

THE LINK

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

September 2020

£1



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

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Please note: We are advertising at the request of the business concerned. This does not necessarily imply that they are trading as ‘normal’. Please contact them if you are in any doubt and please, support your local businesses and suppliers where possible in these difficult times.

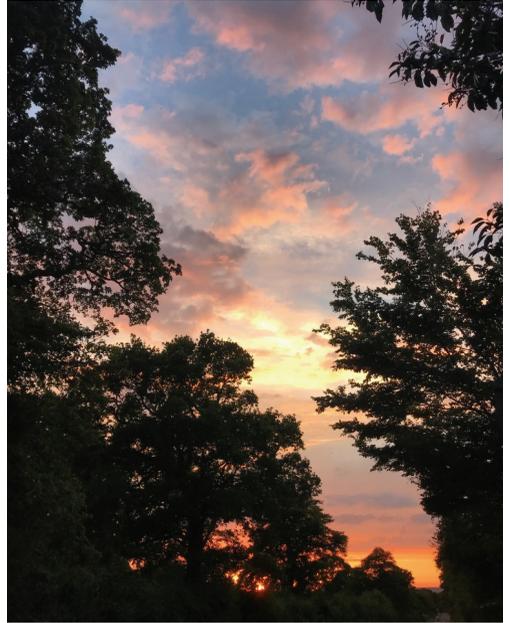


EVENTS DIARY

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

Events Update

Once again, the programme of events across SW7 Benefice has been hit by the restrictions. Some events are planned, but they are not certain. Equally, we cannot guarantee that all events (nor indeed any advertised services), are completely in compliance with any Covid-19 restrictions that are in place. Until normal service is resumed, please admire the view...



The view from Molly's Lodge, Little Wolford – 8 August
Photograph by Helen Bostock



LINK cover: *'Freddie in the Flower Field'*

Photograph by Fleur Chant

Cover design KMS Litho, Hook Norton.

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

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Please note the copy deadline for October 2020:

Monday 14 September

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

EDITORIAL

LINK Talk – Plans for 2021

The good news is that we now have a Whichford Village Editor. Melanie Arnold has stepped forward to take on this role. Thank you and welcome Melanie. If you think the name is familiar, it's because her sister Miranda has, for a number of years, been one of our gardening writers.

There is however some not so good news. I've had no response to my appeal for a Treasurer, nor any response to our appeal for readers to learn about the roles through 'shadowing'. I am now left with few options and I need to take this opportunity to share my thoughts on how the magazine will continue into 2021.

With no treasurer available to us, the conclusion has been drawn that The LINK will have to operate on a non-financial basis going into the future. This will mean that for readers, The LINK will be a free magazine. It will not be printed, and it will only be available online or emailed to individual subscribers. It will not contain any advertising, as there will be no costs to cover. I can continue to put together items of interest from contributors and the villages that are sent to me through the village editors, and from individuals where there are no village editors.

Of course, we realise that the loss of a printed LINK will not be a welcome development, and for this we are truly sorry, but without the support of volunteers from the readership and wider community, the current operating model is unsustainable.

I have edited The LINK now for six years and I'm sorry to have to take this step. Should there be any of you reading this that would be prepared to take on the role of Editor and continue with a printed version, I would be more than pleased to assist you with anything you may need.

We will continue with printed magazines until the end of this year. From January 2021 The LINK will go electronic and no more subscriptions will be collected. Readers will be invited to register for a personal emailed copy to be sent to them monthly. The LINK reserve funds will be distributed across the relevant parish councils and the not for profit company 'South Warwickshire LINK Ltd.' will cease to operate. Advertising monies will need to be returned to advertisers as the advertising year is not a calendar year.

I am sure that many of you may wish to comment on these plans, perhaps even volunteer your services as Treasurer? If you wish to express a view, or volunteer, I'd be very pleased to hear from you. A new treasurer would make all the difference.

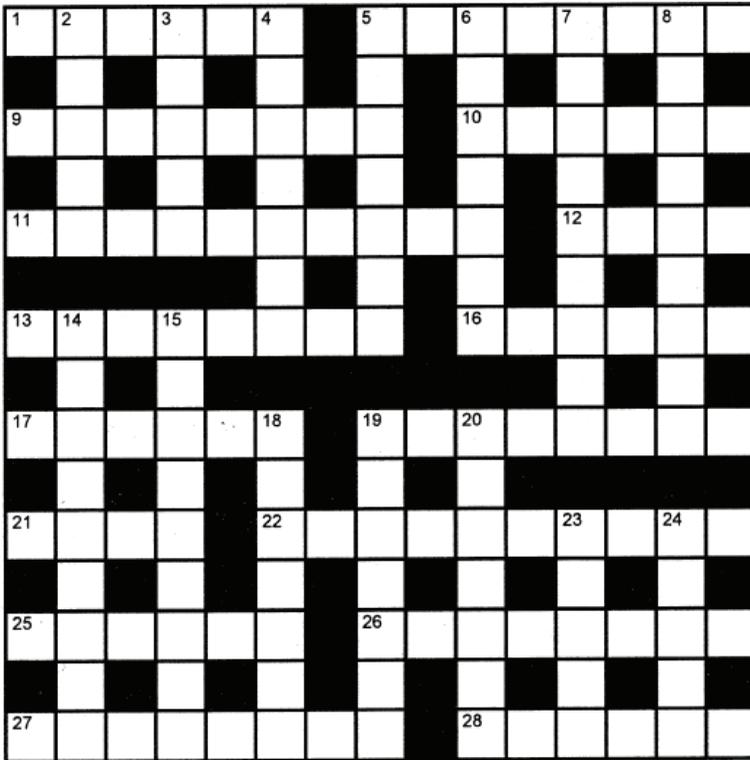
Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

Health Warning...

Please be aware that advertised events may or may not comply with any relevant virus restrictions. Items we receive are published in good faith and we wish to make it clear that we cannot guarantee compliance, or otherwise, with any necessary restrictions.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

The LINK Crossword



Across

- 1 Grumbles it was said to be a favourite drink. (6)
- 5 Metallic element '(Iu) atomic number 71. (8)
- 9 Unintentional interjection. (5,3)
- 10 Language sailor and I used in a rickety car. (6)
- 11 A blow from a fish? Rubbish! (10)
- 12 Pegged out reportedly a change of colour. (4)
- 13 Retail outlet, for the present. (4,4)
- 16 Self-regarding person. (6)
- 17 A Plateau. (6)
- 19 Get this fair and square. (8)
- 21 Probability. (4)
- 22 Physical theory realised by Albert Einstein. (10)
- 25 Breeds of goat and rabbit providing silky wool. (6)
- 26 Mathematical problem for a group of soldiers? (8)
- 27 Study ones points, lines and surfaces. (8)
- 28 A real eyeful! (6)

Down

- 2 A familiar greeting. (5)
- 3 Annoys police informants. (5)
- 4 Courage in the abdomen. (7)
- 5 See 9 acc. (3,4)
- 6 Mutinous pirates tramp along. (7)
- 7 Bewildered predators start to cry. (9)
- 8 All-inclusive. (9)
- 14 Brass-necked? (9)
- 15 Convert this clue. (9)
- 18 I'd love that darn Tom would go to sleep! (7)
- 19 Find time-off. (7)
- 20 At no time. (3,4)
- 23 Six in session call in. (5)
- 24 Look sharp! (5)

Compiled for us by our friend Campden John

VJ Day - 75th Anniversary

Reading the comments about VJ Day in the August Edition of The LINK, I had to wonder if Regiments from this area fought in the Far East during WWII. I am originally from Kent; my mother's first husband was killed when his troop ship was sunk off Singapore by the Japanese in 1942, leaving her with three small boys (my half-brothers).

This terrible loss was no doubt made worse by the capture of her youngest brother Harry by the Japanese and not knowing if he was alive until the end of the war. Harry Barton did survive; he was a lovely uncle, owner of Barton's Garage in New Romney and a proud member of the Rye Harbour Lifeboat crew. I didn't know his wartime story until I saw the eulogy that his daughter read at his funeral in 2009.

Here is an excerpt about his experiences in the war:

With the outbreak of war in 1939, Harry aged 18 was conscripted into the army to serve with the Royal Engineers stationed at Kersney Abbey near Dover. From here he was sent to Singapore and put in charge of vehicle workshops. After the Japanese had conquered the country, all army personnel were ordered to congregate in Changai camp where they were assigned to working parties. Harry found himself labouring in Saigon docks before being transferred to toil on the construction of the Burma railway. He was then relocated to Saigon airport, living in a camp nearby. During the final months of the war before the Japanese surrendered, Harry and his fellow surviving prisoners were taken off their normal duties and transported daily by ship down the Mekong River to an area of land where they were instructed to dig trenches. They soon realised that these were to be their graves, so one evening, on the way back to base, Harry and a comrade made the decision to fall overboard, struggling to remain under the surface of the fast flowing water until their ship had sailed out of sight. They hauled themselves up onto the riverbank next to some sheds that happened to belong to the local undertaker who kindly let the pair of escapees sleep in coffins for the night.

Having worked in the region for many months, Harry and Stan both knew it well and the following day made their way to Saigon. Here local people gave them shelter, food and clothing but this temporary respite came abruptly to an end when Vietcong troops charged through the settlement, systematically firing into buildings as they went. Harry and Stan dived through the doorway of the nearest house to discover a French woman with her two children praying for mercy. Their commands to lie low were ignored so Harry dragged the mother by her hair into the toilet at the back of the house and here they all crouched, pressed against the outside wall until silence fell. In gratitude the woman removed a silver bracelet she was wearing and presented it to Harry. It was given to me on my 18th birthday.

Anthea Dickie, Cherington LINK Reader

SW7 Pastoral Care Initiative - Attendance Allowance

Readers may recall this campaign which was initiated in The LINK in March 2019. It sought readers' help in ensuring that every eligible parishioner in SW7 received their entitlement to the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance. The campaign was prompted by the knowledge that not every entitled person was receiving these allowances which are available to those aged 65 or over, to help with their personal care and safety.

We have been informed by Citizens Advice (CA) that six SW7 parishioners have since been awarded the allowances. Of course, the identity of the six is held in the highest level of confidentiality by CA and DWP and only the total number of the successful applicants has been released.

However, one of the six did approach us to express thanks for The LINK campaign and to emphasise the life enhancing impact of the allowance. Readers may also be encouraged by learning that if all of the six received the higher allowance (now standing at £89.15 per week) the total benefit to our neighbours would have exceeded £25,000 per annum.

Nevertheless, it is possible, if not likely, that there are other entitled SW7 villagers, perhaps newcomers, who have still to be awarded the Attendance and Carers Allowance. If so, the opportunity remains for readers to ensure that our relatives, friends and neighbours are fully aware of this help available from DWP.

Mr. Spencer Colquitt, a specialist outreach worker with Citizens Advice South Warwickshire, has again offered his support for the SW7 campaign with confidential advice and assistance with completion of the DWP application forms. He can be contacted through telephone number 0300 330 1183 and asked for by name. Unfortunately, he is no longer able to make home visits for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis.

Finally, a reminder that Attendance Allowance is paid by the DWP to individuals over 65 who need help with personal care and safety. It is not taxable nor means tested. It is paid directly to the entitled individual. Once Attendance Allowance has been awarded, that person's carer (e.g. wife, husband, family member, or helper) may also be awarded an additional Carer's Allowance.

Further information and application forms can be obtained via website 'DWP Attendance Allowance' and advice from Mr, Spencer Colquitt.

Dennis Cummings

[Thanks as ever to Dennis Cummings for following up this important issue - Burnington Village Editor]

Remember – you can opt for the online LINK and stop or retain your printed copy through the door. It's your choice. Subscription to The LINK online is FREE for existing subscribers within the SW7 distribution area, so sign up and never have to search the house for your paper copy!

THE LINK

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

THE LINK

Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

Barcheston St Martin

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

Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas

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

Long Compton St Peter and St Paul

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

Wolford St Michael & All Angels

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

Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence

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

Cherington St John the Baptist

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

Whichford St Michael

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479
 Sophia Corlett
 Lucy Simpson
 Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

Parish Councils

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

Chair

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

Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)
 Colin Maynell (674104)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)
 Sara Cole (686250)
 Janet Piller (674396)

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



*Happy
Birthday!*



September Birthdays

4th	Benjamin Payne	Burmington	12
4th	Olivia Johnston	Great Wolford	11
10th	Oscar Rutherford	Cherington	16
10th	Charlie Bygate	Willington	18
15th	India Mauveen Spencer Sewell	Stourton	11
22nd	George Bygate	Willington	14
22nd	Lucy May Andrews	Barcheston	12
24th	Gabrielle Duck	Great Wolford	14
28th	Jack Chapman	Whichford	15
4th	Benjamin Payne	Burmington	12
4th	Olivia Johnston	Great Wolford	11

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

SEPTEMBER 2020 CHURCH SERVICES (also on YOUTUBE: "SW7 BENEFICE CHURCHES")							
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
September 6 th 13th Sunday after Trinity	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)			10:30am CW Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)		
September 13 th 14th Sunday after Trinity					9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)	10:30am CW Harvest Service* (BD/SPA)	
September 20 th 15th Sunday after Trinity		9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	10:30am CW Harvest Service* (SPA/BD)		4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)		
September 27 th 16th Sunday after Trinity			9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)		10:30am CW Harvest Service* (BD/SPA)		
October 4 th 17th Sunday after Trinity	10:30am CW Harvest Service* (SPA/BD)				4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	

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

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

As a child, I remember growing up listening to (and sometimes singing!) songs from the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The musical tells the story of the biblical character Joseph and the many ups and downs of his life. Starting as his father's favourite, he is sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers. Things then get even worse as he is falsely accused of a crime he didn't commit and is thrown into jail. After several years in prison he finds favour with Pharaoh by interpreting one of his dreams. As a reward for his wisdom, Pharaoh appoints him as prime minister where he successfully navigates the nation of Egypt through a disastrous famine. He is then reunited with his brothers who travel to Egypt in search of food. In a very moving scene, he forgives his brothers and the family is restored.

In the musical it's very clear that Joseph is the hero of the story. But the biblical story is more complex. In the first part, Joseph is presented as a bit of an arrogant brat, boasting about his dreams of greatness and snitching on his brothers to their father. It's only later, through his suffering, that he learns the wisdom that equips him to save the nation of Egypt and his own family from famine.

But behind Joseph, another character is shown to be true hero of the story. The God who is at work, amongst all the evil and suffering of Joseph's life, to bring about his good purposes. Speaking to his brothers at the end of the story about how they sold him into slavery Joseph says this:

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Genesis 50:20)

God uses an evil action, motivated by jealousy and bitterness, intended to harm Joseph, to rescue both the nation of Egypt and Joseph's family from famine.

Over a thousand years later, God does exactly the same thing. An evil act done by human beings, the crucifixion of his only son, is used by God to bring about a rescue for all who put their trust in him. God uses evil for good. That is a wonderful, strengthening truth for Christians as they face suffering. However dark things get, suffering is never meaningless for the Christian. For God is at work in all things for the good of those who love him.

We'll be exploring this idea as we look at the story of Joseph during our online and physical services this month. Do see the service grid for details if you'd like to join us.

Ben Dyson (Pioneer Minister)

Deanery News

Everyone said coming out of lockdown would be complex – and everyone was right! Alongside the practical and safety aspects of re-opening our buildings, we have been asking some important questions about the future shape of ministry in our villages. The pandemic has afforded us an opportunity to re-think what we do and why. There have been great costs to our communities in this time, but also some great blessings. Some of us have learnt to worship in new ways, have discovered God in new places and have got to know our brothers and sisters in deeper ways. Just as the world will be changed, so we acknowledge that some of our churches will be too.

We have an opportunity in October to meet and talk to the Archdeacon Missioner, Barry Dugmore, about mission and ministry in the rural churches. I'm still hoping we may be able to have the Deanery Synod in person, but if not, we will convene on Zoom. Please do put the date - Tuesday 13 October - in your diaries. This will be a meeting open to everyone.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in the past few months. It has not been easy. My prayers are with each church as we begin to look to the future. Every blessing,

Sarah Edmonds (Rural Dean)

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2020

It is with regret that I will not be able to organise the shoebox appeal in SW7 this year. We are in the process of selling our house in Burmington and moving to Shipston. All being well, this will happen in the next couple of months, just at the busiest time for shoeboxes. I am hoping that there might be someone who is prepared to step into my shoes so to speak. I have all the leaflets, information etc. and will willingly explain what needs to be done.

As you can imagine, Link to Hope has real concerns about the impact of Covid-19 on the response to this year's appeal. Meanwhile, the recipients of the boxes are in more need than ever. If you feel that you might be able to help and would like any more information, please contact me.

Sue Bradley (661635)



South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

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

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - officesw7@gmail.com

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk

FARMING NOTES

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

Harvest 2020

Rather a hopeful title! As I write, we are still to get the combine into the bulk of our crop, the spring barley, as currently the weather is against us and the crop is barely ripe. Along with many farmers this year, we are having a problem with uneven ripening. Because of the very wet winter followed by the drought, the seed did not germinate evenly so that some areas of the field are ripe, whereas other parts, particularly in the tramlines, are still green. This means when we eventually do get the combine in, we may have to dry the grain to avoid the moisture from the unripe berries damaging the whole.

The wheat was cut some time ago and will not break any records, but did come in at the correct moisture, so is safely in the barn.

Because of the shut down due to Covid-19 and possibly because we have sadly lost our cat, it is noticeable how much more birdlife is around. The day last month's LINK arrived with its tale of the kestrel family in Long Compton, a kestrel was flying along the field margins here. We also have a pair of herons who seem to have taken up residence in the trees around our grass fields and two woodpeckers, a green and a spotted one, enjoying the old apple trees in the orchard. At the opposite end of the size scale, we have a lot more wrens this year than normal and the swallows, who nest in the older farm buildings, are beginning to mass before they depart.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford



WE ARE RE-OPENING!

The Country Markets of the Cotswolds will be opening again in September.

MORETON-IN-MARSH
WI HALL, NEW ROAD

OPENING THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
10am – 12pm

CHIPPING CAMPDEN
LOWER TOWN HALL

OPENING FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
9am – 11am

- Fully COVID-19 compliant
- Contactless card payments now accepted
- Pre-ordering available for collection on opening day

The layout, and the way we operate, may be slightly different than before – but we promise the same high standard items of produce, preserves, sweet & savoury items, and craft.

We look forward to welcoming customers old and new, and to serve you once again.

Check out the Country Markets website for more information – www.country-markets.co.uk

Please contact: angela_loder@yahoo.co.uk / telephone 07967497588 / 01608 238135

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

Well, what a year for the garden it's been, hasn't it? Rain and floods and fields too wet to walk on, a global pandemic that affected each one of us in one way or another, and a heatwave that fried our lawns.

On the upside, the pandemic meant I had a lot more time to spend working on the garden, and the heatwave meant that my aubergines grew brilliantly outdoors, as did the cucumbers. On the downside, well ... deaths, sickness, recession, and climate change. But to cheer us all up, September can be a glorious month. Cooler and gustier than August, but still capable of giving us lovely sunny days to carry on working outside (and yes, meeting friends outside so as not to spread or catch the damned virus).

If you grew gladioli this year, as we did for the first time, you now need to lift the corms. Leave them to dry for a couple of days on the soil, and then put them in a cardboard box in a warm dry place to let them dry out completely. This takes about two weeks. Separate the old corm from the new corm that has formed, and throw the old one away. Store them in a cool dry spot with good air circulation, and replant next year.

Lift and divide over-large perennials like achillea and hemerocallis, and replant. This helps maintain their health and vigour. Collect seed from the dried seed heads of your favourite annuals and perennials for sowing for next year. And while you're thinking about next year, start to plan for and plant spring bulbs. Choosing spring bulbs is one of my favourite garden activities.

In the vegetable garden, you can still be sowing hardy greens, like kale or pak choi. Be sure to net them though, or pigeons and caterpillars can still chew them to shreds. We lost all our kale and rocket this year to the large white butterfly caterpillars. Dig up your potatoes before they get too slug-damaged. Cut off unripe tomatoes and bring them into the house to ripen indoors. Or use them green - Nigel Slater has an excellent recipe for chicken baked with green and red tomatoes. The green tomatoes give it a slightly sharp, citrus taste.

Prune your summer raspberries down to six inches, and give them a good mulch. Keep picking autumn raspberries, which will still be fruiting. Pick up fallen apples and pears so they don't rot into the ground and spread fungus and attract wasps.

There are some dull but important cleaning and maintenance tasks to be done: wash out your water butt, and check the downpipe connectors. Wipe over the greenhouse windows to remove summer dust and keep light levels high. Check any tree or plant stakes and ties before the windy October weather comes your way.

And finally (not garden-related), get a flu jab, keep your (social) distance, wash your hands, and stay well.

Miranda Arnold

[Ed – please note, the comments in the last paragraph regarding flu jabs are the writer's own thoughts and should not necessarily be taken as an endorsement from The LINK.]

In all the time I have been writing these notes, I don't think that I have ever mentioned anything about grasses. This really is curious as I am surrounded by meadows and many permanent pastures, the most noticeable of which of course is the one immediately behind my cottage. I doubt if this meadow has been ploughed within living memory – indeed there is some evidence of a manor house and perhaps fisheries – and you don't go back much further than this! The grass used principally in pastures for grazing animals is perennial ryegrass. This makes a balanced fodder for cattle and sheep. There is another variety, Italian ryegrass, but this variety is seen much less in recent years. What else do we have? Meadow foxtail is quite an early grass, its seed head being a short spike at the summit of the grass which our rural ancestors clearly thought to resemble a fox's tail. Later in the summer, we will see Timothy or cat's tail which also bears a terminal tail-like head. Then there is cock's foot, a strong, rough grass which will, if you are not careful, install itself in your lawn! Why cock's foot? Well again perhaps our ancestors thought its three or four plump spikelets resemble a chicken's foot. Then there are the bent grasses, the word bent coming from the Old English beonet.

In the aforementioned meadow, behind our cottage, grow a few patches of barley grass, no doubt originating from true barley which its seed head closely resembles. Wild oat is no longer a trouble in arable fields, but I believe black grass still is. Marram grass is planted on coasts to help bind the sand dunes and prevent their disintegration. The main grass we see on our roadside verges at present is false oat grass which together with cow parsley is tending to dominate these valuable areas. We have many more species which perhaps we can visit another time.

But whilst our grasses can reproduce by sending their seeds easily away, either by wind, by birds, or on animals fur, flowers have to have a much more complex method of reproduction. Some flowers of course are self-pollinating, though here there can be a danger of inbreeding. But an ingredient of the flower head is nectar and here there is a mutual union between the flower and the honey bee. This bee has in fact a special stomach for this ingredient. Once collected from the flower, the bee will transport it back to its hive where the nectar will be used in making the honeycombs and feeding larvae. As well as nectar, the bee will have pollen adhere to its body and also consume some. Thus, the flowers interests are satisfied when pollen is deposited on the stigma of a neighbouring plant, and the bee fulfils its daily task.

A few days ago, I was intrigued by two incidents which took place in my garden, both performed you may say by the resident birds. In the first case, I was horrified to watch as a sparrowhawk came out from behind a low plant (the very great celandine I described last month) bearing in its mouth a dead sparrow. Clearly deciding there was no danger, it proceeded to remain on the ground and pluck and eat its victim. Immediately thereafter all our birds we were feeding at that time disappeared, and we did not see them for several days. In fact, we seriously wondered if this was the end of our bird feeding. But after all they did return.

Fast forward a few days, when we put out a caged rat trap. Unfortunately, when we went to look at it, we found in it not a rat but a male blackbird! Of course, we immediately released it and off it flew, taking with it its mate and its two young and they have not yet returned. What intrigues me is why, considering the constant cries of alarm the blackbird had made, in this case all the other birds had not vanished as well as they had with the sparrowhawk? Clearly there was danger, yet none had been the least bit concerned and only the blackbirds went. Surely being trapped in a cage is almost as alarming as the unwelcome attention of a sparrowhawk? But since as humans we haven't the least idea how birds convey messages to each other, in this case we must be left in the dark.

Having been, like many others, restrained in my movements by the lockdown I have not been able to see how councils have behaved this summer with regards to the trimming of roadside verges. I believe we owe the existence of these to a thirteenth century Statute of Westminster making it law that bush and woodland growths were cleared well back from the roadside, thus making it more difficult for robbers and brigands to attack travellers. But have the 'manic mowers' been once again let loose onto our verges? I have not been any farther than parts of Worcestershire where the signs were, that they had not and that only one swathe on the roadside edge had been taken. Our roadside verges are valuable repositories of wild flowers. But there have been whispers that councils, mindful of the costs of the operation, have indeed taken to heart that it is not necessary to shave back the whole of a verge. Indeed, my mind goes back into the midst of time when I first learnt to drive. In those days verge-clipping was unknown. Rather, the remedy for getting too close to the verge was in the constant admonition of your driving instructor "Just remember – keep your eyes on the road!"

Tony Partridge

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Accommodation Wanted (long term ideally). For two full-time working adults with one cat. Anything from an Annexe to a 2-bed house/cottage considered.

Please contact Rosie 07814 209890

VILLAGE NEWS

BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH

Editor: Karyn Sassella
Email: barton@swlink.org.uk

John Shipton - 12 December 1923 to 15 July 2020

John passed away peacefully on Wednesday 15 July. At 96, he had lived a long and fulfilling life which spanned three generations of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was buried at St. Lawrence Church, Barton-on-the-Heath on Friday 7 August, side by side with his beloved wife Nora. He had a great send off by village residents and his family.

John was born in Wales on 12 December 1923 into a large and close family of brothers and sisters. Early in his life, the family moved to Derby and he became a mechanical engineer, a profession of which he was immensely proud. This was fostered by the engineering heritage of Derby and his exposure to Rolls Royce. It gave him a love of well-engineered motor cars, which lasted throughout his life.

During the War, John was in a reserve occupation. So he volunteered for The Home Guard, made famous by *Dads' Army*, a series which he felt was so close to the real thing.

John's life with his wife, Nora, was without doubt the happiest period of his life. After they married, they decided that they would seek their future abroad, so they packed their bags and then spent 14 years in India and Pakistan with Burmah Shell, a large offshoot of Royal Dutch Shell. Their sons Jeremy and Timothy were born whilst out there. Life in India ended when John was offered an exciting role with the French oil company Total, based in the UK, setting up a new petrol station network. As recently as 2010 the network was sold off, mostly to Shell, so whenever you fill up at a Shell station it may well be one that John set up - so his heritage lives on.

John, Nora and the Boys moved to Hitchin, Hertfordshire from India where the family spent many years. John left Total when the petrol station project had been completed and joined an engineering group in Stevenage, which was then taken over by a conglomerate, and he decided to join the teaching profession to become a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Bedford College.

John and Nora both took early retirement and after much searching, moved to Barton-on-the-Heath. It was an inspired choice. They loved Barton hugely and built a fulfilling life in the community. Sadly, Norah died of cancer in 2000.

John never lost his love of tinkering in the workshop. He broke things. He repaired them. He built things. A common thread in all his engineering work was function over form. Practicality over aesthetics. You can see examples of his work around the Village.

St. Lawrence Church was an important focus and he deployed his engineering skills dealing with the church yard and the building. He supervised the modernisation of the heating and electrical supply and used his sit-on mower to mow the churchyard before Norah died and thereafter, as his mobility declined, as his regular transport to the church to visit Norah's grave.

He was the long-term Internal Auditor for the Parish accounts deploying his skill with mental arithmetic which had been drummed into him as a boy in Derby and he could run down a column of figures, adding them correctly without a calculator. He loved solving crosswords, and did the Telegraph crossword every day.

John had a great warmth and concern for the village and its inhabitants. He really welcomed the arrival of new young families with their plans to extend and modernise their houses and all aspects of doing village business more effectively. It was so typical of John, kind and caring but quietly, and never seeking recognition.

John lived a long and fulfilling life. He was a Gentleman in the true sense. But above all he was a family man, a loving husband and a great Father, Grandpa and Great Grandpa.

Tim Shipton and John Castle

First Service after Lockdown at Burmington Church

Burmington Church hosted an all SW7 service on Sunday 3 August. Sonia Baker, Churchwarden, says: 'We welcomed thirteen people at the service. The church was well-prepared beforehand and the organisation of Covid practices such as social distancing and hand sanitising on entry and leaving the church worked well. Burmington was lucky in not having to 'mask-up' for this service, as that church regulation came in a week later.

It was clear that people were happy to be back inside church again after months of lockdown. The service was a simple Common Worship conducted by Reverend Stuart Allen. There's no Holy Communion permitted at present in Coventry Diocese and no hymn singing! It was a peaceful service with a stimulating sermon on the Wedding at Cana by Reverend Ben Dyson.'

Burmington's next 'in person service' will be at 9.00 am, Sunday 30 August.

Reflections on Lockdown, Family, Garden Visitors, Cameo Lunch Club and Poppy

Two weeks before lockdown, we buried my grandson at Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground. A week later my lodger, who had been with me a long time, went to sheltered accommodation. I was alone for the first time in years. What was I to do? Two days later lockdown started I was really alone. Not a very good start to a period of national crisis.

My son and his family came over every day from Brailes, bringing milk, bread and any other foodstuffs I asked for. A few days later they left Poppy, a black Labrador, with me for company. Two years earlier, Poppy had had twelve puppies. My son kept two of the puppies named Daisy and Willow. Most days, my son brought over Daisy and Willow. Poppy was excited to see them and they all played with a ball in the paddocks.

My son and his wife, when she accompanied him on his visits, painted the fence, all twenty-six large panels. Then they attended to the garden, sowing, weeding, cutting back the spring growth of the bushes and mowing the grass. The garden has never looked so neat and tidy and well cared for!

The family kept their distance on their visits, talking to me through a window. When they went home, my son continued to phone me on a regular basis. I sat and watched TV, played cards on my laptop and talked endlessly to Poppy who did not answer back but just nudged me with her nose and wagged her tail.

In the mornings, I got up to attend to the usual household drudgery. I then sat in a chair by the window (thank heavens for the lovely weather) and watched the birds clustering around their feeder. My son had moved this so that I could see it from my window. At first, not many birds would visit the feeder in its new location, busy with nests and eggs I imagine. Then the woodpeckers arrived, firstly the parent birds and then, after a couple of weeks, their fledglings accompanied them. This, just before the end of May.

The young birds perched on the trees whilst the parent birds collected food from the feeder and flew to put it in the beaks of their young. It was wonderful to watch. As the young grew, gaining in confidence, they came to the feeder themselves. At first, they could not work out how to hang on to the feeder, balance themselves and get food at the same time. Some pied wagtails then arrived, feeding on the ground under the feeder, the parents picking up the food and putting it in the beaks of their young. The fledging pied wagtails were so unlike their parents in appearance I would not have recognised them as such but for the distinguishing bobbing of their tails. Many other birds came to the feeder as well as two young squirrels that delighted with their constant agility.

Later each morning I would tell Poppy how fortunate we were to be enjoying the lovely blue sky, the huge variety of shades of green and such interesting things as birds and animals, to look at.

My thoughts turned to the families, particularly hard-pressed one-parent families, locked in by lockdown, who might be in high-rise flats with two or three (screaming!) kids, with no such wonderful natural things to see and occupy their minds. I counted my blessings at living in splendid isolation, almost in the middle of nowhere, but at least in the heart of the vibrant countryside.

Then, a chat with Poppy: 'What shall we have for our meal tonight?' I do not enjoy planning, preparing and cooking meals and then eating alone. After the washing-up, it was back to the laptop or TV. We sit by the window, Poppy and I, anxiously awaiting the arrival of my son and his family and their dogs. Poppy stands at the window and I see her tail wagging furiously as they come through the gate.

Most afternoons I watch the Covid-19 news update on TV. Again, my mind turns to those poor people who have passed away alone without their loved ones beside them. I share their heartbreak, thinking especially of children who have lost a mother or father who worked in the NHS. I think of the many people who came forward to help, risking their own lives, leaving their homes and families to serve their fellow beings. How can we ever repay them for the sacrifices they have made? The daily briefings lead me to the conclusion that not enough was done in the first place to protect people in care-homes. I worry that as the Government slowly relaxes restrictions that it might be too soon. I do hope that the general public take great care and do not go 'over the top' with their celebrations and remember to keep their distance,

When my friend rang up to tell me that CAMEO lunch club was going to deliver a hot lunch to my home it was wonderful news! No planning, preparing or cooking that day; just eat and enjoy. Thank you to all the people involved for giving up their time and thinking of others.

When this crisis has passed, I do not think life will ever be quite the same again. I am sure many people will look at their life and revalue the things that are really important. Some of these are the simpler things of life. We will value our family and friends more, perhaps be less self-centred and more willing to give a helping hand to others. I can never thank Poppy enough for her wonderful companionship and understanding when I felt low. She asked for nothing in return. Nor can I thank my family enough for looking after me through this crisis and attending to my every need.



Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the August Lottery were:

1st	Sarah Bradley	£80
2nd	Amanda Glanvill	£45
3rd	Steve Allkins	£30

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

Steve Allkins

Flooding Matters

The spring and summer of 2020 will be remembered not solely for the widespread impact of Covid-19. The recent weather patterns that have included long periods of hot dry conditions and heavy rain/thunderstorms have also been memorable. Flooding has occurred in many areas of the country, and you may have been concerned about the possibility of further flooding in your communities. If you have an exceptional memory you will recall articles from me on flooding matters in the October 2019 and January 2020 editions of The LINK magazine. On the assumption that you either did not read these articles or do not remember them, I will precis the articles as best I can.

The first article advised the establishment of an organisation called the Warwickshire Stour Catchment Partnership (WSCP), and summarised various meetings that were held to brief residents of our communities on local flooding matters and the activities of the Shipston Area Flooding Action Group (SAFAG – you may also have read their contributions to the LINK). WSCP was intended to be an umbrella [*sic*] organisation involving all catchment Flood Action Groups, principally to aid communication, share best practice and make funding applications on behalf of the catchment area flood groups.

The first article also sought the views of Cherington and Stourton (CS) residents as to whether or not a Flood Action Group should be established for CS, and, if so, how it should be involved in WSCP (Sutton-under-Brailes were involved in initial discussions but decided to participate separately in SAFAG).

No feedback was received, and the second article updated developments at WSCP and gave notice of a CS residents' briefing meeting to be held in January 2020. After this meeting, an informal grouping of 11 local CS residents indicated a willingness to become involved in some form of Flood Action Group. Initial discussions were held to determine what form this should take and what the team's objectives and processes etc. should be, however, these discussions did not reach a conclusion.

Subsequently, some catchment area Flood Action Groups including SAFAG have withdrawn from WSCP, and at the time of writing the future composition, structure and objectives etc. of WSCP remain uncertain.

It has not been possible to assemble a sustainable team in CS to take forward flood management matters and create a local flood action plan, and therefore, the informal grouping that was established post-January 2020 has been disbanded for the time being. If, in future, a sufficient number of CS residents are interested in volunteering to serve on the flooding team then discussions could be restarted. In the meantime, SAFAG and WSCP will continue to send me their minutes for information.

Several CS residents have expressed the view that the CS Parish Council should take the lead in establishing a team to take forward local flooding matters, to raise funding for projects and maintenance of existing natural flood management interventions, and establish a flood action plan to protect residents from the impact of flooding. An initiative by the Parish Council along these lines may be the most effective way to take matters forward.

Richard Stevens, richardastevens235@gmail.com

Brailes Picturehouse

Alas, the hopes for a September start have been dashed by the extensive rules and continued uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. We haven't the manpower to oversee the safety of social distancing etc. especially if family groups descend upon us taking up too much space.

We feel, therefore, for the time being, it will be better to start again in the new year – January 2021. Things are changing all the time, so we will keep you posted. In the meantime, take care and keep safe.

Deirdre and Team

The Coffee Shop



The Coffee Shop is re-opening for takeaway drinks on Saturday 18 September 10.30 – 12.00 noon. There will be takeaway coffee or tea and sausage baps.

Hope to see lots of you back, social distancing in place. Best wishes.

Christine Dudfield

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Editor: Harry Dodds

Email: longcompton@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 684606

Long Compton Village Hall

The village hall committee has been working hard to get the hall ready and safe for your use. After jumping through several hoops and completing reams of paperwork, we are pleased to announce that your hall is now available for hire once again and some of the regular events have already started, with others beginning in September.

There are, inevitably, some new procedures to adopt to ensure we comply with the Government's ever changing Covid-19 Guidelines, but they are there for your safety, although the image of the dancers containing their artistic endeavours to a square marked on the floor is.....interesting!!

To kick us off, we held an 'Outdoor Socially Distanced Coffee and Cake Morning' in place of the normal Social Saturday on the Saturday 8 August and were pleased to see so many people come along for food, drink and, most importantly, the chance to catch up with friends they hadn't seen for quite some while. We plan on holding another on 12 September, taking into account the current government guidelines at the time (see advert below). We hope you will join us for this and remind you that it is open for anyone and everyone; you do not have to be part of any particular organisation to join us - just in need of company and refreshment.

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



Long Compton Village Hall Committee invite you to join them for



*Outdoor Socially Distanced
Coffee & Cakes*



Saturday 12 September 11am – 1pm

*Serving delicious home-made cakes and hot drinks
on the lawn at the Village Hall. Do drop by and join us!*

Compton Creatives

To find out more about joining this sociable group please contact jhburras@yahoo.co.uk or caroline.nixon@btinternet.com

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

Meets when it can at the village hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 2.00 - 3.30 pm. New members especially welcome. Contact Adrian on 684024 to learn more.

Long Compton Parish Council

What Makes a Villager?

Setting up interview conversations for the above project between school children and residents has proved a little trickier than originally envisaged but fortunately, we were able to set up suitable socially distanced garden locations.

A wide cross section of villagers of all ages enjoyed a conversation with a number of Acorns school children based on the questions that the children had collaboratively arrived at.

Jamie Wright, from Shipston JD Digital, is the appointed Video Producer and has spent time taking photographs and drone footage of village and local events which will be incorporated into the final video alongside some historical footage as added context.



Jamie at work

If you would like to know more about this project, which is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, then please do get in touch.

Elizabeth Gilkes Parish Clerk/RFO - 01608 684336 longcompton@googlemail.com

Compton District History Society

Covid-19 suspension of activities - Our committee has decided that there will be no further meetings this year but that they will start again next March, provided things are back to normal by then. Our idea is that we should rebook the same speakers as those we had originally booked for March to June this year. If you have paid a membership subscription for 2019/2020, that will carry forward to cover March to June 2021.

The Long Compton village hall committee is hoping to start letting out the hall, but we felt that this would not be safe for the membership, especially as we would have to sanitise everything used at a meeting after use. The hall committee would have to trust that those using the accommodation and equipment before had been thorough in doing this. We felt that there were too many risks in taking this course of action. It is also possible that speakers might not be willing to come to us earlier than next Spring.

We will of course keep you informed through The LINK as circumstances change.

Diana Cook 684771



St. Peter and St. Paul, Long Compton
HARVEST SERVICE

Sunday 13 October - 10.30 am

Come and enjoy the harvest decorations and give thanks for the work of our farmers and the blessings of the countryside.

Long Compton Bridge Club

The Bridge Club will reopen in October, unless it becomes clear that we can safely start before then. We will contact all members by email. Best wishes.

Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton & District Walkers

After what seems like a very long break from our monthly walks, we are hoping to start again in September. Taking everything into consideration, and looking at advice from the Ramblers Association, it is now judged safe to undertake a walk with up to 30 people.

We shall follow social distancing as far as is possible and take all necessary precautions, but the feedback from members of the group a couple of weeks ago, was that there was an overwhelming eagerness to restart the walks as soon as possible.

Where we shall go has not yet been decided, but as the opportunities around here are endless, I'm sure we shall find an enjoyable route. The only disappointment will be that we shall be unable to enjoy our usual post-walk pub lunch. As pubs are strictly limited in the numbers they can accommodate, the thought of asking any small pub to seat 15–18 of us, seemed to lie in the 'too difficult' category.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone next month.

Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton Chapel

The Nursery building has been completed and the welfare unit has been removed from the Chapel car park. We have levelled the car park and put in liner and grass matting and filled this with crushed stone. This covers half the car park. We also put in some drainage and to extend it to cover the full half of the car park. I think you will agree, it looks very good and will mean the car park can be used all year round.

The Flower and Produce Show (entries inside the Chapel and the car park for stalls and refreshments) is the weekend of 29 - 31 August. Entry forms are at the Chapel plant stall and at The Stores, or contact us. Covid-19 guidelines will be adhered to. Face coverings are obligatory inside the Chapel buildings. We look forward to seeing you there. We will give a full report next month!

We are still in the process of arranging redecoration of the Arden Room, toilets and kitchen (and kitchen refurb), but hope to complete this in the next couple of months.

The Plant Stall in aid of Shipston Home Nursing has so far raised £175 which has now been given to them. The Shipston Food Bank is still distributing parcels to those in need and we are still collecting for them. They always welcome donations of food or indeed, of money, to buy food. Bank transfers are accepted, please ask for details.

If you would like any further information, please contact either Sally on 07870 545431 or Elizabeth on 07791 621778. You can also speak to Marianne or June at The Stores.

longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com



The Friends of Long Compton Church

We are delighted to be able to give you the result of the Photographic Competition – our congratulations go to them all and our thanks to all those who supported the event.



Overall winner : Miggy Wild - 'Spirit of the Green Forest'

Under 16 Winner: Theo Sellars - 'Green Sky, No Planes'

Under 16 Runner up: Thomas Collins - 'The Green Hideout'

Over 16 Winner: Miggy Wild - 'Spirit of the Green Forest'

Over 16 Runner up: Colin Lamb - 'A Windy Day Triptych'

Distinctions Winner: Robert Herringshaw - 'Radio Active Green'

Distinctions Runner up: Robert Bracher - 'Verdant View'

Special mention for Tony Wells - 'Green River Demoiselle'

The Photographic Exhibition of entries is now up in the church which is open from 9.30 am - 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Friends of Long Compton Church, our information and contact points:

e: friendslcchurch@gmail.com f: [@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflongcomptonchurch)

www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

Sue Klatt, Chairman

The Comptonians

The Long Compton village hall will open in the autumn, but due to the present uncertain and changing situation, we feel that we should not meet until it is safe to do so.

We hope that we might be able to hold the end of year Lunch in November and we shall keep you informed about any arrangements. Looking forward to when we can all meet again. Take care.

Margaret Welsh

Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch



Our local co-ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and emails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public. Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at jordanboswell@hotmail.com

Long Compton and District Garden Club

Despite our best efforts to create a new normal, we had to abort our trip to Rousham on 11 August. A BBC film crew overran and closed Rousham for that day. We re-scheduled for 18 August only to be overtaken by the weather. The heavy rain had rendered the paths treacherous and the trees and shrubs were bowed with rain. We cancelled. We will try again maybe next year.

We plan one more trip for 2020 which is on Monday 7 September to Cotswold Wildlife Park. We will travel in our own cars to arrive about 10.00 am. Please take your own picnic – entry will be £10.

We are also planning the following meetings:

Wednesday 25 November - AGM and social event

Wednesday 24 February 2021 - Gardeners' Question Time

More details will follow in due course. All are welcome.

Lesley Roberts 684545



Long Compton
book club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10 September at 7.00 pm
We will be discussing a variety of books chosen by members
All Welcome - Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938
carole.r.clements@googlemail.com

100 Club News

Due to the present restrictions and to be on the safe side, the monthly 100 Club draws will be suspended until such time as we can all gather in the village hall again. There will then be a grand draw to cover those that have been missed.

There are 10 draws left this year, so if anyone would like to join in at a cost of £10 (or buy another ticket!), please contact me on 684234.

Chris Galloway

Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club - Contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com

Compton and District History Society - Contact Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians - Contact Margaret Welsh 684238

Village Hall - Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or lcvillehall@yahoo.co.uk

Compton Creatives - caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or jhburras@yahoo.co.uk

Long Compton & District Walkers - Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls - Club Contact Adrian on 684024

Long Compton Bridge Club - Chris Galloway 684234

Friends of Long Compton Church, our information and contact points:

e: friendslcchurch@gmail.com f: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch

www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Kath Adams, who was the winner of the August Reading Room draw, and to Di Russell, who was the winner of the July draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Village Editor

Many thanks to Kath Haughton for her time as Village Editor for Whichford and Ascott, it's been much appreciated by everyone. I am delighted to be the new Editor and look forward to hearing from everyone about what they might like to see in our pages. I've always enjoyed the history pieces we've occasionally seen, either on the villages and their buildings or on memories of village residents, so do please send in your suggestions on these or any other topics. I hope we will also see more from Patrick Fox, particularly his wonderful photographs.

Melanie Arnold

Notice of AGM for The Friends of St. Michael's Church, Whichford

The Trustees of the Friends of St. Michael's Church Whichford cordially invite you to our Sixth General Meeting. As we are currently under restrictions of social distancing due to Covid-19, we will be holding a 'virtual meeting' using Zoom technology.

The AGM will commence at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 1 September. The AGM will include a short presentation on 2019 activities and an update on plans to widen the use of St. Michael's for community activities.

If you would like to join us at the meeting, please respond to Jan Knight, janet.knight6@mypostoffice.co.uk and she will send you details on how to join in the meeting on Zoom, together with the agenda and our financial accounts for 2019.

**Stuart Allen, Andy Birtwell, David Blakemore,
Joanna Cook, Adam Keeling and Jan Knight**

St. Michael's Church Tower

We are very grateful to the buildings committee for successfully overseeing the majority of necessary works to the tower. Just before the beginning of lockdown the team did everything to ensure as much of the work as possible was completed. This was done so that the outside scaffolding came down in the nick of time to avoid further risk and expense.

At the time of writing, there is still some internal scaffolding and minor internal works outstanding, including lighting, fixings and bird proofing the louvre windows. The contractors are due to start again soon to complete these works.

The PCC, Whichford and Ascott

Harvest Festival, St. Michael's Church, Whichford

Our harvest service will be at 10.30 am on Sunday 13 September.

All welcome, children and young people especially welcome. If you would like to bring along any fruit, greenery and vegetables on Thursday 10 September 2-4 pm to include in the display, please leave them in the church porch. Thank you.

Donations of non-perishable foods will also be most welcome to give to the food bank.



Sophia Corlett, Mandy James, Andy Chapman, Andy Birtwell, Susan Turquet and Jerry Moore

Whichford and Ascott Car Drivers for Medical Appointments

If you need transport for a hospital or doctor's appointment within a 15-mile radius, do give us a ring:

Caroline O'Kane 684780
Jenny Scrivener 684564
Sophia Corlett 684369
Mandy James 684479
Mary Manville-Hales 684679

A donation to village funds would be appreciated. Please try to give us as much notice as possible and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Katharine House Hospice



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

A big thank you for your donations of used stamps in aid of Katharine House Hospice. Our donations recently have raised another £120.

Please continue to collect your used stamps and leave in the plastic box at the back of the Church. We don't get many these days, but together we don't do badly! It's much appreciated by a worthy cause.

Mandy James

[Ed – Our thanks to Melanie for stepping forward to take on the job of Village Editor. Please do give her your support with articles, photographs and items of interest for Whichford.]

Long term residents of Great Wolford move to Moreton

Great Wolford residents of 43 years, Peter and Di Watson have now moved into Moreton. They will be sadly missed as they were active on most, if not all of the village organisations over the years - memorable bonfire nights, LINK deliveries, pop up pubs and many other social events.

To wish them a fond goodbye, a group from the village who had served on various committees with them over the years met up in the churchyard on Sunday 17 August. Peter and Di were presented with a picture by Sabrina Rew depicting Brook Cottage, and a timeline of events in the village.



Di and Peter with leaving gift

We would like to welcome new residents, Ed and Marie Crosland, with Cicely and Robin to their new home.

Lynn Mathias

The Wolfords Village Hall

After much consideration, the Trustees have concluded not to reopen the hall due to the current restrictions in place to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 virus. The impact of these restrictions will limit the attendance of events to comply with social distancing and will require the hall to be cleaned before and after each event. As from 8 August, a face covering will be mandatory for entering a village hall for such events as the Rural Cinema and meetings. Exemptions include indoor sports and when consuming food and drink. Village halls that are reopening are finding no events booked due to these restrictions.

Further review of when the hall can be reopened will be considered as and when changes to these current restrictions take place.

Regarding the 100 club, we would especially like to thank all those who have shares in the club. Their continuing support while the hall is closed with no income from event hires is more important than ever and greatly appreciated. Renewals for the 100 club are due in August and of course we would understand if members may think of cancelling because the hall is closed, but we still have to go on paying expenses like utility bills, insurance, etc. The club income this coming year is more vital than ever before and we hope very much that members will renew, and continue to support the hall.

James van Helden

Warwickshire Ride and Stride 2020 – Saturday 12 September

We are delighted to announce that The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Trust is running a 'socially distanced' Ride and Stride on Saturday 12 September this year.

As we are all used to enjoying exercising within our Covid-19 groups, this is a great opportunity to get out and about, while raising much-needed funds to preserve our wonderful, historic church buildings. Not all churches will be open to welcome visitors, so we are therefore asking participants to ride or walk past if that is the case. All aspects of the day will be within government guidelines.

All information is on our website: www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk Go to 'I want to Ride and Stride'. Half the money you raise will go to your local church if you designate one, and half will go to the Trust to make repair grants.

We have an easy way this year of raising money online through Virgin Money Giving. You can make a quick and simple, one-off donation there – or you can set up a personal fundraising page for your supporters:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/RideandStride2020Warwickshire

We very much hope that you will Ride or Stride (or even drive!) on Saturday 12 September to support our cause. Please contact me for any further information.

Sarah Constable, admin@warwickshirechurches.org.uk

Wildlife seen in Wolford and the surrounding area

Over the last twelve months many of the local farmers have been logging wildlife, particularly larger mammals, that they see in their day to day activities for the Warwickshire Mammal Group. I have just been sent a summary of all the results. The Warwickshire Mammal Group would like to thank all the farmers who participated.

While the species seen were as you would expect, it is encouraging that the majority of the mammals were found all over the area. The commonest were the badger and roe deer which were spotted on pretty well every farm, closely followed by hares, foxes and muntjac which were spotted on three quarters of participating farms. Rabbits and fallow deer were close behind.

Stoats, weasels, hedgehogs, otters and mink were all spotted locally but were not so common. This may be because some of these are largely nocturnal so less likely to be seen in the normal passage of a working day. Moles, voles, rats, grey squirrel, shrew and bats were also noted on most of the farms taking part.

Lynn Mathias

Join us for Ride and Stride
and enjoy exercising safely following
Covid-19 Government guidelines



Warwickshire & Coventry
Historic Churches Trust

RIPE + STRIDES for Churches

Saturday 12th September 2020

Walk or Cycle to preserve our church buildings for future generations.

Find out more on www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk



Registered charity number 508352

Chairman's Corner

It Never Rains...



The graphics superimposed on the UK weather maps on television regularly show swathes of dark blue (or even bright green) sweeping across Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis (Eilean Leòdhais), as if they're being drawn to the area by some mystical power. These blue and green patches indicate that yet another heavy downpour is about to be inflicted on the unfortunate residents of the Outer Hebrides.

While we basked/melted in the last month's mini-heatwave, with temperatures soaring towards 35°C, thermometers in Stornoway struggled to reach a balmy (for that region) 16-18°C, with occasional light rain or drizzle included, of course.

Although Stornoway has about 1,259 mm of rain per year, it is still not the wettest part of the UK. The prize for purportedly being the rainiest inhabited place in the UK goes to Seathwaite in the Lake District, with around 3,552 mm of rain annually. Crib Goch in Snowdonia, however, is the nation's overall winner, which has averaged 4,473 mm of rain per year over the past 30 years. The wettest place in the world is Mawsynram in India, which receives a yearly average of 11,871 mm of rain. During the monsoon season, it rains so hard that the local villagers cover the roofs of their huts and houses with grass, which acts as soundproofing against the relentless and deafening noise.



If you're seeking aridity, there's nowhere better than the Atacama Desert in South America. Being the driest place on earth, it receives less precipitation than the deserts of the Arctic or Antarctica. The average rainfall in the Atacama is just 15 mm per year, with some areas only getting 3 mm per year. There are even parts of the desert where it hasn't rained at all for over four hundred years! Incredibly, creatures such as the sand-coloured grasshopper, red scorpion and Darwin's leaf-eared mouse still manage to eke out an existence where enough moisture can be found.

Measuring extremes of temperature is not so straightforward, due to the different methods employed (air, ground, shade, direct sunlight, etc.) and the reliability of their

results. At 282 feet below sea level, Death Valley, in the northern Mojave Desert, is generally regarded as the hottest place on the planet. In 1913, an air temperature of 57°C was recorded, although for many years the validity of this has been debated.

When NASA used their MODIS satellite to measure the land surface temperature (LST) from 2003 to 2009, they found that for five of those years, the Lut Desert in Iran was the hottest spot on earth, with a ground temperature of 70.7°C. The record for the highest 'low' temperature goes to Quriyat in Oman where, over a 24-hour period in 2018, the minimum air temperature never got below 42.6°C.

At the other end of the scale, the coldest permanently inhabited town in the world is Oymyakon in eastern Siberia, where the winter temperatures have been known to plummet to a bone-chilling minus 72°C. Car engines need to be kept running, or they will quickly freeze. Even a bottle of vodka could soon freeze if it is left outside. To find the coldest place on earth, one would need to travel to the Soviet Vostok Station in Antarctica. In July 1983, this is where the lowest ever temperature at ground level was recorded at -89.2°C.



We do like to have a good old moan about the weather – it's either too cold, too wet, too hot... But I'd rather take the odd English heatwave and have an 'uncomfortable' night, than choose to reside in the more extreme parts of the world.

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

[Ed - Since this was written, and just before the September LINK went to the printers, a temp of 54.4C was recorded in Death Valley, which is undergoing verification by the US National Weather Service. This could well turn out to be the highest temperature reliably recorded.]



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

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

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

Poetry Notes

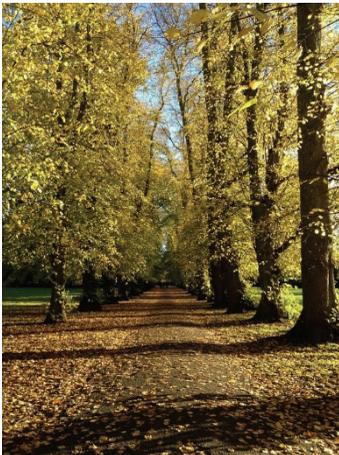
Email: editor@swlink.org.uk

For September, I have chosen a work by the American poet Helen Hunt Jackson. It comes from her *Calendar of Sonnets* and should not be confused with her poem simply entitled *September*. With Jackson, it seems that as far as September is concerned, we are spoilt for choice.

Helen Hunt Jackson was born in 1830 in Massachusetts and she died in 1885 on the other side of the continent in San Francisco. She used her considerable literary skills to campaign for the improved treatment of Native Americans by the United States government. In her history, *A Century of Dishonor* published in 1881, she described the adverse effects of government actions and her novel *Ramona*, dramatised the federal government's mistreatment of Native Americans.



**Helen Hunt Jackson 1830 – 1885
Poet and Campaigner on behalf of
Indigenous Americans.**



September

O golden month! How high thy gold is heaped!
The yellow birch-leaves shine like bright coins strung
On wands; the chestnut's yellow pennons tongue
To every wind its harvest challenge. Steeped
In yellow, still lie fields where wheat was reaped;
And yellow still the corn sheaves, stacked among
The yellow gourds, which from the earth have wrung
Her utmost gold. To highest boughs have leaped
The purple grape,—last thing to ripen, late
By very reason of its precious cost.
O Heart, remember, vintages are lost
If grapes do not for freezing night-dews wait.
Think, while thou sunnest thyself in Joy's estate,
Mayhap thou canst not ripen without frost!

(Helen Hunt Jackson 1830-1885)

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

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk