

# THE LINK

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

November 2020

£1



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

## Events Update

There are a few events that I have put on this diary page. Please do not assume that because the event is listed, it will go ahead. Also, the events may or may not be complying with the relevant coronavirus restrictions, although I am sure that organisers will be doing all they can to comply with whatever restrictions there are at the time the event takes place.

Church services will take place as shown on the service grid on page 10.

### November (VH = Village hall; Ch = Church)

Wed	04	Wolfords WI, Annual Meeting by ZOOM	19.30
Fri	06	Closing date to register for Cherington Christmas Card Amnesty	
Fri	06	Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal – last date to deliver your shoebox	
Sun	08	Remembrance Service, Whichford War Memorial	09.00
Sun	08	Remembrance Service, Outside Great Wolford Church Door	10.50
Sun	08	Cake Stall in aid of Poppy Appeal, The Chapel, Long Compton	14.00
Sun	08	Beneficial Book Group, Barton by ZOOM	17.30
Thurs	12	Long Compton Book Club	19.00
Sat	14	Whichford Christmas Fair, St. Michael's Ch	
Mon	16	Long Compton Village Hall AGM by ZOOM	18.00
Mon	16	Closing date for applications – Great Wolford Parish Clerk	
Wed	25	Long Compton and District Garden Club AGM and social event	



**LINK cover:** *Pte. Frederick Albert Murphy 1895-1967*

Photograph courtesy of Keith Murphy.

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

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Monday 16 November

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# EDITORIAL

## LINK Talk – Remembrance for 2020

With everything else that is going on, it would be very easy to forget Remembrance. There are a number of items this month giving us details and the information from Nick Jackson below, covers a number of the villages in the Benefice.

This month, I've placed a picture of my 20-year-old grandfather taken in January 1916 on the cover. He did survive the conflict and I would like to recount his story.

Frederick Albert Murphy joined the Essex Regiment in January 1916. Unfortunately, or fortunately for Frederick, depending on which way you look at it, he was discharged from the Army under Kings Regulations Para 392 iiic – 'Not likely to become an efficient soldier'. His discharge date was 10 March 1916.



Frederick had a heart condition abbreviated to VDH or valvular disease of the heart. This implies some organic disease or heart malfunction that was discovered by the army doctors. He did survive to see his children and grandchildren, which may not have been the case had the Army held on to him. Frederick married in 1918 and my father was born in 1923.

Health has always been important. Frederick died at what today we would consider to be a relatively young age, not from heart problems, but from emphysema, a disease of the lungs. This was bought on through his work as a bandsaw operator in a clothing factory. There were no guards on the machines and no thought to use PPE (masks) to protect the employees from the dust in the air.

If any readers have stories from their family histories that show how previous generations met the challenges that they faced in their time, I'd be very pleased to help share these in The LINK. Please do email me the details.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

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## Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday

The virus has required us to rethink arrangements for Sunday 8 November as the variable numbers possibly attending make planning, in terms of social distancing requirements, much harder to anticipate. Accordingly, guided by the Rector, Stuart Allen, the service in Long Compton will only take place outside at the War Memorial at 10.50 am. A slightly extended service has been devised which can be shortened to the traditional Two Minutes' Silence variant if the weather is deemed too hostile. A trumpeter will be present.



There are also services planned in Whichford and Great Wolford (see village pages for details).

### *Revised Poppy Appeal arrangements*

As some of you may be aware, the Royal British Legion has chosen, in the light of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, to cancel all door-to-door collecting this year in order to protect both collectors and members of the public. This would apply to the villages in which Long Compton & District RBL Branch are allowed to collect, namely Barton-on-the Heath, the Wolfords, Whichford & Ascott and Long Compton.

Poppy trays will however be found in familiar local outlets – such as the Long Compton Village Store, the Red Lion, the Norman Knight and Whichford Pottery. There will also be a collection at Acorns Primary School. More widely, the larger supermarkets in nearby towns will sell poppies on behalf of the Legion.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped me with the Poppy Appeal in Barton, the Wolfords, Whichford & Ascott and Long Compton over the last 10 or so years; your support has been invaluable. Shipston-on-Stour RBL Branch kindly enabled all we did in 2019 but Dave Whatley has now nobly stepped forward to take on the role and I wish him a similarly rewarding spell as our new Poppy Appeal Organiser.

**Nick Jackson**

## CAMEO members' Covid Reflections

CAMEO Lunch Club members were invited to record their individual experiences of Covid-19. Here are two such accounts.

### *Frustration*

The frustrations of life with the virus and the lockdown took me back to the war years. In 1939, at the start of World War II, Daddy built an Anderson shelter in the garden with the help of neighbours. Unfortunately, we were never able to use it owing to the fact that it filled with water. Ever resourceful in those war years, we used the water on the garden. Dig for Victory!

One night, during an air raid, a bomb fell on wasteland opposite our house. All the windows were blown in by the blast. Curiously, very little glass was found lying around in the sitting room. It was a mystery. Mother soon discovered the reason when opening the sideboard drawers. They were full of glass. So, miraculously, the blast must have blown the drawers open to collect the glass and an after-blast closed them again.

I remember we had to spend a few days at my Grandma's house. We used the pantry under the stairs as our shelter. Daddy was in the Home Guard so was on duty most nights. Serious work then; no Dad's Army larks. So, as with the Air Raid Wardens, we felt protected by those we knew and loved. In recent days I have wondered if we have conjured up this spirit again in our fight against Covid-19.'

### *Church and Covid-19*

On Friday 13 March we were informed that all churches would be closed and all services suspended. Thanks to our church wardens and helpers, until then our church had always been opened from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Apparently, this decision to lock up churches was not taken by church authorities but by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government after a meeting of the places-of-worship task force chaired by the Government's Communities Secretary. And so, our church remained closed and locked until Saturday 4 July, when it was allowed to open again on the same day that pubs, hairdressers and cinemas re-opened. Church-goers may have drawn solace at being grouped with the patrons of these other establishments in terms of risk factors. Anyway, we were now free to enter our own church again, provided we first donned a mask and washed our hands before entering.

Three tragicomedy experiences stick in the mind from these Covid-19 days so far:

- A funeral service held in a local crematorium at which only two mourners (of the then legal limit of five) could attend. The lately departed would at least have been amused by the PA system being set to play, 'All things bright and beautiful', at deafening volume to compensate for the two feeble voices.
- Sitting in an armchair in our homes with a cup of coffee while listening to the Sunday service on-line. Could this, one wondered, catch on for future services in church. If the coffee was sold at prices to match those in most English coffee houses the churches would surely make a packet. And the coffee would almost certainly taste better. Would church attendance improve?
- The arrangements at the recent Harvest Festival service. Entry to the church required the wearing of a face mask. Immediately on entry hands had then to be ready for a squirt of disinfectant spirit applied by a vigilant church warden. Then, one was directed to sit, not alongside or directly behind or in front of a fellow worshipper, but at the opposite end of the next pew. Presumably, it was also the Communities Secretary who had ruled that worshippers must not sing the beautiful harvest hymns played by the organist but must only hum the tune behind one's own face mask. One could only wonder what God in His heaven was making of these rules; and to wonder if the Spirit had been applied to the fruit, vegetables and flowers decorating our lovely church.

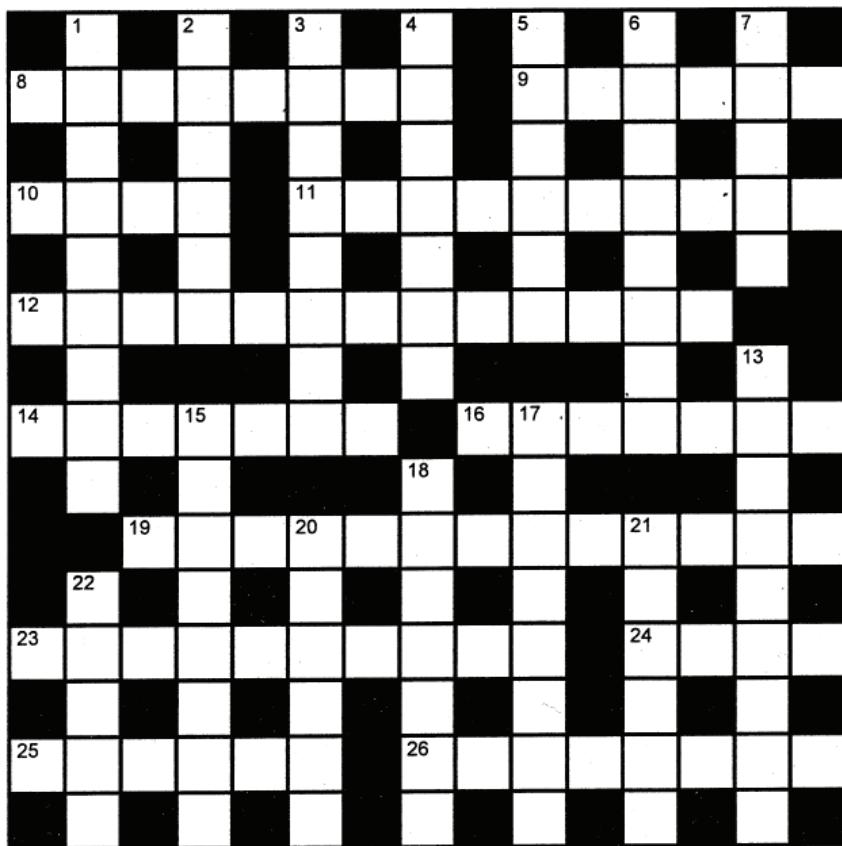
**Collected by Burmington's Dennis Cummings**

### **Health Warning...**

Please be aware that advertised events may or may not comply with any relevant virus restrictions. Items we receive are published in good faith and we wish to make it clear that we cannot guarantee compliance, or otherwise, with any necessary restrictions.

**Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk**

# The LINK Crossword



## Across

- 8 Give a jab once to characters in early 17th Century. (8)
- 9 Chop this, especially behind the neck. (6)
- 10 The last word. (4)
- 11 An atrocious demand gives too high a price. (10)
- 12 This is out of action. (13)
- 14 Hightail it! (7)
- 16 A long time ago you would have written on it. (7)
- 19 This may cause one to be lost for words. (13)
- 23 England's longest lake. (10)
- 24 Keep this for later. (4)
- 25 Shows one's appreciation. (6)
- 26 Reshape ringlets for excellent value. (8)

Compiled for us by our  
friend Campden John

## Down

- 1 Can mohair be tuneful. (9)
- 2 Cutting a corner is vital. (6)
- 3 One can go off this clue. (8)
- 4 This is regularly found in a certain area. (7)
- 5 Current investigators in America seen round a bush. (6)
- 6 Get a plan of action to solve this. (8)
- 7 Reportedly wet form of control. (5)
- 13 Describing a buffoon. (3-6)
- 15 Does he really live in a dire nest? (8)
- 17 You will have, when you have completed. (8)
- 18 Deviser of many answers. (7)
- 20 A villainous woman. (6)
- 21 Snuggle up! (6)
- 22 The thing about the dark. (5)

***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 but an appointment has to be booked at  
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingshipston>***

### DATES AND FETES\*

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events (i.e. events which will attract more than 100 people), be they fetes, garden parties or concerts. By listing them, we can help prevent date clashes between major events and disappointing attendance figures for all concerned. Please be sure to check this list before you plan a new event.

Sat 14 Nov 2020 Christmas Fair, St. Michael's Church, Whichford

Mon 30 Aug 2021 Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete

**\* Events could be affected by coronavirus cancellations**

### LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES, LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES LOCAL QUAKER MEETINGS

Should you be able to provide any up to date details on services/meeting  
please email me at editor@swlink.org.uk



*Rectory Reds* - by Great Wolford Artist Jenny Henderson

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

### Barcheston St Martin

Churchwardens	David Hodges 664310
Secretary	Nick Jackson 01926 640658
Treasurer	David Cleave 666002

### Burmington St Barnabas & St Nicholas

Churchwardens	Sonia Baker 661459
	Michael Macdonald 662483
Secretary	Graham Lancaster 663265
Treasurer	Sue Bradley 661635

### Long Compton St Peter and St Paul

Churchwardens	Jill Kirby 684923
Secretary	Zoë Wrigley 650404
Treasurer	Walter Sawyer 684755

### Wolford St Michael & All Angels

Churchwarden	John Wrench 674389
Secretary	
Treasurer	Ann McKenna 674009

### Parish Councils

	Chair	Clerk
Barcheston	David Sutton	Ann Batchelor (661527)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Bill Cook (684771)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)
Whichford	Geoff Bromage (684454)	Sara Cole (686250)
Great Wolford	Lynn Mathias (674247)	
Little Wolford Parish Meeting	Helen Bostock (chairman@littlewolford.org.uk)	

If you wish to update information on this page, please email the Editor: editor@swlink.org.uk



*Happy  
Birthday!*

November



3rd	Claire Fifer-Flaherty	Long Compton	9
5th	Ellen Blake	Cherington	16
5th	Matthew Clarke	Burmington	9
8th	James Allen	Long Compton	14
9th	Esme Willow McCutcheon	Cherington	9
10th	Helena West		17
12th	Sebastian Matthews	Whichford	5
14th	Emilie Ada Lamb	Long Compton	13
20th	Leah Dudfield	Stourton	7
21st	Harvey Joshua Streets	Whichford	12
27th	Olivia Flaherty	Long Compton	16

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

NOVEMBER 2020 CHURCH SERVICES (also on YOUTUBE: "SW7 BENEFICE CHURCHES")						
SW 7 Sunday Worship	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherrington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford
November 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>All Saints Sunday</b>	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)				10:50am Short Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard (CLW)	4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)
November 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>				10:50am Short Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard (CLW)	10:50am Short Act of Remembrance at Village War Memorial (SPA)	9:00am Short Act of Remembrance at Village War Memorial (SPA)
November 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>		9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)		10:30am CW Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)	
November 22 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Christ the King</b>			9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)		10:30am CW Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)	
November 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>				9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)	4:00pm Advent Family Service* (SPA/BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer* (SPA/BD)
December 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	9:00am BCP Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)				4:00pm Family Service* (SPA/BD)	10:30am CW Morning Prayer* (BD/SPA)

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

# SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

## A Run with No Witty Name

Last month I wrote about the fact that I had entered a 32-mile Ultra Marathon in the Brecon Beacons with my friend John Witts, to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK. This was due to take place on Saturday 10 October, but due to Welsh lockdowns it was postponed until May 2021.

### *A last-minute alternative*

Having put in so many months of training, we looked around for an alternative event. One in Cornwall was simply too far away, and another self-navigated run around the wilds of Dartmoor seemed a bit too much of a map-reading challenge. Then I came across the somewhat quirkily-titled, 'A Run with No Witty Name' in Wiltshire.

Although online entries had closed, I emailed the race organizer, Neil Turnbull, and, wonderfully, he said he could squeeze us in. So, with kit bags ready, we set off early on Saturday morning for The National Trust car park at Tisbury.

### *The wrong way!*

After shivering on the start-line for several minutes, the claxon sounded, and our group of runners set off up a long grassy hill. Unfortunately, things went wrong early on at the point where the course split north/south on the circular route. Although a large yellow arrow pointed straight ahead through a gap in the hedge, the three runners ahead of us went left down a narrow lane, with one shouting out confidently that the digital map on his watch said it was 'definitely this way'. After following them for about a mile and a half, we realized that we were heading north, when we should have been heading south!

Retracing our steps, we now found ourselves at the back of the race. In fact, it was worse than that. Rounding a corner several miles later, we saw my dad waiting for us as promised with camera (see photo), and the two 'sweepers' collecting the route markers from the course! Thankfully, after hearing our explanation, they let us carry on to the first feed stop, where jelly babies (in my case) and pork pie slices (in John's case) were gratefully devoured.

### *Struggling with fatigue*

With water bottles topped up, we set off on the second quarter of the route, having run 11 miles already, instead of 8. Half-way through this section, John's wife Ali met us near a road-crossing, and cheered us on with her daughter Katie, and Cocker Spaniel, Tilly. To my surprise, John was starting to say that his legs were stiff and he couldn't carry on. But thankfully his wife wouldn't let him! On we pressed to the second feed-stop at the picturesque ruins of Wardour Castle.

After more much-appreciated snacks and drinks, we carried on through the penultimate phase of the route, which saw us pass the standard marathon distance of 26.2 miles.

Like many runners doing Ultras, we had already decided to conserve energy by hiking the ascents, and running the descents and the flats. I could tell that John was struggling again, because his normal banter had dissolved into complete silence. I tried to keep encouraging him along, but by the time we had passed the third and final feed stop, he had reached a point where he said that he could only walk.

#### *Mind over matter*

With 6 miles left to go, both our legs were aching badly. I was starting to worry about how long it was going to take us to get to the finish just walking, when a small group of runners whom we had overtaken earlier in the race, came past us. Suddenly I heard John say, 'I'm NOT going to let them beat us!' and from nowhere, he put on an energetic spurt of running almost all the way back to the finish. No wonder they say that running Ultra Marathons is as all about mind over matter.

And yes, we did beat that group of runners, finishing in 6 hours 55 minutes, having covered just under 35 miles (56 kilometers) with 4,068 feet (1240 meters) of climbing! My watch told me I'd burned 4,888 calories - which felt about right!

Over £1700 raised for Alzheimer's Research UK!

As I write this, we have raised £1745 for Alzheimer's Research UK, which we are so delighted with. A HUGE thank you to all of you who have supported us. If you would like to help us take this total to a nice round £2,000, then please go on to JustGiving.com, search for 'John Witts' using their search facility, and click on the photo of us under the title 'John and Stuart's Brecons Trail Ultra'.

**Stuart Allen (Rector)**



**Back on track after our early route error!**  
**Stuart (left) and John (right) - photo courtesy of Harry Allen.**

## **Psalm 34:18**

*The Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Gracious Lord, look with favour upon those who are suffering at this time; from illness, bereavement or any other trial. Give us patient faith in times of trouble. In all our affliction help us to cry out to you, the God who is close to the broken-hearted. And in your mercy would you guard our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2020**

I am delighted to hear that a number of people from the Benefice are busily filling shoeboxes as usual. May I ask you to deliver your boxes to me between Sunday 25 October and Friday 6 November? At the time of writing, I don't know if we will have moved house, so please ring to find out where I am.

Thank you so much for your support of this great cause. Best wishes.

**Sue Bradley (661635, 07977 092048)**



### **South Warwickshire Seven Benefice**

Reverend Stuart Allen

Tel: 01608 684207 - [rectorsw7@gmail.com](mailto:rectorsw7@gmail.com) (off duty Thursday)



Reverend Ben Dyson

Tel: 01608 685752 - [pioneersw7@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersw7@gmail.com) (off duty Friday)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Lucy Simpson

Tel: 01608 684787 - [officesw7@gmail.com](mailto:officesw7@gmail.com)

[www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk](http://www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk)

## Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School News

### Permission to Feel

This year in The Stour Federation Partnership, our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum is a key focus. Before lockdown, the PSHE Team survey outcome was that children needed support to articulate their emotions and feelings in more detail. This focus led us to the work of Marc Brackett at Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence in USA, and his book *Permission to Feel: Unlock the power of emotions to help yourself and your children thrive*. The author's message for everyone is that if we can learn to identify, express, and harness our feelings, even the most challenging ones, we can use those emotions to help us create positive, satisfying lives.

In addition to using carefully selected picture books for our social and emotional learning strand on relationships this half-term (see curriculum newsletters for more information), we will be developing the use of Marc Brackett's 'Ruler' evidence-based approach to social and emotional learning, building the skills of emotional intelligence, and creating and maintaining a positive school climate.

**Recognising emotions in yourself and others.**

**Understanding the causes and consequences of emotions.**

**Labelling emotions accurately - if you can name it you can tame it.**

**Expressing emotions appropriately.**

**Regulating emotions effectively.**

Enraged	Panicked	Stressed	Jittery	Shocked	Curious	Surprised	Upbeat	Exhilarated	Courageous	
Livid	Furious	Frustrated	Tense	Stunned	M	Amused	Cheerful	Motivated	Inspired	Elated
Fuming	Frightened	Angry	Nervous	Restless	O	Energetic	Lively	Enthusiastic	Optimistic	Excited
Anxious	Apprehensive	Worried	Irritated	Annoyed	O	Pleased	Happy	Focused	Proud	Thrilled
Repulsed	Troubled	Concerned	Uneasy	Peeved	D	Pleasant	Joyful	Hopeful	Delighted	Ecstatic
	M	O	O	D	M	E	T	E	R	
Disgusted	Glum	Disappointed	Down	Apathetic	E	At ease	Easygoing	Content	Loving	Fulfilled
Pessimistic	Morose	Discouraged	Sad	Bored	T	Calm	Chilled	Satisfied	Grateful	Pleased
Alienated	Miserable	Lonely	Disheartened	Tired	E	Relaxed	Restful	Blessed	Balanced	Secure
Despondent	Depressed	Sullen	Exhausted	Fatigued	R	Mellow	Thoughtful	Peaceful	Comfortable	Carefree
Despair	Hopeless	Desolate	Spent	Drained		Sleepy	Complacent	Tranquil	Cosy	Serene

The children are taught these skills through a series of tools, known as anchor tools. One tool is the Mood Meter, pictured above. The horizontal axis represents the degree of pleasantness, from very unpleasant to very pleasant. The vertical axis represents the degree of energy, from very low to very high. It's so important to give children a wide emotional vocabulary, the time and space to listen and reflect on how they feel and help them move to a more positive set of feelings when sadness, frustration, anger, loneliness, grief are experienced. This work links to each class's charter agreement about how pupils

want to feel as part of their classroom life, encouraging personal and social responsibility and working together towards creating the kind of emotional climate that everyone wants.

## Nursery and Reception

It has been wonderful to see how well the Nursery and Reception children have settled in this term, showing great resilience and independence when coming into school each day and in getting used to the new routines. At Acorns, staff feel very privileged to be in their beautiful new Early Years building and garden, which the children are enjoying exploring and making their own. At Brailes, building work has started on the Nursery/Reception classroom extension, which will hopefully be completed by Christmas. Children have been excited to see the deliveries for the building site. They learnt that the three-wheeled forklift on the back of the delivery truck is called a Moffett truck and also challenge themselves to race any delivery lorry that comes alongside our area, much to their amusement and the amusement of the drivers... the children always win!



Children at both schools have made an enthusiastic start to their first topic 'Would you like to be friends?', and taken a great interest in the many stories staff have shared about starting school, ourselves, family and friends, as well as books such as *Aliens Love Underpants*, some of our favourite Julia Donaldson stories, Shirley Hughes' *Alfie* stories and the story of *Old Bear*.

## Childhood

The new 'Childhood' topic for Year 1 and 2 is proving to be really engaging and thought-provoking for Acorns and Brailes children. It provides so many opportunities for learning and fun. The children wrote some lovely autobiographies during the first two weeks back and are now working on a non-chronological report about life in the 1950s. We have experienced playing games with old fashioned toys and have enjoyed working on our team skills in PE.



The teachers had lots of shocked faces when children discovered that the 1950s were only 70 years ago and they know people who are older than that! So much has changed, the children couldn't believe it! From that, pupils studied other events that have taken place, such as Queen Elizabeth II taking the throne, the change in money, the Channel Tunnel opening, and the first iPad being released. Children worked really hard to learn how to say years - the numbers are tough!

## Misty Mountain, Winding River



Mountain Rescue Virtual Visit 18.9.20



As part of our work on mountains, Owls class at Brailes enjoyed an exciting virtual visit from a member of the Yorkshire Mountain Rescue Team, who showed the class via Google Meet how they use helicopters and off-road vehicles to help stranded mountaineers. Some children had the chance to try on some mountaineering equipment, like harnesses, helmets and emergency shelters - we were impressed by how very warm the emergency shelter was, despite being incredibly light. The most exciting part, though, was finding out more about the team's latest recruit - a trainee rescue puppy called Willow!

At Acorns, Class 2 have been working through the art companion project to 'Misty Mountain, Winding River' with Mrs. Head - 'Visa'. They have been looking at landscapes, comparing artwork from different times, and using a variety of techniques to create different effects in drawing. Everyone is absolutely loving their art and design on a Friday morning!

In Science, the children have set up an experiment to investigate what happens to water when it is heated and cooled. The class have also planted some cress seeds to create mini water worlds – the children will be checking these regularly over the next few days/weeks to see how the plants grow.



### **From Open Mornings to Open Evenings**

Usually at this time of year we welcome lots of families to The Stour Federation Partnership to show them round our wonderful schools, whether it is for new starters in Reception the following September, Nursery parents whose children will soon be 3 years old, or mid-year moves.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to show groups of families around while the children are in school, but are delighted to offer tours of the school every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4.00 pm.

Please book your appointment for a tour of the school:

Acorns - Telephone: 01608 684654

Email: [head2639@we-learn.com](mailto:head2639@we-learn.com)

Prospectus: <https://www.acornspprimary.co.uk/prospectus/>

Brailes - Telephone: 01608 685253

Email: [head3014@we-learn.com](mailto:head3014@we-learn.com)

Prospectus: <https://www.brailescopreprimary.org.uk/key-information/>

The closing date for Reception 2021 applications is 15 January 2021.

**Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher**

Brailes Church of England Primary School

# Open Evenings

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 4pm

(by appointment only)

[www.brailescopreprimary.org.uk](http://www.brailescopreprimary.org.uk)



Part of the Stour Federation Partnership  
with Shipston-on-Stour Primary School and Acorns Primary School



## Starting School in September 2021?

- Tours of the school will take place after the children have gone home to maintain the integrity of class bubbles.
- One adult per appointment. Please wear a mask and hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Learn about our curriculum, Breakfast Club from 7.50am and After School Care until 6pm.
- Nursery places available from age 3.

Please contact the school office to arrange your visit.

Email: [admin3014@we-learn.com](mailto:admin3014@we-learn.com)

Tel: 01608 685253

Web: [www.brailescopreprimary.org.uk](http://www.brailescopreprimary.org.uk)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bralesschool>





Acorns Primary School



# Open Evenings

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 4pm  
(by appointment only)

[www.acornspprimary.co.uk](http://www.acornspprimary.co.uk)

Part of the Stour Federation Partnership with  
Shipston Primary School and Brailles C of E Primary School



## Starting School in September 2021?

- Tours of the school and our brand new Nursery/ Reception classroom will take place after the children have gone home to maintain the integrity of class bubbles.
- One adult per appointment. Please wear a mask and hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Nursery places available from age 3.

Email: [primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk](mailto:primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk)

Tel: 01608 661266

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/shipstonhead>



# GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club  
Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

As I write this, London and half the North of England are being put into tighter pandemic restrictions. It is all very gloomy. It's been a grim year, and it doesn't look as if it's going to get any better. But the good news is that gardening and nature, and getting out and about, are generally viewed as very good for one's mental health. Gardening helps to reduce stress, depression and anxiety, and give you a real sense of achievement, adding to your confidence and self-esteem.

So, whilst November might not seem like an obvious time to enjoy being outside, there is plenty to do - and not just dull chores either. There are some dull chores, obviously, like tidying away dead annuals onto the compost heap or green waste bin and lifting your dahlias to over-winter in a little compost in a cool place. But there are also tasks that will give you something to look forward to next year, and hopefully lift your spirits and distract you from the general hideousness.

Prune the soft fruit bushes to maintain their health and ensure a good crop - try to prune out the old wood to get an open globe shape. And cut down the autumn fruiting raspberries. We're going to dig up all our autumn fruiting canes this year, as they are sending suckers out all over the place. I don't think they taste as nice as the summer fruiting ones, which we're going to plant more of. So that's raspberries and cream to get excited about next June.

Plant onion sets and garlic cloves this month. They'll sit quietly in their beds over the winter and reward you next summer for cooking and then storing over the winter. You can put broad beans in now too, in pots or in the beds where you want them to grow permanently. Planting them in the autumn might mean you lose a few plants over the winter, but the ones that survive will give you delicious baby beans as early as May. The same goes for early peas.

Protect your borderline hardy perennials such as agapanthus. Cover them with straw or horticultural fleece to combat frost or move them into an unheated greenhouse for additional protection. Plant some bulbs. This is a combination of chore (because it can be boring digging all those little holes) and exciting task (because you can plan marvellous layered containers for springtime joy). Think about interesting colour combinations and the more exotic variants of commonplace bulbs. I grew some fantastic dark orange peony-flowered tulips this year with dark purple tulips, and they looked amazing.

I find watching our native garden birds very soothing, and take a great deal of comfort from them. So think about them when clearing your garden for the winter. Try leaving seedheads on scabious and echinacea for the birds to scavenge over the hungry season. (Fill your bird feeders up too, preferably near to the house, so you can see them from your windows.) And don't forget the insects: leave your ivy to flower, because this is often the only source of food during the winter for bees.

I hope that next time I write this column, things will be looking a bit better. Even if it's only the garden.

**Miranda Arnold**

# NATURE NOTES

Editor: Tony Partridge  
Tel: 684698

In case you think that in late summer birds, having reared their young and seen them off to pastures new, sit pensively on a tree branch gazing wistfully at the summer sun, and occasionally partaking of an odd ripe berry or two, you would, I am afraid, be very wrong. For the next most important function for them is the moult of their feathers. Of course, many feathers fall out naturally, but many have to be extracted, so preening is constant. Birds, our scientists tell us, evolved from, believe it or not, a species of small reptile which walked on its hind limbs. The nearest reptilian relation to birds is the crocodile, of course, and like other reptiles it replaces its scales individually, not wholly in a skin as do other reptiles such as snakes. So, what feathers need to be discarded? Well really most of them, at some stage. We have the down feathers present in most birds, but of course particularly well-developed in water birds such as the mallard, the wigeon and the swan. The contour feather is probably the most widely recognised and includes the flight feathers. The immature feathers are enclosed in a protective sheaf until mature. So, throughout the late summer months the business of replacing feathers is taking place but not always at the same stage. In their summer life, the mallard waits until the young fly, and this is between June and September. Conversely, the sparrowhawk has its moult during egg laying, but may suspend it whilst feeding its young. That pheasant, which inconveniently walks in front of your approaching car, starts its moult in June, but finishes three months later. A blackbird will moult only after breeding, whilst our house sparrow's moult is between June and November. And what of our migrants? Well, it is believed some undergo a partial moult whilst crossing Europe, but most of it will have been in their winter residence in far-off Africa.

Recently, whilst walking through the church garden, I spotted a small white plant I could not remember having seen before. Looking through flower books I was unable to find it. Fortunately, my daughter was here with her mobile phone and offered to photograph it. The answer came up as an ivy leafed toadflax. Now I have known this plant almost as long as I have been taking an interest in wildflowers, and I have never seen a white-flowered variety. Of course, I could have told myself that the leaves would give it away, but there are a few other flowers with the same shape leaves and the same stem arrangement. So, it would seem that we have an unusual variety of this plant growing here. I hope that it increases and multiplies so that we have it here always. But, if you would wish to see the more usual lilac-coloured variety, then cross the road and opposite the church, growing low down on a stone wall running above the stream, persisting for thirty or forty yards along the wall, you will find this plant thriving. It is no relation at all to ivy, belonging to the same family as the foxglove.

The Butterfly Conservation Society has come up with an excellent idea to help children with mental health problems. The idea is to take them round a garden showing them the flowers – and this alone can do nothing but good – and also point out to them the butterflies there and what they do. Very simple, but surely very effective. At the same time, the Society has a number of worthy butterfly spotters who faithfully regularly take up positions in pre-arranged one-kilometre squares to note the number and breed of butterflies they see. I am not sure which, if any, is the butterfly most seen this year. For

myself in my garden the painted lady definitely took prominence, although I suppose if I am honest, I should not give preference to this highly coloured variety, but remember that there was in fact quite an appreciable gathering of cabbage-white butterflies, a presence which made me nervously turn to the underside of my plant leaves to see if there were any of their caterpillars there!

Whilst the Butterfly Conservation Society we talk about above is performing an action which can do nothing but good, I fear that the National Trust is doing anything but, seeking to join in the subject currently fashionable amongst the chattering classes – our part in slavery throughout centuries. I beg of them - do not. Let them continue in their internationally admired and incomparably thorough duties as preservers of wonderful old houses and the maintenance and management of hundreds of acres of our unique and beautiful countryside, not to mention the miles of coastline in their charge. It is this for which we support them, not to join those whose utterances are frequently historically inaccurate, and only go to denigrate many great men and women who served this country well, who are no longer alive and thus unable to defend themselves. And they should also beware. For, should they divert too much in this direction, there are those who may wonder if the money they pay for its continuation may be better spent with other equally deserving causes. Let them, in other words, remember their title - one word is National, but the other is Trust.

Tony Partridge

*[Ed – There are many different opinions and views on the actions the National Trust are now taking regarding the history of some of the properties that they are responsible for. The views expressed above are the author's and should not necessarily be taken as those of The LINK]*



*The Hedgerow* - by Great Wolford artist Jenny Henderson

# FARMING NOTES

Editor: Lynn Mathias  
Email: [farming@swlink.org.uk](mailto:farming@swlink.org.uk)

## Harvest 2020

Rather a hopeful title - as I write we are still to get the combine into the bulk of our crop, the spring barley, as the weather is against us and the crop is barely ripe. Along with many farmers this year, we are having a problem with uneven ripening. Because of the very wet winter followed by the drought, the seed did not germinate evenly so that areas of the field are ripe whereas other parts, particularly in the tramlines, are still green. This means when we eventually do get the combine in, we may have to dry the grain to avoid the moisture from the unripe berries damaging the whole.

The wheat was cut some time ago and will not break any records, but did come in at the correct moisture so is safely in the barn.

Because of the shut down due to Covid-19 and possibly because we have sadly lost our cat, it is noticeable how much more birdlife is around. The day last month's LINK arrived with its tale of the kestrel family in Long Compton, a kestrel was flying along the field margins here. We also have a pair of herons who seem to have taken up residence in the trees around our grass fields and two woodpeckers, a green and a spotted one, enjoying the old apple trees in the orchard. At the opposite end of the size scale, we have a lot more wrens this year than normal and the swallows who nest in the older farm buildings are beginning to mass before they depart.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford



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### Beneficial Book Group

We have been quiet for a while, but after two or three enjoyable meetings, we have now had to resort to Zoom again and can no longer take advantage of the lovely weather to meet in our garden. This works reasonably well, but we all miss the contact of a proper meeting.

On Sunday 4 October we talked about *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman, which describes the extremely strict Hasidic sect of Judaism in Brooklyn, New York and the efforts of Deborah to leave and take up a new life in Berlin. This has been very successfully filmed for Netflix and is well worth reading/watching. The humiliation of women within the sect by other women proved a particularly interesting point for discussion.

We have also discussed *Idaho* by Emily Ruskovich and *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. The next Zoom meeting will be on Sunday 8 November at 5.30 pm when we will talk about *The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

If you would like to join us on Zoom, please phone me on 01608 674303.

Gillian Cathie

### Apple and Parsnip Soup

Here's a delicious way to use all those apples in season. Make creamy with a spot of milk or cream at the end if you desire.

#### Ingredients

25g/1oz butter	1 tbsp oil	2 medium onions, chopped
600g/1lb 5oz parsnips, cut into 2cm/1in pieces		2 garlic cloves, crushed
½ teaspoon nutmeg	600g/1lb 5oz apples peeled, quartered and cut into chunks	
1 litre/1¾ pints vegetable or chicken stock		
150ml/5fl oz milk (or a few spoons cream).		
flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper		

#### Method

Melt the butter and oil in a large saucepan. Gently fry the onions and parsnips for 15 minutes, or until the onions are softened. Add the garlic, nutmeg and apples and cook for a further two minutes, stirring regularly.

Pour over the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for about 20 minutes, or until the parsnips are very soft. Remove from the heat and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Blend the mixture in a food processor until smooth.

Stir in the milk or cream adding a little extra if required. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Karyn Sassella



*Autumn Colours - Photograph by Karyn Sassella*

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[adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

### Burmington Students and the Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has messed with the lives of all of us and has affected the youngest among us dramatically. Burmington's GCSE, A-level and university students are no exception.

Quite apart from missing school and friends for six months, those studying for GCSE and A-levels were unable to take the exams for which they had worked hard. Having to leave school on lockdown, they missed out on the usual last day parties, proms, saying goodbye to fellow pupils, some of whom have left school for good.

Their grades were allocated based on predicted results. Having studied for the exams, not taking them was an anti-climax. All of them thought taking the exams would have given them a shot at even better grades than they were given.

*Joe Tame* has left Shipston High School where he studied for his GCSEs. He's moved to Chipping Campden School to study for his A-levels - Maths, IT and Media Studies.

*Fiontan Cumming*, also at Chipping Campden School, where he did his GCSEs, is studying Computer Science, Maths and Chemistry at A-level.

*Elena Swift* did her GCSEs at Sibford School and is now studying there for her A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, and English.

*Bea (Beatrix) Mulraine* took her A-levels at Chipping Campden School in 2019 and planned a gap year - working to save money and then travelling to Australia. Once lockdown was imposed, and her flight to Sydney was cancelled, she went back to work at the NFU. Bea is now a student at Oxford Brookes University studying Criminology and Law. On the day she moved into her student flat along with 9 flatmates, one of them tested positive for Covid-19 and everyone had to isolate for 14 days. She is apparently the only flat member who can cook – most of them are living on deliveries of Domino's pizza! She has learned to play poker. Clubs and societies aren't yet running and the student bar is closed. All teaching is done online.

*Amy Bothwell* was studying A-level Drama, Art, English Literature and Biology at Sibford School. Though pleased with the results, she would have preferred to have taken the exams. After a serious brush with sepsis and the uncertainty created by coronavirus, Amy had time to reflect on her career and decided to change direction. She had intended to become a midwife, but instead will now follow her dreams and become an actor. Amy is taking a year off to study drama at the Phat Swan Performance School in Stratford as preparation for going to drama school (she's applying to RADA among others).

*Sam Banbury* gained a Merit in the Level 3 Diploma in Music Performance from the BIMM Institute in Birmingham; he is now going on to take a degree in Music Performance and Music Production.

*Thomas Banbury* gained a first class honours degree in History from Durham University and is now studying for a Master's degree in History - also at Durham. But it

doesn't end there. Thomas is representing his university in this year's University Challenge. The team won their first-round match against Leicester University to go through to round two.

We salute our brilliant students and wish them good luck as they pursue their studies in these different and difficult Covid-restricted circumstances. So much talent in such a small village!

## Ride and Stride

Congratulations to Burmington striders who raised £330 for the Historic Churches Trust by walking between local churches.

Our intrepid striders were Julia Sykes, with son Lee, who walked from Burmington to Shipston churches, and then on to Barcheston and home again. Sheila Tame, Irene Clarke and Sonia Baker walked 8 miles from Long Compton via Barton on the Heath, and Wolford and back to Burmington across the fields.

Half of the money they have raised for the Trust is expected to be returned to Burmington Church. Well done Burmington striders and many thanks to all those who generously sponsored them!

## Burmington Church - Harvest Festival Service

The churchwardens wish to thank those who so very generously donated a total of £200 to the Farming Community Network, the charity selected for festival gifts this year, and for all the gifts of food which were passed on to the foodbank at St. Edmund's Church, Shipston. Their thanks are also offered to those who decorated the church so beautifully for the occasion.

Dennis Cummings



<https://fcn.org.uk/>



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

# VILLAGE NEWS

## CHERINGTON WITH STOURTON

Editor: Alan Holmes

Email: cherington@swlink.org.uk

Tel: 686682

### Village Lottery

Winners in the draw for the October Lottery were:

1st Sally Clubley £80    2nd Stephen Glanville £45    3rd Trevor Lewis £30

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

**Steve Allkins**

### 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 donate 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 Brookes on 686367 or Sherry Barker on 686420. Alternatively, you can email us on [nsl\\_barker@hotmail.com](mailto:nsl_barker@hotmail.com)

Replies by Friday 6 November would be helpful.

**Pam Brookes and Sherry Barker**

### Brailes Picturehouse

Although we have elected to start again in January 2021, if possible, we are in need of more helpers and thought it might be an idea to announce our needs. Technical enthusiasts would be wonderful, we operate on a rota system, training will be given. Our equipment is up to date. Also help is required behind the scenes.

Please call Deirdre Carney – 07850468710. Take care and keep safe.

**Deirdre and Team**



*Afternoon Winter Shadows*  
by Stourton Artist Colin Beckett

### Long Compton Village Hall

Here's a little update on where we are. The Village Hall re-opened as soon as we were allowed and continues to be available for events, meetings and groups. We are being terribly careful about social distancing and cleaning and doing everything we can to keep our visitors safe, but, obviously, we understand that some of our regular guests simply can't use the hall at the moment. Indeed, we had, reluctantly, to call off our first indoor Social Saturday, following the change in Government guidance in the light of the recent increase in COVID infections.



All this has of course, rather put a dampener on the hall's efforts to raise the cash for the much-needed repair of our drive. We had managed to get around £3,000 before lockdown and had hoped to raise at least as much again this summer. But it was not to be. We are as determined as ever to get the drive into a good condition, but, like so much else nowadays, our plans have had to be postponed. Once we have got through this difficult time, we will of course get back to the project. As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support.

Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)

*Long Compton Village Hall Committee invite you to join them for their*



## AGM



*on Monday 16 November at 6.00 pm*

This year, as with most things, it's being held via Zoom so you can join us from the comfort of your own home.

Please email [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk) for a link to attend and hear about all the things that have happened at your Village Hall over the past 12 months or so, the plans for the future and how you can get involved.

### Notice for Comptonians

In view of the current uncertainties, we are very sorry but feel that we are unable to go ahead with the end of year lunch in November. We will keep you informed if there are any changes in the situation. Take care.

Margaret Welsh

## Compton District History Society

### Covid-19 suspension of activities

Our committee has decided that there will be no further meetings this year but that they will start again next March provided things are back to normal by then. Our idea is that we should rebook the same speakers as those we had originally booked for March to June this year. If you have paid a membership subscription for 2019/2020 that will carry forward to cover March to June 2021.

We will of course keep you informed through this magazine as and when circumstances change.

Diana Cook 684771

## Compton Creatives

To find out more about joining this sociable group please contact [jhburras@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jhburras@yahoo.co.uk) or [caroline.nixon@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.nixon@btinternet.com)



Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 November at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood

All Welcome - Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938  
[carole.r.clements@googlemail.com](mailto:carole.r.clements@googlemail.com)

## Long Compton and District Garden Club

We are planning the following meetings.

Wednesday 25 November – AGM and social event  
Wednesday 24 February 2021 – Gardeners' Question Time

More details will follow in due course. All are Welcome.

Lesley Roberts, 684545



It's his birthday everyone!

Happy Special Birthday (ending in a zero)  
to Matthew Davis from Long Compton.

This message comes to you from your daughter Daisy

## **Long Compton Chapel**

### **News from the Chapel**

The Chapel has used this strange time for various initiatives for Charity and the latest was for a 'Macmillan Cake n Coffee Takeaway' from a table outside the front door! We raised a fantastic £359 which was gratefully received; the majority of this was donations.

The next thing is a Cake Stall in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Sunday afternoon, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. If anyone wants to make the favourite cake of a service person or ex-service person and bring it along for sale that would be great. Or just your own favourite! All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal, contact Sally for details (07870 545431).

**Royal British Legion  
Poppy Appeal 2020**

**CAKE STALL**

The Chapel, Butlers Lane, Long Compton CV36 5JZ

**Sunday 8th November**

**2.00—3.30pm**



**Cakes and  
Donations  
Welcome**

Details:  
Sally Franklin  
07870545431 /  
01608 684739

Also, we are doing an aluminium collection in aid of Katharine House Hospice and there will shortly be a depository in the Chapel Car park – Aluminium Cans only please. We have also been busy with some renovation and have rewired and upgraded the heating and reconfigured the toilet and storage area. At the moment, the Arden room is stripped of wallpaper and awaiting decoration. We are also awaiting the verdict on the roof there.

Services are on hold, but we hope that we can make up for that next year. We will also be doing the Flower and Produce Show again and will publish the details for this as soon as we can.

Reverend Marion produces her *Thought for the Week* every week and we publish this on Facebook and in poster form outside the Chapel. Copies can be provided if anyone would like one. Private prayer can be arranged by contacting either Sally 07870 545431 or Elizabeth 07791 621778.

[longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com](mailto:longcomptonebenezerchapel@outlook.com)

## The Friends of Long Compton Church

Our contact points are:

Email - [friendslcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendslcchurch@gmail.com)

Facebook - [@friendsoflongcomptonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflongcomptonchurch)

Website - [www.friendsofloncomptonchurch.com](http://www.friendsofloncomptonchurch.com)



Sue Klatt, Chairman

## Long Compton Neighbourhood Watch



Our local co-ordinator is Jordan Boswell, who would very much welcome reports of suspicious behaviour. Do let him know about anything that seems to you to be out of the ordinary. Your information might just be the little piece of the jigsaw that helps solve a problem. All calls and emails are completely confidential – your name will not be made public. Contact Jordan on 07795 008998, or at [jordanboswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanboswell@hotmail.com)

## Long Compton Short Mat Bowls Club

Meets at the village hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm. New members especially welcome.

Contact Adrian, 684024 to learn more

## 100 Club Draw - October

In the absence of a Social Saturday this month, the October draw was done after the Hall Committee Meeting on 12 October. The results are as follows:

1st Prize	169	K Slater
2nd Prize	203	John Warner
3rd Prize	23	Eileen Whittaker
4th Prize	174	David & Carole Clements

The next draw will take place at the Social Saturday coffee morning on Saturday 14 November, or after the subsequent Committee meeting if this is cancelled.

Chris Galloway, 684234

## Bridge Club

Sadly, we cannot restart the Bridge Club until the socially distancing rules are relaxed. We will contact all members and announce the restart in The LINK as soon as we can.

In the meantime, if you haven't already tried it, we suggest online bridge with either BBO, Funbridge or 247Bridge. The bidding is difficult, so 'go with the flow', but playing the hand can be good practice.

Chris Galloway 684234

## Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club - Contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545 or lesleyroberts46@gmail.com

Compton and District History Society - Contact Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians - Contact Margaret Welsh 684238

Village Hall - Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)

Compton Creatives - caroline.nixon@btinternet.com or jhburras@yahoo.co.uk

Long Compton & District Walkers - Ian Treadaway 684553

Long Compton & District Walkers - Ian Headway 01535  
Long Compton Short Mat Bowls - Club Contact Adrian on 684024

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls - Club Contact Alan  
Long Compton Bridge Club - Chris Galloway 684234

Friends of Long Compton Church, our information and contact points:

e: friendslcchurch@gmail.com f: @friendsoflongcomptonchurch

[friendscomptechurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendscomptechurch@gmail.com) | [www.friendsoffloncomptonchurch.com](http://www.friendsoffloncomptonchurch.com)

**Jesus of the Scars - Edward Shillito (1872-1948)**

Edward Shillito was a church minister who survived the horrors of the trenches during the First World War. He wrote this poem in 1917 when his survival must have been a big question in his mind.

*Jesus of the Scars*

If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;  
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;  
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow,  
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.

The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;  
In all the universe we have no place.

Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?  
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.

If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,  
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;  
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,  
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.

The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;  
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;  
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,  
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

The inclusion of this poem for November was suggested by the Rector, Stuart Allen.

### Whichford Archive



**Rob Harvey outside the Norman Knight (formerly The New Inn) and The Ale House, the stone building on the left.**

### Remembrance Sunday

There will be an Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial, Whichford, on Sunday 8 November at 9.00 am. This will be a short service lasting about 15 minutes with trumpet music. Sadly, no singing is allowed but we look forward to marking the occasion, despite the current restrictions. Please observe social distancing and the rule of six. Any questions, please ask any of the Ministry team or Mandy James on 684479.

**Mandy James**

## Aluminium Scrap for Katharine House Hospice

Thank you for supporting our efforts to recycle and raise money for a worthy local charity.

We now have two collection points for aluminium drinks cans, kitchen foil and foil trays:

1. Labelled bin in the churchyard
2. Labelled bin at 3 Roman Row.

Any queries please contact Tim Adams on 07969 865403.

**Mandy James**

## The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Tommy Hodgson, who was the winner of the October Reading Room draw.

**Jenny Scrivener**

## More from Whichford Archive



The caption on the photograph reads May Day Whichford 1915. If any reader can supply any details on those pictured, or the location, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you to John Lawrence for the archive photographs.

# Whichford Christmas *Gift Fair*

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
*For Fabulous Christmas Shopping!*



*Entry £5 includes home made mince pie and coffee*

*Wonderful Raffle Prizes*

**St. Michael's Church, Whichford, CV36 5PH**

All hygiene protocols and social distancing measures will be followed to ensure you have an enjoyable time

### First Class Fish and Chips – Takeaway Offer

Following the success of our first fish & chips takeaway venture last month, we have decided to run it again. We were delighted by the number of orders we received and it all worked well so we're very pleased to be able to offer delicious traditional takeaway fish and chips served straight from the van in the centre of Great Wolford.

On Saturday 5 December you're invited to come and collect your pre-ordered fish and chips in a specified time-slot direct from the van we've always used at the village hall. Regulars have said it's the best fish and chips around. The van will be parked by the crossroads in Great Wolford from 6.45 pm.

Here's how it works: we need at least 50 meal orders to make the van's visit viable, so now is the time to express an interest by emailing Ann McKenna (see details below) with the number of meals you would like.

Cut-off date for pre-ordering is Friday 20 November and to keep the delivery on the night quick and efficient, we're asking for payment to be made in advance when we confirm your order. And of course, you don't need to be a Wolford resident to join in – if you can come and collect then you're very welcome to place an order.

£10 per serving. To order, please contact Ann McKenna - [annmckenna3@sky.com](mailto:annmckenna3@sky.com) or telephone 01608 674009.

You could be a lucky winner on the night as well. Wonderful prizes to be won in our giant raffle. Tickets are on sale when you order your meal at the usual rate of £1 a strip (5 tickets) or £5 for 6 strips. This is all in aid of Wolford church upkeep. Please help us to maintain the church and churchyard at the centre of our village.

### Fish & Chips Takeaway Success

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us in this new venture in an effort to raise much needed funds to maintain the church and churchyard in Great Wolford. We were absolutely delighted with the 93 orders we received – so many more than we first thought! A big thank you also to Mark our Fish & Chip man and his son who coped marvellously with the orders and served them all within an hour. So many people have emailed to say how much they enjoyed their takeaway.



The whole evening with our raffle raised a magnificent £500; a fantastic success and we plan to repeat in December – see the item above. Finally thank you to Natalie who came to my rescue by providing lighting which I forgot about, and then stayed to help me make sure everyone had the correct orders on time.

Ann McKenna

## **Janet Piller**

On 16 September 2020, Janet Piller died unexpectedly at home. She will be greatly missed.

**Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk**

### **My Friend Janet Piller**

Gordon & Janet Piller moved into Great Wolford in the early nineties immediately becoming a great asset to the village and the church. Gordon was Church organist until his death in 2005. Janet very much a part of the WI and Parochial Church Council. I had been churchwarden for a few years when my co warden Richard Vann left the village. I asked Janet to replace him and after a bit of arm-twisting, she agreed to maybe one term or less depending how we got on. A couple of weeks ago we signed up for our fifth term which would have taken us to over twenty years as wardens together.

What a pleasure and privilege to work with Janet. 'Janet and John'. I did the practical bits, see to walls repaired, cut down trees etc. while she did all the clever stuff - admin, dealing with clergy, overseeing events, form filling etc.

She was always cheerful, even on the last meeting about a week before her sudden and unexpected death. Janet's contribution to this village from the Church to Parish Council to the Village Hall was enormous. She did so much and expected nothing in return. She was a true Christian and a very dear friend. I cannot imagine anyone coming close to filling her shoes. Her loss is immeasurable, and I feel privileged to have worked with her and will miss her so much.

**John Wrench**

### **Janet Piller, stalwart of many village organizations**

Following John's piece about how much he valued working with Janet, I would like to add what a pleasure it was working with her in her role as clerk of the Parish Council. She was *in situ* long before I joined the council and after I became Chair, the council was enriched by her wisdom and knowledge. After her unexpected death, I am now realising how much we relied on her administrative skills to keep the council running as smoothly as it does. - **Lynn Mathias**

Janet was WI Treasurer for several years, always very willing to help even when not on the committee. She was a modest lady with a quick wit and an innate wisdom contributing hugely to all aspects of village life. She will be greatly missed by all her WI friends. - **Sue Elliot**

### **Remembrance Sunday - 8 November**

There will be a short Service of Remembrance at 10.50 am on Sunday 8 November outside the Church Door. No singing is permitted by the Government, but we will have the Last Post and National Anthem played.

Those attending are asked to abide with social distancing rules and wear masks. There will be no seating. So bring a folding chair if you feel you cannot stand for the short service.



There is no house to house collection for the Poppy Appeal this year, so please give generously to the collection after the service.

## **Wolfords WI**

Our Annual Meeting this year will hopefully embrace new technology as a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 4 November at 7.30 pm. Joining instructions will shortly be sent to members.

## **Jean Parsons**

Sadly, the village and WI have also lost another much loved and respected member of our WI and larger community.

Jean Parsons, a very talented local artist and tutor, was involved in several local art groups, taking her inspiration from nature and landscapes. She always entered flowers from her garden for the 'Bloom of the Month' competition, frequently winning the cup.

Jean was a past member of the Warwickshire Creative Activities Committee

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

The October winners were as follows:

1st – The Murphy family     2nd – James Van Helden     3rd – Ann Mckenna

Please let me know if you would like to have more shares as the club is still short of 100 shares. All proceeds go to help with the upkeep of the village hall.

**James van Helden**

## **Great Wolford Parish Records**

After Janet's sad death I was asked to sort the Parish records, which she had been storing in a bedroom. Christopher Wolverson and I reviewed and sorted these records, with the help of Warwickshire Association of Local Council's guide *Keeping the Records of Parish Councils*.

All paper planning applications have now been disposed of apart from those that are current. If you need to look back at previous applications, they can be found on the Stratford District Council website or through the direct link on the Parish Council website, [www.greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk) Financial records will be kept for the statutory 6 years. We have kept various maps that may be of interest in the future. We have sorted the correspondence and will keep only that which seems relevant. I have arranged with the Warwick Archive Office to deposit the two Minute books, running from 1896 to 1989, when they are open again for deposits after coronavirus. The current Minute book will be kept here until we have a new Clerk.

**Lynn Mathias, Chair Great Wolford Parish Council**

## Malcolm Green 1936 -2020

Malcolm Leslie Hodder Green was born in Eastleigh, Hampshire, in 1936, the son of Leslie Ernest Green, a GP, and Sheila Ethel (née Hodder), who divorced when he was a small boy.

After school, he studied chemistry at Acton Technical College and on graduation, moved to Imperial College to do research under the guidance of Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson. Their research area was organometallic chemistry, the study of how hydrocarbons, which form the basis of plastics and fossil fuels, combine with metals. At that time, the field was in its infancy and discoveries came thick and fast. Wilkinson was subsequently awarded a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work.

Malcolm's first academic post was at Cambridge, where he worked for three years, after which he moved to Oxford and became a fellow of Balliol College. It was in Oxford that he met and married Jennifer, also a chemist.

Malcolm's work flourished in Oxford. He was an inspiring teacher and innovative researcher. His research students were like a second family for him, and there were over a hundred of them. Many came from overseas and many also became academics. He was full of ideas, both bold and creative. Most of the materials that he synthesised and studied were unstable in air and the group developed techniques that could exclude oxygen from reactions. His international reputation grew and the family spent sabbaticals in Paris, Harvard and Caltech.

Malcolm was the recipient of many awards and prizes including becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society, but the biggest source of satisfaction for him was his love of his subject.

Another source of satisfaction in later life was the Oxford Catalysts Group, the company he co-founded which has since been renamed Velocys. Malcolm had discovered a very active catalyst which could convert carbon monoxide and hydrogen into hydrocarbons. Such a process was used in Germany in the second world war to fuel their tanks and by South Africa when under sanctions. Malcolm's catalyst worked much faster than any that went before. The company, Velocys, is currently involved in a project to convert rubbish into jet fuel at a site up in Hull.

When Malcolm and Jennifer were first married, they were fortunate in being offered accommodation in a house owned by Balliol where they lived for twenty-three years and brought up their three children Russell, Sophie and Matthew. Its central location in



Malcolm at the Rollright Stones

Oxford, proximity to the Inorganic Chemistry department where they both worked, and a playing field outside the back garden were ideal for their busy lives. However, in 1974 they bought Rectory Farm in Great Wolford. The farmhouse and associated buildings had been split from the farmland by the Henderson family who acquired both on the death of the long-term occupant Alice Rainbow. Alice was a legend in the neighbourhood, and for decades the Greens, on saying where they lived, would get the response 'Ah, Alice Rainbow's place' and then be regaled with stories about her. The house had no electricity nor running water and became a lifetime project for Malcolm who enjoyed practical tasks. The family would spend weekends and holidays there, initially very dependent on The Fox and Hounds for sustenance and company. Over the years they were hosts to many sheep which they regarded as biofueled lawnmowers. The dwelling became more civilised and was much enjoyed by extended family, friends and students. Research group parties were an annual event.

On retirement, Malcolm and Jennifer moved to Great Wolford full-time. Frequent visits by the family, now including eight grandchildren, alternated with more peaceful periods.

Malcolm died on 24 July 2020 and was buried in a graveside service at Great Wolford churchyard.

## Clerk to Great Wolford Parish Council

Due to the untimely death of Janet Piller, there is an urgent need to find a Parish Clerk. The position is vital in the efficient administration of Great Wolford. The Clerk acts as the link with both Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council. The Clerk deals with all correspondence, prepares agendas for and takes minutes of meetings. The Clerk also runs the Parish Council accounts. On average this is probably no more than a few hours a month.

Expenses are paid. The post could be paid.

Anyone who is interested, is invited to contact the Chairman Mrs. Lynn Mathias from whom a job description and further details are available. Telephone 01608 674247 or email [clerk@greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is 16 November 2020



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Advertising across SW7 Benefice directly into the community.

Please contact Simon Lewis-Beeching [adverts@swlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@swlink.org.uk)

# Chairman's Corner

## Lofty Ambitions

During (the first) lockdown, there was ample opportunity to do some DIY, exercise more, grow our own vegetables, and perhaps learn a new skill. So much spare time, no excuses. What about that chore you had been



putting off for years? Well, I fell into that trap: the dreaded loft clearance – hmm, maybe I could tackle that, I thought, scraping the bottom of the barrel of the 'To Do' list. Even then, I still procrastinated, citing the closure of the local recycling centre as a reason. Unfortunately, the 'Shipston dump' later re-opened, providing timed bookings online, so I had no cause to delay any further. Donning all the necessary PPE, I accessed the roof space. Gulp – it's amazing how much 'stuff' one can accumulate over the period of a decade or so. It was difficult to know where to start.

I'm not a hoarder (waits for a 'yeah, right' to be muttered in the background), but I admit I have collected things without undertaking the necessary editing/culling. Old work-related paperwork – you never know, it might come in handy for the next job. It won't; it didn't; it never will. Chuck it. Hundreds of football programmes – nice souvenirs and memories of past matches. Valuable? No (I did manage to sell some on eBay - I barely made a tenner profit). Will they ever be read again? Doubt it. Chuck them. Boxfuls of defunct gadgets and electrical items – no good to anybody. Chuck them. Numerous dust-gathering suitcases and holdalls – we travel light these days, and anyway, I don't think we'll be going on holiday anytime soon – probably best to offer them to a charity shop. This was just the tip of the iceberg, or should I say loftberg. The task in front of me was daunting. I feel I made good progress, but if someone had popped round to check up on me, they would have said 'So, when are you going to make a start on the loft...?'

However, I'm not quite in the same league as Richard Wallace, a hoarder who was once the subject of a TV documentary. Not only were his two houses filled literally to the rafters with clutter (he'd even collected 34 years' worth of the Daily Mail), but his garden was also so full of junk - including 6 rusty vehicles - that it could be seen from space. He only had room to cook food on a small hob, avoiding a fire risk each time by moving piles of magazines and newspapers. He ate, worked and slept in a chair, and hadn't taken a bath or shower for years - his bedroom and bathroom were inaccessible. As Mr Wallace lived in a conservation area, the local council took him to court, ordering him to clear up his garden, but Mr Wallace represented himself and won the case - the verdict being that it was his human right to hoard on his own land. Mr Wallace did admit though that he had a problem and needed help. Fortunately, he was popular and respected in his village, so his neighbours came to the rescue, helping to clear away more than 30 tonnes of rubbish in a day. The incredible power of community spirit.

With tighter lockdown restrictions predicted (by the time you read this, they may already be in force), this could be an ideal time to check out your own loft. You might

not discover a relative's £4m treasure trove (as reported in the press recently), or anything worthy of presenting on Antiques Roadshow, but knowing that you've shed some unwanted toot is quite liberating. 'Shed'... oh no, that needs clearing out too!

Simon Lewis-Beeching, [chairman@swlink.org.uk](mailto:chairman@swlink.org.uk)

## Poetry Notes

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

I'm pleased to say that this month, once again, a LINK reader has supplied us with a poem. It's great to have these and we're pleased to give the opportunity for readers to see their works in print. Maybe you'd like to send us one?

This poem, *Autumn in the garden*, deals with the transition of the seasons, but of course none of us are immune from the passage of time. The writer of this particular poem has asked to remain anonymous.

### *Autumn in the garden*

Autumn in the garden  
September has come with a gale  
Turning the leaves from green to yellow and  
Touches of red already.  
Tints of the future,  
and leaf fall  
and winter.

The friends wander in the garden, talking in the sun  
While I walk behind, the chill wind suddenly catching my heart.  
These men have known each other for ever  
Explored the world,  
Matched their brilliant minds  
Always been friends.

The wind blows through the trees.  
We are suddenly fewer.  
Two of us lie in other gardens, although their gardens live on.  
Our husbands walk in front, slightly shorter than before,  
Their trousers slightly baggy.

The autumn has brought slowness, stumbling on the steps,  
Irritation with the friend who cannot remember a plant name.  
They are talking of their plans for the season  
Thinking of Autumn  
Then  
Winter.

Please keep your poetry suggestions coming; writing them for us would be even better! Please be sure to submit your suggestions in good time bearing in mind that more recent poems will often be protected by copyright and if this is the case, the publisher's permission will need to be obtained.

Keith Murphy, [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)

