

# THE LINK

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

NOVEMBER 2019 70 pence



■ 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](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

## November (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Sat	02	Full English Breakfast, Burmington VH	10.00
Sat	03	Whist Drive, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	19.30
Sun	03	Organ Recital, Barcheston Ch	15.30
Sun	03	Benefice Informal Service, Long Compton Ch	16.00
Sun	03	Red Lion Charity Quiz Night, Long Compton	19.30
Mon	04	Long Compton and District Garden Club, Coach trip to Westonbirt, depart VH	08.30
Mon	04	Brailes Mechanical and Craft Society, Brailes VH	
Tue	05	Short Mat Bowls Club, Long Compton VH	14.00
Tue	05	Willington and Barcheston Fireworks, Famington Road, Willington	18.30
Wed	06	Wolfords WI, Wolfords VH	19.30
Thurs	07	North Cotswold Farmers Market, The Hall, Cherington	18.00
Sat	09	Long Compton VH Christmas Fair	11.00
Sat	09	Quiz Night + Hot Pot Supper, Wolfords VH	19.00
Sun	10	Remembrance, Long Compton Ch	10.50
Mon	11	Armistice Day Service, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	10.30
Tue	12	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Wed	13	Compton District History Society, VH	19.30
Thurs	14	SW7 Women's Lunchtime Talk, The Old Forge, Stourton House	12.30
Thurs	14	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Thurs	14	Little Wolford Parish Meeting, Wolfords VH	19.00
Thurs	14	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show AGM, The Reading Room	19.30
Fri	15	Talk on Henry and Charles Stuart by Susan Turquet, Whichford Ch	12.00
Sat	16	SW7 Men's Breakfast, Cherington Arms	07.45
Sat	16	Coffee Shop, The Hall, Cherington	10.30
Sat	16	Brailes Picturehouse, <i>The Guernsey Literary &amp; Potato Peel Pie Society</i>	19.15
Sun	17	'Stir Up Sunday' Service, Burmington Ch	10.30
Sun	17	Quiet Chapel, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	
Sun	17	Red Lion Charity Quiz Night, Long Compton	19.30
Tue	19	Short Mat Bowls Club, Long Compton VH	14.00
Tue	19	Cherington Chatterbox Club, The Hall	14.30
Wed	20	Comptonians Christmas Lunch, Red Lion, Long Compton	
Thurs	21	Rural Cinema, <i>Wild Rose</i> Wolfords VH	19.30
Fri	22	Start of Christmas Tree Festival, Long Compton Ch	10.00
Sat	23	SW7 Women's Breakfast, Cherington Arms	08.00
Sat	23	Whichford & Ascott Christmas Gift Fair, Holycombe Holistic Retreat Centre	10.00
Wed	27	Long Compton and District Garden Club, Quiz Night, VH	



### LINK cover: *La Rochelle in times gone by*

Oil on canvas by Stourton Artist Colin Beckett.  
[colin.beckett13@yahoo.com](mailto:colin.beckett13@yahoo.com) or 01608 686381  
Commissions accepted and paintings for sale.  
Please contact for appointment.

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](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk). LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.

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Long Compton	Jean Taylor	684806
Whichford & Ascott	Carol Moore	684961
Great Wolford	Diana Watson	674325
Little Wolford	Colin & Gill Ablewhite	684962

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**Monday 18 November**

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# EDITORIAL

## LINK Talk

We get some good feedback on The LINK from time to time about the magazine and how much it's appreciated by readers. We of course like this very much; who doesn't enjoy being praised for a job well done? All the LINK team are volunteers, so your appreciation is highly valued.

Last year we did some analysis, as best we could, to determine how many of the total households in the SW7 Benefice subscribe to The LINK. The results are tabulated below.

	No. of Households	LINK Subscribers	
Willington + Barcheston	52	49	94.2%
Burmington	68	56	82.4%
Long Compton	331	181	54.7%
Great and Little Wolford	139	99	71.2%
Barton	173	33	19.1%
Little Compton			
Whichford	151	103	68.2%
Ascott			
Cherington	105	150	82.9%
Stourton	76		
	<b>1095</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>61.3%</b>

The 'Number of Households' per village is extracted from Stratford upon Avon District Council Ward (public) data which doesn't align exactly with our parish boundaries, but for our purposes it's accurate enough. You will see there's some large variations in the take-up of The LINK across the villages. From 94% in Willington and Barcheston to 19% across Barton and Little Compton. I suspect this is because Little Compton has very few subscribers.

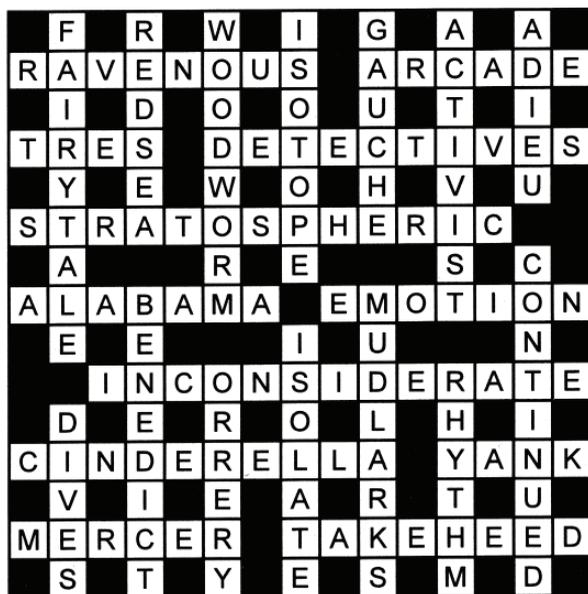
Last month I outlined the financial reasoning behind the 2020 price rise for The LINK designed to secure the future for the magazine. This month, would you be able to play your part in talking to your neighbours if they don't already subscribe to The LINK?

All that needs to be done to start subscribing is to contact the village distributor listed on page 3 each month, and deliveries can start.

Encouraging new readers to take the magazine is an additional way in which you can help secure the future for The LINK. This would be every bit as good as that great feedback you send us and hopefully, the figures in the table above can be raised. Who knows, maybe a regular village league table could become a regular feature?

**Keith Murphy, [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)**

## The LINK Crossword



*The solution to the October  
LINK Crossword*



### Moreton in Marsh Country Market

Moreton in Marsh Country Market is a cooperative market which operates from the WI Hall in New Road every Thursday from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

This fantastic local market has been in Moreton for over 50 years. We showcase homemade cakes, savouries, marmalade and preserves, good food made in the kitchens of local people. We have local honey, locally grown seasonal vegetables and fruit and free range eggs. Plus an array of plants and flowers in season.

The crafters knit, sew, print and create unique handmade items not found on the high street. We are a thriving market with regular local customers in addition to visitors and tourists.

***However, we are in danger of closing because we need new producers and helpers to keep it operating into the future. If you do cook, craft or grow and have time to spare, why not consider joining us?***

Check out the Country Markets website for more information

[www.country-markets.co.uk](http://www.country-markets.co.uk)

Please contact: [angela\\_loder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angela_loder@yahoo.co.uk)

telephone 07967497588 / 01608 238135

# INFO LINK

Contact: **The Editor**  
Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto: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 Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 3.15 pm and 8.30 am to 12.15 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Bank Holidays.*

## DATES AND FETES

Please send us the dates of all your significant 2019/20 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.

11 November	Ebenezer Chapel Armistice Service 10.30 am
22 - 24 Nov	Christmas Tree Festival, Long Compton Church
23 November	Whichford & Ascott Christmas Fair, 10.00 am
06 December	Jazz Concert, Long Compton Church

## LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

**Chipping Norton**, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 26 London Road, Mass on Saturday evening, 6.00 pm and Sunday morning, 11.00 am. Tel: 642703

**Stow-on-the-Wold**, Our Lady and St Kenelm, 5 Back Walls, Sunday 9.00 a.m. and Our Lady Help of Christians, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Tel: 01608 674354

**Brailes/Shipston/Kineton** Masses: *Saturday* - Vigil 5.00 pm at SS Peter and Paul, Brailes. *Sunday* - 9.00 am at Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston and 11.00 am at St. Francis of Assisi, Kineton. Tel: 01608 685259

**Chipping Campden**, St Catharine's Lower High Street, Sunday masses: – Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. Tel: 01386 840261

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## LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Minister Marion Hartwell attends to conduct seasonal services. For details of these, and interim services and events, contact Secretary Sally Franklin 01608 684739 or email [longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com)

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## LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

**Broad Campden**, Friends Meeting Hse, Broad Campden, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 10.30 am

**Ettington**, Friends Meeting Hse., Old Halford Rd, Ettington, Worship Meeting: Sunday at 11.00 am

**Sibford**, Friends Meeting Hse., Sibford Gower, Meeting for worship: Sunday at 10.30 am

**Shipston on Stour**, Worship Meeting last Thursdays (not Dec) in St. Edmund's Church, 2.30 pm

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### *Barcheston St Martin*

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

### *Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas*

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

### *Long Compton St Peter and St Paul*

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

### *Wolford St Michael & All Angels*

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

### *Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence*

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

### *Cherington St John the Baptist*

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

### *Whichford St Michael*

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479  
 Hilary Blakemore 684142  
 Secretary Hilary Blakemore 684142  
 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@littewolford.org.uk)

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Ann Batchelor (661527)  
 Colin Maynell (674104)  
 Meeting Sec. – Graham French (239032)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Janet Piller (674396)

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



*Happy  
Birthday!*



## November Birthdays

3rd	Claire Fifer-Flaherty	Long Compton	8
5th	Ellen Blake	Cherington	15
5th	Matthew Clarke	Burmington	8
8th	James Allen	Long Compton	13
9th	Esme Willow McCutcheon	Cherington	8
10th	Helena West		16
12th	Sebastian Matthews	Whichford	4
14th	Emilie Ada Lamb	Long Compton	12
20th	Leah Dudfield	Stourton	6
21st	Harvey Joshua Streets	Whichford	11
27th	Olivia Flaherty	Long Compton	15

**SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – NOVEMBER 2019 CHURCH SERVICES**

<b>SW7 Sunday Worship</b>	<b>St Martin Barcheston</b>	<b>St Lawrence Barton</b>	<b>St Barnabas &amp; St Nicholas Burmington</b>	<b>St John the Baptist Cherington</b>	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Long Compton</b>	<b>St Michael Whichford</b>	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels Wolford</b>
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>All Saints Day</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/CLW)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (SPA) 4pm CW Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Praise (BD/CLW)
November 10 <sup>th</sup> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	10:50am Remembrance Service (joint with Burmington) (PF)	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	<i>(Service at Barcheston)</i>	10:50am Remembrance Service (BD)	10:50am Remembrance Service (SPA)	9:00am Remembrance Service (SPA)	10:50am Remembrance Service (AW)
November 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>	<i>(Support Cherington)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/LM)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Barton)</i> 4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids and youth groups) (BD/SPA)	<i>(Support Cherington or Burmington)</i>	10:30am Ecumenical Service at Little Wolford Village Hall (SPA)
November 24 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christ the King</b>	10:30am CW Benefice Communion (SPA/BD)						
December 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Advent Sunday</b>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD) 4pm Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am CW Advent Service (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Praise (SPA)

SPA = Stuart Allen/BD = Ben Dyson/PF = Penny Frank/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/\* = No Hymns

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

## Revenge, Forgiveness and PTSD

Someone was asking me recently if I could recommend a good book to read. The one that sprang to mind was the gripping true story of Olympic athlete and Japanese POW survivor Louis Zamperini: *Unbroken: A World War II story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand.

This moving account has subsequently been made into two Hollywood films. The first, *Unbroken* focuses on Louis' extraordinary survival during the war. The second, *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*, focuses on the less dramatic, but in many ways far more important story of Louis' battle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after his return home.

Louis Zamperini, was an Italian American whose prowess as a middle distance runner took him to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Zamperini performed well, fuelling his hunger to go to the next Olympics in Tokyo in 1940. But in the intervening years, the Second World War began, and he found himself, instead fighting the Japanese.

Zamperini enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he served as a bombardier on a B-24 Liberator. In May 1943 Zamperini's crew was sent out to search for a pilot whose plane had gone down. Far out over the Pacific, Zamperini's own plane suffered a mechanical failure and ditched in the ocean. Of the eleven crew, only Zamperini and two others survived the crash. The three men were stranded on a life raft for 47 days. They were shot at by Japanese fighter planes, threatened by circling sharks, and burned by the sun. During this time one of Zamperini's comrades died. At one point, Zamperini cried out to God to let him live, and that if he did, he would give the rest of his life to him.

Eventually Zamperini and his colleague Phillips drifted near to a series of remote Pacific islands which turned out to be Japanese territory. They were captured and transferred to separate prisoner of war camps where they were tortured and abused. Zamperini was singled out by a camp sergeant called Matsuhiro Watanabe, nick-named 'The Bird', who flew into fits of psychotic violence. His imprisonment lasted more than two years, during which time he was officially declared dead by the U.S. military.

At the end of the war, Zamperini returned to the US and married Cynthia Applewhite. But the horrors continued to haunt him. His sleep was disturbed by terrible nightmares. Zamperini turned to drink and rapidly became an alcoholic, whose violent mood swings brought Cynthia close to divorcing him. Deep down Zamperini was filled with anger and resentment and fantasized about killing 'The Bird'. Revenge thought Zamperini, was the only way to find peace. But although he was one of the most wanted Japanese war criminals, Watanabe remained in hiding, evading justice.

In October 1949 Cynthia persuaded Louis to come and hear Billy Graham who was preaching at a tent mission in Los Angeles. Louis couldn't stand to listen to this man talking about God and forgiveness. God, Louis thought, was the one who had caused his suffering, not the one who could save him from it.

Somehow Cynthia managed to persuade a reluctant Louis to come and hear Graham again. This time something in the message resonated with him. In fact, it was too close for comfort. At the end Louis stood up and turned to leave the tent. But Graham said that no-one was to leave until he'd prayed. Louis stopped in his tracks. For the first time in a long time, he remembered the prayer he had prayed years before whilst lying in the life-raft. Far from causing his suffering, he realised that God had preserved his life, just like he'd asked him to. Finally, Zamperini knew his only way out of his torment was to keep his side of the bargain. He turned around, went forwards and gave his life to Christ. That night, for the first time in years, he slept soundly.

As a result of his experience of God's grace, Zamperini realised that revenge was not the path to pursue against his Japanese tormentors. Extraordinarily, in 1950, he chose to return to Japan to meet those who were serving sentences for war crimes - and to offer them his forgiveness. But the one person he most longed to speak with was not there. 'The Bird', it was believed, had taken his own life.

But 'The Bird' was not dead. Later, when former war criminals were offered an amnesty, 'The Bird' came out of hiding and returned to his family. It was only in 1997 that a journalist tracked him down and interviewed him. He blamed his violence on 'the sins of war'. Astonishingly he agreed to meet Zamperini to offer a personal apology. But when Zamperini actually arrived in Japan, 'The Bird' changed his mind. He never again met Zamperini, and refused to reply to his letter offering forgiveness. He died in 2003.

Zamperini's extraordinary story shows that faith in Jesus Christ transforms lives. It gives us hope in the face of despair and death. It offers redemption, forgiveness, and a fresh start. Why not join us for one of our Remembrance Sunday services this year as we reflect on the suffering and resilience of all who have served our country in times of war, and the wonderful hope that Christ offers us in both life and death?

**Stuart Allen (Rector)**




**SW7 Men's Breakfast**  
They Think it's all over....

***Renton Baker***

The Cherington Arms  
Saturday 16 November 7.45 am  
Includes Full English Breakfast  
Book Now £10

Roger Maycock 686404 Nick Jackson 684846  
John Brown 684578 Vic Bennie 684867

## **Benefice Informal Services – Autumn 2019**

Long Compton Church at 4.00 pm

3 November	Jesus is Coming Back: Stand Firm to the End (Mark 13:1-13)
17 November	Jesus is Coming Back: Be on Your Guard (Mark 13:14-27)
1 December	Jesus is Coming Back: Keep Watch! (Mark 13:28-37)



## INVITATION - To a Series of Lunch-Time Talks and Discussions for Women



The Old Forge, Stourton House at 12.30 pm

### STORIES FOR OUR TIMES (The Parables of Jesus)

14 Nov	The Wise and Foolish Virgins	Matthew 25: 1 – 13	Ursula Simpson
09 Jan	The Wedding Banquet	Matthew 22: 1 – 14	Andrew Dow
13 Feb	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18: 9 – 14	Ben Dyson
12 Mar	The Parable of the Sower	Mark 4: 1 – 20	Jane Smith
09 April	The Parable of the Tenants	Luke 20: 9 – 19	Penny Frank
14 May	What's Your Story?		Sarah Scotter and Pam Brookes

Simple lunch provided - donations please

RSVP - Sarah Scotter: 686303 (sarah.scotter@hotmail.com) or

Liz Maycock: 686404 (lizzymaycock@gmail.com)



## SW7 Women's Breakfast Saturday 23 November – 8.00 am

*'Who Do You Think You Are?'*

# David Bracewell



The Cherington Arms  
Includes Full English Breakfast  
Book Now £10

Sarah Scotter 686303  
sarah.scotter@hotmail.com  
Liz Maycock 686404  
lizzymaycock@gmail.com



## South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

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

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - [officesw7@gmail.com](mailto:officesw7@gmail.com)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 – 4 pm

[www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk](http://www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk)

## Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

### Singing Playgrounds

During the first week of term, the team from leading British choir, *Ex Cathedra* visited pupils at Acorns Primary and Brailes C of E Primary to share an exciting new programme – Singing Playgrounds. The aim of this scheme is to encourage children to collaborate; build confidence; express themselves and have fun while singing – it also gives those children who are chosen as song leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and inspire others with their passion for singing.

Our teams of Song Leaders from the two schools were carefully trained by vocal coaches and are now available twice a week at the 'Song Stop', to invite children to participate in a variety of singing games. It has been wonderful to see pupils across the whole school having fun and getting involved; our whole school assembly, with the vocal coaches, saw all children, from Nursery to Year 6, joining in with the action song – *Jump Jim Joe*.



The vocal coaches were extremely impressed by our schools and took the time to write back expressing their thanks to Mrs. Head at Acorns: *Thank you for a wonderful day the other week. I really mean that. The day refreshed me for working on this project! The welcome we both received was lovely. You greeted us with such joy. All this communicated such positivity to the children. We found your children to be articulate and imaginative, considerate and playful, enthusiastic, sensible and fun. What a lovely school community you have.*



Acorns can now boast the accolade of being featured on Zoe Ball's Radio 2 Breakfast Show! Jamie-Ella (Class 3) did an absolutely superb job of speaking on Zoe's 'Show & Tell' feature to explain the school's involvement in BBC Music Day and Singing Playgrounds. She did us proud with her expert appraisal of what it means to be a song leader and sounded calm and confident throughout her conversation with Zoe, even singing one of the Singing Playground songs live on air. We know this will inspire the children to get involved. Feedback and comments on Twitter and in the wider community have all been hugely positive and full of admiration for Jamie's

representation of the school. You can listen again to Jamie and Zoe on the BBC Sounds app or website 1 hour 6 minutes and 2 seconds into the programme!

As if that wasn't exciting enough, this week, children from Acorns and Brailes attended the BBC Music Day event at Warwick School where they joined forces with schools across the county to learn and perform a repertoire of Singing Playground songs, led by the *Ex Cathedra* team. The morning was fun, interactive and inspiring to all the children. To top it off, the BBC even turned up to film the action, which featured briefly on The One Show.

## Traction Man



Class 1 at Acorns got off to a flying start with their Superhero topic, throwing themselves into their learning. They have shown an interest in different types of superheroes, real and fictional, not forgetting those pesky villains. Class 1 filled all the empty corners of the classroom with fabulous superhero projects they have completed at home and are continuing to do so.

In reading, the class have explored the adventures of Traction Man. Together, they have discovered how brave he is, working alongside his sidekick, Scrubbing Brush. They've explored his many missions all around the house and have been impressed by his plethora of outfits. Over the last few weeks, children have explored comics, focusing on their features. They have tried adding captions to pictures, adding speech and thought bubbles and using action

words.

In science, Class 1 have explored their senses, discussing scenarios in which they would use each one. This was put to the test when they were presented with ten mystery boxes. Could they work out what was in the box using only one of their senses? As always, their predictions were not far off and they made links brilliantly with real life. Following this, the class looked at different materials around them. As Traction Man was off on another adventure, he requested that the class design him a new cape. Class 1 tested several materials to ensure they would not tear, were flexible, waterproof, strong and lightweight. They found a poly pocket was the best choice for Traction Man's new cape!

## I am Warrior

What a brilliant start to the year for Class 2. Acorns Year 3 and Year 4 children have delved deep into the I am Warrior topic and have had lots of fun learning all about the Romans and Celts. They firstly spent an afternoon researching the tactics of Roman

soldiers and Celtic warriors before heading out onto the orchard to try out the battle formations that they had learnt about. The children all did a brilliant job taking on their roles as fierce warriors and brave soldiers, however the Celts definitely won more of their ambush attempts than the Romans.

In English, the children have written soliloquies as a Roman soldier or a Celtic warrior. The ideas have been amazing - their creativity and wild imaginations have really helped to bring the writing to life.

In Art and D&T, the class have had some hands-on lessons using clay to create Roman coins that were designed after looking at some old existing coins. It was great to hear all of the children's ideas of what the coins were showing from Roman history and their designs were fantastic. They have created some Celtic body paint designs and made Roman jewellery out of wire and clay.

## Darwin's Delights

Class 3 at Acorns started the new term with their first topic: Darwin's Delights. For the Memorable Moment, the children made their very own journals to replicate the one Charles Darwin carried on his travels. These handmade journals have proved very useful for recording the children's sketches and scientific findings; the children are really proud of their little books and many ask to take them home so they can add to their collections – truly inspired! In Geography, the class have been looking at the names of the continents, oceans, lines of latitude and longitude and have located the Galapagos Islands. They have also explored and compared the characteristics of the different islands, producing a fact sheet to demonstrate their learning.

Darwin discovered that there are over 14 different types of finch, all of which have adapted according to the island they live on; these finches have evolved in order to survive. They have proved the theory of evolution by natural selection in science lessons by testing a selection of tools, which imitated the different beaks the finches have, with a variety of food types. Pupils found out that certain tools were only useful for some food types and they quickly realised that if a bird's beak was not suited to the food type available in a particular habitat, the species would start to die out altogether. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and purposeful investigation and Mrs. Young thinks there are some budding explorers and scientists amongst the members of Class 3.

Almost 188 years ago, Charles Darwin set off on a voyage that would not only change his life but would also change people's understanding of the natural world. For five years, Darwin travelled the globe on board HMS Beagle, visiting wondrous lands, studying animals and collecting fossils.



Through careful observation and accurate recording, he developed revolutionary ideas about how different species came to be. So far this term, Badgers Class at Brailes have also been busy finding out about Charles Darwin's incredible journey and exploring his ideas about adaptation and evolution. The children have been treading in Darwin's footsteps, by opening their eyes to the wonders of the natural world around them; searching, observing and sketching what they find. The children have also used poetry to express different encounters and interactions with nature. Describing in detail how an animal looks, moves or makes them feel has really enabled the class to look with extra care and notice details that that may have previously taken for granted or missed.

Throughout this work, the children have displayed excellent knowledge of the world around them, particularly the plants and animals found in our local environment, and they have been able to express themselves with creativity and imagination. They have settled in quickly to the demands of a new school year, showing positive attitudes towards both their learning and each other.

## Icon School

I am proud to share with our wider community that Brailes C of E Primary School has been successful in its application to become an International Cross of Nails School (ICON School). This in recognition for the school community's ongoing, sustained commitment to living out our core values of peace, forgiveness, courage, trust and respect which underpin our school's vision:

*Believing in ourselves each other and the light of God.*

*Belonging and lighting the way for a united family.*

*Aspiring to be the light for ourselves, each other and our world.*

The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) grew following days and weeks after the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in World War II, when the charred cross of nails, which was found in the ruins of the old cathedral, became recognised nationally and internationally as a symbol of peace and hope.

Brailes School is now part of a worldwide network of schools in the USA, Germany, South Africa and Central and Eastern Europe all, working with the central priorities of:

*Healing the wounds of history.*

*Learning to live with differences and to celebrate diversity.*

*Building a culture of peace.*

It is a real privilege that our school community has been officially recognised and welcomed by Coventry Cathedral as an ICON School. Later in the school year, we will be holding a special ICON Award service at school for our whole school community. More information about ICON schools and the Community of the Cross of Nails can be found at [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn).



International Cross  
of Nails Schools

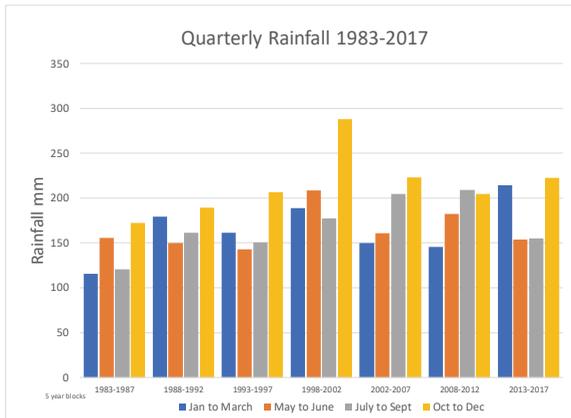
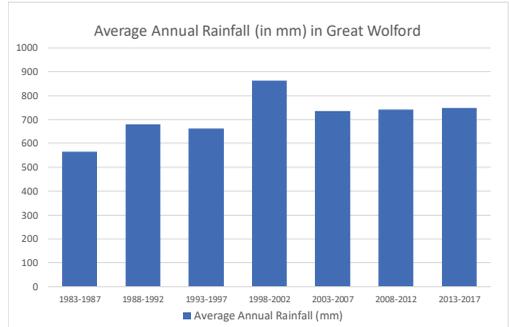


COMMUNITY OF THE  
CROSS OF NAILS  
AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL



## Rainfall Records

With all the current interest in climate change, I thought it might be interesting to have a look at the rainfall records for this farm. We have kept rainfall records here since we came to the farm in 1982 so we now have a block of 38 years. These are kept regularly and reasonably accurately so what do they show us? Without crunching the numbers at all, it is obvious that the annual rainfall has been gradually increasing in that period, in 1983 it was 575mm annually and in 2018 it was 668 mm annually. I have calibrated these into five-year blocks for convenience and from the first chart, you can see a steady increase. The only period with a dip was 1993-1997 with a spike in the following five-year block 1998-2002.



In the second chart I have split the five-year periods into quarters, i.e. January to March, April to June and so on. The spike in the 1998 to 2002 period was due to two very wet years, 2000 and 2002 when the annual rainfall was 943mm and 959mm respectively with the other years in that five-year block being closer to the trend, interestingly the high rainfall in 2002 was followed the next year with an annual rainfall of 521mm which

was the second lowest in the whole 38 year period, the lowest being 439 mm in 2011.

It is difficult to spot any trends such as winters getting wetter or summers getting drier, for instance in August 1991 we had 6 mm and the following August 103mm. likewise a very wet month can be followed by a very dry month, in May 2006 we had 111mm followed in June by 4 mm. Our wettest month in the period was July 2007 when we had 193 mm and the driest month was June last year which is the only month in the whole period with zero rainfall, April 1984 we recorded 1mm.

We should remember that this farm in Great Wolford is normally considered to be in a rain shadow so records for the surrounding villages may have higher readings.

**Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford**

As I write these notes it is almost into October, yet only a few days ago we enjoyed looking at a clear blue sky (a Portuguese blue sky we laughingly tell our sister-in-law warmly domiciled on the Algarve!) In my garden, my nerines are flowering a fortnight early whilst a rosebush almost overnight produced for us fifteen fresh blooms. But above all we see butterflies still flying about gathering nectar, and some no doubt thinking of hibernation. So, let's take a closer look at this remarkable creature. I say remarkable because surely in the natural world no creature experiences a more complete and diverse metamorphosis than does this species. From a tiny egg, it will become a caterpillar living off the leaves of the plant on which it was laid. Then a total transformation to the pupa, sometimes suspended from a stem or leaf, sometimes near the base of the plant on which it hatched, and sometimes protected by a delicate covering to ward off predators of which there are many. Then finally to emerge into the winged butterfly we see about our fields, woods and gardens. But we can report more about this creature for from the direction of the Butterfly Conservation Society come sounds of joy – clapping of hands and cheering. For they report that this year as a result of the dedicated efforts of their butterfly recorders more butterflies than ever have been seen. Top of these numbers – and winging their way from North Africa – come the painted ladies. Next come peacocks, with red admirals taking third place. Sadly, there are reductions in numbers recorded of the blue butterflies – holly blue and common blue are down fifty percent. No reason of course is yet known at such an early stage. So where will our butterflies be in the weeks to come? Well those such as the red admiral and small tortoiseshell and those we have seen almost daily in our garden – the yellow brimstone – will hibernate over winter. Others, such as the large and small whites overwinter as pupa and others as larvae.

The vast of majority of our trees and bushes are green-leafed, but a few display other colours such as purple or red. This is due to a pigment in the sap of the leaf, not to the photosynthesis the tree undergoes in summer and is the reaction between protein and sugars. There is no real advantage to the tree or bush due to this phenomenon, in fact it may be a disadvantage to them since some trees or bushes so effected are sometimes seen to be slower growing. But to our eyes they are often more attractive than their green-leafed companions, so we are not disturbed in any way that their growth may be slow.

I wonder by the time you read these Notes in November whether Jack Frost will have made his unwelcome appearance? With milder weather that we have been experiencing in recent years it could well be that he will not yet have appeared. So, you could still be seeing a few wayside flowers as you walk along past the roadside verges. (I see by the way that verge-cutting is to be reduced, but more of this next spring.) The white flower you will see often in pastures is yarrow, once thought to have magical properties and used as an astringent for wounds. The tall yellow flowers are one or other of the sow thistles, the smaller yellow flowers often growing in the grass verges along footpaths are the curiously named cat's ear, and perhaps some autumnal hawkbit (which actually

comes out in July). In passing, I think it is worth noting that poppies appeared quite frequently on roadside verges this year adding a dash of colour to the surroundings.

And down in the Isle of Wight they are celebrating the release of white-tailed eagles. Apparently one of these immediately took off and flew east towards London - to help with Brexit perhaps? But with such a range of flight, could it not be possible that in future years we may see them up here? After all, buzzards unseen here before, spread from Wales, whilst red kites have arrived from the Chilterns. Indeed, I may one day see all three flying around over my roof. Oh, come on now, let's not be too fanciful!

**Tony Partridge**

## **Highlight on Hedgehogs – November**

Although I didn't see Matilda the hedgehog in the garden this October, I don't think she had gone into hibernation – there were still a few signs of her feeding from time to time. I was really excited to hear from a fellow Cherington hedgehog champion that her own resident hog had been seen busily gathering leaves and building its nest in her garden.

So far, I'm sure you'll agree, that autumn has been relatively mild, rather overcast and very wet. Due to this mildness, I think the hogs have been out there fattening themselves up and building their nests. Nest building is a serious affair and the 'hibernaculum' is carefully crafted with leaves, tucked under a bush or log pile or garden shed, in fact anywhere that offers warmth, shelter and protection.

The most obvious danger to hedgehogs at this time of year is bonfire night. I know I mentioned this last month when I wrote, but there are ways you can help keep the hedgehogs safe. Where possible, please try:

Building the bonfire at the last minute to prevent hogs from moving in. Moving the bonfire a few metres to one side just before lighting it. Prodding the bonfire pile with a broom handle to disturb any hogs, and giving them plenty of time to unfurl, and then escape. Putting up a fence around a newly built bonfire using chicken wire, to stop them gaining access and nesting. Checking the bonfire thoroughly for hidden hogs before lighting, even if you have followed all of the above steps... just to be sure.

As November progresses, the hogs should be settling down to hibernation especially if it becomes substantially colder. Threats are then flooding, predation, being disturbed by gardeners and exposure to the cold if they haven't built a nest with sufficient insulation. We should be worried if we discover any hogs, especially if they are out in daylight. If you do happen to disturb any hedgehog nests, please cover them back up and leave them alone. Please be advised that sleeping hedgehogs will be warm to the touch, whilst hibernating ones will be colder. The spines of a hibernating hog will still prickle if touched, but the spines of a dead one, (alas) will not.

If you find a distressed hog that clearly isn't walking purposefully, or making its way back to a nest, please consider calling for help and advice. In the meantime you could keep the animal warm by placing it in a box on top of a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel (wrap the hot water bottle in a towel, not the hog in the towel!) and offer it water with a little glucose dissolved in it (but never milk), as well as tinned cat or dog food. Then seek further advice by calling the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801, or in an emergency call St. Tiggywinkles on 01844 292292.

**Louise Turner**

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

As we move into November, I have been assessing my fruit and vegetable harvest. I had no plums, virtually no cooking apples and very few eaters. I assume the timing of the blossoming and the spring frosts was to blame. The autumn raspberries did well, and I have had a good crop of potatoes. The few walnuts which ripened seem to have been taken by the squirrels as have the hazel nuts. Oh well, no year is ever the same, so I just hope that we don't get late frosts next year.

Autumn is a good time to appraise the overall shape and structure of the garden. Overgrown trees and shrubs can be pruned and trimmed back to a manageable size and perennials divided and moved into suitable positions. Check that any stakes, ties and other supports are firmly in position. Those which are no longer needed in the borders should be removed, cleaned and stored for next year. Winter pruning of apple trees can start, and any canker lesions cut out. If you apply grease bands to their trunks winter moth damage should be reduced. Cut rose stems down by a third to prevent wind rock.

No doubt by now the winter tidy up is under way with old foliage of spent perennials cut back. Once dahlia foliage has been blackened by frost, they can be dug up and stored in a cool, dry, well ventilated place. Keep any tree leaves raked up from your lawn to make leaf mould. Store them in wire containers or black plastic bags pierced for ventilation. Make sure that they are moist to help the rotting process.

If you are growing brassicas, have them netted to keep off pigeons. Carrots are hardy enough to remain in the soil over winter, but it is better to dig them up to prevent slug damage and cracking which can occur after heavy rain. Store them in boxes of dry sand. Winter leeks are difficult to harvest after heavy frost so heel a few into containers of compost. They can be kept in a sheltered area for up to two months. As vegetable beds are cleared, spread a layer of garden compost to be worked in by worms over the winter.

If you are bringing tender potted plants back into the house or greenhouse, check them for diseases and pests such as mealy bug. Also check their roots for wine weevil. Reduce the watering and feeding of the plants but make sure that they receive good light and ventilation. Clean the glass of greenhouses and open the vents on sunny days to reduce humidity and hence the spread of fungal disease. Container grown plants remaining outdoors should be put onto feet or otherwise raised to help with drainage. Vulnerable pots can be wrapped in fleece or bubble wrap and moved into a protected area. Alpines can deal with the cold but need protection from persistent wet. If covered with glass, the ends should be open to aid ventilation.

November is said to be good to plant fruit trees especially if they are bare root. The soil is still workable and warm enough to establish the roots before the winter cold. Broad beans can be sown outdoors now and sweet peas can be sown in the greenhouse for an early start. Planting garlic cloves in November help them thrive in frosty conditions and they'll be ready to harvest early next summer. Finally, finish planting your tulip bulbs now ready for a spring display and if you want a bowl of hyacinths or other bulbs for the festive season, bring them into the light in a cool place as soon as the shoots appear.

**Margaret Welsh**

### St. Martin's Church

We have been fortunate to hear the organ played by several distinguished organists in the monthly series of recitals since it was launched in May. Their programmes have been varied and have made full and effective use of the versatility of the instrument.

Still to come .....

November 3 - Richard Stephens

December 1 - Geoffrey Holroyde. This should be a very special occasion as it was his generous donation of his house organ in Warwick which formed the basis of the new organ.

Watch this space for details of recitals in 2020. All these recitals start at 3.30 pm and last about 50 minutes. Tea and biscuits will be available afterwards. Everyone is very welcome.

## Willington and Barcheston

### Bonfire and Fireworks

Tuesday 5 November

Fire lit 6.30 pm - Fireworks 7.00 pm

Famington Road, Willington

Entry – Adults £1 (children free)

Drinks, Hot dogs, Soup all on sale

All welcome, especially from Burmington,  
please bring your friends.

Donations towards cost of fireworks welcome.

## Willington with Barcheston Annual Fete

The annual fete took place on the morning of Saturday 14 September with Helen and Simon kindly giving the village the use of their garden for the morning. Well done everyone who helped at the fete. We could not have asked for better weather. Just over 100 people came and the stalls were very popular, with the cake stall and the tombola soon selling out. The proceeds from a very successful morning was £1,190. This will be distributed between village funds and Shipston Home Nursing.

Thanks to everyone who participated, especially to Wendy Holman, Robyn Sutton and John Peebles for their generous donations prior to the event.

Prize Winners were;

Wendy Holman - Bonus Ball Lottery Game

John Peebles - Skittles

Josh Windebank - Children's Skittles

Grace Powell - Guess the Name Game

Caroline Perkins - Ladies Skittles

A special congratulation to John Peebles for his first Skittles win in many years of trying. Many thanks to everyone involved.



Irene Sutton



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

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

Please contact Simon Lewis-Beeching [adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

### John Scott-Lee

John Scott-Lee died very suddenly on Thursday 12 September and will be sadly and hugely missed by his partner of 26 years, Wendy Veale, his son Jamie, his family and many friends.

Born in Coventry in 1949, John studied Horticulture, Landscaping and Parkland Management but his later career was in construction. In recent months, with his boundless energy, he had been setting up a new business in Wolverhampton while still helping Wendy to run their award-winning *The Old School Bed and Breakfast* in Little Compton at weekends.

Guests at the B & B loved John's wide-ranging – and often irreverent – breakfast conversations with them, covering anything from Brexit to bunions! John's gentle teasing, self-mocking stories and his unique sense of humour were well known – he was 'a one-off who broke the mould' as one of his friends has said. John was at his happiest when enjoying spending time with their animals in the garden at the Old School.

John loved life and people. Those who live locally will remember those wonderful days between 2000 and 2003 when he was a charming, genial host at Wendy's very successful Fox and Hounds Inn, Great Wolford. At the time, John was a director of a construction company in Birmingham but would still pull pints behind the bar in the evenings when he returned home. His warm, welcoming smile greeted customers as they came through the door and his quick-witted 'one-liners' had all the locals laughing.

John's generosity of spirit was appreciated by many: he was always happy to give his calm, wise advice to those who asked for it and was the first to help friends in times of trouble. But he was modest about his business achievements – when a friend said he had heard him taking part in a BBC Radio 5 business interview earlier that day, John was amazed that anyone had listened to it.

Over the last five years, John delighted in a new role – as proud grandfather to Imogen and Eliza, Jamie and Amanda's little daughters, whose home is in Willington. He returned with Wendy from an idyllic holiday with them in France only weeks before his untimely death.

Saint Basil said: *A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.*

John proved the wisdom of those words – he was a much-loved man with the kindest heart. All our love and thoughts go to Wendy and the family he loved.



**Sarah Constable**

## Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard (1751) by Thomas Gray

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,  
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,  
The ploughman homewards plods his weary way  
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,  
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,  
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,  
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,  
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,  
Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure:  
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,  
The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,  
Awaits alike the inevitable hour,  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Some village Hampden that with dauntless breast  
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;  
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,  
Some Cromwell guiltless of his county's blood.

I put this forward because we have a gravestone at Barton-on-the-Heath dedicated to one Milton, I think marked 1895, which is on the path leading up to the Church.

**Hamish Cathie**

## Beneficial Book Club

We enjoyed meeting to talk about *The Dark Flood Rises* by Margaret Drabble. This received a rather mixed review from the group, everyone agreeing that the fluent language was as good as ever. The subject matter however was depressing, being about how people approach the end of their lives, some with great verve, some with acceptance. Most of the group remembered Drabble's early books with great pleasure.

We had many suggestions for books for the coming months. Those chosen were:-

*The Salt Path* by Rae Winn

*Lanny* by Max Porter

*After Such Kindness* by Gaynor Arnold

*Unforgiven* by Barbara Kingsolver

*Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford

*Normal People* by Sally Rooney

*Putney* by Sofka Zinovieff

It will be a great pleasure to read these in the coming months. There is still one book to read from our last list, *The Big Short* by Michael Lewis. We will meet to talk about this book just as this issue of The LINK gets distributed.

**Gillian Cathie**



Thomas Gray 1716 - 1771

### Cameo, SW7 Lunch Club



The club held the World Hymn/Song Recognition Championship at its October meeting. The winner by a narrow margin for the second year was Lesley Rawlinson who was presented with a replica of the prestigious Cameo Cup. Our picture shows Lesley surrounded by some fellow competitors after her victory.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 12 November.

All are welcome. Don't forget the club meets on the second Tuesday of every month in Burmington village hall at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Come and join us. We are renowned for our welcome, our food (our puddings in particular) and our chatter.

Most villages in the Benefice are represented in the membership. A charge of £4 is made towards expenses. Please bring your family, friends and children. Transport can be provided. All dietary needs can be met.

Please book with Brenda Fitch on Tel: 664313

### St Barnabas' & St Nicholas' Church Burmington - 'STIR UP SUNDAY'

Sunday 17 November - 10.30 am

Join us at the village's traditional jolly Family Service conducted by Ben Dyson.

Come and help the children stir up, cook and sample their Christmas pudding.

Join us afterwards for refreshments.



### Winter Gathering Burmington Village Hall Saturday 7 December



Fish & Chip Supper 6.00 pm prompt - £7.50 per portion  
Roasted Chestnuts, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Raffle  
And test your general knowledge with Ken's famous Quiz  
All Welcome.

Contact Irene on 01608 661418 to book Fish & Chips.

Full English Breakfast is being served at  
BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



First Saturday of the Month  
Saturday 2 November - 10.00 am to 12.00 pm  
Gluten free and vegetarian diets catered for  
Call Irene (661418) for details

### Burmington Parish and The Village Hall

There are now two fledging village websites which we hope over time will develop as effective means of sharing information about village life.

The parish meeting site will contain among other things the minutes of parish meetings, notices of future meetings. The village hall site will have news about the hall, future events and a booking form should you want to use the hall for a private event.

We very much hope that these two new sites will be actively used. Meantime, many thanks to Dawn Fisher and Robyn Sutton for setting them up.

Burmington Village Hall - [www.burmingtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk](http://www.burmingtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk)

Burmington Parish Meeting - [www.parish-council.com/burmingtonparishmeeting](http://www.parish-council.com/burmingtonparishmeeting)



*First Frost* by Jenny Henderson from Great Wolford. Did it arrive last month, will it arrive this month or will we have to wait a bit longer?

# Coffee Shop

Saturday 16 November

Craft Stall



Cakes

Bacon or Sausage Bap

10.30 am till 12 noon

At The Hall - Stourton

## Lottery Winners for September

Winners in the draw for the October lottery were:

1st Jane Cameron £80    2nd Richard Stevens £45    3rd Freddie McArdle £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining please contact Steve Allkins or, better still, drop in on our third Saturday coffee mornings (10.30 am – 12.00).

**Steve Allkins**

## Cherington Stourton & Sutton under Brailes Seniors Club

The next Chatterbox will be held on Tuesday 19 November in The Hall from 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm when Jane Upson will be giving a short talk on the history of Upton House and the role she plays there.

Please come along and join us for a friendly catch up - delicious tea and cakes will be served. We look forward to seeing you all.

**The Seniors Committee**

## Christmas Greetings – St. John the Baptist Church

We are running the Cherington & Stourton Christmas Card Amnesty again this year. If you would like to make a donation and have your name added to our Christmas Greetings List, which will be distributed with the December LINK, please contact Pam Brookes on 686367 or Sherry Barker on 686420 and we will add your name to the list.

Alternatively, email at [nsl\\_barker@hotmail.com](mailto:nsl_barker@hotmail.com) - replies by 5 November would be helpful.

**Pam Brookes & Sherry Barker**

## Flower Show 2019 Raffle

The following is an extract from a letter of thanks from Shipston Home Nursing:

*Thank you so much for thoughtfully thinking of SHN to support again with half of the proceeds of your raffle at the Cherington Flower Show. What a success!*

*I have received the cheque for £575.40, which as you know will be put to excellent use in paying our Nurses for their wonderful work. Please will you pass on my grateful thanks to all concerned for their ongoing support. Very best wishes,*

*Rebecca Mawle, Head of Community Fundraising, Shipston Home Nursing*

I also received a letter of thanks containing the following from Penelope Garner, Clinical Director, Contented Dementia Trust;

*Thank you for the magnificent cheque for £575.40 for our Trust raised from the raffle at your annual Country Fair and Flower Show. We are so grateful to you for supporting us in this way, which means a great deal to our small charity.*

*We had a most enjoyable time on the day. Everything was so well organised and really well supported, and we met such interesting people. Do please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved.*

*With Kind Regards, Penelope Garner, Clinical Director, Contented Dementia Trust*

Don't forget the Flower Show Committee AGM on Tuesday 26 November at 7.00 pm in The Hall, everyone welcome.

**Helen Beaumont**

## Brailes Mechanical and Craft Society

On Monday 7 October we held our AGM. Chairman Harry Upson opened the proceedings. Stewart Cummings gave the Treasurer's report. Our Finances are healthy and it was decided not to increase the annual subscription, the princely sum of £3 a year! We currently have a membership of 104. We also have our legendary raffle.

Mick Woods gave the Secretary's report. We have had an interesting year with some good talks. Our annual coach trip is always popular as is our Christmas buffet. The Committee was re-elected. Mick Woods stood down as Secretary. He was thanked for everything he has done for us over the years. The new Secretary is Eric Darvell.

After the reports, refreshments and the raffle there followed a film of a 1951 works outing to London. Our next meeting is Monday 4 November. The talk is *A Bobby Job*.

**Theresa Wakeham**

## Searching for a Book

*The Millennium History - Cherington, Stourton and Sutton-under-Brailes 1900-1999*

Does anyone know where I might find a copy of this lovely book, which celebrates 100 years of life in our villages 1900-1999 ?

Earlier this year, a visitor to the church, who was attending family graves and had once been a choir boy in Cherington, spoke so warmly about his memories of the village that I said I would try to send him a copy of the book. I realise that we all treasure our copies, but should anyone have a 'spare' copy, would you please let me know. Many thanks.

**Sarah Scotter (686303)**

## The Cotswold Way Century

Congratulations to Vince Blake from Cherington a member of the Hook Norton Harriers running club and Pennyann Scholes from Brailes for completing the Cotswold Way Century, a 102 mile, overnight, non-stop, ultramarathon running race starting in Chipping Campden and concluding in Bath. With plenty of climbing this is one of the toughest UK running events. One hundred runners dared to start with only 55 completing, with soaring temperatures and huge downpours; what a great way to view the Cotswolds.

**Ellen Blake**

## Neighbourhood Watch

I am your local Co-Ordinator. I would welcome reports of any suspicious activity in our area so that I can pass details onto the local Police . Please let me know about anything that looks out of the ordinary as it may just be the piece of the jigsaw that is needed to solve a problem.



Everything completely confidential. Contact Christine Dudfield 07866 127409/ 686288 or [slimmingworldchris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:slimmingworldchris@yahoo.co.uk)

**Christine Dudfield**

## Brailes Picturehouse

Saturday 16 November - *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*

A correspondence began between Juliet Ashton and members of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, with shared experiences of Nazi-occupied Guernsey. When an idea for a book catches Juliet, she goes to visit the Island, making life-long friends and taking life changing steps along the way. The book is told by way of letters, and as a reader, you become enchanted by the writers of them and the love Juliet comes to feel for each of the Islanders.

Stars - Lily James, Sir Tom Courtney, Michiel Hulsmann, Penelope Wilton, Marek Oravec and Jessica Brown Findlay.

Box Office opens 7.15 pm for 7.45 pm start.

Future Screening (subject to availability)

January - *Downton Abbey* February - *Fishermen's Friends*

For 2020 : *Judy* (Garland), *Aladdin*, *Toy Story*, *Rocketman*

**Deirdre Carney**



SW7 Men's Breakfast  
They Think it's all over....

## Renton Baker



The Cherington Arms  
Saturday 16 November 7.45 am  
Includes Full English Breakfast  
Book Now £10

Roger Maycock 686404 Nick Jackson 684846  
John Brown 684578 Vic Bennie 684867

*Bar and Hot Supper available*



**NORTH COTSWOLD  
FARMERS MARKET**



**A monthly market every  
1st Thursday of the month**

from 6pm until 8 pm  
@The Hall, Stourton,  
Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 5HG



CHEESE, BREAD, MEAT, LOCAL CRAFTS, CAKES, EGGS,  
QUICHES, FLANS, FRESHLY GROUND COFFEE, PRESERVES,  
MARMALADE AND HONEY

### Long Compton Village Hall

As we get buffeted by the wind and rain in October, we are busy planning the Village Hall Christmas Fair on Saturday 9 November from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. This year we are pleased to welcome Acorns Primary School with their stalls to add to the selection available.



We are also working hard with organising a series of extra fund-raising events next year to raise the several thousands of pounds needed to improve the condition of the drive. We hope to offer a range of different events of interest to everyone so do hope you can support us in this where you can, either by attending the events, offering to help or making a donation.

Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)



*Long Compton Village Hall*  
*Christmas Tea Party*  
*Saturday 14th December*  
*3.00 – 5.30pm*  
*Tickets £10*  
*Come and join the festivities!*

### Compton District History Society

Mark Davies gave a very interesting talk on Oxford Castle and the stories associated with it. The Castle itself was completed in 1071 and is typically Norman (it replaced an older Saxon stronghold) with the still existing St. George's Tower and a moat.

The stories Mark told us related to the period after the Castle became the County Prison in Tudor times. Prisoners in the Castle ranged from petty thieves to highwaymen and murderers (all of whom, thanks to the draconian legal system of the time, were sentenced to execution). Some of the prisoners' stories Mark told us included Anne Green who was wrongly convicted of infanticide and hanged in 1650 - she however

survived the experience, became something of a local celebrity, and went on to marry and have two children. Elizabeth Hughes of Chipping Norton (aka Betty Bing and Black Bess) became pregnant twice during her stay in jail (and so avoided execution) before escaping from the Castle in 1729. The charming highwayman, Isaac Darkin, was always courteous to his victims and 'held court' in the Castle amusing visitors with songs and stories before meeting his end in 1761.

But, perhaps just as interesting were the Castle jailers. A series of family dynasties ran the jail for a couple of hundred years and used their position to make a pretty good living. The last of the dynasties, the Wisdoms, was represented by Solomon Wisdom, who, after considerable trouble, was replaced by the remarkable Daniel Harris. Harris was a self-taught but very talented architect and builder who became Prison Governor at the end of the eighteenth century. He, rather cleverly, used prison labour to rebuild a redesigned Castle and went on to build the Oxford Canal, the County Gaol in Abingdon and the new facade of Wadham College.

Mark's stories provided a remarkable insight into life and death in our area in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries based on prison and crime records which provide a surprisingly detailed picture of the ordinary people of the time.

Our next meeting, on Wednesday 13 November (7.30 pm in the village hall) promises to be very entertaining. Graham Downie will be talking about *The Fairground Calendar*, a story of the fairs and fairground people which marked, and continues to mark, the changes of seasons throughout the countryside. Do come along and bring a friend. All are very welcome.

**Diana Cook 684771**

2019



Long Compton Village Hall

2020

The Village Hall Committee would like to invite you to a village gathering/afternoon catch up to break up the long holiday time and brighten up the dark, winter days

On Saturday 28 December 2.30 – 5.00pm

It will be an opportunity to catch up with other villagers, have a cup of tea, piece of cake, biscuit or a savoury and even play a game or join in on a jigsaw.

If you need transport, please ring 684 689 (evenings).

If you would like to help – bake a cake, pour tea or collect a neighbour please ring 684 689 (evenings).

## Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

Meets at the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 2.00 – 3.30 pm.  
New members are especially welcome.

**Adrian (684024)**

# Long Compton and District Garden Club 2019/20



## Autumn/Winter Programme



All meetings are in the LC Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

### **4 November - Coach Trip to Westonbirt**, The National Arboretum

Autumn Colours, 2500 different species, 4 national collections, tree top walkway.  
£20 (Lunch own account), Leave LC Village Hall at 8.30 am

### **27 November – Quiz Night**

Do you know who Percy Thrower was? Would you recognise Love Lies Bleeding?  
What is a Naked Lady? Find out the answers and much more at our Quiz Night  
With wine and tasty morsels. All welcome

### **26 February - South African Plants in the Wild and in British Gardens**

Sue Bedwell who trained and worked at Waterperry Gardens

### **25 March - Central Royal Parks**

Jim Buttress managed the Royal Parks in London, is an RHS judge,  
Judge of the Big Allotment Challenge, broadcaster and author

### **22 April - The Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park**

Tim Miles is Head Gardener of the CWP, was previously at Heligan,  
and is on the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee

Further information contact Anthony Wells 684337 or  
Lesley Roberts 684545, lesleyroberts46@gmail.com

## Long Compton Garden Club Garden Visit - 18 September

Our September garden visit to South Oxfordshire began with a sunny morning visit to the delightful private garden of Midsummer House, Woolstone, in the Vale of the White Horse. On arrival, our delightful and friendly hostess provided us with coffee and home-made biscuits in the summer house where she explained about the garden before we went round.

She and her husband downsized four years ago and moved a few hundred yards from their previous home at Woolstone Mill, where a magnificent garden had been created over many years. This has given new opportunities to begin with a blank canvas and the result is delightful. A stream runs through the garden, the bank smothered with erigeron karvinskianus, a pretty little daisy with white flowers fading to pink. There was a very attractive parterre with roses and herbaceous plants and an area with beginnings of various topiary animals. A woodland bed has been created and contained some very special and eye-catching ferns along with other choice shade loving plants.

An excellent lunch outside in bright sunshine at the Cotswold Plough, Clanfield refreshed us for our afternoon visit to Radcot House. Radcot House near the River Thames dates from the seventeenth century and was a wilderness 20 years ago, when Mr. and Mrs. Stainer took over the property. Their achievements are impressive and there is no doubt that it will continue to develop.

There were many established yew and beech trees and these have formed the basis of strong lines of beds, walls, water features and planting. The garden is at its best in late summer and autumn. There is discipline but also some abandon. There are many places to sit and contemplate including a spiral wooden seat. A notable feature of the garden are the sculptures that are varied, well-chosen and placed carefully.

There were many plants to admire but the standout was the carpet of colchicums in one corner of the Pavilion Garden. Grasses are not popular with some people but here are used with so many other shrubs and perennials, that they just seem to fit in.

At the end of our tour with the owners, we sat sipping our tea in a broad grass walk overlooking a canal and water meadows. Sitting on the low wall next to us was a rather cheeky stone sculpture of a minotaur reading a small gold tablet. What more would you want!



Lesley Roberts



## THE RED LION QUIZ NIGHT

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 7.30PM • *Shipston Home Nursing*  
SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 7.30PM • *MacMillan Cancer Support*

## Comptonians

We recently visited the Warwick centre for the training of puppy dogs for the blind. It was a very interesting afternoon. After an introductory talk, we watched the puppies put through their paces on an obstacle course, where they successfully guided their handlers round barriers, cones and other hazards.

Several of us had a chance to try the course blind folded and under guidance (human in this case), we walked through a tunnel with everyday potential obstacles wearing a variety of glasses simulating effects on vision of macular degeneration, a stroke, or cataracts. We heard from a speaker about their experience of looking after the puppies and acclimatising them to different outdoor situations before they were ready to be trained further. One truly inspirational speaker told us of his experiences of having a guide dog. He became blind at 9 after a brain tumour and with the help of his dog he attended University and successfully obtained a degree.

Having had a fish and chip lunch in October, on Wednesday 20 November we shall have our Christmas lunch at The Red Lion in Long Compton.

If you would like to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, usually at 2.00 pm, you would be most welcome. Contact us if you are interested.

**Margaret Welsh 684238**

## Long Compton Parish Council

### Fact Gathering for the Benefit of the Village

Parish Councillors conducted their own survey on the location and ease of use of letterboxes over a weekend in October when delivering a trio of information leaflets to residents. The Housing Needs Survey was the trigger for the delivery and Council then took the opportunity to enclose a Wildlife Survey and invitation to a Flood Meeting. Resident participation in providing information is always crucial to implementing plans.

The Housing Needs Survey will provide information to trigger decisions about the future of the Weston Court Land in Parish Council ownership, identified in Neighbourhood Plan for future development.

The Wildlife Survey has been compiled as a consequence of all the concerns being identified locally and nationally relating to loss of habitat and wildlife. Once data has been collated it can be used to improve situation locally, i.e. by requesting appropriate bird boxes, etc. be incorporated into new housing, more tree planting and even rewilding of some areas.

The Flood Meeting is the end result of data already collected by Long Compton Flood Group and Stour Area Flood Action Group. This has resulted in definite plans to help mitigate flooding in the village and downstream.

**Elizabeth Gilkes, Parish Clerk/RFO 01608 684336**



**THE RED LION QUIZ NIGHT**

**SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 7.30PM • *Lawrence Home Nursing***

The Friends of Long Compton Church present  
**The Amazing Emma Smith**



Singer of old songs, writer of new songs, chatter on BBC Radio 3 Jazz Now, half of Smith & Safir, third of The Puppini Sisters, singer at Ronnie Scott's Allstars...

**Friday 6 December 7.00 pm**  
**Long Compton Church**  
**Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £20 including canapes**

Tickets from [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com) or 01608 684813 or on the door.

Our information and contact points:

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

**Sue Klatt, Chairman: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch**

## 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 e-mails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public.

Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at [jordanlboswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanlboswell@hotmail.com)

## Ebenezer Chapel

Congregational Church – Butlers Lane, Long Compton

### *Armistice Service*

Monday 11 November 10.30 am

Please join us for Coffee after the service

Tickets from Sally Franklin 01608 684739



# Christmas Tree Festival

LONG COMPTON  
22-24 NOVEMBER 2019  
10.00-16.30

Tea, coffee  
and cake  
all day  
Soup lunch  
12.30-14.00

Free  
entry  
Programmes  
£1

Bells  
will be rung  
(1/4 peal) on Saturday  
23<sup>rd</sup> at 14.00

Carols will be sung by  
the Village Choir on  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 14.00

CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL LONG COMPTON



The Friends of Long Compton Church  
is a registered charity number 1141040

Main sponsor



ENLIGHTENED  
WINDOWS



**St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton  
with Barton on the Heath**

# **Remembrance Sunday**

Sunday 10 November

Long Compton Church - 10.50 am

An act of remembrance at the war memorial outside the church,  
recalling those who died in the Great War and subsequent  
conflicts, followed by a service inside.

All are welcome.

## **Long Compton Ebenezer Chapel**

The focus this month has been The Harvest Celebrations, but it has also given Chapel members a chance to review their own 'harvest' as it has been less than a year since full control of operation has been regained. In that time Chapel has hosted a diversity of different faith and community events, completed renovation of The Manse and welcomed a new tenant. The success was very evident at the Harvest Festival when chapel welcomed a full congregation to celebrate and to enjoy added performances from the choir of seasonal hymns.



This was followed up few days later with a traditional Harvest Supper and this time entertainment was provided by Arthur Taylor and even led to a little dancing after a sumptuous supper.

Future Diary Dates are:

02 November

Whist Drive 7.30pm

11 November

Armistice Day Service – Gathering at 10.30 am for Short Service and Observation of Silence followed by coffee and Congregational Members Meeting

17 November

Quiet Chapel – gathering together for tea and reflections

01 December  
07 December  
10 December  
15 December

Advent Service 3.30pm  
Christmas Whist Drive 7.30pm  
Gong Bath 7.30pm details [www.carolelove.com](http://www.carolelove.com)  
Carol Service 3.30pm



## Ebenezer Chapel



Long Compton Congregational Church

Butlers Lane, Long Compton

### Christmas Service

Sunday 1 December – 3.30 pm

*With Reverend Marion Hartwell, Long Compton Community Choir and  
Organist Bridget Tiffin*

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

[longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com)

**Sally Franklin - 01608 684739 / 07870 545431**  
**Elizabeth Gilkes - 01608 684336 /07791 621778**



Next meeting – Thursday 14 November 7.00-8.30pm

we will be discussing

*Moving* by Jenny Éclair

As always, all welcome

Contact: Sue Klatt 01608 684813 or [sueklatt@gmail.com](mailto:sueklatt@gmail.com)

### The 100 Club

The October draw was held at the Social Saturday in the village hall on 12 October. The winners were:

1st Prize - 113 Pauline Tweedy

3rd Prize - 200 John Green

2nd Prize - 178 James Hobbs

4th Prize - 6 Diana Richardson

The next draw will be held at 12.00 noon at the Christmas Fair in the village hall on Saturday 9 November. Come to the hall to look at the stalls, have a cup of coffee and watch the draw – better still stay for a baked potato Lunch.

**Chris Galloway 684234**

## Long Compton & District Walkers

Our walk this month centred on Charlbury once again. With fine walking weather in prospect, it was a group of ten souls who gathered in Charlbury and set off towards Cornbury Park. After about half a mile it was discovered that we should be a group of eleven, so a search party of two returned to our starting point by the Bull Inn to find the missing walker (no name mentioned!). In the meantime, the advance party walked on towards the entrance to Cornbury. After a few minutes a numbers check then revealed that we were but a group of six! This caused some laughter, but a short time later we were all together as a group of eleven.

The sun appeared as we walked along the park perimeter fence and lit up the hundred or so deer in the park - a lovely sight. We then came close to a herd of highland cattle of all colours and all mums with a single calf. The photographer was brave enough to capture the nearest beast (photograph below left).



Photographs by David Jepson

Our coffee break was gladly taken on a bridge over the Evenlode and adjacent to the Oxford railway line. We then passed through Fawler and diverted onto the Oxfordshire Way for our final mile back to Charlbury and the group photo.

'A good walk' of five miles seemed to be the consensus of the group. Four of us then enjoyed lunch at the Bull Inn.

Jan Treadaway 684553

HERE'S TO YOU AND YOU

AND YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT  
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

At our Coffee Morning, you helped raise an incredible

**£ 519.35**

At Ebenezer Chapel - Saturday 28 September

## Compton Creatives

We meet monthly on the third Monday, and occasionally at other times for workshops and outings. New members are always welcome.

caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or jhburras@yahoo.co.uk

Start your Christmas shopping early by seeing what's on offer at

### Long Compton Village Hall Christmas Fair Saturday 9 November 11 am - 2pm



We offer a variety of local stalls including handmade jewellery, The Body Shop, Flamingo Paperie cards, crafts and, of course, the raffle!

Refreshments available



## COMMUNITY ADVERTISING

Contact: **The Editor**

Email: [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

This painting of Long Compton church by the artist William Pitt in 1875 is for sale. Mr. Pitt specialised in landscapes, townscapes and villages and obviously the elegant church in the pretty village of Long Compton captured his imagination. It is a good reflection of what the village looked like almost 150 years ago and is attractively framed in what is believed to be the original gilt frame. The owner would like to sell it on to someone in Long Compton village and thought that there



might be some interest amongst your readers to own a piece of local history. Several years ago, it was valued at approximately £400 but the owner is open to sensible offers. Viewing encouraged. Please telephone Alice on 07932 611 042.

*[Ed – name and address supplied]*

### **The Reading Room Draw**

Congratulations to Annabel Playfair who won the October Reading Room draw.

**Jenny Scrivener**

### **Whichford Church: plans for essential repairs**

There has been considerable work taking place in the last few months planning to tackle some repairs necessary to the Church building. A building sub group has been formed to look into various works that need addressing.

The PCC has received professional advice on these works and has decided to go ahead with essential repairs to the tower, its roof and drainage from it, masonry repairs and access to the roof itself. The work is planned to start next March and should be completed within three months. We are also currently planning minor repairs to the nave roof and to the ground gutters and drainage surrounding the Church.

You may be wondering how we are going to pay for these essential repairs, which including the new boiler in 2018, will cost close to £90,000. Owing to the tremendous generosity of donors, past and present, we have just enough to pay for these repairs, but we will need to raise money for all future work. Design work on configuring the Church for wider use by the community will start over the winter and the Friends of St. Michael's Church have offered to fund this part of the work via income from their fundraising activities. We are also actively exploring grant funding to help contribute to the costs.

With many, many thanks to our very generous supporters.

**The PCC and the Friends of St Michael's Church**

### **Whichford and Ascott Allotment Holder's Society Flower Show**

The Flower Show committee would like to thank all villagers for their huge contribution to the Flower Show

You are invited to attend the

**Annual General Meeting, Thursday 14 November 7.30 pm  
In The Reading Room, Whichford**

We welcome your ideas for next year's show and allocation of funds

Donations made from previous Shows proceeds include - Village Fireworks, Shipston Home Nursing, Warwickshire Air Ambulance, Village First Responder Scheme

# Whichford & Ascott Christmas Gift Fair

Saturday 23rd November 10am – 1pm  
in aid of St. Michael's Church  
An exciting variety of over 20 stalls\* for  
fabulous Christmas shopping.

Entry £5: includes home-made mince pie and coffee  
Wonderful raffle prizes  
Christmas wreaths to order

By kind invitation of Andy & Sally Birtwell  
Holycombe Holistic Retreat Centre, Whichford,  
CV36 5PH

\* Please bring cash & cheques as some stallholders  
may not take cards



Advent Service

St. Michael's Church, Whichford, Sunday 1 December at 10.30 am  
Please do come and join us



## New furnishings in Whichford Church

The Monday morning crafters have been making a variety of different kneelers for the church. Tapestry ones are taking a little longer, but we are very grateful to the group for providing these beautiful new hassocks, and also for the new velvet curtain for the chancel door in the background of the photo.

Thank you very much to the former Whichford and Ascott WI which paid for the curtain material and to all the crafters, in particular, Sophie Corlett and Di Russell.

Do join us! Bring your knitting or sewing or any handicraft along on the first Monday of each month at 10.00 am at The Old Rectory, by kind invitation of Caroline O'Kane.

Any queries, please contact Caroline O'Kane (01608 684780) or Mandy James 01608 684479).



Mandy James

### *Henry Stuart & his younger brother, Charles (later Charles I)*

*What was their inspiration to become prolific Art Collectors?*

Henry  
Stuart



Charles Stuart  
(Later Charles I)



*A Talk by Susan Turquet  
Friday 15 November at 12.00 noon  
St. Michael's Church, Whichford  
Find out more about this intriguing aspect of  
the Stuart Family*

*Tickets: £5.00 (to include drinks and nibbles)  
For tickets and information, please contact:  
Mandy James: jamesgranard@aol.com or 684479  
Hilary Blakemore: HilaryBlakemore@aol.com or 684142*

# VILLAGE NEWS

## THE WOLFORDS

Editor, Little Wolford Email: [littlewolford@swlink.org.uk](mailto:littlewolford@swlink.org.uk)

Editor, Great Wolford: Lynn Mathias

Email: [greatwolford@swlink.org.uk](mailto:greatwolford@swlink.org.uk) Tel: 674247

## The Wolfords WI

Members enjoyed a most informative evening in October when Tim Godwin of the Fosseyway Garden Centre demonstrated ideas for winter containers. He suggested that evergreen plants should be included to ensure colour throughout the coldest days of winter. The finished items were kindly donated for the raffle, much to the delight of the lucky winners.

Wednesday 6 November is our Annual Meeting and we are looking forward to meeting Sue Gill, a newly co-opted Warwickshire WI Trustee.

Visitors are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Wolfords Village Hall. Please contact Sue Elliot 01608 674295 for more details.

## A December date for your diary

Wolford church will be lit by candles on Sunday 22 December at 6.30 pm for the annual *Carols by Candlelight* service. You are very warmly invited to join us for this re-telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome.

**John Wrench and Janet Piller, Churchwardens**



## Quiz Night with Hot Pot Supper Saturday 9 November from 7.00 pm Wolfords Village Hall



Please come and join us for a challenging but a very social evening with friends and neighbours for a quiz night and hot pot supper.

Various suppers will be available to suit all tastes.

Bring your own drinks for this evening, we'll provide the glasses.

We would really appreciate your support to help with ongoing cost of the village hall and maintain this amenity for our community use in the future.

Tickets £12.50 available from;

James van Helden tel: 674244, [jamesvanhelden@btconnect.com](mailto:jamesvanhelden@btconnect.com)

Isobel Murphy tel: 674005, [isobel.murphy@btinternet.com](mailto:isobel.murphy@btinternet.com)

All proceeds go towards the upkeep costs of the village hall

## The Rural Cinema in The Wolfords

presents

### 'Wild Rose'

Cert:15 1hr 41 min

*Wild Rose* tells the complicated story of Rose-Lynn, a woman on a quest to become a country music star, while also grappling with the responsibilities of being recently released from prison and a young mother of two children.

Directed by Tom Harper

With Jessie Buckley, Julie Waters, Sophie Okonedo,  
Jamie Sives, James Hankess

Thursday 21 November, 7.30 pm

Wolfords Village Hall

Tickets (including free coffee and biscuits) £4.

## The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The September winners were as follows;

- 1st prize – Linda Jeffcutt
- 2nd prize – Simon Lewis-Beeching
- 3rd prize – Sue Elliot

The October winners were as follows;

- 1st prize – Charles Hobbs
- 2nd prize – Isobel Murphy
- 3rd prize – Linda Jeffcutt

Many congratulations to the above. Just a reminder that there is no draw next month, but 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**

## Lawrie Thompson's Historical Archive

As many people will know, Lawrie was a keen local historian. Over many years he did extensive research into various aspects of The Wolfords and the surrounding area, including specific properties and families as well as the more usual themes of population, religion, agriculture, education etc.

Following Lawrie's death his family presented the Village Hall Trustees with his archive, comprising original and copied photographs, copy maps, documents, his own notes and miscellaneous artefacts. This has now been examined and catalogued and is stored at the village hall. Details of the documents available can be viewed on the Wolfords Village Hall Website and on the Wolfords Village Website. If any residents would like access to this for their own research, please contact Isobel Murphy (01608 674005).



## The Wolfords Christmas Wreath Workshop

Come and get into the festive spirit making a wreath to adorn your front door with local florist Alison Maxwell.



All materials supplied, just bring your own secateurs or scissors.

Thursday 5th December  
10:30am - 2pm @ The Wolfords Village Hall

£45 per person, including:  
Tea / coffee and a light lunch

A deposit of £20 will reserve your place.  
Please contact any of the following:

June Dyer  
01608 674270

Ann McKenna  
01608 674009

Shirley Wrench  
01608 674389

All profits will be donated towards the upkeep of St. Michael & All Angels Church

### Little Wolford Parish Meeting

There will be a General Assembly of Little Wolford Parish Meeting in The Wolfords Village Hall on Thursday 14 November, 7.00 pm. This is a public meeting and all members of the parish are invited to attend.

L W	Little Wolford
P M	Parish Meeting

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive the agenda and other notifications, please contact Helen Bostock, Chairman - [chairman@littlewolford.org.uk](mailto:chairman@littlewolford.org.uk). Parishioners are welcome to bring matters to the attention of the Meeting, to be received ideally by email or in writing (Chairman, Little Wolford Parish Meeting, Mollys Lodge, Little Wolford, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5NR) 7 days in advance of the meeting. Past minutes can be found at [www.littlewolford.org.uk](http://www.littlewolford.org.uk)

# Chairman's Corner

## Have a Word

The English language is constantly evolving, and brand-new words are being added every day. Our rich lexicon has adopted words derived from ancient civilisations, literature, common vernacular, popular culture, and words whose meanings change over time. Like a pair of flared jeans, words can also go in and out of fashion.

Without realising it, we're all polyglots, and frequently use 'foreign' words and phrases. Don't know a word of Latin? How about exit (nowadays often prefixed with 'br'), vice versa, extra, ad hoc, bonus and 'e.g.' - which stands for *exempli gratia*, or for example. Even our use of French and Indian-based vocabulary is better than we think: *Fait accompli*, role, queue, souvenir, RSVP, restaurant, picnic, pyjamas, thug, bungalow, dinghy, avatar, shampoo and jodhpurs all fit into that category.

At the beginning of this year, who would have thought that 'prorogation' would soon be rattling around inside our heads, let alone that we'd understand such terminology?

Purists may balk at attempts to mangle (French-origin) the English language. Text messaging, social media and influences from across the Atlantic have all contributed to words, phrases and abbreviations that are in contemporary use - some of which can have a similar effect to fingernails being dragged down a blackboard. Many find that it grates when a person insists on saying 'So...' at the beginning of every sentence. And who doesn't start climbing the walls upon hearing words such as de-plane, or being tasked with something, or even the cringeworthy bae (short for baby, or an acronym for Before Anyone Else).

The rules on spelling are becoming more relaxed - it doesn't seem to matter whether it's principle or principal, stationary or stationery, its or it's. Despite these words having different implications, the reader 'gets' what you are trying to say, and the typographical travesty is swiftly dismissed. The letter Z has also become commonplace, thanks to the incorrect application of spell checkers - today, we customize, realize, memorize, familiarize, organize, and rationalize. Perhaps the Z is now a zee and not a zed?

The use of slang and colloquialisms help us to feel included and can be used to exclude others that are not so welcome - one purpose of Cockney rhyming slang was to evade the attentions of the police. Over time, slang and trendy expressions change. In the 1960s words such as fab, cool and groovy were popular - although in recent years, the word cool has enjoyed a renaissance (another French word). Current fashionable words include: amazeballs (amazing), lit (excellent), peng (attractive), dench (bulked-up, muscular), vexed (angry), spilling tea (gossiping), totes (totally) and bantz (banter). Confusingly, fire now means cool, and bad is good. Sick is a good thing too, I believe. These days, the definition of the word woke is to be culturally or politically aware.

So... next time you're spilling on Insta, take care not to be ghosted by a catfish, or you'll be right vexed, innit?

**Simon Lewis-Beeching, [chairman@swlink.org.uk](mailto:chairman@swlink.org.uk)**

The poem this month unfortunately arrived too late to publish last November. That's not surprising as it was written on 11 November, the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice. I've held on to Paul Crump's poem, *Remembrances*, until this issue when once again our thoughts turn to Remembrance. Paul's sister, Helen Beaumont from Stourton tells me Paul wrote the poem to commemorate the Armistice when the school in which he was teaching was tasked with writing a poem; Paul's class insisted he also write one! I'm pleased they did.

## Remembrances

*'You were asking about your Great, Great Grandad Waters...'*

My grandmother's words, her letter exhumed from our dusty attic  
Preserved on blue parchment, The distinctive curl and scratch  
Evokes a distant voice in my head like broken semaphore  
Upon the wind from no-man's land, targeting me still.

There are photographs too. Sergeant Albert Waters, DCM,  
Proud and mute amongst the stoic men of the  
Southport Transport Workers Armistice Parade, 1919.  
Medals and honour hard won by the graft of gritty patriots.  
Sacriston colliers. Durham miners, Salt of the earth.

They stand defiant in the cobbled streets and stare  
From beneath the grubby fingerprints and creases, a line of dark greatcoats,  
Of great men, holds firm. Unmoving, between the squat brick houses and pit head  
Wreaths and sepia flowers fade under a bruised and exhausted sky.  
Untouchable survivors; living ghosts.

The warmth of his medal in my soft palm an easy inheritance  
I do not deserve. The casual knitwear and convenience of my life  
At odds with his terror of the trenches; a near fatal gunshot to the head  
Amongst the carnage and slaughter at Ypres, 1917.  
*'I bet you wished you never asked.'*

**Paul Crump, 11 November 2018** (The first and last lines come from a letter by the author's grandmother.)



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

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