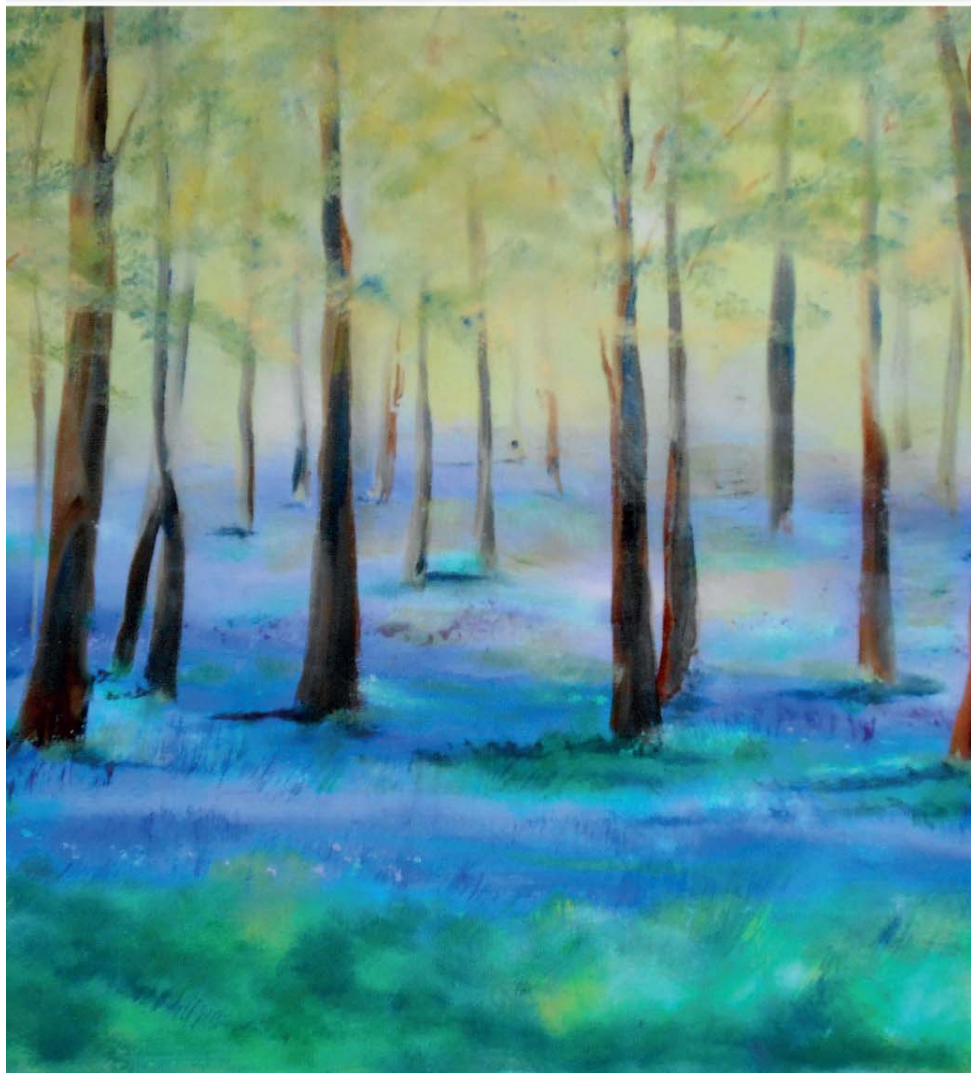


THE LINK

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

July 2021

£1



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

EVENTS DIARY

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

Events Update

Here are the events that are being planned for July. Please do check events are still going ahead beforehand. I am sure organisers will be doing all they can to comply with all the requirements, but I'm afraid that we can not be exactly sure what's going to happen after we go to print.

July (VH = Village Hall; Ch = Church)

Sat	03	Afternoon Tea at Burmington VH	14.00
Sun	04	Bicentennial Celebration Service, Long Compton Congregational Chapel	15.30
Sun	04	St. Martin's Barcheston Organ Recital	15.30
Mon	05	Long Compton and District Gardening Club, visit to Pettifers Garden, (arrive at)	13.00
Wed	07	Wolfords WI (by Zoom)	19.30
Thurs	08	Long Compton Book Club (by Zoom)	19.00
Sat	10	Coffee Shop at The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Sat	10	Social Saturday, Long Compton VH	11.00
Sun	11	Barton Beneficial Book Group	17.30
Tue	13	Long Compton & District Walkers, meet in Red Lion car park	09.30
Thurs	15	Craft Market, Long Compton Congregational Chapel	18.00
Sat	17	Coffee Morning for Children's Liver Disease Foundation, 'Kenrene', Burmington	10.30



LINK cover: *'Bluebell Wood'* (in Oil) by Great Wolford LINK reader and artist, Sue Osborne.

Cover design by KMS Litho, Hook Norton.

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

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Little Wolford	Colin & Gill Ablewhite	684962

Please note the copy deadline for August 2021:

Monday 19 July

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EDITORIAL

LINK Talk

I'm pleased to say that this month, we have got some really blue bluebells for The LINK. Sue Osborne from Great Wolford has helped me out with her picture on the front cover. Last month I made the conscious decision to put a perfectly respectable photograph of the bluebells in Wolford Woods taken by Lynn Mathias, our farming writer, onto a page actually printed in black and white.

This exercise in supreme optimism paid little dividend, and readers were deprived of the sight of the blue haze that seemed to hang above the floor of the wood. There is however one solution that's available to all the readers of The LINK. If you'd like to sign up for online access, all pages are in colour! If you're already a subscriber in SW7, this access is free, and you can continue to receive the paper copy as usual. Please contact me on the address below. As much as we'd like to print all The LINK pages in colour, I'm afraid financial considerations will not allow.

PS – please do consider helping The LINK as Advertising Manager or proof-reader. Please contact me for further details.

Keith Murphy, editor@swlink.org.uk

Shipston Medical Centre

Our latest newsletter is on the Shipston Medical Centre website under Patient News - Practice Newsletter - June Newsletter 2021.

<https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/downloads/shipstone/Newsletter+June+2021.pdf>

(You will see a spelling error in the link – 'shipstone'. This may have been corrected if the link fails to work.)

Jean Doreen Dudek – Cameo Club Member

A thanksgiving service for the life of Jean, who passed away on Tuesday 30 March, was held on Monday 26 April.

Jean was born in Mildenhall in Suffolk in 1927. She spoke of staying with her uncle and family on 'the farm'; we know her father passed away when she was little, but she didn't speak much about her early years. She did often mention large planes flying overhead – from maps it seems the farm was literally a few yards from the end of the runway at RAF Mildenhall, one of the main bases during WW2.

Jean and her mother moved to London to work in service in a large house; the lady of the house wasn't willing to accommodate a young girl, and so Jean was billeted with



another family. Being an only child, her independent and self-sufficient nature must have come from that period.

Jean met her husband Henry at a dance at the Polish club in London at the end of the war, and was very taken by the polite, handsome young Pole from Białystok, who had trekked out of Poland in 1940, through Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, France and Spain, before finding passage on a boat to Scotland and then England.

They married in 1948 and spent a good deal of those early years apart, as Henry worked on assorted engineering projects in Europe and Jean worked at the local GPO telephone exchange, rapidly rising to supervisor, and passing her civil service exams - she could organise people even then. Jean left her job when she married but returned whilst Henry worked abroad. She saved her salary allowing them to buy their first house. After Teresa was born, Henry was offered a job in Canada in 1953, where Mike was born. The family subsequently moved to Paris, Madrid, London, and then back to Paris, finally settling in retirement in South Ascot in 1979. Jean learnt French and Spanish along the way and could also manage a little Polish.

Jean was very resilient; when it came time to leave Canada for Paris, Henry headed off, leaving Jean to pack up and sell the house, and then sail to France. Henry chose an apartment overlooking the Seine. There were no shops, no metro, the schools were miles away, and Jean asked Henry what on earth he was thinking. His reply - the apartment had the best view of the Eiffel tower that he could find, and he thought she'd love it! Next morning, he handed Jean the keys to the car, and left her to drive the children to school through the middle of Paris. Needless to say, Jean immediately learnt to drive like a Frenchman, and set about entertaining business customers with charm and Franglais.

Jean was never keen to take advice, and despite being advised not to drive during a bad storm, she set off on a trip but as she drove along, a very large tree landed on her car roof, just behind the front seats, and demolished the car. Jean stepped out unscathed. To her last day she was convinced it was only a little damage and we'd made a fuss about nothing. More to the point, it turned out it was our fault - if we hadn't told her to be careful, she'd have been driving faster, and the tree would have missed the car! She went straight back to driving, and only hung up her driving gloves in her 90th year.

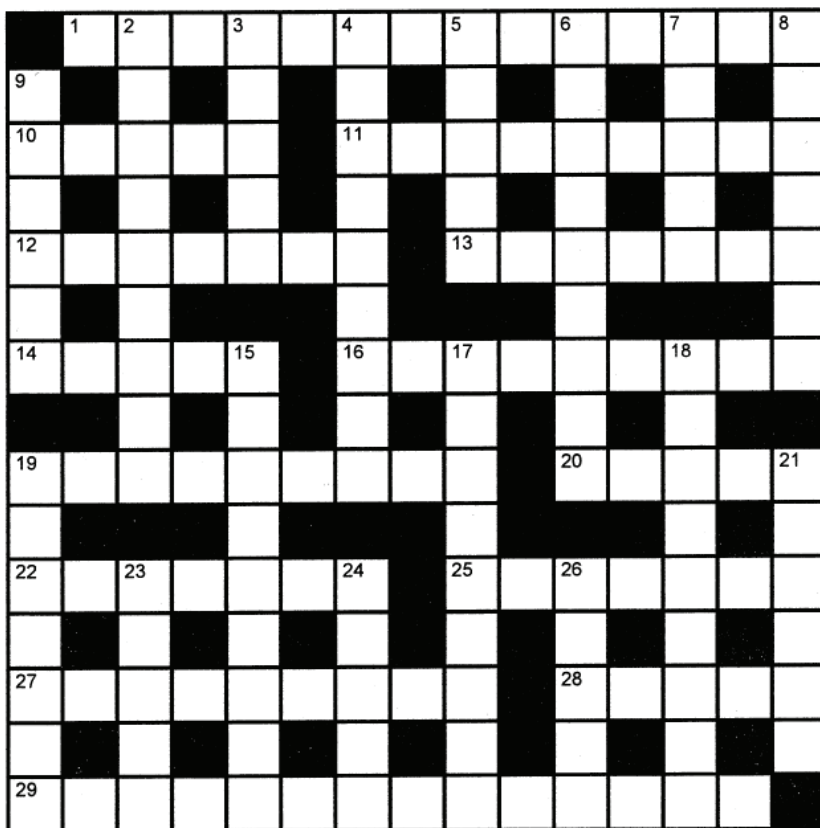
Jean's great hobby in life was golf with membership at Wentworth and Sunningdale Ladies. Her friends at the golf clubs, and the golfing holidays, were an important part of her life after Henry passed away.

Being a grandmother to Paul and Lucy in France, together with 6 great-grandchildren was another great pleasure and Jean enjoyed skiing holidays in the Alps until she was nearly 70. Gardening was another keen interest and Jean enjoyed visits to RHS Chelsea until very recently. Travel and cruising on her own were also favourite past-times, and Jean travelled to France three times each year to visit the family.

Seven years ago, Jean moved to the Cotswolds, settling in Long Compton where she quickly made new friends and enjoyed the Comptonian meetings, the Cameo lunches each month and was a regular church member. Sadly, during the past year Jean missed regular contact with friends but she always enjoyed a long chat on the telephone!

Suzanne Dudek

The LINK Crossword



Across

- 1 Ottawa or Delaware. (14)
- 10 Tom of Wessex was sturdy. (5)
- 11 A way to assist your progress. (9)
- 12 Valued comrades. (7)
- 13 Be honest about this clue. (7)
- 14 Give up! (5)
- 16 Workers could see my pole is fractured. (9)
- 19 He may keep watch on your progress. (9)
- 20 Now about that dog – he may come back. (5)
- 22 Look out for the Bogeyman. (7)
- 25 This will give that needed inspiration. (7)
- 27 Easily fired-up. (9)
- 28 Get this for the top prize. (5)
- 29 I'm perfectly willing to swear I heard a nightingale. (14)

Down

- 2 Hear the laughter. (9)
- 3 Beam over the artificial silk. (5)
- 4 Vespasian's amphitheatre. (9)
- 5 Peer. (5)
- 6 He lives in the vicinity. (9)
- 7 Abraham's son. (5)
- 8 You don't have to go to the Isle of Wight to see these. (7)
- 9 A devious clue. (6)
- 15 Eliza the Fair Lady. (9)
- 17 Cleaned out! (9)
- 18 Drawn by Arthur. (9)
- 19 Gives a moral lesson? (7)
- 21 Not often. (6)
- 23 Could be cored before it is scenery. (5)
- 24 English churchman. An Oxford college founded in his memory. (5)
- 26 A member of the races of India. (5)

Compiled for us by our
friend Campden John

INFO LINK

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

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

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

DATES AND FETES*

Please send us the dates of all your significant social events. We are continuing this listing even though events may be restricted. Please check this list before you plan a new event.

Sat 07 Aug	Barton-on-the-Heath Village Fete
Sat 28 Aug	Long Compton Congregational Church - Plant & Produce Show
Mon 30 Aug	Whichford and Ascott Flower Show and Fete
Dec 10/11/12	Friends of Long Compton Church - Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 19 Dec	Christmas Service, The Chapel, Long Compton

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

LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Chipping Norton, Masses: Contact the parish priest for mass times – 01608 642703

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

Brailes/Shipston/Kineton Masses: Contact the parish priest for mass times - 01608 685259

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

Local Congregational Services and local Quaker Meetings

If you have any up-to-date details on services/meetings, please email editor@swlink.org.uk



Collection of Feathers by LINK reader and artist Jenny Wilson

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
Treasurer Ann McKenna 674009

Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence

Churchwardens Hamish Cathie 674303
Secretary Gillian Cathie 674303
Treasurer Mandy McPherson 674734

Cherington St John the Baptist

Churchwarden Roger Maycock 686404
Secretary Paul Levitch 686353
Treasurer Rory McLeod 686278

Whichford St Michael

Churchwardens Mandy James 684479
Sophia Corlett
Secretary Lucy Simpson
Treasurer Andy Chapman 684652

Parish Councils

Barcheston
Barton-on-the-Heath
Burmington
Cherington
Long Compton
Whichford

Chair

David Sutton
James Coker (674601)
Robert Hutchings (661496)
Philip Townsend (686529)
Simon Bing (684827)
Peter O'Kane (684888)

Clerk

Ann Batchelor (661527)
Julia Gotrel
Sara Cole (686250)
Sam Weller (698870)
Sara Cole (686250)
clerk.whichfordandascott@hotmail.co.uk
Sue Finlay (661157)

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!*

July Birthdays



1st	Lauren Aubrey	Stourton	17
1st	Faith Upward	Long Compton	17
13th	Arthur Seys	Willington	8
21st	Phoebe Williams	Willington	12
26th	Jake Fairbrother	Stourton	17
26th	Ryan Baldwin	Stourton	13

If you wish to add, delete or edit birthday details published – email editor@swlink.org.uk

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

JULY 2021 CHURCH SERVICES							
SW 7	St Martin Barcheston	St Lawrence Barton	St Barnabas & St Nicholas Burmington	St John the Baptist Cherington	St Peter & St Paul Long Compton	St Michael Whichford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
Sunday Worship							
4th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity	10:30 CW Morning Prayer (LM)					9am BCP Morning Prayer (LM)	
11th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity			10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)		9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		
18th July Seventh Sunday after Trinity		9am BCP Morning prayer (BD)					10:30 CW Holy Communion (BD)
25th July Eight Sunday after Trinity				9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	10:30 CW Morning Prayer (BD)		
1st August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	9am BCP Holy Communion (HP)						10:30 CW Morning Prayer (AD)

BD = Ben Dyson/LM = Liz Maycock/AW = Anthony Wells/CLW = Clare Wells/ HP = Heather Parbury/AD = Andrew Dow

BCP = Prayer Book/CW = Common Worship/GAP = Informal Service

SW7 BENEFICE CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

What would you say is the most common reason people give for abandoning, or not engaging with the Christian faith? I don't have the statistics to hand, but I suspect that the apparent hypocrisy of professing Christians would be high up on the list. Christians who on a Sunday morning claim to worship a God of love, and yet who on a Monday morning engage in vicious gossip about their friends and neighbours. Christians who supposedly serve a master who poured himself out in generous service of others, and yet who live materially comfortable lives and seem to show little compassion for those less well off. It is this kind of double standards of saying one thing and doing another, that is often so off putting to those who don't come to church.

Throughout the months of May and June, we've been going through the biblical book of James in our Sunday services. James, probably one of Jesus' brothers, is a writer who doesn't pull his punches. Here is an example of James characteristically blunt style in his opening chapter:

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James ruthlessly exposes hypocrisy, calling the church not only to talk a good game but to live lives transformed by their encounter with Jesus Christ. Put simply, James calls on the church to practise what it preaches.

Maybe you're reading this, and you'd call yourself a Christian. If that's you, then listen to the message of James. It's not enough to simply come to church and say the creed. For Christian faith to be genuine it must have an impact on our daily lives. It must make us more like the one we claim to worship.

But maybe you're reading this, and you wouldn't call yourself a Christian. Perhaps you've even been put off from Christianity because of Christian hypocrisy. If that's you then I'd urge you to take a second look. Don't dismiss Christ out of hand, simply because of the hypocrisy of some of his followers. Even the best Christian is a pale imitation when set alongside their master. We Christians are flawed, imperfect and yes sometimes hypocrites. But he is none of these things; he is the living embodiment of all that is good and true and beautiful. Please take time to consider him for yourself.

Reverend Ben Dyson

No More Marking

For the past four years, schools in The Stour Federation Partnership have been taking part in *No More Marking*, an online system that uses a comparative judgement approach for assessing writing in Years 1 to 6. In each year group's writing window, children complete an independent piece of writing from a picture stimulus which is then uploaded and assessed anonymously by teachers across the country by comparing two pieces of writing on the screen and choosing the better piece of work. If we are asked to compare two items or two tasks, we generally give much more reliable and consistent answers. Research has led many psychologists to conclude that human judgement is comparative, not absolute. The system generates whole-school and nationally benchmarked data to see how we compare, including a 'writing age' for each child.



In the recent Year 2 window 11,169 teachers took part from 784 primary schools, judging writing from 33,336 children. The overall reliability of the judging was 0.9, which shows a high level of consistency between teachers. Acorns Year 2 average writing age was 9 years and 6 months, compared with the national average writing age of 7 years and 7 months! Similar patterns have been seen in the other completed writing windows completed so far, where our Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts were at least one year above the national comparison writing age. Brailes and Shipston Primary Children were also more than a year above the national average.

Bright Lights, Big City

During May, Acorns Class 1 were busy exploring London through all types of media. They've chased the Queen's Hat with author, Steve Antony, researched outstanding landmarks that are world famous, navigated the city and took a step back to 1666 with The Great Fire of London. Following on from their 'Scented Garden' topic before Easter, the class has managed to grow some plants from seeds and they have now been planted in the Science Garden. The children were very proud that they helped them grow!

The children began by travelling back to Pudding Lane to investigate what happened in Thomas Farriner's bakery on that warm September night in 1666. After learning how the fire started, where and how it spread, and the destruction it caused, there was just no stopping Class 1 with their investigations. They couldn't believe how the fire took hold of the city and were surprised to learn that houses were all wooden and there was no fire brigade to help.

In art, Class 1 have studied the artists Stephen Wiltshire and Ken Done who both create cityscapes. The children have also developed their skills by creating models with moving parts. They've tackled the Elizabeth Tower with a moving clock, a moving London Eye and an art scape of the Great Fire with moving flames!

Beacon Project

Brailes C of E Primary School has been successful in our application to be a pilot Beacon School. The Beacon pilot has been planned in consultation with the headteachers of Coventry Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) schools. It has also been informed by current good practice across the DBE family of schools together with effective providers nationally.

At its heart is our Christian understanding of the world and the place of humanity within it, characterised by love, care and respect. The DBE's values underpin The Beacon:

- Love, forgiveness and reconciliation at the heart of all relationships.
- All members of the school community valued equally.
- Needs of the child at the heart of decision making.
- Leadership guided by integrity, courage, humility and service.
- Highest moral and ethical standards.

The finalised model of The Beacon, devised in partnership with The Mulberry Bush School in Oxfordshire, aims to increase staff knowledge regarding theoretical models for understanding child development, specifically in relation to the personal development and learning outcomes of pupils and enhance staff skills in professional reflection, through regular modelling and support, to respond to pupil need within our own school and The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust.

We have funding to appoint a 'Family Link Worker', offering social and emotional wellbeing support, as well as signposting and possibly advocating with relevant public services such as housing, social services, mental health care, etc.

We believe this model, worked across two school years starting in summer term 2021, to be more purposeful and sustainable compared to approaches for therapeutic intervention where solutions are often sought externally.

Do Cows Drink Milk?

Acorns Nursery and Reception children have embraced this term's topic 'Do Cows Drink Milk?' The children began by finding out where their food comes from and having great fun using their senses to explore milk products. Through a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts, the children have learned about farm animals and their babies, the crops grown on farms and farm machinery. Becoming increasingly accomplished writers, Reception children have written their own stories and poems based on the key texts *Farmyard Hullabaloo*, *Pig Gets Lost* and *The Cow that Laid an Egg*. The Reception children have relished being able to read increasingly challenging texts themselves and our budding readers in Nursery have enjoyed using books to tell stories. The older Nursery children have further developed their skills in readiness for September by continuing to work hard on 'The Rhyme Challenge', learning and reciting rhymes aloud.

Outdoors, the children have been busy driving the tractors, milking the pretend udders, making milk shakes and smoothies in the mud kitchen, creating a bug hotel, playing with the small world farm animals and vehicles in the mud, sand and water, and challenging their gross motor skills on Little Acorns' lovely new climbing blocks and tunnel. In their creative work, the children have experimented with a range of different media and tools to produce some fantastic art linked to the topic including clay, sponge

printing, stencilling, watercolour, pastel and junk modelling. During the 'Innovate Week', the children thought carefully about products made from crops grown on a farm and enjoyed baking and eating their own bread. They collaborated well to read and follow the recipe, weigh and measure the ingredients and knead their dough. The smell of freshly baked bread made everyone's tummies rumble and the delicious bread provided a much welcome snack at the end of a busy afternoon.



Christian Hilton – Executive Headteacher

Brailes Caretaker Vacancy

Brailes C of E Primary School, part of The Stour Federation with Shipston-on-Stour Primary School and Acorns Primary School in Long Compton, is looking for an outstanding caretaker for our wonderful school site and buildings, including a brand-new Nursery classroom extension. We would be keen to hear about your experience and what you can offer.

Hours of work (with some flexibility): 7.30 am to 9.00 am and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday during term time, plus 22.5 hours per week flexible working during school holidays. 20 days holiday per year (to be taken in school holidays) plus bank holidays.

Salary: Scale D SCP 4 £18933 pro-rata.

Please read the job description and the person specification at before completing the application and equality forms and return to: admin3014@welearn365.com Visits to the school are encouraged with COVID-19 secure measures in place. These can be scheduled by calling the school office on 01608 685253 or by email: admin3014@welearn365.com

<https://www.brailescofepimary.org.uk/vacancies/>

Brailes School will also be looking to recruit a cleaner starting in September 2021. If you are interested, please contact the school office.



New Break Crop

This year, for the first time, we are growing spring beans as a replacement for the oilseed rape (OSR) which is no longer a viable option on many farms in this country. Flea beetle, a significant pest of OSR, can no longer be controlled by neonicotinoids which are now banned, so an alternative break crop needs to be grown.

Field beans, which can be either winter or spring sown, are the same species as broad beans but we are using different varieties for the field. The beans produced are slightly smaller than those produced by broad beans.

Beans are a high protein crop, not normally used here for human consumption. However, a certain percentage is exported to North Africa. In Egypt they are sometimes used as a replacement for chickpeas.

An important part of their value as a break crop is that they are legumes or nitrogen fixing, so add fertility to the soil. In a regenerative system, which we are moving toward and which is being encouraged as a way of maintaining soil fertility, this is an important asset. Walking through the field at this time of year when the plants are flowering, the field is buzzing with various bees and other insects.



Unlike broad beans, field beans are left to dry in the field which means the plant will go completely black and unattractive so that the bean will have dried. Beans can be harvested at 18% moisture but cannot be sold or stored at higher than 15% which for safety, means drying to 14%. They can be difficult to dry because of their size and drying must be done gently, ideally by blowing air through them. Drying through a continuous dryer using heat may damage the crop. Here we have an on-floor system, blowing air up from the base which should be ideal, if a little slow. If you are nearby when the crop is being harvested, you will notice the noise. The beans are very hard so it is like harvesting large ball bearings and can cause considerable wear on the machines.

Lynn Mathias farms at Manor Farm in Great Wolford

Every spring, there emerges from the gravel of the pathway to my house, a small plant called corn salad or lambs lettuce. I read that it is quite palatable in salads, though I have never ever been offered it. The name 'lambs lettuce' comes from a belief that lambs are supposed to like eating it in autumn once it has suffered a frost and is crisp. I rather think that they will continue to prefer the lush grass on which they already graze! It is a rather curious flower, insofar that its attractive bright blue flowers are partly hidden by their sepals, which grow halfway up the flower, thus obscuring it. But it is a pleasant enough, and anything is better than gazing at gravel. One is puzzled by the family in which the botanists have put it, which is the valarian family. Now red valarian is a strong plant growing two feet at least and again, it is one of these flowers that introduces itself into your garden if it likes you. Personally, I think it makes quite a nice show. There are white flowered varieties growing in both Long Compton church garden and Whichford churchyard.

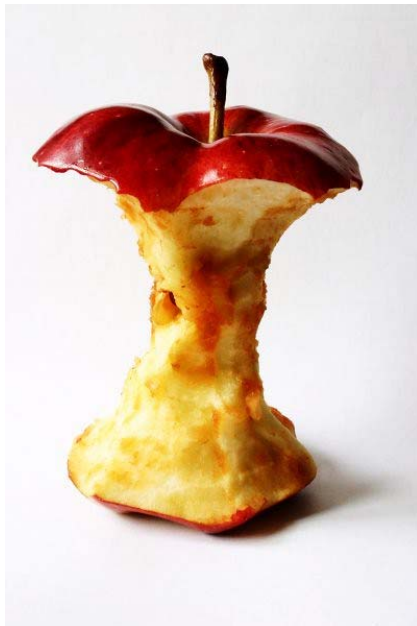
Whilst on the subject of gravel-loving plants, I have not this year seen my scarlet pimpernel which for years has grown in the same patch of gravel near to the stile into the field behind us. To paraphrase – rather badly I fear – the words of Baroness Orczy in the *Scarlet Pimpernel*; 'I seek it here, I seek it there, and I have sought and sought it everywhere'. I do fear that no seed survived from last year and that I have lost it.

From the treetops and bushes and fence posts the songs of birds have been calling. These songs were mostly by male birds calling to the local females to come up and see them sometime so to speak. So, by now, the serious business of nest building and egg production is well under way. But how do birds sing in comparison with our own vocal achievements? Well, scientists in the USA and Australia have found that there is a necessity to change from a single note such as we do, and this can be caused by changes in the bird's upper vocal parts. The sizes of which are altered as the bird wishes to alter the note. These sizes changes affect its song. To measure these sizes sections, birds throats were X-rayed. The size and volume of certain parts of the throat were seen to change, thus allowing the bird to emit different songs. This also could suppress the sound of the voice if necessary. A comparison with sopranos singing very high notes was made. Now how though do birds make such different sounds – say a rook and a robin? Well, it is chiefly because of the degree of change in the bird's throat.

The Animal Sentience Bill is at present ploughing its way through parliament, and this will put paid once and for all to the views of those who believe that animals have no feelings. Look at your dog as you go out and it knows that you are not taking it with you. Does it not wear a look of utter despair? As for your cat, calmly licking itself by the fireside, the purring is little more than a display of contentment. High in the blue sky a red kite is taking advantage of the changes in air currents and twists and turns and rises and dives in an ecstasy of pleasure. In the meadow behind our cottage there is a grass-covered mound up and down which the young lambs run and leap and play as did their mothers before them and as did their grandmothers and great-grandmothers before them. But somewhere I read of glue traps which are set primarily to catch rats and mice

and other pests. These consist of sheets of cardboard or wood coated with glue to which the unfortunate animal sticks. Here – and particularly the birds – the creature will exhaust itself to death trying to escape. I am amazed that such devices are still allowed! Where has the RSPCA been all this time – sleeping under a hedge? It has taken the Animal Welfare Association to bring this heinous device to the attention of those who can ban them, and this ban must almost certainly be made under the current legislation going through Parliament and the Lords.

Now, I don't know about you, but when I eat an apple, I eat every scrap of it – the flesh, the core, the pips and leave only the stalk. No apple that falls into my hands need fear that there will be any of it wasted. But of course, everyone does not do as I do. In particular, I am thinking of motorists who throw their cores out of the car window. But apparently these non-eaters-of-apple-cores are having an effect on the countryside. Their apples are setting seed and growing and appearing more and more in the hedgerows either as pure specimens, or as hybrids with crab apples. So that apple tree you see growing in the hedge may not be the sour crab apple – a fruit which our medieval ancestors seemed quite at home with, but to our tastes is frankly too sour. Such a pity this did not pertain when I was a boy so that I could have reached into the hedgerow and picked a nice juicy apple instead of having to scrump local orchards!



Oh, and back to when you leave your dog all on its own and go out. Well, just lean down and give it an extra pat before you go. You will both feel much better for it.

Remember – you can opt for the online LINK and stop or retain your printed copy through the door. It's your choice. Subscription to The LINK online is FREE for existing subscribers within the SW7 distribution area, so sign up and never have to search the house for your paper copy!



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Email online@swlink.org.uk for more details

GARDENING NOTES

Editors:

Margaret Welsh, Long Compton Garden Club

Miranda Arnold, Whichford Amateur Gardener

Gardeners tend to be obsessed with the weather, but this year it seems to have done nothing by halves. In early summer it was continually cold and wet, but as I write, we are having a heat wave. Water butts are being depleted and in some places in the garden, it is difficult to get a trowel into the hard ground.

Priority should be given to watering pots and other containers, greenhouse plants, vegetables and fruit and newly planted trees and shrubs. Although rhododendrons have finished flowering, they will need to be kept moist as next year's buds are developing. Remove any spent flowers that can be reached, taking care not to damage the bud. Feed containers weekly with a high potassium liquid feed, to maintain flowering.

The plants have certainly put on a spurt of growth during June, and many are probably at their best in the herbaceous border. You can start to collect seed of those which you wish to propagate such as aquilegias and nigella. Hardy geraniums can be cut back after flowering, and they will quickly grow again and should flower for a second time. Bearded irises can be divided after flowering is finished. Select the youngest rhizomes, cut back the leaves to about six inches and replant just below the soil surface.

Wisteria side shoots can be cut back to four - six leaves. When pruning early flowering shrubs, semi-ripe cuttings can be taken. You could also take cuttings of lavender, rosemary and sage. As you dead head roses, look out for suckers and pull them away as close to the site of origin as possible. Remove any leaves with signs of black spot or rust and keep the roses watered to counter powdery mildew.

Harvesting of vegetables and soft fruit will continue into July and autumn planted garlic and onions will also be ready to harvest. Lift the onions as the leaves turn yellow and leave them to ripen in a dry, sunny place. Small fruit trees will usually have had a June drop of excess fruits, but if they still seem overburdened with fruit, thin the fruits out so that the apples or pears can develop better and become larger and better quality. New crops can be planted out in July - e.g. winter cabbage and oriental vegetables such as pak choi can be sown for autumn cropping.

As early flowering perennials start to fade, more tender plants such as dahlias and salvias will take over and add exotic colour to the garden. Dead heading of dahlias in particular will keep them blooming and watering and feeding will pay dividends. I hope that the weather is equitable, and watering does not get too onerous.



Margaret Welsh

St. Martin's Barcheston – Organ Recital Series 2021



ST MARTIN'S, BARCHESTON

Organ Recital Series 2021

Sunday 4 July: Alex Wilson

Organ Scholar, Worcester College, Oxford

Sunday 1 August: Richard Moore

Sub-Organist, Guildford Cathedral

Sunday 5 September: John Morris

Organist, St Mary-the-Virgin, Stoneleigh

Sunday 3 October: Julian Harris

Director of Music, St James's Singers

Sunday 7 November: Mark Swinton

Assistant Director of Music, St Mary's, Warwick

Sunday 5 December: William Peart

Postgraduate Student, Universität der Künste, Berlin

Recitals will start at 3.30pm and last about 50 mins.

Entry is free. Donations are invited to St Martin's Organ Fund which is used to maintain the organ and fund future recitals and concerts

For further information please contact David Hodges: david@famington.co.uk

www.stmartinsbarcheston.co.uk

Barton Fete – Saturday 7 August

Preparations for the Barton Fete on Saturday 7 August have started with the Great Barton Table Appeal to buy a stock of good quality tables instead of hiring them each year. This will replicate the arrangements for the tents which are stored carefully each year (thank you Eddie) for re-use giving the fete committee a larger profit for donations to local charities and St. Lawrence Church.

May – Or Maybe Not!

May Day – the First of May at nine o'clock gave every hope that the weather from April would be left behind. A group of helpers set up the Shipston Home Nursing stand beside the village green in bright sunshine with an awning lent by Penny Mead. With donations of cakes, arts and crafts, fresh cut flowers, free range eggs, jams and marmalade on the table and a colourful display of potted shrubs and plants on the grass beside it, they even attracted buyers before the official 'opening'. It was a whole village effort and thanks are due to everyone who contributed – they know who they are.



But at midday, with the wind increasing and a storm forecast for the early evening, the awning was removed, perishables were covered, and for the rest of the week, there was a game of 'cat and mouse' between the table display and the rain to keep the stall up and running. Fortunately, Barton is a well-known short cut for the Chipping Norton – Shipston route avoiding Moreton, so that the morning and evening 'drive by's' provided a steady stream of interest and by Sunday 9 May the stall had collected £499.

Sadly, this first week was an indication of worse to come. With the weather records now to hand, the average daytime temperature was 24.4°C, the 6th coldest May since records began in 1884 and accompanied by 141mm of rain, the highest rainfall since 1862 (when rainfall records started). Barton retreated back inside.

At least the first house martins and swallows arrived in the middle of the month from Africa and decided to stay. Clematis and early roses on house walls held back until the sunshine which at last heralded the glorious first of June. This recalls my RN training where I learnt of The Glorious First of June, also known as the Fourth Battle of Ushant, which was the first and largest fleet action of the naval conflict between Great Britain and the First French Republic during the French Revolutionary Wars. So far June has been glorious with wonderful sunshine - long may it last.

John Castle

Beneficial Book Group

We were fortunate to be able to meet outside to talk about *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan on Sunday 6 June.

It was an exciting read and the hero, Pino Lella, at an amazingly young age, participated in helping those in dire need during World War Two, escape Italy from a mountain-top monastery and gain safety in Switzerland. He then became a spy for the Italian partisans by being the driver for one of the top German generals in Milan. He witnessed bombings and the cruellest acts by the Germans and the humiliation and death of Mussolini and with a tragic love story thrown in for good measure, he survived to tell his story for the first time to Mark Sullivan, who calls this a 'biographical novel'. Everyone thought it an enjoyable read.

The next time we will talk about *Midnight Library* by Matt Hague on Sunday 11 July at 5.30 pm. We will be outside or inside at Barton House.

Gillian Cathie



Barton-on-the-Heath

Village

FETE

Saturday 7th August

2.30-6pm

on the village green

LIVE
Jazz

FREE
ENTRY

Barton Village
PRODUCE

TEA & CAKE

fish &
chips

AUCTION

book stall

BAR

wine
tasting

PRE-LOVED
DESIGNER CLOTHES

Childrens'
tombola
& games

Bric-a-brac

RAFFLE TOMBOLA

[Ed – An apology for last month. We incorrectly labelled a photograph as George Aston in the Wellington article. It should have actually been Norman Aston.]

Burmington Church Warms the Congregation ... not the Rafters

Last year, Burmington Parochial Church Council (PCC) decided to improve the heating in the church to maintain a more welcoming temperature. In winter, despite the wall-mounted electric heaters being switched on very early on Sunday mornings, the church was often considered to be uncomfortably cold for worshippers. Graham Lancaster, the PCC Secretary, undertook the task of investigating alternative methods of warming the congregation.

Rather than replace the existing electric wall heaters it was thought that supplementing them with pew heating might work well. A church heating expert was consulted who said there was a new form of pew heating which was more efficient than the widely installed under-pew heating.

Graham investigated a number of solutions on the market and met Kivoschmidt Ltd. whose product is a heated cushion tailored to the length of each pew. During the PCC due diligence checks on the provider, several churches which have installed the system were contacted and visited to see how satisfied they were. Without exception, all were happy with their decision. Next, the Diocese had to approve and, following application for a faculty, they sent a church heating expert to visit us who gave the PCC the required approval. A grant from the Diocesan Church Improvements Fund was also secured for which the PCC is grateful and which made a valuable contribution towards the costs.



One selling point was that the system has low energy costs; it heats the person not the air in the building. Each pew has its own on/off switch and the heating kicks in when the cushions are sat on. Worshippers have been very complementary about the system and, as word spreads, several other churches have expressed interest in using similar.

Burmington Village Hall - Afternoon Tea



Come and have a cuppa with friends and family on Saturday 3 July from 2.00 pm onwards. Treat yourself to some delicious savories, scones and cakes. Soft drinks will be available for all ages. The event will be held outside on the green by the hall and in the churchyard - with gazebos to protect everyone from the hot summer sun !



Please Come and support our

COFFEE MORNING

Raising funds for the

CHILDREN'S LIVER DISEASE FOUNDATION

SATURDAY 17TH JULY 2021 from 10.30 – 12.30

At Kenrene, Burmington, CV36 5AR

Any contributions of cakes, raffle prizes and donations
gratefully received.

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

A Treat for the Cameo Lunch Club

Fourteen-year-old Peter Macaulay, a keen sportsman, who attends Sibford school made a Bakewell Tart pudding which was delivered to CAMEO Lunch Club members in SW7 with their lunch as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Peter has an interest in cooking and a variety of sports.

Well done, Peter! Your Bakewell Tart pudding was very much appreciated by the CAMEO members and attracted high praise for its excellence. Perhaps we'll see you on MasterChef one day? And good luck with the DoE Award!

Lunches continue to be distributed to member's home while lockdown lasts and will resume in Burmington village hall just as soon as Boris allows it!

Graham French

[Ed – May I add my 'well-done' Peter, a great initiative!]



Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market has re-opened!

**Find us in the WI Hall, New Road, Moreton in Marsh,
every Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

**We are back to a full market offering Bakes & Savouries, Veg & Eggs,
Preserves, Crafts, Cards, Gifts and Plants**

Pick up an order form - pre-orders are welcome

Phone Angela 07933 141410 / mimcountrymarket@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook

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

Shirley Bray 1932 -2021

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Shirley Bray took place at St. John the Baptist Church, Cherington on Friday 11 June.

In her youth, Shirley studied for a degree in French at the universities of Reading and Strasbourg, which led to a career in the teaching profession. She settled in the North Cotswolds, an area that she loved, and spent her entire adult life here. Teaching at a number of local schools, she eventually became a member of staff at Tudor Hall school near Banbury, teaching French.

Shirley moved to Stourton House in Stourton in 1979, where, as a hobby, she kept a small flock of goats. She immersed herself in village life taking on many responsible roles in the community, such as secretary of the PCC, and secretary of the Senior Citizens' Club. She ran the Sunday School, was an officer of the WI, and helped with the opening-up of the footpaths. She was a staunch supporter of Cherington Church, which led her to financing the much-needed restoration of the clerestory (upper row) of windows of the ancient building.

Shirley had a wide circle of friends with whom she could enjoy a game of bridge, a round of golf, crochet, or even hand-bell ringing. In 2000, she moved to Shipston but continued to keep close ties with Stourton and Cherington, where her sporty blue convertible car could regularly be seen around the two villages.

Sadly, her last few years were to be spent in a nursing home, where she was cared for with great compassion. Shirley will be remembered with affection by many as a thoroughly good soul who was full of community spirit.

Jane Upson

Village Lottery

This month's draw has been delayed a week to allow further annual subscriptions to be received. June and July winners will be in The LINK next month.

Steve Allkins

Free For All at the Hall – Sunday 11 July

Following the announcement to delay lockdown easing, it is with regret that this event has had to be cancelled. Overall progress with vaccination has been fantastic but the Delta variant has provided a sting in the tail.

Thank you to all those who volunteered to help organise. We will keep an open mind about something later in the year.

Jim Walton (07860 727467)

Coffee Shop - Saturday 10 July



10.30 am - 12 noon.

At The Hall, Stourton - CV36 5HG

Teas, Coffees including cappuccino,
latte etc. cake and bacon rolls
(Takeaway drinks available)

Come along and have a chat with your friends over a cuppa and a chance to get to know people if you are new to the village. Everyone Welcome.

Christine



Mother and Child, Kenya (Oil on Canvas) by Stourton artist Colin Beckett

Long Compton Stores

I am sad to report that Judith is leaving the Stores. After 36 years she is leaving to pursue other avenues and I am sure you will all join me in taking this opportunity to thank her for her unfailing cheer and help over the years and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Sally Franklin

Long Compton Village Hall

At the time of writing, we are unclear as to whether we will be able to hold our Summer Fete on Saturday 3 July or not. We have, however, managed to hold another Social Saturday on a splendid June morning in glorious sunshine. Could it have been the impressive array of cakes and savouries that attracted visitors from as far away as South Africa? Perhaps it was the opportunity to attend the AGM to hear what had been going on over the past year or simply the lure of meeting up with others, socially distanced, to catch up on news and generally chew the fat. Whatever the reason, there was plenty of eating, drinking, chatting and laughter to be had.



We were delighted to welcome two new members to the Committee at the AGM and are looking forward to their input in the months ahead. There's still room for more if you'd like to join our happy band. Or maybe you'd like to help out but not be on the Committee, perhaps serving at a Social Saturday or helping to organise and/or run an event. We'd love to hear from you so do get in touch.

Finally, in the event that the current lockdown restrictions are extended for another four weeks, as is suggested, we may have to swap the fete for another Social Saturday. We can't stand in the way of those who want to bake, eat and natter now can we?!

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

Social Saturday

Saturday, 10th July 2021, 11am—1pm

Long Compton Village Hall

Entry Free!

Subject to current COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing



Long Compton and District Garden Club



Visits Summer 2021



Monday 5 July – Pettifers near Wardington, Banbury, OX17 1RU

A beautiful 1.5 acre private garden, designed for year-round interest. Lawns and flower filled borders give way to open countryside views. Own cars. Arrive 1.00 pm, guided tour 2.30 pm. No refreshments, so bring a snack. £8 entrance.

Wednesday 8 August – Rousham, near Steeple Aston OX25 4QU

An important historic 18th Century William Kent garden in the landscape style. Long vistas and follies so you'll need comfortable shoes. A walled garden, parterre and pigeon house. Own cars. £8. Arrive 2.00 pm.

Thursday 9 September – Waterperry Gardens just east of Oxford off M40 OX33 1LA

There is something for everyone in this eight-acre garden. Beautiful trees, classic borders, long vistas, a garden museum, plant centre and shop. Own cars. £8. We are hoping to arrange lunch together. More details later.

Please let Anthony Wells or Lesley Roberts know if you would like to come. We are using our own cars for all these visits, and we would like to share cars if possible. Please let us know if you would be happy to do this.

Anthony Wells: 684337 anthonymgwells@btinternet.com

or Lesley Roberts: 684545 lesleyroberts46@gmail.com



Our next meeting is on Thursday 8 July at 7.00 pm

We will be discussing *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

and *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers

All Welcome - Contact: Carole Clements 01608 684938

carole.r.clements@googlemail.com



Ebenezer Chapel

Long Compton Congregational Church
Butlers Lane



Craft Market

Every third Thursday from 15 July – 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Refreshments on Sale

For details: Sally Franklin 07870 545431/01608 644739 or Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

Long Compton & District Walkers

After a somewhat shambolic attempt to meet in the car park at the Red Lion, for our first walk since restrictions were relaxed, we made a hasty getaway and reconvened at Great Tew which proved much less crowded.

It was good to see so many familiar faces and to welcome some new ones. There was much catching up to be done during the morning, as we made our way through part of the Great Tew estate towards Nether Worton. There was little to disturb the tranquillity of the scene, we only encountered some horses out for exercise and another small group of walkers coming in the opposite direction. After a brief pause for our usual coffee stop, we returned to our starting point climbing very gently through fields of beans and wheat, along well-defined footpaths until we reached the boundary of Great Tew park and then back into the village.

Sadly, current restrictions did not allow for a large number to be accommodated at the pub for lunch, but hopefully that may change before our next walk which will be on Tuesday 13 July, meeting as usual in the car park at the Red Lion at 9.30 am.

Jan Treadaway 684553

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 jordanlboswell@hotmail.com

The FLCC is recruiting for Project Managers and Committee Members

Please contact Steve Lavelle at fllcsec@gmail.com or 07970 477 984

The Friends exist to raise money for the upkeep of our beautiful and historic church building and to make full use of it for concerts and other local events.

Please see www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com.

For up-to-date information see Facebook @FriendsOfLongComptonChurch



The Friends of Long Compton Church
Registered Charity Number 1141049

Ebenezer Congregational Chapel

Covid has had repercussions for everyone, but at the June Service of Thanksgiving some moving testimonies were shared by a nurse, patient (Linny King pictured right), carers, bereaved and shop workers about their personal experiences. These were all very moving, but everyone had also managed to find some positivity to balance the negatives.



Rev. Marion presided and Bridget Tiffin played the organ for uplifting hymns which whilst could sadly not be sung, could be read and hummed! Tambourine bells added to the joy if not necessarily the tunefulness! From feedback, it was enjoyed by all who attended.



Another positive outcome of first lockdown was that a presentation was collated of history of Chapel. The Chapel has a fascinating 200-year history, which we had intended to present at a Social Evening on Saturday 3 July. However, the extension of current covid restrictions means that this will now be postponed to a future date. We hope you can join us then.

The extension of covid restrictions means that the Bicentenary Anniversary Service on Sunday 4 July at 3.30 pm will have to be socially distanced. New members will be formally welcomed and Reverend Janet Wootton, who spoke with such sincerity about her memories of the Chapel at Rev. Marion's induction a few years ago, will also be taking part in the service.

Fundraising

We are proud to have been part of Shipston Home Nurses plant stalls. Eighteen villages raised £10,000.

July also sees the first of our monthly evening Craft Markets commencing on Thursday 15 July with a select group of local stall holders. There will be jewellery, pottery, floral crafts, textiles and a bring and buy crafters stall. Refreshments will be available from Berbow Catering.



Commencing 28 August is our Plant and Produce Show. If you haven't had a schedule delivered, please get in touch with Sally or Elizabeth.

Practicalities

Planning Permission has been granted for the new toilet block – we just now need to work out how to fund it! A grant application is in train, awaiting formal quotations from constructors to complete.

Work to the car park wall commenced (hopefully!) on 21 June – funded by a charity grant. The car park renovation will follow which will be funded by your kind donations and, hopefully grants which have been applied for.

The Arden Room is waiting on our Surveyor's advice prior to redecoration.

Sally Franklin 07870 545431 or Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

Long Compton Stores

Long Compton Stores are looking to appoint a shop assistant. The hours are Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. A job share would be considered.

Details available from Marianne Carty
01608 684277.



Village Organisations

Long Compton and District Garden Club - Contact Anthony Wells 684337 or Lesley Roberts 684545

Compton and District History Society - Contact Diana Cook 684771

Comptonians - Contact Margaret Welsh 684238

Village Hall - Mo Read on 684130, 07814802814 or lcvilleagehall@yahoo.co.uk

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

Long Compton & District Walkers - Jan Treadaway 684553

Long Compton Short Mat Bowls - Club Contact Adrian on 684024

Long Compton Bridge Club - Chris Galloway 684234

The Friends of Long Compton Church e: friendslcchurch@gmail.com f:

@friendsoflongcomptonchurch

<https://www.friendsoflongcomptonchurch.com/>

Long Compton Sports Club:

Secretary: Andrew Lund-Yates 07813 032144/ 01451 820467 andrewlundyates@gmail.com

Cricket: Andrew Badham 07900-466339 andrewbadham@icloud.com



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We can offer new advertisers an introductory 'advertorial'.

Also, if you can help with the management of the advertising, we are looking for a an Advertising Manager please. The LINK needs volunteers – please consider helping if you can. Contact editor@swlink.org.uk for more details.

Ebenezer Chapel

Long Compton Congregational Church

Butlers Lane

BICENTENNIAL

200th

ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 200 years since
Pastor Samuel West formed
his Independent Church

Service

Sunday 4 July

Minister: Rev. Marion Hartwell

3.30pm

Long Compton Community Choir

Organist: Bridget Tiffin

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Details: Sally Franklin 01608 684739 Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778

Songbirds around Whichford

We are blessed with some beautiful countryside around Whichford, but it has taken me 10 years of being in the village to discover the richer pockets of habitat where the wildlife thrives. Alas, there is some very unsympathetic farming in the vicinity, with negligible field margins and unnecessary removal of scrub habitat. But there are also some exceptions, with oases for species such as these songbirds, whose nests have graced our hedgerows and woodland. I found these among many others in the vicinity of the village this spring, but it could be so much more productive with more thought given to habitat corridors and even some rewilding. Huge improvements can be achieved in a relatively short space of time – as has been demonstrated at the much-publicised Knepp Estate in West Sussex and at Norfolk's Wild Ken Hill, which was the base for this year's BBC *Springwatch*. Please spread the word, and urge our landowners to take note.



Blackcap Eggs



Treecreeper



Yellowhammer Nest



Chiffchaff Eggs - Article and Photographs by Patrick Fox (Instagram @patrickcfox)

The Reading Room Draw

Congratulations to Bill Shepard who was the winner of the June Reading Room draw.

Jenny Scrivener

The Great Wolford Minute Books

The two oldest Great Wolford Parish Council minute books, starting in 1898, have now been deposited at the Warwickshire County Record Office where they will be available for inspection. The website is <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/county-record-office> or email - recordoffice@warwickshire.gov.uk

The Wolfords WI

We were doing a bit of self-analysis at our June meeting with Sue Burton, founder of Colour & Style Analysis Image Consultancy. We all know that if you look good, you feel good and apparently it also helps your immune system.

The colour analysis philosophy works on the fact that each individual has a colouring that falls roughly within the spectrum of one of four categories. The concept uses names of the seasons of nature as a way of describing a person's individual colouring and the shades that are the most flattering. Her clients are analysed as having the cool tones of winter or summer, or the warm tones of autumn and spring. If you are a cool colour, you look good with grey hair, but a warm person should dye their grey hair. Each season's palette contains its own group of colours and every person's colouring is in harmony with one of them. Sue showed how several different coloured fabric drapes bring different colours to your face. It's all about texture and co-ordination, with colours that easily mix and match, making sure you'll always look, and feel your best.

This month on Wednesday 7 July at 7.30 pm we are with 'Rolo - the four-legged time traveller' with Debi Evans, author and owner of Rolo the Rescue Dog. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, please contact Sarah Franklin 674615, President Sue Elliot 674295 or Secretary Roz Warriner 684223.

Moreton Car Boot Sale – Monday 30 August 2021

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

The members of the PCC are giving up their August Bank holiday lie-in to be at Moreton Car Boot sale at 7.00 am on Monday 30 August!

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

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

John Wrench 01608 674389 or Ann McKenna 01608 674009

The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The June winners were as follows:

1st prize – Sue Elliot

2nd prize – Henry Warriner

3rd prize – Sue Elliot

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

James van Helden

The Wolfords Village Hall Reopening

Sadly, the latest Government update has delayed the lifting of all remaining covid restrictions until 17 July and this would then be the date for reopening the hall again. There might be a possibility that this date could be bought forward by 2 weeks depending on the virus infection rate and so please refer to the web site for further confirmation on reopening – www.thewolfordsvillagehall.org.uk

James van Helden



Bluebell Wood (in Oil) by Great Wolford LINK reader and artist, Sue Osborne.

Our poet this month turns one hundred and fifty years old. William Henry Davies (more commonly known as W.H. Davies) was born in the Pillgwenlly district of Newport, Monmouthshire on 3 July 1871. He spent a proportion of his life as a hobo or tramp depending on which side of the Atlantic he happened to be at the time. He was a regular passenger on the cattle ships that criss-crossed the Atlantic during the 1890s.



On attempting to jump a freight train at Renfrew, Ontario on 20 March 1899, he lost his footing, and his right foot was crushed under the wheels of the train. The leg was amputated below the knee, and he wore a peg-leg thereafter.

The line - *What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare* is possibly the most famous he penned and is likely more well-known than he is. It is the opening to his poem *Leisure* published in 1911.

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this is if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies 1871 - 1940



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

This occasional *LINK Lit.* feature has this month, an item by a local author telling readers about her new book. I have done the responsible thing and can assure readers that she does live in the area, and she does have a real name, but please allow me to introduce this item by *Person Irresponsible*.

Keith Murphy, LINK Editor

***Everything You Ever Taught Me* by Person Irresponsible**

I thoroughly enjoy perusing THE LINK each month when it arrives through my door, especially when it contains stunning photography of local creatures - blackcaps, fluffy wood pigeons and finches. I particularly appreciate the fact that our local wildlife is no fiercer than the lovely picture of a wolf drawn by Darcey (May 2021). Especially given last year, when I slept amongst real ones, some of which howled at dusk. At the time, I had nothing other than a flimsy blue tent protecting me from whatever was 'out there'.

Moving into a solid-brick abode in Sutton-under-Brailes late last autumn was a welcome relief from living amidst dangerous wildlife such as bears, coyotes, rattlesnakes, mountain lions and occasionally tremendously smelly fellow human beings. The pictures in The LINK also save me the bother of having to go outside to discover nature for myself because recently, I have become quite averse to walking anywhere.

This is probably because in 2020 I believe I walked further than all the footpaths in the area of SW7 combined. I started at the Mexican border and didn't stop until I arrived at the Canadian border - a trek of approximately 2,650 miles, not including all the miles I had to hike into towns to obtain food supplies and new equipment.

You'd never imagine that I'm fat, female, forty-something and particularly fond of sofa-surfing as a recreational hobby and professional pastime. Thankfully, this year I have had a book to write, which has combined both pleasure and necessity into the perfect lifestyle. Best of all, it is one enhanced by bathing daily, drinking as much coffee as I want, and not having to dig a hole to bury certain items.

In *Everything You Ever Taught Me*, I describe my journey from my sofa in Oxfordshire culminating on a sofa in Warwickshire, via six months in the American wilderness during the pandemic. The Pacific Crest Trail is the world's longest continuous path situated hundreds of miles inland and it curls through the three western US States of California, Oregon and Washington. Its highest point is some breath-taking thirteen thousand feet above sea level, and its lowest point is at sea-level - the Columbia River which separates Washington from Oregon. Needless to say, between Canada and Mexico there are a hell of a lot of mountains to conquer, as well as desert, snow, ice, dense woodland, earthquakes, driving rain and hail, volcanic activity and wildfires. Thinking about it, they all made the wildlife look quite tame.



All of this was set against the backdrop of the pandemic. I sheltered in a protected little bubble of my own, with no internet or phone reception for up to ten days at a time. I side-stepped the worst of the seemingly interminable lockdown and isolated myself from the endless news reports. Each time I popped into civilisation, I discovered a new reason to run for the hills. And when I felt fear in the hills, I found new levels of self-confidence and insanity. Like the day I chased off a pair of black bears by singing 'God Save the Queen!' loudly and badly out-of-tune. It was the only song I could recall all the words for whilst I was under the threat of death.

To cope with it all: the loneliness, the fear, the exhaustion and the physical agony of repetitive strain injuries, I applied everything I learnt about myself from several years of being 'In Recovery'. I ceased drinking five years ago - it is my greatest accomplishment. Quite frankly, as I hobbled away mile after mile, there was little else to do but contemplate every life skill I'd acquired since I ceased drinking: teaching me to take it one step at a time, one day at a time, one bloody ginormous hill at a time and every single life-threatening rattlesnake at a time.

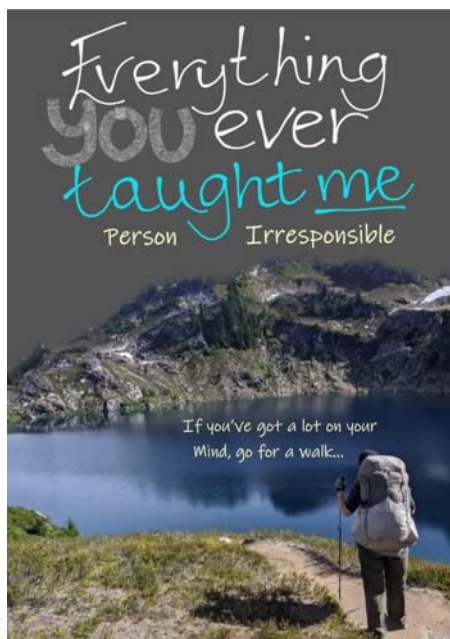
Everything You Ever Taught Me is available from Amazon in paperback (£9.99 without prime) or on Kindle (£7.99) and is coming shortly to a bookshop near you. Audible will be available later in the year.

As a special promotion, a signed copy can be delivered to residents of the SW7 Benefice (£10 including delivery). If you wish to take up this offer, please contact the author at personirresponsible@mlconaquad.com to make arrangements. For more information, go to www.mlconaquad.com

Search *Everything You Ever Taught Me* at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/> to order.

Person Irresponsible

[Ed – If any other local authors would like to share their books through these pages, please do get in touch.]



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