

THE LINK

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

APRIL 2024

£1.20



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

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor:

editorswlink@gmail.com

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

Mon 1	Art and Artisan Market	Long Compton Chapel	11.00
Thurs 4	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
	Farmer's Market	The Hall Stourton	18.00
Fri 5	Feelgood Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sun 7	Barcheston Concerts	Famington Farm	15.30
	Hedgerow Survey	The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Weds 10	History Society	Long Compton VH	19.30
Thurs 11	Barcheston/Will AGM	Burmington VH	19.45
	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Sat 13	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10.00
	Pre-Loved Sale	The Hall, Stourton	10.00
	Social Saturday	Lon Compton VH	11.00
Tues 16	A.G.M	Long Compton Ch	19.30
Weds 17	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	14.00
Thurs 18	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Fri 19	Feelgood Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sat 20	At the Races	Long Compton VH	19.00
	Oppenheimer	Brailes Picture House	18.30
Weds 24	Garden Club	Long Compton VH	19.30
Thurs 25	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Fri 26	Carers4Carers	Kinton Village Hall.	10:30
Sat 27	Fizz n Fancies	Burmington VH	14.30
	Fish and Chips	Wolford VH	19.00

Save the Dates of the Summer Fetes

June 15 Barton-on-the Heath 14.30

June 22 Long Compton 13.00

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Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	07718955990

EDITORIAL



Link Talk

Welcome to the April edition of The Link and hopefully, by the time this drops on your doormat the sun will be out and we will all be enjoying a cocktail in the garden!

I am still recovering from the embarrassment of my dreadful faux pas regarding the cover of the April edition. I can only apologise to all the gardening clubs out there and assure you that, despite evidence to the contrary, I do know my daffodils from my snowdrops although I must thank and defer to Celia Sawyer for clarifying the genus as *Galanthus nivalis* 'Flore Pleno'. At least I know you are paying attention which is good for keeping me on my editorial toes!

Our pages are now filling up with Spring and Summer events but alas, no Pet of the Month or anymore Local Heros which I do not believe to be true as our villages all thrive because of all the heroes giving up their time to make things happen. So come on, let's have some nominations please (and some pets!)
Sara Billins



Cover photograph: Springtime in the Union by Paul Levitch.

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

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

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Marine Quay, Salcombe



A spacious waterfront apartment for sale/rent on a timeshare basis in **Salcombe, Devon**. Sleeps 4-6. The first week in November, peaceful and Autumnal. Stunning estuary views from the Apartment Balcony and rooms. It has its own parking for 1 car and there is a Charging facility for EV's. No Dogs.

Contact 07792 974288 or 07976 700763 for further details.



Happy Birthday!
April 2024



John Payne
Nathaniel Banner
Amelia Upward
Tommy Wright
Toby Jones
Robert Clarke
Beatrice Kinch

Burmington	18
Barcheston	18
Long Compton	16
Cherington	17
Barton	15
Burmington	17
Whichford	12



WARWICKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Gaydon Fire Station
Lighthorne Heath,
Warwick,
CV35 0BD

Dear Householder,

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE AT RISK WITHOUT A WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR.

As part of the Fire Service strategy to reduce death and injury due to fire in the home, we are carrying out Home Fire Safety visits in your area.

We can visit your property and carry out a **FREE** Home Fire Safety visit.

Our Home Fire Safety visits include valuable fire safety information to help keep you and your family safe. If you have smoke alarms, we will check they are working and sited correctly. If not, we will fit smoke detectors where required **FREE OF CHARGE**.

We have already fitted free smoke detectors and given advice to many people in your area. If you or someone you know would like a free Home Fire Safety visit, please call W.C.C. customer service on: -

01926 466282 or 01926 413478

Headquarters Leamington spa

Gaydon Fire Station

We will then arrange a suitable time to visit you. And remember: **ALL OFFICERS WILL ATTEND IN UNIFORM, IN A FIRE APPLIANCE AND ALWAYS CARRY ID. PLEASE DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK TO SEE THIS ID!**

We look forward to seeing you soon.
Kind regards,

Gaydon Fire Station

Carers4Carers

Monthly meeting. Friday April 26 10:30am - 12 noon, Kineton Village Hall.



You can enjoy some refreshments and chat with other local carers. We also have a guest speaker, David Howe, who will give an amusing talk about his school days called "Willingly to School?" If you bring your loved one, they can join our Companionship Group while you attend the meeting.

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

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

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.

We have themed weeks featuring exotic cuisines, or focusing on a seasonal ingredient such as asparagus.

For more details of these, check out our social media – **Facebook, Moreton in Marsh Noticeboard, Shipston Noticeboard and Instagram.** We can also be contacted by email, mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or mobile, 07933 141410

A big thank you to all our customers for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming new customers.

Easter Bonnet or Mad Hatter's Competition.



The CAMEO Lunch Club organised an Easter bonnet competition at its March meeting. The attached photographs show the group of winners and individual entries.

The first CAMEO Lottery was also held at the March meeting with total prize money of £32.

The next meeting will be held on April 9 at 12 noon for 12.30 pm in Burmington village hall. All are welcome. Bookings, including those for transport to and from the lunch, should be made with Brenda on Tel: 664313



INFO LINK

editor@swlink.gmail.com

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

Shipston 'tip' is open - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>.

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

Holy Trinity, London Road. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 11.00 am Tel: 01608 642703

Stow-on-the-Wold

Our Lady and St. Kenelm, 5 Back Walls. Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 9.15 am Tel: 01608 674354

Shipston and Brailes

Shipston, Our Lady and St. Michael, Darlingscote Road. Sunday 9.15 am.

Brailes, SS Peter and Paul, Friars Lane. Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm (for Shipston and Brailes Tel: 01608 685259)

Chipping Campden

St Catharine's Lower High St. Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm. Sunday 10.30 am Tel: 01386 84026

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

Broad Campden, Quaker Meeting House, GL556US - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Ettington, Quaker Meeting Hse, Old Halford Rd, CV377TH -Sundays at 11.00 am.

Sibford, Quaker Meeting House, Sibford Gower, OX155RX - Sundays at 10.30 am.

Shipston on Stour, in St Edmund's Church - last Thursdays (not Dec) at 2.30 pm

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton every third Sunday at 3.30 pm.

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i>Barcheston St Martin</i>	<i>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</i>
Churchwardens	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
Secretary	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Vacancy
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Councils

Parish	Chair	Clerk
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Ed Law	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

CHURCH NOTES

“Jesus wept” These words make up the shortest verse in the entire bible. They are written by the apostle John describing Jesus’ reaction to the death of his close friend Lazarus. I often use these words as an example of Jesus’ deep humanity. Like any of us, he grieved deeply at the death of a loved one.



Grief is an exceptionally disorienting experience and can often come with a variety of strong, sometimes contradictory emotions. One of these emotions is anger. When a loved one dies our hearts cry out in anger at the bitter reality of death. Jesus is no different. The word translated ‘wept’ in our English versions has a strong sense of anger to it. Jesus isn’t just sad at the death of his friend. He’s angry. He’s angry because he, like us, knows, that death is not the way things should be. It’s a terrible and tragic distortion of God’s good purposes for his creation. Jesus is angry because he finds death offensive.

Any anger we feel at the death of a loved one is tragically powerless; we can’t

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?
COME AND JOIN OUR NEW CHOIR

Our new Choir in the SW7 Benefice which will be singing at the
Benefice
Songs of Praise and at Evensong in Long Compton and Barcheston.

Julian Grimshaw, the director of the Benefice Choir, welcomes singers
of all ages, novices and experienced singers alike.



Please contact Julian for further information:

jdwyergrimshaw@btinternet.com

or 07891 423855

do anything about it; but Jesus is different. His anger in the face of death is not impotent. Having wept, Jesus then asks for the stone to be removed from the tomb, and in a loud voice commands Lazarus to come out, and, astonishingly, Lazarus does so. The words of Jesus carry a power greater even than death – he calls his

friend back to life. Earlier in the same chapter, speaking to one of Lazarus’ grieving sisters, Jesus says this about himself. *“I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”*

Jesus can only make this incredible promise because of what he would go through on to do that first Easter. On that day, Jesus defeated death by rising from the dead himself; that means he can offer his life to all who believe in him. Like Lazarus we too can hear his voice and be led through death and into life. That is the hope-filled message of Easter.

Ben Dyson Rector SW 7 Benefice

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

April 2024 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
7 th April 2 nd of Easter	9am BCP Holy Communion/ Morning Prayer (TBC)					10:30am CW Holy Communion/ Morning Prayer (TBC)
14 th April 3 rd of Easter			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)		6pm BCP Evensong (BD)	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)
21 st April 4 th of Easter		9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	4pm GAP GAP Informal (BD)	
28 th April 5 th of Easter				8am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	

South Warwickshire Benefice

Reverend Ben Dyson Tel: 01608 628229 email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke Tel: 07425868855 email: officesw7@gmail.com

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk

facebook.com/sw7churches

BD = Ben Dyson, LW = Liz Maycock/LW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clea Wells /HP = Heather Peabury/AD = Andrew Dow RG = Richard Smith/ RS=Richard Stevens/ACBD = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

It's time for a few more Farming Notes for the Link. Today is the 1st of March and I write this after yet another downpour. As always, the weather is breaking records - the BBC said this morning that February was the wettest and warmest since records began, over 200 years ago. Farming is now at a standstill; too wet to do anything. Dan has been using the little mini digger purchased a while ago to dig out and repair several broken drains and clean a length of ditch. All drains are running to full capacity, when last winter for several months, they never ran at all.

We have been loading wheat over February to send to the mill, the price keeps falling and yet the cost of living goes up. Bread and grain-based food shelf prices should be going down, but I fear that is not going to happen anytime soon. Wheat has fallen in value by around £40 per ton since last harvest. As I've mentioned before, environmental crops are becoming the norm for most farmers now. There is a lot of talk in the media how the country will become ever greener and food will be imported from around the world. I stress that many of these have very limited safety regulations, nothing like ours here. We are expected to comply with more and more regulations, whilst imported grain is mixed with ours to lower the cost of manufacture, but not necessarily the price on the shelf.

Still, enough of my moaning. Last time, I wrote a little about Nelson Radcliffe, so I thought I would continue by saying a few words about a man who worked here when we first came to Long Compton. His name was Stewart Ford.



Stewart lived at Number 1, Back Lane. He had several brothers and sisters and for a long time, looked after his father Claude Ford. He lived in the village all his life. He told me how before school and after, that he milked a few cows in the barn Gilly Galloway lives in now. He worked here doing the garden for the previous owners and got involved in looking after the poultry. In those days, my father-in-law had just installed several (poultry units), each housing around 6000 laying hens, with all the chicks being hand-reared on the farm. Stewart used a hammer mill and mixer to grind up the food they ate and cleaned out the muck twice a day. These old photos were taken in 1968, showing Stewart putting muck into the dung spreader, and the other one of the poultry sheds shows him ready to fill the feed hopper. Stewart would always have a hare to eat *"I'll soon have his jacket off when I get home"* he would say.



Every year, Stewart would go to see the Gold Cup at Cheltenham. He and his mates, including Ted Brown and a couple more Fords would book Ken Timms taxi, and either Brian or Ken Timms would take them for the day. I remember seeing Stewart on his way to Ken Timms in his suit and polished boots, looking really smart for the day out. He would go up to The Red Lion every week to pay into the thrift club. The Red Lion was very different then, and you had a job to see across the room for smoke. Stewart always sat at the middle table on the road-side wall. In the corner was a table of dominoes players, led by Bill Dumpleton. A crate of large light ales to hand, Bill's laugh sounded like a hen after laying

an egg, when he slapped down a double six for eight holes. The pub in those days always had most of the old lads who did or had worked on the local farms all their lives and you couldn't do a thing they hadn't noticed or commented on at break time, around 11am. Stewart would sit on a sack of meal, get out a bundle from his pocket, which always had a lump of cheese and a raw onion, that he ate like an apple, and a flask of black tea.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

I went to the funeral of an old family friend this week. She was a very good garden designer and gardener, who had lived a long and happy life, filled with gardens and nature and wildlife. She wrote a monthly column on gardening for her local newspaper: we, the congregation, were given a beautifully bound copy of all her columns, which are fascinating. An excerpt of one of her columns was printed in the service sheet, alongside the readings, and psalms and hymns, all touching on growth, and planting and harvest. Really a very beautiful service and highly appropriate choices for such a dedicated and keen gardener.

I imagine that even she had to struggle with slugs and snails. I shall scour her columns to see if she ever talks about her battles with them. Regular readers of this column may remember that I have talked about the difficulty of finding effective slug controls since the toxic ones containing metaldehyde were banned. We no longer use any chemical controls in the garden; we're quite happy to leave the aphids, for example, to the blue tits and the ants; but the slugs come close to defeating us ... even the hedgehogs can't eat enough of them to help us out.



Last year we tried wool-based slug pellets as a barrier round the seedlings, and I promised to report back on their efficacy. They worked extremely well in dry weather, keeping both slugs and snails off, although you have to use quite a lot of them to build an effective barrier. They are effective until you get a lot of rain, when they

are next to useless - they get wet, absorb the water, and disintegrate. I lost a whole crop of lettuces last year by relying on them. They do however have the benefit of adding organic matter to the soil as they fall apart and rot down.

However, I am persisting and have just read that wheat and corn bran causes slugs and snails to dry out and die when they eat it. So, we'll get a bag of that from the health food shop as a trial. Apparently, the slugs killed by bran make an extra nutritious snack for slug and snail-eating animals and birds.

I suspect I'll use a combination of approaches this year. I'll continue to use the wool pellets, making sure to top them up if we expect a lot of rain. I'll test the bran and see if that makes a difference. When I have important seedlings such as sweet peas, I plan to intersperse a few of the organically approved blue slug pellets among the wool pellets, in a belt and braces approach.

We now have a pond in the garden, and I can't wait for frogs to appear in it and make their home in the garden. Frogs are voracious eaters of slugs and snails and I imagine they would love the bran-stuffed ones.

Miranda Arnold

NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

The wettest Warwickshire winter on record. Aside from being a rather neat piece of alliteration, I find myself semi-seriously wondering whether mankind's next major evolutionary step might be developing webbed hands and feet. There's no doubt that the effects of global warming are now well and truly upon us, and predictably this has had an effect on our wildlife.

This was brought home to me recently while having a dawn chat outside the village hall with Dick my dog-walking neighbour, and a little egret flew over us heading purposefully towards Sutton-under Brailes. For anybody unfamiliar with little egrets they're a smallish pure white heron with bright yellow feet. 35 years ago, I travelled to Dorset to see my first. It was a very rare bird at the time.



But warmer winters have seen moving east from the continent. They first bred in the UK in 2006 and now they breed extensively across the south and east coast with 2023 seeing 1272 pairs. In 2016 they bred in Warwickshire for the first time. They also breed at the Cotswold water park. This is definitely one to keep an eye out for locally and a lovely bird to see.

Continuing the theme its larger cousin, the great white egret, also started breeding here in 2012 closely followed by cattle egrets in 2017. Add the unique spatula-billed Spoonbill in 2010 and various (occasionally successful) attempts by the colourful little bittern and purple heron and you've got a veritable European heron invasion. Bearing in mind this family of birds is inextricably linked to water you've got to wonder if they know something we don't...

Other alien species are also starting to colonise the UK and many of these haven't got here on their own steam. They've been inadvertently or even deliberately introduced, and there are hundreds.

Many we're familiar with and the harlequin ladybird is one that we see locally. Originating in Japan, it's been introduced to many countries across the world as a biological control method for aphids, and it's remarkably effective at this. It found its way here around 2004 and since then has colonised England and is rapidly heading off to Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Although it eats a lot of aphids it will also consume the eggs and larvae of butterflies and moths and other small insects, including our native ladybirds. The jury is still out on whether it's actually harmful to local wildlife or just finding its own niche within our existing fauna.

However, there is one species that definitely IS harmful to just about everything it encounters and it's worth putting on your radar, the Asian hornet. Europe's first exposure to this voracious predator was in France in 2004. It was thought to have arrived in a consignment of pottery from China. It is now established in many western European countries and worryingly has started appearing here. According to Government data, there were only sporadic sightings between 2016 and 2022, but last year all that changed and, disturbingly, 72 nests were located and destroyed. All of these were in the southeast.



So why is this particular *Vespidae* so dangerous? Most obvious is that it's a major predator of honeybees. One hornet can eat an astonishing 50 bees a day and even though a colony of bees could be 50,000 strong and a hornet's nest only contains a few

hundred insects, at that rate of attrition it can destroy a bee colony in 3 or 4 days. They also eat bumblebees and other native pollinators. Less obvious is their predilection for eating wasps, and although none of us are going to put wasps on our 'top 10 cuddliest animal' list they do serve an incredibly important role in eating garden pests like flies, aphids, caterpillars and other plant-eating invertebrates.

On the continent the Asian hornet has started to have a serious impact on species biodiversity and the cost of control is already running into tens of millions of euros. So, bearing all this in mind, when you get a minute, google the Asian hornet and familiarise yourself with its appearance. If you see one, report it. The local beekeepers will love you forever.

David Sewell

Long Ago



In the *Long-Ago* topic, the children at Little Acorns really enjoyed showing and talking about their favourite soft toy and comparing old and new teddy bears and toys. This learning was further developed in our expressive art and design lesson, where the children created their own peg dolls. To complete the topic, the children found out about everyday objects from the past and were fascinated by the use of a tin bath, a mangle, and a

chamber pot, to name just a few. Even more fun was had in the final week with Acorns Primary annual pancake races. The children enjoyed joining the rest of the school to complete some pancake relays and practise their pancake tossing skills at the same time. We are grateful to the sports captains, who supported our younger children with their races.

Nursery and reception children have benefited from an excellent road safety workshop delivered by the Road Safety Team at Warwickshire County Council.

Coastline and Remarkable Recipes

Class 1 are enjoying their coastline topic; the discussion and study of the coast is keeping children's spirits high during this very wet month! Pupils have studied towns on the coast including Tenby and Whitby. They are now exploring a little of Whitby's history, looking at how the town has evolved and how jobs have changed over time. Class 1 have created small lighthouse models and have been

reading *How Does a Lighthouse Work?* to gain as much knowledge as possible for writing. Children have worked together to research and organise their findings into sub-headings. They were amazed to find out that the first lighthouse was built 2000 years ago in Egypt!

In Design and Technology, the class tackled the *Remarkable Recipes* project.



Children learnt about the source of the foods we eat, including the animals that our food comes from and the parts of a plant. Following this, they explored several types of diet such as vegetarian, vegan and meat based. The children found this interesting and explored discussing foods that would ensure these diets were fuelling human bodies. After this, the class learnt some new

practical cooking skills such as chopping, slicing, grating, measuring and whisking. The innovate part of our project tasked the children to prepare and cook a vegetable casserole, which went through a strict Class 1 taste test and evaluation. The children were excited and put their learnt skills to the test. They created a delicious dish and the feedback was very positive, lots had their portion for tea that night!

Frozen Kingdoms

Class 3 are enjoying their *Frozen Kingdoms* topic, fully immersing themselves in their learning. In English, children have written survival guides, sharing their survival knowledge from topic lessons and creating a guide for adventurers planning to venture to the Arctic or the Antarctic. More recently, Year 5 and Year 6 have been diving into their class novel, *The Wolf Wilder*, focusing on how the author uses senses to create mood.

In art, we have been continuing our Inuit project. Pupils have studied Inuit artists Jessie Oonark and Kenojuak Ashevak, using the work of these significant printmakers to influence their artwork. Children have used stencilling techniques to design and make a stencil as well as create a print.

This term, Class 3 at Acorns are investigating inputs in computing and making use of Micro: Bits to create different programs. The children have been using different blocks of code to create inputs and outputs linked to the devices and

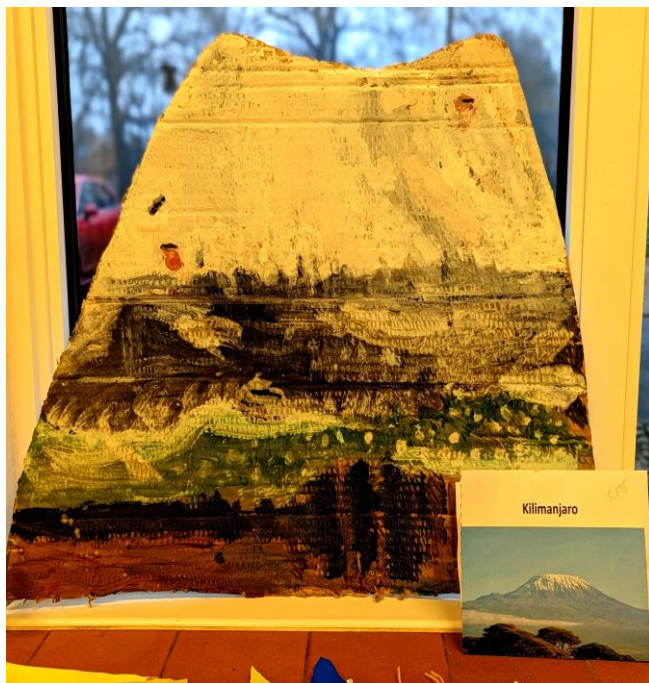
they have already successfully built a dice and a rock/paper/scissors games using these tiny computers. The next task will be to combine this with their knowledge of Scratch to create digital games.

Great Fire of London

This Year 1 and Year 2 in Rabbits class have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. The children have enjoyed finding out all about how the fire started in Pudding Lane and why it spread so quickly, as well as investigating why Samuel Pepys might have chosen to bury his cheese on the night of the blaze! The Rabbits have been busy writing exciting adventure stories based on the topic which were sent to parents on the Seesaw app, alongside the children's fiery silhouette collages.

Misty Mountain, Winding River

The Owls have enjoyed diving deeper into our *Misty Mountain, Winding River* unit. Children have been learning about altitudinal zones, types of mountains, the water cycle and have expanded their subject knowledge with some brilliant, shared pieces of artwork, which show a real ethic of excellence.



The class focused on the tallest mountains on each continent, discussing how each mountain was formed and the unique environments that they create and are part of. Some of the mountains were a real challenge just to say! Do you know how to say Mt Kosciuszko? Better still, do you know where it is? The mountains were an opportunity for the Owls to showcase the



skills they have been working on in art lesson: vista - thinking about how colour and blending are used to create light and shadow.

The Owls experimented with a range of media to create images of the longest rivers on each continent. Each river was researched, and the class discussed the range of environmental challenges that face both the human and natural geographies of the rivers. They used this to begin a case study into flooding in Somerset but thought more globally about the causes of

environmental damage. Pupils also considered the impact that humans have on our local ecosystems and what lives there when Year 3 and Year 4 visited Sutton Brook recently, giving children a chance to get hands-on with our environment.

Sow, Grow and Farm

Badgers Class are continuing to build their knowledge of *Sow, Grow, Farm* through the develop stage of learning through a wonderful visit to Glebe Farm, Lower Brailes on Friday February 23. A very big thank you to both Mr. and Mrs. Cole for a fabulous tour of their farm and an invaluable opportunity to learn more about farming.

VILLAGE NEWS

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON

May Fair at St Martin's, Barcheston

In aid of church repairs

SATURDAY May 11 11am to 4pm

We will be having all types of stalls: cakes, jams and preserves, books, bric-a-brac, bottles and plants.

Please if you have anything that you would like to make or clear out, we would welcome your contributions. These can be delivered to The Old Rectory after May 1 or just bring them on the day.

We look forward to seeing you.

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON PARISH AGM



The Annual General Meeting for Barcheston and Willington will be held on

Thursday April 11th 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 or opportunities you may have and to become part of the village discussion .

Points to be discussed will include: The Election of Officers, Matters arising at the last meeting including plans for the village Defibrillator and an update from your Local Councillors

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

Barcheston Concerts

2024

April 7*

Schubert's song cycle Die Winterreise with Matthew Rose (bass) and Anna Tilbrook (piano) at Famington Farm at 3.30pm

May 12*

Nathaniel Mander on harpsicord and spinet at St Martin's church, Barcheston at 3.30pm

July 3

Shipston Proms 'Young Musician' concert at St Martin's church, Barcheston at 7.30pm

July 26

Heidi Fardell and Sounds Historical at St Martin's church, Barcheston at 7.00pm

Tickets available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/soundshistorical
www.soundshistorical.com

September 20-22

Shipston Song at Famington Farm www.shipstonsong.com

October 13

A piano recital by Giulia Contaldo at Farmington farm at 3.30pm. Giulia took part in the masterclass weekend with Dame Imogen Cooper at Famington Farm in January 2024

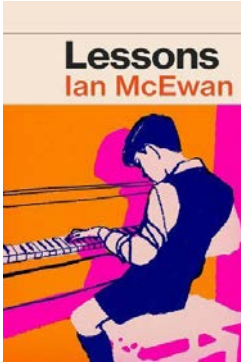
Tickets and information on Shipston Song (Sept 20-22) will be available via the website listed above. For tickets and information on all other concerts please contact david@famington.co.uk

*N.B Tickets marked * are in aid of the fabric and organ funds at St Martin's Barcheston. Tickets are not issued but entry is by donation. To reserve a seat please email as above.*

www.stmartinsbarcheston.co.uk



Book Club



We enjoyed meeting to talk about '*Lessons*' by Ian McEwan. He is a critically acclaimed novelist of more than twenty books, many of which have been adapted for the screen.

Here, we follow the life of Roland Baines, a boy uprooted from his home in Libya to a cold English prep school, where he is picked out by his piano teacher for 'special treatment' and later for her sexual appetite. Understandably this colours the rest of his life.

There are so many strands in this very readable novel that many in the group felt that a second reading would be necessary. Everyone remarked on the beautiful use of language.

The next book is '*The Whalebone Theatre*' by Joanne Quinn.

Happy reading!

Gillian



VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Family Picnic with Live Music

Friday 21 June from 5.30pm

Bring your picnic to the beautiful grounds of Burmington Manor CV36 5AG
(by kind permission of Michael Macdonald)

Live music from SHOUT, Stratford's grooviest choir. Marquee available in the event of wet weather

Entry £8, children FREE (sorry no dogs)

Plenty of FREE PARKING and space for children to play

A TRIBUTE TO RON BIGGS: April 28 1941 – February 8 2024

Ron was born in Offchurch, Warwickshire in 1941, a war baby who grew up in Coventry, happily cycling to school through the rubble of the heavily bombed city. He was a pupil at Coventry's Henry VIII School and at the age of 15, met a 14-year-old Marie at the local youth club, where he boldly asked her to dance. It was a dance that was to last a lifetime. They married in 1964 and moved to the Northeast shortly afterwards, as his career began to take off and beloved daughters Jo and Kerith came into the world. An engineer by profession, he



managed large factories for GEC Telecommunications, finishing his working life running multiple factories across the UK for Remploy, a manufacturing company established in 1949 to provide real employment opportunities to disabled people across the country. Determined that he and Marie would retire at 60 to travel and see the world properly, they did just that, for the almost 23 years that followed. They intrepidly caravanned across Europe and hit many of Europe's capital cities with neighbours John and Sue Bradley on long weekend breaks. They helicoptered into the Franz Joseph Glacier in New Zealand and traversed the Australian Outback, drove the

Pacific Coast Highway and got up close and personal with alligators in Floridian swamp boats. Two-stepped across Texas, explored the Canadian Rockies, enjoyed Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and the South Sea Islands and spent many happy days in Languedoc in their French holiday home.

There were many sides to Ron. The man could rock a hat, any hat and everyone worked. Nothing was too outlandish to be tried on or stepped out in. He was funny and very sharp-witted, quite mischievous and sometimes gleefully childlike. Adventurous and physically fearless, he loved sportscars, antique cars, small planes and sailing boats and he'd never miss a chance to take to the open road, skies or water in any of them. Ron cruising around in his Jaguar, one leather driving-gloved hand at the wheel, was a common sight around here. He loved music and art and had an eclectic taste in both. He was an avid gardener and created beautiful outdoor spaces. Pragmatic and practical, he could build things and fix things and make all manner of things work. Most of all, he loved the outdoors, birds, animals, trees and wild places; he found real peace in nature.

He was a man of integrity, honest, tolerant and thoroughly decent. He really enjoyed people and was genuinely interested in those he met. He was empathetic and kind and he knew how to listen. He made friends and he kept them. An unaffectedly dedicated family man, he was a loving and protective husband - Marie was his partner, best friend and co-pilot in life. He was inordinately proud of his children, always hugely supportive and encouraging, and an unwavering friend to his sons-in-law, Jeff and Rupert too.

Burmington was Ron's home for the past 34 years. He loved it here and was inordinately fond of so many of you. He was an enthusiastic participant in local life, helping to launch and establish the village hall, assisting in various treasury roles, always happy to jump in to support Burmington's various fetes and celebrations. They say it takes a village, and the family will be forever grateful for the overwhelming support that you gave both he and Marie in the hard times, and for the friendship, fun and community that was at the heart of his life here.

Jo Snyder

The Mothering Sunday Service at Burmington

On Mothering Sunday (March 10) our rector, Ben Dyson, led a beautiful service



at St Barnabas and St Nicholas Church, Burmington. It was lovely to see the church full, with over 50 adults and 7 children. Matilda Payne (aged 10, from Burmington) read the Gospel lesson, and Diane Smith from Willington read the epistle. (Retired) Bishop Mike Hill gave a lovely sermon to the children (which the adults also enjoyed!) and then a longer, thought-provoking, one to the adults. Matilda Payne and Mollie Johnson (also aged 10) handed out beautiful posies (made by Sandie French and Julia Anne Sykes) to all the mothers in the congregation. We are most grateful to Ben Dyson, Bishop Mike Hill, Dennis Cummings for providing the music, and to

Sandie, Julia Anne, Matilda and Mollie.

Michael Macdonald

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



Village Lottery January Draw

1st Tim Wright £80, 2nd Anita Law £45, 3rd Christine Dudfield £30.

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

Averell Kingston aap.kingston@gmail.com 07984 003675

Brailles Picture House

Saturday April 20 Oppenheimer Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Due to the length of the film, there will be two intervals

During World War II, Lt Gen Leslie Groves Jnr. appoints physicist Oppenheimer to work on the top secrets Manhattan Project. Oppenheimer and a team of scientists spend years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16th, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history

Cast: Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey, Emily Blunt

Future Screenings: May 18 Wonka, June 15 Holdovers

Deirdre and Team

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons



Dates for your diary are Fridays 5 and 19 April 2.00pm to 4.00pm at The Hall for our Social Afternoons.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.

Vanessa Compton

Coffee Shop

Saturday April 13

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG

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

We are looking for more people to join our team especially to cook the bacon
please contact Christine on 07866 127409 If you can help from time to time.



Christine Dudfield and Tricia Wilson

PRE-LOVED SALE
QUALITY CLOTHES, SHOES,
ACCESSORIES

Saturday 13th April
10am - 1pm

THE HALL
CHERINGTON & STO
CV36 5HG

BOOK A STALL NOW!
07775 765572
info@thehallevvents.org.uk
£10 per pitch
Bring a Rail

FREE ENTRY

Enjoy Our Coffee Shop!
Cakes & snacks
Coffee & teas
Raffle

Raising funds for the Playground plans & Hall funds

 **Save the Children** Raising funds for  **The Hall**

Join us at our pre-loved and nearly new sale, there's lots of sellers with good quality clothes, shoes and accessories.

Our regular coffee shop will be running as usual, come along to find some new wardrobe additions and enjoy coffee & cake or a bacon sarnie afterwards.

Limited spaces still available for £10.00.

Call 07775 765572 or email
info@thehallevvents.org.uk



Since the 1930's, we have lost 97% of our flower-rich meadows, consequently many pollinating insects have found life really challenging. Human activities and climate change continue to deplete the habitats for these vital creatures.

Bee populations and butterfly species are in rapid decline. Although honeybees get much credit, at least 1,500 insect species pollinate plants in the UK including many species of bees, flies, wasps, beetles, butterflies and moths.

Plants provide sweet nectar and pollen for pollinators. In return, pollinators

carry pollen from flower to flower, fertilising the plants so that they can produce seeds, fruits and nuts; this process is crucial for plants including those that we eat.

Gardens and public spaces have been acting as safe havens for many of these



essential pollinators. With this in mind, the Feldons Wildlife Group, based in Cherington and Stourton, have decided to sow 'Bee and Butterfly' wildflower seed mixes in sites around the two villages. To involve the children in this conservation project, we are providing all families with younger children with a box of seeds in the hope that they will find space in their gardens to sow the flower seeds to help our pollinating wildlife.

Can you help, too? Native grown seeds are readily available, and April and May are ideal months for sowing. If you have limited space available in your gardens, you can sow seeds in a container, instead. For several months, you will be able to enjoy a feast of colourful and interesting flowers, buzzing with insect life, and knowing that you are supporting the vital wildlife around us.

We will be holding the annual Plant and Produce Sale again this year at The Paddock Stourton., on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May. If you have any spare plants, we would be most grateful for them please.

Farmers Market



The Farmer's Market is back this month in The Hall Stourton 6.00pm-8.00pm , supper is fish and chips eat in or take away.

Christine Dudfield

The Cherington Arms – Update.

A more upbeat update this time...

I have now submitted several planning applications and, by early April, hope to have permission to tidy up the garden and carry on pointing the outside of the pub. Meanwhile, we are continuing with the interior decoration and, as soon as the garden is 'rejuvenated,' we are hoping to have the pub open again. We are aiming for mid-May which is ambitious, but achievable, if all goes well. Phase 1 will then be complete with Phase 2 following at the end of the year as that requires a more complicated planning application which I hope to submit shortly.

There's more good news....

The lease will be taken on by Jack McEntee who owns The Happy Wolf Pub Company and who already has two pubs – 'The Peacock' at Oxhill and 'The Yew Tree' at Avon Dassett. Both pubs are thriving and Jack's really excited about the potential for his third pub – 'The Cherington' yes, you spotted it, we've changed the name (but don't worry, it'll grow on you).

So, we're now all working hard to try and have everything finished by mid-May and, from that point, Jack will be totally and independently responsible for running the business and I will simply be the owner of the building, in other words, "I'm out."

There will be a new general manager and chef, as well as three or four other permanent staff so I hope you'll join me in wishing the new team at 'The Cherington' every success.

Last but not least, Jack is already working on the new website, Facebook and Instagram pages etc and all future updates will be posted there. See below.

Instagram - @TheCherington

Facebook - The Cherington Website - www.theCherington.co.uk

Martin Craddock



**Daffodils by Stourton Artist
Sue Levitch**



It looks as if Spring is just around the corner which has got to be a positive thought, hasn't it? With the lengthening of the days and the warming up of the sun, we're reminding you to make use of the village boules court. It's in the village hall grounds and is available all year round for anyone to use, you do not need to book with the hall. To get the ball rolling (is that nearly a pun?) why not come along to the Bank Holiday Boules on May 6th and again on May 27th (see poster below).



Bank Holiday Boules

From 1pm, 6th and 27th May 2024

Long Compton Village Hall Grounds

Bring your own picnic and join the fun

Boules and games

Fun for all the family and friends

Picnic and games in the hall if wet

Just turn up or contact Mo Read

07814802814, lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk



There's just a couple of weeks to go before the Race Night with Fish and Chips. You still have time to book your place for our tribute to the Cheltenham Festival. You can even buy and name a horse for £5 (with a chance to win a cash prize if your horse wins the race). If you don't want to join in with the races, you can enjoy a fish supper for £10 by booking in advance so we can make sure you're catered for.



At the Races

7pm, Saturday 20th April 2024

Long Compton Village Hall

- Feast on fish and chips £10 per head
- Licensed bar
- Lots of fun: 8 races, own a horse, or just place your bet and they're off!

***Advance booking essential, call Mo Read
07814802814, lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk
by 5th April***



Join us for

Social Saturday

Saturday 13th April 2024

11am -1pm

Long Compton Village Hall












Free entry - savouries - cake - chat

**Visit from PCSO Jen Read to offer advice
on crime prevention**



If you've been to the hall recently, you may have noticed we've had a bit of a tidy up. The good news is, we have plenty of chairs, the bad news is there is nowhere to store them without encroaching on the hire space. So, we've cleverly hidden some of the excess chairs in the foyer. We hope this makes it more pleasing on the eye!

Finally, in response to the recent incidents of theft in the village, we will have PCSO Jen Read coming to visit us at our April Social Saturday on the 13th from 11am. She's based in Shipston-on-Stour and is keen to get herself known in the area. Jen will be offering crime prevention advice and will listen to any of your concerns. Do come along and meet her.

Long Compton Village Hall Regular Groups		
Activity		Day
Parish Council		1 st Monday
Pilates		Tuesday
Needlework Group		1 st Tuesday
Bridge Club		2 nd & 4 th Tuesday
Compton District History Society		2 nd Wednesday
Comptonians		3 rd Wednesday
Garden Club		4 th Wednesday
Pilates		Thursday
Pilates		Friday
Social Saturday		2 nd Saturday



Long Compton and District Garden Club Meeting: February 28

Do you have a garden soil thermometer? No, I don't and I am unlikely to do so. However, Robert Longstaff, a well-known advocate of organic low input no-dig gardening, made a cogent case to use one. Robert has been advocating organic gardening for a long time, but he still manages to sound interesting and enthusiastic. This was not a boring lecture about what can sometimes seem a worthy topic. For successful seed sowing you need:

Compost

This is complicated these days as peat is no longer used. All the suppliers are working on new blends, mostly wood based. You just have to hunt around. Best of all you should be making your own. He recommends making a potting mix of 1/3 compost, 1/3 leaf mould, 1/3 vermiculite.

Water

Some are advocating using tap water, which seems strange. Robert suggests the water butt is just fine, however there is a small chance that fungal spores might germinate in the warmth of a greenhouse. Water pots from the bottom to stop seeds being displaced.

Temperature

This is a difficult one as, at the moment, our temperatures are up one day and down the next. Seeds do not like this! He suggests to always read the packet instructions as they can be very precise and sometimes unexpected.

LONG COMPTON & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Foraging in gardens, hedgerows, riverbanks and forests

With speaker Fred Gillam aka 'Fred the Forager'

Wednesday 24th April 2024, 7.30pm

Long Compton Village Hall

With a love of our natural environment Fred Gillam founded The Wild Side of Life (www.thewildsideoflife.co.uk) twenty years ago in order to share his passion for food, conservation and connecting with the land. With over three decades of foraging experience, he has taught thousands to forage safely and sustainably. As the author of "Poisonous Plants in Great Britain" he can also show us how to avoid making harmful mistakes! This talk will aim to teach us all a little more about the foods that we can safely source from our local area and even your own back garden.

All welcome, please do come and join us!

Annual membership £12,
guests £4 per meeting
(pay on the door)

Contact: Julie Reardon,
julielcdgc@gmail.com



Light

Although you might be tempted with our new climate to start sowing now, the light is definitely not good at the moment for most things.

Food

The compost is usually not strong in food so after germination you must pot on. Remember to not hold the seed by the stem but by the first real leaf. Miracle Gro (other brands available) is fine.

If you have a wormery or access to seaweed, these are good. Almost anything



can be broken down for feeding, including comfrey (very good), bindweed and nettles; cut them up and place in a bucket of water for a few weeks until a bit smelly. You might have to dilute before use.

Seed

Of course, you also need seed. Seed is expensive and generally we are using too many seeds. He recommends only one seed per pot. Check the number of seeds in the packet and complain if the contents fall short. Some seeds need chitting or soaking, some need placing on their side - all to mimic what might happen naturally.

Label

Every year I resolve to do this and every year I don't and regret not doing so.

No dig cultivation

This is recommended. It facilitates direct sowing and you can use domes or fleece to warm up the soil -but remember these might affect the amount of light reaching the seeds.

We still need some advice on propagation, cuttings and plant division, so he might be back.

Lesley Roberts



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

Imogen Brown 07710 129181 brownimogen@gmail.com

For those interested in reading along with us anyway, our April books are:

The Secret Life of Bletchley Park by Sinclair McKay

The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris by Daisy Wood

Don't forget the Jaffé and Neale Book Club – details for books for April onwards haven't yet been released – info@jaffeandneale.co.uk

Long Compton Walkers

Whilst we suspect the farmers and gardeners have more cause to curse the weather, the second Tuesday of the month is proving difficult during the present spell. Early February was preoccupied with trying to find a route where thick mud did not compel you to turn around after a promising start. Eventually we settled on a walk close to home based on Weston Park and Cherington which was largely passable and the rain just about held off. Our good mood was restored over an excellent lunch at Cotswold Distillery.

Again, much time in March was spent by Jane and Chris Burras in finding a route (near the Guitings and the Hollow Bottom pub) but in the event our WhatsApp message board was inundated on the morning as the rain fell heavier and heavier so that, for the first time in a long time, the walk was abandoned before it started. We can only hope for better times in April.

If you would like to join us (weather notwithstanding) please contact Stuart Brown -scbqc1@gmail.com

Comptonians

We shall meet on April 17 at 2.00 pm at the Village Hall for a talk by Phil Collins on *The Two Ronnies*. Tea and cakes will also be served.
All welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238

Compton District History Society

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th April when Sean Callery is coming to talk to us on *"Cheltenham's Northern Lights, a rival and a racecourse"*.

The meeting will start at 7:30pm in Long Compton Village Hall and the talk will be followed by refreshments. Visitors always welcome.

Diana Cook 684771

St Peter & St Paul, Long Compton

Annual Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Long Compton PCC, to be held in the church on **Tuesday April 16 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, Churchwarden

100 Club

The March Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 9 March, and the winners were:

1st Prize: 172 Grace Gibson

2nd Prize: 106 Joan Moss

3rd Prize: 147 Stephen Sheffield

4th Prize: 235 Paul Nossiter

There is still time to join the Club for the next 10 Draws - £10 to the Club Lloyds Bank account or to me.

Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton Chapel

A quiet start to 2024. We welcomed a new tenant Michael to the Manse and he had a baptism of fire regarding water defences! However, there was no water ingress and we are thankful for that.

We will begin Whist Drives this month on the Saturday April 27 and anyone interested please do get in touch for details.

Our Café Church style services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 3.30pm.

For Easter Sunday we will be joining the congregation of the Parish Church.

Easter Monday – Art and Artisan Craft Exhibition

We have local Artists and Artisan Crafters but will welcome anyone who creates anything in their own unique way to display their creations and still have room so please get in touch.

Antipodean Connection

Two accomplished local artists will be displaying their work. John Richards works in oils and pastels and has done many landscapes throughout UK and local area



having close connections to Cherington although also having lived for many years in New Zealand.

Ruth Messenger's work is mixed media and mainly abstract with references to Aboriginal cultures

Steve Lavelle will be displaying more of his amazing photographs from his travels round the world.

Virginia will be bringing her jewellery and cushions and as she lived in Australia for many years continues the theme, as does Elizabeth who travelled in New Zealand and Australia in her 20s and now realises that much of her current artwork also references her memories of that time.

Not sure of the connections of other exhibitors but does seem to be a theme to this Artisan and Craft Exhibition on Easter Monday. We look forward to seeing you.

Sally Franklin and Elizabeth Gilkes



Village Green Playground Renovations

Given the weather it will be no surprise that we have had to delay works again. We are hopeful to start the strip out in time for a start date for installation of the new playground equipment at the very end of March or the beginning of April and aim to complete during Spring.

Whichford and Ascott Parish Council

Jumble Sale in aid of St Michael's Church

We had a very successful Jumble Sale. Thank you to everyone for their donations, the delicious cakes and to all those who worked so hard to make it so successful. Additional thanks to everyone who kindly helped clear it all up in time for the service the next day.

Sophie Corlett



Whichford and Ascott Craft Club



Our friendly group meets at 10am-11.30am on the first Monday of each month, please do come and join us if you would like to. Currently we are doing tapestry, crotchet, knitting, sewing and jewellery making.

Any enquiries, including each month's venue, please contact Mandy James.

**Mandy James, 07817 763
935**

Join us for a Fun Evening of “Call My Wine Bluff”

with



Followed by a Two Course Supper

on

Saturday 4th May, 6.30 pm

In The Kiln Shed, Whichford Pottery

*Our panel will provide an amusing description of each wine you taste
You need to decide who is telling the truth and who is bluffing!*

Tickets £40 to include a glass of fizz on arrival, wine tasting and supper

A selection of wines will be available to purchase

Raffle

For tickets email: cook@thesmithyld.co.uk or 01608 684357

In Aid of The Friends of St. Michael's Church

The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for February was Iris Birch and March's winner was Mandy James.

Jenny Scrivener



I am holding a pop-up plant & produce sale at home in Whichford in aid of Shipston Home Nursing.

The sale is on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th May, selling plants, pots, garden furniture, jams, produce & cakes.

I would be very grateful for donations of any plants, seedlings and home produce any time before then to me at Berry's Orchard, Whichford.

With many thanks,

Sophie Corlett

01608 684369 sophiacorlett@btinternet.com



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The March winners were as follows;

1st prize – Bob Large 2nd prize – Janet Pope 3rd prize – Roz Warriner

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

The Wolfords Joint Parish Council Litter Pick

Wolfords Joint Parish Council had a very successful litter pick around the two villages on Saturday 16 March. Villagers from both villages turned out and were amazed at the amount of litter we found, drink cans and bottles were as usual a favorite with crisp packets and sweet wrappers a close second. Great Wolford pickers also found 'a string of pearls, a hair band with diamonds and another necklace' which we assumed were not real and am afraid put them all in the bag for disposal as they had been in the weather for some time.



Little Wolford got the prize for the biggest haul as you can see from the attached photograph with Counselor Simon Lewis-Beeching demonstrating. We hope SDC will collect as this particular haul would appear to be theirs in the first place. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this such a successful litter collection.

Lynn Mathias

Wolford Walking Group

We are a group that plans to meet monthly (weather dependent) and do a local (approx. 5 mile) walk so it is suitable for most abilities. We try to include a coffee/tea stop if possible.

Our next walk will be on Saturday April 20 meeting on Great Wolford village green. Route to be decided.

If you are interested contact Sue 07857 542147 (call/text/WhatsApp)

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

Saturday 27 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: £12.50p per person

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

For the takeaways

We will be offering a takeaway service between 6.00pm and 6.45pm. We need at least 50 orders to make the van's visit viable so now is the time to express an interest by emailing Ann McKenna with the number of meals you would like.

Cut-off date for pre-ordering is Saturday 13 April and we are asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order. Of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect then you're very welcome to place an order.

Once we have 50 orders we can take further orders up to April 25

To order please contact: Ann McKenna (email: annmckenna3@sky.com)

(Tel: 01608 674009)

THE LINK

Do you have a non-business event to hold 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

THE LINK



THE LINK

The LINK can offer
your local business....

Advertising across the
SW7 Benefice directly into the
community.

We can help put your advert
together and for a suitable
commitment, we may be able to
offer some 'advertorial'

Please contact Cathryn Aitken
adverts@swlink.org.uk

THE LINK



THE LINK

ALLEN & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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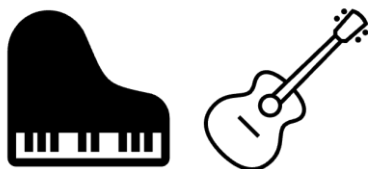
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