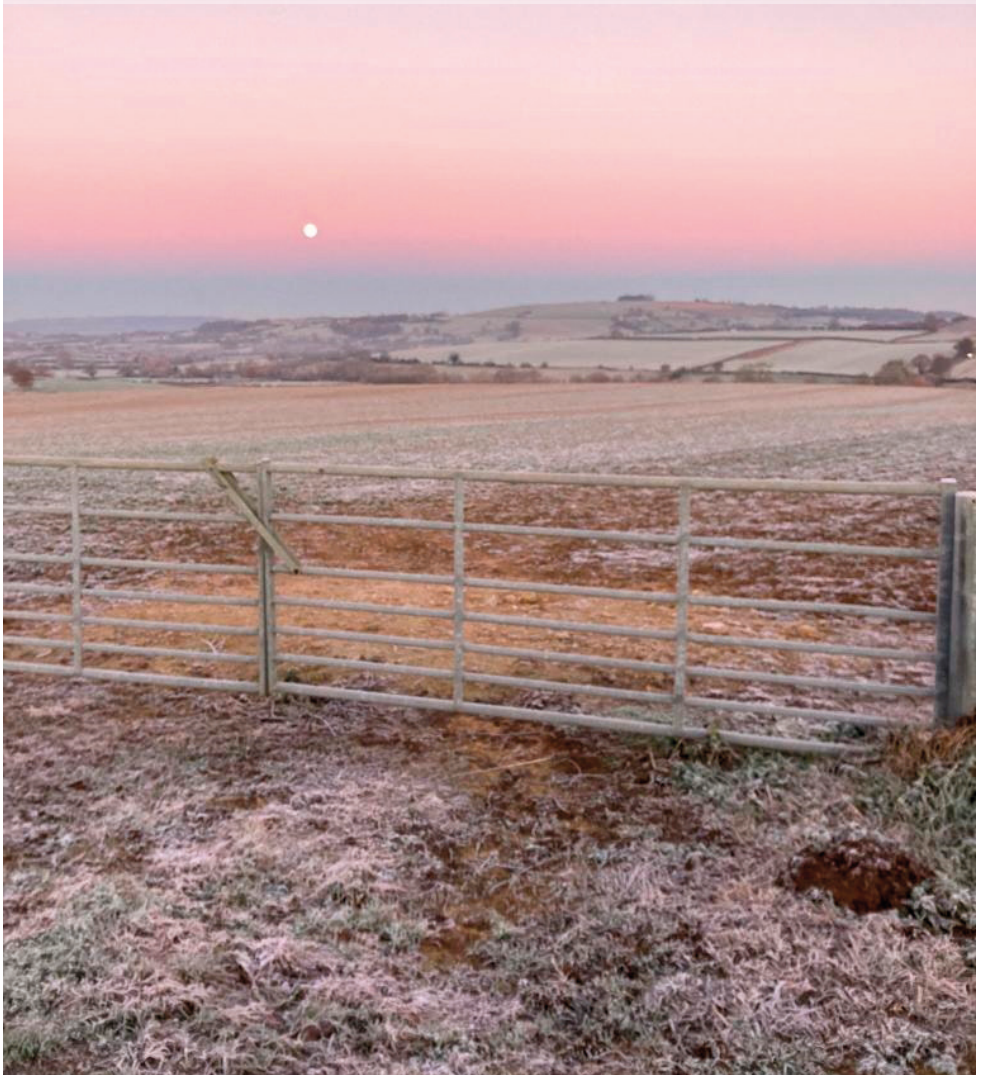


# THE LINK

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

February 2023

£1.20



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

# EVENTS DIARY

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

## Events Update

February (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

Thurs	02	Village breakfast Burmington VH	10.00
Thurs	02	Country Market WI Moreton in Marsh	10.00
Fri	03	Feel Good Friday The Hall Stourton	14.00
Fri	03	Fish and chips takeaway Wolford	
Sun	05	Charity quiz night Red Lion Long Compton	19.30
Thurs	09	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	11	Social Saturday Long Compton VH	11.00
Sat	11	Abbaholoics Townsend Hall Shipston on Stour	19.30
Sat	11	Coffee Shop The Hall Stourton	10.30
Tues	14	Long Compton Walking Group Red Lion car park	09.30
Tues	14	Cameo Club Party Burmington VH	12.00
Fri	17	Feel Good Friday The Hall Stourton	14.00
Weds	22	Gardening Club talk Long Compton VH	19.30
Weds	22	Literary Society Shipston on Stour Halford Inn	19.30
Fri	24	Carers4Carers Kineton VH	10.30
Fri	24	Tenement Jazz Band Townsend Hall Shipston on Stour	19.00
Sat	25	Tabletop sale Whichford Ch	10.00
Sat	25	The Phantom of The Open Brailes Picture House	19.15
Sun	26	Community road litter pick Hook Norton school	10.00
Tues	28	Coffee morning Wolford Ch	11.00



**LINK cover:** *Sunrise in Whichford*

Photograph by Caroline Gibbs

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

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



The LINK has been kindly supported during 2023 by The National Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

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Little Wolford	Colin & Gill Ablewhite	684962

Please note the copy deadline for March 2023:

Monday 13 February

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

# EDITORIAL

## Link Talk

Welcome to the February edition of The LINK. We are still celebrating our successful bid to the National Lottery which has awarded us a grant of £4,000 and significantly helped secure the future of the magazine. Those of you who live in Barton and Barcheston will notice your villages have been very underrepresented for the last couple of months. We are in desperate need of village editors so please do consider stepping up. This is not an onerous task and simply involves reminding village groups to send any information through to you and then passing it on to me.

Thanks for those who voted for the 2022 cover of the year. There was no clear winner, but an honourable mention goes to the March, May, and December covers!

We have a fun new item for 2023, Pet of the Month so if you have a particularly lovely cat, dog, guinea pig, hamster, or other member of the animal kingdom you would like to showcase please send in your photos along with a short bio.

I am also keen to incorporate more features items into the magazine, so if you are a budding young (or old) author or journalist do feel free to send me any potential items of local interest.

Sara Billins Editor

## Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market will reopen THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2023



Find us in the WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh,  
every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm



We will be back to a full market offering Bakes & Savouries,  
Veg & Eggs, Preserves, Crafts, Cards and Gifts.

We are also looking for new producers and helpers. Why not make some money from  
your cooking and crafting! Contact Angela on:-

07933 141410 / [mimcountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:mimcountrymarket@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook

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



## Back in the Swing

After a busy run up to Christmas, with some great events, including our own Carl Sinclair Quartet booking that was a lot of fun, we took a breather from our Traditional Jazz events in January, but we're now back in the swing of things. Get your tickets sorted for the Tenement Jazz Band on Friday 24 February at 7.00pm. This promises to be another good one – they won the Best Band, Scottish Jazz Awards, 2022 and quote: *The passion with which these young musicians approach the music is unmistakable...a most welcome addition to the ranks of young traditional jazz bands...the future of traditional jazz is in good hands* – Bert Thompson, Just Jazz Magazine, April 2019 (Review of New Orleans Wiggle EP). Tickets are £10, available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall), where you can bag your own table and seating, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

In other news, maintenance of the hall, totally managed by volunteer trustees, never stops and we've now fitted new doors to the ramp area. Our vacancies for a cleaner and hall bookings administrator have been filled– thank you to all the candidates that put themselves forward. Don't forget that we're a charity, we receive no direct grants from any source and maintenance is totally funded through hall booking fees, kind donations, and the proceeds from events we put on in our Traditional Jazz programme – if you think traditional jazz isn't your thing, you might be surprised - give it a go, we're confident you'll enjoy the evening and the high level of musicianship.

There are plenty of other great things going on – this may not hit the presses before the Treasure Island pantomime staged by the Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society, but we're sure you'll have had a lot of fun. You may also still be in time to attend another one of the great events that Cotswold Events book into the hall – this time Abbaholics on Saturday 11 February.

Take a look at [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk) for more. From here you can see everything else going on at the hall including clubs and sports.



@TheSW7LINK

THE LINK

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

THE LINK

## Carers4Carers

We are a small group supporting local carers in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural areas. We meet monthly in Kineton village hall, offering carers the chance to meet other people in a similar situation i.e., those caring for an adult family member or perhaps a neighbour or friend. We offer a mix of speakers, wellbeing advice and activities. Often carers are unable to leave the person they care for, so we also organise a parallel group, our Companionship Group, so carers know their loved ones are safe and enjoying their own activities at the same time. There is no charge. We are a long-established group and celebrated our 10th anniversary last November.



Our monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall is on Friday 24 February 10.30 am - 12 noon. Join us for a friendly chat, coffee, and biscuits. Ukrainian violinist, Hanna, will entertain both carers and companions. Your loved ones will be able to attend our Companionship Group while you are with us. Pre-booking for the Companionship Group is essential.

For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or see [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk).

## Aluminium Collection 2022



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

We had an excellent result from aluminium collections for Katharine House Hospice during 2022. Collections from SW7, Brailes and local businesses in aid of Katherine House Hospice raised an amazing £932.00.

Please keep collecting your drinks cans and place separately from the foil trays and aluminium foil in the bins provided.

Thank you very much.

**The Ally Team**

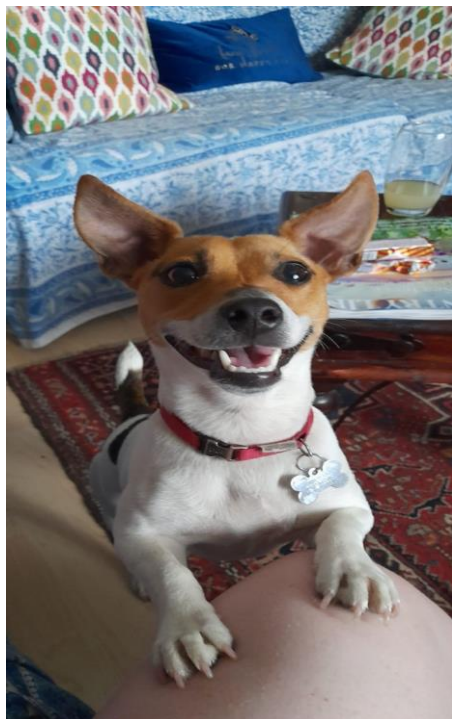
## Celebrate Valentine's Day and CAMEO's 15th Birthday



Tuesday 14 February  
Burmington village hall  
12.00 for 12.30 pm.  
Birthday lunch quiz and raffle.  
All welcome.  
Please book with Brenda  
Tel: 01608 664313



## Pet of the Month



*Our first Pet of the Month is Stroodle who lives in Long Compton and is owned by Lucy Wolff.*

This is Stroodle my 2 year old Jack Russell. She is a lockdown baby, very sweet, very spoiled. As in dog years she is 14 I can confirm that as a teenager she sleeps until 10.00 am.... if I let her; she should be up at 8.00am meeting all her friends for morning play at the rec. Her best friend is Poppy, a Westie who lives across the road. They sit on their respective windowsills and bark at each other through the glass. Her favourite human friend is Sam who has played with, walked and loved Stroodle since I brought her to the village. Stroodle loves to attend Social Saturdays at the village hall, she thinks the sausage rolls are delicious!

*Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)*

## Hooky in Harmony

A local wildlife group loosely based around Hook Norton.



### **Sunday 26 February-Be a Litter Hero!**

Community road verge litter pick.

In conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy and Cherwell District Council, this is the first of a number of litter picking sessions planned for roads in and around the village. We will meet outside Hook Norton school at 10.00 am. Bags, rubbish collecting equipment and high viz tabards will be provided. Please wear suitable footwear. Please email to let us know that you plan to attend.

### **Sunday 2 April**

A leisurely *View with a Brew* walk on the Cradle Farm loop. Start and finish on the small green at the bottom of Tite Lane, Park Hill and Down End. Walk is two miles, 10.30 am–1.00 pm

### **Wednesday 24 May**

Visit to Graham White's re-wilded garden in Kingham. Graham's 2/3-acre garden, with a variety of different habitats, provides a haven for wildlife of all types. Over thirty species of bird have been recorded and over twenty species have nested there. If you are interested in rewilding your garden, this is an excellent place to visit to give you great ideas. 7.15 pm meet at Kingham (car share available).

Optional visit to The Plough pub afterwards.

We are delighted and honoured to report that Dr. Nigel Collar will be presenting a talk for us in the spring. Nigel has worked in international conservation for 39 years, most of them spent with Birdlife International assessing the status and needs of bird species threatened with extinction. He travels the world giving lectures and is an honorary professor of biology at the University of East Anglia. The talk date will be published shortly – well worth coming.

<https://www.hookyinharmony.co.uk>



## Shipston and District Literary Society

### 2022 – 2023 PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Subject
Wed 22 February	David Howe	Remembering Frank Muir and Dennis Norden – two writers of comedy
Wed 29 March	Dr. Bob Bearman	Marie Corelli
Wed 26 April	David Constantine	Mother Earth, Beloved Earth
May/June 2022	(date to be advised)	Annual Outing
Wed 28 June		Cheese and Wine Party
Wed 30 August		Annual General Meeting and lunch

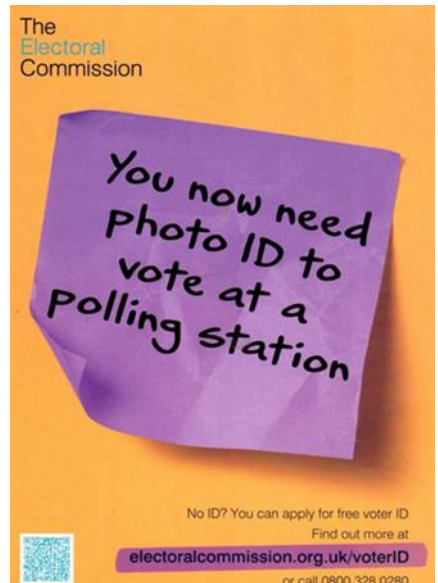
Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7.30 pm.

Visitors welcome - £5.00 ea. Further information ring Helen Marshall 01789 740773

## Local Elections 4 May

New legislation requires electors to show photo ID at polling stations from 4 May 2023.

If you do not have photo ID, apply using the website in the poster above or register for a postal vote.



# 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 - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>*

## DATES AND FETES – 2023

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events.

Please check this list before you plan a new event.

<b>Sat 24 June</b>	Long Compton Community Fete
<b>BH Mon 28 August 2023</b>	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete

### Local Catholic Church Services

#### *Chipping Norton*

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

#### *Stow-on-the-Wold*

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

#### *Shipston and Brailes*

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

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

#### *Chipping Campden*

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

### Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

### Local Congregational Services

Services recommence at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton from Sunday 20 March 2022 (every third Sunday at 3.30 pm).

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### **Barcheston St Martin**

Churchwardens David Hodges 07767 840857  
 Secretary Alice & Tom Murray 238755  
 Treasurer David Cleave 666002

### **Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas**

Churchwardens Sonia Baker 661459  
 Michael Macdonald 662483  
 Secretary Sonia Baker 661459  
 Treasurer Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425

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

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

### **Wolford St Michael & All Angels**

Churchwarden John Wrench 674389  
 Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

### **Parish Councils Chair**

Barcheston David Sutton  
 Barton-on-the-Heath James Coker (674601)  
 Burmington Robert Hutchings (661496)  
 Cherington Philip Townsend (686529)  
 Long Compton Simon Bing (684827)  
 Whichford Peter O'Kane (684888)

Great Wolford Lynn Mathias (674247)

Little Wolford Parish Meeting Vacant (currently under Community Governance Review)

### **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  
 Sophia Corlett  
 Secretary Lucy Simpson  
 Treasurer Jenny Scrivener

### **Clerk**

Lindsey Walker (663567)  
 Julia Hicks  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 Sam Weller (684897)  
 Sara Cole (686250)  
 clerk.whichfordandascott@hotmail.com  
 Sue Finlay (661157)

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



## Happy Birthday!

### February Birthdays



Rowan Thompson  
 Jessie Kowalski

Cherington  
 Great Wolford

17  
 3

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Whilst reading the church section of the LINK magazine you may have seen mention of the “GAP service,” and wondered what it’s all about? The GAP service is a regular church service that meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month, at 4.00 pm in Long Compton. GAP stands for ‘God and People’ because those are the two things the service is all about. At GAP we want to engage deeply, with God, as we worship him, and with each other, as we share our lives with all their joys and struggles. Whilst we meet at Long Compton, the GAP service draws people from across the SW7 Benefice and further afield.

The feel of the service is informal and relaxed. We sing a mixture of modern songs and hymns, pray, and listen to God speak to us through his word, the Bible. The service is open to anyone who might appreciate a more relaxed church experience and is also the place where we do the majority of our children and families work in the Benefice. Each Sunday there is some kind of provision for primary school age children to help them engage with the Christian faith in a way that is relevant for them. The service usually lasts no more than an hour, and food is served at the end for anyone who wants it.



If a more informal and relaxed experience of church might appeal to you or anyone you know, then please do join us. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Reverend Ben Dyson

The LINK can offer your local business...  
Advertising across SW7 Benefice  
directly into the community.

Please email [adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

For a suitable commitment, we may be able to offer new  
advertisers an introductory ‘advertorial’.

...and we can put an advert together for you if you need

SW7 Men's Breakfast

**Mike Hill**



rmaycock287@btinternet.com  
tele: 01608 686404  
tamjackson52@hotmail.com  
Tele:07799057475  
epfield98@gmail.com  
Tele: 07976700763

The Cherington Arms  
18th March 2023 at  
7.45am  
Includes  
Full English Breakfast  
Book Now £10.00

SW7 Women's Lunch-time Lent Talk  
*David Cook*

*"Walking in our Wilderness;  
Jesus, our Fellow Traveller"*

Thursday 16th March at 12.30pm

The Old Forge, Stourton House.

Lunch will be provided  
Please Contact

Liz Maycock Tele : 01608 686404 lizzymaycock@gmail.com  
Sarah Scotter Tele : 01608 686303 sarah.scotter@hotmail.com

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

February 2023 CHURCH SERVICES							
SW 7	St Martin Bacheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whitchford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
5 February 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD/CLW)				4pm GAP Service (BD)		10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD/CLW)
12 February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent			9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		6pm Evensong (BD)	10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	
19 February Sunday before Lent		9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	4pm GAP Service (BD)		
22 February Ash Wednesday	10am BCP Morning Prayer (AW)						
26 February 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent					10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD/LM)	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD/LM)	

BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Mawdsley/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/HP = Heather Pabury/AD = Andrew Dowd  
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

# SCHOOL NOTES

Editor: Sara Billins  
Email: [longcompton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:longcompton@swlink.org.uk)

## Reading

We are delighted to welcome back Core Hygiene as a sponsor alongside lead sponsor Sheldon Bosley Knight for our Books of the Month initiative. Each month there is a recommended chapter book and picture book added to the school library at Acorns, Brailes and Shipston, funded by our sponsors. We are looking for additional sponsors to provide additional copies of our chosen texts, so if local or national businesses are interested in this initiative, please get in touch via the school office.



## Visiting Shakespeare

The main event of this half term in Class 1 at Acorns was the class trip to The MAD Museum and Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, in Stratford. Luckily, the children and staff were blessed with good weather for walking to and from each venue. The children loved the different mechanical toys in the MAD Museum and working the interactive buttons to start the toys working. One of their favourites was a treasure chest which opened to reveal a hand! They also enjoyed watching the various marble runs and the spirograph, which little by little drew intricate patterns on a piece of paper. Another highlight was the giant hands which clapped in response to being clapped at. However, the most popular part of the visit was the marble run area, where the children could create their own marble runs on the wall by moving and positioning lengths of wood with magnetic sides and seeing how the marbles travelled along these runs. A different type of marble run construction area was on a tabletop and the children manoeuvred blocks of wood with channels and tunnels. They also enjoyed manipulating the cogs and wheels on a wall display and seeing how they turned each other around.

Afterwards, the class made their way to Hoorays Ice Cream Parlour, where we sat in a lovely room upstairs to eat our packed lunches. For their dessert, the children went down in small groups to choose from a range of delicious ice creams. These went down a treat!

The final venue of the day was Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, a short walk from Hoorays. On arrival the children were shown a short film explaining the history of the school and that in Shakespeare's time he would have attended school from 6:00am

until 5:00pm! After this, the children went upstairs to the Prefects' Room, where a guide asked the children to find various markings on a huge oak sideboard where hundreds of names, dates and drawings had been etched over the years. Following this Class 1 were introduced to the Master, Mr Webster, who taught the children some Latin and retold Shakespeare's favourite story about King Midas to a captive audience. Finally, the children sat down at desks in the classroom next door and learnt how to use a quill pen and ink. Some children had the chance to dress up and they all took their scrolls tied with ribbon home.

It was a fantastic day out and the children behaved very well (as usual), earning compliments from the places that we visited.

### **Sublime Science**

Children at Acorns thoroughly enjoyed their Sublime Science workshop organised by the PTA. They were amazed by a range of demonstrations and activities including: learning about sound waves; how a plasma ball can be used to transmit electricity through the human body; magic combustion; creating dragon's breath and a real-life miniature volcanic eruption. As a fun finale, they were able to make their very own slime! Thank you so much to the wonderful Acorns PTA for organising and funding this end of term treat.

### **Sporting Achievement**

Congratulations to pupils in Year 5 completing Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability training in the Autumn term. The instructors commented on how compassionate the children were supporting and encouraging each other and were very impressed by the courage, determination and resilience shown throughout the course.

It's been a fabulous start to 2022-2023 Marathon Kids at Brailes. Many children in Rabbits, Owls and Badgers are well on their way to completing their first marathon this school year. All children in Year 1-6 have completed the Mini London Marathon 2022 for schools and were delighted to receive their running certificate and badge.

### **The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust**

Shipston Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, with Acorns Primary School, Brailes C of E Primary School, and Kineton C of E Primary School. Our Trust website is [www.thestourfederation.com](http://www.thestourfederation.com)



## Acorns Ofsted Ungraded Inspection Report - 2 November 2022

We are pleased to inform you of our inspection report from Ofsted, from their ungraded inspection on Wednesday 2nd November to check that Acorns Primary School remains good. An ungraded inspection differs from a graded inspection because it does not result in individual graded judgements, but focuses on determining whether the school remains the same grade as at the previous graded inspection. It cannot change the overall effectiveness grade of the school.



It was a thorough and rigorous inspection undertaken by a team of two inspectors with a range of specialisms and experiences. We are pleased to share that the final report has been received and as expected, Acorns Primary School remains good. This is a huge success for the school, and we are very proud to share this with you. This achievement is a clear recognition of the hard work of all members of the school community and The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, that continues to impact positively on the lives of our children at Acorns. A copy of the school report is published on the school and Ofsted websites.

The Ofsted Parent View survey and staff survey were exceptionally positive, and the children were excellent in their lessons and during interviews with inspectors. The inspectors were clear that governors in our Local Academy Council know the school exceptionally well.

Our one area for improvement is to ensure books that younger pupils read always match the sounds they know. For context, during the inspection, some digraphs such as 'ai' and 'ch' were not consistently applied by a few children when reading aloud, despite being taught the digraphs and demonstrating their phonic knowledge of them on previous occasions.

As a forward-thinking, ambitious school, we will continue to work tirelessly to offer the best school experience and education to our children, and support for families. Whilst we are delighted with the outcome of the inspection, we recognise that it is the ongoing feedback we receive from parents and children that we truly value. This enables us to ensure we get the very best outcomes for the children at Acorns Primary School.

**Christian Hilton Executive Headteacher CEO of The Stour Federation**  
**Hannah Young Head of School**

## Future Farming

This month, as there is little happening on the farm, I have looked at how research and development in farming is working towards some electric vehicles and robots. I have taken most of the information from *Future Farming* a twice-yearly magazine produced in The Netherlands.

Robots are starting to be used in agriculture and more particularly horticulture. Many of the 'robots' are used as a tractor unit to which various tools; particularly weeders and cultivators can be attached. Over time their usefulness will be increased. They nearly all rely on a good GPS signal and are not really suitable for larger areas. The battery power generally seems to be about 8 hours but this varies with the model.

An alternative solution is being produced here in Warwickshire, RootWave, based in Kington. The RootWave tractor mounted Volta machine is being trialled in maize and sugar beet crops using a high frequency electricity weeding system and can provide full control of weeds. This system 'boils' the weed from the root upwards leaving no roots in the ground. In trials last year this method outperformed herbicides in all cases. They also produce a handheld product using similar science which is being used by contractors to control Japanese Knotweed as well as other weeds. The Volta machine was tested with a normal diesel tractor but could be used with driverless tractors. The company says that this system uses less energy per hectare than herbicides taking into account the production and distribution of the latter. It is anticipated the tractor mounted machine will be on sale for fruit and broad acre crops in the next few years.

Landini Rex, an Italian make of tractors, mostly used in vineyards and orchards have just unveiled an orchard tractor with plug-in hybrid power. Principally powered by a 74hp diesel engine, it also has a combined electric motor/generator in the driveline. This can either be used on its own or in support of the internal combustion engine. On full electric mode the tractor can operate for around two hours, but the electric motor can also be used to add more power to the diesel engine for power hungry jobs such as moving a heavy trailed load or pulling soil moving equipment.

The combined use of the electric and diesel motors reduces fuel consumption by about 14%.

Science is working hard to mechanise farming operations but there are still many problems to overcome. Most of the most innovative ideas are starting in horticulture where there are around 50 field robots already commercially available. Farms are already using satellite technology to apply sprays and fertilisers more precisely.

**Lynn Mathias farms in Great Wolford**

# NATURE NOTES

Editor: **Tony Partridge**  
Tel: **684698**

Recently a good friend lent me a book about seagulls, particularly those mostly found in the far north of Scotland and the Southern Arctic. What have seagulls to do with Long Compton you ask? Well, very little but I make the excuse that we get the occasional flock of gulls resting in our fields finding food and preening themselves before moving on. As a birdwatcher I think it is important to have some knowledge of such birds as they constitute a large part of our bird population as a whole. The seabirds discussed in this book include not only gulls but cormorants, shag, gannets, puffins, and many others. Most derive their food from the sea itself whilst nesting takes place on suitable sites on local cliffs. A fascinating book where the life of these birds is sharply and thoroughly described.

Later this month, we will be scanning the skies for the arrival of summer migrants from Africa. Swallows, swifts, martins, cuckoos, all descend on us, giving themselves fresh and varied forms of food and giving ourselves the great pleasure of seeing them. It is the male cuckoo with its familiar call (the female having a quite different bubbling trill), which to most of us is truly the introduction of spring. Time was when people would vie to get their letter to *The Times* newspaper first telling of their hearing of this bird! The cuckoo is in fact a pirate as its nest is not of its own construction but filched from another bird. Nor does it rear its own chicks but lays its eggs in another bird's nest and leaves that bird to rear them. Cuckoo eggs have been found in the nest of more than fifty species! So, whilst we may welcome the sound of its voice, we do not welcome its intrusiveness. The young when ready will migrate to Africa, yet again demonstrating an instinct of wild birds – the ability to fly thousands of miles to an unknown and unseen country.

So let us now move on to another feature of spring in our countryside – the bluebell – which is ubiquitous wherever and whenever you walk through woodland. The bluebell belongs to the bell flower family although the comparison seems a curious one as the flower of the bellflower stands erect on its stalk whilst our bluebell bends its head rather significantly. Botanists seemingly unable to decide on a Latin name have in recent years called it by two or three different Latin names!. Confusingly the colour of the bluebell can vary from blue to white, but it is an excellent woodland plant with which to begin the new season.

I have been wondering about what other wildlife we may examine as spring comes upon us. I chose to examine ants, a creature about which I know next to nothing but one that stands out for its exceptional intelligence and ability to survive. There are, we

believe, 41 species in the British Isles living highly developed communal lives. One such ant is called the pharaoh ant as it originated from the Middle East, another is the meadow ant which lives below ground and exists for its feeding off underground aphids. When you turn over a large stone in your garden and disturb a colony of ants these are likely to be red ants, one of the more common ants of our countryside. Another common ant is the wood ant which constructs the familiar ant hills we see about the



countryside. These ants are known to search up into treetops for food and several communities live near each other with each community jealously guarding its own territory. So next time you turn up a stone to reveal a colony of ants offer them a word of respect – they do really deserve it.

**Tony Partridge, (Photograph by Jo Tyrrell)**

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

If January is a month for planning your gardening year, February is a month in which you can start preparing for planting once spring arrives. There will be cold, wet, and windy weather when you can finish tidying the greenhouse, cleaning pots and seed trays etc. The days are gradually lengthening and hopefully there will be sunny days when you can catch up on outdoor tasks.

This month is really the last chance for winter pruning. The plants are still dormant, and the sap is not rising. Although many trees may not need much pruning, remove any dead and diseased wood and any crossing branches. Fruit trees such as apples and coppice trees such as hazel and late flowering shrubs e.g., cotoneaster can be pruned now. If you want bright coloured stems of cornus, cut the branches down to the ground. Winter flowering jasmine stems can be tied in, and side shoots cut to about two inches. Wisteria side shoots should be cut to two to three buds. Cut down late flowering clematis to two strong buds from the base. Rose pruning is perhaps best left until March when there is less chance of heavy frosts.

In borders, finish cutting down herbaceous perennial stems and cut down grasses to let new growth emerge. Flower heads of winter flowering heathers should also be removed.

Now is the time to feed hungry plants like roses and clematis with general purpose fertiliser or special rose feed; also spread it under fruit bushes. Finish removing the old stems of autumn flowering raspberries, cutting down to the ground. Frost will have broken down the soil lumps in vegetable beds so in preparation for spring planting fork over the soil, add fertiliser and compost and rake the soil surface, removing any weeds. You can cover the beds with fleece or black polythene to warm up the soil prior to planting or sowing.

Strawberry plants can be tidied up by removing dead and yellow leaves and fuchsias can be cleaned up ready for summer growth; remove dead leaves and prune to give a strong framework. Water sparingly at first until the plants are growing vigorously. Dahlias can also be brought back into growth.

Containers should be top dressed with fresh compost and a sprinkling of fertiliser. For prolonged flowering, continue dead heading winter bedding such as pansies and to enhance the colour, spring flowers such as primulas could be added. It is not too late to plant lily bulbs into pots.

Other jobs in the garden include spiking the lawn to improve drainage. If hard pruning is needed to renovate deciduous hedges, do it now before nesting starts. When frost is forecast fleece vulnerable plants such as early blossoming peaches. You can force sea

kale by placing an overturned pot over some stems but only for a month or so, so that normal growth can then occur. In late February chillies, peppers and tomatoes can be sown indoors.

In February there are many cheerful signs of the oncoming spring, snowdrops crocuses, hellebores together with flowering shrubs such as hamamelis and camellias; whilst gardening find time to enjoy them.

**Margaret Welsh**

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

**BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH**  
Email: [barton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barton@swlink.org.uk)

### **New Village Editor Required**

Please be aware we still need a new village editor for Barton. Please consider volunteering.

In the meantime, your items should be sent to [barton@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barton@swlink.org.uk) and I will pick them up and edit the page.

### **Beneficial Book Club**

We much enjoyed talking about *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. A factual account of a theft from part of the Natural History Museum based in Tring, Hertfordshire in 2009.

The story concerns the initial collection of exotic birds from around the Amazon and beyond and the demand for exotic birds' feathers on hats and clothes and the still strong market for these feathers for fly tying.

It is an intriguing read with, at its heart, possession, and obsession. A great book for discussion.

Next time will be on Sunday 26 February at 5.30pm at Barton House, when we will be talking about *Of Human Bondage* by W. Somerset Maugham.

Happy reading!

**Gillian Cathie**

# VILLAGE NEWS

## BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON

Editor: Please email – [barcheston@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barcheston@swlink.org.uk)

### New Village Editor Required

Please be aware we still need a new village editor for Barcheston. Please consider volunteering.

In the meantime, your items should be sent to [barcheston@swlink.org.uk](mailto:barcheston@swlink.org.uk) and I will pick them up and edit the page.

# VILLAGE NEWS

## BURMINGTON

Editor: [Graham French](mailto:Graham.French@swlink.org.uk)

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

## A Full English Breakfast

is being served at

Burmington Village Hall



Saturday 2 February 10am – 12pm

We would really appreciate it if you could let us know if you are coming and if you have any special dietary requirements by text/call to Robyn on 07966849149.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Christmas Fun in Burmington (Better late than never!)



Photos provided by Graham French



# VILLAGE NEWS

## CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Christine Dudfield

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

Tel: 686288



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**The Hall Cherington  
Sat. April 15th 2023 from 7:30pm**

### Amazing Musical Extravaganza - 15 April

It's time to go again with the Amazing Musical Extravaganza - a showcase for local talent. We are looking for singers, musicians and dancers to entertain the hall crowd on the evening of Saturday 15 April. Anyone interested please contact Jim Walton [jim@ghwalton.co.uk](mailto:jim@ghwalton.co.uk) 07860 727467.

The box office will open at the end of February, please look out for details. Save the date!

## Christmas Greetings Donations

Huge thanks to all who donated to St John the Baptist church in lieu of sending cards to our friends in the villages. At the time of going to print £1,315 has been raised. Thank you once again for your tremendous support of our beautiful church.

Sherry Barker, Sarah Scotter and Pam Brookes (on behalf of the PCC)

**THE COFFEE SHOP at THE HALL, Stourton**

Saturday 11 February  
10.30am – 12.00 noon

Teas, Coffee, Hot Chocolate  
Bacon Baps, Cake

We are always open to new ideas: would you like something different on the menu?  
Would you like to help out occasionally? Would you like a craft stall?  
Please contact us at [christinedudfield53@gmail.com](mailto:christinedudfield53@gmail.com) or Christine on 07866 127409 or  
Tricia on 07828 697304

## The Crime Prevention Team

Alison Packer, Rural Crime Advisor and her colleague came to last month's coffee shop and left me with lots of crime prevention equipment: for the residents of our villages; shed alarms, window alarms, property marking kits, personal alarms, RF key protection cans, switch plug timers and advice leaflets.

Please contact me for more details if you would like to try something out. I will also be holding a property marking day at the hall at a later date. These are free of charge and funded by SDC & PCC.

**Christine Dudfield 07866 127409**

## Brailes Picturehouse

### Saturday 25 February - *The Phantom of The Open*

The heart-warming true story of Maurice Flitcroft a crane operator and optimistic dreamer who entered the 1976 Open despite never playing a round of golf before.

Stars Mark Rylance, Sally Hawkins, Jake Davies, Rhys Ifans

Doors Open 7.15pm Starts at 7.45pm

Future dates: Saturday 11 March - *The Railway Children*

Deirdre and Team

## Village Lottery

### December Double Draw

1st Sarah Haigh and Jason Caul £160

2nd Alison Maxwell £90

3rd Sue Levitch £60

### January Draw

1st Jane Cameron £80

2nd Harry Upson £45

3rd Nick Mills £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining, please contact me 686293 or [steveallkins53@gmail.com](mailto:steveallkins53@gmail.com)

Steve Allkins

## Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

### Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

Dates for your diary

3 and 17 February

3 and 17 March

From 2.00pm at The Hall, Pinfold Lane, Stourton, CV36

5HG We will continue to have free refreshments.

Easter Prize Bingo on Thursday 30 March, eyes down at 2.00pm.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320.



Vanessa Compton

## Recycling in aid of Katherine House Hospice



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

Please bring your aluminium cans and clean foil to The Paddock, Stourton, CV365HG and leave inside the gate.

We are a collection centre for Katherine House Hospice



'Steaming up Bridgenorth Sheds' Oil on canvas by Stourton Artist Colin Beckett

## Long Compton Village Hall

We have started 2023 with a host of birthday parties, family get togethers and club meetings. Atomic Dance have started their new term on Thursday afternoons as has the Friday morning pilates class, so if your new year's resolution involved getting more active, why not have a go? Amongst the hirers have been several newcomers to the hall who have been very positive about what we provide, and the facilities included within the hire charge. The only slight disadvantage is that you may have to be a bit flexible with your plans as the weekends are booking up fast. The village hall is there for the use of the community so it's brilliant



### **Social Saturday**

**11th February, 11am**

**Entry Free!**

**Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and savouries**

**Come along for a natter with friends old and new!**



to see it being used so often both by 'regulars' who return for different events and new people who have had the hall recommended to them.

I'm pleased to report the Christmas Tea Party was great fun. The super flexible organisers and caterers were able to adapt plans to

accommodate people booking places on the morning of the event. We didn't want to turn anyone away so we simply laid extra places and squeezed everybody in! The return of the Pop-Up Panto was well received and, to some, the story of Sleeping Beauty will never be quite the same again!

Watch this space for information about what we're hoping to plan for the year ahead. Ideas so far include a Quiz Night and a 70's Disco, so get your thinking caps on and dust off your platform soles!

**Mo Read Chair, Long Compton Village Hall**



## 100 Club

The 2 December Draws were held on 10 December, sadly too late for the January LINK. The results were:

### Draw 1:

1st Prize Jill Jeffrey

3rd Prize Rev and Mrs Wells

2nd Prize Mr & Mrs Hall

4th Prize Patricia Webb

### Draw 2:

1st Prize Paul Field

3rd Prize Mr and Mrs Williams

2nd Prize Lawrence Wayt

4th Prize The Red Lion

Tickets for the 2023 draws are now on sale, and your area agent should have visited you by now. If you haven't had the opportunity to buy them, please contact me. They cost £12 each and cover the 12 monthly draws (2 in December). The first draw is on 11 February.

**Chris Galloway 684234**

## Long Compton Walking Group

Our December walk coincided with the ice and snow so only four intrepid souls arrived in the car park for a curtailed local walk thereafter to return to the Red Lion where our numbers mysteriously swelled and 14 of us enjoyed a quite excellent lunch. The forecast for our January walk (at Blenheim taking advantage of the largely mud-free paths) was dire but a dozen in need of exercise and company decided to brave the conditions.

In fact, the heavy rain predicted proved to be little more than drizzle and we soon dried off at the Duke of Marlborough after 5 miles of largely event-free progress save that one member's boots decided to disintegrate with a mile or so to go. Our next walk (venue still to be decided) will commence at 9.30 in the pub car park on

Tuesday 14 February, new recruits always welcome. Please contact Stuart Brown at scbqc1@gmail.com or on 01608 684042

**Stuart Brown**



**Guinea Fowl Feathers: A study by Jennifer Wilson**

## Long Compton Chapel

January has been a quiet month, the most activity being by squirrels who tried to take up residence in one of our toilets. They seem to have been dissuaded by a combination of a battery-operated repellent, citronella, and peppermint!

Services are still held on the third Sunday of the month and other regular events will recommence from the end of March:

Saturday 25 March Whist 7.00pm (4th Saturday of the month thereafter)  
Sunday 2 April Craft & Artisan Market (1st Sunday of the month thereafter.  
Contact us if you would like a stall.  
Saturday 29 July Flower, Craft and Baking Show

Other events are being planned and any ideas for events or activities are also welcome.

Please note that the Katharine House Hospice is no longer recycling batteries, but aluminium cans and foil are all welcome.

Excitingly, our new website [longcomptonchapel.co.uk](http://longcomptonchapel.co.uk) is now live and has interesting information about the history of chapel. We will be updating the events page as soon as we get the hang of how to do it!

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 or Sally Franklin 07870 545431  
[longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com)



Long Compton  
book club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9 February at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell



And *When all is Said* by Anne Griffin

All Welcome

Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938 [carole.r.clements@googlemail.com](mailto:carole.r.clements@googlemail.com)



## Long Compton and District Garden Club



**Long Compton and District Garden Club**

**2023 Meetings**

Long Compton Village Hall - 7.30pm

**Wednesday 22 February** Roger Umpleby "Pest and disease control without chemicals". Roger is a professional entomologist and horticulturalist with many years experience of consultancy and research.

**Wednesday 22 March** Robert Longstaff "Propagation" - how and when to take cuttings, the different types of cuttings, plant division, seed saving, sowing methods and composts. Trained by MAFF in the 1970s, Robert speaks on the BBC and TV and has practiced 'no dig' gardening since 1981.

**Wednesday 26 April** . Rosalind Sword of Chivel Farm, near Chipping Norton. "Plants for local soils". Rosalind brings a deep knowledge of how and what to grow in the soils around LC. She will introduce us to some of her favourite plants.

Contact Lesley Roberts 01608 684545 or [lesleyroberts46@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyroberts46@gmail.com) or Anthony Wells 01608 684337

## Long Compton Community Fete 2023

### Programme Co-ordinator

A comprehensive programme is planned for Fete 23. We need someone to contact possible advertisers liaise with printers and generally organise a programme for our Community Fete.

Expenses will be reimbursed, and a small stipend may be available.

### Secretarial Help

Following the success of the Platinum Jubilee Fete secretarial help is needed to join our enthusiastic team to ensure Fete 23 will be even better. MS Word, Excel and Outlook experience and skills are essential as well as IT equipment and internet access. Expenses will be reimbursed, and a small stipend may be available.

Apply with details of your experience to [roger@lcfete.org](mailto:roger@lcfete.org)



## Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club - Contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545

Compton and District History Society - Contact Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians - Contact Margaret Welsh 684238

Village Hall - Mo Read on 684130, 07814 802814 or lcvilleagehall@yahoo.co.uk

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

Long Compton & District Walkers - Stuart and Imogen Brown. 684042

Long Compton Bridge Club - Chris Galloway 684234

The Friends of Long Compton Church : friendslcchurch@gmail.com

f: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch and <https://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com/>

Long Compton Sports Club:

Secretary: Andrew Lund-Yates 07813 032144/ 01451 820467 andrewlundyates@gmail.com

Cricket: Andrew Badham 07900-466339 and ewbadham@icloud.com



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Email [online@swlink.org.uk](mailto:online@swlink.org.uk) for more details

### Tabletop Sale, St Michael's Church, Whichford

To be held on Saturday 25 February, from 10.00am – 12.00pm, with refreshments and raffle.

Please leave donations in the Church on Thursday 23 February before 4.00 pm. No books please.

Proceeds in aid of St Michael's Church.

Mandy James

### 2023 NGS Open Gardens

Please hold the date of Sunday 18 June for the NGS (National Garden Scheme) Open Gardens in Whichford and Ascott. We're hoping to open 9 gardens this year, including 2 new gardens. There will be home-made teas in aid of St Michael's Church, a plant stall, and a raffle.

More details to follow.



### Katharine House Hospice Aluminium Foil and Drinks Can Collections

Many thanks to all in Whichford and Ascott who contributed to this in 2022, especially those who help organising.

For any residents new to the project there is a swing bin for foil, including trays, and drinks cans just inside the church gate.

Mandy James

## The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Will Docker-Drysdale who was the winner of the January Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener



### Marmalade

As it is the season for making marmalade can anyone toiling over a boiling pan, please consider making a couple of extra jars for the Flower Show Produce Stall.

Many thanks **Carol Moore**, Ascott

## 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

### Coffee, Cake and Chat at Wolford Church

Tuesday 28 February 11am-12.00

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

Come and meet new friends (or old ones)

Share your interests and just chat

Everyone welcome



## The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The January winners were as follows;

1st prize Sarah Franklin 2nd prize James van Helden 3rd prize Lucie Palmer

Many congratulations to the above. Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. Of course, multiple shares do increase the chance of winning! All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James Van Helden



### FIRST CLASS FISH AND CHIPS - TAKEAWAY OFFER

On Saturday 4 February you are invited to come and collect your pre-ordered fish and chips in a specified time-slot direct from the van we've always used at the Hall. Regulars have said it's the best fish and chips around. The van will be parked by the crossroads in Great Wolford from 6.00pm

To keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient we're asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order.

Of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect then you're very welcome to place an order. £11.00 per serving

We will also be running our raffle with lots of prizes - tickets £1.00 per strip or 6 for £5.00

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

*In aid of Wolford church upkeep. Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.*

## Poppy Collection in the Wolfords

This year the Wolfords Collection for the Poppy Day Appeal raised £697.31. Door to door collection in Great Wolford raised £382.81, in Little Wolford £169.50 and the church collection on Remembrance Sunday raised £145.00.

Thank you to all who contributed and thank you to all those who collected.

## Great Wolford Aluminium Collection Bin

You may have read earlier that in 2022, a total of £932 was raised for Katharine House Hospice simply by collecting and bagging up your old aluminium cans and tin foil waste. The contribution by Great Wolford to this amount will have been significant and includes a £50 donation I extracted from the local authority contractors when they mistakenly emptied the collecting bin into their collection lorry - on two occasions! A reminder that the bin (a red Biffa bin shown in the photograph), is on the drive of 'Glasfryn' between the Fox and Hounds and the crossroads and it can accept both tin foil (preferably cleanish) and aluminium cans but no food or soup tins please. The smaller caddy bin is for dead batteries. Please help to make the total even bigger for 2023 by simply placing your foil and cans in the bin.  
Many thanks.



**Keith Murphy**

## Christmas at St Michaels Church

Thank you to everyone who helped in decorating the church this Christmas. The effect was stunning and big thanks to Sarah for organising all the flower arrangers.

Thank you to everyone who attended the carol service on 18 December and particularly all the readers who read so well. It was lovely to chat over mulled wine and mince pies and meet those who have recently moved into the village. We hope you enjoyed your first Christmas here. We raised £265 for Shipston Home Nursing from the collection that evening.

Finally, thank you to Sarah and Graham for the lovely tree that stood in the church yard with decorations and to George for putting the lights in the tree on the green. It all made the village seem like a magical place at this special time of year.

**Wolford PCC**

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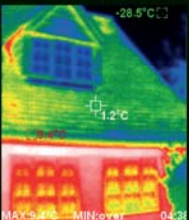
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