

THE LINK

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

April 2023

£1.20



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

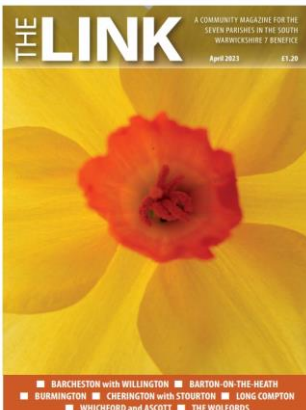
EVENTS DIARY

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

Events Update

April (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

Sat 1	Village breakfast, Burmington VH	10.00
Sat 1	Whist Drive Long Compton Chapel	19.00
Sun 2	View with a Brew walk Hook Norton	10.30
Sun 2	Beneficial Book Club Barton House	17.30
Tues 4	Praying through music Whatcote Ch	14.30
Weds 5	Community Coffee, Long Compton Ch	10.30
Weds 5	Wolford WI, Little Wolford VH	19.30
Thurs 6	Country Market Mimoreton WI Hall	10.00
Sat 8	Coffee Shop, the Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat 8	Social Saturday Long Compton VH	11.00
Mon 10	Art and Craft Exhibition Long Compton Chapel	11.00
Tues 11	Long Compton Walkers, Red Lion car park	09.30
Tues 11	Cameo Lunch Club, Burmington VH	12.00
Thurs 13	Barcheston with Willington AGM Burmington H	19.45
Fri 14	Feel Good Friday, the Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sat 15	Where the Crawdads Sing Brailes Picture House	19.15
Sat 15	Amazing Music Extravaganza The Hall Stourton	19.30
Weds19	Comptonians, Long Compton VH	14.00
Thurs 20	SW7 Women's lunchtime talk, Stourton Hse	12.30
Tues 25	AGM Long Compton Ch	19.30
Tues 25	Coffee Morning, Wolford Ch	11.00
Tues 25	Community Wildlife Group, The Hall, Stourton	18.30
Weds 26	Garden Club, Long Compton VH	19.30
Thurs 27-30	Chiplit	
Fri 28	Carers4Carers Kineton VH	10.30
Fri 28	Feel Good Friday, The Hall Stourton	14.00
Sat 29	Whist Drive, Long Compton Chapel	19.00
Sun 30	Bluebell Walk Teas, Whichford Church	14.00



Cover photograph by Michele Hunter of Long Compton

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

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



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Little Wolford		

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Monday 17 April

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EDITORIAL



Link Talk

Happy Easter and welcome to the April edition of The Link. It feels as though with some glimpses of spring sunshine and the arrival of the daffodils, our villages are all waking up from winter hibernation! The events calendar is getting longer and the May coronation is shaping up to be a very busy time around our villages. Don't forget to send your 1953 memories to your village editors for inclusion in our coronation special. This edition celebrates all things springtime so do enjoy the array of spring flowers and new-born lambs sent from around the villages and showcased in our centre page spread.

Children (young and old) look out for the rabbit's ears hidden on the pages of this edition. There are 15 in total to find!

Sara Billins Editor



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.

Dates for the diary

April 6th – It's Easter! The market will be selling a range of goods including Easter biscuits, Simnel cakes and more, including Easter crafts.

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.



Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays



John Payne	Burmington	17
Nathaniel Banner	Barcheston	17
Amelia Upward	Long Compton	15
Tommy Wright	Cherington	16
Toby Jones	Whichford	14
Robert Clarke	Burmington	16
Beatrice Kinch	Whichford	11

Pet(s) of the Month

Our March Pets of the Month belong to Eric Clubleby



Ramsay (24) on the left and Bourneville (30) on the right - the Stourton donkeys, originally from The Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Wallingford, Oxon. Thirty is a good age, but then they live for 'donkeys' years'.



Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to editor@swlink.org.uk

Carers4Carers monthly meeting



Friday 28 April 10:30 - 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall
Leamington Community Fire Prevention team will give a presentation about fire and home safety. Your loved ones will be able to attend our Companionship Group while you are with us. *Pre-booking for the Companionship Group is essential.* For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



Maintenance never stops and at the hall trustees committee meeting this month we reviewed the long list of items that need to be done to keep the hall in good order for the benefit of the local community. There is an expensive number of items, including: a replacement gas heater; stage curtain system; re-decoration; kitchen boiler; chairs and tables; several areas requiring refurbishment; and roof repairs (not including the main hall flat roof (currently ok, but a very worrying prospect when it needs replacing); and, like us all, we're looking at a shocking renewal for the electricity contract.

Thank you for your continued support; there's a common misconception that we're the "Town Hall" and therefore a council building that our council tax bills fund, this isn't the case, although we're very grateful when we receive a council grant for one of the many items requiring attention. We're very dependent on hiring fees, donations, and proceeds from the Traditional Jazz events we put on. On that front, it was very encouraging to see a sell-out for our event in February. As reported before, the proceeds from these are currently focused on one of our projects, providing "access for all" to the stage with a stage lift, and it's great to report that we're getting close to achieving the funding required; with prices increasing, we're in negotiation to get the best deal possible and hope to report soon that this has got the go-ahead.

On the jazz front, at the time of writing, tickets for Tom "Spats" Langhams's Hot Fingers are selling very well and we're anticipating another sell-out, which is great news. Next up, we have the fabulous King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys on Friday 21 April. Tickets are £15, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

There's loads more going on: take a look at our website, www.townsendhall.co.uk, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more.

Haydn Ward



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

Hooky in Harmony

A local wildlife group loosely based around Hook Norton.



Sunday 2 April

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

Wednesday 24 May

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

Optional visit to The Plough pub afterwards.

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

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

The LINK can offer your local business...

Advertising across SW7 Benefice
directly into the community.

Please email adverts@swlink.org.uk

For a suitable commitment, we may be able to offer new advertisers an introductory 'advertorial'.
...and we can put an advert together for you if you need a hand.



10 YEARS

27-30 APRIL 2023

CHIP LIT FEST

CHIPPING NORTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

David Baddiel
Adam Henson
Marina Hyde
Greg Jenner
Milly Johnson
Clare Mackintosh
Edward Stourton

TICKETS:
chiplitfest.com
01608 642350

 @chiplitfest
 chip_litfest

Plus writers' workshops, new writers, food events, poetry, nature writing, and free lectures.
Including a festival of children's favourite writers and illustrators

Supported by **THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON** **Jaffé & Neale**
BOOKSHOP & CAFE

Get ready for Chipping Norton Literary Festival (27-30 April 2023). Now celebrating its tenth year, key speakers this year include David Baddiel, Adam Henson, Greg Jenner, Marina Hyde, and Meg Rosoff.

With over 50 events, there's something for everyone: history, nature, cooking, fiction, and an eclectic mix of other topics from engineering and medicine to rock star photography and gardening.

The children's festival promises lots of participation and fun! It will feature favourites such as storyteller Lucy Walters, illustrator Yuval Zommer, *Varjak Paw* writer SF Said and author Lissa Evans.

Chipping Norton Literary Festival runs from 27-30 April 2023. Tickets available from www.chiplitfest.com and the Theatre Box Office, 01608 642350. Follow on Twitter: @ChipLitFest and Instagram: @chip-litfest

INFO LINK

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

The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 - 11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.
Shipston 'tip' is open - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>

DATES AND FETES – 2023

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events.
Please check this list before you plan a new event.

Sat June 17th Barton on the Heath Village Fete

Sat 24 June Long Compton Community Fete

Sat 5 August Cherington, Stourton and Sutton Country Fair and Flower Show.

BH Mon 28 August Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

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

Stow-on-the-Wold

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

Shipston and Brailes

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

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

Chipping Campden

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

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton every third Sunday at 3.30 pm.

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	Hamish Cathie 674303
Secretary	Alice & Tom Murray 238755	Gillian Cathie 674303
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i>Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Cherington St John the Baptist</i>
Churchwardens	Sonia Baker 661459/ Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary	Sonia Baker 661459	Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Rory McLeod 686278
	<i>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</i>	<i>Whichford St Michael</i>
Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923	Mandy James 684479/ Sophia Corlett
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Lucy Simpson
Treasurer	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i>Wolford St Michael & All Angels</i>	
Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009	

Parish Councils

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	Peter O'Kane (684888)	Sara Cole (686250)
Great Wolford	Lynn Mathias (674247)	Sue Finlay (661157)
Little Wolford	Vacant (currently under Community Governance Review)	

Hearing God in Silence

Have you ever tried meditation? Or maybe you have been intrigued by the idea of monastic communities spending time in silent prayer and reflection? At the beginning of Lent this year Long Compton church hosted a Shipston Deanery Service which took the form of a workshop on contemplative prayer, meditation and Bible reading. It was led by Rev Craig Grocock, Rector of Shotton and Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Craig explained the concept of "Lectio Divina" (divine reading), a traditional monastic practice of reading a short passage of scripture silently, re-reading it twice and pausing between each time to meditate on the thoughts and emotions that the passage evokes. Reading and reflecting in this way is intended to enable better communion with God and to find out what He may be saying to us. Craig contrasted this method with other forms of bible study, suggesting that Lectio Divina is about the heart, invoking emotions, rather than the head, which involves intellectual understanding. Craig then invited us to read in silence a bible passage (Luke 7, verses 46-49) using this method.

Following this exercise Craig moved on to the subject of meditation, debunking the idea that this is primarily a Buddhist practice and looking back on its importance to Christian communities for hundreds of years. We were then invited to meditate in silence for 7 minutes, clearing our minds of random and busy thoughts but using a single word to focus, possibly from the Bible passage we had just read. Experiences of the value of meditation and quiet reflection were shared amongst those present; the session drew to a close with a hymn and conversations over tea.

For LINK readers who are interested in finding out more about Lectio Divina there are leaflets at the back of Long Compton church; these include a list of suggested Bible passages which have been found helpful for reading in this way. Do take a leaflet and try this for yourself.

Shipston Deanery Holy Week Eucharist

Praying through music

Led by Reverend Jill Tucker

Tuesday 4 April at 2.30pm

Whatcote church

Jill Kirby



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

COME AND JOIN OUR NEW CHOIR

Our new choir in the South Warwickshire Seven Benefice will be singing at Evensong services in Long Compton and Barcheston in May, June, September and October.

Julian Grimshaw, the director of the Benefice Choir, welcomes singers of all ages, novices and experienced singers alike.

Please contact Julian for further information: jdwyergrimshaw@btinternet.com or 07891423855

St Peter & St Paul, Long Compton

Annual Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Long Compton PCC, to be held in church on **Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm**. Come and hear about the church's activities and finances. Business will include the election of the Churchwarden and other PCC officers and members, and introducing our new Treasurer. All are welcome; those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Jill Kirby, Churchwarden



SW7 Women's Lunch-time Talk Maggie and Sarah

*Through
Thick and Thin
Their Story*

20th April
at
12.30pm

✕ The Old Forge
Stourton House

Lunch
will be
provided.

Please Contact

Liz Maycock Tele : 01608 686404
lizzymaycock@gmail.com

Sarah Scotter Tele : 01608 686303
sarah.scotter@hotmail.com

APRIL 2023 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW7	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Eaton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael & All Angels Wolfeord
Sunday Worship						
2 nd April Palm Sunday	9am ECP Holy Communion (BD)				4pm G+P Service (BD)	10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)
7 th April Good Friday	10.30am Good Friday meditation (BD)					
9 th April Easter Sunday	8.30am ECP Easter Holy Communion (BD)	9am ECP Easter Holy Communion (AWVCLW)	10.30 CW Easter Holy Communion (AWVCLW)	10.30 CW Easter Holy Communion (BD)	11am CW Easter Family Communion Service (BD)	9am CW Easter Morning Prayer (RSJLM)
16 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter				10.30am CW Holy Communion (RS)		
23 rd April 3 rd Sunday of Easter					10.30 CW Holy Communion (BD)	9am ECP Holy Communion (BD)
30 th April 4 th Sunday of Easter			9am ECP Holy Communion (BD)		4pm G+P Service (BD)	10.30am Eusebius walk service (BD)

BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Webb/CLW = Clare Webb/JF = Heather Parbury/AD = Andrew Dovel/MH = Bishop Mike Hill
ECP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/G+P = Informal Service



South Warwickshire Benefice

Reverend Ben Dyson Tel: 01608 628229 vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs. Liz Clarke Tel: 07425868855 Email: officesw7@gmail.com

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk facebook.com/sw7_churches



Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School

Astronomy

Children in Little Acorns and Class 3 were recently treated to a visit from the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group. Robin and his team introduced the children to different types of telescopes and explained how they worked. It was funny for younger children to look inside the large telescope and see their own reflections! After

having a look through each telescope on the playground, the children listened to an informative talk with lots of fascinating pictures and information about the night sky. This really helped to reinforce what the children have been learning about in class, as well as expanding our knowledge further and giving the children an opportunity to share what they know. We are very grateful to the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group for sharing their time and expertise with us and hope that they will visit us again in future years.



Little Acorns Outdoor Area

After much anticipation during the installation period, the children in Nursery and Reception at Little Acorns were delighted to be able to use our brand-new climbing frame and bike track. These have been a fantastic addition to our outdoor play area for the Early Years children, enabling them to further develop their gross motor skills, as well as providing lots of opportunities for collaborative play.



Ammonite

It was lovely to see the Year 3 and Year 4 children in Owls class enjoying finishing off their ammonite printing work in art - they took the process very seriously and have produced some beautiful pieces as a result.



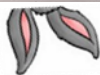
Online Safety Charter

Class 3 at Acorns have created a Youth Charter, which has been submitted to the UK Safer Internet Centre. They thought carefully about how the internet could be improved and have set out their agenda for the changes they want to see in how they are supported online. Submissions will be used to compile a National Youth Charter which will be sent to the government and internet industry so we are hopeful that our ideas will be included.

Explorers and Artists

Badgers children at Brailes enjoyed exploring the local area, using OS Maps to navigate their way between key village landmarks including the village hall, Iron Bridge, Ashen Coppice, Castle Hill and Ninety-Nine Steps. Then they returned to school for a Forest School session of shelter building and time around a campfire. Children worked in teams to design and build a shelter before sharing their design with the rest of the group. They then enjoyed toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolates to warm-up.

As part of the Frozen Kingdoms topic, children have been enjoying researching and experimenting with Inuit art techniques. The Inuit are indigenous people who live in the Arctic region, an area that includes Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Artwork made by the Inuit includes pictures, carvings, sculptures and prints. Animals, cultural myths and legends are the main sources of inspiration.



London and Local Landmarks

Finding out more about landmarks in the UK has been an important part of Class 1's topic, particularly famous landmarks in London. Class 1 have been learning about local landmarks in Long Compton and walked up to the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Long Compton, as this is an important landmark in the village. The children learned about the history of the church from Revd. Ben Dyson and about the different parts of the church. The class was astonished to discover that some of the walls in the church were built in the 13th century and that the beautiful stained-glass windows were made in the 1900s.



End of the Winter

As usual at this time of year winter seems to have outstayed its welcome; there is not a lot happening, the rush will begin in the next few weeks but not quite yet. Peter has put the first fertiliser on the cereal crops, the ground is still quite cold so it will take a while to be taken up and the crops are looking a bit yellow as they often do at the end of winter, a combination of wet soil and cold but it is amazing how quickly they turn green with a little bit of warmth and some fertiliser.

The only spring sown crop we grow is spring beans, the seed is sitting ready to go in the barn but, at the moment the ground is a bit wet. Spring crops always have a slight risk

attached to them, with a winter crop if you cannot get them in for any reason in the autumn you can still drill probably into January although there will be a yield penalty, with spring grown crops a wet spring can mean that they never get in the ground.

Beans are a tough crop and sometimes

farmers put them into a fertiliser spinner and just spread them on the field if the ground really is too wet for the drill. It is still early in the season, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. The advantage of spring crops is that they tend to be lower cost as the growing season is shorter so there is less time for diseases to get going but also lower yield. Before planting in the spring, we spray off any growth which has come since the previous harvest, this is a good opportunity to produce a clean seedbed and clear any pernicious weeds such as black grass which are otherwise difficult to get rid of.

I see in the current edition of the *Farmers Weekly* the government is consulting on all poultry keepers being registered annually regardless of the size of the flock; up to now flocks only had to be registered if they were over 50 birds. This is currently out for discussion until 31 May.

These new rules will be designed to reduce the spread of avian flu in the future.

Lynn Mathias farms in Great Wolford



Nature Notes March

Passing the little church garden outside the lych gate I admire the spring crocuses which have sprung up (seemingly overnight!) displaying their lovely young flowers for those who pass there on the way to church or to wait for the bus. The crocus is a favourite of churchyards and can be found naturalised in many churchyards up and down the country. Not unusually, botanists have divided this flower into several subspecies but for the majority of us it is sufficient to recognise those we see displaying their flowers to us and showing us that spring has at last arrived!



I look out of my dining room window facing south and am delighted to see red kites whirling and twirling in the sky in front of me. Time was when the red kite was only the name of an unseen and relatively unknown bird. How things have changed! They have gradually advanced their territorial ambitions from the south and west of the country and are now as commonplace as the rook or the pigeon! I think it is so good that we have a bird which when we came to live here some 50 years ago was unheard of in this part of the world.

Bird migration is one of the marvels of the natural world. With no coaching or instruction, birds such as swallows, sand martins and of course cuckoos fly hundreds of miles over mountains and seas to a destination many have never been to before; then their young, will turn and return to from where their parents came! Much of our information about bird migration been acquired as a result of the ringing of birds.

I doubt if many farmers who would choose *The Wind in the Willows* as a present for their children since the hero of this book is a mole, an animal which is definitely not a farmer's friend! Indeed, as I look out onto the meadow behind our cottage, I see two fresh mole hills. Contrary to popular belief the mole is not blind. It builds a complex network of underground tunnels in which to live and breed and in doing so can excavate ten pounds of earth in twenty minutes! Its short tail is held erect whilst digging to gauge the size and height of the tunnel. It is a solitary animal only making contact with another of its species during the relatively short breeding season from March to May. With a lifespan of about three years, their young are born blind and furless in underground nests of dried grass and leaves and moss. Their main predators are owls, dogs and foxes. The old English for this creature is mouldward, still in use in northern England. So even as I write animals and birds are girding their loins (what a wonderful biblical expression this is) for the coming season to ensure that we benefit from their presence for years to come.

Tony Partridge

Although the garden is bursting with signs of spring, daffodils in flower and catkins on hazels, we have had snow for the last few days and the temperature is anything but spring like. We may still get cold weather in April but hopefully some spring weather as well and we will be able to get on with tasks in the garden.

To keep spring flowering bulbs in good condition, apply a general-purpose fertiliser around the clumps, whether in beds, borders or naturalised in grass. Rake the fertiliser in gently and water. If the bulbs have not been fed for a few years liquid feed can be applied to the leaves. Spring lawn fertiliser can also be applied to grass. It will also need to be watered after application.

Our gardens have been hit with some heavy frosts and shrubs may show areas of dark discolouration and die back. Once you are sure that the worst of the cold weather is over, prune back the damaged areas; even if the plant appears to be dead, new growth may emerge. Now is the time to cut back penstemons. Remove all the old stems to expose the new green shoots at the base. As penstemons are not very hardy, you may have some casualties so remember to take some cuttings of those which have survived. By June there should be ample material to provide cuttings. Watch out for aphids on the new soft growth and remove them by hand.

Many other leggy plants can also be cut back now e.g., rock roses and pinks, Mid-April is a good time to think of dividing perennials such as hemerocallis, agapanthus and kniphofia. They don't like being divided in autumn and all three produce dense clumps which may need a small saw to separate. Autumn flowering perennials e.g., asters and heleniums, should also be divided in the spring.

Prune forsythia and chaenomeles after they have finished flowering and tie in the stems of rambler and climbing roses while they are still flexible. Train as many stems as possible into the horizontal position as this promotes more side shoots and more blooms. Sweet peas can now be hardened off ready for planting out. Pinch off the tips of autumn sown plants once they reach 3 to 4 inches to encourage them to branch out.

Hardy vegetables e.g., carrots, beetroot and spinach can be direct sown into the soil now. Once tomato and pepper seedlings have their first true leaves, they are best potted individually. Grow them on in a warm, sunny place. Sow sweetcorn and courgettes on a windowsill or in the green house for planting out in late May or June. Plant out chitted potatoes now but leave the main crop varieties until later in the month. Sow brassicas for winter use, including purple sprouting broccoli, kale and Brussels sprouts. Sow in modular trays, one seed per module. Remember to have fleece at the ready when frost is forecast.



Obituary: John Bilton 25 April 1942 – 25 October 2023

John was born in Ootacamund, South India, and completed his education at Southampton University. He then began a long career in the chaotic post war UK motor industry. He lived through the merger of many small manufacturers into British Leyland in 1968, and then its successive ownership (and names) of BL, then Rover Group, then British Aerospace and finally BMW. BMW divested itself of Land Rover to Ford in 2000 who added it to Jaguar, which Ford had purchased from the Rover Group in 1989, to form Jaguar Land Rover. Throughout much of this time John worked for Land Rover through its own changes of ownership until he set up his own consultancy in 1994.

John had met Maggie Murdoch at Brands Hatch motor racing circuit in 1964 and they married in St Ives, Cornwall in 1968. They had two daughters Kirsty and Hannah and lived near Stratford upon Avon where Maggie was working, before moving to Barton at the end of 1994. By then John was running his automotive consultancy in Wellesbourne and Maggie was working in Stratford at the company she had helped to set up, Merit Direct.



In 1994 Hemmings Farm was in the throes of resuscitation. In 1992 it had been sold at auction under threat of compulsory repairs as a neglected Grade 2 listed building with slates falling off, the roof and floors rotting, unsafe and completely covered in a dense growth of ivy. By 1994, the auction purchasers, had cleared the ivy and had made substantial repairs before having to selling to John and Maggie. They took on Hemmings Farm far from completed with not just the house and garden to restore and soon became part of the Barton community. Hemmings Farm dominates the village green and cannot escape involvement in every fete, meet of the foxhounds, charity events, tourist visit and national celebration.

During this busy life, Hemmings Farm was extended with a self-contained "granny annexe" for John's mother Dulce, who had lived with them since 1976. The garden was created from scratch with a terrace, Cotswold stone walls restored, a new kitchen installed and the interior decorations completed.

At the same time, John was the Parochial Church (St Lawrence) Council Secretary and for a time Vice Chairman of the Parish Council; whilst Maggie was a member of the committee set up to celebrate the Millennium. Kirsty was married in St Lawrence Church in 1998 and the reception was held in the garden of Hemmings Farm. Hannah followed a similar formula in 2002, walking with all the guests to the church from the house. Dulce died in 2003 and is remembered with a gravestone at St Lawrence.

Into the new millennium, John and Maggie decided it was time to ease up on life in a listed building and to move to a new build, albeit thatched, in Dorset with more time for grandchildren and picnics on the beach. Following major heart surgery in 2014 a move to a bungalow nearer the family in Wiltshire was deemed "sensible". Sadly, John's health problems became more serious and he died after a short heart infection on 25 October in Salisbury Hospital with Maggie, Kirsty and Hannah at his bed side.

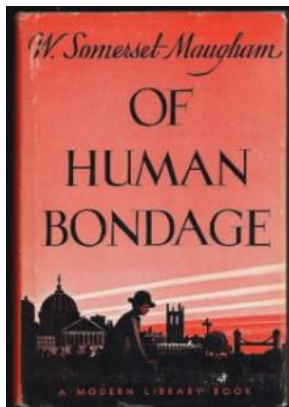
Although no longer a Barton resident there are many who are saddened to hear the news. His wise councils during his official involvement in village affairs and his great sense of humour are still remembered with affection together with Maggie's unflinching support for village events.

The family left a strong imprint from their 10 years in Barton and the village is much saddened by the news of his death.

John Castle

Beneficial Book Club

We enjoyed meeting to talk about '*Of Human Bondage*' by W. Somerset Maugham. This is a vast semi-autobiographical novel. The subject is the early life of Philip Carey, a boy with a club foot, who has to battle his way through school and thereafter find his way through life until he is able finally to qualify as a doctor. Every turn is cursed by lack of money and is complicated by his 'bondage' to the spoilt and wicked Mildred.



For some in the group it was a welcome opportunity to read this masterpiece again. It made a great subject for varied discussions.

The next book is '*Shuggie Bain*' by Douglas Stewart and we will talk about it on Sunday 2 April at 5.30pm at Barton House. Happy reading!

Gillian Cathie

Litter Picking

Thanks goes to all those who have spent time litter picking in and around the village. This has not been an organised event but a task that has been undertaken quietly and is so appreciated.

Please come and join
the Barton-on-the-Heath celebration
of the Coronation of His Majesty The King
and Her Majesty The Queen Consort
on Sunday 7th May 2023

By kind permission of Hamish & Gillian Cathie, a bring-your-own picnic lunch will be held on the lawn of Barton House (tables and chairs will be provided)

Bring your own picnic and drinks;
& also a pudding, cake or some cheese for the sharing table;

arrival 12 noon

lunch 1pm

toast for the King and Queen Consort 2pm, followed by pudding

RSVP with numbers to
julia.bartonparishcouncil@outlook.com
by the 15th April

Villagers, their family and guests are all very welcome



It would be very nice to be able to give everyone a glass of fizz on arrival, and for the toast later on. Rather than charging for entry in order to provide this, we are making the customary plea for any donations of some fizz (or some cash for us to buy some)... Please contact julia.bartonparishcouncil@outlook.com, or cash could be transferred direct to the Barton-on-the-Heath Village Fete bank account, sort code 30-95-75, account no. 01231971 (and in the happy event that more money is donated than needed, it would go into the "pot" for the Fete, on the 17th June). Huge thanks!
Jules, Suzie, Helen and Cathryn

VILLAGE NEWS

BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON

Editor: Please email – barcheston@swlink.org.uk

New Village Editor Required



Please be aware we still need a new village editor for Barcheston. Please consider volunteering. In the meantime, your items should be sent to barcheston@swlink.org.uk and I will pick them up and edit the page.

VILLAGE NEWS

BURMINGTON

Editor: [Graham French](#)

Email: burmington@swlink.org.uk



Cameo Club

The next Lunch Club meeting will be held in Burmington village hall on Tuesday, 11 April at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Please book with Brenda on Tel: 664313

For your diaries: a Cameo tea party in celebration of the Coronation is planned on Friday 5 May in a marquee in Michaels's field, Burmington.

Cameo's 15th birthday celebrations.

Members celebrated the club's 15th anniversary in February. Burmington village hall was decorated for the occasion by Brenda and David Fitch. The event will be best remembered for a silly hats competition and a remarkable quiz of unusual objects which was arranged by Brenda. For the curious, the unique quiz offered, amongst other strange objects, a horse's boot for a cricket pitch, a Victorian pince-nez, a local telephone invention, gall stones etc.

Village Christmas Card

Our village Christmas card raised £280 for Burmington Church. Many thanks to Julia Sykes for organising it and to Burmington villagers for supporting it.



Postcard from Cairo

Hello to all in Burmington!

Our adventure in Egypt continues after a break when I had to return to the UK for a family bereavement and arrived at the end of January to snow. I have arrived back in time for Egyptian spring; turns out that's a week! We are now officially into summer and the temperatures are back into the 30s! The boys continue in school and recently completed the school 5k through the local desert! Apart from that, Cairo continues its daily chaos. We have found a nice botanical garden in old Cairo and I include the photo. Learning



Arabic is very hard so I'm learning French as it appears that if people don't speak English, they speak French. The boys are at an English school so that's easy. At Easter we plan another road trip to Luxor/Aswan.

Guy Macaulay and family

Burmington Barn Smallholding

We will be running lamb bottle feeding experiences throughout April and May on Saturday mornings! Tickets will be available on Eventbrite - search for Burmington Barn Smallholding as a host. Numbers will be limited to only a few a week so please book in advance, pre-booking only. Proceeds go towards the running of the smallholding.

For any more details please contact Nat or Bex on 07368431215 or 07496859226.

Can't find eggs in coop? Never fear! We have locally laid eggs on sale in the blue shed, from ducks and chickens. Shortly we will have goose eggs and watch the space in spring for Rhea eggs!

We will have the next batch of pork at some point later in April - please get in touch if you'd like to order.



What Were the Sheep Feeding On?



Various people walking up the road to Willington were puzzled to see a flock of sheep apparently feeding in a field devoid of grass. What were they eating – if anything? Why weren't they feeding in the grassy areas? Farmer Robert Hutchings supplied the answer. The sheep were eating fodder beet which is a high energy source of food for sheep and cattle. They can eat both the leaves and the bulb. The leaf is full of protein and the bulb rich in carbohydrates.

Puzzle solved.

Green Waste Recycling Bin -New Stickers

I don't know whether you saw that the new 2023 sticker (to show you have paid) came with instructions from Stratford District Council not to stick it on top of the previous one on the green bin because it might not adhere. I spent some time trying to scrape off the old sticker – without success. I then emailed the council to ask what to do because we didn't want the bin to be covered in a few years with multiple stickers, like medals on a Russian general's uniform.

I received the following reply from SDC:

'Thank you for your e mail. Once the permits are on, they tend to be quite difficult to get off, so we usually advise sticking the new permit over the old one. I hope this helps.'

Well, it would have helped if you had told us that in the first place!

Graham French

Our Village Defibrillator

Further to Burmington village acquiring a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) through generous donations from residents, two members of Shipston Community First Responders, Stuart Eastbury and Aileen Sherer, recently attended the village hall to give a brief basic training session in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD), for anyone who wanted to feel more confident in case of an emergency. We ran through the rudimentary First Aid primary actions:

In the event a person collapses follow the basic rule of DRS ABC

Dangers – check surroundings.

Response – is the casualty responsive?

Shout – for help

Airway – check for obstruction.

Breathing – check the casualty is breathing – Call 999, the ambulance call handler will provide the code to access the PAD.

CPR – apply for a non-breathing casualty.





We also viewed the PAD, attached to the village hall exterior wall, and learned about the equipment including how to apply the machine when required. It is designed for everyone to use without training. We are currently in the process of setting up a “Defib Runners” group in

Burmington.

Should an emergency occur within the parish and the emergency services have been called, the Ambulance Service contacts a call centre who in turn contact the “Runners”. The “Runner” who answers first receives the call and will help in the emergency if they are able. If not, the next on the list will be contacted and so on.

If you would like to be on the “Defib Runner” list for Burmington, please send your details: name, address, telephone number and email address to BurmingtonParishMeeting@gmail.com and we will forward to the Community First Responders.

Dawn Fisher

BARCHESTON with WILLINGTON Parish AGM

ADVANCE NOTICE

As agreed at our last parish meeting in October the Annual General Meeting for Barcheston and Willington will be held on:

Thursday 13 April at 7.45pm in the village hall at Burmington.

This is an opportunity for you to keep in touch with village and district affairs, to raise any concerns you may have and to become part of the general discussion.

Points to be discussed will include matters arising at the last meeting, an update from your local councillors and village plans to celebrate the coronation of King Charles

Please come and give your support. We look forward to seeing you all.

John Bradley

Sadly, we learned in March that John Bradley had passed away. John, although lately having moved to Shipston, had lived in Burmington for much of his life. He will be greatly missed.

In the May issue of The Link, we plan to publish a tribute to John and talk more about his life.

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST



will be served at
BURMINGTON VILLAGE HALL
On Saturday 1 April 10am – 12 noon

All dietary requirements catered for - Please call Robyn to book 07966 489149

SW7 Benefice celebrations of the CORONATION

SONGS of PRAISE



Sunday 7 May 6.00 pm

Marquee in Michael's Field

BURMINGTON

Celebratory refreshments



SPRING AROUND



Thank you to everyone who contributed photographs: Christine Dudfield, Michele Hunter, Mary Manville-Hales

OUR VILLAGES



VILLAGE NEWS

CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: **Christine Dudfield**

Email: cherington@swlink.org.uk Tel: 686288



Brailles Picturehouse

Saturday 15 April – *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Doors open 7.15pm. Film starts at 7.45pm

Abandoned as a girl, Kya raised herself in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of the 'marsh girl' haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, she opens herself to a new and startling world. Starring Daisy Edgar-Jones

Future dates and listing

Saturday 20 May - Richard III. The Lost king

Saturday 17 June - Mrs. Harris goes to Paris.

Deirdre and Team

Amazing Musical Extravaganza - 15 April

Last chance to buy tickets: Either contact Dawn Russell

dawn.amazingmusic@gmail.com

or find the Eventbrite online booking link on the Hall Facebook page.

'*Amazing Musical Extravaganza*' is a showcase of local musical talent. This is a great night out and a chance to see and hear your friends and neighbours show off their previously hidden abilities.

The line-up includes semi-professional artistes including the 'Acafellas' barbershop quartet (see them on You Tube @theacafellas2274), and singer song writer Rosy.

Martin and Linda are currently viral on You Tube with their video version of the well-known 10cc song. Check out '*I'm Not in Love* – Best Cover Ever' heading for 1 million views.

Other players include Piers the pianist, Sam Conisbee our 10-year-old guitarist, 'Should Know Better', 'Porterhouse Blues', 'Whiplash' a four-piece teenage band, a selection of Cheri Jammers and that's not to mention the Gentleman's Kazoo Orchestra (Whoops too late).

There will be pizzas to eat in or take away from 6.30pm. Tickets cost £8.50.

Jim Walton 07860 727467



Cherington and Stourton Wildlife Group



The above group has recently been formed to encourage the interest in and future protection of all wildlife in our *gardens, in our village environment* and on our farmland.

It is the hope of the group that all families, including children, and households within the two villages *will either* join us or participate in future wildlife projects which we intend to organize.

These projects will include the sowing of wildflowers in designated areas within the villages, as well as talks and demonstrations on recognising birds, moths and butterflies, and protecting hedgehogs, bats and swifts by building correct habitats for these sadly declining species. There will be demonstrations on how to make hedgehog feeding stations and bat and swift boxes.



We will be encouraged in all these activities by the examples set by already formed wildlife groups in the surrounding villages such as Hook Norton, Tysoe, Stretton on Fosse, Preston on Stour and Shipston on Stour.

Representatives of all these village wildlife groups attended our inaugural meeting at the Hall in January to explain how they initially started their already thriving groups. They gave us much useful information and encouragement, and we shall continue to work alongside these groups, as well as obtaining support from our County Council, in the form of Grants and advice from wildlife experts.

The Cherington and Stourton Group will meet at The Hall on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30 p.m. and anyone interested is invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday 25 April.

For further information please contact me amandajholden1@gmail.com

Amanda Holden

Village Lottery

March Draw

1st Jonathan Stolerman £80 2nd Joanna Mitchell £45 3rd Robyn Durie £30

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

Steve Allkins

Coffee Shop

Saturday 8 April

10.30am-12 noon at The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

This month we will be having a Bring and Buy in aid of the playing field funds so please come along and support us.



We are always open to new ideas: would you like something different on the menu? Would you like to help out occasionally? Would you like a craft stall?

Please contact us at christinedudfield53@gmail.com or Christine on 07866 127409 or Tricia on 07828 697304

Christine Dudfield & Tricia Wilson

Warm Hub

We held a very successful soup lunch on 25 February in The Hall which was free of charge thanks to the WCC Warm Hub grant. We had a choice of 4 soups and had freshly baked rolls which was enjoyed by 18 people from Stourton, Cherington and surrounding villages.



My grateful thanks go to Jenny, Peter, Vanessa, Annie and Averelle for making soup and helping on the day.

Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

It was another lovely afternoon of Easter Bingo on Thursday 30 March.

Dates for your diary for April are Friday 14 and Friday 28 from 2pm at The Hall, Pinfold Lane, Stourton, CV36 5HG. I'll be distributing leaflets in due course which will detail the April, May and June dates.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320



Vanessa Compton



Punta Umbria Spain. Watercolour and gouache on grey paper by Colin Beckett.

Remember – you can opt for the online LINK and stop or retain your printed copy through the door. It's your choice. Annual Subscription for 'online only' is half that for the printed magazine so sign up today and never have to search the house for your paper copy!

THE LINK

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

THE LINK

Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

Long Compton Village Hall

I thought it might be useful to give a little more information about our exciting visitors to the February Social Saturday - a fire engine and crew from Gaydon. As well as enjoying our delicious homemade refreshments they shared information and handed out leaflets about the free *Safe and Well* checks that are available in Warwickshire. These are available to anybody and would probably be done by our more local firefighters from Stratford. Use this link to find out more or book your home visit. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fire-safety/apply-safe-well-visit>



February and March have both been busy months at the hall with most weekends fully booked for parties and various gatherings. The highlight (for some, at least) being the 70s Disco, but it hasn't happened at time of writing so I can't report

back. What I can say is there's been a lot of interest from those that remember it the first time round and others who surely can't be old enough!

The Coronation Big Lunch is in May so do come along with your plateful of food for the Bring and Share meal and join in this community event. It's always more fun to share other people's food and it'll be a great way to celebrate this historic weekend. We can't guarantee the weather but with the hall and extra space in the marquee, there'll be plenty of room (and shelter!) for everyone!

The decorating is all finished, the brambles around the garage and shed have been cleared and the daffs are up so we're looking rather smart to welcome the Spring.

Lastly, a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who help with the upkeep of the building and grounds as well as the bakers and servers at the socials. We simply couldn't do it without you! If you'd like to be involved, in any capacity, please do get in touch.

Social Saturday
8th April, 11 am
Entry Free!
Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and savouries
Come along for a natter with friends old and new!

Mo Read Chair, Long Compton Village Hall



100 Club Draw Results – February and March

Due to an oversight February's Draw results failed to make the link – my apologies! The results were:

1st 128 Patricia Webb	3rd 8 Celia Sawyer
2nd 71 Karen & Martin Rogers	4th 151 David Gannon

The March Draw winners were:

1st 157 Will Taplin	2nd 59 Tony Partridge
3rd 213 Elizabeth Gilkes	4th 215 Alan McKelvey

The next Draw will be at the Social Saturday on Easter Saturday 8 April

Chris Galloway 684234

Long Compton Chapel



Currently celebrating its bicentenary, the chapel was once one of five places of worship in Long Compton. A history of the first one hundred years of the chapel will take place on Friday May 19 at 7.30pm at the chapel.

All welcome, come and join us for faith, fun, entertainment and support.

Chapel Events 2023

Sat 1 April	Whist	7.00pm
Easter Monday 10 April	Art and Craft Exhibition	11.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday 29 April	Whist	7.00pm
Sunday 7 May	Craft Market	2.00pm-4.00pm
May (tbd)	Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale	
Saturday 24 June	Village Fete -Chapel running car boot sale and flower arranging competition.	
Friday 30 June	Shipston Proms Event	
Saturday 29 July	Craft and Produce Show	
Saturday 23 September	Macmillan Event	

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 or Sally Franklin 07870 545431
longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.co



Whist Drive
BEGINNERS WELCOME
 @THE CHAPEL, Butlers Lane, Long Compton

Saturday
 1st April,
 29th April,
 27th May

7.00pm

Raffle
 Details: Sally 01608 684739 /07870 545431

ART & ARTISAN EXHIBITION

@THE CHAPEL BUTLERS LANE, LONG COMPTON

EASTER MONDAY
10 April 11am—4pm

GALLERY OF PAINTINGS AND ARTISAN CREATIONS

For Display and Sale
 Refreshments

TO DISPLAY YOUR WORK CONTACT:
 ELIZABETH 07791 621778 / SALLY 07870545431
 LONGCOMPTONEBENEZERCHAPEL@OUTLOOK.COM

The Comptonians

We will meet at 2.00pm in the village Hall on 19 April. There will be a speaker and tea and cakes will also be served. New members always welcome.

Margaret Welsh (684238)



Join us for Community Coffee

at

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Long Compton

on

April 5 from 10.30am to 12.00
and the 1st Wednesday of every month

All are very welcome,
 Young, Old, Families, Dog Walkers and Newcomers to the Village.

Long Compton and District Garden Club





Long Compton and District Garden Club

2023 Meetings

Long Compton Village Hall - 7.30pm

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

Contact Lesley Roberts 01608 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com or Anthony Wells 01608 684337



In February we had a talk by Roger Umpelby who has been a professional entomologist for over 40 years. His topic was "*Pest and Disease Control without Chemicals.*" Although he advises in commercial horticulture, he gave us valuable insights into strategies for use in our gardens or allotments.

The main pests in gardens are insects, slugs and snails, birds, especially pigeons, rabbits, mice and occasionally deer. Diseases are caused by fungi, bacteria and viruses. If you preclude chemical methods, control may include biological, physical and cultural methods.

Biological control occurs naturally in the garden basically because of a complex ecosystem and "the balance of nature." The more diverse the plants in the area, the more likely the balance will be achieved, especially if there are wild areas of long grass, wood piles, and pollen-rich plants etc which encourage a wide range of insects as well as toads and frogs. Lacewings, ladybirds, hoverflies and wasps are all predators, as are ground beetles and nematodes in the soil. Between them they help keep pests like aphids and caterpillars at bay. Frogs and toads also eat snails and slugs and some slugs eat each other! Birds like blue tits can remove large quantities of insects and caterpillars, especially during the nesting season.

However, gardeners may want to have further control, especially when growing fruit and vegetables, when yield is important so cultural methods can also be used. Plants are most likely to be healthy when growing in the right soil, at the correct pH, the right level of nutrients, air and water. i.e., plant each species in the right place. One method is to avoid monoculture as this will attract predators. Try dotting some plants e.g., cabbages throughout the beds. Do not make the plants "soft" by over feeding with nitrogen as slugs love soft green foliage. It also helps to grow plants bred for disease resistance. Micronutrients found in seaweed feed for example will also increase disease resistance in plants. Companion planting is a well-known ploy for luring pests away from crop plants e.g., tagetes and other marigolds or nasturtiums entice aphids and blackfly away from beans, garlic deters carrot fly and grow basil with tomatoes.

Hygiene methods are important for controlling diseases caused by bacteria and fungi. Make sure pots and trays are clean. Canes and other supports should also be cleaned and fleece can be washed if you feel so inclined! If possible, seed compost



should be sterile and avoid overcrowding of seedlings. Don't over water as this will provide ideal conditions for fungal spores to germinate and cause "damping off." When tidying borders, remove any diseased foliage and compost or put it in the green waste bin. As a rule of thumb Roger suggested that spores on soft foliage should break down in compost heaps but on woody tissue will not. If in doubt...green bin or burn it.

Lastly, physical methods for keeping pests away from plants include fencing, netting and fleecing, obviously selecting the correct size gauge for each pest. Beer traps can be set up for slugs or copper bands wrapped round pots or rough material under the plant may all help.

Roger finished his talk with some rather gruesome slides of predators e.g., wasps laying eggs in caterpillars which on hatching eat the caterpillar from the inside. There were, however, many more beautiful photos of insects throughout his talk.

At the end, Roger said his title should really have a question mark i.e. "*Can Pests and disease be controlled without chemicals?*" In our gardens, they mainly can, but in commercial horticulture where productivity is important, chemicals are more useful. Such chemicals, whether synthetic or organic are, however, highly tested and regulated. In the last 10 years we have lost about 80 percent of our pesticides. Most are now based mainly on pyrethroids e.g., flupyradifuron.

A most interesting talk and although technical in parts, I am sure all gardeners were able to pick up some useful tips.

Margaret Welsh

Long Compton book club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13 April 2023
at 7.30 pm (change from usual 7.00 start)

We will be discussing 'Washington Black' by Esi Edugyan
and 'The Underground Railroad' by Colson Whitehead

Contact: Imogen Brown on 07710129181 or brownimogen@gmail.com

Long Compton Walkers

March saw our largest turnout for many months. Whether this was due to the first sight of sun for what seemed like weeks, or to the prospect of a slightly shorter walk than usual, or the promise of lunch at the Distillery, it was difficult to be sure.



What was certain was that we were treated to a mixture of "talk and walk" led by Lynn Matthias (the editor of the Link's farming notes) which all thoroughly appreciated. We learnt of her and her family's 40 years on the farm, of the difficulties (soil, climate, animal disease, finances) but also were able to see the joy and satisfaction of running the farm and turning it round as a family venture.



We were further treated to the sight and sound of skylarks and a small herd of roe deer. Somehow, we managed just over 4 miles before a well-earned lunch.

Our next venture (a more usual walk) will be on the 11 April meeting as usual at the Red Lion car park at 9.30. New recruits always welcome -please contact Stuart Brown at sbcqc1@gmail.com

Stuart Brown

Friends of Long Compton Church 2023 Event Schedule



Tickets available soon. For enquiries, please contact
ffcsec@gmail.com.

www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com

Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club	Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545
Compton and District History Society	Diana Cook 684771
Comptonians	Margaret Welsh 684238
Village Hal	Mo Read 684130/07814 802814 or lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk
Compton Creatives	caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or jhburras@yahoo.co.uk
Long Compton & District Walkers	Stuart and Imogen Brown. 684042
Long Compton Bridge Club	Chris Galloway 684234
The Friends of Long Compton Church	Steve Lavelle steveplavelle@googlemail.com
Long Compton Sports Club:	Andrew Lund-Yates 07813 032144/ 01451 820467
Cricket:	Andrew Badham 07900-466339 and ewbadham@icloud.com



I've long been keen to record village stories in our pages in The Link and so am very grateful to Joe Harvey for talking about his life to me and Caroline Gibbs. This is part 1 and there will be more to come. If anyone else would be interested to contribute other stories about villagers, please do get in touch on the email above.

Melanie Arnold

Joe Harvey – Recollections of a Whichford Man

Joe was born in 1936 in a cottage at the foot of Whichford Hill opposite the green and aged 9 moved to the thatched cottage just past the memorial. No cottages had names in those days, they were simply known by the names of their residents or an architectural or geographical feature. Few houses had running water inside, some had wells and those without used the public water sources in the village, one by the church, one by Barratts Hill, one in the Jitty (the Jitty was the old name for the passage behind King Edward's Terrace, where the children would gather and play) and one mains pump on the green. It followed that there weren't indoor toilets either, just earth closets in gardens. Often the closets would have double openings in the wooden seats, for a companionable experience, and maybe a small one for a child. These would be emptied regularly at night-time by a man from the village, using an implement known as a ladegone, a bowl on a long stick. Each village would have an odd job man who took this on, often paid in cider (which it might have been necessary to drink beforehand).

A previous occupant of the thatched cottage was Percy Slatter, a wheelwright and undertaker who used to drive his horse



and wagon to Shipston to pick up the timbers required for his work. He would have supper in the pub there and, falling asleep on the way back, leave his horse to deliver him safely home. On Shipston market days many local farmers would meet for a drink,

bite and catch up in the Horseshoe pub afterwards, all to be delivered home by their horses who didn't need an awake or sober master.

Joe went to primary school in Whichford and then on to secondary school in Shipston. The plan was for children from outlying villages to be given bikes to get there, but many mothers protested that it would be unsafe, and succeeded in getting a coach service set up to take the children to and from school.

Joe left school aged 14 and went to work for John Lawrence's grandfather, John Holder, at his farm in Ascott. With cars and buses not widely available most people worked very locally. John Holder was a good boss, paying his workers twice the level suggested by the government. Ben Wheeler, known as Carter and originally from Gloucestershire, started the farm with Holder, having served in the Royal Horse Artillery in WW1. He used to say that the firing of the big guns would make their ears bleed.

The farm had 3 horses and Joe started as a plough boy, along with 6 other young lads, and jobs included ploughing, rolling, drilling, farrowing and flattening, with all equipment drawn by the horses, and the main crops being swedes and mangles.

During the war Joe remembers a troop of soldiers being stationed in Whichford, billeted in 4 or 5 huts, and seeing the searchlight at night beaming over Whichford Wood to pick out aircraft. The ack ack gun was positioned by the lane into the woods, at the bottom of what is now Roman Row.

After the war, tractors were introduced on farms, Joe remembering the day when a brand-new Fergie arrived, complete with a manual on how to repair it, and how to plough. The former instructions very handy, the latter like teaching grandmothers to suck eggs. Joe gained a licence to drive tractors which came to be very useful to him over the years.

Bad weather in the early '50s meant that the government gave farmers an 18-month deferral for their National Service, so Joe didn't leave the farm until 1955 to serve 2 years in the 13th/18th Royal Hussars. Joe learned how to drive armoured cars at Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle before transferring over to Neimunster in Germany for the rest of the period. On leaving, the advice from his commanding officer to his men was that in order to settle back into civilian life the best thing to do would be to go back to the jobs they had had before. Holder was an old Yeomanry man and understood this, taking Joe back. At the end of the '50s John Holder suffered a stroke and fell from his horse, and so gave up the farm and Joe moved on.

Joe then went to work at Beecham's Building Co. in Burmington Mill, making moulds for cast concrete columns, beams and other structures for buildings all over the world, including the Isle of Wight radar station. After the collapse of Beecham's Joe went to Norgren in Shipston, a compressed air component factory, via a period in Stratford for a steel construction firm. Joe worked at Norgren for over 33 years doing the heavy work, or spanner work. In early days he was the only man in his section, working with 12 women and he says he learnt a lot there. Principally when to keep quiet.

At the same time as Norgren's Joe worked for the Forsyth-Forrests in their garden at the Manor House, for over 50 years all told, odd jobs and gardening. The garden was initially part paddock and heavily overgrown, so Joe made a huge contribution to what it is now, and Joe calls the Manor House his second home.

Joe met his wife, Cath Sutton, when she was the usherette at the old picture house in Shipston, which was on the main road on the site that became Pettifers Garage and is now a small Tesco. Joe saw an awful lot of films during that period. They went on to get married, living first on a farm and then in Roman Row, and had two children, Andrew and Vanessa, although were sadly later divorced.

Joe is very much a village man, mowing the green on his tractor for many years, and a big supporter of the church, 70 years a bellringer (starting at 9 years old), 60 years the church tower clock winder, which he did every day, and also long service as a sidesman for church services (taking in the collection). Perhaps his biggest contribution was to the Flower Show. The Show folded for a couple of years in the late '80s until Joe, with the aid of Cath Beauchamp and a lot of hard work from them both, took over as Chair for the next 14 years and revived it, put it on a strong footing and secured its future, for which Whichford and Ascott are very grateful.

Apart from the show itself, and before he became chair, he used to organise the food and drinks for the post-show entertainment every year for the village old folk, rounded off with a play. Sheila Steward from Ascott, who wrote plays for the BBC, used to write the shows and kept everyone up to speed. Joe often had singing roles and he's known to have a good voice for singing and a 'carrying voice'.

Cath Beauchamp was also from Whichford and she and Joe had known each other all their lives. Cath's family had a smallholding and unfortunately as a child Cath caught brucellosis from the family herd. After Joe's divorce she and Joe got together and remained devoted for 30 years. Twice Joe asked Cath to marry him, but her response was that 'we'll probably spoil what we've got'. Cath lived in Cherington until four years ago when she moved to Low Furlong, a home in Shipston. Up to then Joe, who never got a driving licence other than his tractor one, was a constant sight driving his tractor over to Cath's and parking up in the Cherington Arms car park, where they had their own table kept for them in the pub. Whenever Joe took his tractor in for repairs to Carterton Tyres in Chipping Norton, the owner Ruby would describe it as the 'courting tractor'.

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Joe Harvey

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Tony Blunt who was the winner of the March draw.

Jenny Scrivener

Bluebell Walk Teas

If you are planning to visit the amazing bluebells in Whichford Wood this year, come and enjoy tea at our beautiful 13th century church.

To complete an enjoyable afternoon, tea and homemade cakes will be served at St Michael's Church, Whichford from 2-5pm on Sunday 30 April and Monday 1May.

Start and end your walk at the church which will be well signposted in the village. Booking not required. Dogs very welcome if kept on a lead.

All proceeds to The Friends of St Michael's Church, Whichford



2023 NGS Open Gardens

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

More details to follow.



VILLAGE NEWS

THE WOLFORDS

Editor, Little Wolford

Email: littlewolford@swlink.org.uk

Editor, Great Wolford: Lynn Mathias

Email: greatwolford@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 674247



Wolfords WI

March is supposed to come in like a lion and go out as a lamb... and it is certainly trying its best lion-wise. Fortunately, the weather was fine for our March 1 meeting. Our speaker, Chris Small, shared some of the tips and tricks for successfully exhibiting at horticultural shows. Chris himself both shows and judges at a lot of shows, e.g., Malvern and Moreton as well as organising Stow. His presentation showed us some beautiful entries – flowers and vegetables – and he entertained us with some tales of massive fails – including his own. Chris warned us it can become addictive, and we were all impressed, if not a little jealous, by some of the incredible uniformity and size of runner beans. The secret is apparently growing 'show' varieties. I think there were a few of us tempted to check out our gardens for flower specimens.

April's meeting on 5 April, will see us getting into Easter and being creative, decorating eggs. The meeting will start at 7:30pm in Little Wolford village hall. Feel free to come along and let your inner Monet shine!

If you would like to join us, your first visit to our meetings is free. Subsequent meetings, if you do not want to join or are undecided about joining the WI, are £5, which includes refreshments (and very fine refreshments they are too).

If you would prefer to meet some of us outside that meeting, we also have activities outside the members' night,

May's meeting, 3 May, will be Coronation related. Details in the next Link.

If you are interested in coming along to our members' meeting or any of the other activities, or have any questions about Wolfords WI and the activities, please contact Gilly on 07812 344 598, gillyhd99@hotmail.com.





The Wolfords Coronation Celebrations

The two villages of Great and Little Wolford are planning to come together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Sunday 7 May with a lunch and pig roast at the Village Hall and surrounding environs as well as games etc. for children of any age. Plans are already in hand and further details will be distributed nearer the time and in next month's Link. We have volunteers to help from both villages but if you would like to join [us](#) please contact Tessa Hankinson: tessa.hankinson@gmail.com

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The March winners were as follows;

1 st prize – Helena Jones 2 nd prize – Sarah Franklin 3 rd prize – Janet Pope

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

James van Helden

Moreton Car Boot Sale – Monday 29 May

Have you been clearing out and decluttering and don't know what to do with all those unwanted things? Well Wolford PCC has a solution to your problem.

The members of the PCC are giving up their May Day Bank Holiday lie in to be at Moreton Car Boot sale at 7am on 29 May!

What items do we want from you? Well, we are always surprised at what sells so really anything, except we do not have the room in our cars for large bulky items, as long as it is in saleable condition and that includes clothes, bric-a-brac, crockery, glasses, tools, soft furnishings, children's toys & clothes. If you're not sure give us a ring.

You can deliver to us or we can collect from you so if you have anything please ring

John Wrench 01608 674389 or Ann McKenna 01608 674009

Parish Clerk – The Wolford Parish Council

The new joint Parish Council for The Wolfords will shortly be looking for a new Clerk. Sue, our current Clerk will be staying on till at least mid-year and will see us over the amalgamation of the Great Wolford Parish Council and Little Wolford Parish Meeting after the local elections on 4 May. Ideally, she would like to resign in July and is happy to have a month overlap with any new Clerk before she leaves.

Parish Clerk: Job Description The parish council is seeking to appoint a Parish Clerk to administer the Council. Candidates must be happy to work alone and should be competent with Word and Microsoft Office and be able to do simple bookkeeping. The Wolfords is a small Parish Council with 5 councillors. Although the volume of work generated is relatively small it is very varied. The post is part-time and takes approximately 3-4 hours a week. It is a permanent role with a negotiable salary based on NJC scale LC1s. Hoped for starting date 1 July 2023.

Key Duties: Go to all Parish Council meetings, providing Agendas and Minutes. Act as the Councils Responsible Financial Officer. Ensure all councillors are notified of Planning Applications and all responses are timely. Any other administration as required.

For anyone new to Parish Council duties there are courses available which the Parish Council would fund.

If you are interested, please apply with your CV to chair@greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk.

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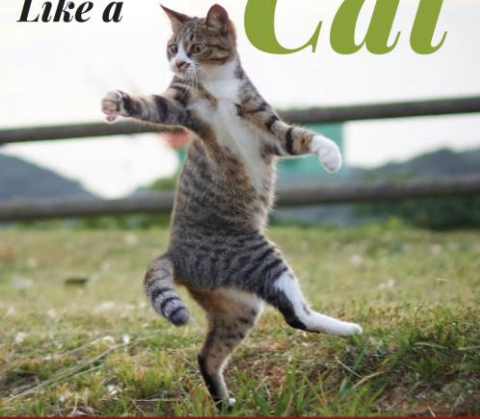
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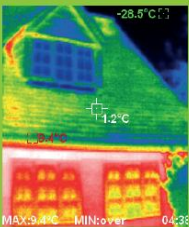
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