THE LINK

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

MAY 2026 £1.20



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

EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor: editorswlink@gmail.com

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

Sat 2	Village breakfast	Burmington VH	09:00
Weds 6	**Community Coffee**	**Long Compton Ch**	**10:30**
Thurs 7	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	WI Hall, Moreton	10:00
Fri 8	Bat Walk	Whichford Pottery	Dusk
Sat 9	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
	Evening with Anton Lesser	Burmington VH	19:30
	Plant Sale weekend	Various locations	
Sun 10	Plant Sale weekend	Various locations	
	Teddy Bears' Picnic	Long Compton VH	12:00
	Theatre: The Wood Owl	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Mon 11	Garden Club Outing	Pettifers	10:30
Tues 12	Cameo Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12:00
	Bellringing for Nurses Day	Cherington Ch	13:00
	Compton Creatives	Long Compton Chapel	14:00
Weds 13	**History Society**	**Long Compton VH**	**19:30**
Thurs 14	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	WI Hall, Moreton	10:00
Fri 15	Coffee and Cake	Wolford Ch	10:30
	Feelgood Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 16	Dying Matters	The Hall, Stourton	10:00
	Cancer Research Sale	Shepherd's Close, Whichford	10:30
	Movie: Butch Cassidy	Brailes Picture House	19:15
Sun 17	Open Garden	Burmington Grange	14:00
	Anniversary Service	Long Compton Chapel	15:30
Weds 20	Comptonians Outing	Long Compton VH	10:00
	Feldon Military and Naval Soc	The Hall, Stourton	20:00
Thurs 21	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	WI Hall, Moreton	10:00
	Fish and Chips Van	The Hall, Stourton	18:00

Fri 22	Carers4 Carers	Kineton VH	10:30
	Art Exhibition	Spencer House Gallery	10:00
Sat 23	Barn Dance	Long Compton VH	19:00
	Whist Drive	Long Compton Chapel	19:00
Sun 24	Art Exhibition	Spencer House Gallery	10:00
Mon 25	Car Boot Sale	Moreton in Marsh	07:00
	Art Exhibition	Spencer House Gallery	10:00
Thurs 28	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	WI Hall, Moreton	10:00
Fri 29	Feelgood Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
Sat 30	Feldon's Got Talent	The Hall, Stourton	19:00

THE LINK

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THE LINK

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Please note the copy deadline for June 2026: May 18th

The LINK TEAM

Editor	Sara Billins	editorswlink@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martin McKenna	treasurer@swlink.org.uk
Advertising Manager	Cathryn Aitken	adverts@swlink.org.uk
Company Secretary	Martin McKenna	secretary@swlink.org.uk
Subscriptions Manager	David Cleave	subs.swlink@outlook.com
Online Manager	Simon Paton	online@swlink.org.uk

Village Editors

Barcheston & Willington	Vacancy	barcheston@swlink.org.uk
Barton-on-the-Heath	Cathryn Aitken	barton@swlink.org.uk
Burmington	Graham French	burmington@swlink.org.uk
Cherington & Stourton	Christine Dudfield	cherington@swlink.org.uk
Long Compton	Sara Billins	longcompton@swlink.org.uk
Whichford & Ascott	Melanie Arnold	msmarnold4@gmail.com
Great Wolford	Lynn Mathias	greatwolford@swlink.org.uk
Little Wolford		littlewolford@swlink.org.uk

Feature Editors

Church News	Liz Clarke	officesw7@gmail.com
Gardening Notes	Margaret Welsh, Miranda Arnold	editor@swlink.org.uk
Farming Notes	John Richardson	farming@swlink.org.uk
Nature Notes	David Sewell	david@thegardenmakers.co.uk

Village Distributors

Barcheston & Willington	Maki Sutton	661539
Barton-on-the-Heath	Cathryn Aitken	07929 639871
Burmington	Sandie French/Steph Bradford	07939 344684
Cherington & Stourton	Ebe McLeod	686278
Long Compton	Anne Molloy	07703 261026
Whichford & Ascott	Iona Grieve	07754 543664
Great Wolford	Sue Rew	674380
Little Wolford	Emily Majzub	07718955990

Welcome to the May edition of The Link. My favourite month; zingy green, rejuvenating and often some of the nicest weather. Last week, I had the misfortune of spending several hours 'parked' on the North Circular in London (surely the ugliest and most miserable road in the UK). Not, for the first time I felt very thankful to live where I do !

You know summer is coming when the Events section runs to two pages; there is so much going on in May! I have zero talent and am in any case, not brave enough, but I am very intrigued by the Feldon's Got Talent event which should be a lot of fun and, who knows, may unearth a future local superstar! Also look for the garden sales which are always a great opportunity to pick up some plants at affordable prices. Whatever your interest all our villages are a hive of activity so get out there, lend your support and enjoy everything our beautiful locality has to offer!

Sara Billins



Cover photograph: Goldfinch by Michelle Hunter

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

The LINK welcomes contributions for the front cover or elsewhere. Portrait orientation and good quality photographs or artwork preferred. Please send items to editor@swlink.org.uk

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MEETING FOR SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS – WEDS 17TH JUNE 2026, 7.15PM



We are currently planning the agenda for this year's meeting which will take place as usual at the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston.

More details to follow.
Please reserve the date in your diaries!

Carers4Carers - your local support group for family carers.

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

Friday 22nd May. We'll be joined by Warwickshire Vision to learn more about what they can offer people living in Warwickshire who are sight impaired. There will also be plenty of time for chat and refreshments.

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings contact Gillian on 07947 893504, email kcarers4carers@gmail.com or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk (new website under construction).

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator



CAMEO Meeting: Tuesday, 12th May

Burmington Village Hall 12:00 noon for 12.30 pm.

This will include a competition in which members will bring their chosen garden flower which affords the best rewards for nature in all its forms.

Further details and bookings with Brenda Fitch on 01608 664313

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

Are you no longer working full time and wanting to do something new?
Join us at u3a on a fulfilling journey of learning, friendship, and fun, where individuals come together to explore new interests and share experiences.

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

Why Join U3A?

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

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

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

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

For more information and a full list of activities, please look at our website www.sosa.u3asite.uk
Come along to one of our monthly meetings which start at 2pm normally on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Townsend Hall, Shipston, or contact Secretary, John Keayes, by e-mail secretary@sosau3acommittee.org to find out more

SHIPSTONLINK
...bringing Shipston and the rural community together

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



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

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

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

Shipston-on-Stour
40 years

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR PROBUS CLUB

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



FRIENDSHIP | FUN | FASCINATING TALKS

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

ALL WELCOME!

FELDON'S GOT TALENT

30th May 2026



A Talent Show for all ages.

Show off your skills or cheer on friends at Feldon's Got Talent—where everyone's a star!

EVENT DETAILS

Starting:	7:30pm. Doors open 7:00pm
Box office:	**Online**: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-aaadorx
	Direct: feldonsgt@gmail.com
Entries:	All welcome - please register prior to the event:
Contact:	Jim Walton (07860 727467) - jim@ghwalton.co.uk
Tickets	£7.50 each. Performers no charge.
Venue:	The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

All of the food we sell is cooked in the home, not processed in a factory, using locally sourced, seasonal produce and you can speak directly to the producers. We also have some wonderful crafters with unique, creative products.

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

07346 126269/ mimcountrymarket@gmail.com **or find us on Facebook**

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

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

Please visit one of our dementia friendly cafes locally :

Every Tuesday 10.30am - 12.30pm	Shipston on Stour	CV36 4QG
Every Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm	Wellesbourne	CV35 9NH
Each 1st Thursday 10.30am - 12.30pm	Compton Verney (contact us for entrance tickets)	CV35 9HZ
Each 2nd Thursday 10.30am- 12pm	Moreton-in-Marsh	GL56 0DS
Each 3rd Thursday - 10.30am- 12.30	Chipping Campden	GL56 6HR
Every Friday from 10am - 12 noon	Tysoe Village Hall	CV35 0SE

talkdementia®

Advice and support for carers of loved ones living with dementia in South Warwickshire & North Cotswolds

Paul and Heather Dowler - Telephone: 01295 688376 Email: talkdementia.uk@gmail.com Website: talkdementia.uk

Charity Plant and Home Produce Sales





Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May

Our popular sales return in local villages and towns, stalls confirmed are:

Barcheston
Brailes
Cherington
Ettington

Great Wolford
Idlicote (on 23rd May)
Kineton
Long Compton
Shipston

Tysoe (tbc)
Wellesbourne
Whatcote
Whichford

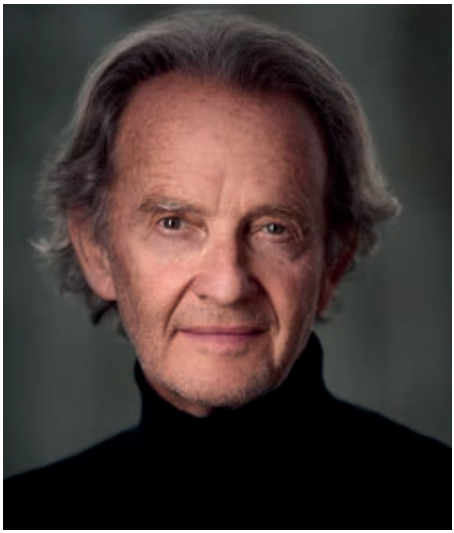
To donate plants and produce please contact us at fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk or on 01608 664 850

Please see our website for specific locations

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1162586

An Evening with Anton Lesser



Photograph © Eoin Schmidt-Martin

One of the greatest actors of his generation in conversation about his career.

In aid of Burmington Church

SATURDAY 9th MAY

Mr Lesser has an amazing list of credits ranging from lead roles for the RSC in Shakespeare plays to films many of us have seen including Pirates of the Caribbean, and A United Kingdom (as Prime Minister Clement Attlee). But perhaps many more will have seen him on TV in important series like Game of Thrones, or The Crown (as Harold Macmillan) or in Wolf Hall (as Thomas More) or the Morse prequel Endeavour as ACC Bright. He has a major role in the soon to be released new tv production of Harry Potter.

Come and hear him, come and meet him .... a wonderful evening in prospect.

Burmington Village Hall CV36 5AR 7:30pm

Tickets £12.00 per person to include a free drink (wine, beer, soft drinks or tea/coffee). Our hall capacity is limited. Please call to make sure you can come .... Phone John on 07968 450331 to book Once booked please pay by bank transfer 'Burmington PCC' sort code 40-41-26, account number 90200166, using your name as a reference or pay on night – by card (preferably) or cash**.**

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.

Local Catholic Church Services

Chipping Norton

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

Stow-on-the-Wold

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

Shipston and Brailes

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

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

Chipping Campden

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

Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

Local Congregational Services

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton as advertised

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

PARISH PEOPLE

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

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

Parish Council

Parish	**Chair**	**Clerk**
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	Dawn Fisher (663171
Cherington/Stourton	Philip Townsend (686529)	Dawn Fisher (663171)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Ed Law	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

CHURCH NOTES



South Warwickshire Seven Churches

Giggle Tots

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



Serving our Communities

Coffee and Chat



In Long Compton Village Hall

8:30am-9:30am

All welcome

Thursdays

Only

for more information contact Kim Petty (SW7 churches)
07949949215





Easter decorations at Long Compton church Photo: Paul Field

May 2026 CHURCH SERVICES							
SW 7 Sunday Worship	**St Martin** Barcheston	**St Lawrence** Barton	**St Barnabas & St Nicholas** Burmington	**St John the Baptist** Cherington	**St Peter & St Paul** Long Compton	**St Michael** Whichford	**St Michael & All Angels** Wolford
3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4:00pm GAP informal service (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)
10th May 6th Sunday of Easter			9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		12 – 3:00pm Connect Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Village Hall (KP)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	
17th May 7th Sunday of Easter		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/TBC)			4pm GAP informal service (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion Village Hall (BD/TBC)
24th May Pentecost Sunday				9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/TBC)	10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD/TBC)		
31st May Trinity Sunday				10:30am CW Family Service with baptism (BD)		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	

South Warwickshire Benefice

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

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

www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk facebook.com/sw7churches

BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/ HP = Heather Parbury/AD = Andrew Dow/ RS = Richard Smith/ RSt=Richard Stevens/ADBD = Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

Shipston New Housing Developments-Latest News

We have had great press coverage from our local paper The Stratford Herald and by the time you read this from the national press too - in The Observer. The photoshoot, held at very short notice was incredibly well attended. Our extremely supportive MP Manuela Perteghella came along too, along with around 200 residents – a huge thank you to all of you who turned up!





Photos: James Kerr

There was also a good crowd and wonderful atmosphere at The Historic Post Auction the following day with substantial amounts raised for worthy causes and charities in Shipston, including SOS! Thank you to the team who made that happen.

Please keep your vital donations coming in. Our fundraising continues as we are paying out money for our legal advisers and specialists who are gathering crucial evidence for us all to use in objections to the Fell Mill planning application. By the time you are reading this it may well have been submitted.

We will email everyone on our mailing list (do sign up for emails on our website especially if you do not do social media), post on social media and post on the website as soon as we can object.

We will also be holding further public meetings, workshops and a sponsored walk round Fell Mill. Please keep your eyes peeled for information about these activities and the narrow time window we will have to submit our views. It's vital we get in as many relevant planning-based objections as possible.

SOS Protecting Shipston's Future – Together!

To donate directly:
Bank Name: HSBC
Account Name: SaveOurShipston
Sort Code: 40-18-57
Account Number: 60770736

www.saveourshipston.org **@SaveOurShipston**
@SaveOurShipston **Say No to additional 3000+ houses**

FARMING NOTES

Editor: John Richardson

It's the 3rd of April, Good Friday, and a lot has happened in the past month. Mr Trump for a start! Right or wrong, it makes our job just a bit harder. I haven't asked the price of tractor diesel yet, but we are soon going to need some. There are many knock-on problems to come. Fertiliser is quoted over 35% higher in cost, if available. We have our needs in store for the present growing season, but next year may well pose a problem. Gas is the next thing; we have the floor drying system, plus a standby gas fired dryer. At the moment, gas prices are going up faster than diesel. Last year was a light harvest but the crops came in dry and that was a great saving on costs. A long, wet harvest ahead is something I wouldn't like thinking about .

On the brighter side, the endless days of rain in February turned into a month of dry and often sunny, windy days that gave us a chance to drill all of the spring barley into pretty good seedbeds. Two fields I've mentioned before, namely the boulder patch and an adjoining filed, are difficult to plough. One had a mustard cover crop in it and the other over wintered stubble. We thought about direct drilling, but in the end, Dan sprayed them off, cultivated them and then used our direct drill to sow them. I call this 'min till'. I see this morning the first field Dan drilled three weeks ago is just starting to appear. I hate to say it, but a night's warm rain would do it, and the rest of the farm a great deal of good.



The next thing is not as bright at all. Last month, I spoke of our winter beans looking under stress from new disease strains. Well. In the end, we got clearance we could sow a one-year legume flower mix in the field, so the beans were destroyed and seeds ordered for the legume flower option. This will be direct drilled into the failed bean remains. A couple of weeks ago we loaded three artic trailers with barley to go to Northern Ireland. I went to a large farming company who have farms here on



the mainland. They have their own mills bringing pig food over to farms here and taking return loads via the ferry from Scotland to Northern Ireland. One of the drivers was asking Dan about crops here and Dan told him of our bean disaster. They have a different scheme in Northern Ireland. They plant spring beans as a crop and under sow the legume flower mix at the same time and are allowed to combine and use the crops whilst also getting paid for the flower mix.

Last week, Dan started ploughing up the areas we use for wild bird plots. These are drilled with a mixture of cereals and are left over winter as natural food sources.

Years ago, I bought a Bamford plough at a farm sale, just for the purpose of doing these odd areas. Bamford ploughs were all the rage at one time. Ray Slatter, Mac Haines and Bill Yells all swore by them. They did do a nice job in the right hands, and they pulled easily compared to Ransome ploughs. One of the bits Dan was ploughing was on some of our heaviest ground. I first ploughed it in 1967 with our first County 4WD. Whilst ploughing the bottom headland against the brook, a chap came walking along. He had a gun, with a sling made of cord over one shoulder, a little spade with homemade string over the other shoulder, a tin of Cymag in an old carrier bag and three terrier dogs….*'I'm Baggy Beaumont'* he said '*You must be the new chap. I do the rabbits'.* Rabbits had been a real pest in the pre- myxomatosis days. The government set up plans to keep the rabbits down- cheap cartridges with 'Rabbit Clearance' written on the cases. So, Baggy took the job on to control rabbits. His dogs found the burrows and he gassed them. If the dogs bolted the rabbits, he seldom missed one with his gun. All the kit he carried, he used to strap to his old trusty push bike and cycle for miles from his house in Whichford. He would do a round trip of many miles each day, finish up at his bike again, load up and cycle home. He came from a large family in Whichford. I remember his old father Levi Beauchamp, with two sticks making his way to the Norman Knight; he had his chair and if anyone sat in it, he soon wanted you out. Cyril Compton ran it with his wife. He worked for Derek Hains in the day and ran the pub at night. Good times, no food, just beer, darts, cards, crisps, peanuts and simple hardworking men. I can see them now, John Davis, Bertie Harwood, Billy Pinfold, Alf Castle, pipe smoke staining the ceiling. Long Compton news travelled to Whichford and Whichford news returned, and often a bit of scandal thrown in!

John 'Tufty' Richardson

GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh
and Miranda Arnold

May is a transitional month between spring and summer and the difference between the daytime and nighttime temperatures can be large. The saying "*Ne're cast a clout till May is out*" is a reminder that the weather can still be frosty and cold and it is best to keep fleece at the ready.

This spring, due to some very warm weather, several plants have been flowering unseasonably early but thankfully seem to have escaped severe frost. It is advisable not to put out any tender plants until the end of May or even better until June. You could start to harden them off late in the month (outside during the day and inside at night).

Of course, we may get some gloriously warm days this month and with all the fresh growth watering may be necessary, not only pots but also newly planted specimens. Fruit will be setting, so fruit trees and bushes need the ground to be kept moist to prevent early fruit drop. Advice given is to water early in the morning as watering when temperatures drop at night can shock the plants.



Jobs in the garden include pruning of early flowering shrubs like forsythia, ribes and kerria. Pruning now gives them the maximum time to grow before next year's flowering. Cut about a third of the oldest stems to the ground and other stems to a strong bud. Pyracanthas growing against a wall can have wayward shoots cut back and side shoots cut to about 8cm. Do not prune hedges yet as birds may still be nesting.

Pests are likely to start to proliferate in the garden so watch out for aphids, blackfly and lily beetles. Check gooseberries for saw fly caterpillars. They can be removed and fed to the birds. Clear any fallen rose leaves that show signs of black spot. Do not compost them. Similarly, if you cut off unsightly leaves of hellebores, look out for black patches which could be a fungal infection and discard these leaves. Net strawberry plants to protect them from birds.

To encourage good flowering of herbaceous plants you could feed them with comfrey "tea". This is prepared by covering the comfrey leaves with water and leaving them to soak for about two weeks. The liquid should be collected and diluted to one part juice to twenty parts water. Gardening columns say this will feed plants for up to six weeks, but you would feed tomato plants more frequently as they flower and set fruit.

In the vegetable garden you can sow French and runner beans and also winter vegetables such as purple sprouting broccoli. Continue sowing salad vegetables at regular intervals to keep the supply going. If you have asparagus planted, it will be ready to harvest this month. A nice reward for your labours.

Margaret Welsh

Long Compton Garden Club

Club members have Summer Garden Visits to look forward to, but you can join us too. We will be visiting 6 gardens in the coming months.



Our first outing of the season is on Monday 11 May at 10:30am when we are visiting Pettifers the well-known and beautiful garden in nearby Wardington, Oxfordshire OX17 1RU The garden 1.5 acre was created by the late Gina Price, it continues to be brilliantly maintained by Polly who was Gina's gardener. The garden is still developing and changing in Gina's style. Created in 1984 Gina continually, and sometimes radically, changed the garden as her tastes and interests evolved. There are ribbons of plants through the gardens creating a glowing tapestry of colour.

Afterwards there is an opportunity to visit nearby Swallows Nursery, Mixbury where we will a have a picnic lunch followed by an introductory talk, and then a shopping opportunity!

If you aren't a Club Member but would like to join us, we would love to see you. Cost to members for this visit is £12.00, non-members £17.00.

Club Membership is excellent value at £14.00

Booking is essential please contact Walter Sawyer
secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram

Long Compton and District Garden Club - March meeting

The Garden at Evenley Wood throughout the Year – Geoff Oddy



Geoff has been a volunteer at Evenley Wood for the last 17 years. Having seen it in every season, he was able to take us on a beautifully illustrated tour of the garden.

The 60-acre woodland was bought in 1980 by Timothey Whiteley, a keen amateur gardener. The wood was unusual in that it had an area of acid soil running through what is predominantly an alkaline area. His original plan was to develop the acid patch as a garden within the wood, but as a keen collector of plants, his plans gradually extended to larger areas of the wood. He continued to participate in the garden's development until 2017 when he passed away aged 85. Wishing to preserve her father's legacy, his daughter, Nicola, took over the running of the garden and there is currently a team of 20 volunteers led by head gardener Dan Winter and his deputy. The garden is now open to the public every day and hosts various events to assist with funding its maintenance.

The year starts in late winter with snowdrops. There are now between 80 and 100 varieties distributed around the garden. Crocuses, daffodils, colourful witch hazel, and scented daphne follow. One striking feature is a stream of blue scilla planted by Tim Whiteley which flows through the wood for around 800 metres. Spring continues with the flowering cherries, mature magnolias, glades of camelias and azaleas and primroses on the banks of the stream. In the middle of the wood is a meadow where cowslips grow, followed by tulips and later by butterfly and bee orchids. As the year progresses the philadelphus, lilac and rhododendrons bloom. There are unusual trees like the handkerchief tree, Kentucky coffee tree with golden foliage and a giant sequoia. In summer a wide range of lilies appear, roses climb through the trees and there are new wildflower areas. In autumn the acers (maple) provide wonderful colour alongside purple colchicum bulbs and yellow autumn crocus. Geoff's wonderful photos and stories of the garden development were fascinating and will undoubtedly encourage members to visit/revisit this special woodland garden.

Fiona Robertson

WALKING NOTES

Editor: Stuart Brown



Each month, one or two members will reconnoitre the next walk. I have written previously about mud, stiles and steep ascents but perhaps the most important part of their task is to identify the lunch spot - be it café, farm shop or, most usually, a village pub.

We have noted that the economic climate - increased costs for the pub and less spending money amongst the likely clientele - means that many now close not only on Mondays but, increasingly, on Tuesdays (our regular day).

The problem (for the walker) goes deeper. We are looking for somewhere which is dog-friendly, which, in winter, has a clear muddy boots policy and a welcoming fire and which, in summer, offers plenty of outdoor seating. Preferably local ales need to be on offer (in moderation!), and the menu needs to suit a range of taste. It seems that too many possibilities are now gastropubs offering fine food for those with time to spare and money to spend. The typical walker might well be satisfied with a hearty sandwich (together with soup in winter) or home-made pie whilst some will be tempted by fish and chips. In our group, eyes light up at the sight of devilled kidneys on toast.

We can understand our host being less than enthused were a large group to descend and consume but a half of bitter, a bag of crisps and perhaps share a bowl of chips (still worse seek surreptitiously to eat their own sandwiches) but once our numbers exceed 10 we are always asked to pre-order to the mutual benefit of staff and guest.

There are many excellent local pubs. Some even have their own suggested walking routes but we are constantly looking for new and different routes and prefer not to have to drive at the end of a walk to an old favourite. So, if any reader, even one not wishing to join the walk, has any recommendations, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

It's always a lovely moment when you realise that spring has finally sprung. That no matter what the weather brings, green is now the predominate colour we can enjoy for the next few months. Wildflowers are appearing on our verges, field headlands and through areas of woodland, and our summer migrant birds have started arriving en masse. I saw my first swallow today and despite all the old adages proclaiming that one doesn't make a summer, I'm confidently predicting that it's just a matter of time.



One bird that I love going to see, but that is sadly now extinct as a breeding species in Warwickshire, is the nightingale. Rightly famed for its rich melancholy song the nightingale is usually really hard to see owing to its preference for singing at night from dense, impenetrable undergrowth. But there is a brief window of opportunity to see them fairly easily and that's when they've just arrived from their long migration from west Africa. In those first few days as they orientate themselves in their new surroundings and start setting up territories, they often sing out in the open. Which is why I was in Suffolk yesterday enjoying some extraordinary views of this little brown songster after getting a call from my brother saying, 'they're in!'

Visually they're not much to write home about. A fairly drab grey brown with a rusty reddish tail but when they hop up on a branch and start giving it some in the vocal department, they are truly mesmerising. Nightingales have around 200 distinct phrases and around 300 different melodies made up by a staggering 1500 different sounds, and they mix these up randomly, singing for hours and hours to attract a mate. The individual we were treated to a good 10 minutes warbling away from an open branch leading me to lament not taking my camera with me. Something that seems to happen far too often. But then, sometimes you've just got to enjoy the moment!

While taking Bella for her morning sojourns around Stourton I've had plenty of time to admire the wildflowers that are quietly getting on with their life cycles. Although our verges aren't as lush as Suffolk, they still boast a nice range of

species ranging from wild dog violets, green alkanet, dead nettles and of course primroses. All these early flowers are absolutely vital pollen and nectar for early emerging insects. But there is one species that harks back to ancient meadows when wildflowers were truly prolific and that is the cowslip. With their clusters of yellow nodding flowers, they will naturalise extensively in meadows and on banks and they are one species that have positively thrived on the poor soil on motorway embankments with sometimes vast swathes over hundreds of metres creating stunning displays. Their name is thought to derive from old English for 'cow dung' or 'cow slop' because they were often found in manure rich grazing meadows. One assumes their close cousin the ox slip was usually found in the fields where they kept the working bovines that pulled the ploughs! Either way, for me they echo days of old when our countryside held a richness and diversity of species that we can only now dream about, so they always arrive with a small nugget of hope.

David Sewell

SCHOOL NOTES

News from Acorns

A Joyful Easter Celebration

Before the Easter holidays, we gathered as a community for our annual Easter Service. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, with a special mention to Reverend Dyson and Kim Petty for hosting our service. It was a proud moment for staff and parents alike to hear the children singing so beautifully. From our youngest stars in Nursery to our leaders in Year 6, the children delivered their poems with confidence and clarity, providing a wonderful showcase of the personal growth and maturity they develop during their time with us.

Spring Term Award Winners

During the service, we also took the time to celebrate our Spring Term award winners. A huge congratulations to those pupils who were recognised as ambassadors for their hard work and dedication; your excellent attitude to learning is an inspiration to us all. Thank you to all our children who consistently live out our school values of compassion, courage, and curiosity in your daily lives.

Keep shining and well done to everyone!

Ambassadors of Learning

Little Acorns - Purdey: Art (Expressive Arts and Design)

Class 1 - Walter: Science

Class 2 - Toby: Geography

Class 3 - Aggie: Geography

Values winners

Little Acorns - Molly

Class 1 - Tommy

Class 2 - Hugo

Class 3 - Heidi

Scaling New Heights at Mount Cook

Our Year 5 adventurers have recently returned from an unforgettable two-night residential at Mount Cook Adventure Centre, and what a whirlwind of excitement it was! The children dove headfirst into an action-packed itinerary, tackling everything from archery and orienteering to the high-stakes thrills of the mini zip wire and abseiling. A standout highlight was undoubtedly the Via Ferrata; it was wonderful to see the children show true grit and determination as they navigated the rock face. When they weren't scaling heights, they were honing their survival skills in bushcraft, navigating the low ropes, or launching their own creations during rocket making.





Beyond the activities, our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school. They collaborated brilliantly with peers from other schools across the Trust, forging new friendships and building a great sense of community. Their behaviour was impeccable throughout the trip, as they consistently demonstrated our 3Bs and core values in everything they did. Of course, all those adventures required plenty of energy, and thanks to the delicious food provided, everyone stayed well-fuelled and ready for action.

Well done, Year 5—you should be incredibly proud of your achievements!

The Book Bus!

What a wonderful way to end our Spring term! On our final day before the holidays, the school was buzzing with excitement as we welcomed a visit from the Book Bus. At Acorns, we are passionate about promoting a lifelong love of reading, and there was no better way to inspire our pupils than seeing them explore such a vibrant and diverse collection of stories. It was a delight to watch the children's faces light up as they browsed the shelves, sharing recommendations with friends and carefully choosing new books to take home for the break. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our parents and carers; your incredible enthusiasm and generosity provided the funds for the children to add to their own home libraries, making the event a resounding success. Furthermore, as a result of your support, the school will receive a commission from the sales, which we look forward to reinvesting into fresh new stock for our own school library. Thank you for helping us keep the magic of reading alive!

Join Our Team:

Governor Vacancy

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

Early Years Midday Supervisor

Are you looking for a rewarding role that fits perfectly around school hours? We are currently searching for a friendly and reliable Midday Supervisor to join our wonderful Early Years team. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who

enjoys working with children and wants to be part of a supportive, vibrant school community.

- 11:45 am to 1:15 pm (Monday to Friday)
- Term-time only—perfect if you're looking to keep your school holidays free!
- You'll be supporting our youngest learners as they play and supervising them during their mealtimes in our lovely school setting.

We believe in supporting our staff just as much as our pupils. As part of our team, you'll have access to great professional development opportunities, including:

- Paediatric First Aid Training
- Level 2 Food Hygiene Certification

If you have a positive "can-do" attitude and want to help make lunchtimes the best part of the day for our children, we would love to hear from you!

Play and Wraparound Leader - Maternity Cover:

Over the coming months, we will be looking to recruit an enthusiastic play leader to cover maternity leave next academic year, starting in September 2026. The role will focus on leading lunchtime play, afternoon interventions and nurture groups, and afterschool Wraparound alongside our external providers, Onside. If you know anybody who may be interested, please in the first instance, ask them to telephone the school office or pop by. We will keep you updated when the advert is released.

School Cook:

After 14 years of dedication to the kitchen and children of Acorns Primary, Sue Surman will be taking retirement at the end of this summer term. Sue has been a valued member of our school team and we wish her all the very best for her future adventures. We are therefore recruiting for a new school cook; please contact the school office for further information.

Contact Us: Email: admin2639@welearn365.com **Phone:** 01608 684654

Hannah Young: Headteacher

VILLAGE NEWS
Barcheston with Willington

PLANT SALE AND HOME PRODUCE
FOR SHIPSTON HOME NURSING
AT BARCHESTON
Saturday 9th May 10:00am to 4:00pm
Sunday 10th 10:00am to 1:00pm

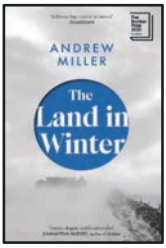
There will be plants and veg seedlings*, plus cakes, jams and other home-made goodies. Donations of any type of plants or food would be very gratefully received. Jane at The Old Rectory 666002 or 0787 554 2097
We look forward to seeing you then if not to buy then for a chat!
*Runner beans, peas, broad beans and French climbing beans

VILLAGE NEWS
Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



Book Club



At our last meeting we discussed "The Land in Winter" by Andrew Miller (2024). Set in the freezing winter of 1962 to 1963 in the West Country, it is the story of two neighbouring couples. We learn about their relationships, affairs, past lives and the pregnancies of both wives. Behind that narrative, the author quietly explores the social conventions of the times and attitudes to women, class differences and the dark shadow of World War II. We felt empathy for some of characters and their yearning to belong – and particularly enjoyed Miller's portrayal of a 1960s Christmas drinks party.

The backdrop of the never-ending ice and snow was beautifully described and set a mood of isolation and "coldness" that was not just about the temperature.

We also shared our own accounts of how the "Big Freeze" affected us at the time. It was certainly a winter etched in many of our memories**!**

Sarah Constable

St Lawrence Church in Barton-on-the-Heath

In the first half of the 19th century, there arose in Oxford University a movement which attempted to show that the Church of England was authentically descended from the churches of Apostolic times like the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches. Members of this movement produced Tracts about different topics. John Henry Newman had written many of these. He had been brought up in what we would today say was a very low church environment but over the years after examining the works of the Apostolic Fathers he found that this was not acceptable. In Tract 90 he attempted to show that there was a possible way forward for Anglicans. However, this seemed to many unacceptable. As a consequence, a motion was put forward by Oxford dons to condemn him. If passed, John Henry Newman would be deprived of his degree. At the university, the Proctors had the right to veto any proposal. They exercised their right and the motion was defeated.



Shortly afterwards, the senior Proctor, Henry Peter Guillemard, resigned as a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford and was appointed Rector of Barton-on-the-Heath. He married soon afterwards. Married fellows were not allowed at that time. His successor was Arthur West Haddan**,** an esteemed scholar of the Church Fathers. Members of the Oxford movement often used practices of the Roman Catholic Church. If you look carefully at this photograph, you will see that there are six candlesticks on the altar. This is normal today in the Roman Catholic Church.

In passing, I should declare that a distant relative was received into the Catholic Church in Oxford just before John Henry Newman became a convert. Newspapers at the time listed such people as being 'perverted' to the Roman Church.

The photograph was taken after 1907 and before electric light was installed in the church

Christopher Fance


Barton-on-the-Heath
Village
FETE
Saturday 20th June 2026
2.30-6pm
on the village green
LIVE
Jazz
FREE
ENTRY
RAFFLE
Barton Village
PRODUCE
TEA & CAKE
stonebaked
pizza
book stall
AUCTION
BAR
PRE-LOVED
DESIGNER CLOTHES
Children's
games
TOMBOLA
Brocante
all proceeds to support the village and the following charities:
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution | Maggie's
Shipston Home Nursing | Kate's Home Nursing
@bartonontheheath

VILLAGE NEWS

Burmington

Editor: Graham French





Burmington Village Hall Breakfast

Saturday 2nd May

9:00am – 11:00am

To book call / text Robyn 07966 849 149

Book early to avoid disappointment

Special dietary requirements catered for. Please state when booking.

Not to be Missed! Burmington Grange Open Garden



This year, once again, Fudge and Patrick Ramsay will very kindly be opening their fabulous garden to the public under the National Gardens Scheme.

Those who have visited it before will know that not only are the gardens full of interest and wonderful planting but are set against spectacular views across the neighbouring countryside.
Delicious afternoon teas will be on sale, in aid of Burmington Church.

Sunday May 17th at Burmington Grange from 2:00-5:00pm

CAMEO SW7's Lunch Club



CAMEO members celebrated St George's Day at the lunch club's April meeting.

The national flag was flown outside Burmington village hall and Colin Beckett recounted the history of St George, by tradition a Roman officer and Christian martyr, and of how he was officially adopted as the patron saint of England in 1348 by King Edward III, the date the King also established the Order of the Garter. Our saint was already venerated in England; the Synod of Oxford had declared April 23 as St George's Day and national holiday in 1222.

A group of CAMEO members, ever AI (Artificial Intelligence) experts, chose to dwell on St George's dragon-slaying myth when composing the following poem for the special occasion

CAMEO AI poem for St George's Day

St George set out, quite calm and neat,
To face a dragon down the street.
The dragon roared, George sighed, "Oh dear,"
Then poked it once — problem disappeared.
The locals gasped, the dragon fled,
George tidied up and the crowds addressed;
"*No fuss,"* he said, "*no need to shout,*
I'll just pop this fire-breather out."
The princess clapped, the flag unfurled,
George posed politely, saving the world.
He blushed a bit, then checked the time,
"Dragon slaying before lunch is simply sublime."
England cheered, the pub was near,
So, George went off for a well-earned beer.
A modest hero, job well done,
Then home for tea- by George he'd won.

Wine Tasting with a Twist

Please note that the Wine Tasting Evening scheduled for Saturday 9th May has been postponed'

Many thanks and sorry for the inconvenience

Thanks to the People Who Give Their Time to Burmington

A big thank you from all of us to those people who give their time to Burmington Village -

- Irene Clarke who for many years has handled bookings and caretakes the Village Hall
- Sonia Baker who creates and cares for the flower displays in the planters outside the Village Hall
- Natalie Ward who mows the village green in the Lane
- Steve Austin who cuts the grass alongside the village hall
- Frank Bothwell who mows the verges at the south end of the village
- Dick and Karen Faithfull who (even though they now live in Shipston) continue to help maintain the hall

Thank you, too, to the people who deliver The Link each month in Burmington – Steph Bradford has taken over from Julia Sykes (who delivered the Link for many years) and also to Sandie French.

A big thank you to people on the Village Hall Committee; but more on this in next month's Link; there are changes afoot and some new people are taking on committee roles while others may be stepping down.

The following volunteers do a wonderful job of cleaning and arranging flowers in the church. Sonia Baker, Jan Lennon, Sandie French, Jo Rice, Sara Walsh, Fudge Ramsay, Steph Bradford, John Boulter, Mary Scott and Lorna Lancaster

Thank you to Michael Macdonald, churchwarden and John Boulter and Mary Scott, joint treasurers, and to the other members of the Parochial Church Council for their work in the running of Burmington Church

Editor: I'm bound to be in deep trouble for leaving one or more folks out of this 'thank you.' Apologies to them if so; I will attempt to avoid being driven out of the village in shame by putting this right in the next issue].

Graham French



May Coffee Shop



Please note that there won't be any bacon baps this month
If there's anyone who would be willing to go on the rota to help out occasionally, please get in touch., thank you. it's a great way to get to know people in the village and make new friends

Christine Dudfield 07866 127409.

Village Lottery March Draw

1st Sarah Wright £80 2nd Chris Owen £45. 3rd Kerrith Carr £30

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support which provides funds for the upkeep of the Hall.
For more information on joining, please contact me.

Averell Kingston 07984 003675 or aap.kingston@gmail.com

ur Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Feel Good ay Social Afternoons

…, what an egg-mazing community we have, the Easter Family Prize Bingo was a full house, thank you to all those who attended. It was a great night and we made over £1100 on raffle ticket and bingo book sales which secures our free Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons in 2027.



Save the Date: I know we have some keen Bingo players out there so please pop Saturday 14th November in your diaries as that's the date of the Christmas Family Prize Bingo. Please give me a ring if you'd like to reserve a table.

Upcoming Social Afternoons dates for your diary are Fridays 1st May 15th May and 29th May 12th June and 26th June 2:00pm to 4:00pm at The Hall.

Saturday 16th May - A Dying Matters Event

On Saturday 16th May 10:00am – 2:00pm at the Ellen Badger Hospital, Stratford Road, Shipston on Stour, SHWP alongside Shipston Home Nursing, St Edmunds Church and Shipston Medical Centre is hosting a Dying Matters Event, offering expert advice, open discussion and practical guidance on end-of-life planning, with coffee and cake included and free parking.

Join us for this open, supportive, and informative session that brings together experienced professionals to guide you through the essential elements of planning for later life and beyond, from managing your online presence and legal preparations to conversations around legacy, care, and choice.

Whether you're starting to think about planning ahead or helping someone you love, this event offers a safe space to learn, connect and ask the questions that matter to you.

Panel 1: End of Life Care

- Jan Flynn, Shipston Medical Centre
- Anna Briggs, Shipston Home Nursing

Panel 2: Let's Talk About Funerals

- "Can I…?" "What if…?" "Can we…?"

Let's Talk: Help us strengthen rural communities in Shipston and the Stour Valley

As SHWP looks to the future, we want to make sure services reflect what really matters to local people. We are asking residents to take just five minutes to complete our health and wellbeing survey.

- What activities would you like to see more of?
- What are your biggest health or wellbeing challenges?
- What support would make the biggest difference to your daily life?

Your views will directly guide future services and help strengthen support for rural communities.

Please visit: tinyurl.com/shwpsurvey26 to complete the survey, thank you.

Vanessa Compton 01608 663320 https://www.shwp.org.uk/

Brailes Picture House

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start

Saturday 16th May - Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Robert LeRoy Parker better known as Butch Cassidy was an American train and bank robber and the leader of a gang of criminal outlaws known as the *'Wild Bunch'* in the Old West

Parker engaged in criminal activity for more than a decade at end 19th century and early 20th century... being pursued by law enforcement fled to United States. He fled with his accomplice Harry Longabough, known as Sundance Kid, along with Harry's girlfriend Etta Place. The trio travelled first to Argentina and then Bolivia in an attempt to outdo the Law in the country.....

Cast Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Katherine Ross

Future Date

13th June The Choral

Deirdre and Team

Cherington Bells for International Nurses Day

A group of ringers from Coventry Ladies Guild will ring a quarter peal on Tuesday 12 May - the date of Florence Nightingale's birthday. The group will include both current and retired nurses.

Ringing will begin at 1:00pm and last about 45 minutes.

Sarah Scotter

Whitsun Art Exhibition at Jacques Barn: May 22/25 and 28/31

Spencer House Gallery present a 'Pride of Place' showing of artists celebrating all aspects of Cotswold Life.

The dozen artists featured in the show are all Cotswold-based or inspired - or both - and most of them live in the Stourton region.

Their work, both figurative and abstract, will cover oil and acrylic painting, various kinds of printmaking, drawing and ceramics. Something for all tastes and pockets.

The Private View - on the Friday evening, 22 May at 5:30 - is a launch event open to all.



Feldon's Got Talent

Saturday 30th May

A Talent Show for all ages. Show off your skills or cheer on friends at Feldon's Got Talent—where everyone's a star.

Get ready for an unforgettable night at Feldon's Got Talent! Join us in person to witness amazing performers showcasing their skills, from singing, dancing to comedy and more. It's all about fun, energy, and surprising acts that'll blow your mind. Bring your friends, cheer loud, and enjoy.

Application for entries now open.

Jim Walton 07860727467 **jim@ghwalton.co.uk**



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

Coffee Shop – Saturday 9th May, fundraising for Shipston Home Nursing

Our monthly Coffee Shop is to be a fundraiser for Shipston Home Nursing this month, running on the weekend of their famous plant sales.

Call in to enjoy freshly ground coffee, cakes, savouries (no bacon butties this month). Plus produce stall, plants, Bring & Buy, raffle, craft stalls.

Donations for produce stall (jams, chutneys, cakes & bakes etc), or for the raffle please contact info@thehallevents.org.uk or one of the Coffee Shop team.

Fingers crossed for nice weather so that we can spill outside. Takeaway also available, so you can stop off for refreshments en route from one village plant sale to another!

Please come and support this wonderful local cause that helps so many people. Full list of SHN plants sales at: https://shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/

Children's theatre, "Wood Owl & The Box of Wonders" – Sunday 10th May, 2:00pm



This enchanting children's theatre production, Wood Owl & The Box of Wonders, will delight children of all ages

A lonely little owl wants nothing more than to fly into the night and join his friends. But how can he, when he is made from wood? Join Hoglets Theatre on a magical journey of singing owls, fantasy worlds, friendship and love. Featuring beautiful handmade puppets, Wood Owl & The Box of Wonders is a heart-warming, visually enchanting children's theatre experience that blends puppetry, original music, and immersive storytelling.

Refreshments from 1:30pm, show 2:00pm. Running time 40 mins, no interval.

Tickets: £14 over 16's / £10 2-16 yrs

From the Hall: info@thehallevents.org.uk

And online: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thehall-cherington-stourton-sutton/t-jxxqlnn

"3rd Thursday" - Fish and Chip Supper Socials every 3rd Thursday of the month – Thurs 21st May 6:00-8:00pm at The Hall.

The deservedly popular "The Catchy Fish" van, and the Hall Lobby Bar open for drinks.
This relaxed evening at The Hall offers a night off cooking supper and is a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Take-away from 5:30pm, and the Hall Bar and Eat-In from 6:00-8:00pm. Feel free to come along just to socialise! As we come into summer, fingers crossed we will be making use of our outside space, too.



We are delighted to welcome **Stratford Comedy Club to The Hall, on Thursday 17th September, 8:00-10:30pm**. 3rd Thursday fish and chip night is running beforehand, so come early and make a whole evening of it!

If you've been to Stratford Comedy Club in their home venue, you'll know that a great night of comedy is guaranteed! Local comedian Ashley Frieze will be your MC for the evening - a high-octane performer, who has been entertaining audiences across the UK for over 20 years. He will be introducing 3 hilarious acts and packing in the laughs up in the gallery.

Fish and chips and bar from 6:00-8:00pm – open to all. Comedy and bar from 8:00pm – tickets required. Tickets are limited, so get ahead and book yours now: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stratfordtheatrecompany/2115656



Feldon Valley Military and Naval History Society

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

on Wednesday, **20th May 2026**
at **8.00 pm** for a talk by Hope Price:

My Father's War

A staff officer's experiences in the Western Desert and on D-Day

contact: Peter Stoddart
at: petercstoddart@gmail.com

Activities and Open Classes at The Hall

Monday	**9:15-10:30am**	**Yoga with Claire**: 07980 543437 www.inspirehealthandwellbeing.co.uk
	11:00-12noon	**Fitness Pilates with Juliet**: 07899 966303 www.julietrobbins.com
	4:00-4:30 pm **4:30-5:05pm**	**Mini Tennis Stars** 2 children's tennis classes - movement, agility, coordination. Classes for ages 3-4.5yrs and 4.5-6yrs – contact www.minitennisstars.co.uk/
	6:00-7:00pm	**Pink Belt Ladies Kickboxing** with Demi: 07984 377069 demimcaleenan@gmail.com
	7:00-9:00pm	**Parish Council Meeting** Bi-monthly 3rd Mon, – 16 Feb, 20 Apr, 15 June, 17 Aug, 19 Oct
Tuesday	**10:00-11:00am**	**Pilates with Pam**: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
	11:30-12:30pm	**MELT Method** with Debbie Williams: 07966 746794 www.debbie-williams.co.uk
	4:00-5:15pm	**Atomic Dance:** Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	6:30-7:30pm	**Pilates with Pam:** *07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com*
	7:00-8:00pm	**Feldons Wildlife Group** Last Tuesday gpwilliams20@sky.com
Wednesday	**10am-1:30pm**	**Gurgle & Co** 3 x Baby & Toddler developmental sessions. https://gurgleandco.com/
	4:00-7:00pm	**Atomic Dance**: Multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	10am-1:00pm	**Stour Stitchers** Sewing group 1st, 3rd & 5th Weds:: stourstitchers@gmail.com
	8:00-10:00pm	**Garden Group** 1st Weds:– Chris Carr chris@homefarm2.co.uk
	8:00-9:30pm	**Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society**: 3rd Weds: Peter Stoddart petercstoddart@gmail.com - 18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May
Thurs	**9:15-10:15am**	**Pilates with Pam**: 07971 800337 pamgardner_500@hotmail.com
Friday	**11:15am–12:15**	**MELT Method Improvers**, with Debbie Williams, pre-booked blocks of 5 classes. Telephone: 07966 746794 / www.debbie-williams.co.uk
	4:15-8:00pm	**Atomic Dance**, multiple children's dance classes: www.atomicdance.co.uk
	2:00-4:00pm	***Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership**, Feel Good Fridays meetings **FORTNIGHTLY:** - Health and well-being, a sociable space, games, chat, teas. Vanessa on (01608) 663320 – 6, 20 Feb / 6, 20 March / 17 April / 1, 15, 29 May / 12, 26 June / 10, 24 July / 7, 21 Aug*
Saturday	**9:15-10:15am**	**Zumba with Rachel**: 07948 250616 shipstonzumba@gmail.com
	10:30-12noon	**Coffee Shop** 2nd SATURDAY OF MONTH (but see dates). All Welcome to pop in! – Freshly ground coffee and hot drinks, bacon baps, cakes: Next dates 14 March

VILLAGE NEWS

LONG COMPTON

Email: editor@swlink.gmail.com

At the time of writing, we are getting ready for April's Big Quiz Night at Long Compton Village Hall at the weekend and we look forward to reporting back on the winning team and those challenged, as always, by Simon Bing's devilish questions.

The hall was built 70 years ago, and Mo Read has given us some pictures of its construction all that time ago.





To celebrate its birthday as a valuable community space for all, we are having a party which will be a barn dance on 23rd May and are delighted that a local band, The Silver Bough Band, will be leading us through the Ceilidh dancing and evening's entertainment. If you would like to book your ticket, then please email thecommittee@longcomptonvh.co.uk as soon as you can.

Social Saturday is on 9th May and is combined with the AGM as always in May. The homemade savouries and cakes will be available from 11:00am and the AGM starts at noon. We promise not to take up too much of your time, but it is your chance to hear about the finances and the running of LCVH. It is also an opportunity to volunteer if you fancy being on the committee or to have a say in how the hall is run in the future. We hope to see you there!

Long Compton Village Hall Committee


CEILIDH BARN DANCE
IT'S LC VILLAGE HALL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
7PM, 23RD MAY 2026
AT LONG COMPTON VILLAGE HALL
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Bough Band
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Coffee and Cake at Social Saturday
WITH THE VILLAGE HALL AGM AT NOON
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100 Club

The April Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 11 April. The results were:

1st	Mr Price	2nd	Mr & Mrs Nelson
3rd	Alex Edwards	4th	Mr & Mrs Wimshurst

Tickets are still available for further Draws – contact below:

Chris Galloway 684234

Comptonians

On May 20th we have a visit to Yew Tree Farm Shopping Village.
The pickup is at 10:00am at the Village Hall and Crockwell Street.

Margaret Welsh 684238



Join us for Community Coffee

at



St Peter and St Paul`s Church, Long Compton

on

Wednesday May 6th 10.30am to 12.00 noon

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

Trevor Hobday

The stately bells of Long Compton rang out for the joyous occasion of Trevor Hobday's 90th birthday on April 11th

On the April 14th, our usual practice night, the bellringers from many different local villages came to honour Trevor and to raise a glass, or two, in celebration of our dear friend and fellow ringer on his birthday. In no time at all Trevor was ringing his favourite, and sometimes complicated, bellringing methods exercising our minds as well as our bodies.

Happy Birthday Trevor!



Trevor is pictured centre here with his birthday badge.

Compton District History Society

Both the talks for March, The Mitford Sisters, and April, Adventures in Chocolate, were well received.

The next talk will take place on 13 May. It is entitled *'Crime and Punishment across the Centuries'*. The speaker is Stuart Brown KC, a resident of Long Compton, who is a retired Crown Court Recorder and Mental Health Tribunal Judge. He will ask how we got from burnings at the stake, pillories and stocks to having the largest prison population in Western Europe. At the end there will be audience participation in a quiz and in passing their own 2026 sentences in a small number of real cases.

As usual, members pay £1.00 per talk. Visitors are very welcome - we charge an entry fee of £3.00. There will be tea or coffee after the talk.

Christopher Fance

Compton Creatives



Flowers was the loose theme of the last gathering of the Creatives Group at The Chapel. A variety of crafts were explored with attendees crocheting, working with tapestry wools, glass painting and beadwork – alongside plenty of chat, tea and cake.

One attendee was working on some fabric flowers which were much admired and at the May meeting she will tutor those interested through the making process. The Group will meet at 2:00pm on Tuesday 12th May and all are welcome.

Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

Long Compton Chapel

We have almost completed the works to flood proof the Chapel. We have paint to give another coat to the floors when the weather is a little warmer! We are awaiting some stone to top up the car park and a barrier. The latter will allow parking in the car park but there will be a small fee. No doubt there will be teething problems so it may take a while to get this under way!

We are celebrating 206 years this year and hope you can join us for a service on Sunday 17th May at 3.30pm.



The "Creatives" now meet at the Chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm. We sometimes have a theme and sometimes there will be demonstrations. Mostly however you are welcome to bring along your current project or simply come along to have a chat and a cuppa - with obligatory cake of course. There is no official charge, but any donations go towards the heating etc!

Whist Drives continue on the 4th Saturday of the month the next on May 23rd at 7:00pm, the fee of £7.00 includes play, prizes, raffle and refreshments. Come and have a go!

The can collection remains in the car park for Kathrine House Hospice and The Book Library is in the porch.

May sees the Shipston Home Nursing plant sale and any plants will be gratefully received and any purchases even more!

We look forward to seeing you at one of these activities.

God Bless.

Sally Franklin 0787054543

LONG COMPTON CLUBS AND GROUPS		
Name	**Meeting day and time**	**Contact**
100 Club	Annual payment. Drawn monthly at Social Saturday	Chris Galloway 01608 684234
Bell Ringing	Alternates between churches at LC, Whichford and Cherrington Every Tues 7.30-9:00pm	Sarah Elliot 07866046001
Book Club	Private Houses 2nd Thurs 7:00-8.30pm	Imogen Brown brownimogen@gmail.com
Bridge	Beginners welcome. LCVH 2nd Tues 7:00pm and 4th Thurs 2:00pm	Chris Galloway 01608 684234
Coffee and Chat	LCVH Every Thurs 8.30-9.30am	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
Community Coffee Morning	Church of St Peter & St Paul 1st Weds 10.30-12:00	Clare Wells 01608 684337
Compton Creatives	LC Congregational Chapel 2nd Tues 2:00pm	Elizabeth Gilkes 07791621778 gilkesenterprises.com
Comptonians	LCVH 3rd Weds 2.30pm	Margaret Welsh 01608 684238
Connect - local Church Families	LCVH 2nd Sunday 3:00-4:00pm	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
Giggle Tots 0-4years	LCVH Term-time Every Thurs 10:00-11.30	Kim Petty 07949949215 kimpetty@btinternet.com
History Society	LCVH 2nd Weds 7.30pm Sept-June	Diana Cook 01608 684771 and Christopher Fance 01608 674207
L C and District Garden Club	LCVH 4th Weds 7:10pm in Winter. Outings in Spring/Summer	Walter Sawyer secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com
LC Sports Club	Recreation Ground Cricket Sundays. Junior Football 7-12 years Tues Eve	Shaun Kench. longcomptonsportsclub@outlook.com
LCVH Social Saturday	LCVH 2nd Saturday 11:00am-1:00pm.	thecommitee@longcomptonvh.co.uk.
Needlework	LCVH 1stTues 2:00pm	Katie Nye 01608 684363 katienye@gmail.com
Walking Club	2nd Tues	Stuart Brown scbqc1@gmail.com
Whist	LC Congregational Chapel 4th Sat 7.00pm	Elizabeth Gilkes 07791621778 gilkesenterprises.com

VILLAGE NEWS
Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for April is Evelyn Newport.

Jenny Scrivener

Plant and Produce Sale



I am holding a pop-up plant and produce sale at home in Whichford in aid of Shipston Home Nursing.
The sale is on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May from 10:00am – 5:00pm, selling plants, pots, garden furniture, jams, produce and cakes.

I would be very grateful for donations of any plants, seedlings and home produce any time before then to me at Berry's Orchard, Whichford.

With many thanks, Sophie Corlett

Cancer Research Charity Sale

A sale of silk flowers, gift boxes, baskets, hat boxes and material, plus cushions. Refreshments will be served including tea, coffee and homemade cakes. All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK. To be held at Shepherds Close, Whichford, CV36 5PG, from 10.30am on Saturday 16 May 2026.

Cash only please, no card payments. All welcome.

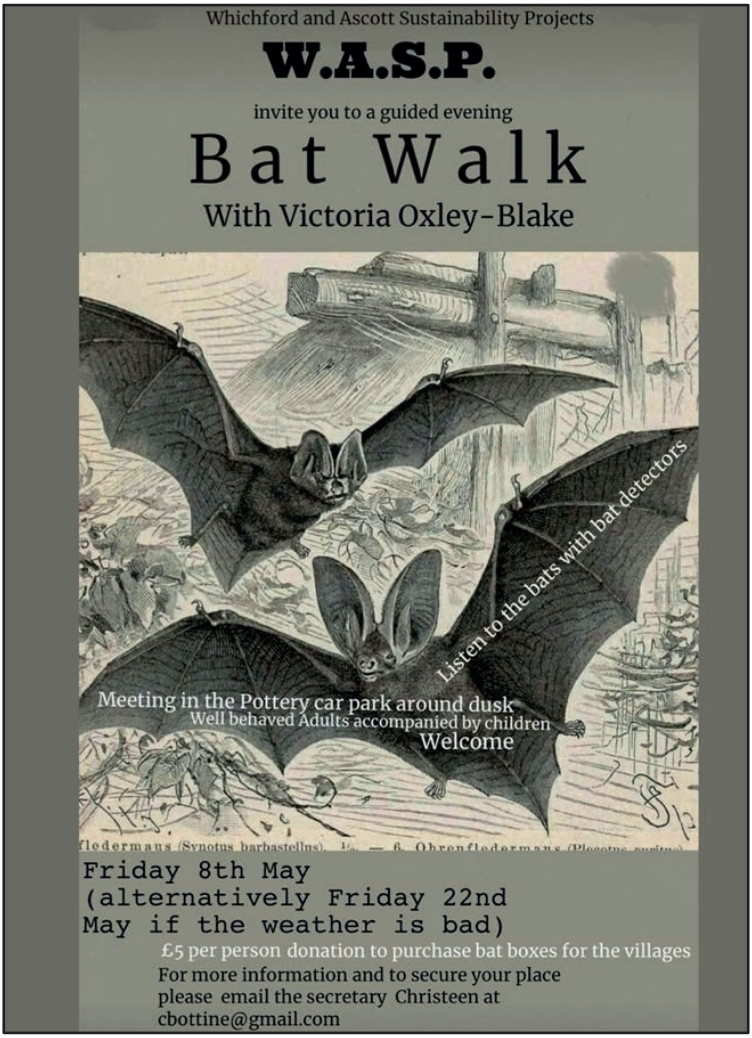
Diana Russell

Whichford and Ascott's NGS Open Gardens Day

Please save the date of Sunday 21 June for the NGS Open Gardens in Whichford and Ascott. We are planning to open eight gardens this year, including one new garden. There will be home-made teas in aid of St Michael's Church and a plant stall.

More details to follow.

Katharine Wood



VILLAGE NEWS
The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The April winners were as follows;

1st Henry Warriner 2nd Charles Hobbs 3rd Bob Large

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 jamesvanhelden@hotmail.com

Coffee, Cake and Chat at Wolford Church



Tuesday 15 May 10:30am-12:30pm

Come and join us for a chat over coffee (or tea) and cake at St Michael's Church

Come and meet new friends (or old ones!)

Share your interests and just chat

Everyone welcome





1.00pm at Aunt Phoebe's Recreation Ground, Long Compton, CV36 5JJ

Featuring 'Dangerous Steve' Stunt Show, Zorbing, dog show, classic cars, market stalls, live music and a host of other entertainment for all the family.

We look forward to seeing you.

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? 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 7:00am on 29 May!

What items do we want from you? Well, we are always surprised at what sells so anything really, 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 and 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

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Great Wolford Plants and Produce Stall

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May





Great Wolford will again be hosting the plant sale outside Shepherds Close, Great Wolford for Shipston Home Nursing.

GARDENERS- Please sow or pot up plants now to donate to the

stall. Donations of jams, chutneys and baked goods are very welcome too.

For details of how to donate or volunteer to help please contact Sue Rew 07857 542 147


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Free talk - Advance booking essential

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