

THE LINK

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

FEBRUARY 2026

£1.20



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

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor: editorswlink@gmail.com

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

Sun 1	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30
Weds 4	Columbian Wildlife	The Hall, Stourton	20:00
Thurs 5	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Coffee Morning	Long Compton VH	08:30
Fri 6	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	
Sat 7	Village Breakfast	Burmington VH	09:00
	Jumble Sale	Whichford Ch	10:00
Tues 10	Cameo Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12:00
Thurs 12	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Coffee Morning	Long Compton VH	08:30
Sat 14	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
Sun 15	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30
Weds 18	Feldon Mil and Nav Soc	The Hall, Stourton	20:00
Thurs 19	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Coffee morning	Long Compton VH	08:30
Fri 20	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	
Sat 21	Movie: Shirley Valentine	Brailes Picture House	19:15
Weds 25	Garden Club	Long Compton VH	19:10
Thurs 26	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Coffee morning	Long Compton VH	08:30
Fri 27	Carers4Carers	Kineton VH	10:30

**Please note the copy deadline for March 2026:
Feb 9th**



Cover photograph by Annie Parmenter

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

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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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the February edition of The Link. We have made it through a dark and miserable month and (in my case) completed Dry January, so things are looking up! Didn't it just warm your heart to see the Easter eggs in the supermarket at the end of the month!!

So, we have some snowdrops out and the evenings are, minute by minute getting a little longer, it is definitely time to make some tentative steps out of winter hibernation. I have joined the Long Compton walking group and enjoyed my first outing, through one of those Narnia-like back doors into Blenheim. It was a mizzly, drizzly day and Biggles wondered why he had been dragged off the comfy sofa to be a soggy dog, but it definitely raised my spirits and I am looking forward to making this a regular monthly outing. What is on your February schedule? Events are picking up pace so get out a pen, circle the Events page and let's manifest some daffodils and an early spring!

Sara Billins

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sort Code 30-98-26 Acc. No: 63268260. Please reference your surname and address.

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Happy Birthday!

February 2026



India Thornton
Jessie Kowalski

Whichford
Great Wolford

9
6

Belated Jan 24th birthday wishes to Nicky Newby of Long Compton (age undisclosed!) with love from Chris.



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 27th February – Act on Energy

We know energy costs can be tough, particularly with no gas supply across local areas. Sian Orchard, Act on Energy's Community Outreach Officer for Stratford District, understands these challenges and is here to help. She can offer clear guidance, explore ways to reduce bills, and support applications for available grants.

For further details contact Gillian on 07947893504,

email kcarers4carers@gmail.com, website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

CAMEO Lunch Club

CAMEO celebrates its 19th Birthday at our Tues 10th Feb meeting

Burmington Village Hall 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm

Please book with Brenda Fitch Tel: 01608 664313



The Townsend Hall

Save the date: Friday 17th April 2026.

The Townsend Hall will host RAY GELATO and his Band as part of an exciting programme of Jazz Evenings this year.

Ray Gelato. The UK's Godfather of Swing is a British jazz, swing and jump blues saxophonist, singer and band leader.

Considered by many to be one of the last in a long line of classic swing and jazz entertainers. Expect to hear some foot-stomping big band tunes. This, combined with Ray's fun and original songs, make for an unforgettable evening that will leave you wanting more!

'Awesome band' Van Morrison.

'He plays what he means and means what he plays' Jools Holland.

Tickets will be on sale at the end of February, online via

ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or

townsendhall.co.uk or from the Flower House, 3 Market Place Shipston-on-Stour.



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 1ST FEBRUARY
Sponsored by Evolve Reformer Studios
Supporting Long Compton Village Hall

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
Sponsored by Wedclean
Supporting Long Compton Sports Club

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH - SEASON FINALE
Sponsored by Ergo Creative Agency
Supporting Shipston First Responders

 25th -26th April  Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING



Led by a local Master Beekeeper our weekend course will give you an insight into, and hands on experience of, the world of the honey bee and the role of the beekeeper.

TOPICS INCLUDE

DAY 1 Village Hall, Brailes 25th April

- ✓ How a honey bee colony works
- ✓ The beekeeping year
- ✓ The essential equipment
- ✓ Harvesting your honey and wax
- ✓ How to get started with your own bees

DAY 2 Apiary, Lower Brailes, 26th April

- ✓ Siting an apiary
- ✓ Assembling hive parts
- ✓ Apiary Safety
- ✓ Inspecting a honeybee colony

Light lunch and refreshments and a copy of the Haynes Bee Manual included

Bee suits will be provided.

Cost £135 (£90 children)



For more information and details on how to register for our annual "Introduction to Beekeeping" course scan the QR code.

www.sbka.org.uk



secretary.shipston@wbka.org.uk



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.

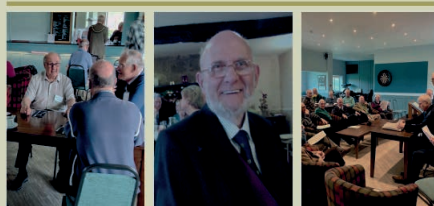
We also provide a very reasonably priced Private Hire service, seven days a week, using our comfortable 16-seater mini-buses.

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 0DS

Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE

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

Google
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



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.sosa.u3asite.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

*The Hall Invites You to be
Thoroughly Entertained by.....*

**VICTOR & ALBERT,
PURVEYORS OF FINE
MUSICAL COMEDY!**



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

Sunday 15th March

Doors & Bar 6:30pm

Curtain Up 7:30pm

**Perfect Treat
for Mother's
Day!**

Tickets £13.50 / £7.50 u-16

Book Now: info@thehallevents.org.uk / 07775 765572

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



Supporting public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**AT THE HALL, CHERINGTON,
STOURTON & SUTTON, CV36 5HG**

**LIVE
& LOCAL**





Update on the SOS Save Our Shipston campaign against unsustainable development

We have some good news!

- **Our campaign has raised over £40K** so far to help fund planning consultants and legal support to defend the proposed unsustainable development of up to 1150 houses at Fell Mill. The expertise they provide is already paying off in the form of substantial response to the developers inadequate and inaccurate scoping document. The case officer at Stratford Council has added his robust response to the developers. All responses can be seen at Stratford Council e-planning website (quote Scope/00044).
- **We have a new information and fundraising leaflet** out which is being distributed through Shipston, Barcheston & Willington and affected villages by us volunteers. If you want copies to distribute, get in touch!
- **Our social media is hitting the spot.** The Facebook page got 179,637 views in a single month and has 1,194 following; Insta has 302 followers and TikTok 1,349 likes and 313 followers. Reels (videos) seem the most popular: receiving 26.6 thousand views! And we now have over 300 people on our mailing list.

The not so good news: Taylor Wimpey have submitted a planning application for 110 houses at Hanson Avue. If you want your views on this heard and want information about how to go about that go to our website or our social media or sign up for our emails from our website.

We are still waiting for the planning application for the Fell Mill site. We are also still awaiting news on the other planning applications submitted last year.

The photo shows how much space a lorry takes on Barcheston Bridge; we are told by the developers that Fell Mill construction will take between 10 – 15 years. Imagine the construction traffic on this bridge!

What you can do:



Donate to the campaign to pay for the expert advice and legal support we need to prevent the 1150 housing proposal at Fell Mill, and to cover the printing costs of literature, posters and banners (the graphic design and website is being kindly done for free!).

Photo James Kerr

Keep in touch and help others keep up to date by sharing information about our website and email list with those who do not use social media. The more people involved, the more people power we have!

To donate through 

Scan me with your phone camera!

Please go online and type in the link below:

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



To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC

Account Name: SaveOurShipston

Sort Code: 40-18-57

Account Number: 60770736

 www.saveourshipston.org  [@SaveOurShipston](https://www.instagram.com/SaveOurShipston)
 [@SaveOurShipston](https://www.tiktok.com/@SaveOurShipston)  **Say No to additional 3000+ houses**

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

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

February 2026 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
1 st February 4 th Sunday of Epiphany	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD) (in church)
8 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		3:00pm Connect At the Village Hall (KP/BD)	
15 th February Sunday before Lent		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4:00pm GAP Informal (BD)	
18 th February Ash Wednesday	10:30am Ash Wednesday Service (TBC)					
22 nd February 1 st Sunday of Lent					10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD/TBC)	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer (BD/TBC)

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/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clive Wells/HP = Heather Peckur/AD = Andrew Dowd/RS = Richard Smith/RS=Richard Stevens/ADB = Adelaason Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Morning GAP = Informal Service



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

? Are you 11-21yrs ?

Are you anxious about life?

Are you searching for meaning or for purpose?

There will be two new groups meeting in 2026

16-21yrs on the first Sunday of the month,

11-15yrs on the third Sunday of the month

2:45pm at Long Compton Church

We will be meeting to see if Christianity
holds any of the answers for you.

Come and join us

The informal GAP service follows at 4pm

For more information

contact Kim 07949949215

SW7 Families Outreach Worker



It's the 31st of December, the last day of 2025; clear, cold and frosty. To my mind, it's a lot better than the previous days of rain and wind. I'd like to thank the editor for a nice surprise I found on the doorstep, a thank you card and some very upmarket mince pies. They've found a good home!

Farming is pretty much at a standstill at the moment, with little to do until the spring growth starts. I was pleased to see the Inheritance Tax review announced on the Friday before Christmas. It will help us, but it will not wipe out the worries I have.

I thought I'd write about some long-gone farmers and friends from my early days in Long Compton. They, being the Langton's from the far end of Butlers Road, where Pete and Em Ledbury farm now. They were a husband and wife; Eddie and Margaret, and their two sons David and Malcom. They had moved to a new bungalow and buildings from the Old Police House and old sheds at the far end of Clarks Lane. Butlers Road farm was just over 200 acres and the council owned it. Many years ago, it was spilt into farms of around 100 acres each.

I first met them at a barbecue held by Keith Hain; Margaret had bought a massive basket of strawberries and jugs of real Jersey cow cream. Eddie was never born lucky; he had tipped a tractor over backwards while mowing a steep bank at Stanway and had his trousers torn off by a tractor PTO shaft. He told me that when they first got the farm, they had only a few Jersey cows. The first night some had eaten some Bryony berries out of the hedge and had died.

Their eldest son David had brittle bones, and Eddie and Malcom had suffered with asthma badly. Nothing ever stopped them. Hell or high water in those days, he and Peter Whittaker bales about a third each of the straw off this farm. I was ploughing behind Yerdley Barn, Eddie came with his baler and his Ford 4000 to bale 34 acres of straw on the field below me. All went well to start with, then it came to going down a steep part of the field. He turned at the top and set off down the steepest part. I looked on as the bales poured out of the baler, then a loud bang – it kept going for a while, one wheel going forward and one back. It came to a halt, when the field levelled out. I drove down to find Eddie looking at the scene – mountains of straw in front of the pickup and lots under it, baler wheels off the ground. We pulled out as much as possible, fitted new shear bolts and ran the baler up.

We fed it loads of straw by hand, and I moved the bales away, finally getting the lot sorted. 'She slipped out of gear' Eddie said, I went off and carried on

ploughing. Soon Malc arrived with the old horse-drawn wagon behind his David Brown. We would have been happy with seven layings on the old cart; Malc went for nine and a few along the top. I watched them rope it and each pull nearly got the top wheel off the ground. Anyway, Malc carefully set off, pulling up the hill to the track and the lot tipped over. Ropes broke; bales went 40 or 50 yards down the slope. I did another turn of ploughing, trying not to look, but then drove down, got the wagon back on its wheels and helped put seven layings on and left them to it.

Many years later while enjoying open house Christmas drinks at Peter and Eileens, we heard an ambulance go by. Then, the police called, David had fallen in the cowsheds and broken both knees, and to top it, they had no water. I went home and got a large empty propane cylinder, blowing it up to 80-odd PSI. I picked up Bob and set off to Eddie's. We found the pipe in the corner of the garden and I made a fitting to connect the cylinder to the plastic and turned on the air – pushing the water back up to the spring, unblocking the pipe. To our horror, as it ran clear, wormlike structures came down in the water. I noted this was the water they used for the house. Later, a borehole was installed in Mr Watsons time as a tenant and later still, the council ran a mains supply across from the village end of Butlers Road when the Ledbury's took the farm on.

Sadly still, worse was to come in 1999; Malcom had a massive heart attack at, 50. This put the end to their farming. There was a lot to sort out, cows to sell, beef herd to sell, etc. That set up another problem, the cows were old and still had ear tattoos not visible ear tags. We fixed up to take our handling kit down and with Dan and helper John from Shipston, plus Gerald Hirons the cattle haulier from Tysoe, put them all through the crush, cleaned the dirty waxy ears to read the tags and fitted replacement tags.

Eileen spent hours one night going through milk and calving records and got it all sorted so they could be sold. I took the passports to Worcester to the Ministry, got names changed and new ones printed. Gerald took the cattle to Stratford Market, someone making ice cream bought most of the best cows and so it moved to the next tenant, Mr Watson. David sadly died soon after; Eddie and Margaret moved to a council house and lived for many years after. I often think of them when I see on the TV young people moaning about benefits – they haven't got a clue what some people go through.

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

February, as we all know, is generally cold, grey, and damp, with strong likelihood of rain, blustery winds and even snow. It's sometimes hard to even think about going outside in this kind of weather, let alone enjoying it. On the positive side, the days are lengthening, giving us more light in the evenings to get out and about in the garden; and the first hints of spring begin to appear. The snowdrops start to show themselves in the verges, and the blackthorn in the hedges comes into bloom.

So, while it may be hard to drag yourself outside, February is really the last chance to finish off winter tasks and get ready before spring comes in and your garden really comes to life.



In the vegetable garden, you should be getting your seed beds or trays ready with some fresh fine seed compost, and you can start to sow some seeds under cover. Lettuces and other cold weather salad crops can be sown in cold frames or greenhouses. It's a bit early to sow seeds outdoors, because you run the risk of your seeds drowning and rotting if there's a lot of rain. There may well be frosts too, so don't rush to plant seeds outside.



Potatoes should be set to chitting about now. This means leaving your early and main crop potatoes out in the light in a cool place until they have started sprouting. Many people use old cardboard egg boxes, putting a potato in each egg space. Plant them out in March into the beds that you've prepared for them, having dug in a good dressing of compost or well-rotted manure.

Over in the flower garden and herbaceous borders, there's some pruning, cutting back, and dividing to be done. Prune late summer flowering

clematis, the ones that flower on this year's new growth, to give them a good start and opportunity to put out lots of flowering shoots. When winter jasmine and mahonia have finished flowering, cut them back too. Trim ivy and other creepers if they've got too big - it's best to do it now before nesting time. If you leave it till later, you're in danger of disturbing the already-nesting birds. Cut back wisteria side shoots to within three buds from the base. And cut back the leaves of old hellebores, to let light into the new flower shoots.

Looking ahead a bit further, you can now start dahlia tubers into growth, whether you've bought new ones or ones you've over-wintered from last year. Pot the tubers in some good compost and leave the pots in a warm light spot until the new shoots start showing. Keep the compost moist, and plant out when all danger of frosts has gone.

If you didn't sow sweet peas in the autumn, it's not too late. Sow them in root trainer pots (they really benefit from being allowed to grow long strong roots) and leave in a cold frame or cool light room in the house. They can then be planted out in March or April in a sunny spot in the garden.

It's also a good time to improve your soil ready for planting in the spring, and to give your dormant herbaceous plants a bit of a kick-start. Particularly if you have heavy clay soil - add a good layer of organic matter (manure or compost), so the worms can "dig" it in for you. My son the gardener says that most people don't apply nearly enough organic matter; he reckons you need a good two inches. Go for it

Miranda Arnold

Long Compton & District Garden Club Winter Talks in the Village Hall

Our speakers are 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 our speaker's passion for plants, gardens and gardening.

25th Feb Pip Smith - The Resilient Garden focusing on Drought.

After last year's long, hot, dry spring and summer maybe we are beginning to think about this coming summer? Perhaps we will be turning our thoughts to strategies to help us get the best out of our plants and gardens whatever the weather throws at us.

25th March Geoff Oddy – tells the story of the development of Evenley Wood Garden.

The creation of this amazing plant collection into a maturing garden full of fascinating plants.

22nd April Vanessa Berridge - Great British Gardeners.

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 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 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 per meeting. It is always good to see visitors.

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

The recent cold snap gave us all a chance to appreciate something that we rather took for granted a few decades ago. Freezing weather and snow created an icy landscape across our valley and on a micro level seeing the frosted grass and tree branches made me nostalgic for a time when 6 ft snow drifts and days off school were virtually guaranteed every winter.



It was while admiring a frozen spiders web that I found myself pondering some of the great mysteries of our age, like why can't teenagers turn lights off? The spider's web had an icy thread leading to a nearby wall. It was a good metre long and horizontal and I found myself wondering how the spider does that? How does it bridge the gap? Does it spin its web then launch itself off at a velocity previously unknown to spiders or does it spin a thread and just hang off the end of it waiting for the breeze to lift it? I resolved that after 61 years on this planet it was time I found out.

It seems that spiders do indeed sometimes just dangle off a long thread and see how they get on. But at other times they will stay in one place and excrete a single long silky and slightly sticky thread into the atmosphere and then wait for the breath of air that will gently lift it. Using touch, the spider can tell when it's latched onto an object and can then use the strand to start construction of a new web. Once again, I am reminded that nature's ingenuity is breathtaking.

A question several people have asked me over the Christmas period is where are the fieldfares and redwings? Those noisy, beautifully marked Scandinavian thrushes that descend on the UK each autumn are usually gobbling up apples in our gardens by now, but they've been noticeable by their absence. The answer is they are here and we will see them eventually, but last year's incredible hedgerow bounty of hawthorns berries and crab apples has sustained them so far without them taking the risk of getting too close to humans. That is currently changing and the allotment apple trees that I expertly prune each winter (seemingly so that every passing van driver can pick them all in the autumn!) are now being stripped of their remaining fruit with a vengeance.

Staying with birds here's one to look out for. There has been something of a firecrest invasion this year. Most are familiar with our smallest bird, the goldcrest,



with its plain, rather dazed expression and high pitched 'wheedling' call. Well, the firecrest is like its souped-up cousin. It's a bit greener and the only appreciable difference is a thick black eyestripe (the goldcrest has an unmarked face - hence the bland look) but it's astonishing how much that eyestripe changes things and unquestionably the firecrest is one of the UK's best-looking birds. Although it's an uncommon breeding species here, in the winter numbers are boosted by migrants from the near continent and this winter has seen a really big influx. They like conifers, so my walks with Bella have been taking in Whichford woods on a regular basis. Sadly, to no avail thus far but I am perennially optimistic! So, keep an eye out!

David Sewell

WALKING NOTES

Editor: Stuart Brown

The New Year begins, and thoughts turn to pleasures ahead - sunny days, dry underfoot and new routes to explore. I have previously written about the sheer number of long-distance paths crossing our area - amongst them, the Monarch's, the Diamond, the MacMillan, and the Shakespeare. Much the best known is the Cotswold Way, running 102 miles from Chipping Campden to Bath, and I thought I might give a short pen portrait and perhaps encourage readers to think about having a go.

The Trail has its origins in the 1950s when a local Ramblers' Association group persuaded Gloucester C.C. to develop it. Thereafter, in 2007, after extensive work to the path, the replacement of stiles by kissing gates, and the all-important waymarking using the acorn symbol, the route was recognised as one of the 20 National Trails (13 in England).

The route is divided into 13 sections, with the excellent Cicerone Guide suggesting (somewhat ambitiously) 5 or (more realistically) 8-day itineraries, and, as a "taster", there are a series of short circular walks to be found on the National Trails website.



Walking southwards (and the Cicerone Guide details both South and Northbound alternatives), you pass through Broadway, Stanton and Winchcombe before approaching (and largely by-passing) Cheltenham, Painswick, Stroud, the Sodburys, and finally Bath. Much of the route is along the escarpment, but there are woodland and river sections, with occasional reminders of former industry - cloth mills and an obvious trading route, as well as historical monuments commemorating past battles. The villages through which you walk compete for prettiness and Cotswold charm, with each offering a selection of hostelrys for overnight accommodation or lunchtime refreshment.

Writing this has confirmed me in my New Year's resolution to try to complete all (or perhaps most) of the route and if anyone would like to join me do get in touch, or alternatively just join the Long Compton and District Walkers on their monthly outing.

Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

A Bright Start to the New Year at Our School!

Happy New Year to all our families and neighbours! It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with such energy and enthusiasm. We've hit the ground running, and the classrooms are already buzzing with the excitement of our new termly topics.

Exploring Our World

Our young explorers are diving deep into some fascinating projects this term.

- **Early Years** are taking a step back in time with their **Long Ago** project.
- **Years 1 and 2** are heading to the seaside (metaphorically!) to learn all about the **Coastline**.
- **Years 3 and 4** are digging deep into **Rocks, Relics, and Rumbles**.
- **Years 5 and 6** have wrapped up warm for their journey through the **Frozen Kingdoms**.

It is lovely to see the children so engaged with their geography work. They are currently busy learning about the lives of different people across the globe, discovering incredible animals, and understanding how we can better look after our environment.

Buzzing for the Great Spelling Bee

We are excited to announce that we will be taking part in a trust **Spelling Bee**! As part of the **Stour Federation Trust**, our pupils will be competing against our other 4 Trust schools.

The journey to the trophy starts in the classroom, followed by a school-wide final. The top spellers will then head to the **Grand Trust Final in February**. It's a fantastic way for the children to challenge themselves and build confidence. Good luck to all our participants—we are already so proud of your hard work!

Nurturing Young Minds with myHappyMind

This Spring term, we are placing a special focus on mental health and wellbeing with the launch of **myHappyMind**. This is a wonderful, research-led program designed to help children understand how their brains work. Through these sessions, the children will learn practical ways to build self-esteem, practice gratitude, and develop emotional resilience. We believe that happy, healthy



minds are the foundation for great learning, and we can't wait to see the positive impact this has on our school community.

Nursery Spaces Available

Do you know a little one ready to start their educational journey? We currently have spaces available in our Nursery. We would appreciate the community's support in spreading the word. If you have a spot for a poster in a local shop or community space, please let us know!

Join Our Team: Governor Vacancy

We are looking for a dedicated individual to join our Local Academy Council (LAC) as a co-opted Governor. This is a vital role in helping to drive our school forward and monitoring our progress. If you are interested in giving back to the community and helping shape the future of our school, our Chair of the LAC (**Mr. Norman-Kime**) or our Headteacher (**Mrs. Young**) would love to have an informal chat with you.

Contact Us:

- **Email:** admin2639@welearn365.com
- **Phone:** 01608 684654.

Hannah Young

Brailes School - Grow Together and Shine Bright!

The Rabbits Class children have been making a great start on their new topic, *Bright Lights, Big City*, - starting off by noticing all the features of Brailes which make it very much not a big city!

The children have written postcards imagining they are on holiday in Brailes, visiting local landmarks for the first time. They have enjoyed listening to the birdsong, appreciating the peace and quiet of the countryside. They've pored over maps of the local area looking for areas which might attract tourists, including a trip to the RSC to watch a play, admiring the view from the top of Castle Hill and going for a stroll through Whichford Woods. The children have enjoyed seeing Brailes from an outsider's perspective, and it has helped them all to have a little more appreciation for all the delights we have on our doorstep! What a wonderful place to live!

The class are also leading the implementing of their big plans for the Year 1/2 outdoor area getting ready for Spring, preparing for planting up vegetable patches, wondering what might be winter sleeping in the mini pond in the sensory garden, sorting out the seeds and using a fabulous grant from Tesco to fund loose part storage cubbies and more new den building equipment to add to the den building equipment and resources used by everyone on the school playground as part of OPAL play.

One of their new projects is to set up a weather station to support their learning in Science, and to start to keep track of the wildlife that uses the space. With Spring round the corner, and days slowly and surely starting to get longer with plentiful opportunities for learning and discovery and creativity in and outside.

Applying for a Nursery place at Brailes

Places in Brailes School Nursery are made through an application form directly to the school office. Please do contact the school to arrange a visit for Nursery places for September 2026. We would love to meet with you and welcome you to our wonderful school. 'Let your Light Shine.'

T: 01608 685253 E:admin3014@we-learn.com, www.brailescofepimary.org.uk

Heather Childs

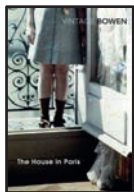
VILLAGE NEWS

Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



We met to talk about *The House in Paris* published in 1935 by the Anglo-Irish novelist, Elizabeth Bowen. She wrote 10 novels and many short stories and was nominated for a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1958.

The story begins with two children being brought separately to a house in Paris before they continue their journeys. The author then takes us back to the past to reveal the reason for the precocious nine-year-old boy's visit. The story is multi-layered and reflects the manners and mores of very different times – and the reader soon becomes aware of the secrets that lie beneath the veneer of respectability. We agreed that the book required concentration due to Elizabeth Bowen's sometimes enigmatic style, but that it was beautifully written and rewarding to read.

Sarah Constable

St Lawrence Church Carol Service

It was wonderful to see so many enjoying the Carol Service at St Lawrence, Barton on the Heath on 21st December. The church was full to capacity, and it was a true expression of community united by candlelight. Refreshments were much enjoyed kindly arranged by the Parochial Church Council. Future events in the church will be shared in due course.

Kay Sonneborn and Penny Mead

Food Bank Collection

Kim Petty, SW7 family outreach worker, has been working with several young families and some older people in the surrounding villages who live in poverty and sadly rely on the Food Bank. A box has been put in the St Lawrence Church porch for contributions to help. All donations are gratefully received.

Food items you can donate... Milk (UHT or powder), long life fruit juice, fruit squash/cordial, jars instant coffee, sugar, jams/other spreads, breakfast cereal, biscuits, bottled sauces, tinned vegetables, potato (instant mash or tinned), tinned meat/fish, tinned pies, tinned fruit, pasta sauce/cooking sauces, tin/carton tomatoes, pasta/rice, packets of instant noodles, biscuits, crackers, crispbreads, healthy snacks

Non-food items you can donate...Shower gel, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, anti-bacterial hand gel,

toothbrush/toothpaste, children's toothbrush/paste, flannel/sponge, tissues, nappies (all sizes), baby wipes, baby wash/shampoo, toilet rolls, shaving gel/foam, washing up liquid, small boxes of washing powder

When donating food, please ensure that items are within the 'Use by date' and have a 'Sell by date' of at least 3 months and is clearly marked.

Obituary: Gillian Cathie



We are so sad to announce the death on the 7th January of Gillian Cathie.

Born in 1949 to a Scottish father and Swiss mother, Gillian grew up in London, mostly spending her summers in Geneva and Perthshire. She was educated at Berkhamsted and at Queen's College. She met Hamish when she was 16, and they married four years later, settling in Edinburgh, where they lived for 25 years. Gillian loved life in Edinburgh, with a very full social life, as well as running an au pair agency, not to mention bringing up two children, James and Helen.

The family moved down to Barton to take on Barton House and the farm after Hamish's father died. It was an enormous renovation project, following which Gillian threw herself into village life. She organised the village fête for many years, church flowers, served for years on the PCC, and was always on hand to provide copious shepherds pies and lasagnes for harvest festivals etc. She loved the garden and was instrumental in it being opened to the public each year under the NGS. Gillian was also the driving force behind the book group, which she loved.

Following Hamish's death in late 2023, Gillian moved to Campden Farm Cottage, on the village green, where she was delighted to be so warm and comfortable, to have a wonderful view of the comings and goings of the village, and to receive lots of visitors.

Gillian died peacefully in Stratford hospital, having been admitted on New Year's Eve. James and Helen were with her for much of her stay and at the end. She will be enormously missed by all the family, and all who knew her.

Private family cremation, to be followed by a memorial service in late April.

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French



Village Breakfast



Saturday 7th February

9:00am – 11:00am

To book please call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Book early to avoid disappointment

Village Christmas Card – Thank you

On behalf of Burmington PCC, I would like to thank everyone who gave a generous donation for the village Christmas card. It was most appreciated. Including Gift Aid, £356.25 was raised for our village church.

We would like to give our apologies to Justine, Stuart, Bob and Matt Clarke who were missed off the village Christmas card. They send everyone Christmas and new year messages.

I would also like to mention that there is a container in the church for anyone wishing to donate to the Shipston food bank.

Julia Sykes

Editor: *Thanks to Julia for organising the card, to Jan Lennon and Dennis Cummings for designing and printing the card and to Molly Johnson (age 10) and Matilda Payne (age 12) for painting the cover picture.*

Jam Festival and Christmas Tree Decorations

Our grateful thanks also go to Jan Lennon and Mary Scott who together raised a further £286.25 (with gift aid) for the church from Jan's jam festival and teas and Mary's Christmas tree decorations.

Cameo Christmas Lunch Party



Fun was had at the Cameo Christmas lunch when, to tie in with a Burns celebration, a haggis was brought in by David Fitch accompanied by piper Dennis Cummings.

Colin Beckett, seen enjoying his 90th birthday cake, made the address to the haggis by reading some of Robbie Burns's verses - in both Scottish and English accents! Santa Claus later delivered Christmas presents of fruit and wine to the Shipston Medical Centre, in appreciation of what they do for us.

VILLAGE NEWS

Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



February Coffee Shop

Saturday 14th February

10:30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG

Hot dogs, toasted tea cakes, cakes, fresh coffee, tea, and hot chocolate

Eat in or takeaway

If there's anyone who would be willing to go on the rota to help out occasionally, please get in touch., thank you. it's a great way to get to know people in the village and make new friends

You can contact me on 078627409.

Christine Dudfield

Village Lottery January Draw

1st Rosie McCardle £80 2nd Sally Clubley £45 3rd Rory McLeod £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support which provides funds for the upkeep of the Hall.

For more information on joining, please contact me on 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

Averell Kingston

Christmas Greetings Donations 2025

Huge thanks to all who have donated to St John the Baptist Church in lieu of sending cards to our friends in the villages. All donations have now been received giving a grand total of £1373. Thank you once again for your tremendous support of our beautiful church.

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

Brailes Picture House

Saturday 21st February

Shirley Valentine - (Tribute)

Doors open 7:15pm for 7:45pm start

Feeling trapped in a world of domesticity, Shirley 42, a housewife from Liverpool needs a change in her life before she has another conversation with the walls. When her friend Jane invites her on a trip to a Greek island, Shirley jumps at the chance. Upon landing, Jane ditches Shirley for a fling which means Shirley is left to her own devices. Shirley wanders the island, meets a taverna owner and begins to find the joy in life again

Cast

Pauline Collins, Tom Conti, Alan Steadman, Joanna Lumley, Bernard Hill, Julia McKenzie

Future Dates and Titles

Saturday 14th March (One week early)

The Penguin Lessons

Saturday 18th April

The Ballard of Wallis Island

Deirdre and Team



Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good Day Social Afternoons

Social Afternoons dates for your diary are Fridays 6th and 13th February and 6th and 20th March.

Don't forget the Easter Family Prize Bingo is 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.

Vanessa Compton
01608 663320



To All Nature Enthusiasts

Why not treat yourselves to an uplifting event taking place in The Hall at 8:00pm on Wednesday 4th February.

David Sewell, a regular contributor to the Link, will be giving a talk about the extraordinary wildlife in Colombia. He visited this continent several years ago and journeyed from the Andes to the Amazon. The journey had everything from the unexpected to extraordinary wildlife. It promises to reveal a fascinating insight into an unfamiliar world. Everyone is welcome."

Chris Carr

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

As always, we would be delighted to hear from those wishing to hire the Hall, folks thinking of organising a new activity or club, or anyone interested in getting involved with any events that run at The Hall! Please drop an email to info@thehallevnts.org.uk

The Hall : Theatre Nights

Professional live theatre nights at The Hall continue in March – this time we have a perfect evening's entertainment to treat Mum with! Perhaps book in for the Mother's Day Lunch at The Cherington and follow it up with an evening of laughs at The Hall!



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

£13.50 a ticket (£7.50 U-16's)

6:30pm: Doors open for The Lobby Bar, freshly ground coffee and teas, ice-creams and nibbles. 7:30pm: Performance Starts. Interval of c. 25 mins. Approx finish 9:30-9:40pm.

Tickets: info@thehallevnts.org.uk / 07775 765572 (also at Coffee Shop on 14th Feb and 14th March)

Online Box Office: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thehall-cherington-stourton-sutton>

Looking ahead, 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!

Tickets available very soon!

And if you have children and are interested in helping organise this theatre date, we would love to hear from you

Activities and Open Classes at The Hall

M O N	9:15-10:30am	- Yoga with Claire: 07980 543437 www.inspirehealthandwellbeing.co.uk
	11am-12noon	- Fitness Pilates with Juliet: 07899 966303 www.julietrobbins.com
	4-4:30 & 4:30-5:05pm	- Mini Tennis Stars, 2 children's tennis classes - movement, agility, coordination. Classes for ages 3-4.5yrs and 4.5-6yrs – contact www.minitennisstars.co.uk/
	6-7pm	- Pink Belt Ladies Kickboxing with Demi: 07984 377069 demimcaleenan@gmail.com
	7-9pm	- <i>Bi-monthly 3rd Mon, Parish Council Meeting – 16 Feb, 20 Apr, 15 June, 17 Aug, 19 Oct</i>
T U E	10-11am	- Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
	11:30-12:30pm	- MELT Method with Debbie Williams: 07966 746794

	4-5:15pm 6:30-7:30pm 7-8pm	www.debbie-williams.co.uk - Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk - Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com - Last Tuesday: Feldons Wildlife Group: gpwilliams20@sky.com
W E D S	10am-1:30pm 4-7pm 10am-1pm 8-10pm 8-9:30pm	- Gurgle & Co, 3 x Baby & Toddler developmental sessions. https://gurgleandco.com/ - Atomic Dance: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk - 1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Weds: Stour Stitchers sewing group: stourstitchers@gmail.com - 1 st Weds: Garden Group – Chris Carr chris@homefarm2.co.uk - 3 rd Weds: Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society: Peter Stoddart petercstoddart@gmail.com - 18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May
T H U R	9:15-10:15am	- Pilates with Pam: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
F R I	11:15am–12:15 4:15-8pm 2-4pm	- Improvers MELT Method, with Debbie Williams, pre-booked blocks of 5 classes. Telephone: 07966 746794 / www.debbie-williams.co.uk - Atomic Dance, multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk - FORTNIGHTLY: Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Feel Good Fridays meetings - <i>Health & well-being, a sociable space, games, chat, teas.</i> Vanessa on (01608) 663320 – 6, 20 Feb / 6, 20 March / 17 April / 1, 15, 29 May / 12, 26 June / 10, 24 July / 7, 21 Aug
S A T	9:15-10:15am 10:30-12noon	- Zumba with Rachel: 07948 250616 shipstonzumba@gmail.com - 2nd SATURDAY OF MONTH (but see dates): Coffee Shop, All Welcome To Pop On! – Freshly Ground Coffee & Hot Drinks, Bacon Baps, Cakes: Next dates 14 Feb, 14 March,

***Feldon Valley Military and
Naval
History Society***

the next meeting will be at
The Hall, Pinfold Lane Stourton,
CV36 5HG

on Wednesday, **18th February 2026**
at **8.00 pm** for a talk by
Peter Stoddart:

King Charles' Greatest Cavalier?
The Extraordinary Life and Times of
Prince Rupert of the Rhine

contact: Peter Stoddart
at: petercstoddart@gmail.com

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Email: editor@swlink.gmail.com



We have had a busy start to the year at Long Compton Village Hall with some changes to our committee. Karen Rogers has stepped down from the committee and will be sorely missed but continues to run Social Saturdays once a month.

We are pleased to welcome Mel Smart who joins our other (relative) newcomers Dom Tyler and Kate Turner. We have an exciting programme of new events this year: a quiz night or two, a race night, a mega prize bingo night and a party for our hall's 70th Birthday which will be a barn dance. We are looking forward to working with partner organisations to contribute coffee, teas and cakes at the Long Compton Village Fete on 27th June as well as coordinated Christmas events. Our new website is ready; all but a few final tweaks. A big thanks to Billy Corbyn, our Chair, for his help with this. It will make booking the hall, and future event tickets, much easier.

Remember that the next Social Saturday is on Valentine's Day, 14th February at 11am. What better way to treat your loved one with a visit to the hall for a morning coffee and to enjoy all those delicious homemade savouries and cakes.

Long Compton Village Hall Committee



Join us for
Coffee and Cake
14th February 2026 ❤️

11am - 1pm at Social Saturday
Long Compton Village Hall

Free entry - savouries - cake - hot drinks



Long Compton Congregational Chapel

The Chapel welcomed a diverse range of stalls to the Christmas Bazaar and was heartened by improved attendance. Thanks to all who helped with the event.

The aluminium can collection bins in the carpark helped to contribute to over £1000.00 raised for Katherine House Hospice last year. The Chapel also became a bra collection zone for a Breast Cancer Charity, organised by the wife of local farmer, Richard Slatter who sadly passed away over Christmas. A display of bras and a coffee morning at Shipston Rugby Club raised £3000.00 so thanks to all who donated. The Book Swap remains in the Porch although we appreciate it is sometimes not easy to access due to the flood boards.

Members gathered to reflect on the New Year and also sent best wishes to Chapel member June Empson who has enjoyed the hospitality of the Horton, JR and Bicester rehab facility over past few months and to Marianne and all the volunteers who have helped her visit her sister and keep the shop operational under difficult circumstances.



Storeroom, before and after

Works continue to improve the chapel facilities with secondary window insulation, revamp of storage areas, new toilet, etc. Planned works to the carpark entrance include a flood and vehicle barrier

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

Coffee and Chat



in Long Compton Village Hall

8:30am-9:30am

All welcome

Thursdays

only

for more information contact Kim Petty (SWF churches)

07949949215

Combined Charities

Based on the criteria; ***“To relieve either generally or individually persons resident in the Parish of Long Compton who are in conditions of need or hardship or distress”*** the Combined Charities Trustees will meet in early February to consider grant applications.

Funding is provided by income from the combined assets of a number of small village charities and legacies amounting to approximately £600 pa. For many years the major beneficiary has been the Comptonians, but applications are always welcome from other village groups

meeting the criteria.

Please contact Elizabeth Gilkes who is Clerk to the Trustees for a copy of the Grant Application form.

Long Compton Community Coffee Mornings

Join us on Wednesday 4th February 2026 - 10.30am to 12 noon

During the 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.

Comptonians

We shall meet on Feb 18th at 12:30pm at the Village Hall for our New Year lunch

Margaret Welsh 684238

100 Club

There was no draw in January as the collectors are still out collecting the 2026 contributions. If you want to join and haven't been approached by 12 February, please call me and I will ensure you in for this year's 12 draws.

Chris Galloway 684234

VILLAGE NEWS

Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for January is Andy Chapman.

Jenny Scrivener



MARMALADE!

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

With many thanks
Sophie Corlett

sophiacorlett@btinternet.com / 684369



JUMBLE SALE
in
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Sophie Corlett 68436

VILLAGE NEWS

The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The January winners were as follows;

1st Geoff Shuttleworth 2nd Sue Elliot 3rd Colin Ablewhite

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

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