

# THE LINK

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

NOVEMBER 2025

£1.20



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

## November Events Update (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

<b>Sun 2</b>	Light of the World Event	Long Compton Ch	16:00
	Cantamus A Capella Choir	The Hall, Stourton	15:00
<b>Tues 4</b>	Jam Festival	Burmington VH	14:00
<b>Weds 5</b>	Community Coffee	Long Compton Ch	10:30
<b>Thurs 6</b>	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
	Farmer's Market	The Hall, Stourton	18:00
<b>Sat 8</b>	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10:30
	Whichford Xmas Gift Fair	Vernon Hse Farm, Ascott	10:00
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11:00
<b>Sun 9</b>	Remembrance Service	Whichford Ch	09:00
	Remembrance Service	Long Compton Ch	10:50
	Remembrance Service	Wolford Ch	10:50
	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30
<b>Tues 11</b>	Coffee and Chat	Wolford Ch	<b>10:30</b>
	Cameo Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12:00
<b>Weds 12</b>	History Society	Long Compton VH	19:30
<b>Thurs 13</b>	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
<b>Fri 14</b>	Feel Good Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14:00
	Bingo Night	Burmington VH	18:30
	Movie: <i>Maria Callas</i>	Brailes Picture House	19:15
	Aret Komlosy	Townsend Hall, Shipston	19:00
<b>Sat 15</b>	Taste of the Hedgerow	Long Compton VH	19:30
<b>Weds 19</b>	Feldon Military & Naval Soc	The Hall, Stourton	19:30
	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	12:30
<b>Thurs 20</b>	Coffee and Chat	Long Compton VH	08:30
	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10:00
<b>Sat 22</b>	SW7 Men' Breakfast	Wolford VH	07:45
	Theatre: <i>Dead On Cue</i>	The Hall, Stourton	19:10
<b>Sun 23</b>	Charity Pub Quiz	Red Lion, Long Compton	19:30

<b>Weds 26</b>	Garden Club AGM	Long Compton VH The Hall, Stourton	19:10 19:30
<b>Thurs 27</b>	Coffee and Chat Country Market	Long Compton VH Moreton WI Hall	08:30 10:00
<b>Fri 28</b>	Carers 4 Carers	Kineton VH	10:30
<b>Sat 29</b>	SW7 Women's Breakfast Family Bingo	Wolford VH The Hall, Stourton	08:30 19:30
<b>Sun 30</b>	Brass Concert	The Hall, Stourton	15:00



*What you need to know...*

- Quiz starts at 7.30 (ish)
- Teams of up to 6 people (£2 per person entry fee)
- Each quiz supports a different charity - visit our website to find out which charities we are supporting this season: [redlion-longcompton.co.uk/events-entertainment/pub-quiz/](http://redlion-longcompton.co.uk/events-entertainment/pub-quiz/)
- Book a table to guarantee seats for your team
- There is a raffle with great prizes at each quiz




 @redlionlongcomp

*Quiz dates for your diary*

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER  
 SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER  
 SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER  
 SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS QUIZ  
 SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY - QUIZ OF THE YEAR  
 SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY | SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY  
 SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY  
 SUNDAY 1ST MARCH - LAST QUIZ OF THE SEASON

**Please note the copy deadline for December 2025:  
November 13th**

# The LINK TEAM

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Welcome to the November edition of The Link. Winter, otherwise known as 'Muddy Paws Season', is upon us and I am spending most of my time following two cats and a dog around with a steam mop. Still, it has been a glorious Autumn and the trip to Batsford I promised myself was particularly spectacular, not only for the colour of the maple trees but also for the number of people who also decided it was a good idea to visit!

This is a bumper edition of The Link with Remembrance events and Christmas activities to fill your diary. I am keen to go to the Whichford Christmas Gift Fair for the first time this year as I have heard great things about it and anything that makes Christmas shopping easier can only be a good thing.

Finally, I was saddened to hear of the recent death of Alan Holmes. Alan was Cherington editor for many years and until recently had taken care of the collection and distribution of the magazine. Condolences to his family and thank you Alan for your contribution to the Link.

**Sara Billins**



Cover photograph: *Crataegus orientalis* by Celia Sawyer

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](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)



## Happy Birthday! 2025



<b>Claire Fifer-Flaherty</b>	<b>Long Compton</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Matthew Clarke</b>	<b>Burmington</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Esme Willow McCutcheon</b>	<b>Cherington</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sebastian Matthews</b>	<b>Whichford</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Emilie Ada Lamb</b>	<b>Long Compton</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Leah Dudfield</b>	<b>Stourton</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Harvey Joshua Streets</b>	<b>Whichford</b>	<b>17</b>

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**Carers4Carers** - your local support group for family carers.

We meet on the fourth Friday of each month, 10:30am–12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Enjoy refreshments, friendly chat, and mutual support.

Loved ones are welcome—they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

Friday 28th November: Christmas Crafting. No artistic skill needed—all materials provided. Just come and enjoy!

For info or help with transport, contact Gillian: 07947 893504 or [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com), [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk)

**Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator**

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

**Please visit one of our dementia friendly cafes locally**

Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm



Shipston on Stour CV36 4QG

Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm



Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH

Thursday from 10.30am - 12.30pm



Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0DS

Friday from 10am - 12 noon

Tysoe Village Hall CV35 0SE

1st Tuesday of each month  
from 10.30am - 12.30pm

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

Google



**talkdementia.uk**

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

**Contact** Paul and Heather Dowler

**Phone** 01295 688376

**Email** [talkdementia.uk@gmail.com](mailto:talkdementia.uk@gmail.com)



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](http://www.shipstonlink.co.uk)



### SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR PROBUS CLUB

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



FRIENDSHIP | FUN | FASCINATING TALKS

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

ALL WELCOME!

### CAMEO LUNCH CLUB



Next meeting  
Tuesday 11th November  
12:00 noon for 12:30 pm  
Burmington Village Hall

Please book with Brenda | 01608 664313



## Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

We are a cooperative of local producers. So visit us for homemade food, vegetables, preserves, honey, cards and craft.

Every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh.

### Dates for the diary for November

**6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November** – Christmas food samples will be available to buy and try before you order. Don't forget to pick up an order form.

**BRING THIS ADVERT WITH YOU, AND JOIN US FOR A FREE HOT DRINK!!**

**07346126269 / [mimcountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:mimcountrymarket@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook**

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



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

**Are you no longer working full time and wanting to do something new?**

Join us at u3a on a fulfilling journey of learning, friendship, and fun, where individuals come together to explore new interests and share experiences.

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

### Why Join U3A?

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

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

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

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

For more information and a full list of activities, please look at our website [www.sosa.u3asite.uk](http://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](mailto:secretary@sosau3acommittee.org) to find out more

# 4 Shires Swimming Club



Whether you're a confident young novice swimmer, a serious older swimmer aiming for County and Regionals, or a Masters swimmer focused on fitness or competition, Four Shires Swimming Club offers a fun, friendly, and supportive environment to help you reach your goals.

We welcome swimmers aged 8 and above, starting from Swim England Stage 6, and provide a structured pathway through our Development, Competition, Performance, and Masters squads.

With flexible training sessions held at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, Kingham Hill School, and Sibford School, you'll build skills, stamina, and confidence in a motivating squad atmosphere.

Our recent highlights include South East Regional Championships competitors and a national silver medal for Masters swimmer Mike Ireland.

We're also currently recruiting for swimming coaches to join our team. Saturday mornings, Sunday afternoons, and weekday evenings available. Swim teaching experience essential.

*"4 Shires helped me go from lessons to Regionals – the coaches are so supportive, and I love being part of the club!" – Ben, P.*

**Trial sessions available now!**

Visit [www.4ssc.co.uk](http://www.4ssc.co.uk) or email [membership@4ssc.co.uk](mailto:membership@4ssc.co.uk)



A Cappella Choir



# Cantamus

A CONCERT OF  
MOVING AND  
UPLIFTING MUSIC,  
COMPLEMENTED  
BY READINGS TO  
MATCH THE  
MOOD

## SHADES OF AUTUMN



SUNDAY  
2ND NOVEMBER 2025, AT 3 PM

THE HALL, STOURTON  
CV36 5HG

TICKETS £15.00  
INCLUDES TEA & CAKE



For more Information &  
Tickets Scan QR Code



[cantamus.org.uk](http://cantamus.org.uk)



## Cantamus to perform at The Hall

As a change to its usual venues in and around Shipston on Stour, the accomplished a cappella choir Cantamus will be performing at The Hall in Stourton in November. This recently built venue in a beautiful rural setting offers excellent performance space and facilities for the concert, with comfy seating and eco heating.

Cantamus will present "*Shades of Autumn*", a programme of seasonal songs and readings. By turns reflective and amusing, the concert conveys all the wistfulness and joy of the changing moods of summer and autumn.

The programme will be a well-considered mix of pieces to suit the occasion, with some beautiful sacred music by Lauridsen, Bairstow, and Daley interspersed with pieces by Elgar, Brahms and Rheinberger. Richard Emms's arrangements of songs by the likes of Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Sting and Lennon and McCartney will also feature. There will even be some barbershop quartet singing. Readings by Anne Hume in her inimitable style, some very poignant, some humorous.

The big draw of course will be homemade cakes in the interval. Many of the choir members are excellent cooks when they aren't singing.

The concert takes place on Sunday 2 November at 3:00 pm at The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG.

Tickets are available via the website or at the door and cost £15.00 to include tea and cake. [www.cantamus.org.uk](http://www.cantamus.org.uk)





STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS

# DEAD ON CUE

SAME PLAY. SAME THEATRE. SAME DRESSING ROOM.

68 YEARS APART

"TIME IS OUT OF JOINT"

A NEW  
GHOSTLY THRILLER

WRITTEN BY  
MARK CAREY

(INTO THE BREACH & WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH BENNY HILL?)



FROM THE PRODUCER OF

OLD HERBACEOUS

THREE MEN IN A BOAT

FAGIN?

MY DOG'S GOT NO NOSE

"THERE ARE  
MORE THINGS IN  
HEAVEN AND EARTH..."

**The Hall Cherington, Stourton & Sutton**

Pinfold Lane, Stourton, CV36 5HG

**Sat 22 Nov 2025 7.30pm**

£15 Tel - 07775 765572

email - [info@thehallevents.org.uk](mailto:info@thehallevents.org.uk) or online at

[www.buytickets.at/stratfordtheatrecompany](http://www.buytickets.at/stratfordtheatrecompany)

[WWW.STRAFORDTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.STRAFORDTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG.UK)





52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE

Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...  
On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Aret Komlosy

Accompanied by Hugh Turner on guitar; Curtis Ruiz on  
bass; and Steve Wyndam on drums

Performing great American  
songbook classics and some  
contemporary music from the  
likes of Amy Whitehouse...

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00  
Tickets £15 in advance; £17 on the Door  
From the Flower House, 3 Market Place,  
Shipston and online via  
[ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall) or  
[townsendhall.co.uk](http://townsendhall.co.uk)

Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone  
Peter on 07711-562317

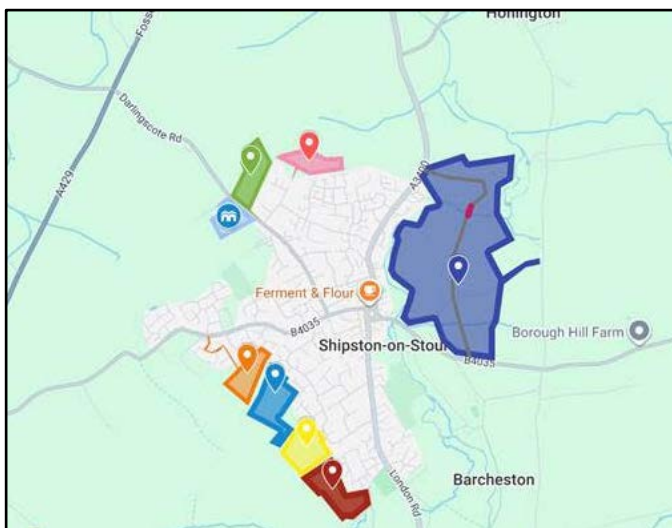
# Save Our Shipston: Protecting our town. Preserving our Future

## What's Happening?

Shipston is under real threat. Developers have submitted proposals for over 1,600 newhouses – including 466 homes on the west side and a staggering 1150 more on the east by Fell Mill. If approved, this would increase the size of Shipston by 67%.

That's more cars on our roads, more pressure on our schools and GP services, and permanent loss of our precious green spaces and town character.

We are a group of local residents working together to stop speculative, large-scale developments that put profits before community. We are not against growth — but it must be balanced, sustainable, and right for Shipston.



## Why We Need Your Help

Challenging major planning applications requires expertise, time, and funding. With your support, we can fight back and make our voices heard.

## Where Your Donation Goes

Every pound you give helps us to protect the Fell Mill open countryside:

- Hire expert planning consultants and legal advisors
- Fund specialist reports on traffic, flooding and the environment
- Run community awareness campaigns – leaflets, banners, public meetings

## **Our Fundraising Goal: £30,000**

This will enable us to present a strong, professional opposition to inappropriate development. Any funds remaining after the campaign will be donated to Shipston Home Nursing – supporting our community, no matter what

### **How You Can Help**

- Donate today – even £5.00 makes a difference
- Share this page with friends, family and neighbours
- Get involved – join our meetings, help deliver leaflets, or volunteer your skills

Because...

Together, we can protect the Shipston we love – its landscape, community spirit, and heritage. Thank you for your support.

**Website: [www.saveourshipston.org](http://www.saveourshipston.org)**

**Fund site: <https://gofund.me/611a33fb3>**



The poster features the gofundme logo at the top center. Below it, the text 'Save Our Shipston ~ Stop Overdevelopment' is written in a large, bold, black font. Underneath the text is a photograph of a long row of modern, two-story houses with red roofs, set against a backdrop of rolling hills under a clear sky. At the bottom left, there is a green button with the text 'Donate now!'. To the right of the button is a QR code. Below the button and QR code, the URL 'gofund.me/wash.town.leaf' is displayed with a small link icon to the left.

*The Post Office van is in the car park by the village shop in Long Compton from 9.30 -11.30 am Monday and Wednesday, and from 12.30 to 2.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday.*

*Shipston 'tip' is open - to book <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>.*

## **Local Catholic Church Services**

### ***Chipping Norton***

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

### ***Stow-on-the-Wold***

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

### ***Shipston and Brailes***

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

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

### ***Chipping Campden***

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

## **Local Quaker Meetings**

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

## **Local Congregational Services**

Services at the Ebenezer Chapel, Long Compton as advertised

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

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

## Parish Council

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Ed Law	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

# CHURCH NOTES

## **A Tribute to Elaine Hobday 1939 – 2025**

Many Link readers will have been sad to learn of Elaine's death in August; this tribute and short account of her very full life has been prepared with the help of her friends and family.



Elaine was born in 1939 in New Zealand, the youngest of 5 children. She met Trevor at university in Christchurch, New Zealand, where she qualified as a teacher. They married soon after, starting their married life in New Zealand. Trevor's career took them to many different countries in the course of his working life, including Canada, the USA, Spain and Sweden. They had three children, Sarah, Julian and Rosalind; sadly, Rosalind died of cancer in 2006.

Trevor and Elaine came to live in Long Compton in 1990 and Elaine taught at The Croft School in Stratford until her retirement. She immersed herself in village life, participating in almost every society from garden club to history society, with her strong Christian faith underpinning her voluntary work. She was a founder member of Compton District History Society and undertook interviews of elderly

residents of Long Compton for the Oral History project. The records of these interviews are still in the Lychgate archive.

Another contribution to the village was her involvement in the planning and mapping of the four Dragonfly walks around the village, a millennium project. She undertook to challenge any local landowner who did not maintain local footpaths! These walks have given huge enjoyment to locals and visitors ever since.

Fulfilling her lifelong interest in education, Elaine served as a school governor and as a member of the Multi Academy Trust; she also took part in Open the Book, introducing the Bible to children at Acorns. For many years an active member of Long Compton PCC Elaine took on numerous tasks to help with the work of the church but also found time to help out at the village hall and the chapel when needed.

Elaine trained as a Lay Reader and was licensed in 2004, joining the Benefice Ministry Leadership Team, supporting first Richard Smith and then Stuart Allen in ministry and pastoral care across the 7 villages until retiring in 2017. Elaine's Nativity services, involving local children and directed with her usual verve and flair, are remembered with affection by past performers! She also served as a member of Shipston Deanery Synod and Coventry Diocesan Synod between 2015 and 2020.

Elaine loved the theatre, making regular trips to the RSC in Stratford, and she directed the pantomime for Shipston Amateur Dramatics Society for several years. A book lover and voracious reader, Elaine was a regular attender at Book Group both in Long Compton and Barton; latterly her favourite way to consume literature was on Audible via her smartphone - always keen to keep up with modern life, Elaine embraced technology and enjoyed listening to a good book while preparing the next meal for her family, whom she loved to entertain at The Old Barn. She delighted in the company of young people and took great pride in her children and grandchildren.

For Elaine every new encounter was an opportunity for a conversation - usually a long one! But it was rare to hear her complain, her approach to life was full of enthusiasm and a determination to find the positive, even in a difficult situation.

She will be warmly remembered by a wide circle of friends and neighbours throughout Long Compton and the Benefice for the many and varied contributions she made to the life of these villages.

**Jill Kirb**

## SW7 Benefice Walk for World Vision

Last Saturday, seven churches from the Borough of Stratford joined forces to help tackle the rising hunger crisis affecting millions of children across the world.

The South Warwickshire Seven Benefice (SW7) churches organised the walk involving members from all seven of their churches to raise money for the world's largest children's charity, World Vision. The walk was led by Ben Dyson, Rector of SW7 Benefice - a group of historic rural churches, including St Peter and St Paul, Long Compton; St Martin, Barcheston; St Lawrence, Barton-on-the-Heath; St Barnabas and St Nicholas, Burmington; St John the Baptist, Cherington; St Michael, Whichford; and St Michael and All Angels, Wolford.

Twenty walkers (ranging in age from 6 to 93 years) walked a range of different routes from 3 to 14 miles and have currently raised over £2,500 for a range of World Vision projects including emergency food supplies in times of crisis, to the set-up of climate-resistant gardens and water points for families living in drought-affected areas.

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

The popular Cherington and Stourton Village Hall was used as the base for the walk, and local Paddock Farm Butchers supplied bacon and sausage roll provisions.

Ben Chancellor, Philanthropy Manager at World Vision, joined the walk with his 6-year-old daughter, and thanked the churches for their commitment:

*"In a time when we see so many crises affecting children and families on our TV screens - from man-made to natural disasters - it was such a heartening experience to see families from the local church community stepping up to support them. As the World Food Programme's longest and largest implementing partner, World Vision is*

*working in local communities in some of the hardest places to be a child and is committed to tackle malnutrition and hunger through its work. With 295 million people across 53 countries reported to be facing acute hunger, fundraising efforts such as this are urgently needed and so welcomed."*

If you would like to join SW7 in supporting the work of World Vision please donate by visiting the JustGiving page: [justgiving.com/page/sw7benefice](http://justgiving.com/page/sw7benefice)

**Richard Stevens**

## SW7 Men's Breakfast

*Mike Hill*

Wolford Village Hall

Saturday 22nd Nov 2025

7.45am

Full English Breakfast

Book Now £10.00

rmaycock287@btinternet.com

Tele : 01608 686404

tamjackson52@hotmail.com

Tele : 077990574775

epfield98@gmail.com

Tele : 07976700763



**Certainty  
in a  
Changing World**

## SW7 Women's Breakfast

*Nicola Coombs*

*" Is there more to life than this !? "*

Wolford Village Hall

Saturday 29th November 2025

At 8.30am

Breakfast £12.00

RSVP

Liz Maycock 01608 686404

lizzymaycock@gmail.com

Sarah Scotter 01608 686303

sarah.scotter@hotmail.com



## CONNECT

Would you like to meet with other families in your community for an afternoon of friendship, fun, games and crafts and an opportunity to meet some of your local church family in a relaxed setting,

Come to Long Compton Village Hall  
Every Second Sunday of the month 3-4pm

Refreshments provided

**Connect is being organised by the  
South Warwickshire 7 group of churches.**

**For more details, please contact  
Kim Petty, [kimpetty@btinternet.com](mailto:kimpetty@btinternet.com) 07949949215**

## Posada



The word posada comes from a Mexican word meaning stay over for the night. Would you like the Nativity story to come and shelter with you for one night?

You choose a date in December when you are free with your family to enjoy opening a gift box together, it contains locally hand-crafted nativity dolls to help

you recreate the nativity scene, then you can read the Christmas Promise story book and open a door of the Christmas promise calendar together. The next day you wrap it all carefully back up and pass it on to the next family on the list  
Please contact Kim Petty 07949949215/[kimpetty@btinternet.com](mailto:kimpetty@btinternet.com)

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

November 2025 CHURCH SERVICES						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Birmingham	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> All Saints	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				Gap Light Party 4:00pm (KP/BD)	10:30am CW Holy Communion VILLAGE HALL (BD)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November</b> Remembrance			10:50am Remembrance Service (RSt/LM)	10:50am Remembrance Service (BD)	10:50am Remembrance Service (AW)	10:50am Remembrance Service (CLW)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> November</b> 2nd before Advent		9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	3:00pm Connect at the Village Hall (BD/KP)	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> Christ the King					4pm GAP Informal Service (BD)	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b> Advent Sunday			10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD)		10:30am CW Holy Communion (BD/MH)	9:00am BCP Holy Communion (BD/MH)
					4:00pm GAP Informal Service (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](http://www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk)      facebook.com/sw7churches


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

*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



You are warmly invited to Celebrate the Light of the World

Fun, Food, Games and Creativity for all the family

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Long Compton

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 4pm.

For more information contact Kim Petty 07949949215.

**Thank You**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the team at The Link for their hugely generous donation of £500 to each parish in the benefice for the upkeep of our beautiful church buildings. Needless to say, the gift has been greatly appreciated not least because of the signal of support it sends to those who give of their time as volunteers on our seven PCCs.

Thank you so much!

**Ben Dyson (Rector SW7)**

**Benefice**



The Poppy Appeal for 2025 commences on Friday October 24th and continues until Saturday November 8th with Sunday November 9th being Remembrance day.

Our door to door collectors will, as usual be visiting all local areas to hopefully receive your generous support. A smartphone alternative to cash will again be available.

The traditional two minutes silence will be nationally observed at 11:00am on Armistice Day, Tuesday November 11th.

**David Whatley- District Appeal Organiser**

It's the 3rd of October and we have had 12ml of rain today. I am pleased it has rained. We have finished drilling autumn wheat and beans in the easiest drilling time I can think I can ever remember. The long dry summer followed by an early harvest gave us plenty of time to plan our workload. I've never seen soil work so well. I expected everything to be like concrete, but it turned out to be the



opposite. The dry summer seemed to help restructure the soil in some way. The ground cut up with the heavy discs early, had a few showers on it and the old saying in these parts that 'if you worked ground dry it never really got wet'. That seemed the case this year. All the ground was power harrowed once, some drilled with our combined drill, some with our direct drill, and all rolled to leave a level finish for Dan to apply the 'pre-ems' that hopefully will control blackgrass and many of the annual weeds. The working of the ground early with the clearance of the corn, plus showers, when the long dry spell finally ended, gave ideal conditions for a wonderful chit of seedling blackgrass which was killed before the new crop was sown. Of course, it could all go wrong, but at least it's

had a perfect start. Some years ago, we were looking into buying a tined drill, and a chance encounter with Pete Brown from Rollright put us in touch with Mr Weaving, who converted our Accord drill to a tined cultivator drill. It hadn't been used for several seasons, and Dan got it out last spring to sow some of the spring barley. This year I used it to drill 35 acres of winter beans. For several years now, Dan has done the drilling with our other drills, but as he was tied up cleaning beans for seed, I got the job of bean drilling. I soon got the hang of things, having drilled many acres with it in the past. The proof of the pudding will be in about 14 days' time when they come up.

I wrote last time that we drilled two fields with a mixture of clovers. I'm pleased to see all have come up and I'm hopeful they will stand the winter. Into this, buckwheat and others can be drilled, in the spring. We harvested a little patch of mustard inside the gate, roughly an acre, and got several sacks of seed. Dan planted it in an 8-acre field the next day after harvesting the seed. It lay in the ground for over a month till we had enough rain to germinate it and now it is growing well and is a green cover crop. As I mentioned, before it's a difficult field to plough, so Dan plans to direct drill it in the spring.



Last Tuesday, when I was drilling the beans, I got to the last short turn in the corner and lifted the drill out to end autumn sowing. To me, this is the end of the farming year. Most people used to celebrate the finish of harvest, but to me that meant lots more hours of ploughing, working down ground, and often if the weather was against you, a very trying period. Tripping the drill out on the last turn on the last field, I found a great relief. The rest of the year was safe, cattle come into yards, and you can do what you needed to with no rush or panic.

I wrote in the past about looking over a field that's come up in full drill eases your mind a lot. There can't be many industries where you plant something, not knowing if it will come up or what it will yield, or what you may get for it if all goes well. So, if all does go well, the next farming notes may have a photo of a nice field of wheat in full drill.

**John 'Tufty' Richardson**

# GARDENING NOTES

Editors: Margaret Welsh  
and Miranda Arnold

I'm writing this on a grey and dank mid-October morning, and the dankness just makes me think about nice things I could be doing indoors, rather than in my garden. However, despite the fact that it's really the end of the more fun and interesting garden jobs, there is still work to be done. Some of which you can do indoors - or at least under some kind of cover. The first of these is to finish planting your bulbs for next spring. Ideally, you should have planted your narcissus and daffodils already, but it's still not quite too late. And it's absolutely the right time to be planting tulips, which should be planted in pots of fresh compost (or outdoors in your beds and borders) at a depth of 2-3 times the height of the bulb. I'm experimenting this year with some very bright and showy tulips from Sarah Raven, who also sells gorgeous bulb collections for containers. (I'm not on commission!) Whichford Pottery also has frequent bulb sales, and I bought some beautiful narcissus from them. (again, I'm not on commission!) They'll make a glorious display next spring.



Lift your dahlia tubers from the ground or from pots to store and over-winter in a cool frost-free spot. If you're planning to re-use dahlia pots for your bulbs this

year, take out about a third or half of the used compost and refill it with fresh compost to ensure your bulbs have a good start.

Raise outdoor containers onto pot feet or bricks so they don't get water-logged over the winter and insulate them from frost with hessian or bubble-wrap. Alternatively, if you have the space, move tender plants in pots to an unheated greenhouse or cool indoor room.

Another entertaining indoor job, if you haven't already done it, is to order flower and vegetable seeds and plug plants for next year. Even though I mostly order my seeds online, I still get a load of catalogues sent to me, which is a terrible waste of paper and postage costs. (Very good for browsing though.)

Cut down faded perennials and give them a good mulch around the base. Alternatively, if you don't mind the untidiness, you can leave the stems and leaves for over-wintering insects.

Clear up fallen leaves from ponds and troughs, so they don't decompose in the water. Other leaves in the garden can be left to rot down on your beds and borders, providing welcome organic matter, but do rake them off your lawn, to stop them smothering the grass and blocking what sunlight we do get during the winter.

Finally, sow a few sweet pea seeds and broad beans, so they have a chance to develop good root systems before they're planted out next spring. Keep them in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse, and you'll get a crop of broad beans before the dreaded blackfly arrives in May.

**Miranda Arnold**



## Garden Club November meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Long Compton Village Hall on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 7:10pm

This is our pre-Christmas social evening with drinks and nibbles. There will also be a light-hearted quiz.

Forget about the gloom outside. Bring a friend if you can, it is a great opportunity to meet members and share gardening knowledge and experiences, successes and new ideas for gardening in 2026.

Guests are welcome for a small charge of £4.00 or join the club for just £14.00. We look forward to seeing everyone.

**Walter Sawyer [secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretarylcgardenclub@gmail.com)**



## Long Compton & District Garden Club



### Autumn and Winter Talks and Events

As the days shorten the Garden Club moves from Summer Outings to monthly meetings in the Village Hall.

All meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

We meet for a hot drink and conversation from **7.10pm**. Our talks begin at **7.30pm**.

We have put together an interesting winter programme with speakers' talking about a wide range of garden related subjects. It is an opportunity for us all to forget about the dark and cold outside for a while and allow ourselves to be drawn in to the speaker's passion for plants, gardens and gardening.

We are a friendly group and we are always delighted to welcome new members. Come and join us, we hope there is something for everyone whatever your level of experience and interest. It is also an opportunity to share our gardening knowledge and experiences.

Membership costs £14 per year. If you don't think that Club membership is for you yet do come along a guest to meet us all for £4. It is always good to see visitors.

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025** The Club's **AGM** followed by a **talk by Avril Hughes** about **Salvias**. Avril gardens in Islip and also propagates many of her own plants.

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2025** A pre-Christmas Social Evening with a quiz, festive drinks and canapes.

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2026** Joff Elphick – Crayfish on the Lawn

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2026** Pip Smith - The Resilient Garden focusing on Drought

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2026** Geoff Oddy – Evenley Wood Garden throughout the year

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026** Vanessa Berridge - Great British Gardeners

For further details please contact Walter Sawyer [secretarylbgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretarylbgardenclub@gmail.com)

Recently I was showing my Slovak pal, Dano, my allotment plot and the 'fruits' of this year's labour. I have the misfortune to be next to Pete from Sutton, whose plot wouldn't look out of place at Hidcote and this wasn't lost on Dano. He turned and looked at me pityingly. *'In my country we have saying...the winter will ask you what you did in the summer....'*

It was a devastating summary of my veg growing efforts which was only compounded yesterday when I met the aforementioned Pete at the bottom of Church Lane and he casually eased the conversation onto the allotments. It was a slightly toe-curling moment, but I promised to do better next year which seemed to placate the situation!

As grown men do when chatting outside the local sewage plant, our conversation then turned naturally to the plague of hornets that seems to have befallen some of the residents of Sutton. The number of hornets I've been seeing locally has definitely increased this year which was never more obvious than a walk last week where a sun-soaked hedgerow on the south side of our valley seemed to be alive with them. They were mainly feeding on the ivy flowers (ivy is a really important early autumn source of nectar so bear that in mind when you cut it back) and at any one time there must have been a 100 or more in the air.

Hornets are high energy users with a sweet tooth and they get that energy by drinking sap from trees and eating nectar and fruit. This gives them the necessary umph to hunt the large insects like caterpillars, grasshoppers, bees and wasps that they feed their larvae on. At the end of the summer, like wasps, their work is done. The females are mated and primed to start the whole process again the following spring, and she's going to head off and find a cozy nook to spend the winter. In the meantime, there's a ton of adults just loitering around waiting for the colder weather to kill them off. So just like wasps they spend the last few weeks of their lives hanging out, eating fruit and occasionally making a nuisance of themselves.

So, the good news for the residents of Sutton is that once the temperatures start to drop so will the hornets. Literally.

And the reason for this year's exponential increase in numbers? It was the perfect storm of a mild winter that allowed more females to survive the cold, a warm dry spring and hot summer that promoted an increase in their food source, and the extraordinary bounty of autumn fruit available.

It would be remiss not to mention hornets without an update on the Asian hornet incursion down south. Nest numbers are up with 500 sightings of the adults with over a hundred nests located and destroyed. The good news is that scientists are developing two prongs of attack. The first is a tiny radio transmitter that they attach to a captured hornet. They can then follow the insect back to its colony (which could be 50 feet up a tree.) The second is they have worked out the acoustic signature of a hornet's nest and are developing drones to go out and locate the nests by sound. I find that slightly mind-boggling but it's encouraging to see drones being put to some positive use for a change!

**David Sewell**

## **Know Your Hornets**

### **European Hornet**

- Head yellow from front and red from above
- Abdomen pale yellow with black stripes
- Thorax and legs black/ reddish brown



### **Asian Hornet**

- Smaller than European hornets
- Orange head
- Abdomen entirely dark, with yellow stripes and a yellow or orange segment near the base
- Black or brown thorax
- Legs with yellow tips



All Asian hornet sightings should be reported via the free app - Asian Hornet Watch - to quickly and easily report possible sightings of the invasive species and send pictures of suspect insects to experts at the National Bee Unit

The walking group operate a rota system with a different member choosing and reconnoitring the next month's outing. Some will choose well known or personal favourites whereas others, I suspect, have recourse to published routes or, for the more technologically astute, one of a range of apps.



When we first arrived in Long Compton (during Covid) we were given a "Welcome Pack" which included a small booklet describing 5 circular walks from Long Compton. Revisiting it today I read, on the back cover, that it was published by the local County and Parish Councils but was based on the original Dragonfly Walks produced by Mrs Hobday, yet another reason to thank and fondly remember Elaine who, as another of this month's articles will expound, gave so much to the village.

That booklet met my criteria for what should feature in a guide. Although a few of the instructions might need updating, it accurately records distance, identifies the uphill or muddy sections and warns of stiles and bridges.

What else should feature? Advice as to where to park and suggestions as to a suitable stopping place (with a view) for coffee and, of course, details of hostelries or places of refreshment.

Long Compton Parish Council's website gives details of a few local walks. We also purchased *20 Walks in Shipston Country* (and noted the proceeds went towards Shipston Home Nursing). Ordnance Survey produce two separate books (one describing outstanding circular walks and the other featuring short family walks. In an earlier article, I referred to the 30 local circular walks featured as based on the Diamond Way. Cicerone is a well-known publisher in this field, though perhaps their suggestions are somewhat on the long side. For many of the specialised Cotswolds guides we are perhaps at the extreme boundaries of their area, though all include some local walks of varying lengths.

I subscribe (at a very modest cost) to Walking World whose website is easy to navigate, and we also use the Oxon Walks App (see logo above) which allows you to select a number of walks from a local village.

All are to be recommended, but perhaps a good introduction to the pleasures of local walking would be to join us on the second Tuesday of each month.

**Stuart Brown [sbcqc1@gmail.com](mailto:sbcqc1@gmail.com)**

# SCHOOL NOTES

## Celebrating Our Village and School!

We've had a wonderfully busy few weeks at school, full of community spirit, sporting passion, and lots of outdoor fun! Here's a quick round-up of the latest news and successes.

### A Heartwarming Harvest Festival



What a beautiful celebration we had at Long Compton Church for our Harvest Festival. Our pupils truly shone. The children's singing was absolutely beautiful and we were incredibly proud of the confidence and clarity with which they read their poetry. It's always a joy to see them stand up and perform for the community.

A huge thank you must go to all the parents for their incredible generosity. The food donations for the Shipston Food Bank were gratefully received and will make a real difference to local families. Thank you, too, for coming along to the festival and supporting the children. It means the world to them and to us!



## Sporting Spirit Shines at Football Tournament

Our Year 5 and 6 students recently represented the school at the cluster football tournament, and they played with tremendous passion and dedication!

They looked incredibly smart in their school football kits, particularly with the addition of their brand-new **sports coats**. A special thank you to Garden Buds for generously donating and sponsoring these smart new additions!

The team finished a very respectable 4th overall; special recognition must go to the Year 4 children who stepped up to play against older children, and to the girls who stepped into the team in what was primarily a boys' tournament. Your commitment and teamwork were brilliant!

Next up, we'll be preparing for the Y3/4 football tournament, which we'll report on next time. We're also excited to confirm that we'll have dedicated girls' tournaments happening in the summer term.

## OPAL Project Delivers Playtime Joy



Our OPAL project (Outdoor Play and Learning) is continuing to transform break times! The children have been thoroughly enjoying the new additions. The giant Meccano has been a huge hit, inspiring some creative engineering—including building go-karts and whizzing round the playground! The new **water tray** has also proven to be a massive success and is used daily by children of

all ages, sparking imaginative play.

Out in the orchard, the weekly football club continues every Tuesday and Friday, and the new scooters remain a popular choice for playtime.



Looking ahead, we are excited for our next developments: groundworks in the orchard and improvements to OPAL Way, which is our walkway to the Science Garden and orchard. We can't wait to see these transformations take shape!

## Welcoming New Families

We'd like to extend a sincere thank you to Mrs. Austin, our wonderful early years teacher, for opening up Little Acorns for three Saturday mornings to promote our Nursery. Our Stay and Play sessions were very successful, and we look forward to welcoming many new families into our provision!

For families with prospective Reception children starting in September 2026, we are holding Open Mornings every Tuesday morning throughout November. This is a great chance to see our school in action!

You can book a session for 4th, 11th, 18th, or 25th November at 9:30am by calling the school office on 01608 684654 or by emailing [admin2639@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2639@welearn365.com).

We can't wait to show you around our wonderful setting!

**Stay Connected** Remember we have a new website: [www.acornsprimary.co.uk](http://www.acornsprimary.co.uk) and also Instagram: [@acornsprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/acornsprimaryschool) where you can keep up to date with Acorns life.



**ACORNS**  
Primary School

# OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
November  
9.30 - 10.30am

Please contact the office to book a place:

 01608 684654

 [admin2639@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2639@welearn365.com)

THE STOUR FEDERATION  
EARLY GROW, SUCCEEDED TOGETHER  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

# GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST START!

15 & 30 HOUR FUNDED  
PLACES AVAILABLE FOR  
3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

HIGH-QUALITY  
SCHOOL-BASED  
NURSERY EDUCATION



Little Acorns is a vibrant and nurturing nursery, where children thrive through play-based learning, engaging activities and a stimulating environment.



Our experienced and dedicated team provide a seamless transition into school life, ensuring your child develops essential skills, confidence and a love of learning.



01608 684 654



ADMIN2639@WELEARN365.COM



## Brailes School - Grow Together and Shine Bright!

What a wonderful Autumn term it has been so far for the children in Year 1/2 in Rabbits Class at Brailes School. The Rabbits have been particularly enjoying their new classroom, with lots of lovely space to spread out and make the most of our learning time outdoors. They have built dens and planted bulbs in the new outdoor area, and plans are afoot for planting up our garden in the Spring to bring the sensory garden back to life.



The children are also keen to renew the old bug hotel hidden under our crab apple tree and have enjoyed harvesting the seeds from the sunflowers ready to use to feed the birds over the winter months.



They have enjoyed an exciting school trip to St John's House in Warwick, where the children had a lovely time dressing up, using mangles and writing on slates, drill and a Victorian school classroom. Several children were so tired by the end that they had a little snooze on the bus home! It was great to be able to take the children out on a trip so soon in the year - we're very grateful to the contribution from FOBS (our school PTA) for the brilliant fundraising they do to support which helps to subsidize transport for trips and other enrichment classroom activities.

### **Community Governor**

We are looking for a new Community Governor to collaborate with school leaders and governors setting the direction and ethos of our school, playing a valuable part in the future success of our wonderful school. If you know anybody that might be interested, please contact the school office and Mrs Childs, the school's Headteacher, will be very pleased to share with you more about this role, or contact Mrs Self, Brailes Local Academy Council Chair to find out more by emailing [self.l@welearn365.com](mailto:self.l@welearn365.com).

### **Applying for a Nursery and Reception at Brailes**

The application process for Reception 2026 places opened on 1st November and the closing date is 15th January 2026. Our admission criteria are on the school website and we are able to take children from neighbouring counties such as Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, in addition to Warwickshire. Places in Brailes School Nursery are made through an application form directly to the school office. Applications for places for Reception and all other year groups need to be made through Warwickshire

Admissions. Please do contact the school to arrange a visit. We would love to meet with you and welcome you to our wonderful school

'Let your Light Shine.'

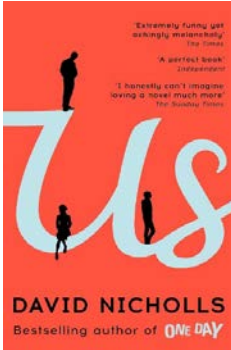
Telephone: 01608 685253

Email: [admin3014@we-learn.com](mailto:admin3014@we-learn.com)      [www.brailescofeprimary.org.uk](http://www.brailescofeprimary.org.uk)

**Heather Childs**



### Book Club

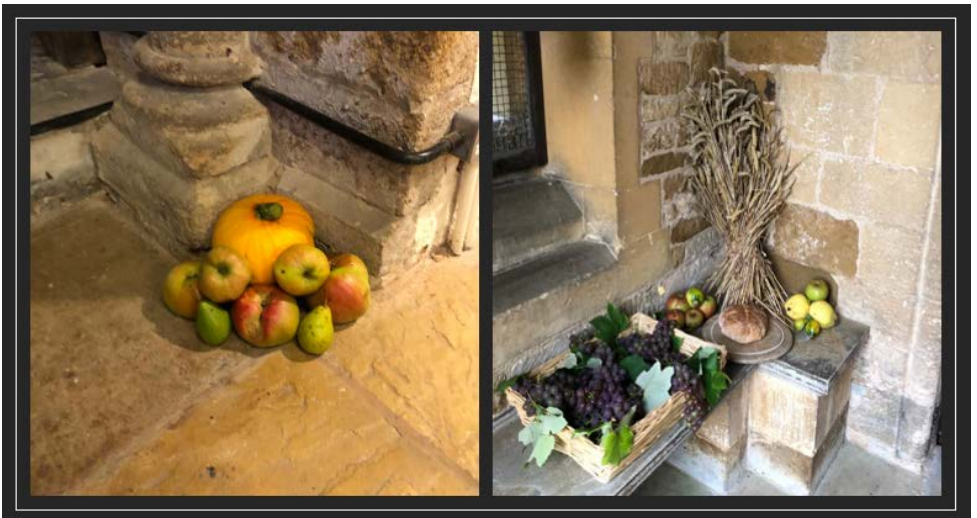


We very much enjoyed meeting to talk about *'Us'* by David Nicholls. He is the author of several novels, including *'One Day,'* now a film.

He approaches the subject of middle-aged love and parenthood here with great sensitivity and alternating joy and sadness. The book provoked great discussion among our group as to which of the main characters was the most annoying. Everyone however agreed that the novel was beautifully written and fun to read.

### Harvest Festival

Thanks to all those who attended the service at St. Lawrence Church and to those who contributed items and decorated the church.





### Burmington Church Harvest Festival Service and Lunch



On Sunday 28th September, Burmington Church held its annual Harvest Festival service led by the Reverend Canon Anthony Wells who gave an uplifting sermon. The church collection will be sent as usual to The Farming Community Network, a charitable organisation which works on behalf of farmers who are in difficulties.

The Harvest celebration is very special to us, living as we do in a rural community and where we can see firsthand the stresses experienced by our own local farmers, especially this year when harvests have been adversely affected by weather conditions and climate change.

The church was wonderfully decorated as the pictures show. Gifts of food brought to the church were later taken to the Shipston Food bank in the Co-op. Our church, as with all seven churches in the South Warwickshire benefice, will be a food bank collecting point going forward.





Following the service, a delicious buffet lunch was on offer at the Village Hall, generously donated and prepared by a number of willing helpers who enable our church to survive.

A very convivial time was had by all. Our thanks go to everyone who decorated the church, provided the delicious lunch and laid out

the tables with flowers. Money raised from the lunch goes to church funds.

### **House Cleaner Wanted**

About 4 hours a week in Burmington

Please phone Mary on 07564 800444



## Burmington Parish Meeting

Wednesday 19th November 2025 7.00pm at the Village Hall

ALL WELCOME [ww.pariah-council.com/BurmingtonParishMeeting](http://ww.pariah-council.com/BurmingtonParishMeeting)



**Bingo Night**

£10 / 6 Games + Flyer

Raffle £1 Ticket

B.Y.O.B

Teas, Coffee + Juice for sale

Sat Nov 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 for 7pm  
Burmington Village Hall

Limited spaces, reservation line: 07966 849149

33, 46, 39, 91, 23, 4, 7/4

## Cream Tea

Jam Festival Celebration  
Burmington Village Hall



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

2:00-3:30pm

£3:00

Scones, jam and cream  
Tea and coffee

The winners of the jam categories will be announced and  
homemade jam for sale.  
Proceeds for church funds

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



### Coffee Shop



Saturday 8th November

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon Baps, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and cake.

Eat in or takeaway

We are always looking for people to help out if you want to get involved, please contact me on 07866 127409.

**Christine Dudfield**

### Brailles Picturehouse

**Friday 14th November (one week early) - Maria Callas**

**Doors open 7.15pm to Start 7.45pm**

**Maria Callas** was born to Greek parents in New York 2nd December 1923 and over the next 33 years gained favourite nickname '*La Divina*'.

Having experienced an unhappy childhood and a difficult relationship with both her parents, her mother discovered Maria's voice talent early on pressured her to perform. This caused long term damage to their relationship due to her childhood being taken away. At the age of 13 she was taken to the Greek National Conservatoire where teacher Maria Trivella saw the talent and took her under her wing. Whereupon entered Athens Conservatoire to study with Elvira de Hidalgo. Soon after her professional debut in early 1941, aged just 17, critics and colleagues alike began to refer her talent a 'God Given'.

**Stars:** Angelina Jolie, Haluk Biligner.

#### **Future Dates:**

Possible others depending on availability,

- Flow
- Thursday Murder Club
- The Salt Path
- Downton Abbey

**Deirdre and Team**



## Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons

### Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Social Afternoon dates for your diary are Fridays 14th November and 12th December 2:00pm to 4:00pm at The Hall.

Don't forget it's the Christmas Family Prize Bingo at The Hall on Saturday 29th November. As usual, doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. Please bring your children and grandchildren, we are looking forward to seeing you there.

For more information, please contact me on 01608 663320

**Vanessa Compton**



## Christmas Greetings in support of St John the Baptist Church

We are running the Cherington and Stourton Christmas Card Amnesty again this year. If you would like to make a donation and are already on the Christmas Greetings List, which will be distributed with the December Link, we will assume that you wish to continue.

If you would like to be removed or wish to be added please contact Pam on 07989644614 or Sherry on 686420.

Alternatively, you can email us on [Nsl\\_barker@hotmail.com](mailto:Nsl_barker@hotmail.com)

Replies by the 5th of November would be helpful.

**Pam Brookes and Sherry Barker**

## Village Lottery Draw

1st Tim Wright £80      2nd Jim Walton £45, 3rd Flo Holland £30.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your continued support. For more information on joining, please contact me.

**Averell Kingston [aap.kingston@gmail.com](mailto:aap.kingston@gmail.com) 07984 00367**

## **The Hall, Cherington, Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailes AGM**

The Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Hall Cart Shed at 7:30pm on the evening of Wednesday 26th November. Members are welcome to attend and will be invited to a drink's reception.

### **Hall Membership**

Many have already signed up for Membership of the Hall, however it would be helpful if all residents would apply so that any newsletters can then be sent electronically rather than being printed and delivered by hand.

Membership is free to all residents of either Stourton, Cherington or Sutton aged 18 and over. Members will receive updates on matters affecting the Hall or community events and provide a level of oversight, being entitled to vote at an AGM on the appointment of Trustees. Applications for membership can be made here: <https://thehallevents.org.uk/social-membership/>

For more information relating to events and facilities at the Hall visit the Hall website: <https://thehallevents.org.uk>

2025 has been busy at The Hall, and this month is no exception!

Live entertainment and events for all the community, as well as Coffee Shop and Farmer's Market. All of these are more fun with more people, so come along and support The Hall, and local talent, charities, the arts & small businesses! And if you have any ideas for future events, do share them...

Of course, we also have a raft of regular classes, activities and groups, so there is something for everyone happening week-in week-out. See the website for more: [www.thehallevents.org.uk](http://www.thehallevents.org.uk)

We have two wonderful concerts booked in this month. On **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Cantamus Choir** are performing their concert '*Shades of Autumn*'. Whilst it is the turn of **Stour Concert Brass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, with a festive '*Holiday Harmony*' concert. See full info in the articles/adverts.

Or maybe the **Christmas Family Prize Bingo on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November** is what you are looking for.

### **Theatre Night – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, at The Hall**

A new ghostly thriller "**Dead On Cue**" – set in the same theatre dressing room, during the same play, 60 years apart. Two performances of Hamlet, but what is the unearthly link, what secrets are buried, and why is the old dressing room mirror so fascinating .just don't look into it?! Written and performed by Mark Carey (Into The Breach), the stunning effects and spooky story provide the perfect live drama for a Winter's night!



# WHAT'S ON at THE HALL



## **Sunday 2nd November: Cantamus A Capella Choir "Shades of Autumn"**

*A concert of moving and uplifting music complemented by readings to match the mood. Starts 3pm. Tickets £15, includes tea & cake! From: [www.cantamus.org.uk](http://www.cantamus.org.uk)*

## **Saturday 22nd November: The Hall Theatre - "Dead On Cue"**

*Professional Live Theatre continues at The Hall with this fantastic play - perfect for a dark Winter's night.....A new ghostly thriller, written and performed by Mark Carey Set in the same theatre dressing room, during the same play, at the same theatre, but 60 years apart. What is the unearthly link between the two productions of Hamlet? Doors & Bar 6:30pm. Performance Starts 7:30pm. Tickets £15 Contact: [info@thehallevents.org.uk](mailto:info@thehallevents.org.uk) / <https://buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions>*

## **Saturday 29th November: Christmas Family Prize Bingo Night**

*The Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership bring you another fun evening of Bingo with some great prizes on offer! Doors & Bar 7pm, Eyes Down 7:30pm*

## **Sunday 30th November: Stour Concert Brass "Holiday Harmony"**

*Festive concert from Shipston Town Band's 'Stour Concert Brass'. Featuring one of the top cornet players in the UK - Stourton's own Luke Barker. 3pm, Free Entry, donations welcome*

## **Thursday 15th January: The Hall Theatre - "Mettle"**

*November 1942, 18-year old Gordon Collett volunteers for the Royal Navy serving on the HMS Vanessa - devastating U-boat attacks result in the heaviest loss of ships from any trans-Atlantic convoy that winter. This gripping, moving and often humorous new show is written and performed by Nicholas Collet, Actor, Writer - and Gordon's son. Doors & Bar 6:30pm. Performance 7:30pm. Tickets £15 - [info@thehallevents.org.uk](mailto:info@thehallevents.org.uk)*

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March : The Hall Theatre -**

### **"Victor and Albert - Purveyors of fine musical comedy"**

*Professor Victor and Dr Albert's unique brand of entertainment is a thrilling blend of music, comedy, games & a dash of magic, offering a fresh twist on a classic two-man variety show! Doors & Bar 6:30pm. Performance Starts 7:30pm. Tickets £15 Contact: [info@thehallevents.org.uk](mailto:info@thehallevents.org.uk) / 07775 765572*



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

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We have loved bringing professional live theatre to The Hall's regular calendar, and this will be continuing in 2026 – tickets will be on sale soon for the next play, *'Mettle'*, 15th January! The theatre nights are organised by us, FOR YOU, and contribute to the funds that are needed to keep our wonderful Hall so, well...wonderful! If you want to help with anything at The Hall, let us know!

Some other Hall favourites are returning in November. Helen Cooper is running her Creative Fused Glass Course from 3rd November – a 6-week course on Monday evenings. Ladies Pinkbelt Kickboxing has just re-started 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, after a break to welcome a small and cute addition to the family! And look out for Christmas wreath-making workshops with Elaine's Bespoke Flowers, 30th Nov and 3rd, 4th, 5th Dec.

### **Other dates for your diary:**

**6th November:** North Cotswold Farmer's Market, 6:00-8:00pm

**8th November:** The Hall Coffee Shop, 10:30am-12noon

**19th November:** The Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society. 8:00pm

**4th December:** North Cotswold Farmer's Market, 6:00-8:00pm

**13th December:** The Hall Coffee Shop, 10:30am-12noon

### **Top musician to feature in local brass concert**



One of the country's top cornet players will be the special guest soloist at an upcoming performance by a local brass band.

Shipston-based Stour Concert Brass will feature award winning cornet player Luke Barker at its *'Holiday Harmony'* concert at The Hall in Stourton on Sunday 30th November at 3:00 pm. Luke, who grew up in the village, said the concert will be a musical homecoming for him.

He added: "I am delighted to be performing in my home village, and to be with Stour Concert Brass, one of the first bands I ever played with. I'm really looking forward to playing some great brass band music and hopefully bringing some early festive cheer to the village hall."

Luke is currently the Principal Cornet of the internationally famous Flowers Band, based in Gloucester, having begun his brass banding career in Shipston aged seven. He started with Shipston Town Band's training band and was later a

member of the National Children's Band. He went on to join the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain in 2017, becoming Principal Cornet in 2021.

Luke has also played with the Band Treize Etoiles and was part of the band's winning performance at the Swiss National Championships, which won the 2023 European Brass Championships in Malmo, Sweden. In 2023, he was appointed a Denis Wick Mouthpiece Artist. In 2024, Luke won the Best Soloist award at Unibrass, competing with the University of Birmingham Brass Band, and won the Harry Mortimer Trophy for Best Principal Cornet at the 2024 Brass in Concert Championships.



Stour Concert Brass is conducted by Chris Brown, who is also Head of Music at Chipping Norton School. The band performs regularly across south Warwickshire and the north Cotswolds and is part of the Shipston Town Band organisation.



## The LINK is your local monthly Community Magazine.

It has a circulation of 700 across the South Warwickshire Seven Benefice covering the villages of Barcheston, Barton, Burmington, Cherington, Long Compton, Whichford and The Wolfords.

We're always pleased to welcome new subscribers. At just £12.00 for a calendar year subscription, this represents excellent value and is a great way to stay connected with the news of events and stories in your local community.

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

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

on Wednesday, **19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
at **8.00 pm** for a talk by Peter Stoddart:

**"The unfortunate Admiral was shot  
because Newcastle deserved to be  
hanged"**

British Naval Strategy and Tactics in the  
Eighteenth Century (Part II)

*contact: Peter Stoddart*

*at:*

*[petercstoddart@gmail.com](mailto:petercstoddart@gmail.com)*



Join us for  
**Social Saturday**  
**8th November 2025**

11am - 1pm  
Long Compton Village Hall

*Free entry - savouries - cake - chat  
Music - talks - stalls*



Join us for festivities at our  
**Christmas Tea Party**

3pm - 5.30pm, Saturday 6th December  
Long Compton Village Hall

*Sandwiches, cake, scones and mulled wine  
Carols and entertainment  
Christmas raffle  
Tickets £12—Hurry as places are limited  
To book email [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)*





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## A Taste of the Hedgerow

Join us for Fruit Spirit Tasting  
7.30pm, 15th November 2025  
Long Compton Village Hall

**HOW IT WORKS**  
Entry fee £10 buys you a judging card for tasting all spirits  
Enter a 250 ml bottle of homemade sloe gin or spirit  
Or just come to lend your expertise as a judge!  
Tables of up to 7 people, so bring your friends  
Cheese sharing board to buy on the night

*Categories with prizes*

1. *The best sloe gin of any vintage*
2. *The best fruit spirit of any vintage*
3. *The best 2025 vintage fruit spirit or gin*
4. *The best vintage pre 2025 fruit spirit or gin*
5. *The best of the bunch*

Bring your bottle to the Village Hall 11am—1pm 8th November, or 6.30pm on 15th November  
or contact us to arrange drop off  
Booking essential email [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk) and we will send information

## Compton District History Society

The second meeting of the new season took place on Wednesday 8 October. The speaker was Graham Sutherland. He was delayed a little by the road works which have closed the main road through Long Compton. His talk was entitled *'Warwickshire Inn Signs'* but it ranged over a large area of the midlands. He concentrated on some of the many signs he has seen and photographed. Many of these, and sometimes the pub too, no longer exist. What was remarkable was how much information Graham has. Often the sign subtly reflected local events.

The next talk will be on Wednesday 12 November at 7.30 in the village hall when Sean Callery will give a talk entitled *'Grave Matters - Stories from memorials in the Cotswolds'*.

The normal charges will apply. Members pay £1.00 per talk. Guests are very welcome - we charge an entry fee of £3.00. There will be tea or coffee after the talk.

**Christopher Fance**

## Comptonians

We shall meet at the Village Hall at 12.30 on Nov 19th for our Christmas Lunch.

**Margaret Welsh 684238**



Long Compton with  
Barton-on-the-Heath

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 10:50 am

Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by church service.

St Peter and St Paul Church, Long Compton  
All welcome



Join us for Community Coffee



at

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Long Compton

on

Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am to 12.00 noon

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

### 100 Club

The October Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 11 October, and the winners were:

1st Chris Paxford  
3rd Paul Miller

2nd Lisa Phipps  
4th Eileen Whittaker

Chris Galloway 684234



### The Reading Room Draw

The Reading Room draw winner for October is Peter Russell.

**Jenny Scrivener**

### Leslie Lawrence – Kriegsgefangener (Prisoner of War)



At this time of Remembrance for 11 November I would like to tell you about my Dad's Dad, my grandad Leslie Lawrence, whose First World War experience affected him but also his family. The photo is of him as a Cadet at the Chepstow training camp, he looks young - born in 1899 - and wars are fought by young men, as the on-going conflict in Ukraine still shows. He was just doing what his two slightly older brothers, Tom and Harold, had done (this may sound jingoistic to our present-day ears) "to have an adventure and serve The King". The three brothers were lucky; they did all come home.

Leslie being the youngest had joined up last and as part of the Lancashire Fusiliers (no idea why an Ilford Lad should be in a regiment of

the Red Rose) was on the Northern French front line as an 18-year-old in the spring of 1918. History is written by the winners and not a lot is written about the Ludendorff Offensive begun on 21 March when the Germans got closer to Paris than they had in the previous 4 years.

A Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers was swept up in the advance and Leslie was captured as a POW. A difficult situation made worse by the fact that the Germans had barely enough food and supplies to sustain themselves let alone POWs. By that time a Lance Corporal, the following extract is from a diary he kept from June 1918 onwards. To save space I will follow his narrative....

*"Captured 4th June - 34 days at Douai, then Marchiens*

28th July. *Went to Church at Conde - impressed by organ playing and stained-glass windows.*

22nd August *51kgs. Arrived Conde, not much of a place, American bread issue.*

20th Sept *waiting for our Red Cross Parcels we hear of the fall of Cambrai and Douai and we have to move due to the allied advance. No fat in any of the food and all here are feeling the cold due to change in the weather.*

22nd September *anticipate moving again (60km) but work in the morning – theft of loaf has caused a situation but have had baths.*

2nd October *Bad Dinner no work felt unwell.*

5th October *Post card from Home, acquired French Issue (ration?) Felt Rotton.*

13th October *Arrive at Mons, good journey plenty food.*

14th October *1/4 loaf French issue.*

16th October *Work morning, wet finish, bread extra.*

19th October *MILK. No breakfast but ½ French loaf from refugees.*

9th November *On move through Namur.*

10th November *On move through Huy (Belgium).*

12th November *Breakout with Johnny - do not intend to return. Find lodgings with kind lady. Wear Civilian Clothes Clean shirt, pants and wash with soap.*

15th November *Good grub, Germans still leaving.*

18th November *Clean shirt white collar feel great.*

19th November *War FINISHED (written in ink in capitals across page) Hope to be home for Christmas.*

24th November *leave Huy for Namur by canal boat go to 44 Casualty Clearing Station.*

29th November *Good English grub once more, hope to get train home.*

1st December *Base hospital Etaples.*

4th December *Leave Calais 1345 arrive England 15: 10".*

Leslie had wanted adventure as all lads do and had survived. Back to his Mum and Dad in Ilford on demob and what then? He married my Nan and they lived

the high life in Eastbourne - enjoying every day to its fullest and paying rent weekly. Whatever he earned working for Norwich Union Insurance was spent on them. My Dad was born in 1933 and it was he in 1954 who managed to get his Dad to buy the flat freehold so the drip drip of rent stopped. My Dad as a result was an opposite to his Dad.

Leslie was lucky to break out and make the most of Huy. Telling for him as a POW that food and the occupying of your time became all encompassing. Possibly safer (maybe) to be in civilian clothes when the war ended (11th) but not it seems in Huy which took until the 18th to be proclaimed.

We can only bring our own conclusions as to Leslie's experiences. The most important thing is to acknowledge other's experiences as that is what affects their future lives.

**John Lawrence**

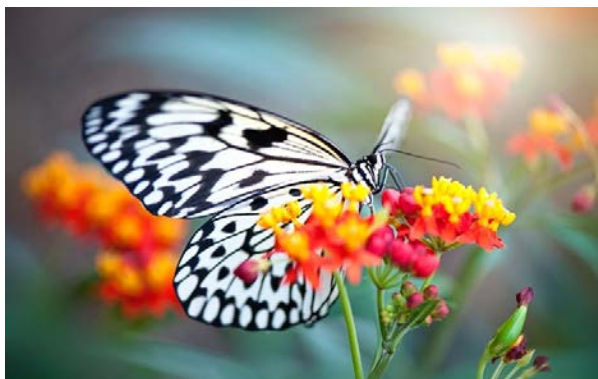
### **Remembrance Day in Whichford**

The Remembrance Sunday service is at 9am on Sunday 9 November at St. Michael's Church, Whichford and will be led by the Rev Ben Dyson.

The service will be followed at 10.50am by the Laying of the Wreath at the Village War Memorial with an informal gathering of villagers.

**Sophia Corlett, Churchwarden**

### **Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire**



On Thursday 4 December at 7:00pm Wasp will be hosting a talk by Mike Slater, Chair of Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire on what the organisation does and what everyone can do to help. The talk will be at the Kiln Shed, and everyone is welcome. Refreshments

will be available. The talk is free to all but donations will be gratefully accepted, with a suggestion of £5.

**The Wasp Collective**

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**In aid of The Friends of St. Michael's Church, Whichford**



### **The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club**

The October winners were as follows;

1st Bob Large 2nd Henry Warriner 3rd 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**

### **Great Wolford Remembrance Service**

Sunday 9th November at St Michael and All Angels Church at 10.50



### **Christmas Stall at The Chapel Long Compton**

We are having a stall at the Christmas Fair being held by the Chapel in Long Compton on Sunday December 14th, 2025, which runs from 10am to 4pm. The theme for our stall is Winter Warmers and we are looking for donations that could be given as gifts which will create a cosy feel this winter. Socks, scarfs, gloves, candles, bubble bath all welcome. These can be dropped off into the back of the church please.

Thank you for your help  
St Micheal and All Angels PCC

### **Coffee and Chat at Wolford Church**



Tuesday November 11 10:30-12:00

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