

THE LINK

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



DECEMBER 2019

70 pence



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

EVENTS DIARY

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

December (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Sun	01	Advent Service, Whichford Church	10.30
Sun	01	Organ Recital, Barcheston Church	15.30
Sun	01	Advent Service, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	15.30
Sun	01	Beneficial Book Group, Barton VH	17.30
Mon	02	Brailes Mechanical and Craft Society, Brailes VH	
Tue	03	Short Mat Bowls Club, Long Compton VH	14.00
Wed	04	Wolfords WI, Wolfords VH	19.30
Thurs	05	North Cotswold Farmers Market, The Hall, Cherington	18.00
Fri	06	The Amazing Emma Smith, Long Compton Church	18.30
Sat	07	Community Carols, Long Compton VH	18.00
Sat	07	Winter Gathering, Burmington VH	18.00
Sat	07	Christmas Whist Drive, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	
Sun	08	Advent Service, Long Compton Church	10.30
Tue	10	Long Compton and District Walkers, Depart The Red Lion Car Park	09.30
Tue	10	Christmas Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Tue	10	Cherington Seniors Christmas Party, The Hall	14.30
Wed	11	Compton District History Society, VH	19.30
Fri	13	Wolfords Pop up Pub, Wolfords VH	18.30
Sat	14	Christmas Tea Party, Long Compton VH	15.00
Sun	15	Carol Service, Barcheston Church	11.15
Sun	15	Community Carol Service, Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton	15.30
Sun	15	Carol Service, Cherington Church	16.00
Tue	17	Short Mat Bowls Club, Long Compton VH	14.00
Sat	21	Coffee Shop at The Hall, Cherington	10.30
Sun	22	Carol Service, Burmington Church	15.00
Sun	22	Festive Lessons and Carols, Long Compton Church	17.00
Sun	22	Carol Service, Wolfords Church	18.30
Tue	24	Carol Service, Barton Church	15.00
Tue	24	Carol Service, Whichford Church	18.00
Tue	24	Nativity Service, Cherington Church	16.00
Tue	24	Holy Communion by Candlelight, Barcheston Church	23.30
Wed	25	Morning Prayer, Whichford Church	10.30
Sat	28	Twixmas event, , Long Compton VH	14.30



LINK cover: *Anyone at Home?* by Great Wolford Artist Jenny Henderson jennys.art@hotmail.co.uk Paintings for sale with all revenue donated to The Wolfords Village Fund.

Cover design KMS Litho, Hook Norton.

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to editor@swlink.org.uk. LINK cover and artwork produced by KMS Litho, Hook Norton and sponsored by Oxford Hardware.

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Please note the very early copy deadline for January 2020:

Monday 02 December

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EDITORIAL



**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS
FROM ALL OF US AT
THE LINK**



Your Old Christmas Tree is needed!



Steve Glanvill will once again be collecting old Christmas trees across the Benefice.

He will pick up any trees placed outside people's houses, provided they are easily visible from the road on the weekend of 4/5 January.

In Whichford, Steve will collect from the green outside the pub.

Please contact Steve Glanvill on 07831 440125 for further details

LINK Talk

A reminder that after ten years at £7 for annual subscription, the subscription price of The LINK in 2020 will be going up to £10 (£1 for a single copy). This is mostly to cover the increased cost of printing and to help keep The LINK afloat in what is a difficult advertising market.

We are grateful for your support and hope you will continue to value The LINK magazine into the future.

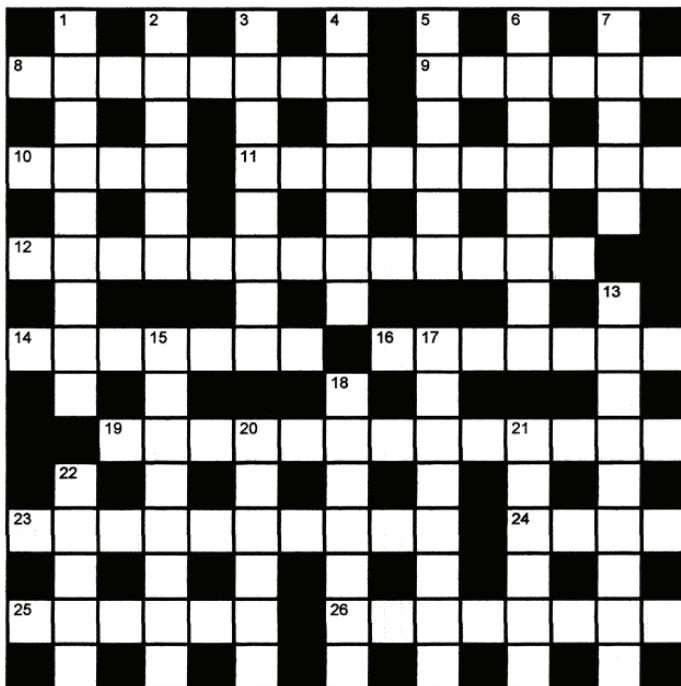
Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

Stour Singers' Christmas Concert

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the concert that was to have been given by the Stour Singers in St. Edmund's Church in Shipston on Saturday 14 December has had to be cancelled.

Yvonne Ridley (01789 269587)

The LINK Crossword



Across

- 8 Average duration of the moment (8)
- 9 Clever small animal with cropped tail (6)
- 10 Dress up and show off (4)
- 11 Ladies carp, men taunt, stony face revealed (10)
- 12 Overrates true discovered valuables (8,5)
- 14 Sorry for a fake teddy (7)
- 16 Chopping trees, making moorland? (7)
- 19 Dour neckcloth wrapped round all day (5,3,5)
- 23 Look snappy? (10)
- 24 Underground bath, wet inside (4)
- 25 Spoil half of velvet wonder (6)
- 26 Lie in the sun: English attempt craft (8)

Down

- 1 Fault in building site, cause fear (9)
- 2 Riddle in game! (6)
- 3 Perfect the nice melody (8)
- 4 Stranded! (7)
- 5 University more certain of lender (6)
- 6 Ancient chief – wicked we hear (8)
- 7 Pairs have success in back street (5)
- 13 Return 1000 tins, apply pressure: they'll supply food (5,4)
- 15 Taken on a fall, choose to enter (8)
- 17 Military drill duty protects Queen (8)
- 18 Unreserved stall – near (7)
- 20 Irritate horse in river (6)
- 21 French and English articles begin review – it's bubbly (6)
- 22 Cut the quiet organ (5)

The LINK Crossword compiled for us by Campden John



Moreton in Marsh Country Market

(www.country-markets.co.uk)

We need you!!

Moreton in Marsh Country Market is a cooperative market which operates from the WI Hall in New Road every Thursday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

We now have our Christmas crafts for sale, plus Christmas food, including Christmas cakes and puddings, traditional and Almond frangipan mince pies.

There are also locally-grown seasonal vegetables, honey & preserves, and savoury food is always available. Ready for the freezer if you wish to stock up. Please pop in and see us. We welcome orders for those customers who wish to plan ahead. We are also still looking for new cooks and producers/volunteers.

Our last market before Christmas is Thursday 19 December, where orders can be collected. Our producers then take a well-earned rest. The Country Market will re-open on Thursday 6 February 2020. Thank you to all our customers - Moreton Country Market wishes you a Merry Christmas.

See the Country Markets website for more information – www.country-markets.co.uk

Please contact: angela_loder@yahoo.co.uk / telephone 07967497588 / 01608 238135



Some of the spectacular autumnal fungi growth captured by Chris Burras in Long Compton Sports Ground

INFO LINK

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

The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 - 11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.
Shipston 'tip' is open Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 3.15 pm and 8.30 am to 12.15 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Bank Holidays.

DATES AND FETES

Please send us the dates of all your significant 2020/1 social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

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

LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

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

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

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

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



PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

Barcheston St Martin

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

Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas

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

Long Compton St Peter and St Paul

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

Wolford St Michael & All Angels

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

Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence

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

Cherington St John the Baptist

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

Whichford St Michael

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479
 Hilary Blakemore 684142
 Secretary Hilary Blakemore 684142
 Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

Parish Councils

Barcheston
 Barton-on-the-Heath
 Burmington
 Cherington
 Long Compton
 Whichford
 Great Wolford
 Little Wolford Parish Meeting

Chair

David Sutton
 James Coker (674601)
 Robert Hutchings (661496)
 Philip Townsend (686529)
 Bill Cook (684771)
 Geoff Bromage (684454)
 Lynn Mathias (674247)
 Helen Bostock (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)

Clerk

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

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



*Happy
 Birthday!*



December Birthdays

7th	Milan Clifton	Whichford	15
12th	Bethany Allen	Long Compton	15
13th	Eleanor Duck	Great Wolford	16

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – DECEMBER 2019 CHURCH SERVICES

SW7 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	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
December 1 st Advent Sunday	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Comm* (BD) 4pm Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am CW Advent Service (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Praise (SPA)
December 8 th 2nd Sunday of Advent	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	9:00am BCP Holy Comm (AW)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Village Advent Service (CLW/AW)	9:00am BCP Holy Comm SPA)	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>
December 15 th 3rd Sunday of Advent	11:15am Carol Service (BD)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (AW/CLW)	9:00am BCP Holy Comm (AW)	4:00pm Carol Service (SPA)	5:00pm Carol Service (SPA)	10:30am Ecumenical Service, Little Wolford Hall (AW/CLW)	10:30am CW Morning Praise (SPA)
December 22 nd 4th Sunday of Advent			3:00pm Family Carols (BD)	4:00pm Nativity (BD)	6:00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (SPA)	6:30pm Carol Service (BD)	
Tue December 24 th Christmas Eve	11:30pm BCP Candlelit Midnight Comm (BD)	3:00pm Carol Service (SPA)	9:00am BCP Holy Comm (SPA)	10:30am CW Family Communion (BD)	10:30am CW Family Communion (SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (LM)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (IA)
Wed December 25 th Christmas Day	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	10:30am CW Benefice Comm (PF)	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Comm*(SPA) 4pm Informal Service (with kids/youth groups)(SPA/BD)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Praise (BD)
December 29 th 1st Sunday of Christmas							
January 5 th Epiphany	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>					

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

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

Brexmas, Xmas or Christmas?

No doubt by the time you read this, you will already be fed up with two things: the use of the word 'Brexmas' in the media, and the sight of the word 'Xmas' in every supermarket aisle and shop window, urging you to buy more cards, gifts, food and wrapping paper.

Many of us are so overwhelmed by the 'Xmas' rush every year, that we tend to lose sight of Christmas altogether. Others have given up believing in the traditional Christmas story because it just seems too fantastical to be true. Some of us may even have found ourselves saying to a friend, 'I wish I had your faith.'

The first Christmas

Luke tells us that he based his account of the first Christmas on eyewitness testimony, much of which came from Jesus' mother. Why does Luke tell us so much about Mary? One of the main reasons is so we can learn from her faith.

Mary's faith is certainly not what some people call 'blind faith'. When the angel Gabriel appears to her, she doesn't say, 'Wow! An angel is speaking to me!' Instead we read, *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* The word translated 'wondered' is an accounting word. It means 'to make an audit', to be adding things up and figuring them out in your mind. So as Mary hears the angel's words, she is asking herself, 'Is this real? Or am I hallucinating? What on earth is going on here?'

Mary was clearly troubled by such an apparition - just as you or I would be. But she was not gullible. When the angel later tells her she will have a child who will be called, 'The Son of the Most High', she does not simply say, 'How lovely!' Instead, she asks a very blunt and practical question, 'How will this be, since I am not sleeping with a man?' Mary was not naïve: she knew very well how reproductive biology worked!

Barriers to faith

The New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller says in his book *Hidden Christmas*, 'You and I have been trained by our culture to not believe in the supernatural. As we saw earlier, as a Jewish woman, Mary had been trained by her culture to not believe that God could ever become a human being. So, though they are different, the barriers she faced against belief in the Christmas message were every bit as big as the barriers you may be facing. And yet a combination of evidence and experience shattered those barriers and she came to faith. That is exactly the way it works now. She doubted, she questioned, she used her reason, and she asked questions – just as we must today if we are going to have faith.'

The journey to faith

Someone who discovered a real faith later in his life is the world-famous operatic singer, Andrea Bocelli. Bocelli went blind when he was a boy. He says that when he was younger, he was agnostic because he didn't have enough evidence one way or the other to believe in God. But he later realised that was a ploy to avoid the real issue. In an interview he gave with the *Big Issue* magazine last December, he said, *In adulthood, some pressing existential questions cropped up. Reading a small and wonderful book by Tolstoy, A Confession, later followed by all his other masterpieces, helped me a lot along the path to faith. To believe that life is determined by chance is not only unsuitable but illogical and not very sensible.*

Doubting your doubts

Do you want to have faith? Then, as Bocelli says, you need to stop avoiding the real issue. You need to think things through. You need to start questioning your doubts. You need to read books that will help you seriously wrestle with the central claims of the Christian faith like Timothy Keller's *Making Sense of God*. You need to read one of the accounts of Jesus' life in the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and pray that if God is real, he will make himself known to you. Mary shows us that faith isn't magic. It's not something that some people just have and others don't. It's something that comes gradually through honest and thoughtful questioning.

See for yourself

Why not take a step forward in finding faith for yourself by coming to a course I am running in the New Year called *Uncover Mark*, looking at the very earliest account of Jesus' life: Mark's Gospel. We shall meet at The Vicarage, Long Compton over eight evenings from 8.00 pm - 9.30 pm starting Wednesday 8 January 2020. To register an interest please contact me on rectorsw7@gmail.com or telephone 01608 684207.



Stuart Allen (Rector)

Deanery News

In the past month we have journeyed together in the Deanery through the brokenness of the world. At All Souls', we gathered in many of our churches to weep with those who have lost loved ones, and together with our nation we remembered the terrible effects of war. Locally we have experienced pain and brokenness within our deanery and have gathered as best we can to support one another and to pray together. It is into this broken world that Christ came. As Christmas approaches, we traditionally use Advent to get ready to remember that first coming and to look forward to the time when all will be healed, and all reconciled in him.

Please do continue to pray for the Benefices of Ilmington and Stourdene and those who support them. And in the middle of local, national and international brokenness and pain, may we witness to the coming of the Christ child.

God in the dark

Holy God,
before us, beside us, within us,
there is no place without you;
help us to recognise your presence
in the dark places,
the difficult places, of our lives;
even as we sing of your glory
in the light.

Amen

Chris Polhill

Deanery Synod next meets on Tuesday 28 January at 7.30 pm in St. Edmund's Shipston. We will be welcoming Julie Bellamy, Director of Finance, to come and speak.

Paths of Joy – journeys in mental health. Our Lent services this year are on the theme of mental health with speakers who have worked extensively in the field. More details will follow in the new year. Please book Tuesdays in Lent in your diaries. We are fortunate to have Reverend Jean Fletcher in the deanery, who was a mental health chaplain and is a great resource for us.

Sarah Edmonds (Area Dean)

St. Lawrence, Barton on the Heath

Carol Service

On 24 December the Bastable Family at the Old Rectory are generously inviting all who attend the Carol Service to The Old Rectory for drinks and nibbles.

Benefice Service

After the Benefice Service on Sunday 29 December, those who come are invited by the Cathie Family to Barton House for similar hospitality. On this Sunday free parking will be available in our back drive marked 'Barton House – North Wing'.

Hamish Cathie

Advent Services

Sunday 1 December - Whichford Church, 10.30 am
Sunday 8 December - Long Compton Church, 10.30 am



Nativity Service

Tuesday 24 December - Cherington Church, 4.00 pm



Carol Services

Sunday 15 December
Barcheston Church, 11.15 am and Cherington Church, 4.00 pm

Sunday 22 December
Burmington Church, 3.00 pm and Long Compton Church @ 5.00 pm
plus Wolford Church @ 6.30 pm

Tuesday 24 December
Barton Church, 3.00 pm and Whichford Church, 6.00 pm



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



The Old Forge, Stourton House at 12.30 pm

STORIES FOR OUR TIMES (The Parables of Jesus)

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

Simple lunch provided - donations please

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

Liz Maycock: 686404 (lizzymaycock@gmail.com)

Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who gave items or filled boxes for this year's appeal. Your kindness and generosity will be bringing Christmas joy to many poor and needy people in Eastern Europe.

This year, John and Simon from the charity *Link to Hope* collected 273 boxes that had arrived on my doorstep from Stratford, Tysoe, Broadway, Oxhill, Sutton under Brailes and Shipston as well as the villages of SW7.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas.



Sue Bradley



South Warwickshire Seven Benefice



Reverend Stuart Allen

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

Reverend Ben Dyson

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

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - officesw7@gmail.com

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 – 4 pm

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk

Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

Nursery Building Update

After a slower start than anticipated, our new Nursery building at Acorns School is starting to take shape. Building works were supposed to commence in the summer term but these were delayed due to all tenders received being significantly over budget, so considerable value engineering work was necessary.

The 44-year-old temporary building was finally demolished during the last week of August and the first week of September. Since then the contractors have been making good progress despite the wet weather. All the foundation work is complete, as is the substructure masonry. Work is now on the superstructure masonry and next will be the beam and block floor and main slab casting. The floor will be cast once the roof is on. Contractors have set a completion date of 24 January 2020, weather permitting.

Harvest Thanks

Both Acorns and Brailes have recently celebrated Harvest in church. Brailes Harvest Festival at St. George's Church was a lovely whole school community occasion during which we gave thanks for all the good things we have and reflected on the importance of being grateful and sharing with others. Children in nursery and reception helped to lead our Harvest worship by singing and playing instruments for *Big Red Combine Harvester*. With Harvest poetry by Owls Class, a song by Rabbits Class and prayers led by Badgers Class, all children helped to lead the service. It was wonderful to see so many family members and members of the local community join us in church. Many thanks for the generous donations of food to support the work of Shipston Foodbank.



In the glorious autumn sunshine at the end of October, children in Years 1-6 enjoyed playing conkers as part of a *Fobstober* (Friends of Brailes School) pupil-led fundraiser organised by William in Year 5. Well done to William and many thanks to his family for supporting him to prepare the conkers for the games played. Many thanks to all others in our school and wider community with *Fobstober* fundraising.

Oxford Museums



Owls Class at Brailes have been all about the 'Iron Age' and enjoyed a busy trip to the Oxford museums, having the chance to look at the oldest human skeleton found in Britain in the Natural History Museum, and then sketching a wide variety of prehistoric artefacts from all over the world in the Pitt Rivers Museum. They were then lucky enough to pair this visit with a virtual trip to the British Museum the day after, where the Owls tested their new knowledge against a tricky quiz, took a virtual journey into an Iron Age roundhouse, and examined 3D scans of some interesting Bronze Age artefacts.

The Owls then investigated Iron Age hill forts, looking at how and why they were built and working on a case study of Maiden Castle. They were then challenged to put together plans to help a Welsh Iron Age tribe better defend their people. They used map skills to choose a suitable location, keeping in mind the resources needed for building; they considered how best to defend the land, using ramparts, ditches and wooden fortifications; and they looked at ways of keeping the population well fed, using farms and food storage techniques. Finally, they decided on their own ways of presenting their plan to the chief, using posters, booklets and even exciting green-screen videos. They are all excited to show off their projects at Parent Sharing!

Badgers Class visited Oxford University's Natural History Museum at the same time. This exciting trip provided incredible 'hands-on' learning opportunities which deepened the children's understanding of adaptation and evolution. Through close observation and the handling of specimens – including a polar bear's paw, crocodile skin and a buffalo's foot - the children were able to explore, using all their senses, how animals have evolved and adapted to survive in particular habitats.

Whilst at the museum, they were also able to look at Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's work on natural selection and then examine some of the fossil evidence that reveals the history of life on our planet. It was incredible to be surrounded by so many wonders from the natural world; it really enriched the learning we had already undertaken in school and inspired everyone all to take our learning even further. Badgers Class would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to our wonderful fundraisers at FOBS for subsidising this trip.



The children have also been enjoying weekly fife lessons. All the children have now managed to make a good sound on their instruments and have learnt ways of reading and writing rhythms. They have learnt three notes so far, and we are looking forward to seeing some new players in the Stour Federation Partnership school band once they have learnt two more!

Want to train to be a teacher?

The schools in The Stour Federation Partnership are committed to supporting the training of new teachers coming into the profession. We provide placements and training opportunities for those training to teach through the *School Direct* teacher training programme and have a long track record of success.

School Direct is a school-based teacher training programme that offers you a great opportunity to train, qualify and gain employment as a teacher. You could even earn a salary while you train. We offer short-term experience placements for those considering a career in teaching. We are recruiting now, so to find out more, please call in to speak to an Associate Headteacher or the Executive Headteacher, or visit the Gateway Alliance School Direct Partnership website: www.gatewayalliance.co.uk/school-direct.

Bags of Hope for Syria

For the past two years schools in The Stour Federation Partnership have participated in the 'Bags of Hope' appeal, where children filled a pink or blue bag (provided) with items they thought a child in Syria would like to have. This has been very successful and short films showing children in a Syrian hospital receiving their bags of hope have been made.

We will be repeating 'Bags of Hope' this year: imagine a Syrian child who has nothing opening a bag that has travelled 4000 miles just for them from another child their age, to cheer up their day, just like opening a stocking at Christmas.

We have some spare bags in the school offices for residents if anyone would like to take part. Suggested items include colouring books, stationery, small toys (no guns) sweets (need to be Halal), stickers, drinking bottle, toothbrush and toothpaste. It's also good to add socks, gloves, hat, etc., as the weather is getting cold in Syria. All items are available from pound shops. Some children enclosed letters and cards in their bags last year and some children even wrote a message in Arabic. Bags will be collected from the schools on Friday 6 December.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week takes place in schools across England every November. This year's Anti-Bullying Week had the theme *Change Starts With Us* and happened from Monday 11 November - Friday 15 November. Children and staff from Brailes were invited to wear odd socks to promote the week, celebrate what makes us all unique and show that it's good to be different.

As well as in-class lessons, children were reminded of the STOP acronym that we use in school, explaining that it is considered bullying behaviour if it is *Several Times On Purpose*, and to *Start Telling Other People*, so that it can be stopped immediately.

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. Children were taught that by making small, simple changes, they can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, they can challenge bullying. It takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying.

Change starts here. Change starts now. Change starts with us.



An Update on Bovine TB

As I write, our vet is injecting all our cattle for the first part of our annual TB test. He will come back in a few days to check for any lumps at the injection sites. A lump confirms exposure to TB; the animal will have to be culled and all movement of cattle on or off the farm will have to stop until we get two clear tests over a 60-day period. Hopefully all the cattle will be clear so the farm will not be shut down.

Results on how effective the badger cull has been in the first cull areas of Somerset and Gloucestershire are available. One of my sources for this article is the *Report on the Incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle 2013-2016*, published September 2017. This is available on the DEFRA website. Additional information on vaccination has been taken from *Farmers Weekly* 8 November 2019 and *British Farmer and Grower* December 2019.

The first licences were given in 2013 for areas of Somerset and Gloucestershire with a further licence in 2015 for an area of Dorset. The report used data from herds located in the licence areas and compared these with TB data in cattle in ten comparison areas, the incidence of TB was also monitored in 2 km buffer zones around the cull areas.

In the Gloucestershire area there was a 66% reduction in new TB breakdowns and in Somerset the reduction in breakdowns was 37%. In the Gloucestershire buffer zone, the incidence of new cases was down 36% but in the Somerset buffer zone there was no change. When the cull zones were first mooted, there was a worry that the disturbance caused might mean infected badgers moved from their normal habitats to the surrounding countryside. This would not seem to be the case. In the area of Dorset where the cull started in 2015, there has been no reduction in TB incidents after two years but a 55% decrease in the 2 km buffer zone. This would suggest that two years is too early to assess the scheme and it was always intended that no decisions should be taken on the efficacy of the culls until there were at least four years of data.

There are now 21 cull zones across the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire with a further 11 areas having a licence to start culling this winter. There are currently no cull zones in Warwickshire.

Culling badgers is never going to be the only way to control bovine TB. Tests are currently being done on cattle vaccinations. Badgers are being trapped and vaccinated in areas of Wales, but this is very expensive, and vaccination will not cure an already infected animal. It had been hoped that an oral vaccine would become available for badgers, but the badger's digestive system is too powerful and breaks down the vaccine. It is possible to catch a badger and scratch the back of its mouth to get the vaccine to work to a degree, but this is a difficult and dangerous process.

Researchers are trying to produce a cattle vaccine that only protects cattle with a blood test that could differentiate between a vaccinated (therefore healthy cow) and an infected animal. Such a vaccine is in development and could possibly be rolled out in 5 years rather than the 10 years previously thought.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

The devastating forest fires in South America, which destroyed thousands of trees, not to mention plants and other wildlife, emphasise how important it is for all of us to plant as many trees as we can for the survival of the planet's wellbeing. Here in the UK we are attempting, as we say, to do our bit and although globally this is but a small contribution it is above all an example to other nations. We are probably the least afforested country in Europe so there is ample scope for many trees to be planted. Spearheading these efforts is the Woodland Trust which planted 32 million trees in 2018. In the North Midlands a whole new forest is being created with an area covering 200 square miles. The Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge aims to plant one million trees by 2022. The 200,000 acre Duchy of Cornwall Estate led by Prince Charles, himself an ardent conservationist, is also adding to these tree numbers. Schools, too, are being given sapling trees. Additionally, widespread planting is being done up and down the country by local naturalist trusts embarking on their own particular schemes. Water companies, too, are adding their weight by planting on their land. There is, of course, a constant battle to prevent ancient woods from being destroyed. A battle often between the Woodland Trust and the money-guzzling HS2 Railway whose relentless progress holds little regard for such things. Many farmers, too, under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme are planting trees where appropriate. By so doing we must be on the way to helping our health and that of the planet.

Last month, we talked about butterflies, but we seem to have less regard for moths, regarding them as rather dull creatures which flit around our lights at night or get into our wardrobes and destroy our clothes. Yet I was recently browsing through a book about these creatures and was surprised to find just how many different colours they have, which can be varying from yellow, brown, white and many others. In fact, as variable as butterfly colours. Fascinating too, are the names given to them such as dark spinach, brindle beauty, orange footman and maiden's blush. Moths pollinate at least 33 species of wild plants. They can be found in woods, hedgerows, pastures and heaths.



The Orange Conch Moth

It is thought that one reason for their decline is the increase in lighting; its pollution being responsible for upsetting their feeding and breeding behaviour. My newspaper today carries a report of the rerouting of a sewer pipeline due to the discovery of a species of moth thought to be extinct in the area. The orange conch moth, it seems, is still happily residing in this area near Kings Lynn and seems in no hurry to disappear. The diversion of the sewer pipeline has assured it may stay indefinitely.

Another moth, the barberry carpet moth, is not quite so welcome because the host plant of this moth is the barberry bush which helps the overwintering of weed stem rust. Eradication of this bush means that it, and the moth, are seen less frequently.

So do we see any remnants of summer as we walk through the countryside? On the stream bank in our village still stand plants of pendulous sedge. I think that this plant should really be renamed sad sedge since the long pendulous flower droops down against the stalk, a rather mournful plant on the whole. Rushes and sedges can be difficult to identify, but this one with its drooping flower is a giveaway standing to four foot in height. Damp woods and stream sides are its main habitat.



Pendulous Sedge

When you consider some of the names we attach to plants, it is just as well that they are unable to understand them as their sensitivities would be deeply offended. Aficionados of Harry Potter would be deeply offended if I did not put the fictional screaming mandrake at the head of this list. Here is an imaginary plant so called, because it screams when pulled out by its roots. Meanwhile, in the real world, we are used to hogweed which grows on our waysides in late spring, its stalks once were smoked as a substitute for cigarettes. Mugwort is common enough also as a wayside plant and rather uninteresting. But what about monkey flower, pigweed, skunk cabbage, common fiddleneck, stinkweed and sneezewort? Surely names which would cause the recipients to blush with shame were they able to do so. Happily for us, and them, this is not at all likely to happen and we continue to live in harmony.

Tony Partridge

Highlight on Hedgehogs – December

I feel like I'm studying for my 'A' level biology exam again, but I've been reading up about hibernation – it's fascinating. Hibernation is an amazing feat and brings about some very dramatic physiological changes which almost transform the warm-blooded hog into a cold-blooded animal just for the duration of the coldest 2-3 months of the year. A sleeping hog can be seen to dream and twitch just like any other sleeping mammal, whereas in hibernation its metabolism almost reaches a standstill (the hog is cold to touch, but its spines ripple by way of response). Its heartbeat drops to just 20 beats a minute, it only breathes every couple of minutes, and body temperature drops from 35°C to 10°C – a drop which would kill most other mammals. However, the hog is curled up tightly in a ball and the temperature around the heart is nearly normal, getting cooler as you move outwards.

Inside its body there are specific processes taking place to protect the hog. White blood cells collect around vital organs and fight any build-up of bacteria from food left decomposing in its digestive tract at the onset of hibernation. The pancreas is key and is the only vital organ to keep on working normally in order to keep a constant flow of insulin which decreases sugar levels in the blood to less than half the normal amount. The drop in body temperature means the rate of chemical bodily functions in the body are reduced by about 75% - this allows fat reserves, the sole source of sustenance, to last

much longer. However, a hog's temperature mustn't drop below 1°C or it faces frostbite or may even freeze solid.

Amazingly, there are two types of fat that the hog lays down – white, and brown. In a hibernating hedgehog it is important to conserve fat reserve because once they are used up, there will be little or no food to replace the fat until the following spring. The brown fat is a life saver. When the weather turns very cold, the brown fat is, subconsciously and automatically, brought into play by releasing energy into the bloodstream and warming up the muscles and the bodily functions. This triggers the hog to then wake up, assess the situation, realise it is at risk from insufficient insulation in its present location and it will then move elsewhere to build another nest. This is a high-risk situation, and unless the hog finds some food, and quickly settles down into a warm nest again it may perish.



During hibernation, the greatest threats are from the flooding of winter nest sites, severe cold weather, human disturbance or predators. The People's Trust for Endangered Species and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society give the following advice, and winter tips to help the hogs through this dangerous period of the year....

You should still put out food overwinter, as long as the food is being taken. As we are experiencing increasingly milder winters, the hogs are at greater risk of waking up from their state of torpor. They expend a lot of energy doing this so if you see a hog out between now and March/April do put out extra food if possible. Equally, they need to hydrate themselves, but their water sources tend to freeze in winter – a little saucer of water helps them and other wildlife such as birds (make sure ponds are hog-friendly by providing a ramp for them to use in them fall in).

Remember, if you have an underweight, sick or injured hedgehog please call the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) on 01584 890 801, or email them on info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk for non-urgent matters.

Louise Turner

St. Martin's Church

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

Next recital:

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

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

Ensemble Pro Victoria Sing for Remembrance

What a dark, wet Saturday night it was to turn out for a Requiem Mass sung by just 6 choristers and their conductor, Toby Ward, on the eve of Remembrance Sunday! Despite noisy, torrential rain, the solemnity of the scene was set by subdued light falling on arrays of dark red poppies and the scarcely wavering candlelight on altar and table in St. Martin's.

The music, *The Victoria Mass*, with additions by Vivanco at beginning and end, was a revelation: here was exquisite polyphony by two Renaissance composers from Spain, each part sung by just one voice, from three men and three women, achieving surprising richness and power.

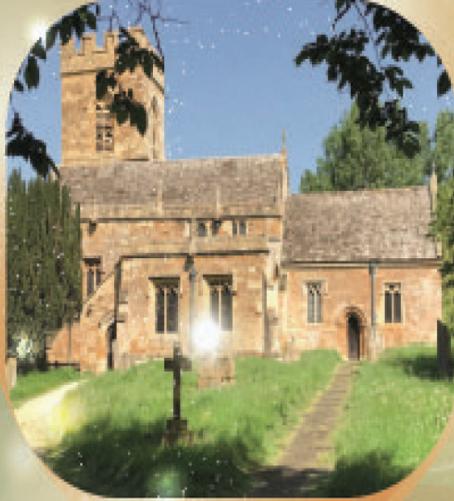
Tomaso Luis de Victoria and Sebastian de Vivanco were masters of the rich choral tradition of the sixteenth century, first learned when they were boy choristers together in the Cathedral of Avila. Their music expressed the counter-reformation church's response to death in its liturgy of supplication, fear, and sorrow but also with words of hope, rest and praise for a merciful Lord God. Perfect music for remembrance on the eve of the day assigned to those who have fallen in conflict.

The *Ensemble*, who have been singing together since they formed in 2015 in Cambridge, brought to the fore the moving sorrow of the music whilst never losing the towering architectural quality of early polyphony which requires pitch-perfect control and accuracy, as heard in the second Kyrie.

It was a splendid performance which quite embraced those of us who had managed to attend (unfortunately not quite up to our usual numbers). Hopefully *Ensemble Pro Victoria* will return some time in better weather and sing for us again.

Dianne Smith

St. Martin's, Barcheston Christmas Services



Carol Service

Sunday 15th December - 11.15am

Come along and sing traditional carols and listen to Christmas music sung by our local choir, followed by light refreshments.

Please come and join us. Everyone welcome

Christmas Eve Holy Communion by Candlelight

11.30p.m

Please join us for a traditional service and see this beautiful church lit by candlelight.

This will be the only by Midnight Communion in the Benefice, so brave the cold and dark to share in a very moving and atmospheric service.

Beneficial Book Club

We enjoyed meeting to talk about *The Big Short* by Michael Lewis. This non-fiction book focuses on the crash of the US sub-prime mortgage bond market in 2007 and 2008, which in turn led to global financial turmoil. The narrative is set around a small group of people, in many ways eccentric amateurs in Wall Street, who could see the crash coming (and ultimately became rich because of it). People felt that the author was able to take a rather dry topic and make it entertaining and enjoyable.

This book was a great choice and provoked the best discussions - who knew Barton was hiding so many financial experts! Next time will be on Sunday 1 December at 5.30 pm in the village hall when we will talk about *The Salt Path* by Rae Winn.

Gillian Cathie

Biddy's Delish Soda Bread (3 loaves)

Dust a flat baking tray with flour and turn oven onto 200°F

Ingredients:

2.5 lbs flour (Allinson's Seed and Grain Wholemeal)
3 flat teaspoons salt
2 tspns sugar
3.5 tspns bicarbonate of soda
3 x 284ml packs buttermilk

Mix all dry ingredients really well. Add buttermilk. Mix really well again and add a bit of water/milk if too dry. Knead on your work surface for 10 minutes. Split into 3 roughly equal portions, and form into bread shaped loaves. Slash each loaf top with about 5 diagonal incisions. When the temperature has reached 200°F, place the loaves in the middle of the oven and bake for 20 minutes then cover with foil and bake for another 15 mins at the same temperature. The loaves are ready if they sound hollow when you tap them.

Penny Mead



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

Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

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

St Barnabas & St Nicholas Church - Burmington



Family Nativity Carol Service

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22 December at 3.00 pm

Followed by refreshments: mulled wine and mince pies

Stir Up Sunday at Burmington Church

Burmington Church held its annual 'Stir Up Sunday' service on Sunday 17 November. Village children helped Reverend Ben Dyson make the Christmas pudding after which the congregation was invited to stir the mixture. It was then spirited away out of the church for 'cooking'.

Shortly after, a cooked and flaming Christmas pudding was carefully carried into church by Peter, and everyone enjoyed a teaspoonful or two of the pudding washed down by mugs of coffee.

Our thanks to Ben for conducting a lovely service and wowing us with his culinary skills, to the children for helping to mix the ingredients, to Dennis Cummings for making the delicious finished pudding and to Honor for leading the singing with her guitar.

A lot of fun was had by everyone.

It's probably **FREE** – Subscription to The LINK online is free for existing subscribers within the SW7 distribution area so please do sign up...



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Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details



Christmas Cameo Lunch Club

Burmington Village Hall

Tuesday 10 December

12.00 noon for 12.30 pm.



Come and join us for a traditional Christmas lunch with carols. Members are asked to bring a small wrapped present to put in Santa's bag for him to re-distribute to us on his visit after lunch

All are welcome: most villages in the Benefice are represented in the current membership. A special charge of £5 is made for this month's lunch towards expenses. All dietary needs can be met. Please bring your family, friends and children. Transport to and from the village hall can be provided.

Please book with Brenda Fitch Tel: 664313



Winter Gathering Burmington Village Hall Saturday 7 December



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

Contact Irene on 01608 661418 to book Fish & Chips.

VILLAGE NEWS

CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: cherington@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 686682

Bar and Hot Supper available



**NORTH COTSWOLD
FARMERS MARKET**



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

from 6pm until 8 pm

@The Hall, Stourton,

Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 5HG



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

Defibrillator at The Hall, Stourton

In conjunction with the installation of the defibrillator outside the entrance to The Hall, a number of residents from Stourton, Cherington and Sutton under Brailes participated in a one-day Emergency First Aid Training Course covering use of a defibrillator and CPR.

It was agreed to be a hugely worthwhile experience. Information and practical sessions, questions and answers gave reassurance and encouraged confidence, all suitably interspersed with occasional lighthearted moments.

Annie Lewis

Lottery Winners for November

Winners in the draw for the November Lottery were:

1st	Erica Jackson	£80
2nd	Val Flint	£45
3rd	Annette Oakes	£30

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

Steve Allkins

Cherington Stourton & Sutton under Brailes Seniors Club

Dates for your Diaries:

Tuesday 10 December - Christmas Party with 'Sweet Memories' performing songs from the 1920s in the hall from 2.30 – 4.00 pm. A Christmas tea will be served.

Tuesday 14 January - New Year Feast at the Cherington Arms - 12.30 for 1.00 pm.

More details will be circulated nearer the dates. We look forward to seeing you all.

The Seniors Committee

Brailes Mechanical and Craft Society

Our Speaker in November was Bill Hannis, a retired police officer who talked about his 30-year career in the Warwickshire Police Force. Brought up in Nuneaton, he had always wanted to be a policeman and when he left school, he went to the local police station and asked to join. In those days (the 1960s), things were a lot simpler.

At the start of his career every town had a police station and most villages had a police house. He started on the beat, where the communication was via a whistle or the phone box. He joined Rugby CID at 21 and progressed working in the Anti-Terrorist Unit and the Drugs Squad. One of his many anecdotes involved having to stash £6,000 under his bed after a drugs raid was delayed. He ended his career as Detective Chief Superintendent. After retirement he wrote a book about his life called *A Bobby's Job*.

Next month's meeting is our Christmas Buffet and Raffle with Entertainment.

Theresa Wakeham

Brailes Picturehouse

Picturehouse dates for 2020

18 January (*Fisherman's Friends*)

15th February (*Downton Abbey*)

21 March, 25 April, 23 May, 20 June, 19 September, 17 October and 21 November

Other titles for 2020 - *Judy* (Garland), *Rocket Man*, *Aladdin* and *Toy Story* - dates depend on availability. We wish you a very Happy Christmas & New Year celebrations. Thank you for your support during 2019.

Deirdre Carney



Cotswold Autumn Fields
by Sue Levitch



AMAZING MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

**A night of song and music featuring
The Mojitos, CSS Kazoo Orchestra,
JozoBozo, Porterhouse Blues and more**

The Hall Cherington

January 25th 2020 7.30-11.00pm

Early Bird Tickets £7.50 in advance.

Contact Dawn Russell tel: 07982 628385

email: dawn.amazingmusic@gmail.com

Coffee Shop at The Hall



Mulled Wine
Mince Pies
Christmas Raffle



Saturday 21 December
10.30 am – 12.00 noon



PS – Don't forget Saturday 18 January 2020 Vintage Tea Party, details to follow.

Derek Watts

Derek Watts was a true villager and it is appropriate that his funeral service took place in The Congregational Chapel where he and Mary had married over 60 years ago and where their children, Jonathan and Linda, were christened.

Derek was a true countryman and was never seen without a dog at his side, the first having been given to him when he was eight by his father when he went off to war.

Derek had a varied career working on farms, as a professional driver and at the Norgren. In retirement he was able to devote more time to gardening and photography. He always had time for an uplifting chat and his knowledge of the village will be much missed.



Long Compton Village Hall



Saturday 9 November was particularly wet, but it did nothing to dampen the spirits of the stallholders as they offered their wares at the Christmas Fair. With two raffles, a wide selection of stalls, a visit from a couple of local PCSOs and hot food and drinks on offer, folks who braved the elements were warmly welcomed to partake in a little bit of Christmas shopping. It was a sociable event with a festive and friendly atmosphere to put us in the mood for the approaching season. Social Saturday will return on 11 January with a special *Slime Workshop* for children aged 6-12 as well as the usual home-made meal, hot drinks, raffle, 100 club draw and stalls. For details of our events over the Christmas period please see the separate notice.

You will have noticed that work has started on the south end of the drive and so, for health and safety reasons, we are limiting the use of it for car parking to hall users only. This is the first phase of a major undertaking to improve the drive costing a considerable sum. In order to raise this extra revenue, we are embarking on a year of fundraising events in 2020, full details of which will be delivered to every home at the beginning of the year. We do hope you will do whatever you can to support these events so we can make the improvements necessary to keep the drive safe and usable for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

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

Notes for Comptonians

After our end of year lunch in November, we shall have a break in December and meet again in the village hall on January 15 at 2.00pm for the start of our new year program. New members are very welcome.

Margaret Welsh (684238)



Long Compton Village Hall Forthcoming events



Community Carols - Saturday 7 December at 6.00 pm

Come and sing carols, have a glass of mulled wine or a mug of hot chocolate and a mince pie



Christmas Tea Party – Saturday 14 December at 3.00 pm

Tea party with entertainment. Tickets from Mo Read 684130



Twixmas – Saturday 28 December at 2.30 pm

An informal gathering to have a chat, do a jigsaw or play games. Light refreshments available.

If you need transport for any event, please ring Alison 684689 or Mo 684130



Do come along to

Social Saturday

At Long Compton Village Hall

Saturday 11 January 11am – 2pm

We serve delicious home-cooked meals,
soup, home-made cakes and hot drinks.



Long Compton
book club

The book group does not meet in December
(other than sociably in the pub!) so our next meeting is
Thursday 9 January 2020 7.00 - 8.30pm

As always, all welcome

Contact: Sue Klatt 01608 684813 or sueklatt@gmail.com

Compton District History Society

Graham Downie gave us a very entertaining and informative talk on the Fairground Calendar - the annual timetable of fairs across the country. Illustrated by his own photographs, Graham has an extraordinary knowledge of fairs and fair people which has been his obsession for seventy years since the tender age of three.

Beginning with the Kings Lynn fair on 14 February and ending in Loughborough on the second Thursday in November, Graham took us on a nationwide travelogue taking in the four 'great fairs' in Kirkcaldy, Newcastle, Hull and Nottingham and covering the various different types of fairs - mainly the Charter Fairs (established, generally in early medieval times, by Royal Charter as centres for trade and exchange) and the Statute Fairs (established in response to Edward III's Statute of Labourers as centres for recruitment).

The 'mop' fairs which we all know locally are a subset of Statute Fairs unique to the South Midlands and the Cotswolds. The 'mop' itself was not the well-known kitchen implement but instead was the name given to the tassel worn on the lapel of the person seeking work which indicated their skills. Anyone recruited at a mop fair had the right to change their minds within a week or so and to return to another fair seeking alternative employment. Hence the 'mop' and the 'runaway mop' held within a couple of weeks of each other at Stratford upon Avon (the greatest of the mop fairs apparently, although Graham confessed a personal preference for the Banbury Michaelmas mop).

The timetable of the fairs closely followed the agricultural year, with most fairs being held in May and early June and in late September and October when the weather was relatively good but there was less to do on the land. The fairs follow crowds (Newcastle and Epsom fairs were, for example, founded to take advantage of horse racing crowds). A recent innovation introduced in Lincoln around thirty years ago was the Christmas Fair, which proved so successful that they are now to be found across the country.

All in all, the encouragingly large (for such a horrid evening) audience was treated to a thoroughly enjoyable and eye-opening presentation. This month on Wednesday 11 December at 7.30 pm in the village hall we will be welcoming Stephen Wass who will be talking to us about *Cropredy to Compton: the archaeology of a village*. The Christmas meeting will, as usual, be accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine. Do come along!

Bill Cook 684771

Long Compton and District Garden Club



Future Programme



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

26 February - South African Plants in the wild and in British Gardens with Sue Bedwell who trained and worked at Waterperry Gardens.

25 March - Central Royal Parks with Jim Buttress who managed the Royal Parks in London, is an RHS judge, Judge of the Big Allotment Challenge, broadcaster and author.

22 April - The Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park with Tim Miles who is Head Gardener of the CWP, was previously at Heligan, and is on the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee

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

Long Compton Garden Club Visit Westonbirt Arboretum - 4 October

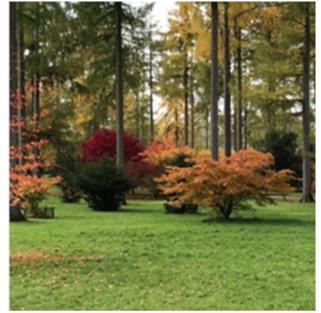
The closure of a main road beyond Tetbury saw our coach navigating narrow roads which caused a slight delay in an otherwise thoroughly enjoyable day out. The purpose of this visit was to enjoy the autumn colours and, despite strong winds a few days previously, the trees were still showing some very good colour, most notably the Acers (Japanese Maples). On arrival some of the group took advantage of the guided tour which I understand was excellent and most informative.

Westonbirt Arboretum was originally planted by the wealthy Holford family in the mid-nineteenth century, and in 1956, the entire 600 acres were handed over to Forestry England, whose centenary we celebrate this year. Westonbirt has one of the most important plant collections in the world with 15,000 specimens and 2,500 species of trees from all over the world. Of these, about 100 are rare and endangered.

The Arboretum is in two parts, the Old Arboretum and the larger Silk Wood, which is accessed across a fascinating treetop walkway which takes you high up into the canopy of some of the trees. Ash Dieback has infected the ash trees throughout Silk Wood and all infected trees are in the process of being felled in order to maintain the health of the woodland for future generations. It was a sobering sight to see trees with large yellow bands round their trunks, signifying that they were to be felled.

It was a wonderful visit and good to see so many families enjoying the surroundings, it is quite awe inspiring to think that the originators had the vision to plant such a huge area for countless generations to enjoy. They would never have seen it in all its glory as we see it today. We have an awful lot to thank them for.





Trip Report by Celia Sawyer

Year-round Container Gardening

Chris Day of Buckingham Garden Centre gave an overview of changes in gardening over the last 40 years such as container gardens, 'instant' garden TV programmes, 'plug' plants, imported plants, living walls etc. Imported plants unfortunately have allowed all sorts of diseases into the country with dire results. Chris observed that new houses now come with much smaller gardens than they used to. So, we all want colour for a good part of the year, low maintenance and gardens extending the interior decor.

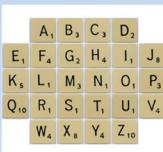
He assembled a miracle of nature in front of us. He piled in far more bulb layers than normal in a container, re-assuring us that they would come through without spearing each other. He topped it all off with a couple of shrubs, small grasses, evergreen ferns and pansies. One of our members bought it, so we'll see what happens.

Containers allow us to grow shrubs which we wouldn't normally see such as camellias, acers and pieris. These can be trimmed - roots as well - to keep them small. They can also be under-planted with annuals and bulbs. Chris suggested other container bulbs such as lilies and gladioli, again planting extra bulbs for impact and length of flowering period.

Chris trained in Manchester where he gained his first Chelsea medal for a hanging basket planted with Nasturtium Alaska, with variegated leaves and cream, yellow, orange and red flowers. He's worked with Percy Thrower and Alan Titchmarsh and then to Radio Solent. He has been working for Buckingham Nurseries since 2003.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 26 February on South African plants in the wild and in British gardens.

Lesley Roberts



Ebenezer Chapel

Butlers Lane, Long Compton

Scrabble



If you enjoy playing Scrabble, please join us.
Beginners welcome. £2 donation to cover heating, coffee/tea included.

Wednesdays at 7.00 pm

Come along or contact: Sally 01608 684739 / 07870 545431
Text; WhatsApp; Messenger and longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com

Long Compton Parish Council

Water – Achieving the Right Balance

Water is crucial to our survival but in the case of Long Compton, there is a certain irony about that question of getting the right balance. There have been two meetings in village hall recently, one by Severn Trent to explain how they aim to provide a more reliable supply and one from SAFAG (Stour Area Flood Action Group) to explain plans to help mitigate flooding.

Severn Trent work to Barton Road has now commenced and for worker safety, the road will be closed whilst the new main is being installed. It is scheduled to be completed by mid-December. Other Severn Trent workforces have been co-incidentally fixing leaks in the village and it is anticipated that we will continue to welcome these repair teams as the system is old, but not yet scheduled for replacement.

The presentation by Stour Area Flood Action Group explained the work that they have already done in order to try and relieve the pressure on Shipston and area. The principle is to slow flow through use of interventions in streams and creation of new holding ponds. They have been working with the village flood group and local landowners and the first phase of work on The Woodlands Farm is due to commence shortly. SAFAG have Grant Funds available and WCC have allocated a further grant to Long Compton but it is recognised that there may still be a shortfall to enable completion and also to fund future maintenance work.

Parish Wildlife Survey



Elephant Hawk Moth and caterpillar, from Vicarage Lane. (Photographs by Caroline Richardson)

Thanks to all those who have so far returned their completed wildlife survey. The findings are beginning to build into an interesting body of information, and something useful for us to draw on when, as a Council, we make decisions which affect the environment. I haven't tried to analyse the results yet, but what is emerging is:

- Evidence of a widespread interest in our wildlife, and of concern for its welfare
- Evidence of a good range of species – birds, mammals, insects, reptiles... and there's certainly another rich botanical vein to be tapped, but we haven't tried that yet.

- Concern about the fluctuations in numbers of individual species, and evidence of a marked decline in numbers, for example, of swifts, swallows and house martins.

I think we already have some pointers about what we might do as individuals to help our wildlife, even if we have only a very small garden plot.

- Secure food supplies at the bottom of the food chain – insects, worms, snails, voles, nectar plants and food plants for caterpillars
- Look carefully at gardening practice – as an animal or bird, would you like to live in your garden?
- Consider a pond, especially one with a boggy margin. A pond will draw all kinds of wildlife, almost as soon as it is set up.
- Although I'm not a wholehearted supporter of the RSPB, they do publish very helpful advice for supporting wildlife. Browse their website <https://www.rspb.org.uk>, or try:

Creating a wildlife-friendly garden - <https://tinyurl.com/v9c974e>

How to attract house martins - <https://tinyurl.com/s22ndb7>

Give a home to frogs and toads - <https://tinyurl.com/u4mtdz2>

Harry Dodds

Aunt Phoebe's Recreation Ground



Aunt Phoebe's Trust is currently managed by the Trustees who have a Management Agreement with The Parish Council and Sports Club to finance maintenance and improvements. The Recreation Ground has recently benefited from grant funding from Tesco Bags of Help, The National Lottery and Warwickshire County Council.



Please enjoy using the facilities but at all times be aware that it is a shared space and be considerate of the needs of others. Dogs are allowed, but all mess must be cleared up and disposed of correctly in waste bins at both entrances. Dogs are not allowed in play areas. Any matter requiring attention should be reported to the Parish Clerk.

Elizabeth Gilkes, Parish Clerk (01608 684336)

The Friends of Long Compton Church present

The Amazing Emma Smith



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

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

Tickets from friendslcchurch@gmail.com or 01608 684813 or on the door.

Our information and contact points:

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

Sue Klatt, Chairman: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch

Church Flowers

I am looking for some new volunteers to join the friendly team who help decorate the church with flowers throughout the year. You do not have to be at all professional and vases and oasis are provided. If there are any newcomers to the village, then come and join us!

Charlotte Field (684286) or charlottefield@uwclub.net

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

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

Adrian (684024)

Long Compton Ebenezer Chapel

The Chapel continues the regeneration programme with an interesting mix of faith and community events. The siting of the builders site hut in Chapel car park has helped relieve pressure on school facilities and the plan is for them to install durable grass matting to hopefully enable more extensive use in future. On Monday 11 November a few met for short Armistice service to remember together which was very moving. The collection was donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.



This was followed by a meeting of Chapel members during which, plans for our 2020 anniversary celebrations were considered. As part of the celebrations, we aim to include a history exhibition. Some interesting archive material has already been discovered, but plenty more research is needed about the origins of the Chapel and how it came by its interesting Ebenezer name.

Future Diary Dates are:

Sunday 1 December – Advent Service led by Rev Marion Hartwell

Wednesday 4 December – Scrabble 7.00 pm

Saturday 7 December – Christmas Whist Drive

Tuesday 10 December – Gong Bath

Wednesday 11 December – Scrabble 7.00 pm

Sunday 15 December – Community Carol Service

We wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Ebenezer Congregational Chapel
Butlers Lane, Long Compton



Community Carol Service

Come along and sing your favourite carols
and enjoy Mulled Wine/ Fruit Punch and festive treats.

Sunday 15 December - 3.30 pm

Do get in touch for more information about how you might like to be involved.

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

Compton Creatives

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

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

Long Compton & District Walkers

A typical rather dreary, damp November day awaited the 20 walkers who assembled for a walk around Heythrop Park, which was a very good venue considering the amount of rain there had been in the previous week. Our first port of call was the Jesuit cemetery on the far side of the golf course, which reflects the time the Jesuit Order were resident at Heythrop.

Skirting the park, we made a brief detour to visit the 'animals', which is always a surprise for anyone not familiar with the location. The camels seemed happy enough outside, and a discussion followed as to whether the one humped camels were Bactrian or dromedary. Eventually it was decided that they were dromedaries. What strange topics of conversation we cover on our monthly walks!

Whilst peacefully strolling through the woods, we were treated to a number of extremely loud explosions, which really made the humans in the group jump, (the four dogs with us that day seemed totally unconcerned). It was thought these explosions were a possible training exercise by *The Centre for Homeland Security*, which has a base in the park.

Having curtailed the planned walk slightly because of the increasingly miserable conditions, we adjourned for a most welcome lunch. Thank you to our two leaders for a really interesting morning. The last walk of the year will be on Tuesday 10 December, (9.30 am in the car park at the Red Lion). It will be a slightly shorter walk than usual, followed by our pre-booked Christmas lunch.

Jan Treadaway 684553



Ebenezer Chapel



Long Compton Congregational Church

Christmas Service

Sunday 1 December – 3.30 pm

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

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton
invites you to a

Christmas Carol Service



Sunday 22 December – 5.00 pm

Festive lessons and carols
Mulled wine and mince pies
All welcome

Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch



Our local Co-Ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and e-mails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public.

Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at jordanlboswell@hotmail.com

The 100 Club

The November draw was held at the Christmas fair in the village hall on Saturday 9 November. The winners were:

1st Prize - 106 Mr & Mrs Norman Taylor
2nd Prize - 147 Jennifer Haine

3rd Prize - 141 Jill Baker
4th Prize - 37 Mr & Mrs Morley

The next double draw will be held at Christmas Tea Party in the village hall on Saturday 14 December. Tickets for the tea party from Mo Read on 684130. Come and join the fun!

Chris Galloway 684234

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Pauline Bramall, the winner of the November Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Used Stamps for Katharine House Hospice

We have managed to collect a massive eight kilograms of used stamps during the last few months from our local villages. Thank you very much. Katharine House Hospice benefit from selling on these stamps. They need to have at least ten kilograms before a collection is made from them. With our stamps which were taken over to them last week, they are now ready for the next collection. Watch this space and we will let you know how much money they raise.

Please keep collecting (especially over Christmas) and leave in the back of St. Michael's Church in the stamp box. Thankyou.

Mandy James



St. Michael's Church, Whichford

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – Carol Service at 6.00 pm
(followed by mulled wine and mince pies)

Christmas Day – Morning Prayer at 10.30 am
Please do come and join us – we would love to see you!



VILLAGE NEWS

THE WOLFORDS

Editor, Little Wolford Email: littlewolford@swlink.org.uk

Editor, Great Wolford: Lynn Mathias

Email: greatwolford@swlink.org.uk Tel: 674247

The Wolfords WI

At our annual meeting the committee were re-elected, unopposed. We were delighted to welcome the newly co-opted Warwickshire trustee, Sue Gill, who gave us a short but most informative talk on her life in telecommunications. We would love to hear more on some future occasion.

In December, we are providing our own entertainment, discovering a little of the history and geography of chocolate and, of course, some tasting will need to be done! As always, visitors are most welcome.

Book Club will meet on Tuesday 10 December to discuss *Silas Marner* by George Eliot. The WI meet at the Wolfords village hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. For more details please contact Sue Elliot 01608 674295

Pop Up Pub

Come and join us for the next
Pop Up Pub in the Wolfords village
hall. A chance to catch up with
neighbours and friends in the village.

Friday 13 December - 6.30 pm

All proceeds go towards saving
the Fox and Hounds Pub and helping
it to reopen for the village - See you there.



The Village Hall AGM

The date for the Village Hall AGM has been set for Monday 3 February 2020 starting at 7.30 pm and will take place in the Wolfords Village Hall. We do hope you will come as we welcome feedback on the activities the committee has completed over last year.

If you would like to become a Trustee and join the management committee, please contact me as new ideas are always very welcome. Help is needed to support the maintenance of the village hall and take part in fund raising activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

James van Helden (01608 674244)

Carols by Candlelight

You are warmly invited to come and sing the well-loved carols and hear the traditional Christmas readings, followed by hot mulled wine and mince pies.



Nine Lessons and Carols
(collection shared between a charity and Wolford church funds)

Sunday 22 December at 6.30 pm

at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Great Wolford

Everyone welcome

The Village Hall Website

This website is available to view using this link - www.thewolfordsvillagehall.org.uk

Information on forthcoming events and the availability of when the hall can be used can be viewed. We hope you will find the site to be of interest and do let us know any comments you may have.

James van Helden (01608 674244)

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The November winners were;

1st prize – James van Helden

2nd prize – Haydn and Helena Jones 3rd prize – Charles and Jane Hobbs

Many congratulations to the above. Just a reminder that there is no draw next month but please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden

Lawrie Thompson's Historical Archive

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

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

Chairman's Corner

Hits the Most One-derful Time of the Year

Topping the UK singles chart at Christmas is a career-boosting moment for any musician, especially if the tune becomes an all-time 'classic' worthy of inclusion in the ubiquitous festive compilation albums. The battle for Christmas number one seems more competitive and intense each year. The best-selling track can be anything from a novelty act to a rousing anthem specially composed for charity.

Since the singles chart, or 'Hit Parade' began in 1952, amazingly only seven Christmas number ones have contained the word *Christmas* or *Xmas* in their title. The only band/artist to have had a number one twice with the same record was Queen, with *Bohemian Rhapsody* in 1975 and 1991. *Do They Know It's Christmas?* reached number one on three occasions (1984, 1989 and 2004), but with three different groups - Band Aid, Band Aid II and Band Aid 20, respectively. The Spice Girls had three consecutive hits in 1997, 1998 and 1999, equalling The Beatles' feat in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

Along with The Beatles' in the 1960s (a record four number ones in all), Cliff Richard, Elvis and Tom Jones also enjoyed chart success. The 1970s saw *Merry Xmas Everybody* by Slade, plus the quirky tune *Ernie, The Fastest Milkman In The West* by Benny Hill, and Jimmy Osmond's *Long Haired Lover From Liverpool*. Subsequent decades each had novelty hits by St Winifred's School Choir (1980), Mr Blobby (1993), Bob The Builder (2000) and LadBaby (2018). The first number one from the synth-pop/electropop genre was *Don't You Want Me* by The Human League, in 1981.

Then there are those who didn't quite make it. We assume that many famous yuletide songs were Christmas Number Ones - but in fact, they weren't. The list is surprising and includes tunes such as the iconic *Fairytale Of New York* by Kirsty McColl & The Pogues (1987), *Last Christmas* by Wham! (1984), *Happy Xmas (War Is Over)* by John Lennon (1980), *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* by Wizzard (1973), *Walking In The Air* by Aled Jones (1985), and *Wonderful Christmastime* by Paul McCartney (1979).

Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town must be amongst the most covered songs ever – it has been recorded by more than 200 artists since it was originally written in the 1930s. Bruce Springsteen, The Jackson Five, The Carpenters, Frank Sinatra, Michael Bublé and Mariah Carey have all produced their own versions but none achieved number one status.

What can we look forward to this Christmas? Well, at the time of writing (mid Nov), the early favourite tipped for the top spot is the unlikely duo of Robbie Williams and Tyson Fury, with a song called *Bad Sharon*. Others in contention are James Blunt (with odds of 11/2), Lewis Capaldi and Ed Sheeran (both 6/1), then Ariana Grande and Adele (both 8/1). The late George Michael and Wham! also have a very good chance.

Whatever happens to be your favourite festive tune, and whether you're driving home for Christmas, rockin' around the Christmas tree, or just dreaming of a white Christmas, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Poetry Notes

Email: editor@swlink.org.uk

The poem this month has been suggested by Janet Knight from Whichford. She has told me that for her, it evokes images of Whichford Woods in winter and being out with her friend's little driving pony, Willow.

The poem is Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* and I just happen to have some perfect pictures to accompany the poem, painted by Jenny Henderson from Great Wolford.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



Robert Frost (1874 -1963)



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

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk