

THE LINK

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

JANUARY 2026

£1.20

Happy New Year



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

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor: editorswlink@gmail.com

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

Sat 3	Village Breakfast	Burmington VH	09:00
Sun 4	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30
Thurs 8	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Fri 9	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 10	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
Tues 13	Cameo (Burns) Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12:00
Weds 14	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
Thurs 15	Theatre: <i>Mettle</i>	The Hall, Stourton	19:30
	Feldon Military & Naval Soc	The Hall, Stourton	19:30
Sat 17	Movie: <i>Salt Path</i>	Brailles Picture House	19:15
Sun 18	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30
Weds 21	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	14:30
Fri 23	Carers4Carers	Kineton VH	10:30
	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 24	Winter Warmer	Burmington VH	18:30
Weds 28	Garden Club	Long Compton VH	19:10
Thurs 29	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00

**Please note the copy deadline for February 2026:
Jan 12th**

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EDITORIAL



Happy New Year! I hope you have had a great festive season and that Dry January and the new diet and jogging regimes have got off to a good start. No such misery for me, just a list of things to do, people to see and places to visit.

On that note, It is subscription time for The LINK and I am determined to get subscribers up to 1000 this year so please look out for our lovely volunteer village distributors who will be out and about looking to renew you for another year of informative, fun and great value reading. Never mind, trawling through village Facebook pages online, The LINK really is the only place to find all our local information in one place and at your fingertips. So, sign up, tell your friends and newcomers to your villages and let's hit that 1000 target!

Here's to a wonderful 2026

Sara Billins



Cover photograph: Robin by Jonathan Watts

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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

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Carers4Carers - your local support group for family carers.

We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group

during the meeting.

Friday 23rd January – Coping strategies for carers

Our January meeting focuses on coping strategies — ways to care for yourself while caring for others. We'll share ideas, experiences, and gentle techniques to help you navigate the ups and downs of the year ahead. Come along for a cuppa, conversation, and a little encouragement.

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements, contact Gillian on 07947 893504, email: kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



What you need to know...

- Quiz starts at 7.30 (ish)
- Teams of up to 6 people (£2 per person entry fee)
- Each quiz supports a different charity - visit our website to find out which charities we are supporting this season: redlion-longcompton.co.uk/events-entertainment/pub-quiz/
- Book a table to guarantee seats for your team
- There is a raffle with great prizes at each quiz

   @redlionlongcomp

Quiz dates for your diary

SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY - QUIZ OF THE YEAR

SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH - LAST QUIZ OF THE SEASON

See you at the next quiz!



Shipston Link runs scheduled local bus services, Tuesday to Saturday, from surrounding villages into Shipston Town Square, via the Medical Centre, plus weekly shopping trips to Banbury, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Norton and Stratford-upon-Avon.



Our friendly drivers can take you right to your destination; so relax and let us worry about the parking. Bus Passes are accepted on all our Services, with flat-fares for cash customers.

We also provide a very reasonably priced Private Hire service, seven days a week, using our comfortable 16-seater mini-buses.

For more information about our scheduled Services call the Travel Line on 0871 200 2233, or click www.shipstonlink.co.uk



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR PROBUS CLUB

COMPANIONSHIP FOR RETIRED AND SEMI-RETIRED
GENTLEMEN OF SHIPSTON AND THE VILLAGES



FRIENDSHIP | FUN | FASCINATING TALKS

MEETING FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAY MORNINGS
AT SHIPSTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
21 LONDON ROAD, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR CV36 4EP

ALL WELCOME!

**Even the word "dementia" can be daunting...
but we believe it's better to get the practical advice
and emotional support you need as a family carer**

Please visit one of our dementia friendly cafes locally

Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm

Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm

Thursday from 10.30am - 12.30pm

Friday from 10am - 12 noon

**1st Tuesday of each month
from 10.30am - 12.30pm**



Shipston on Stour CV36 4QG

Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH

Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 ODS

Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE

**Compton Verney House CV35 9HZ
(contact us for entrance tickets)**



talkdementia.uk

**Advice and support for carers of loved ones
living with dementia in South Warwickshire**

Contact Paul and Heather Dowler
Phone 01295 688376
Email talkdementia.uk@gmail.com

Update on Shipston Development Plans: Stop Developers Ruining our Countryside!

What the Developers 'Mackenzie Miller Homes' are Doing

They have leafletted Shipston and some of the surrounding houses and villages. The leaflet is very sparse on detail and is full of inaccuracies and overstatements. It assumes that everyone has access to the internet as the consultation is predominantly on-line only. They could not face the rigour of a proper public face to face consultation.

What SOS (Save Our Shipston) is Doing

- Continuing to raise funds. £30,000 reached with a goal of £50,000 for professional fees and expenses.
- Rebuttal and response of the scoping document submitted by the developers
- Preparation to fight the outline planning application when submitted
- Leaflet and door to door canvassing of the local area
- Strong social media campaign
- Local posters and road boards

What You Can Do

PLEASE DONATE to help us stop this unsustainable development and the ruination of Shipston's unique character

Visit our website, follow us on social media and get involved if you can

Do not put in objections until the outline planning is submitted. We will let you know when and publish a guide to assist you

To donate through **gofundme**

Please go online and type in the link below:

 **gofund.me/tall.bear.form**

Scan me with your phone camera!



To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC

Account Name: SaveOurShipston

Sort Code: 40-18-57

Account Number: 60770736



www.saveourshipston.org



@SaveOurShipston



@SaveOurShipston



Say No to additional 3000+ houses



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

All of the food we sell is cooked in the home, not processed in a factory, using locally sourced, seasonal produce and you can speak directly to the producers.

We also have some wonderful crafters with unique, creative products.

Have you thought about getting involved with the market? We are always in need of new producers and volunteers to help with selling our lovely produce. Contact details below:

07933 141410 / mimcountrymarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

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



Shipston-on-Stour Area u3a A Friendly and Stimulating Local Community

Are you no longer working full time and wanting to do something new?

Join us at u3a on a fulfilling journey of learning, friendship, and fun, where individuals come together to explore new interests and share experiences.

We offer many different activities including **arts, nature, history, physical activities, music, languages, and social events**. Our welcoming community of over 350 members from all over the Shipston on Stour area encourages you to pursue lifelong learning and discover new hobbies while enjoying the company of like-minded people.

Why Join U3A?

Learn Something New: Explore and join any of our 39 interest groups.

Make Friends: Connect with others who share your interests and experiences. Rediscover the joy of learning.

Stay Active: Join our regular outings, workshops, walks and social events.

Flexible Participation: Choose the activities that suit your schedule and interests.

For more information and a full list of activities, please look at our website www.sosau3asite.uk
Come along to one of our monthly meetings which start at 2pm normally on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Townsend Hall, Shipston, or contact Secretary, John Keayes, by e-mail secretary@sosau3acommittee.org to find out more

Pet of the Month

Our first pampered pet of 2026 is the lovely Lacey who lives with Chris O'Brien in Long Compton. Chris says:



Lacey didn't have a good start to life and was mistreated; when my late mum learnt of this my she paid to adopt the whole litter of 6 puppies. Mum found homes for all of them but decided to keep Lacey as they had already bonded.

After my mums passing 3 years ago, I decided to stay in Long Compton as Lacey and I had already fallen in love with the village and Lacey had met so many friends already.

She is now 8 years old but still believes herself to only be 8 months old!

Do you have a pet you would like to see featured? Please send a photo and short bio to editor@swlink@gmail.com



Cameo Meeting: Burns Lunch

Tuesday 13th January
12.00 noon for 12:30 pm
Burmington Village Hall
Please book with Brenda 01608 664313



Happy Birthday!
January 2026



Faith Hands	Burmington	18
Rebecca Parmenter	Stourton	12
Poppy Kinch	Whichford	18
Bethany Parmenter	Stourton	14
Orlando Matthews	Whichford	8
Liliana Stock	Little Wolford	4



WHAT'S ON at THE HALL



Thursday 15th January: "Mettle"

November 1942, 18-year old Gordon Collett volunteers for the Royal Navy serving on the HMS Vanessa - devastating U-boat attacks result in the heaviest loss of ships from any trans-Atlantic convoy that winter. This gripping, moving and often humorous new show is written and performed by Nicholas Collet, Actor, Writer - and Gordon's son.

Doors & Bar 6:30pm. Performance 7:30pm. Tickets £15

METTLE



Sunday 15th March : "Victor and Albert Purveyors of fine musical comedy"

Victor & Albert's unique brand of entertainment is a riotous blend of music, comedy, games & a dash of magic and silliness, offering a fresh twist on a classic two-man variety show!

Doors & Bar 6:30pm.

Performance Starts 7:30pm.

Tickets £15

Sunday 10th May : "Wood Owl and The Box of Wonders"

What happens when a little wooden owl dreams of soaring into the night sky? Join Hoglets Theatre for a magical tale that will lift your heart and spark your imagination - an adventure for the whole family, blending beautiful handmade puppets, original songs and a story that speaks to every generation.

Performance at 2pm, snacks & refreshments available



**The Hall Cherington, Stourton
& Sutton-under-Brailes**

www.thehallevents.org.uk / info@thehallevents.org.uk



NICHOLAS COLLETT | GAVIN ROBERTSON



SC107

VANESSA

*With all my love
to my darling wife*



Written & performed by Nicholas Collett | Directed by Gavin Robertson

**THE HALL, CHERINGTON STOURTON AND
SUTTON-UNDER-BRAILES (CV36 5HG)**

Thursday 15 January, 7:30pm

£15.00 (Standard) / £10.00 (Member in advance)

BOOK NOW: 7775 765572 or info@thehallevents.org.uk or the Chairman of the Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society. For online tickets visit liveandlocal.org.uk or scan the QR code

*Post Show Q&A included. Bar & refreshments open at 6:30pm
& during interval.*



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**LIVE
& LOCAL**

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

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

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

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

Stow-on-the-Wold

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

Shipston and Brailes

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

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

Chipping Campden

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

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton as advertised

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i>Barcheston St Martin</i>	<i>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</i>
Churchwardens	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
Secretary	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Penny Mead 674595
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Kay Sonneborn
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	John Boulter and Mary Scott (joint treasurer) 07968 450331	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Council

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

CHURCH NOTES

South Warwickshire Seven Churches
Giggle Tots
Long Compton Village Hall
Free on Thursday mornings
Term time only 10.00-11.30
**Come and join us for fun,
friendship and playtime.**
**For all care givers with
children 0-4.**
*More information from
Kim Petty 07949949215*



Serving our Communities



CONNECT

Would you like to meet with other families in your community for an afternoon of friendship, fun, games and crafts and an opportunity to meet some of your local church family in a relaxed setting.

Come to Long Compton Village Hall
Every Second Sunday of the month 3-4pm

Refreshments provided

**Connect is being organised by the
South Warwickshire 7 group of churches.**

**For more details, please contact
Kim Petty, kimpetty@btinternet.com 07949949215**

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

January 2026 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford
4 th January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer (CLW/LM)					10:30am CW Holy Communion Village Hall Service (AW/LM)
11 th January 1 st Sunday of Epiphany				9:00am BCP CW Holy Communion (BD)	3:00pm Connect At the Village Hall (KP/BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
18 th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	
25 th January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (CLW/BD)	

South Warwickshire Benefice

Reverend Ben Dyson Tel: 01608 628229 email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)
 Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke Tel: 07425868855 email: officesw7@gmail.com
www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk facebook.com/sw7churches

BD = Ben Dyson, LM = Liz Maycock/LMW = Anthony Wells, CLW = Olave Wells/HP = Heather Parbury/AD = Andrew Dowd/RG = Richard Smith/RS=Richard Stevens/ADB = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
 BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

It's the 29th of November and it's been a very wet start to the day, and a cold, bright finish. There's not much to write about on the farming front. Of course, the budget, which as far as I'm concerned, had little in it for me except more expense. The crops all continue to look fine. All green and up in full drill. I don't think I've seen a poor crop at all this autumn.

Anyway, I thought I'd share what turned out a lucky escape for me many years ago. It must have been around 1970 as Paul Yeomans, a friend and student here at the time and I were walking along the brook. We heard a thud in the distance and walking further along the brook we could see a car had run off the road at the bottom of the cutting. Not long after, we heard shouting and saw two people chasing a young heifer around a little three-sided field.

Seeing something was amiss, we cut across Butler's Road and over another field to find Keith Hain and vet Jack Walker trying to catch the badly hurt young animal. Light was failing fast and we managed to run it up into a clump of brambles in the corner of the field. Jack shouted to get hold of it, so I ran up the side of it and 'nosed' it; with my thumb in one nostril and fingers in the other, I pulled its head round. To my horror in the half light, I saw Jack push a humane killer against the back of my other hand across the beast's forehead. I gasped; '*No Jack,*' heard a bang, the animal fell down on its knees dead. Jack said, '*We'll done boy, you turned up just right.*' I guess he never knew that in the nick of time I'd moved enough, and the bolt had gone between the middle two fingers and culled the poor beast. We left them to sort out removing the corpse and walked home in the dark.

Over the years, I've had quite a few lucky escapes or near misses. I remember sharpening an axe to a razors edge once, while cutting willows out of the brook with Terry Slowther. I swung the axe back at a difficult angle, it must have touched a branch or twig behind me. I swung the axe down and it missed the target, cutting a clean slice of leather off my left boot. I could see my sock and three toes, and it missed them all. But for a wet foot and a new pair of boots, no harm was done.

Years ago, my grandfather showed me a scar on the top of his foot. When he was a young man, he went to Canada. He worked for as Scotsman outside Calgary. He went off alone in deep snow to cut poles on the steep banks of the river Bow. He too spent an evening honing an axe for the task next day. He was cold and the steep bank made cutting difficult – he had to swing the axe down. He put

the blade down through his boot and out the other side at the bottom. Bleeding a lot and in shock, he climbed the steep bank in the snow... left everything behind. He bound up his whole boot with rope and drove off in the snow and bitter winds. He got to a farmhouse, miles from his own place of work. The farmers wife bound his foot after cleaning it. It was days before anyone found him missing. The farmer got a message to his own employer, and they came and picked him up several days later. somehow it healed. He said for days when it was bound up that he longed to scratch it but left it alone. It cut between his big toe and first toe, back about four inches. It cut no tendons, and it healed and gave him little, if any after-effects later in life. He, like me, had a very lucky escape.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

**Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold**

In January gardeners tend to look back at their successes and failures of the previous year, but they also look ahead to plan for the new year. Last spring was warm and dry. This was good news for the butterflies whose numbers increased somewhat although many species are still in danger. Apple blossom was prolific and not frosted so fruit set well and we were rewarded with a bumper crop of apples this autumn. Shrubs in gardens and hedgerows were also full of berries. The main problem for gardens in the summer was lack of rain. Water butts quickly became depleted, and we resorted to watering only very vulnerable plants - those in pots or those newly planted and vegetables. Lawns generally became dry and brown but seem to have recovered, as predicted.

As for looking ahead to the next growing season, we can start washing pots and seed trays ready for seed sowing. Tools should have any soil brushed off, followed by oiling. Store them in a dry place to stop rusting. Ventilate the greenhouse on dry, milder days to reduce humidity and help prevent fungal diseases spreading in plants overwintering there. Also, wash the glass to maximise light levels. Water the plants sparingly but don't let them dry out completely.

Gardeners who grow vegetables plan their crop rotation during the winter months, see what seed needs to be ordered and prepare the beds for sowing. Once the crops have been harvested, finish weeding and spread compost from the compost heap to add nutrients and improve the texture of the soil. Beds can be covered with cloches or fleece to keep the soil workable. Check any stored fruit and vegetables for any signs of rot and discard any

showing such decay. Continue harvesting any crops such as parsnips and brassicas. Make sure that you re-net the latter to protect them from pigeons.

General maintenance can be carried out during this month. Check that stakes and supports are secure and not rubbing on the plants during windy weather. Also check trellises and fences and brush any paths that are slippery with moss. If your lawn has a lot of moss in it, aerate it by pricking it with a fork. If you have not already done so, prune roses by a half to prevent wind rock and cut buddleias by a third.

Now is a good time to sort out material for stakes such as hazel for pea sticks.



Willow and birch twigs are also good because they are pliable.

Apple and pears trees can be pruned from December to February while they are dormant, but plums and cherries should be left until summer. Any dead, decaying or diseased wood should be removed as well as any crossing branches. Aim for an open framework to aid ventilation. Winter prune gooseberries by cutting leading shoots by half and side shoots to two buds. Again, an open framework is wanted.

Winter flowering shrubs will be coming into their own now, many with a powerful scent and it is worth thinking about any new editions you might make to your garden, especially if you have received garden vouchers for Christmas.

Hamamelis is worth considering as it produces the most vivid spidery flowers in shades of yellow, rust and orange.

Margaret Welsh

Long Compton & District Garden Club

Winter Talks in the Village Hall

All meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

We meet for a hot drink and conversation from 7.10pm. Our talks begin at 7.30pm.

We have put together an interesting winter programme with speakers' talking about a wide range of garden related subjects. It is an opportunity for us all to forget about the dark and cold outside for a while and allow ourselves to be drawn in to the speaker's passion for plants, gardens and gardening.

We are a friendly group and we are always delighted to welcome new members. Come and join us, we hope there is something for everyone whatever your level of experience and interest. It is also an opportunity to share our gardening knowledge and experiences.

Membership costs just £14.00 per year. If you don't think that Club membership is for you yet do come along as a guest to meet us all for £4.00 per meeting. It is always good to see visitors.

28th January 2026 We start our programme with Joff Elphick with his talk intriguingly titled Crayfish on the Lawn and other Gardening Stories. He promises "to show us things that we have never seen before".

25th February 2026 Pip Smith - The Resilient Garden focusing on Drought

25th March 2026 Geoff Oddy – Evenley Wood Garden throughout the year

22nd April 2026 Vanessa Berridge - Great British Gardeners

For further details please contact Walter Sawyer secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

Happy New Year to all the LINK readers and I hope your festive season was a restful one. Now it's back to the grindstone!

So, for 2026 I have a couple of wildlife projects that I want to work on, one of which was actually conceived while writing this column. If you cast your mind back to September, I was thrilled to find a little owl site close to Stourton. Unfortunately, it was the very end of the season for them so subsequent visits have failed to produce any birds, but it got me thinking about the lack of suitable nesting places and what I could do about it. So, my goal before the end of February is to make half a dozen little owl nestboxes and find places for them where I can monitor them.



My other project is on a friend's farm near Stow where they have some mature beech woods. It's in the woodland that I want to set up a photography hide and make a concerted effort to get some decent images of woodland species and, if truth be told, just have somewhere I can just go and sit and watch the wildlife. I've already started this process by hanging some feeders up with a mix of food.



It's amazing how long it takes for birds to cotton on to the free food but after two weeks the feeders are slowly starting to go down. In a couple more weeks I'll put the pop-up hide into place and then we're ready to go. If the first stage is successful, I'll construct a little reflection pool which will add a different dimension to the images and could attract mammals to drink. Let's see!

This leads me neatly to suggesting that Link readers could put a wildlife project on their agenda this year. Shelter and food are the easiest wins. Nestboxes need to be made and up before the end of February but are a fantastic, easy way to do something positive. For standard tit and sparrow boxes I use the BTO design which can be knocked up from a 5ft x 6" piece of gravel board. Go

to www.bto.org and type 'nestbox' into the search bar. If you fancy getting creative, they also offer plans for other species. If you site the box facing north to east (not south or west, it cooks the occupants!) and 6 – 10 feet off the ground there's a really good chance your efforts will be rewarded. Imagine if every garden in our villages had just one nestbox, what a difference that would make.

Nestboxes aside, nothing works better than feeding birds at this time of year and idling away a few minutes every day watching the feeders is a great way to spend



time and, more importantly, connect with nature. It's also vital for their survival when the weather gets really nasty. I find a mix of peanuts, sunflower hearts and fat balls covers all bases and maybe a few dried mealworms for the insectivorous species. So, 3 feeders will do the trick. I'm less inclined to use bird tables these days because of the spread of *Fringilla papillomavirus* which creates fungal growths on the feet of finches. Cleanliness is far more important than we used to think, and keeping the feeders clean and occasionally disinfected is really important.

Away from local wildlife I've been having fun boning up on a phenomenal birdwatching trip I made to Colombia 25 years ago. From the Andes to the Amazon, it had everything including some unusual modes of transport, getting stuck in the middle of a small war, and of course some extraordinary wildlife. And if that's whetted your appetite why not come over to the Hall on 4th February when I'll be regaling some of those tales and showing slides of just some of the stunning wildlife that Colombia has to offer.

David Sewell

January is a good time for both looking back and looking forward so here goes:



Looking Back

As I write this, I fear that December's weather may dictate we will have met only 11 times this year. All our walks were around the 5-mile length and within a 30-minute drive from the village. We revisited old favourites – Blenheim, Chastleton to Adelstrop, Snowhill, the Tews and others; we tried new routes – Minster Lovell (avoiding the JD Vance security arrangements) and Ditchley Park and ventured somewhat further afield to Ford. We discovered the pleasures of canal-side as well as river walking – flat and no risk of losing your way – as we made our way from Wolvercote to Jericho and back.

The choice of pubs is every bit as important as the choice of walks. Again, old favourites – The Falkland Arms at Great Tew, The Kings Head at Bledington were revisited, and new ones added (mentioning but a few) – Hook Norton Brewery, The Bakers Arms at Broad Campden, and the Bull at Charlbury are all likely to join the list. We always look for pubs offering a range of options – sandwiches as well as main courses, but devilled kidneys on toast have a particular attraction for some if not all.

Most important, monthly walks offered the chance to see old friends, catch up with news (or gossip) and to put the world to rights. We usually number 12-15, though, unhappily, last year saw us lose one regular, Alan Holmes, whose company will be much missed, and others have occasionally succumbed (hopefully only temporarily) to a variety of joint pains or other ailments.

Looking Forward Though there is little need to change a winning formula, we would welcome new ideas for local walks (with thanks to those who responded to last month's appeal), but more importantly new members. Most, if not all, of us are retired, but there may be those who would welcome (and could take) a few hours' break from work or other commitments on a Tuesday morning. Most of us live in Long Compton itself but others come from the surrounding villages. Our walks are never too demanding (and there would soon be complaints if they were!) and the countryside can be spectacular (even for a die-hard Yorkshireman). So come and try us out and hopefully stay on as regular members of Long Compton Walking Group.

Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

Cross Country Fun!

Following our celebration of the Cluster Cross Country Tournament, we are proud to share with you the sports report written by two of our wonderful Y6 pupils. They read the report in our recent Family Assembly with oodles of confidence, fluency and pride:

On Thursday 12th November, from 4:00 to 4:30pm, eleven children proudly represented their school in the Key Stage 2 cross country at Kineton Primary, each runner gave their all, showing determination, resilience, and courage throughout the race.

The Year 3 boys were the first to take to the track, with two of our runners leading the way. Both ran with determination, finishing strongly and showing great effort throughout the race.

Following them were the Year 3 girls, who gave it their all. Their performance was full of spirit and resilience.

Third up were the Year 4 boys. Sadly, no boys from Acorns in Year 4 were able to take part this time. The spotlight then turned to the Year 4 girls. They ran with courage, determination, and gave everything they had.

Next came the Year 5 boys. Both boys showed fantastic determination, running brilliantly and giving their very best. After them, it was time for the Year 5 girls' race. Our sole Y5 girl competitor rose to the challenge, pushing hard for the win and achieving her goal with first place.

Then it was the turn of the Year 6 boys. Our Y6 runner stepped onto the track with confidence, running brilliantly. Following him, our Year 6 girl competitor stepped forwards. She was outstanding, showing true perseverance.

Although we were unable to score points this time, as we did not have any Year 4 boys competing, we still consider the event a success. Every member of our team gave their absolute best effort, showing determination and teamwork throughout.

Kineton achieved first place overall, and we would like to congratulate them on their victory. We are also grateful to our parents and carers for transporting us, and to Mrs Barritt and Mr Jones for their encouragement and support on the day.

Most importantly, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was a wonderful opportunity to represent our school, and we are proud of the way we worked together and tried our hardest.

Christmas!

As the term draws to a close, there is a palpable sense of excitement bubbling throughout the school! The children have been working incredibly hard, and the sheer effort and enthusiasm they are putting into their Christmas performances is truly wonderful to see!

Shining Stars: Our Christmas Productions

The countdown to Christmas would not be complete without our traditional school plays and concerts! We are so proud of all the children for their dedication and for trying their absolute best, whether they are learning lines, perfecting a song, or remembering their stage cues.

- The Early Years Christmas Play will be an adorable part of our festivities, showcasing our youngest pupils' talents. Get ready for some heart-melting moments!
- The Year 1 to Year 4 Christmas Play is shaping up to be fantastic. We know the pupils will deliver a stellar performance and bring great joy to all who attend.

- The Y5 and 6 Carol Concert will take place at the beautiful Long Compton Church. This is always a very special and poignant service, and the children's singing and flute playing is simply angelic.

These events truly highlight the amazing community spirit within our school, and we are grateful you can all share in the magic.

Ho Ho Ho! The PTA Santa Trail is Coming to Town!

Another big thank you to our incredible PTA and the Long Compton Sports Club for teaming up to bring us a fantastic festive event! The Santa Trail, planned for a fun weekend activity, is a brilliant way to get out, explore, and enjoy some seasonal cheer right here in the village. A huge, heartfelt thank you must go to everyone who has generously sponsored a Santa! Your support is invaluable, and the money raised will provide valuable funds directly benefiting the children in our school.

A Treat to Welcome the New Year

We are already looking forward to a thrilling whole-school event to welcome in 2026! In the New

Year, all the children will be heading off on an exciting theatre trip to Chipping Norton Theatre to see their pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*. What a lovely way to celebrate the start of the new term together!

Wishing You All a Wonderful Christmas

From everyone at Acorns Primary School, we wish you and your families a truly wonderful Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year! We are greatly looking forward to another year of working closely within the vibrant Long Compton community throughout 2026.

Could You Be Our New Co-opted Governor?

Finally, we are currently in search of another dedicated Co-opted Governor to join our Local Academy Council of Governors. This is a vital voluntary role that helps shape the strategic direction and success of our school.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the role involves and how you could make a difference, please make contact through the school's admin email: admin2639@welearn365.com for the attention of Mrs Young. We would love to hear from you!

Stay Connected

Remember we have a new website: www.acornsprimary.co.uk and also Instagram: @acornsprimaryschool where you can keep up to date with Acorn's life.

Brailes School - Grow Together and Shine Bright!

Brailes Early Years 'Marvellous Machines' topic has been a bit hit this half term and really highlighted the creative and inventive talents of Brailes children. The role-play area became an office, full of computers, scanners, keyboards and phones, which stimulated lots of discussion about the machines we see around us every day. The children enjoyed using programmable and remote-control



toys and the junk modelling reached another level! The inspirational texts they shared together has stimulated some wonderful and original ideas, from what we could add to Mrs. Armitage's bicycle, to what we could use robots for. Let's hope some of our wonderful children go on to see their inventions come to fruition one day in the future, as our daily lives will certainly benefit from their

ideas!

At the end of the Autumn term, Nursery and Reception ventured out on a trip to see '*Stick Man*' at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury. The coach journey was almost as exciting as the theatre, as most of the children had never been on a coach before! The wonderful live performance of this classic story provided magical memories for our youngest children and inspiration and aspirations for storytelling and performing. Squirrels class 'Wiggly Nativity' brought joy to all who shared and watched their Christmas performances. We are so proud of them all.

Applying for a Nursery place at Brailes

Places in Brailes School Nursery are made through an application form directly to the school office. Applications for places for Reception and all other year groups need to be made through Warwickshire Admissions. Please do contact the school to arrange a visit, especially for Nursery places for September 2026. We would love to meet with you and welcome you to our wonderful school. 'Let your Light Shine.'

Telephone: 01608 685253 Email: admin3014@we-learn.com

www.brailescofeprimary.org.uk

Heather Childs

VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Remembering- Edward Berkley Hicks



We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Edward Hicks, a much-loved member of our community.

Edward will be remembered for his integrity and values, his clear sense of what is good, and the warmth, kindness and genuine care he showed to those around him. He impacted many lives and will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He was, foremost, a father, husband and grandfather — the rock of his family who was dependable, loving and protective of all he loved.

A book of remembrance will be displayed at St Lawrence Church, Barton-on-the-Heath from 26th December, should you wish to leave a fond memory or message. There will also be a memorial service at St Peter and St Paul Church, Long Compton, on 8th January 2026 at 2:00pm followed by light refreshments at: Cherrington Village Hall, Stourton, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 5HG

Our thoughts are with Edward's wife, Jules, his children Charlotte, James and Sam., Jules's sons Matt. and Louis and the grandchildren Savannah, Lara and Reuben.

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Burmington Church

Can you spare a little time to help keep the church looking wonderful and welcoming?

Many people comment on how pretty, clean and warm our church always looks and feels.

However, it takes a little bit of effort to keep it that way and the number of helpers we have to clean the church and provide flowers has, over the years, got smaller.

For most people who help, the duty works out at only once a year, either to clean or to provide flowers. (Many of us have gardens which can help to supply flowers/greenery)

Even if you don't usually attend church but feel you would like to contribute just a little time to one of the two main amenities of Burmington Village, please contact me.

Sonia Baker (01608 661459)

Winter Warmer

Bangers and Mash
Puds

Everyone Welcome!

£10.00 adults £5.00 Children

January 24th 6:30pm

BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

BOOK ON 07966849149

Burmington Jam Festival and Jam Winners

Thank you to everyone who attended the cream tea on 25th November in Burmington Village Hall.



Sonia, Jan and Brenda

We are delighted to announce that Sonia Baker won best jam with a delicious loganberry jam, and Brenda Fitch best jelly with a piquant mint jelly.

Runners up were Jenny Beckett -crab apple jelly, Dennis Cummings – strawberry jam and Malcolm Pendery – Victoria plum jam. This was Malcolm's first ever jam making!

Certificates and prizes were given to winners and runner ups! Thank you to everyone who attended. We would like to extend a big thank you to Barbara Shepherd for her excellent skills in judging all the jams and jellies.

Over £90 was raised for church funds with more jam for sale from entries.



Jan Lennon

Village Breakfasts Are Back!

BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



SATURDAY 3rd January 2026

9:00 am – 11:00 am

To book please call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Book early to avoid disappointment

Special dietary requirements catered for.
Please state when booking.

CAMEO Lunch Club Christmas Party



VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



January Coffee Shop

Saturday 1 0th January

10:30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, cakes, fresh coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Eat in or takeaway

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who's been running the coffee shop over the last few months while I've been unable to be there. If there's anyone who would be willing to go on the rota to help out occasionally, please get in touch., thank you.

You can contact me on 07866 127409.

Christine Dudfield

Village Lottery December Draw

DOUBLE PRIZE MONEY THIS MONTH

1st Roy Hawley. £160. 2nd Jo Thompson £90. 3rd Chris Owen £60

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining, please contact me on 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

Averell Kingston

Christmas Greetings in support of St John the Baptist Church

Thank you to all who have already donated. A gentle reminder to those who have yet to do so, please let us have your donations as soon as possible, so that the grand total can be included in the February Link.

For online Link subscribers who donate to the Christmas Greetings List and have not received a paper copy of the list, please send your email address to brookes@tonyb51.plus.com and we will send you one.

Pam Brookes



Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

It was a “full house” at the Christmas Family Prize Bingo at the Hall on Saturday 29th November, thank you to everyone that attended, it was such a lovely atmosphere.

We raised over £900 which will enable us to continue with the Feel-Good Fridays and bingos in 2026 which is fab news.

Thank you so much to Hughie Powell from Cotswold Decorative Ironworks for his generous donation towards the prizes. Also, thank you to Keith Clarke, Lindsey Clifton and Amanda Holden for running the Bingo.

I know some of you are keen Bingo players, the next one is an Easter Family Prize Bingo on Saturday 28th March at the Hall, doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm, please pop it in your diary and let me know if you’d like a table reserved.

Social Afternoons dates for your 2026 diary are Fridays 9th and 23rd January 6th and 20th February 6th and 20th March.

Vanessa Compton 01608 663320





Feldons Wildlife Group invites you
to take part in the RSPB's

Big Garden Birdwatch

23-25 January, 2026



Count your garden birds for 1 hour at the weekend

Log your results online, then email a copy to
nickpholmes7@gmail.com

We'll collate the results into the **3rd annual Feldons bird survey**

*Sign up to this WhatsApp group
for a reminder & more details:*

FeldonBirdWatch
WhatsApp group



Visit the RSPB website to find out more & submit your count:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Brailes Picture House

We wish you Happy New Year and we hope your Festivities were joyous

Saturday 17th January - Doors open 7:15 for 7:45 start

Salt Path - Winn Anderson and husband Moth were living happily in Somerset when a company they had invested in collapsed with large debts. Leading to a series of legal battles that cost them their home and savings, around the same time Moth was diagnosed with a rare, incurable, neurodegenerative disease. With £1.38 left in the bank, they packed a tent and their clothes and set off along the 630mile coastal path from Minehead in Somerset to Poole in Dorset.

Cast – Gillian Anderson, Jason Isaacs.

Future Dates and Titles

Saturday 21st February - Shirley Vallentine (Tribute)

Saturday 14th March - The Penguin Lessons (One week early)

Saturday 18th April - The Ballard of Wallis Island

Other Titles Butch Casidy (Tribute Robert Redford)
The Choral

Deirdre and Team

Happy 100!



Bernard Haley of Cherington celebrated his 100th birthday at the Hall on Saturday 6th December.

A marvellous lunch was enjoyed by family and friends from far and wide, including Germany. A very convivial time was had by all.

Many thanks to Bernard's son Christopher for organising this special day.

Tricia Wilson



The Hall, Cherington, Stourton and Sutton-under-Brailes

A very Happy New Year to all in our Parish, and to the wider community which we are lucky to be surrounded by! The Hall had a very busy 2025, and 2026 will continue full steam ahead!

If you are looking to start something new, take a look at the list of regular 'What's On' classes and activities each week – there is a fantastic variety for all ages and interests.

But maybe you wish there were a Boardgame Night or a Book Club, a Cookery Club or a children's art class? So, if YOU would like to start up a new group, activity, organise a social gathering, a fundraising event, or anything else, do get in touch. We have such a fantastic and versatile community space, it would be wonderful to see it used more and more!

And if you fancy helping out in any way with any events, such as our live theatre nights, monthly Coffee Shop, Farmer's Market – as a one-off or regularly – please drop an email to info@thehallevents.org.uk . There would be absolutely no commitment in doing so, and often just one small task could help enormously!

The Hall, Theatre Nights

Professional live Theatre continues at The Hall this month! Tickets are still on sale for 'Mettle' on Thursday 15th January 2026



Touring Nationwide, we welcome Nicholas Collett – actor, and writer – with ***Mettle***, his gripping, and very personal, play based on his father's experiences in WWII. It is a celebration of a man and his wartime service onboard HMS Vanessa, part of the infamous Atlantic convoy. Moving and often humorous, the play spans from 1930s Sheffield through the outbreak of war, devastating U-Boat attacks and treacherous weather, to the relative calm of West Africa and even a Glenn Miller concert!

Nicholas is holding a Q & A Session at the end of the play. This will be a really great evening!

£15/ticket. The Hall and The Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society are running this Theatre Night jointly, FVM&NHS Members rate £10.00/ticket (now limited).

6:30pm Doors open for The Lobby Bar, freshly ground coffee and teas, and nibbles.

7:30pm Performance starts. Interval of c. 25 mins. Approx finish 9:30pm.

Tickets from Erry at info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572 (also available at the Coffee Shop), or Peter Stoddart for FVM&NHS Members.

And online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thehall-cherington-stourton-sutton>

COMING SOON IN 2026 – more shows to put in your diaries are on sale now!

Mother's Day entertainment – the perfect treat for Mum!

***Victor and Albert*- Purveyors of fine musical comedy**

7:30pm on Sunday 15th March.

We are very lucky to have lined up a brilliant evening of variety, comedy, music (and a smattering of local references if we're lucky), from identical twins Professor Victor and Doctor Albert. A 2-man variety show brought kicking and screaming into the 21st Century. A perfect treat for your mum on Mother's Day, a hugely entertaining evening at your most local theatre.

On **Sunday 10th May** we have a spellbinding treat for younger members of our community when ***Wood Owl and the Box of Wonders*** flies into The Hall at 2:00pm.

What happens when a little wooden owl dreams of soaring into the night sky? Join Hoglets Theatre for a magical tale that will lift your heart and spark your imagination – an adventure for the whole family, blending beautiful handmade puppets, original songs and a story that speaks to every generation. If you have children or grandchildren, bring them to a magical afternoon of theatre!

Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society and the Trustees of the Hall

the next meeting will be at
The Hall, Pinfold Lane Stourton, CV36 5HG
on Wednesday, **15th January 2026**
at **7.30pm**

**“for a gripping play by Nicholas Collett on the
experiences of his father, Gordon Collett,
serving on the destroyer HMS Vanessa at the
height of the Battle of the Atlantic in World
War II and in particular on the fearful convoy
SC107 in the autumn of 1942”**

Pay bar and refreshments from 6.30pm onwards

Tickets are £10 a head from Peter Stoddart for
members of the FVM & NH Society
(petercstoddart@gmail.com) or from the Hall
bookings manager, Erry Lilley
(info@thehallevents.org.uk)

VILLAGE NEWS

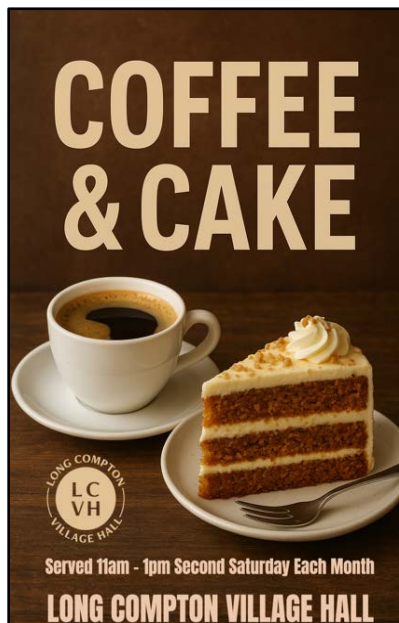
LONG COMPTON

Email: editor@swlink.gmail.com



Our last event of 2025 at the Village Hall was the Christmas Tea Party. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and made it such a successful event. A special thanks goes to Pat and her team for the wonderful food and to Karen for all her organisation and the hamper prizes. Whilst we were feasting, we were treated to carols and songs from Alison and Karen, both in well-known choirs. We were lucky to have Dom, a professional musician, playing the piano and the bassoon in his guess the carol competition. It was such a lovely event and such good fun.





Now we look forward to 2026 and a happy New Year to everyone who continues to support our Village Hall and to all those who come to our events throughout the year. Plans are already in place for an exciting New Year at the Village Hall and the Hall will be 70 years old! Of course, we need to celebrate and will be having a special party as well as all your favourite events such as Quiz Night, Race Night and Social Saturday. We are looking forward to forging new partnerships with other village organisations as well as launching our new website.

It is going to be a busy year! Remember that the next Social Saturday is on 10th January with all those delicious homemade savouries and cakes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee

100 Club

The December Double Draw was done at the Village Hall Christmas Tea Party on 6 December, and the winners were:

Draw 1

1st Paul & Catherine Miller	2nd Lucy Wolff
3rd Mr Alan Edwards	4th Susie Foxton

Draw 2

1st Jane Granville-Thomas	2nd John & Katie Nye
3rd Ray Trotter & Clare Mullins	4th Matt Hale

The next Draw will be held at the Social Saturday in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 February. During January and early February, the collectors will be coming round to sign you up for the 2026 season - £12 per ticket. So be ready!

Chris Galloway 684234



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

This year's appeal raised £2929.29 in cash donations, with the cashless donations still to be advised by R.B.L. As usual, a huge thank you to all who supported the appeal this year.

Sadly, I am now standing down as the local appeal organiser. I would like to thank all supports and collectors, past and present and the many other people who have helped raise over £21,000 for the Legion during my term.

A new organiser is now sought and if anyone is interested in taking on this very rewarding role I would be pleased to, in the first instance, detail what is involved. I can be reached on 07814560135.

Dave Whatley- Retiring Appeal Organiser

Comptonians

We shall meet at the Village Hall on 21st January at 2.30pm when we shall play bingo. Tea and cakes will also be served. All welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238



Long Compton Congregational Chapel



December was a busy month for the Chapel with the new, bright yellow floor finally being laid in the Arden room and various other maintenance jobs undertaken. A Willow Weaving course took place making baskets and Christmas decorations and we are likely to organise another of these popular courses in Spring. The Christmas Bazaar proved popular with every table taken and a waiting list

with excellent range of products and of course a raffle and festive refreshments.

The Chapel has now become a collection point for used bras that are passed on to a cancer charity. There is a collection bin in the porch alongside the books. Please remember that there is also a charity recycling zone for aluminium cans in the carpark.



The Christmas whist drive, held in November rather than on 27th December proved popular and the next one will be held on 24th January.

Members were pleased to receive Christmas greetings from Rev Marion who ministered to the Chapel with so much care until her retirement and pleased to learn how she has adjusted to life in a Care Home and yet still able to attend local services

Sally Franklin (07870545431) and Elizabeth Gilkes (07791 621778)

Long Compton Community Coffee Mornings

Join us for Community Coffee – Wednesday 7th January 2026

During winter months the Long Compton Church Community Coffee Mornings will be held in private homes on the first Wednesday of each month.

All are very welcome – young, old, families, dog walkers and newcomers to the village.

If you would like to know the venue, please contact Liz Clarke on 07425 868855 or Clare Wells at 01608 684337.

VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for December is Carol Adams.

Jenny Scrivener

Whichford & Ascott Allotment Holder's Society Flower Show & Fete 2025 Annual General Meeting

The Flower Show's Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 26 November.

The Committee were delighted to welcome so many visitors to the Village Green on August Bank Holiday Monday. The aim of the show is to provide a fun social event for village residents, family and friends to enjoy as well as raising some funds for community projects and our chosen charities.

Due to your support, we are pleased to be able to make donations from the profits raised from the show as follows:

- Shipston Home Nursing - £300
- Warwickshire Air Ambulance - £300
- RAF Benevolent Society - £300 (appreciation for the Spitfire Flypast)
- Bench for the play area on the village green - £250
- Cleaning of the Whichford War Memorial - £500

Enormous thanks to everyone who contributed to making the show such a success. Planning for the 2026 show is under way, and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Flower Show Committee: Jan Knight, Joanna Cook, Sophie Corlett, Colin Corlett, Sharon Farrell, Liz Dockar-Drysdale, Anne Tebbs, Chris Major, Emma Thorncliffe

WASP December Butterfly Talk

Apologies for the cancellation of the Butterfly talk in December, which was due to illness. It will take place early next year instead and we will update as soon as we have details.

The Wasp Collective

VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The December winners were as follows.

1st Sue Elliot 2nd Charles Hobbs 3rd Janet Pope

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

Treasurer Vacancy for The Village Hall

This vacancy is still open, and we do need to fill this role to have an effective committee in managing the affairs of the hall. We would really appreciate if anyone can help us as trying to manage this role between the remaining committee members is just not sustainable. Please do contact me if you willing to help us. Thank you so much.

James van Helden jamesvanhelden@hotmail.com



The LINK is your local monthly Community Magazine.

It has a circulation of 700 across the South Warwickshire Seven Benefice covering the villages of Barcheston, Barton, Burmington, Cherington, Long Compton, Whichford and The Wolfords.

We're always pleased to welcome new subscribers. At just £12.00 for a calendar year subscription, this represents excellent value and is a great way to stay connected with the news of events and stories in your local community.

We're keen to expand our circulation, so sign up and we'll add you to our readership and deliver to your door each month. Just contact our Subscriptions Manager David Cleave subs@outlook.com

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