

THE LINK

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

October 2020

£1



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

EVENTS DIARY

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

Events Update

There are a few events that I have put on this Diary page. Please do not assume that because the event is listed, it will go ahead. Also, the events may or may not be complying with the relevant coronavirus restrictions, although I am sure that organisers will be doing all they can to comply with whatever restrictions there are at the time the event takes place.

Church services will take place as shown on the service grid on page 6.

October (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Wed	07	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	10	Date of planned Brecon Beacons Trail Ultra Marathon (see page 8)	
Sun	11	Harvest Service at Great Wolford Church	10.30
Sat	17	Fish and Chip Takeaway, Great Wolford (see page 28)	19.00
Sun	18	Open Air Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Cherington Church	10.30
Mon	19	Long Compton Church Annual PCC Meeting	19.30
Fri	23	Link to Hope Shoebox collection starts	



LINK cover: *Ripe and Ready for a Wolford Harvest*

Photograph by Simon Lewis-Beeching.

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.

LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.



@TheSW7LINK



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



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Please note the copy deadline for November 2020:

Monday 19 October

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EDITORIAL

LINK Talk – Plans for 2021

I'm delighted to report that we now have a new LINK Treasurer. Martin McKenna from Great Wolford has volunteered to take on the job and for this, we are most grateful. As a result, I'm pleased to say that we can continue to publish The LINK in the current format, and we will produce the magazine as best we can in the current circumstances. It will of course still be quite a challenge, what with limited public events and the difficulty attracting and retaining advertisers, but we will do our best.

Please remember us if any around you feel the need to advertise their local business. The LINK is delivered to around 700 homes across the Benefice each month. Further details can be obtained from our Advertising Manager, Simon Lewis-Beeching who can be contacted at adverts@swlink.org.uk

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



The solution to the
September Crossword

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 John Wrench 674389
 Secretary Ann McKenna 674009
 Treasurer

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
 Secretary 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)

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



*Happy
Birthday!*



October Birthdays

7th	Isobel Maaz	Stourton	16
10th	Alex Bradley	Cherington	18
11th	Brooke Sutton	Willington	15
13th	Codey Sutton	Willington	14
18th	Lars Voepel	Whichford	15
23rd	Walter Johnston	Great Wolford	9
27th	Gilbert Johnston	Great Wolford	9
	Pacey Clifton	Whichford	18

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

OCTOBER 2020 CHURCH SERVICES (also on YOUTUBE: "SW7 BENEFICE CHURCHES")							
SW 7	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whitchford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
October 4 th 17th Sunday after Trinity	10:30am CW Harvest Service* (BD/SPA)				4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	
October 11 th 18th Sunday after Trinity					9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)		10:30am CW Harvest Service* (BD/SPA)
October 18 th 19th Sunday after Trinity			9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	10:30am Harvest Service (in churchyard) (BD/SPA)	4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)		
October 25 th Bible Sunday		10:30am CW Harvest Service* (BD/SPA)		9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)			
November 1 st All Saints Sunday	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)				4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)		10:30am CW 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,

Running an Ultra for Alzheimer's Research

Some of you will have spotted me out running along the footpaths, lanes, and bridleways of our Benefice over the summer months. This is because I have taken on a running challenge with my good friend John Witts, the minister of Wychwood Baptist Church.

The Challenge

In 2019, John entered the London Marathon ballot. Whilst waiting to see if he had a place, I tempted him with the idea of doing a trail marathon around and up to the summit of Snowdon in North Wales. The dates didn't work out, but on searching for other options, John came across an event in the Brecon Beacons which looked like a suitably stiff challenge. The Brecon Beacons Trail Ultra covers a distance of 51.87 kilometres (32.2 miles) with nearly 2,968 metres of climbing (9,738 feet) as it ascends to Pen y Fan and back.

Neither of us has ever run this sort of distance before, so this has meant some mile-crunching training, including a marathon just for fun! We've also had to get used to using some new kit, like alpine trekking poles which help save energy on the climbs. Even more challenging has been the fact that the original event on 2 May was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meaning we have had to gear up the training all over again for the new date of Saturday 10 October 2020.

The Charity

So, we're doing this to push ourselves, but more importantly, to raise awareness and much needed funds for Alzheimers Research UK. John's dad suffers from Alzheimer's disease, and so this is very close to his heart. Two of my grandparents also suffered from other forms of dementia, so I have witnessed the pain and distress this brings both to those suffering, and their loved ones.

Alzheimers Research UK is the nation's leading dementia research charity. They fund a broad range of projects to understand dementia and work towards better diagnosis, preventions, treatments, and cure.

How to support us

We understand that there are many worthy charitable causes out there that you may wish to give to, and no doubt already do support. But if you would like to sponsor us, we would be delighted (and even more motivated to complete the run!). If you would like to sponsor us and help us reach our £1,000 target, then please visit our page on justgiving.com: 'John & Stuart's Brecon Trail Ultra'. Thank you so much.



**In Training back in February on Broadway Hill,
John (left) and Stuart (right)**

Stuart Allen (Rector)

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2020

Sadly, no one has come forward to organise this year's collection in SW7. Accordingly, I have decided that I will receive complete boxes between Friday 23 October to Tuesday 3 November. The charity will collect from me as usual early in November. If you are willing to do a box, then you can collect the usual leaflets from me. At the moment it seems likely that we will still be living in Burmington but do ring me to check. If you would be willing to hold a few leaflets so that anyone in your village can pick one up from you, please let me know.

As you can imagine, Link to Hope has no idea what the response to the appeal will be this year. Meanwhile those in Eastern Europe who benefit from the charity, are in even greater need. Please consider filling a box or making a donation, either through me or directly to Link to Hope (details on their website).

Sue Bradley (661635, 07977 092048)

Open Air Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday 18 October 10.30 am

In the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Cherington

The Reverend Stuart Allen and the Reverend Ben Dyson will lead the Service

As usual we would welcome any harvest produce - it would be especially nice if the children of the villages could bring something with them, since they will not be decorating the church this year. For further details please contact Roger Maycock

01608 686404 rmaycock287@btinternet.com



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



INFO LINK

Contact: **The Editor**

Email: editor@swlink.org.uk

The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 - 11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday. Shipston 'tip' is open but an appointment has to be booked at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>

DATES AND FETES*

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

Sat 14 Nov Christmas Fair, St. Michael's Church, Whichford

*** Events could be affected by coronavirus cancellations**

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES, LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

Should you be able to provide any up to date details on services/meeting please email me at editor@swlink.org.uk

Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

It has been wonderful to welcome a full complement of children and staff back to school. During the first week back, our attendance level has averaged over 95%, which is fantastic. A huge thank you to all parents for their support during this full return to school. Although we were open throughout lockdown for children of key workers and after Whitsun, for some year groups, for many children it's been six months since they were in class but I'm very pleased with how they've returned with a positive attitude. A common thread with staff is that they have enjoyed simply seeing and hearing the children again - playing at playtime, chatting with their friends and being very keen to answer questions and work hard in class. The teachers are enjoying giving the children amazing learning experiences. They deserve it and have been so positive. Teachers are starting from the children and are building on what they know, as we always do.

Our newest children in Nursery and Reception have been brilliant too, learning and playing in our brand-new building in Acorns, which is such an asset.

The lockdown has drawn attention to the importance of community in our lives. With half the world's students out of school or university, community has been one of the most important features of education learners have missed. Schools and universities are intellectual and social communities, so whilst we continue to focus on high quality teaching through a strong emphasis on the cognitive learning domain (knowledge and the development of intellectual skills), we are also paying huge attention to the affective learning domain - feelings, attitudes, and emotions.

It is important for all of us that the lessons we learnt from the lockdown period are not forgotten. The lockdown provided us with new insights and perspectives which, if implemented, could have profound implications for schools, children and our communities. As author Matt Haig said on social media at the weekend, 'Why return to normal when we could make a better normal?'

In a rapidly-changing world, the schools in The Stour Federation Partnership will continue to adapt, evolve and innovate in order to best serve the needs of our children and inspire them to engage in an exciting future: I hope the key core skills related to English and Maths; global competencies of character, citizenship, collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking; and big ideas of our Cornerstones curriculum with some brand new knowledge-rich topics and science investigations - will form a dynamic interplay that will inspire and empower our children and staff towards the achievement of success.

Many thanks to members of the Rotary Club of Shipston-on-Stour, who have kindly provided external hand sanitiser dispensers for the schools in the Stour Federation Partnership (Acorns, Brailes, Shipston) and other schools in the area too.

During lockdown staff at Acorns Primary and Shipston Primary achieved the 360 Degree Safe online safety accreditation for striving to make sure all our children know how to keep themselves safe online and are empowered to know how to act/react.

Led by Mrs. Bosley (Shipston) and Mrs. Head (Acorns), the schools had been working on the self-review tool for the past 12 months and were ready for assessment in March. Unfortunately the lockdown seemed to put paid to an assessment taking place, but negotiations with the South West Grid for Learning and Warwickshire ICT Development Service led to the schools taking part in the first remote assessment in the country involving interviewing children, parents, staff and leaders, in addition to a mountain of paperwork. Based on their experience with our review, South West Grid for Learning are now looking at offering virtual assessments for other schools.



Shipston-on-Stour Primary School
Tel: 01608 661266
www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk
@shipstonhead

Acorns Primary School
Tel: 01608 684 654
www.acornsprimary.co.uk
@acornshhead

Brailes C of E Primary School
Tel: 01608 685253
www.brailescofepprimary.org.uk
@brailesschool

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

FARMING NOTES

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

Cattle vaccination trials for Bovine TB

Field trials of a possible vaccination for bovine TB (bTB) are likely to start next year. More importantly, they will be run in tandem with a new skin test (DIVA skin test) which it is hoped will be able to differentiate between a vaccinated animal and an animal which has the disease. At the present time it is impossible to tell whether an animal has been vaccinated or has the disease. Although vaccinations are available, it is illegal to use them in this country as anyone buying an animal would not be able to tell from the current bTB tests if their purchase had been vaccinated, or actually had bTB. This is particularly important for both the export trade and for adding to a herd. No one wants to bring an infected animal onto their farm.

The trials will be run to assess the safety of the CattleBCG vaccination and to refine the specificity of the DIVA skin test. Assuming the tests are successful, it is hoped to start using the vaccination in 2025 initially in high risk herds. Experience in New Zealand suggests that the vaccine has an efficacy of 80% and the trials will need to validate the DIVA test to international standards to clarify how it may be used with cattle for export.

Bovine TB is still a major scourge in the cattle industry. In England, the twelve months to March 2020 saw the number of herds recorded as having bTB increase by 9%, but the actual number of cattle killed because of the disease has dropped from 31,898 for the twelve months to March 2019 to 30,073 to March 2020. This is a 6% decrease but still a huge number. Any farm that has a positive reactor is immediately put under restrictions,

the reactor animal(s) must be culled and no cattle can be sold or bought onto the farm until there have been two consecutive herd tests at 60 days intervals which show no reactors. In some herds, this can take months or even years to achieve which is a huge emotional and cash drain on the business.

A farmer will be compensated by the government for any animals that have to be culled. For a beef animal over 20 months, the compensation for a male is £1104 and for a female £1032. For a mature dairy cow, the cost is slightly higher at £1447. The cost to the exchequer is considerable.

Currently this area is on a twelve-month testing regime which means every herd must be tested by a Ministry registered vet every twelve months at government expense. This involves one day to inject every bovine on the premises twice and the vet returns 3 days later to check whether any animal has reacted by comparing the two injection sites. Any animal with a reaction will be immediately culled and the farm put under movement restrictions.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

NATURE NOTES

Editor: Tony Partridge
Tel: 684698

Last month we discussed alarm calls and how different birds respond to different calls. But this subject, it seems, goes deeper than this. For not only do birds respond to alarm calls, but they can also determine the direction of an oncoming predator, based on particular calls. Thus, last month, they responded to the approach from above from a sparrowhawk. Another call would have told them that their predator approached from lower down – say a prowling cat – and they would fly away from, and not into trouble. But there is another type of call which can be referred to as the ‘mobbing call’. Here the flock will not fly away from their attacker, but will collectively assault the attacker, thus driving it off and – hopefully – making their lot a little safer for a while. Yet another theory I have recently heard is that the dawn chorus, is in fact birds exercising their vocal abilities in preparation for the serious business of singing from the perches for much of the rest of the day – declaring their right to the territory and their seeking of a mate. Well anybody who has done any chorus singing knows full well that ten or fifteen minutes exercise before beginning an evening’s serious practice is essential, or else the resulting vocal attempts are not just unachievable, but downright untuneful to listen to! But we must remember that a bird’s vocal structure is dissimilar from ours.

I have been brewing home-made wine for many years and one such wine is that of the dandelion. I have for the most part continued to go to the same patches of roadside dandelions every year (they have defeated the efforts of the Manic Roadside Verge Mower to obliterate them) and I have wondered why these patches, although increasing slightly in area, remain stable in size. Recent research has shown that the floating seeds, once blown from the plant, land within three feet of the plant, and keep the patch of flowers a relatively stable size with little area increase. This process demonstrates once again, that nature is a million or so years ahead of us in parachute usage and perhaps in the future designs of drones.

I am afraid that I am no entomologist, though I take an interest in all natural things and I am intrigued by insects and how they survive. One particular example - though I hesitate to mention it in fear of those readers who are gardeners – is the leafminer. When we learn how it goes about its business of survival, we really must admire this insect. It is the larvae which in fact penetrates the leaf. Now, it could exist on the surface of the leaf where there are enough nutrients to keep it going, but there are many predators there including of course, birds. Such is the thinness of its body structure it can slide between the outer layers of the leaf safely protected from outside interference. It can live off the plant's sap and any nutrients it finds there. Any waste is disposed of through apertures made in the leaf blade itself. All however is not as safe as you may suppose. A predator of this insect will inject its eggs into the leafminer's body, which will hatch and eat their way out. Not I feel one of the more attractive aspects of our natural world.

Walking down the pathway from our cottage to the road to collect the paper, I happened to notice growing on a patch of waste ground, a small group of flowers with attractive blue flowers growing from their top branches. Getting nearer I perceived (perhaps to my shame!) that they were a group of thistles – creeping thistles at that – the most common of the species. But I have not seen a group like this topped with their small attractive blue flowers growing collectively, and it occurred to me these would indeed have made a quite attractive display in any garden bed. But oh dear! In two paragraphs I have named two cases – an insect and a plant – with which any gardener reading this can do without! I can see a posse from the Gardening Club descending on me and leading me to the weediest plot of garden they know of, forcing me to remove any plant that is foreign to this area before I am allowed back into their good books!

Tony Partridge



'The Horn of Plenty' featuring 13 different fruits and vegetables from the garden in September.

Cow horn with silver from Kazakhstan plus winter squash, corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, courgettes, damsons, crabapples, pears, quince, figs, Lord Lambourn apple, Blenheim orange apple and russet apple.

Photograph by Carol Kerven from Great Wolford

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

Recently, I was reading a gardening book which suggested that 'October is often a lazy month in the garden.' In my experience there are no months when I haven't got jobs waiting to be done, probably because I am trying to catch up with the previous month's tasks. October is the last month in which you can experience some warm, sunny days but nights are much colder and there is a good chance of frost. Be prepared to fleece and start moving less hardy pot plants into sheltered positions and frost tender plants indoors, or into a greenhouse or cold frame. It is a good idea to check the plants over for any pests, such as red spider mite, before bringing them indoors.

When the dahlias have been hit by frost and the foliage has turned black, dig them up and cut back the foliage and over winter them in a cool, dry, well ventilated area. Cover the soil over the tubers with dry mulch to a depth of 4-6 inches and they should come through the winter successfully. Plants which are said to benefit from some exposure to frost are garlic and rhubarb. With this in mind, plant garlic in the autumn. It is advised that you stop picking rhubarb by September, feed the plant to maintain vigour and then remove the last yellowing leaves in October when you can divide it and replant. If frost gets to the crown, this can help to ensure a good crop next year.

In September I am still picking sweet peas, but for early flowering next year you can sow seeds in October or November and then keep the seedlings in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame over the winter. Hardy species of bedding plants such as wallflowers and primulas can be planted into pots or beds together with winter flowering violas and pansies.

Bare root trees and roses start to become available in October. They're worth considering as they are usually cheaper than container grown plants and often adapt better to your particular garden conditions. Make sure that the planting area is prepared with compost and the plant is stood in water for a while before planting.

Continue to harvest apples, store them in a cool place and check them regularly for any signs of rot. Squashes can also be stored for up to 6 months if they are a good size and colour. Cut them with a stem of about 4 inches and 'cure' them in the sun, or in the greenhouse for about 2 weeks and then store in a cool place.

Autumn treatment of lawns includes feeding, scarification and aeration with a fork or a special tool. You should do this in September, but if you have leaves to rake up, you will also remove moss and thatch helping to keep the grass in good condition. Leaves should also be removed from beds and borders as they can cause plants to rot. They can be left on bare soil under shrubs, hedges or woodland areas as they break down supplying nutrients and can shelter hibernating insects and also amphibians.

Other jobs which can be tackled in October include taking root cuttings of, for example, acanthus or hard wood cuttings of gooseberries and currants, applying grease bands to protect apple trees from winter moth caterpillars, cutting any discoloured leaves from strawberries as well as removing excess runners so that the parent plant maintains its vigour. Who said that October was a 'lazy month'?

Margaret Welsh

Come and meet each other! The Cameo Lunch Club

Was I alone in not knowing that Cameo stood for 'Come and Meet each Other'? We often feature news about Cameo in The LINK but how many of us know much about it?

Cameo was started in Burmington in February 2008 by Dennis Cummings, shortly after he and his wife Jo, moved to the village. Previously, Dennis had the idea and started a lunch club in his village in West Sussex; two more lunch clubs in nearby local villages followed.

Cameo was begun as, and remains, a voluntary community outreach to encourage people to get together. Members meet to enjoy each other's company over a cooked lunch in Burmington village hall. Since its inception twelve years ago, Cameo has only missed one meal up until lockdown.

Many of the people who come along are senior citizens, but it wasn't intended to be only for older people. In the early days parents and children also attended.

Once a month people from Burmington, other villages in SW7 and also from Shipston gathered in Burmington village hall to enjoy a freshly cooked meal (cooked on the day) and to share each other's company. Puddings are very popular, with meringues and pavlova being particular favourites. There's a monthly raffle and sometimes a talk. The charge is £4 per head.

At Christmas last year, forty plus people tucked into turkey and all the trimmings, sang carols, took part in a quiz and received a present from Santa Claus. Then came lockdown, and gatherings at the hall couldn't take place. So Cameo reached out to those who wanted a home cooked lunch – main course and pudding – and delivered it to their home. In September this year, instead of lunch, Cameo provided a tea - with sandwiches, scones, cream and jam, biscuits, cupcakes and meringues delivered to homes. Feedback received is that home deliveries are very much appreciated. But it seems that fans can't wait for lunches at the village hall to begin again!

We owe Dennis and all the people who have volunteered to cook and serve lunches over the years our gratitude - Jo Cummings, Sonia Baker, Sue Bradley, Jan Lennon, Jane Holder, Brenda Fitch, Lesley Rawlinson, Jenny Banbury, Patsie Read, Neville Twickel (Dennis believes he hasn't left anyone out!). A huge thank you goes to all who have given up so much time and energy over the years to making Cameo the much-loved success that it is.

The club is run entirely by volunteers who are keen to encourage people to come along. Numbers attending are growing, but the small number of volunteers could do with additional reinforcements. If you would like to help out with cooking and/or delivering lunches, please get in touch with Dennis Cummings on 661755. He would love to hear from you.

Graham French, LINK Village Editor

Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the September Lottery were:

1st	Vanessa Streets	£80
2nd	Peter Kenealy	£45
3rd	Myrtle Heald	£30

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

Steve Allkins

Christmas Greetings in support of St. John the Baptist Church

We are running the Cherington and Stourton Christmas Card Amnesty again this year. If you would like to donate and are already on the Christmas Greetings list, which will be distributed with the December LINK, we will assume that you wish to continue. If you would like to be removed, or wish to be added, please contact Pam Brookes on 686367 or Sherry Barker on 686420. Alternatively, you can email us on nsl_barker@hotmail.com

Replies by Friday 6 November would be helpful.

Pam Brookes and Sherry Barker

Brailes Picturehouse

Although we have elected to start again in January 2021, if possible, we are in need of more helpers and thought it might be an idea to announce our needs.

Technical enthusiasts would be wonderful, we operate on a rota system, training will be given. Our equipment is up to date. Also help is required behind the scenes.

Please call Deirdre Carney – 07850468710. Take care and keep safe.

Deirdre and Team

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Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Editor: Harry Dodds

Email: longcompton@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 684606

Long Compton Village Hall

Just when things were starting to return to a sort of normal again, we were hit with the 'Rule of six'. Luckily for us, the new version outdoor, socially distanced Social Saturday for September sneaked in before the new guidelines would have made it somewhat awkward. As it was, we enjoyed a lovely sunny morning with drinks, cakes and chat galore, welcoming visitors from far and wide (America, if you please!). It was an opportunity to catch up on all the missed 100 Club draws too and 6 months' worth of prize money was given away to lucky villagers.



We also gave our thanks to Patrick Harrison who is standing down after 18 plus years on the village hall committee. He was given a Wyatt's voucher and the promise of a day trip round all his old haunts (without crossing any national borders!) when restrictions allow. Patrick's enthusiasm, generosity, knowledge and advice have been invaluable to me in my time as Chair, and I'm sure we will all be sorry to see him go, but I think he's earned a rest. Goodness knows who will run our raffles and bottle stall now though. He's assured us that he will still support the hall at our events, so we'll keep in touch. This leaves a space on the committee so if you feel you would like to have more of an input into the running of the hall, please get in touch.

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

Long Compton
book club

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7 October at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing 'Women & Power' by Mary Beard

All Welcome - Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938

carole.r.clements@googlemail.com

Compton Creatives

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

Bridge Club

Sadly, we cannot start the Bridge Club again until the socially distancing rules are relaxed. We will contact all members and announce the restart in The LINK as soon as we can.

In the meantime, if you haven't already tried it, we suggest online bridge with either BBO, Funbridge or 247Bridge. The bidding is difficult, so 'go with the flow', but playing the hand can be good practice.

Chris Galloway 684234

100 Club Phoenix Draws

At the Social Saturday coffee morning on 12 September, a multiple draw was held to catch up on the missing months caused by Covid-19. The results are as follows:

April

1st Prize 114 Celia Sawyer
2nd Prize 10 Lesley Roberts
3rd Prize 91 David Bennett
4th Prize 183 Charles Pettifer

June

1st Prize 69 Mike Dudek
2nd Prize 70 Mary Rose Farley
3rd Prize 193 Brian Simpkins
4th Prize 46 Marion Kroner

August

1st Prize 213 Elizabeth Gilkes
2nd Prize 182 Chris Newby
3rd Prize 76 Jim Cunnington
4th Prize 180 Chris Paxford

May

1st Prize 158 Mavis Easum
2nd Prize 51 The Bowls Club
3rd Prize 134 Clive Everett
4th Prize 118 Yvette Jaquiss

July

1st Prize 113 Pauline Tweedy
2nd Prize 146 Dorothy Heeks
3rd Prize 97 Alan Taplin
4th Prize 170 Jo Basun

September

1st Prize 100 Mr & Mrs N. Taylor
2nd Prize 98 Pat Harrison
3rd Prize 99 Vikki Cook
4th Prize 231 Andrew Mackrill

Chris Galloway 684234

Compton District History Society

Covid-19 suspension of activities

Our committee has recently 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 the hall out from August this year, 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 this magazine as and when circumstances change.

Diana Cook 684771

Long Compton & District Walkers

After six months, we were finally able to resume our monthly walk in September, much to everyone's delight. We welcomed two new members to the group and set off for a walk from Adlestrop, chosen because there was adequate parking to avoid car sharing. The walk took us across Adlestrop Park, which boasts a fairly close connection with Jane Austen and her family, and then through the village before climbing towards the ridge known as Adlestrop Hill which gives wide ranging views towards Rissington, Stow-on-the-Wold and round to Broadway Tower.

Descending through the woods towards Chastleton House, (currently closed because of the coronavirus pandemic), we were at least able to admire the fine Jacobean façade. Joining one of the country's long-distance footpaths, the *Macmillan Way*, we made our way back to our starting point and everyone seemed to agree that it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile morning.

Alas, less than 12 hours later came the news that restrictions were to be tightened, and groups of more than six would not be allowed to meet. Having explored the possibility of a walking group being exempt, it appears that any future whole group walks will not be possible under current regulations. There is nothing to prevent people walking in a small group, but sadly not the 15–20 who meet as part of Long Compton and District Walkers. I will keep a close eye on any future developments and changes to the regulations, in the hope that at some stage in the not too distant future, we shall be able to resume our monthly walks again.

Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy walking in small groups where possible.

Jan Treadaway 684553

St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton Annual PCC Meeting

The annual meeting, which usually is in the spring, is delayed this year due to Covid-19 and can now take place safely in the church, on Monday 19 October at 7.30 pm.

This is a welcome opportunity to come together in these difficult times, to hear the Rector's report, the Treasurer's presentation on church finances and to elect the PCC for the year ahead. All are welcome, masks to be worn and social distancing will be observed.

Jill Kirby, Churchwarden

Notice for Comptonians

In view of the current uncertain situation, we are very sorry, but feel that we are unable to go ahead with the end of year lunch in November. We will keep you informed if there are any changes in the situation. 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

The Friends of Long Compton Church

Village Treasure Hunt and Quiz Results

We are very pleased to announce that Janet Blackwell won first prize (£20) and the runner up was Nathan Boswell (Family Photo session thanks to Steve Lavelle Photography). Thank you to all those who took part and hopefully discovered things about the village they did not know before.



Quiz Answers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Red Lion car park | 6. 1930s |
| 2. 13th century | 7. Bus shelter |
| 3. Fish ponds | 8. £1 |
| 4. Lychgate | 9. Red Lion and Garage on either Old Hill or Malt House Lane |
| 5. Seven Long strides | 10. 51.99N 1.58 W |

Treasure Hunt:

12-25-3-8-7-1-20-5 - Letters of the alphabet spelled LYCHGATE

Annual subscriptions

This is the usual time of year when our street representatives would be calling on you at home to renew the membership of the Friends of Long Compton Church. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, including the difficulties of handling cash, our Trustees have sensibly decided against these visits, and that subscriptions will be waived this year.

But the need to raise funds for repairs and maintenance to the church building and churchyard has not gone away - on the contrary, the church roof seems to be leaking more than ever! So, this is to ask if, like a number of other local people, you would be able and willing to make a donation to FLCC, perhaps of a similar sum to your usual subscription, £18 (joint) or £10 (single)?

Donations can be made by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank plc:

Account: The Friends of Long Compton Church

Branch: Stratford-u-Avon Sort code: 30-98-26 Account no: 38851560

Or, you can forward a cheque to:

The Hon Treasurer, Yerdley House, Vicarage Lane, Long Compton, CV36 5LH

If you made a Gift Aid declaration when you paid last year we will assume it still stands, unless you advise me to the contrary - this will boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Anything you feel able to give will be put to good use and very much appreciated.

It has been disappointing to postpone so many social events on our 2020 programme, but we hope to be able to reschedule once the virus restrictions permit. In the meantime, it has been very encouraging to see such a big response to our 2020 Photo Competition and our Treasure Hunt event.

Do get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your support. Let's hope that next year will see us all back together again enjoying FLCC events as before.

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

www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

Sue Klatt. Chairman

Long Compton Chapel

The Inaugural Flower and Produce Show 29 - 31 August was enjoyed by all those who came and was received with enthusiasm by those who entered. We have some valuable insight into changes for next year and look forward to doing it all again in twelve months' time!

Long Compton Flower and produce show – Class results:

Classic Victoria Sponge - Janet Blackwell

Jam - Veronica Lay

Chutney - Lindsay Forbes

Basket of Vegetables - Andy Deller

Tomatoes - Chris Newby

Runner Beans - Andy Deller

Vase of Garden Flowers - Eileen Whittaker

Vase of Roses - Hazel Bird

In the Green Arrangement - Sue Boreham

Five Flowers & Pebbles - Elizabeth Gilkes

Painting (any medium) - Elizabeth Gilkes

Item to Wear - Alison Read

Miniature Garden - Poppy Philpott and Lily Harris

Painting - Hannah Newby

Decorative Item - Lily Harris

Cheese Scones - Ann Lattimore

Pickles - Andy Deller

Marmalade - Lindsay Forbes

Collection of culinary herbs - Ann Lattimore

Soft Fruit - Chris Newby

Courgettes - Charlotte and Paul Field

Specimen Bloom - Eileen Whittaker

Fragrant Rose - Ann Lattimore

An English Garden - Elizabeth Gilkes

Arrangement in a Teacup - Issy Whitford

Greeting card (any medium) - Pat Harrison

Item to Display - Pat Harrison



Just a couple of photographs of the entries from the many that were taken on the day



It was also the christening of our new car park which has been completed after the welfare unit for the nursery constructors was removed. They did a splendid job and we look forward to being able to use it all year round in future.

By the time The LINK goes to print, we will have held a Macmillan Take Away as the 'rule of six' has stopped it being held indoors this year. We hope it has provided much needed funds for the charity.

The Food Bank is still essential to many, perhaps even more as jobs are affected by the pandemic and collections are still being taken to Shipston each week from the collections at the Stores and the Chapel.

We are continuing to refurbish the Chapel. A new ceiling is due to be installed in the Arden Room (Sunday School Room) and the toilets and Arden room will then be redecorated. The kitchen is also online for refurbishment.

Reverend Marion continues to provide us with her 'Thoughts for the Week' which are published on Facebook and in the noticeboard at the front of the Chapel. Plans for future events this year are currently still on hold, although we are always looking for ways to continue events and services during this difficult time for us all.

longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

Long Compton Parish Council

What Makes a Villager?

Filming in the village has now concluded with the last interview session involving Acorns school children interviewing their Head Teacher and Parish Clerk about the reasons that



Jamie Wright from JD Digital at work

the project began and its intended outcomes. The children have proved to be expert and very engaging interviewers.

One unintended consequence of this social history study is that it is providing a record of the village during Covid-19, not least in having to adjust plans to manage social distancing requirements. Separate benches for all were required when setting up in Acorns School science garden.

JD Digital have been asked to produce a 'trailer' so we hope to be able to share some snippets of footage in due course. The editing task for the main video is going to be huge as we have collated so much interesting content but due to the generosity of the National Heritage Lottery we do have sufficient funds allocated for the project. It is anticipated that the formal launch will be at the 2021 Annual Assembly.

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

Long Compton and District Garden Club

In September, the Garden Club was at last able to fulfil part of the summer programme by visiting the Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens. We drove independently and being unable to have a guided tour, we chose our own way round the parkland. We did however say a brief hello to other members in the walled garden at lunch time.

Many of us had read an article about the Park in the September RHS magazine and our appetites had been whetted. The Park was started in 1970 by John Heyworth whose son is now the Managing Director. It has a collection of mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates from all over the world and their enclosures feature carefully chosen plants which provide protection and aim to make the animals feel more at home.

There are many fine trees including a 150-year-old Wellingtonia and a 600-year-old oak. The Park founder planted 300,000 trees and in 2010 a new arboretum was added. There are 50 varieties of bamboo. As to the detail – the planting is spectacular with large beds and borders around, for example, the rhino and zebra enclosures with large sweeps of grasses such as stipa gigantea and *S. tenuissima* interspersed with splashes of colour from kniphofia (red hot pokers), rudbeckias and penstemons to name but a few. In the courtyard wall, the mounted containers were magnificent with delicate and colourful, as well as trailing blooms. The walled garden was the highlight for most of us with beds of rich colour including dahlias, alstroemeria, cannas and banana plants. There were also plantings of cacti and succulents and the walls were clad with climbers.



Of course, being a gardening club, we mainly went to see the plants but amongst the animals a big draw was the young rhino, Stella, who was one year old on the day we visited. Many of the animals are threatened or endangered and the breeding and conservation programme is important to the Park.

I think that everyone enjoyed the visit and I for one, would love to go back when we can have a guided tour and have choice specimens which we no doubt missed pointed out to us. The planned talk by the head gardener, Tim Miles, had to be cancelled and we hope that it can take place in the future. – Trip report by **Margaret Welsh**

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

The Whichford Kestrel



This is our latest friend at Old Chapel House; he visits often and nothing much seems to bother him. He even sat tight on the telephone wire for a good five minutes during the worst thunderstorm a week or so ago, completely oblivious to the thunder, wind and torrential rain, apparently determined to catch the supper he had his eye on!

Karen Heron

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.

Agent Sonya: Lover, Mother, Soldier, Spy

Some of you may have seen the coverage of this new Ben Macintyre book in the papers recently, or heard on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, telling the extraordinary story of Ursula Burton, a long-time resident of Great Rollright, housewife and mother, baker of a good scone...but also a colonel in the Red Army and veteran Soviet agent involved in some of the most dangerous operations of the 20th century.

She and her husband Len (also a Soviet spy), lived in Great Rollright and she kept her transmitter hidden in the outdoor privy and had a 'dead drop' for secret documents in the roots of a tree past the old railway bridge over the now disused track on the way out of Rollright. Amazing to think this was happening just up the hill from here. I might have to buy the book.



Ursula Burton (Ursula Kuczynski)

Melanie Arnold

The Reading Room Draw

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

Jenny Scrivener

Recycle, Reuse and Raise Money for Katharine House Hospice



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Brian Hands, (Whichford and Ascott's renowned expert on salvage, recycling and upcycling) and sister Babs, have been supporting Katharine House Hospice for a long time by selling on aluminium cans, foil trays and used kitchen foil.

We can help to raise more funds for Katharine House by working together and add to Brian and Babs' excellent fundraising. Please can you collect aluminium cans, foil trays and kitchen foil and leave in the labelled bin in the churchyard. Please add your contributions, preferably in bags, for easy emptying.

Thank you very much, any queries, let us know.

Tim Adams, Brian Hands, Babs Hands and Mandy James

Whichford Christmas *Gift Fair*

Saturday 14th November
For Fabulous Christmas Shopping!



Entry £5 includes home made mince pie and coffee

Wonderful Raffle Prizes

St. Michael's Church, Whichford, CV36 5PH

All hygiene protocols and social distancing measures will be followed to ensure you have an enjoyable time

Whichford Church Tower restoration

Now that the Tower Restoration work is nearing completion, the PCC met recently to work out the next step. A 45-page design report carried out by Mark Evans, the Architect, and accompanying survey were carried out at the beginning of the year, kindly paid for by the Friends from their village events programme. It includes numerous ideas and options. It is a detailed and helpful document .

The administration of the work on the tower was ably taken on by a sub-committee, chaired by Colin Corlett.

A different group of kind volunteers has come forward (three people from the PCC and three people from the Friends), and this group will be meeting soon to start working on some of the options put forward.

There has been good alignment between us all about how to approach the project and how we evaluate the options to preserve a beautiful Grade One listed Church for its religious purpose and also the practical advantages, viability and benefits or otherwise of any reordering project. Fund-raising for the work will continue to be the responsibility of all of us.

We shall be letting you know about wider consultation on the options available. All villagers' views are very much needed to ensure the way forward is one we are happy to pursue. With many thanks for your continued support.

The PCC comprises Jerry Moore, Andy Birtwell, Susan Turquet, Andy Chapman, Sophie Corlett and Mandy James.



WRCC Energy

WRCC Energy is an oil buying syndicate run by a local charity to help members save on their heating bills. We have ordered nearly 6.5 million litres of heating oil, saving over £355,000 against average prices quoted at the time of order (5 pence per litre).



**Visit www.wrccenergy.org.uk or call 01789 472619
to find out more and set up an account**

WRCC is a registered charity No.1081017 and a Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales No. 3930819

[Ed – WRCC is Warwickshire Rural Community Council. I am aware of at least one other oil buying syndicate already being run locally, but this may help if one is not near you.]

First Class Fish and Chips – New Takeaway Offer

For most of this year, we haven't been able to keep up our fundraising for the upkeep of the church, so now we've decided to do something a bit different. We can't hold a quiz or bingo in the village hall, but we can still bring you a tasty meal.

We're very pleased to be able to offer delicious traditional takeaway fish and chips served straight from the van in the centre of Great Wolford.

On Saturday 17 October you're invited to come and collect your pre-ordered fish and chips in a specified time-slot direct from the van we've always used at the hall. Regulars have said it's the best fish and chips around. The van will be parked by the crossroads in Great Wolford from 7.00 pm.

Here's how it works: we need at least 50 meal orders to make the van's visit viable so now is the time to express an interest by emailing Ann McKenna (see details below) with the number of meals you would like. Cut-off date for pre-ordering is Friday 9 October and to keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient, we're asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order. And of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect, then you're very welcome to place an order.

The cost is £10 per serving - To order please contact: Ann McKenna (email: annmckenna3@sky.com or tel 01608 674009)

You could be a lucky winner on the night as well. Lots of prizes to be won in our giant raffle. Tickets are on sale when you order your meal at the usual rate of £1 a strip (5 tickets) or £5 for 6 strips. All proceeds in aid of Wolford church upkeep. Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.



Harvest At Wolford Sunday 11 October at 10.30 am

St. Michael & All Angels Church, Great Wolford



Everyone welcome especially children of all ages for this quieter than usual Harvest service.

Any contributions of flowers and produce to decorate the church will be very welcome - please bring along to the church on Saturday morning (10 October). And we're also collecting for the local Food Bank. Can you spare any tinned, dried or packet food to help those who are struggling through difficult times?

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The September winners were as follows:

1st prize – James van Helden 2nd prize – Carol Kerven 3rd prize – Janet Piller

Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden

A Plea to Dog Owners walking in the Churchyard

There have been a number of articles in The LINK about the problem of dog fouling in our villages, but I was horrified to find over 20 different deposits of dog fouling actually in our churchyard. This is disgusting.

The churchyard is a sacred place where loved ones are laid to rest and where their friends and relatives come to remember them and tend their graves. Money is spent on keeping the churchyard in good order and villagers volunteer their time to help maintain it - is this how they are repaid?

As a dog owner myself, I never go anywhere without 'poo bags' in my pocket and there is a dog waste bin on the green at the front of the church, so there is no excuse for this desecration. Do these dog owners leave their dogs deposits around their own gardens for people to step in – I think not, so please do not do that in our churchyard.

Keep your dog where you can see it and can pick up when it fouls. We are aware that it is not necessarily all from villagers' dogs and a notice will be placed on the gates to remind visitors. Please close all gates tightly so no wandering dogs can get in unattended and help us to keep our churchyard sacred and pleasant for those visiting those laid at rest there.

A Village Dog Owner

The Wolfords WI

After six months of no meetings, we decided that we would meet in the restaurant at Fosseway Garden Centre on 8 September. Ten members turned up and we spent a pleasant couple of 'socially distanced' hours just chatting over a cup of coffee. It was really lovely to meet up with members we had not seen for such a long time.

At this get-together we thought we would meet on the first Wednesday in October in the Church at Great Wolford. However, with the new regulations coming into force on 14 September this now no longer looks to be possible.



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

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

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

This month we're fortunate to have a 'home grown' poem from Long Compton reader Sue Boreham. Sue tells me she has used lockdown and the good weather to take the time to write some poems. This particular one tells of Springtime in Long Compton and was written in April this year; a year that has been like no other.

Springtime in Long Compton – April 2020

I'm off for a walk to the village shop
skippity hop, skippity hop
The village hall comes into sight
and a carpet of daffodils, oh so bright
Next I pass the Acorns school
and a bank of flowers makes me drool
They reach down to fast flowing water
oh what joy, oh what laughter

I continue on my walk to the shop
past houses old and new, skippity hop
Some have tiles and some have thatch
but none of them that really match
But that is the character and the charm
of Long Compton village - so no harm

Past a manicured hedge with quite a height
and then the shop comes into sight
The post van parked for a limited time
waiting for folk to send cards and a line
To their relatives and friends, loved ones too
so come and join the waiting queue

©Sue Boreham



Please keep your poetry suggestions coming; writing them for us as Sue has done 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

Chairman's Corner

The Writing's on the Wall

The origins of graffiti date back tens of millennia, when images were scratched, drawn or painted on rocks and cave walls – some early examples are now culturally and historically valuable artefacts. Contemporary graffiti, depending on your viewpoint, is wanton vandalism, street art, or freedom of expression. I've reached the conclusion that I have a foot in each camp (assuming, for the sake of artistic licence, that I have three feet).

There is nothing more disheartening, or even intimidating, than visiting a town or city that seems to have almost every surface covered with 'tags', slogans, abstract patterns and random scrawl. Apart from making a place look shabby and uncared for, there are also huge financial implications for local authorities and businesses. It's estimated that the overall cost of cleaning up graffiti in this country is more than £1 billion. To replace all the glass etched with graffiti on buses, shelters and Underground trains costs TfL (Transport for London) around £10 million per year, and a further 25% is probably spent on cleaning up other types of graffiti.



There can be less malign aspects to graffiti, where it's used to express humour, thought-provoking messages, or certain opinions. Painted along a fence adjacent to the M40, near the junction of the M25, motorists used to be greeted with a witty 'Why do I still do this every day?' That's one way of prompting commuters to question what they're doing. This graffiti has since been replaced with something less profound. If driving on the M25 towards the Chalfont viaduct, you may

have noticed 'Give Peas a Chance' emblazoned across the top. Peas was the tag of a London-based graffitist. Apparently, the words 'Give' and 'a Chance' were added later, creating the Lennon-like pun.

In the 1970s, areas of London were daubed with the claim that 'G Davis is Innocent'. This was in reference to George Davis, who was wrongly convicted for armed robbery. The campaign was successful, and Davis was subsequently released, only for him to be sent back to prison two years later – ironically, for armed robbery. More recently, in 2018, some mischievous wag wandered around Norwich painting 'Les Dennis' in various

locations. The TV presenter and comedian strenuously denied all responsibility, and this year he had to wearily defend himself yet again following accusations of defacing property and contravening lockdown rules when further instances of 'his' eponymous graffiti appeared in the city.

The satirical stencilled murals by the anonymous Banksy are probably the most well-known items of street art. His more recognisable and iconic works include *Girl with Balloon*, *The Girl with the Pierced Eardrum*, *The Flower Thrower*, *Kissing Coppers*, and *Slave Labour*. Disapprovers of graffiti might feel it was poetic justice that his Valentine's Day mural was itself sprayed with pink graffiti a couple of days after being 'unveiled' on social media in February this year. Banksy didn't mind too much though, saying he was 'glad that it got vandalised' as his 'initial sketch was a lot better.' Banksy's pieces are much-prized and sought after – in 2019, his painting *Devolved Parliament*, a scene portraying politicians as chimps in the House of Commons, was sold at auction for around £9.9 million.

In rural SW7, occurrences of urban art are quite rare. We are more likely see 'moo-rals' - painted cows – than murals (not that I condone acts of graffiti on livestock, of course). However, this idea of bovine beautification is not as original as I first thought - in 2003 someone actually did this as part of their art exhibition called *Turf War*. It was none other than a young chap called Banksy...

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



Seasonal Images by Simon Lewis-Beeching