm running for **Shipston Home Nursing**, who I have volunteered for over many years. SHN have a great team all dedicated to providing hospice care at home in South Warwickshire. Any support you can give would make all my training worthwhile. Thank you!

Nick Rew



**TO DONATE PLEASE
SCAN THE QR CODE**

or visit
www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/event/2026-tcs-london-marathon-running-for-shipston-home-nursing/

Coffee, Cake and Chat at Wolford Church



Tuesday 14 April 10.30am-12:00

Come and join us for a chat over coffee (or tea) and cake at St Michaels Church

Come and meet new friends (or old ones!)

Share your interests and just chat

Everyone welcome

Moreton Car Boot Sale – Monday 25 May



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

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

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

You can deliver to us, or we can collect from you so if you have anything please ring

John Wrench 01608 674389 or Ann McKenna 01608 674009



Annual Assembly of Little and Great Wolford Parishes

28th April 2026 at 7:30pm

The Wolfords Village Hall

All electors of the Parishes are invited to attend

Apart from a small amount of formal business the focus of the meeting will be on how the local footpath network operates and is cared for so if you are a keen walker, please do attend.

There will be refreshments and opportunity to socialise after the meeting

Parish Clerk/RFO: Elizabeth Gilkes clerk@thewolfordsjpc.co.uk

Chair: Pippa Lines chair@thewolfordsjpc.co.uk

www.the-wolfordsjpc.co.uk <https://www.facebook.com/thewolfordsjpc/>



Great Wolford Plants and Produce Stall

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May



Great Wolford will again be hosting the plant sale outside Shepherds Close, Great Wolford for Shipston Home Nursing.

GARDENERS- Please sow or pot up plants now to donate to the stall. Donations of JAMS, CHUTNEYS and baked goods are very welcome too.

For details of how to donate or volunteer to help please contact Sue Rew 07857 542 147

CHARITY Nos 1162586

The poster features a vibrant orange background with a decorative border of stylized flowers and two acoustic guitars. At the top, three flowers (two blue, one red) are arranged in an arc. The central text is framed by a light blue and orange circular design. Two acoustic guitars are positioned diagonally on either side of the central text. At the bottom, two large, detailed floral designs in white, yellow, and blue are placed in the corners.

THE WOLFORDS' —SUMMER— SHINDIG

6TH JUNE 2026

DOORS OPEN 5PM, DANCING FROM 6:30PM

THE WOLFORDS VILLAGE HALL

CÈILIDH, PIZZA, BAR

THE STREET FOOD CO.

**£25
ADULTS**

**£15 UNDER
10S**

**UNDER 5S
FREE**

TICKETS INC. PIZZA AND DANCING

**CONTACT MARIE FOR TICKETS:
MARIE.C.CROSSLAND@GMAIL.COM**

BINGO
and
FISH & CHIPS SUPPER
(or a takeaway service)

Saturday 25th April
at 7.00 pm

Wolford Village Hall

- *A really good night out with a first-class supper*
- *Bring your own drinks and we'll provide the glasses*
- *Cash prizes to be won on the bingo and a raffle*

Book now: £14 per person

Ann McKenna (674 009)/annmckenna3@sky.com

In aid of St. Michael & All Angels Church, the Wolfords

For the takeaways

Due to the success of our previous takeaways we will be offering a takeaway service between 6pm and 6.45pm

Here's how it works: we need at least 50 orders to make the van's visit viable so now is the time to express an interest in either the Bingo or a takeaway by emailing Ann McKenna (see details below) with the number of meals you would like. **Cost for the takeaway is £13 per portion**

Cut-off date for pre-ordering is Saturday 4th April and to keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient we're asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order. And of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in the takeaway – if you can come and collect then you're very welcome to place an order.

Once we have 50 orders confirmed we can take further orders up to 24th April

**To order please contact: Ann McKenna (email: annmckenna3@sky.com)
(Tel: 01608 674009)**

Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.

WOLFORD  WOOD

Heating homes for 1,000 years

Ash Logs Seasoned & Air Dried

Free local delivery

07444 836 753

01608 650890

www.wolfordwood.com



Certified



Homegrown



Order Here

KopyRent
printers



24 hour full maintenance service with over 65 years experience.

**Photocopier & Digital Press Rentals where
the machine is on us!**

We offer everything from Office Desktop to Commercial-on-Demand, litho quality, print production machines. Inquire today and discover the benefits of flexible rentals, efficient and hassle-free printing from our friendly team.

- From 5p colour click rate, including the machine, service, support and toners.
- Within 4-hour call-out, with an out of hours option if required.
- Rolling monthly rentals.
- No hidden costs.
- No contracts.

RICOH
RENTAL & SERVICE



ALLEN & SON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

EST 1928

**Every goodbye is personal,
let us help you create a meaningful one**

- Independent, family owned and managed
- Friendly and professional care and support
- Qualified Funeral Director
- Funerals tailored to individual needs and wishes
- Peaceful and spacious Chapel of Rest
- Funeral pre-planning
- Convenient on-site parking

24 HOUR SERVICE
Tel: 01608 650633

**Matcon House, London Road
Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0HH**

office@allenfunerals.co.uk www.allenfunerals.co.uk



GOLDEN CHARTER
FUNERAL PLANS 

Allen & Son Ltd is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).

TOM WIGGINS
Letter Carving in Stone

*Bespoke headstones,
memorial tablets,
plaques & heraldry
designed & carved
at my workshop in
Chipping Norton.
Please call or visit
my website for
more information.*

07791 969667

www.tomwiggins.co.uk



**INDEPENDENT CELEBRANT
THANKSGIVINGS & CELEBRATION OF LIFE –
FUNERALS & MEMORIALS – LOSS OF A PET**

It is important to celebrate the life of the person you have lost and to say goodbye in a joyous and reflective way.

My empathy coupled with my ability to listen enables me to craft a caring, bespoke service, capturing the character and essence of your loved one.

Working with our local funeral directors, it is my privilege to support you through this final commemoration of a life much loved and well lived. Please contact me for any further information

www.wendyvealecelebrant.com
info@wendyvealecelebrant.com
Tel: 07831 098271

Long Compton Village Stores

Main St, Long Compton

- ✓ Takeaway Food: Hot Pies, Fresh Cut Sandwiches, Tea & Coffee etc.
- ✓ Instore Bakery, Cakes & Pastries etc.
- ✓ Dry Cleaning
- ✓ Greengrocery, Dairy Products & Confectionery
- ✓ Gluten Free Products
- ✓ Newsagents & Stationery
- ✓ Off Licence
- ✓ Home Delivery
- ✓ Post Office Van:

Mon & Wed 09.30am - 11.30am

Tues & Thurs 12.30pm - 14.00pm

Tel: 01608 684277



SNJ CARPENTRY AND GLAZING

SPECIALISTS IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CARPENTRY AND GLAZING



- Bespoke built-in cupboards
- Renovation and extension carpentry
- New and replacement windows & doors
- Replacement glazing and hinges/handles

CONTACT US FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
07851 436 136 / 01608 661352

KopyRite
printers

Ask us about our
SAME DAY SERVICE

01608 64 65 66

PULL UP BANNERS **MENUS**

NEWSLETTERS **BOOKLETS**

GREETING CARDS **LABELS**

POSTCARDS **PVC BOARDS**

LEAFLETS **VINYL BANNERS**

LARGE FORMAT **STICKERS**

POSTERS **LETTERHEADS**

OUTSIDE SIGNS

NCR SETS **INVITATIONS**

NOTE PADS **BROCHURES**

CARD PAYMENTS TAKEN & FREE DELIVERY ON ALL ORDERS
print@kopyrite.net | www.kopyrite.net

THE LINK

Local business advertising
directly into the community of:

Ascott, Barcheston,
Barton-on-the-Heath
Burmington, Cherington,
Great Wolford, Little Wolford,
Long Compton,
Stourton, Whichford and
Willington

An advertorial may also be
possible.

For further details contact
adverts@swlink.org.uk

VORTEX
JETTING & DRAINAGE

A 24/7 COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC SERVICE

- Drain, toilet & pipework unblocking
- CCTV drain inspections and locating services
- Drain repair & maintenance
- Homebuyer drain surveys
- Gutter clearing

07943 584 741

info@vortexjetting.co.uk

www.vortexjetting.co.uk

Sun Rising

Natural Burial Ground
and Nature Reserve

A place of deep peace where
loved ones can be laid to rest
in growing woodland and
wildflower meadows.



01295 688488
sunrising.co.uk

near Lower Tysoe



Blocked Ears?



EAR WAX can be troublesome and cause
sudden loss of hearing, feel uncomfortable
and itchy – but it can be easily removed at
our clinic in Blockley.

The Willows

NORTH COTSWOLDS EAR HYGIENE CENTRE

Unit 47, Northwick Business Centre,
Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9RF

Book Online: www.earhygienist.co.uk
Or contact Issy today: 01386 701650
issy@earhygienist.co.uk

D&D Enterprises



DAVE & DAUGHTERS
PAINTING & DECORATING

TEL: 07734 679 251

@: DAVE@DANDDENTERPRISES.CO.UK
W: WWW.DANDDENTERPRISES.CO.UK



For all your local Painting & Decorating Services



Internal & External



Domestic & Commercial



Fully Insured



Free, No Obligation Quote

dave@danddenterprises.co.uk
07734 679 251

Oats Health Foods



Comprehensive range of foods,
supplements, body care and
eco-household goods.

Upstairs a greeting card gallery
plus anything else that takes our
fancy.

26 High Street
Chipping Norton, OX7 5AD
Tel: 01608 64 65 56

John Napier Forestry and Timber

Trees purchased: standing, felled dead or live.

Hardwood Boards and Oak Beams available on request.

Seasoned, dry barn stored, locally-felled
firewood and kindling

07816 379836

jnapierforestry@yahoo.co.uk

website: jnapierforestry.com

Morgan Roofing Services

07765 228784



We are one of the leading roofing companies in Warwickshire and West Midlands. We undertake all types of traditional, domestic and commercial roofing work including: repairs and restorations, re-roofs and flat roofs, lead roofing, and built up felt roofing.

For a free quote, call **Peter Morgan on 07765 228784** or 01608 433032 or 01386 304324. Email: **morg11p@hotmail.co.uk**

We provide completely free no-obligation estimates for all jobs.

www.morganroofingservices.co.uk

Give us a detailed description of what you want done, and we'll respond quickly with a detailed, no-obligation estimate.

We also buy and sell second hand slates and tiles.



**NEED A
GOOD
VENUE?**

LONG COMPTON VILLAGE HALL

- Very well-equipped kitchen
- Ample parking
- Capacity for up to 100 people
- Separate room for smaller gatherings of up to 30 people
- Wifi available

To book email
thecommittee@longcomptonvh.co.uk
Availability at
www.longcomptonvh.co.uk



*Physiotherapy clinic & pilates studio
A helping hand to get you back to health*

**Physiotherapy
Sports Massage
Pilates Classes**

Visit the website for more information
or call to speak to a member of the team

T 01608 645 608

E physio@chippingnortonphysio.com

www.chippingnortonphysio.com



Rightio Plumbing & Heating

01295 203 138

We work in **Long Compton, Burmington, Barton-on-the-Heath, The Wolfords, Cherington** and all surrounding areas.

COMPETITIVE RATES

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times

12 Month

Guarantee on labour!
Excludes blockages

OAP Discount

Speak to us today!

1-2 Hour

Emergency Response time!



OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Boiler Breakdowns
- ✓ Boiler Servicing
- ✓ Radiators & Pipes
- ✓ Tanks & Cylinders
- ✓ Toilets & Taps
- ✓ Leaks & Bursts
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Clearing Blockages
- ✓ Gas Safe Certified
- ✓ Pipework Replacement



The Hall

Cherington Stourton Sutton-under-Brailes

Cherington, Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailes Village Hall

Fantastic Facilities Beautiful Setting

THE PERFECT PLACE FOR.....

- Children's Parties
- Family Occasions
- Business Meetings
- Fitness Classes
- Craft Activities
- Societies & Clubs
- Weddings
- Training Courses
- & Much More....!

Superb multi-use venue

Light, spacious and versatile

Separate rooms or Whole Building

One-off & regular bookings

Large capacity

We would love to host you!

Tel: 07775 765572

info@thehallevts.org.uk

www.thehallevts.org.uk





Do you have a non-business event to held in the Benefice?

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:

- £5 a quarter page
- £10 a half page
- £20 a full page

Please contact Cathryn Aitken for further details

adverts@swlink.org.uk

HALL FOR HIRE

Burmington Village

Historic hall in a pretty location

Carpeted, heated hall

Well equipped kitchen

Tables, chairs & cloths

...all included in the price

Contact Irene Clarke 01608 656296

K.A. PERKINS

SITE
CLEARANCE

PLANT HIRE

GROUND
WORKS

Water Supplies, Drainage, Ditching

Road & Drive Construction

Tarmacing, Patios, Block Paving

DEMOLITION

Tel: 01608 686189

BUILDING

Mobile: 07702106739

R. Locke & Son
Independent Family Funeral Directors - Est 1853

Offices in Shipston, Brailes, Kington and Wellesbourne



Generations of Care

For more information about our services, to view our funeral announcements and online donations, please visit

www.rlockeandson.co.uk

or call

01608 685 274



GOLDEN CHARTER 
FUNERAL PLANS

THE WOLFORDS VILLAGE HALL

Ideal for children's parties, meetings, classes,
family gatherings, BBQs, company training

- seats 50 - 60, (80 standing)

- excellent disabled access

- well-equipped, modern kitchen

Bookings:

<https://www.thewolfordsvillagehall.org.uk>

TAXI!

CLARKES OF SHIPSTON

**Licensed Private Hire
Airport Service**

To book or obtain a quote call:

(01608) 661418

or email:

stuart.clarke@lineone.net

**Fed up with the headache of
bookkeeping?**

**Let me handle everything for you.
Professional Bookkeeping and
Payroll Service**

Vat returns* Annual accounts* Cash flow*
Monthly figures

Bank reconciliation* Using your system or
starting from scratch

Ann McKenna MICB CB.Dip PM.Dip
Leylands Business Services

07500 678206/ 01608 674009

annmckenna3@sky.com



**Member of the Institute of
Certified Bookkeepers**





THE RED LION
a country inn with rooms



Delicious local food
Bar open 10am - 10pm every day
Private dining available for up to 12 people

Long Compton, Nr Shipston on Stour,
Warwickshire CV36 5JS
Telephone: 01608 684221
www.redlion-longcompton.co.uk




 @redlionlongcomp

DOG-FRIENDLY


High Performance Scandinavian Design



Timber Windows and Front Doors
 Aluminium-clad Timber Windows
 Bifolding and Sliding Doors
 Period, Heritage and Conservation Options



**ENLIGHTENED
WINDOWS**

Truly the next generation of products



01608 684607
enlightenedwindows.co.uk



BEES ON TREES

EXPERT TREE SURGERY & SITE WORK

- ✓ Tree Climbing & Dismantling
- ✓ Rigging & Sectional Felling
- ✓ Large Tree Removals
- ✓ Forestry & Site Work
- ✓ Stump Grinding
- ✓ Planting
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Hedge Removal

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ CS30, CS31, CS38, CS39, CS42
- ✓ Assisted Felling
- ✓ PA1 & PA6
- ✓ MEWP Operations
- ✓ Emergency First Aid

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE!

+44 7946 332192

www.beesontrees.co.uk

Tom@beesontrees.co.uk

NPTC **Quallified** **LANTRA**

Personalise your Spring Events with *Kopyrite* printers



Event Day: table plans • roller banners • programmes • metal name badges
name place cards • identity cards • lanyards • temporary signage • copier rental

Promotional Products: Tote bags, coasters, t-shirts, notepads and more.

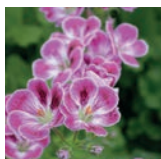
Tel: 01608 64 65 66 Email: print@kopyrite.net

Kopyrite Printers, Unit 6, Elmsfield Industrial Estate, Chipping Norton, OX7 5XL



Nursery Days at Whichford Pottery

- Buy Quality Plants • Chat to Top Nurseries at The Pottery
- Special Offers on Pots • Courtyard Garden • The Straw Kitchen



Saturday 2nd May - 10am to 4pm

Growing Crazy

A small, specialist nursery dedicated to cultivating rare, heritage and unusual Pelargoniums with a collection of over 400 different varieties.



Saturday 9th May - 10am to 4pm

British Cactus and Succulent Society

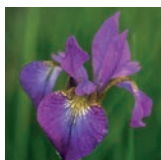
Members of the British Cactus and Succulent Society will be displaying and selling a wonderful selection of succulents and cacti.



Saturday 16th May - 10am to 4pm

Special Plants Nursery

Derry Watkins grows unusual plants from all over the world including a range of hardy herbaceous, rockery plants and many tender perennials.



Saturday 23rd May - 10am to 4pm

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants

Winners of 24 RHS Chelsea Gold Medals, Hardy's are breeders of interesting new herbaceous perennials, growing over 1200 plant varieties.



Saturday 30th May - 10am to 4pm

Kitchen Garden Plant Centre

RHS Chelsea Gold Medal winners, the Kitchen Garden Plant Centre will be selling a great selection of their aromatic herbs and edible plants.

Whichford Pottery, Whichford, Nr. Shipston-on-Stour, Warks, CV36 5PG
Tel: 01608 684416 www.whichfordpottery.com [@whichfordpottery](https://www.instagram.com/whichfordpottery)