

THE LINK

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

February 2020

£1



■ 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

February (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Sat	01	Full English Breakfast, Burmington VH	10.00
Sat	01	Long Compton Congregational Chapel, Whist Drive	19.30
Sun	02	SW7 Informal Service, Long Compton Church	16.00
Sun	02	Beneficial Book Club, Barton VH	17.30
Mon	03	Wolfords Village Hall AGM, VH	19.30
Tue	04	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Wed	05	Wolfords WI, Wolfords VH	19.30
Sat	08	Social Saturday, Long Compton VH	11.00
Sat	08	God's Minions SW7 youth group Gaming Event, Long Compton VH	14.30
Sat	08	Adderbury Ensemble, Long Compton Church	18.30
Sun	09	'Open Doors' presentation as part of village service, Long Compton Church	10.30
Sun	09	Red Lion, Long Compton Quiz Night	19.30
Tue	11	Long Compton & District Walkers, depart Red Lion Car Park	09.30
Tue	11	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Thurs	13	SW7 Lunchtime talk for Women, The Old Forge, Stourton	12.30
Thurs	13	Long Compton Book Club, VH	19.00
Fri	14	St. Valentines Dinner, Long Compton VH	19.30
Sat	15	Coffee Shop, Cherington VH	10.30
Sat	15	Brailes Picture House, <i>Downton Abbey</i> , Brailes VH	
Sun	16	Long Compton Congregational Chapel, Drop-in Service	15.30
Sun	16	SW7 Informal Service, Long Compton Church	16.00
Tue	18	Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club, VH	14.00
Wed	19	Comptonians, New Year Lunch, Long Compton VH	12.30
Thurs	20	Rural Cinema, <i>Downton Abbey</i> , Wolfords VH	19.30
Fri	21	Pop Up Pub, Wolfords VH	18.30
Sun	23	Red Lion, Long Compton Quiz Night	19.30
Wed	26	Long Compton Garden Club, VH	19.30



LINK cover: *Guild Chapel - Stratford upon Avon.* Pen and Watercolour by Stourton Artist Colin Beckett. For the full picture, please see page 22. Commissions accepted and paintings for sale. Please contact for appointment - colin.beckett13@yahoo.com or 01608 686381

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.

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<https://editor794.wixsite.com/sw7link>



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Monday 17 February

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EDITORIAL

LINK Talk

Our thanks go to all those who recorded their vote for the 2019 Cover of the Year. I know that it's not exactly the Oscars and there's no red carpet to speak of, but I thought the 2019 front cover pages were particularly good.

So to the results. The winner was the January cover (37.5%) with the River Stour Kingfisher digesting lunch. Our thanks and congratulations go to Patrick Fox from Whichford who captured this magnificent image.

As the results table shows below, it was a close-run thing. The July cover, photograph from our treasurer Janet Moore came second (29.2%) and the December cover with painting by Jenny Henderson, came third (20.8%). Congratulations to all. Please do continue to send in your photographs, images and artwork for use on our covers.



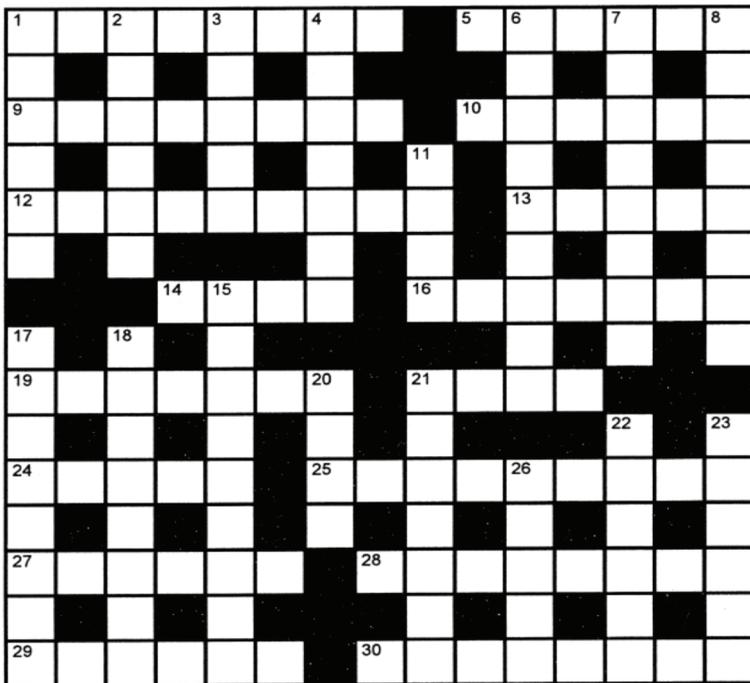
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Poll Position	1	4	7	7	4	7	2	4	7	7	7	3
Votes (%)	37.5%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	29.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.8%

I'd like to just remind readers that each month we publish birthday wishes to the younger residents of our villages. Please, if you are under 18, or have family under 18, do let me know the details and we can send our congratulations and birthday wishes each year.

Being a leap year, we'd be particularly interested if any reader was born on 29 February. Perhaps you could let us know, and if there is a new arrival this leap year, we'd be very pleased to share your celebrations with the readers of The LINK.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

The LINK Crossword



Across

- 1 It must be stressed that these are the final course. (8)
- 5 Rave on, perhaps in Shakespearian gentleman's place. (6)
- 9 Disease – spreading insect. (8)
- 10 A quarter of a pint that is for the Highlander. (6)
- 12 This clue is quite something! (9)
- 13 Find an accurate answer. (5)
- 14 Leaks? (4)
- 16 Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury. (7)
- 19 Henry the Second's Queen. (7)
- 21 Feeling comfortable? (4)
- 24 This will not weigh heavily on one's mind. (5)
- 25 A member of the mendicant preachers who, it is said, settled in Sherwood Forest. (9)
- 27 Could be a parody, could be drawn. (6)
- 28 E.g. William Wilberforce. (8)
- 29 Boring publicity for the wood-nymphs. (6)
- 30 Our progenitors gave us this. (8)

Down

- 1 Lass could fly! (6)
- 2 Nurse, Nun or Sibling. (6)
- 3 Kit out. (5)
- 4 Bacillus infection causing muscle spasms. (7)
- 6 Mastering arrangements for overseas. (9)
- 7 A boil got confused over the musician's requirement. (8)
- 8 Agitate triangle for a tip-off. (8)
- 11 Unproductive. (4)
- 15 Continued flabbergasted to be overlooked. (9)
- 17 Siderial amazingly comprehended. (8)
- 18 Insufficient organisation of army glee. (8)
- 20 Play it again! (4)
- 21 The war of 1854. (7)
- 22 Zenith. (6)
- 23 A reef caused by a mistake in the atmosphere. (6)
- 26 Malformed hen or flower in France. (5)

The LINK Crossword compiled for us by Campden John

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.

Saturday 1 August - CSS Flower Show

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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!*



February Birthdays

20th	Isobel Bygate	Willington	16
23rd	Rowan Thompson	Cherington	14

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES – FEBRUARY 2020 CHURCH SERVICES

SW7	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
February 2 nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD) 4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids groups) (SPA/BD)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)
February 9 th 3rd Sunday before Lent	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>	4:00-6:00pm Youth Bible Study (Village Hall)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	10:30am CW All Age Service (BD)	10:30am CW Village Service focusing on the charity Open Doors (CLW/AW)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	<i>(Support Burmington)</i>
February 16 th 2nd Sunday before Lent	<i>(Support Cherington)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (SPA)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/LM)	4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids and youth groups) (BD/SPA)	<i>(Support Cherington or Burmington)</i>	10:30am Ecumenical Service at Little Wolford Village Hall (BD/LM)
February 23 rd Sunday next before Lent				10:30am CW Benedice Communion (BD/SPA)			
February 26 th Ash Wednesday		10:00am BCP Holy Communion* (BD)					
March 1 st 1st Sunday of Lent	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/CLW)	<i>(Support Long Compton or Wolford)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston)</i>	<i>(Support Barcheston or Whichford)</i>	9:00am BCP Holy Communion* (SPA) 4:00pm CW Informal Service (with kids groups) (BD/SPA)	10:30am BCP Morning Prayer (SPA)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/CLW)

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

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

Persecuted Christians: A Global Phenomenon

Boris Johnson's Christmas Day message to our nation heralded vital good news for the persecuted church across the globe. Within it he said these words of encouragement: *Today of all days, I want us to remember those Christians around the world who are facing persecution. For them Christmas Day will be marked in private, in secret, perhaps even in a prison cell. As Prime Minister, that's something I want to change.*

Fortunately, a year ago, on Boxing Day 2018, Jeremy Hunt MP, then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced just such a vehicle of change: the establishment of an Independent Review to map the extent and nature of the global persecution of Christians. This would also assess the quality of the response of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and make recommendations for changes in both policy and practice.

This review was chaired by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt. Reverend Philip Mounstephen, with a team of FCO officials, experts seconded from NGOs with great experience in the world of freedom of religion or belief, and independent members. Following an interim report on the nature and scale of the problem, a final report was published last August giving detailed evidence of persecution in seven countries: Iraq, Nigeria, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Syria, and the FCO response on the ground.

A Significant Report

The introduction to the final report justifies with great clarity and integrity why this review was necessary. Firstly, it begins with an appreciation that today the Christian faith is primarily a dynamic of the global south - and especially of the global poor. Secondly, the report states that persecution is a gradual phenomenon with multiple triggers and drivers. Thirdly, it confirms that Christian persecution is a human rights issue with Freedom of Religion or Belief being the most fundamental human right because so many others depend upon it. Across the globe there is a growing concern that if this basic right is removed other rights are put in jeopardy. Fourthly and perhaps most importantly, the review does not make a special pleading for Christians, but clarifies that 80% of those receiving religiously motivated discrimination across the world are Christians. Significantly the evidence suggests that acts of violence and other intimidation against Christians are becoming more widespread and severe in contradiction of Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The World Watch List

Against this backdrop, academics, journalists and religious leaders have stated that this global persecution of Christians is 'an urgent human rights issue that remains underreported'. Now that this review has brought such persecution into the open it was hoped that the recommendations in the report be fully implemented by the FCO in a

matter of months but no doubt the recent General Election has deflected such a reality. However, publicity for this report is still needed and its implementation fulfilled. On 15 January, Members of Parliament were invited to *The World Watch List* presentation by the mission agency 'Open Doors', long associated with supporting Christians facing persecution. This annual event updating MPs about the persecuted church and other minorities is always well attended and will no doubt add impetus for the implementation of those crucial recommendations of the Bishop of Truro's review.

An Invitation

Anthony and I warmly invite you to the village service in Long Compton on Sunday 9 February at 10.30 am when we will be giving a presentation on the work of 'Open Doors' in its vital support for persecuted Christians across the world.

Clare Wells (Reader)

Deanery News

By the time you read your February magazines, Christmas will be a distant memory, packed away for next year. But I was reminded again this year that there is no point celebrating the coming of Christ if we don't allow it to affect our whole lives – otherwise it's just a rather expensive series of parties and a lot of food! Perhaps the words of Howard Thurman will help us:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Lent begins at the end of this month, and we will be holding our usual Lent services in the Deanery, on the theme of Mental Health. Look out for the venues and more details, but the evenings will be on the following:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Tuesday 3 March | Depression and the psalms - Reverend Ben Dyson |
| Tuesday 10 March | 'What about sadness? Making sense of our emotional responses to life's path' - Stephen Bushell |
| Tuesday 17 March | Dementia - Reverend Jean Fletcher |
| Tuesday 24 March | Keeping Health in Mind - Reverend Ali Hoggett |
| Tuesday 31 March | Mental Health in our churches |
| Tuesday 7 April | Holy Week Eucharist - Ven Barry Dugmore |

Sarah Edmonds (Area Dean)



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)

13 Feb The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18: 9 – 14 Ben Dyson

Simple lunch provided - donations please

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

Liz Maycock: 686404 (lizzymaycock@gmail.com)



Invitation to an evening
with
BERTIE PEARCE



It's Not An Illusion!

(Professional magician who brings an evening of laughter and amazement and tells his story of faith)

*Stourton House- The Old Forge
Tuesday 3rd March 2020. 7.30pm*

Supper £10.00 p.p.

RSVP

*Sarah Scotter 686303
sarah.scotter@hotmail.com*

*Liz Maycock 686404
lizzymaycock@gmail.com*



God's Minions

South Warwickshire Seven Benefice youth group are holding a GAMING EVENT

If you are aged 11-18, come along to Long Compton village hall on Saturday 8 February 2.30 – 5.00 pm.

For more info contact Kim 07949949215 or Jules 07808491547

SW7 Men's Breakfast



Faith Under Fire

Tim Cross CBE
The Cherington Arms
7th March 2020

7.45a.m

Includes

Full English Breakfast
Book Now £10.00

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

Benefice Informal Services – Spring 2020

Long Compton Church



THE BIBLE AND SEXUALITY & PROMISES KEPT

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 2 February | The Bible and Sexuality (3): A better story | John 4:1-26 |
| 16 February | Promises Kept (1): A Divine King | Psalm 110 |
| 1 March | Promises Kept (2): An Everlasting King | Psalm 16 |
| 15 March | Promises Kept (3): A New Covenant | Jeremiah 31:31-34 |
| 29 March | 3.00 pm - Families Outreach in Long Compton Village Hall
(No GAP Service today) | |
| 5 April | Promises Kept (4): A Suffering Servant | Isaiah 53:4-6 |

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month 4 – 5.00 pm
Creche, Sunday School & Youth Group - Food Afterwards



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

Party Political Broadcasts

As part of our work on British values and focusing specifically on democracy, Acorns Primary School held their own election to tie in with the General Election on Thursday 12 December.

Children learnt new vocabulary including constituency, ballot, manifesto, snap election and polling station. They learnt about the House of Commons and the role of an MP. Pupils in Class 3 donned masks for each of the major party leaders and read out child-friendly manifestos to the school in assembly. These were displayed so the children could refer to them during election week. Then on election day, each child completed their ballot paper and voted for the manifesto of the party they thought was the best. The Green Party had the most votes (26), followed by Labour and Conservative (12 each). There were two spoiled ballot papers (two crosses!).



Acorns Class 1 Memory Box

Class 1 made the finishing touches to their memory boxes. Alongside this, the children have been looking at self-portraits, and how they, and others, view themselves. They have each created a self-portrait in a pop art style, which are incredibly realistic and will be great to look back on in many years.

Acorns Class 2 Tremors

Class 2 have all had great fun during the *Tremors* topic and the knowledge shared throughout the Innovate phase has been fantastic. The children have learnt all about the location of Arthur's Seat and created a full plan of action in preparation for any future

volcanic eruptions. They have worked brilliantly to bring all of the topic's learning together to create a very informative group presentation. The volcano art that has been produced looks wonderful.

Acorns Class 3 Frozen Kingdom

Continuing with Frozen Kingdom, the children's printing artwork, based on the works of indigenous Inuit people, was a real success - all children produced a printing tile and contributed to a beautiful class printed fabric as well as producing their own repeating patterns. In art and design, Class 3 collected natural materials to make their own ice art.



For this topic's innovate project, the children worked collaboratively in groups to devise a rescue mission. They used all the knowledge they had gathered whilst learning about the Titanic disaster and Scott's Antarctic expedition. The teachers were very pleased with their projects and the children thoroughly enjoyed showing all their learning in a skilful way - each group could decide how to plan their mission and also how to present it; it was great to see all their different ideas.

Snow Queen across the Curriculum

What a lot of drama Brailes have enjoyed recently. After the massive success of our Nativity plays, children visited The Old Rep Theatre in Birmingham and enjoyed a fabulous rendition of Hans Christian Anderson's *The Snow Queen*. Rabbits class wrote some super recounts of their experience. The children in Owls class were particularly impressed by the costumes used in the production, including the fabulous light-up dress worn by the Snow Queen herself, and the masks used to make the goblins look so old and scary.

Powder Paints

Badgers class were very pleased to welcome artist Brenda Sheils to the school to share with the class about being an artist. The class learnt from Brenda that she likes to create abstract paintings. During her visit, she showed the class how to use powder paints of only primary colours to make secondary colours.

Badgers class were able to use the knowledge of Newton's colour wheel to make many different shades, tones and colours. They experimented adding more water to create transparent, pale colours. More dense, opaque and rich colours could be made by adding more powder paint.



'It was really interesting to find out how many different varieties of the same colour we could make. Some of us even made 20 different shades of green.' shared Eva in Year 5.

It was a really enjoyable morning where the class were able to use and deepen their painting skills, knowledge and in particular, develop colour mixing skills with a different type of paint.

As Badgers came to the end of the Gallery Rebels topic, the focus of the Innovate stage was to use knowledge of different art movements and techniques, drawing perspective and colour skills developed through the topic to create illustrations of different scenes from the traditional retelling of the Snow Queen story.

FARMING NOTES

Editor: Lynn Mathias
Email: farming@swlink.org.uk

Ear Tags

I am afraid that Farming Notes will be a bit thin on the ground this month as December is generally a quiet period with little happening and everyone shutting up shop for Christmas.

Our biggest excitement was finding that a store cow just off to market had lost one of her ear tags which meant that she had to be withdrawn as no cattle can be moved without two ear tags. I now find that *Stow Agricultural Services* at Longborough have just started providing ear tags which makes it much easier to get a replacement. Getting either new or replacement tags is more complicated than you might imagine. A bit like getting new number plates for a car you have to be able to prove that you are the correct person keeping the animal so that you need to provide your holding number. A County Parish Holding or CPH number is a number given to every block of farmed land in the country, (probably going back to before the war), as well as a flock number which again every registered keeper of farm animals will have. This will be checked against the proposed number you are asking for and the animal or animals in question which will be cross checked against a central register of all animals registered to your address.

Every time cattle are moved onto or off a holding, (or if they are born or die), they have to be reported to the British Cattle Movement Service within three days of the movement, so in theory they can trace cattle throughout the country.

This is most important if there is a health issue such as foot and mouth but also makes it more difficult for stolen animals to be sold on. No reputable market or purchaser will accept any animal without the requisite ear tag and matching passport showing all previous movements that goes with every animal. Abattoirs also have to register animals into this system so if you ever offered meat from the back of a lorry, you should be a bit suspicious!



[Ed - Not an animal from Manor Farm but I did like the picture!]

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

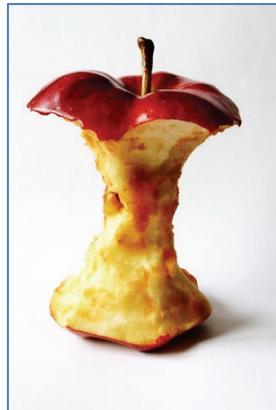
As you read these notes, the signs of a new spring are showing themselves and the first of these signs are the early flowers. We are looking out for daffodils and tulips, for celandine and aconites, and of course snowdrops. But what induces these plants to flower at this time of the year? The answer of course is light, or rather its increase, but it is not so simple as this. For the plant must need different lengths of daylight and different shades of light – blue and red. To complicate things even further, a period of darkness is essential. These are factors which have been known for some time by those growing spring plants for early sales and particularly where plants are grown under glass or polythene. Indeed, the first to discover these factors was Darwin, but since his discoveries, much more has been found out about how these plants respond to light and other natural factors. And doubtless, we shall continue with these discoveries in the future. The whole of this light absorption and reflection process is known as phototropism but let us not begin the new year with too many long words!

Time was when the ash tree would be considered to be a ‘pioneer’ tree. As together with birch, hazel and elder it would help populate an empty stretch of land and make new woodland. Unfortunately, this is no more. For ash dieback disease has severely decimated the numbers of these trees. The disease is spread by a fungus which causes leaf loss and lesions on the bark of the tree (and the ashes smooth grey bark is, I think, one of its most attractive features). Also, it causes dieback of the tree’s crown. The disease is spread on the dead leaves of the tree by spores of the fungus. Not all infected trees need to be cut down and the decision to do so should be taken only by an experienced woodsman. Those people with wood burners will know that ash will burn in the green stage. As with many trees, there are species of insects such as moth and others which rely entirely on this tree. There was in medieval times a most curious lore that if a child with a rupture was passed through a split trunk or branch of an ash and the split was then bound up, were this split to heal up, so too would the child. But the fight against ash dieback is gathering pace, in particular where scientist screening thousands of ash saplings have eliminated several as diseased but found at least ten percent remained healthy. Moreover, tissues have been taken from trees in various degrees of this sickness to compare them with those of healthy trees. Again, in some cases where ash dieback has infected the trees, these trees are rallying and seemingly returning to a healthy condition. Time and close study will tell.

I looked out at my bedroom window a few days ago and behold; half of the meadow had erupted into mole hills! Well of course I should have expected such and wondered by no means for the first time whether if the field were ever ploughed – it is not been done so in living memory – if it would need a plough in it or could be left safely to the moles to do this. I do not count the number of mole hills, but one thing has always puzzled me and that is that in all these years we have lived here I have never ever seen a mole emerging pushing up his load of soil into the form of a hill. The mole’s front legs are designed entirely for burrowing, an activity he performs admirably considering his size. Most tunnels are built for the mole to search for his food, the result of a cunning

plan. This is his awareness that his prey such as worms gravitate towards the surface in daytime but descend back at night, so falling into his tunnel and into the paws of the awaiting mole. Another prominent feature of the mole's makeup is its extremely well-developed sense of smell thus enabling it to detect unwanted intruders in its tunnels. Small short runs of tunnels are described as 'courtship' tunnels where mole romances take place, whilst larger wider areas are where the young are born and tended by the mother. If you come across an exceptionally large hill it is thought that it is built above where the young are being reared to provide extra ventilation.

My newspaper tells me that due to apple cores being thrown out of car windows, their seed is hybridizing with the native crab apple and in danger of destroying these which are the ancestors of most of our cultivated apples. This method of discarding apple cores is perhaps not such an acceptable idea after all.



Tony Partridge

Highlight on Hedgehogs

Imagine my excitement when someone informed me that there is a National Hedgehog Day and that it is unofficially observed on Sunday 2nd February! This, coincidentally, is the same day of the year that North Americans have adopted to mark their Groundhog Day – but I guess this may be because they don't have any native hedgehogs of their own?! The 2nd February is also Candlemas Day - a holy day in the Christian calendar, and a festival which marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

Apparently, Hedgehog Day dates back to the Romans. They used to believe that if they saw a hedgehog casting its shadow in the moonlight, the hog would return to its nest (presumably to continue hibernating) and this would indicate that winter would hold on for six more weeks.

Meanwhile, in Europe the tradition of Candlemas included a belief that a sunny Candlemas meant winter would linger; whereas a cloudy day heralded the arrival of spring. Then, at some point the Romans brought their customs to Europe and these two separate beliefs mingled into watching the hedgehog emerge from hibernation during the day. On a sunny day if he were to see his shadow there'd be six more weeks of winter.

Now of course, I've no idea if there's any truth in this but I found it interesting all the same to see how history, folklore and beliefs evolve over the centuries and influence our present-day customs.

However, just in case you should need a more compelling reason to celebrate Sunday 2 February as National Hedgehog Day, it was the release date for Sonic the Hedgehog 3, back in 1994.

Louise Turner

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

As I write these notes in early January, it is comparatively mild. Bulbs are putting on a spurt of growth and aconites are coming into flower. I have been enjoying the scents of the winter flowering shrubs such as chaenomales, sarcococca and winter flowering honeysuckle as well as the cheerful yellow of winter jasmine. As the flowers fade, the shrubs can be pruned to encourage new lower growth. Late flowering clematis should also be cut back to the lowest pair of strong buds and vines can also be pruned this month but avoid freezing cold days. I was taught to remember the pruning of wisteria as 2+7 (2 being February and 7 being July). This month cut back side shoots to 2-3 buds.



Winter Flowering Jasmine

In the fruit garden I shall complete the pruning of the blackcurrants, cutting a quarter of the stems to the ground. I shall also shape the redcurrants and gooseberries to have an open centre and reduce last year's growth by about half. It is best to weed thoroughly now and add fertiliser and compost to boost spring growth. Pruning of hedges should ideally be completed this month and any new bird boxes sited before the birds start nesting.

There is still time in February to plant bare root roses and trees. If the soil is workable, shrubs can also be moved and new ones dug in. Remember to add fertiliser and mycorrhizal fungi to aid nutrient absorption.

After all the recent rain, the ground is very wet and in some areas, waterlogged but I am continuing to dig in compost around the herbaceous perennials to help to aid drainage and to feed the new growth. At the same time, I am still cutting back dead foliage which I failed to do earlier basically because of inclement weather. A new year resolution is not to be a fair weather gardener as the tasks tend to build up.

Another job is to cut down the leaves of hellebores so that their flowers can be appreciated better. Grass also needs to be cut back around the cyclamen in the 'wild area' so that they also can be seen to their advantage. I shall remove the top 5-10 cms of soil from containers and add compost to feed the new growing shoots.

If you have any potted-up bulbs which you wish to force into early indoor flowering, place them on a sunny windowsill in a cool room until the flower buds begin to colour and then take them into warmer surroundings. Any bulbs such as hyacinths which have finished flowering can be planted out.

If the weather does not tempt you outdoors, there are still jobs to do in the greenhouse. Make sure that the glass is clean and clear and that pots and seed trays are clean and ready for the seed sowing which will soon be well under way.

Margaret Welsh

2020: The 400th Anniversary of the Enclosure of Barton-on-the-Heath

In St. Lawrence Church in Barton, on the wall of the nave, facing the porch, is a memorial to William Sands which reads *'who was born in this parish in Decr 1720 being the hundredth year after the enclosure'*. Despite spending years searching for further recorded evidence of the date of enclosure as 1620, the memorial in the church is the only direct indication I have discovered for the enclosure of Barton except for a minor earlier enclosure dated 1518.

Enclosure (or 'Inclosure') is a process that has been in existence over the last thousand years in most parishes or villages and even in towns in England. For those who would like to know more about enclosure, further reading on this subject is recommended to help understand this complicated topic. Enclosure, as suggested by the name, involved dividing land into fields whose boundaries were then determined by hedges, fences or ditches and by ploughing some of the ridge and furrow formerly in use. Enclosure often involved reducing the area of common land used by the parishioners to feed their livestock. Poorer families would have thus suffered with the reduction in their means of making a living.

Despite the lack of direct evidence of the results of enclosure, which was both good and bad for the Barton villagers of the time, there is, however, circumstantial evidence of the date of the final enclosure of the lands in the village. From examination of the parish registers it is evident that baptisms and therefore birth rates fell after 1620 but recovered again by 1629. This suggests that many younger villagers left Barton for perhaps 10 years but returned later. It is also of interest that although the year of enclosure was 1620, the parish lands were not sold to Walter Overbury by the owners William Brent, William Bury and son also named William Bury, until 1625. Enclosed lands were generally held to be of greater value than unenclosed lands and it is quite feasible that the enclosure of Barton was not completed for 5 years after 1620.

From medieval until late Tudor times, Barton village was surrounded by two open fields known as the 'north' field and the 'south' field, each of about 500 acres. Each field was divided into smaller areas known as 'furlongs' of 10 to 15 acres, themselves further divided into 20 to 30 strips (or 'selions') whose boundaries are the ridge and furrows that we can see today. Before the enclosure, each villager had the right to farm varying numbers of strips scattered around the village. After enclosure some villagers may have been given the rights to more strips, others perhaps fewer strips, scattered around the village. The Lord of the Manor would have the rights to the largest number of strips, perhaps 200, the Rector 100, with some poorer villagers enjoying few or no strips at all.

Before enclosure many villagers' strips were scattered around the village lands. However, after enclosure the efficiency of crop production and animal husbandry in Barton would have been greatly improved, especially where villagers had all their allocations of strips concentrated into smaller areas which would no longer require long journeys around the village.

Looking around now we can appreciate the continuing success of the agricultural industry in our village since 1620 despite problems such as the diseases brought by the Civil War of the mid-17th century and the agricultural recession of the later 19th century.

In 2020, we can celebrate the 400th anniversary of one of the most important developments in village life over the last 400 years. We can still see the existence of the ridge and furrow which currently accounts for about 35% of the total area of the village. An absence of enclosure may well have resulted in an absence of improvement!

Colin Maynell

Recipe - Crispy Lime and Turmeric Roasted Chicken

Are you looking for a new chicken recipe or just creating a warm, winter meal? The recipe contains a mixture of lime, turmeric and za'tar that result in delicious flavour. Given the high oven temperature the chicken roasts with a beautiful crispy skin and super moist meat. Serve with roasted potatoes, rice or couscous.

Crispy Lime and Turmeric Roasted Chicken (Serves 4-6 people)

Ingredients

- 1.8k-2kg whole chicken, washed and dried
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4-5 limes, juiced and pips removed
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- 2 tablespoons za'tar
- 1 small onion, peeled and halved
- ½ lime
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and halved
- Drizzle of olive oil

1. Preheat oven to 230C or Gas Mark 8. (or highest if 230C not possible)
2. Line a roasting pan with parchment paper.
3. In a small bowl, mix together the 2 tablespoons olive oil and lime juice.
4. Place chicken on parchment paper in roasting pan.
5. Rub half of the wet ingredients inside the chicken and half over the outside of the chicken, massaging well.
6. In a small bowl, combine the sea salt, ground pepper, turmeric, za'tar.
7. Rub the spice mixture over the inside and outside of the chicken.
8. Place the onion and lime inside chicken cavity.
9. Insert garlic cloves underneath the skin of the breast- well spaced apart, and even on both sides.
10. Drizzle olive oil over the chicken.
11. Cover with a piece of aluminium foil, place in oven.
12. Roast for 1-1/2 hours, basting every 20 minutes or so with pan juices.
13. Serve hot from the oven with roasted potatoes or rice.

*The recipe is adapted from Joon, Persian Cooking Made Simple by Najimieh Batmanglij

Barbara Rees

Beneficial Book Club

To those who are new in the group and are wondering why we have the name *Beneficial* in the title, this is because it was started to join people together in our Benefice of seven parishes based around Long Compton. Anyone who wishes to join our group would be most welcome - we have room for two or three more, so do get in touch.

We really enjoyed meeting in December to talk about *The Salt Path* by Rae Winn. The story is about a journey along the South West Coast Path from Somerset to Dorset via Devon and Cornwall. Rae and her husband Moth, having lost their home and livelihood decided to walk the 630 miles while camping 'wild' along the way. Lack of funds and ill-health were very challenging but eventually it proved a fulfilling journey with many interesting encounters.

In our meeting on Sunday 5 January we talked about *Lanny* by Max Porter. This is a most unusual novel, poetic and brilliantly written. Situated in an unnamed village somewhere in England, where a boy goes missing in ancient woodland, with spirits of trees and thoughts of long-ago residents added to the hubbub of contemporary residents all around. A truly original and intriguing read.

Next time we will talk about *After Such Kindness* by Gaynor Arnold. We will meet at Barton House at 5.30 pm on Sunday 2 February. Happy reading!

Gillian Cathie



Guild Chapel - Stratford upon Avon
Pen and Watercolour by Stourton Artist Colin Beckett

Cameo, SW7 Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club meeting, which celebrates our 14th anniversary, will be held in Burmington village hall on Tuesday 11 February at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Over the intervening years we have missed only one meeting, that due to local flooding. We hope our February meeting will also be celebrating an early Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday with our resident pancake flipper in full action.



All are welcome: most villages in the Benefice are represented in the current membership. A charge of £4 is made 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. The following Lunch Club meetings will be on 10 March and 14 April.

Amy Rose Leonard - (Rose Barratt)

Amy Rose Leonard, who died in Feltham, Middlesex on 31 October 2019 and was known as Rose, was born 26 April 1932 in Burmington to Thomas and Violet Barratt. Rose had a younger brother Tony, who sadly died at the age of 27 in 1962 and is buried in Burmington churchyard. The Barratt family lived in the house opposite the village hall, next door to the Batsford family, and she remained in contact with Bob and Philip until her death. It is interesting to note that although Rose was so young when she left Burmington, there are very many people in the Shipston area who remember her and with whom she kept in touch all her life. She was a vibrant and lively personality who loved people and her feelings were reciprocated.



Aged 16, Rose left Burmington to work in London; she trained at catering college and worked for many years at Lyons Tea Houses as a 'Nippy'. These were waitresses who wore a distinctive uniform and who were selected on their '...deportment, condition of hands, ability to add and the competence to handle crockery deftly'. Clearly, Rose met all those requirements very successfully.

She met her husband Jim on Croydon Railway Station and in 1955, they married in Shipston Church. Jim had a motorcycle with sidecar in which they travelled many miles together, Rose travelling in the sidecar with a hot water bottle clutched to her chest to keep warm!

Rose worked for many years in accounts for FW Chittys Funeral Directors in Weybridge and Walton on Thames and it seems fitting that these directors dealt with her funeral. When Jim retired from the Police, they went to live in Knightsbridge, where Jim became caretaker in a block of flats. Here they made a large number of friends, many of whom

she remained close to all her life. Some would bring her to Burmington and the Cotswolds when she was on her own and no longer able to drive. Jim died in 2001 and Rose travelled a lot in the years following. She remained devoted to Burmington, paintings of which she kept on her walls in her Feltham retirement flat, and she received the LINK magazine until she died.

In 2007 when Burmington began to research its history, she came eagerly to the exhibitions held in the village hall and contributed valuable photos and memorabilia which finally helped to form Burmington's permanent exhibition of its history now displayed in the hall. Appropriately, Rose's photograph taken with her friend, Amy Claridge is included in the exhibition. Rose will continue to be remembered as a person who deeply enriched the lives of many people.

Sonia Baker



Children's Liver
Disease Foundation
fighting childhood
liver disease

Please support our
Coffee Morning
for



BIG YELLOW FRIDAY

Raising funds for the
Children's Liver Disease Foundation
On Friday 6 March from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
At Kenrene, Burmington

Any contributions of cakes (the yellower the better), raffle prizes and donations gratefully received.

Contact Irene Clarke (661418) or Justine Clarke (661892)

**Full English Breakfast is being served at
BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**



**First Saturday of the Month
Saturday 1 February - 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**
Gluten free and vegetarian diets catered for
Call Irene (661418) for details

Christmas at Burmington



Burmington's own Santa Claus
Church Carol Service
CAMEO Christmas lunch
Village Winter Gathering
Burmington Carol Singers



Coffee Shop

Saturday 15 February

Hot
Chocolate,
Teas &
Coffee



Bacon Rolls
& Cakes

10.30 am - 12 noon
At The Hall - Stourton

CSS Seniors Club

The Seniors' new year feast was held on Tuesday 14 January at the Cherington Arms. It was a great success with 32 members enjoying super food and a wonderful friendly (noisy!) atmosphere. Many thanks to Jean Michel, Tracy and the Team.

Our next event will be a fish and chips lunch at the Cherington Arms on Tuesday 17 March, details to follow. NB: There will be no chatterbox meetings during 2020.

Seniors Committee

St. John the Baptist Church

The Nativity Play in Cherington Church on Christmas Eve was very well attended to the extent that many had to stand. There appeared to be present many grandparents and parents of the performing cast as well as siblings and other supporters.

In view of the widespread support both from inside and outside of the Parish, it was decided to send a 'special donation' to The Children's Society. This may well be in addition to any other donations that individual Parishes within the Benefice may have made.

Roger Maycock, Churchwarden

Christmas Greetings Donations 2019

A big thank you to all who have donated to St. John the Baptist church in lieu of sending cards to friends in our villages. At the time of going to print, we still have a few donations to collect, but so far, we have raised a little over £1,000. Thank you once again for your support.

Pam Brookes & Sherry Barker (on behalf of the PCC)

Cherington Garden Group

You are invited to an entertaining presentation for all ages, by the RSPCA Young Ambassadors from Stratford on Avon.

Kyra Barboutis and Sophie Smith will be telling you how they rescue, rehabilitate and release hedgehogs.

Please come to the village hall, Stourton on Sunday 8 March at 2.30 pm. There will be a raffle and donations of cat or dog food (not fish) will be welcome. Adults £1.00 admission with all proceeds to hedgehog rescue at www.hedgehogfriendlytown.co.uk

Brailes Mechanical Society

Our first meeting of the year on 6 January was a talk by Roger Butler entitled *A Canal Honeymoon*. It was inspired by some friends of his father, Max and Edna who after marrying 'with no fuss, flowers or photos' in 1962, embarked on a two-week honeymoon on the inland waterways of the Midlands and Wales. They kept a photo album of their journey. Their home for the duration was a small boat just 16 feet long, the 'Swan Jester'. Accommodation was pretty basic, just a stove and a bowl for washing with single bunks on opposite sides of the boat. Very romantic!

They set off from Shrewsbury on The Shropshire Union Canal and made their way to the Llangollen canal with its 19 locks. They eventually reached Wales and crossed the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. The 18 arched stone and iron structure was designed by Thomas Telford and William Jessop in 1805. On the way back they visited the Stoke Bruern Canal Museum which is still there today. A lot of the places they went to were quite run down and semi derelict but have now been restored. The couple enjoyed their trip so much they hired the same boat two years later.

Theresa Wakeham

Brailes Picturehouse

The next film showing will be *Downton Abbey* on Saturday 15 February.

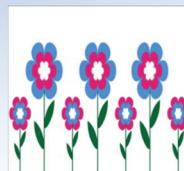
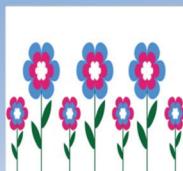
Deirdre Carney

Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Flower Show

PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

CSS Flower Show

Saturday 1 August 2020



Long Compton Village Hall

Since the last edition of The LINK, the village hall has hosted quite a range of events, catering for all ages. We had our first, *Carols Round the Tree* evening where we were joined in a packed hall by the Village Choir and Acorns School Choir for an evening of community singing and performances. I don't think anyone who witnessed it could possibly forget the superb rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', complete with actions. This was followed by the *Christmas Tea Party* which had everyone thoroughly entertained with musical interludes, comedy sketches, the traditional pantomime, a bumper raffle and two 100 club draws, all accompanied by a delicious afternoon tea and a little mulled wine to kick things off. We finished the year with *Twixmas* in the quiet time between Christmas and New Year when you can hit the doldrums which offered refreshments, activities and an opportunity to chat about how much you'd eaten and how you don't need to eat again until the new year, whilst tucking into sausage rolls, quiche and stollen. We started 2020 with a *Slime Workshop* which saw children and adults alike making their own slime and getting into quite a mess! Be warned - some of the parents went home with the recipe so we may have started a new craze here. At the time of writing we have not yet held the *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* evening, where dressing up and enthusiastic singing is heartily encouraged, but we're looking forward to it. Join in now "When you know the notes to sing..."



You may have noticed that work has started to improve the state of the drive to make it safe to use for years to come, however, it will take some time to complete. We apologise for the inconvenience of temporarily having a reduced parking area and appreciate your understanding whilst the work is being carried out. In order to undertake this huge project, the Village Hall Committee are organising a series of extra fundraising events for the drive fund over 2020. Residents in Long Compton should have received a letter detailing our plans and for those in the wider community, please look out for posters and events on our Long Compton Village Hall Facebook page. To start off our year we have the return of the highly recommended Valentine's Dinner on 14th February, a film night on Thursday 5 March and a concert from a Welsh Choir on 28 March (further details to follow). We do hope there will be something that will appeal to you and look forward to welcoming you to your hall very soon.

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

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 Village Hall

St. Valentine's Dinner

February 14th, 7.30 pm

*Treat your valentine to a delicious 3 course meal
in our romantic pop up bistro*

£18.00 per person, Licensed Bar

*For more details and tickets contact Mo Read 684130,
07814802814 or lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk*



Do come along to

Social Saturday

At Long Compton Village Hall

Saturday 8 February 11am – 2pm

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

Do pop in and join us!



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

Long Compton and District Garden Club

On Wednesday 26 February at 7.30 pm in Long Compton village hall, Sue Bledwell will speak about *South Africa - Plants in the wild and in British gardens*.

It is the coldest and wettest time of the year so cheer yourself up in the flora of South Africa. Although some of us have been lucky to visit South Africa and appreciate its amazing flowers, most of us have not, so come and join us. Everyone welcome.

Contact lesleyroberts46@gmail.com

Compton and District History Society

The December meeting of the History Society included our traditional mulled wine and mince pies refreshments and we were treated to an excellent presentation by Stephen Wass on local archaeology and how good archaeological questions might be applied to Long Compton. Unfortunately, our meeting took place after The LINK copy deadline, so this is our first chance to report on it.

Stephen's talk was based around ten questions which triggered his work in Cropredy and which unearthed some extraordinary stories about, for example, Cropredy's own Saint – St. Fremond. He went on to pose a series of questions about our village which could trigger similar discoveries:

- why is Long Compton here and what role did the Romans play in its creation?
- what does the archaeological record have to say about us (there are apparently several entries in the publicly available Archaeological Data Service)?
- why is our church so 'long and thin' and what lies behind the story of St. Augustine's visit?
- what do the two Mills and the fishponds in the village tell us about medieval water and land management?
- why is Long Compton 'Long'; why are the Hollows called 'the Hollows'; why do so many of our tracks and footpaths follow very straight lines?
- how did Long Compton become 'the Witchiest village in England'?

These questions led to some very energetic post-talk discussions (although the mulled wine may have helped) and, let's hope, encourages some further work to get to the bottom of the answers.

The History Society's winter break ends on 11 March with a talk by Will Gowers on *Warwickshire under Richard II*. Do try to get to the village hall to hear him (7.30 pm start as usual) - this season's talks have all been first class and this one promises to be another goodie. Bring a friend!

Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians

As I write in early January, we have not yet had our first talk of the year. On February 19 at 12.30 pm we shall meet in the village hall for a new year lunch. New members are always welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238

Long Compton and District Garden Club



Future Programme



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

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 & District Walkers

This month's walk took us to Blenheim Palace Park, a favourite for the beginning of the new year. Though blustery, there was no rain when we entered the park and we started on the road towards the main North drive. Work was underway with tree felling and clearing damage following storm Brendan, but this did not hinder progress. While conditions on the grassed areas were soft, that did not deter us and we reached our coffee stop (an essential part of any of our outings!) in good time. But the rain came immediately after our stop, and we debated whether to curtail our route but as suddenly as it started, it stopped, so we were able to continue our original path passing the lake, (where we saw a magnificent Cormorant stretching its wings in a tree) back to our starting point, dry and in time for the traditional pub lunch.



Our next outing is on 11 February starting from the Red Lion carpark at 9.30 am as usual.

Ken Treadaway 684553

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)

Adderbury Ensemble

The Friends of Long Compton Church present the Adderbury Ensemble. The Ensemble brings together some of the UK's top musicians to perform the world's finest chamber music, with a programme of Dvorak, Mozart and Frank Bridge.



Saturday 8 February – 7.00 pm

Long Compton Church

Doors open at 6.30 pm. Tickets £18.

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



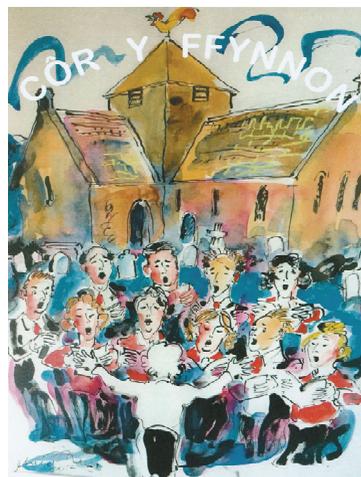
Côr Y Ffynnon

Côr y Ffynnon, a Welsh community choir from the Brecon area will be 'on tour' and with us on Saturday 28 March at 7.00 pm. A lively programme of songs and music in Welsh and English (with bar and nibbles). A fundraiser for the village hall. Please save the date. Tickets £7.50 available to buy at Long Compton Shop.

Further information from Judith at the shop or Mary Dawkes on 01608 684128

More details to follow in the March issue of The LINK.

Mary Dawkes



Long Compton Parish Council

Dark Skies

Long Compton was one of the first Parishes to obtain 'Dark Sky' status and this was largely driven by the interests of the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group who regularly meet at Rollright Stones. Both the Parish Council and the CNAAG are aware of the harm that light pollution does to the environment and especially in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Since the 'Dark Sky' designation has been in place, there have been many noticeable benefits to the village in terms of attracting tourists/astronomers who enjoy the clear night skies. Animals can be harmed by light pollution and thankfully the recent wildlife survey has revealed a healthy population of bats and other nocturnal animals.

The dark sky policy is included in Neighbourhood Plan and Council regularly cite it in planning applications to curtail excessive light spillage from unprotected roof lights and external illumination. The dark-sky movement encourages the use of full cut off fixtures that cast little or no light upward in public areas and generally to encourage communities to adopt lighting regulations. An interesting article on the subject can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_pollution#Improving_lighting_fixtures

A local business thoughtfully responded to a comment about excessive lighting and has now made alternations to mitigate impact. If you have exterior lighting can you spend few moments considering where and for how long the light falls? A few small changes can make a huge difference. Aim the spread of light below the horizontal, use the movement sensor, and remember to switch off porch and other exterior lights when they are not needed – or when you go to bed. Looking down into the village from the surrounding high ground reveals far too much light spillage.

Elizabeth Gilkes 01608 684336

Friends of Long Compton Church

Upcoming Events

March - AGM

April – Photographic competition launch

May – Saturday 2 May, Concert: *The Beatroots* (Acapella Choir + fun repertoire)

Our information and contact points:

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

www.friendsofloncomptonchurch.com

Sue Klatt, Chairman: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch

Long Compton Congregational Chapel

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2019. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Just before Christmas, we had a meeting with a structural engineer and have commenced monitoring to ensure that there is no current movement in the building. We hope to make a plan for future renovations when this is complete.

Looking forward, we have an exciting programme of events for our Bicentennial Year. These include the usual services, Easter on 12 April, Anniversary Sunday in May, and Harvest in October. In addition to our Shipston Proms event in June, we have the dedication of our new Memorial Garden in July and an Inaugural Village Flower and Produce Show in August. We do hope to interest other village organisations in this so the venue can be rotated annually. Our regular 'club' events of Scrabble and Whist will include a league this year, so the most successful player will receive an extra monetary prize at the end of the season.

We will be hosting a Friends of the Chapel (Ebenezers) tea in March and hope to recruit more members to help with our fund raising towards the renovations. Also, there are ongoing discussions regarding the linking the school car park to ours to mutual advantage.

We look forward to seeing you either for faith or secular events through the year. If you are interested in playing Scrabble, please call Sally. 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



Our next meeting is on Thursday 13 February 7.00-8.30pm
We will be discussing *The Gap of Time* by Jeanette Winterson
All Welcome

Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938
carole.r.clements@googlemail.com

The 100 CLUB

The double December draw was held at the Christmas Tea Party in the village hall on 14 December. The winners were:

1st Draw:

1st Prize - 89 Adrian Simpson
2nd Prize - 148 Mr & Mrs Wimshurst
3rd Prize - 30 Lucy Wolff
4th Prize - 164 James Shand

2nd Draw:

1st Prize - 87 Margaret Bennett
2nd Prize - 94 Dave Parks
3rd Prize - 172 Jo Basun
4th Prize - 187 David Smart

The first Draw of 2020 will be held at 12.00 noon at the Social Saturday in the village hall on Saturday 8 February. Tickets for the 12 draws are available from your local collector who will be coming round until just before the draw. There are 12 draws each year, monthly from February with a double draw in December. Join the Club and enjoy the Social Saturdays in the hall.

Chris Galloway 684234

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Elsie Castle who was the winner of the December Reading Room draw, and to Tony Blunt who is the winner of the January Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Whichford & Ascott Car Drivers for Medical Appointments

A group of us started this scheme before Christmas. We are now established and do contact one of us if you need transport for medical or hospital appointments within a 15 mile radius.

Caroline O'Kane 01608 684780

Sophia Corlett 01608 684369

Jenny Scrivener 01608 684564

Mandy James 01608 684479

A donation to village funds would be appreciated. Please try to give as much notice as possible and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Mandy James

Mr. Hands

Cleaning out my shed last year, a mammoth task, we found this tiny old framed photo at the back of a ledge. My house was owned and lived in before me by Stephen Hands, who died in early 2010 in his late nineties and is now buried in Whichford churchyard.



I believe Mr. Hands was born in the house, which was tied to the Warriner estate where he worked his whole life, and from which he bought the house shortly after the end of WW2. He lived in the house for over 90 years until just before his death, and his mail was still being delivered simply to 'Mr. Hands, Whichford', when I moved in. He was clearly very self-sufficient with most of the garden turned over to vegetable beds, and he had a large flock of hens whose eggs he used to sell to villagers. I remember my friend Cathryn Marshall from Ascott being sent round by her mother Ann Winlaw to pick up eggs many years ago.

Some months ago, I met a very nice woman from Sutton who had looked after Mr. Hands in his house before he went into hospital, and I showed her the picture. She said that she thought that the man with the moustache in the front of the punt was Mr. Hands, and the man poling was perhaps his brother. She also suggested that it may have been taken on a day trip to Stratford, possibly before the war, when they would have been in their late twenties.

I have cleaned up the frame and glass since taking this picture and it sits in my kitchen. I would be really interested to hear if other Whichford residents had any stories of Mr. Hands, or if you know that it is indeed him and his brother in the photo, many of you would have known him well I imagine.

Melanie Arnold



Dammed Interventions!

2019 has been another productive and successful year for Shipston Area Flood Action Group where the focus has been to work on watercourses in the upstream Stour catchment area around the Sibfords, Whichford, Brailes and below Hook Norton.



A further 150 interventions have been installed to slow the flow in this area, taking the total to more than 500 since work began in 2018. The vast majority of these structures have been 'leaky wooden dams' (LWD's) which allow the passage of fish and invertebrates during normal conditions, but hold back the excess water during heavy rainfall, such as we experienced on several occasions during the year.

In fact, the deluge on 14 November was the worst seen since 2016, but the river levels were much lower than we and the Environment Agency expected. This indicates that the installations already in place are working to slow the flow and reduce the flooding of homes in vulnerable locations.

2020 takes us south where we are already well on with plans and have secured the funding for works above Long Compton and between there and Shipston plus Brailes, Sutton and Cherington.

It has to be emphasised that this work could not have been undertaken without the consent and support of the landowners and farmers, to whom our communities owe a huge debt of gratitude.

Len Grey

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The January winners were as follows;

1st prize – Sue Elliot

2nd prize – Simon Lewis-Beeching

3rd prize – Christopher Wolverson

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. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

James van Helden



The Rural Cinema in The Wolfords
presents
'Downton Abbey'
Cert: PG 1hr 59 min

The worldwide phenomenon Downton Abbey becomes a grand motion picture event, as the beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the King and Queen of England that will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

Directed by Michael Engler
With Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Maggie Smith, Laura Carmichael, Michelle Dockery, Joanne Froggatt, Brendan Coyle

Thursday 20 February 7.30 pm
The Wolfords Village Hall
Tickets (including free coffee and biscuits) £4.

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)

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 21 February - 6.30 pm

Warming chilli beef (with vegetarian option) will be served at £5 per head.

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



The Wolfords WI

In December, three members gave a very interesting talk on the history of chocolate and chocolate making. Originally it was used for medicinal purposes and then in the 1800s, Cadburys started to produce chocolate as we know it today for pleasurable consumption closely followed by the Swiss chocolatier Lindt. In the 1990s Green and Black started to produce chocolate. The rest of the evening was spent tasting the different chocolates and deciding which one we liked best. We had differing views!

In January we had a very enjoyable new year dinner at Charingworth Manor. The food was delicious and the surroundings lovely.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Please contact Sue Elliott on 01608 674295 for further details.

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Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

Chairman's Corner

Climb It Change

In 1922, General Charles Bruce, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Strutt and George Mallory made their first attempt to climb Mount Everest, making it as far as the North Ridge before turning back. Thirty-one years later, when Edmund Hillary scaled the 8,848m summit in 1953, it was viewed as a heroic, almost superhuman, achievement. The expedition (led by Lord John Hunt), took more than two months, involving a team of over 400 people, including 360 porters and 20 Sherpa guides, plus baggage and equipment weighting 4,500kg. Hillary and Tenzing Norgay approached the final ascent wearing 14kg backpacks, and eventually overcame the last and technically most difficult hurdle – an almost-vertical 12m high rock face (which later became known as the Hillary Step), reaching the mountain's peak at 11.30 am on 29 May.

By comparison, my modest experience of climbing mountains pales into insignificance. Many years ago, to raise money for charity, I trekked to the top of Ben Nevis (just 1,343m). I was part of a group of mixed ages and abilities, so the round-trip took more than 9 hours. During our ascent, several hardy Scots, dressed in vests and shorts, sped past us. They were in training for the Ben Nevis Race. Less than 2 hours later, we encountered the same runners again – demoralisingly, this time they were on their way back down. Meanwhile, with rucksacks laden with flasks of tea, layers of clothing and chocolate bars, we still had another hour or two of climbing to get to the top.

Nowadays, the Three Peaks Challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) can be completed in twenty-four hours. The course record for the Ben Nevis Race, set by Kenny Stuart in 1984, is an impressive 1 hour 25 minutes and 34 seconds. In 2019, Finlay Wild set another record by winning the race for the tenth consecutive year.

Since Hillary's feat, more than 4,000 people have climbed Everest. There have been improvements to transport, technology and equipment, and tourism in the area has become more popular and commercialised. If one is prepared to pay upwards of £50,000 then expeditions, guides, food, gear and support climbers can all be provided - even a helicopter ride to Base Camp if required. Also, the Hillary Step has now gone, possibly as a result of a major earthquake in 2015. It might seem, therefore, that Everest is getting 'easier' to climb. However, climbers still face huge risks. More than 300 people have died attempting to climb the mountain – most deaths are caused by avalanches, falls, frostbite, exposure, lack of oxygen, or health issues such as heart attacks, haemorrhages, thromboses, and altitude sickness. It is estimated that around 200 bodies still remain on Everest.

Although the chances of becoming a Himalayan explorer or a champion hill runner are slim, we can respect and admire their courage, tenacity and determination. Life throws us many challenges, and at times it feels like we have our own metaphorical mountain to climb. In such circumstances we could do worse than look at Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay and Finlay Wild for some inspiration.

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



February of course brings us to Valentine's Day on the fourteenth of the month. According to legend, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his judge, and he wrote her a letter signed 'Your Valentine' as a farewell before his execution. The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th century

England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery and sending greeting cards known as valentines.

Poetic celebration of love boasts a huge selection from which to choose, but as I was searching for a suitable candidate, a LINK reader sent me one he had written specially for the occasion. So thank you Kit Humphrey for your Shakespearean Sonnet entitled, *Leaves Upon The Trees*.

Leaves Upon The Trees

O love of mine that holds my outstretched hand,
Hear not the nervous beating of my heart.
What lukewarm embers hath your ardour fanned?
What crackling fire within me do you now start?
How can I deserve this precious gift of yours?
What deeds have passed twixt this earth and me,
That discounts my wrongs and evens up those scores,
And from this workaday round now sets me free?
Questions with no answers I do fear!
For who can tell how Fate hath rolled the dice?
What chart he chose, my starlit course to steer?
For love - will he exact some earthly price?
Vex not myself with question such as these;
For now, love springs as leaves upon the trees.



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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