

# THE LINK

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

MARCH 2024

£1.20

*Happy Easter*

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

# EVENTS DIARY

Contact the Editor:

[editorswlink@gmail.com](mailto:editorswlink@gmail.com)

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

Sun 3	Coffee Shop	The Hall, Stourton	10.30
Tues 5	Lent Service	Shipston Ch	14.30
Thurs 7	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Fri 8	Feelgood Friday	The Hall, Stourton	14.00
Sat 9	SW Women's Breakfast	Wolford VH	08.30
	Jumble Sale	Whichford Ch	10.00
	Social Saturday	Long Compton VH	11.00
	Song Recital	Farmington Farm	19.00
	Barbie	Brailes Picture Hse	19.15
Tues 12	Lent Service	Ettington Ch	14.30
	Cameo Lunch Club	Burmington VH	12.00
Weds 13	History Society Talk	Long Compton VH	19.30
Thurs 14	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
Sun 17	Spring Service	Long Compton Chapel	15.30
	Carers 4Carers Quiz	Tysoe VH	19.00
Tues 19	Lent Service	Long Compton Ch	14.30
Weds 20	Comptonians	Long Compton VH	14.00
Thurs 21	Country Market	Moreton WI Hall	10.00
	My Life in Stiches	The Hall, Stourton	19.00
Fri 22	Carers4Carers	Kinton Village Hall	10.30
Sun 24	Palm Sunday Service	Whichford Ch	09.00
Tues 26	Wolford's PC Meeting	Wolford VH	19.30
	Lent Service	Whatcote Ch	14.40
Weds 27	Garden Club talk	Long Compton VH	19.30
Sat 30	Free Choral concert	The Hall, Stourton	19.30
Sun 31	Easter Service	Whichford Ch	10.30

Please note the copy deadline for April 2024:

March 14

# The LINK TEAM

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# EDITORIAL



## Link Talk

Spring has sprung! Welcome to our Easter edition of The Link with a distinct yellow theme! Last year it was bunny ears, this year there are 12 Easter chicks hidden amongst the pages for you to find with any children you may have spending time with you over the Easter holidays.

Our villages are coming back to life as are the number of events to enjoy; there is something happening almost every day in March.

Please do enjoy the holidays and all that our villages, staffed by an army of volunteers, have to offer.

Happy Easter!

Sara Billins



Cover photograph: Daffodils by Tony Wells

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

LINK cover and artwork produced by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton

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**Pet of the Month**

Meet Otto, a 4-year-old Springer Spaniel new to the Long Compton and particularly enjoying Aunt Phoebe’s field where he is making lots of lovely friends.

Likes:

commandeering all the tennis balls, being busy, ponds and woods along with fuss and admiration in equal measure.

Dislikes:

the Hoover, so a good place to leave shoes or anything else you don’t want retrieved. All in all, he is a wonderful companion both on and off the field and I adore the little rascal.

*Do you have a pet you would like to see featured in Pet of the Month? Send a photo and short bio to [editor@swlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@swlink.org.uk)*





**Happy Birthday!**  
March 2024



Isabelle Sophia Jansen van Rensburg	Great Wolford	9
Matthew Baldwin	Stourton	13
Sam Chapman	Whichford	18



The LINK has been kindly supported during 2024 by The National Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

## Marine Quay, Salcombe



A spacious waterfront apartment for sale/rent on a timeshare basis in **Salcombe, Devon**. Sleeps 4-6. The first week in November, peaceful and Autumnal. Stunning estuary views from the Apartment Balcony and rooms. It has its own parking for 1 car and there is a Charging facility for EV's. No Dogs.

Contact 07792 974288 or 07976 700763 for further details.



## Moreton-in-Marsh Country Market

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

### Dates for the diary

**7<sup>th</sup> March** - we are celebrating National Pie Week with our home-cooked and delicious selection of sweet and savoury pies.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** – Irish Fayre, featuring lots of winter warmers.

**21<sup>st</sup> March** – Easter's coming! We'll have Simnel cakes and Easter biscuits, and more. Plus a chance to order ahead for what you might need over the coming Easter weekend.

07933 141410 / [mimcountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:mimcountrymarket@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook

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

## Carers4Carers



Monthly meeting. Friday March 22 10:30 - 12 noon, Kineton Village Hall. Come along for refreshments and the chance to meet other local carers. We'll be welcoming a (human) speaker from Dogs for Good accompanied, hopefully, by a four-legged friend! Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meetings.

For more information about our support group for carers, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or take a look at [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk)

Save the date: Sunday March 17 at 7.00pm Tysoe Village Hall - quiz in aid of Carers4Carers. See [www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk) and look out for more details coming soon on social media.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

**Have your say on...**

# Warwickshire's rights of way

The 1700 miles of public rights of way across Warwickshire are important for enjoying and exploring our countryside and urban areas as well as for travelling to work or school and for our health & wellbeing. They are part of what makes Warwickshire a special place to live, work and enjoy.

- ❓ If you use public rights of way, we'd like to know about your experience and how important they are to you.
- ❓ If you don't use them, we'd like to know why and what, if anything, we can do to help.

Visit: [ask.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk)

  
Scan me

**Take part in our online survey to tell us your ideas.**  
**Survey closes 7 April 2024.**

  
Warwickshire  
County Council

# Easter Recipe: Swedish Semla Buns

These fabulous buns are eaten in Sweden from Shrove Tues and throughout Lend. Admittedly, they are a bit of a faff to make but their extreme deliciousness makes them worth the time and effort!



## Ingredients

### For the dough

#### Stage 1

10g strong white bread flour

60ml milk

#### Stage 2

250g strong white bread flour

1¾ tsp ground cardamom

½ tsp sea salt

60g caster sugar

1tsp fast acting yeast

110ml whole milk

1 large beaten egg

50g unsalted butter (room temp)

15g demerara sugar

20g crushed pistachio nuts

### For the praline

200g caster sugar

1/8 tsp sea salt

150g toasted pistachios

### For the cream filling

400ml double cream

1 ½ tsp vanilla bean paste

2 tsp grated lemon zest

3tbsp icing sugar

Pinch sea salt

## **Method**

### **Day One**

#### **Dough Stage 1**

Put the flour and milk in a small saucepan and mix. Heat for three minutes stirring until you have a thick white sauce. Cool

#### **Dough Stage 2**

Put the flour, cardamom, sugar and yeast in a bowl and mix. Add the cooled white sauce and mix using a hand whisk preferably with a dough hook. Add the milk and all but a small amount of the egg. Knead for 5 mins until you have a sticky dough. Add the softened butter in small chunks kneading until it is all incorporated. Place the dough in a bowl.

Cover and leave in a warm place for an hour and a half to rise and double in size.

Knead the dough again to knock out the air. It should be a sticky dough so flour your hands but don't add more flour to the dough. Cover and leave overnight.

### **Day Two**

Line a couple of oven trays with baking paper. Knead the dough again to knock out the air then divide into 12 pieces. Roll in your hands to make neat round buns. Place on the baking tray about 4 cm apart. Cover tray with a clean tea towel and leave to rise for an hour and half to double in size. Heat the oven to 220C (200C Fan). Brush the top of the buns with the remaining egg, sprinkle with demerara sugar then bake for 10 mins until golden brown. Cook on a wire rack.

#### **Make the praline**

Put the sugar and salt in a small saucepan and cook on a medium heat for 5-7 minutes swirling but not stirring the pan until you have a golden caramel. Off the heat, stir in the pistachios then pour onto a lined baking tray to cool. Blitz in a food processor until you are left with a smooth, spoonable paste.

#### **For the filling**

Slice the top off each bun. Keep the tops. Carefully scoop out the middle of the buns and keep 100g in a bowl. Add 100ml milk to the crumbs and mash with a fork into a smooth paste. Stir in the praline and either spoon or pipe this mixture into the hollowed-out buns.

Finally, put the cream ingredients into a bowl and whisk to soft peaks. Either spoon or pipe into the buns on top of the praline. Scatter over the pistachios and top the buns with their lids.

Enjoy!





Shipston Community First Responders are volunteer medics, certified by West Midlands Ambulance Service to attend the most serious medical emergencies in our area. For over 20 years, they have been serving Shipston on Stour and surrounding villages, aiming to reach potential life-threatening emergencies in the first vital five minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. An increasing population and now the absence of a local hospital, demands on the team have increased to an average of 40 critical 999 calls each month.

The First Responders are unpaid and on call 24/7. The service relies on community funding for everything from uniforms and equipment through to the response vehicle. Their current vehicle, donated by The League of Friends of Ellen Badger Hospital over a decade ago, is now showing its age and needs to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

This vehicle allows first responders to reach emergencies and **SAVE LIVES**. Without a reliable vehicle, this service is at risk and so are people in our community.

Stour Valley Lions, Shipston Rotary, The League of Friends and Shipston Home Nursing are coordinating an appeal to raise £35,000 to purchase a replacement response vehicle.

A Just Giving page, hosted by Stour Valley Lions, is currently being developed but in the meantime, you can donate by sending a cheque payable to:

Shipston First Responders, c/o Dr Susan Baines, 16 Furze Hill Road, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4ET.

Honorary Patron of the appeal, Doctor Sarah Jarvis MBE, says '*A fully functional first-responder vehicle is crucial to the life-saving work of this fantastic group of volunteers in our community. We all hope we will never need their help, but every day someone does. Please give whatever you can to preserve this vital service.*'

Andrew Revell, Chair of the fundraising group and Executive Director of Shipston Home Nursing says 'If you or someone you know has benefitted from the Shipston Community First Responders, or if you are able to support their essential work, please give generously.'

# INFO LINK

editorswlink@gmail.com



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

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

## Local Catholic Church Services

### *Chipping Norton*

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

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

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

### *Shipston and Brailes*

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

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

### *Chipping Campden*

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

## Local Quaker Meetings

Local Quaker Meetings for worship:

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

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

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

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

## Local Congregational Services

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

Chair Elizabeth Gilkes 07791 621778 Sec/Treasurer Sally Franklin

# PARISH PEOPLE

## Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

	<i><b>Barcheston St Martin</b></i>	<i><b>Barton-on-the-Heath St Lawrence</b></i>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	David Hodges 07767840857	Walter Sawyer 684755
<b>Secretary</b>	Alice and Tom Murray 238755	Vacancy
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Cleave 666002	Mandy McPherson 674734
	<i><b>Burmington St Barnabas &amp; St Nicholas</b></i>	<i><b>Cherington St John the Baptist</b></i>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Michael Macdonald 662483	Roger Maycock 686404
<b>Secretary</b>	Graham French 239032	Paul Levitch 686353
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stuart Walsh, 07870 154425	Sherry Gasson-Barker 686420
	<i><b>Long Compton St Peter and St Paul</b></i>	<i><b>Whichford St Michael</b></i>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Jill Kirby 684923	Sophia Corlett 684369
<b>Secretary</b>	Zoë Wrigley 650404	Mandy James 684479
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Nye 684363	Jenny Scrivener
	<i><b>Wolford St Michael and All Angels</b></i>	
<b>Churchwarden</b>	John Wrench 674389	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann McKenna 674009	

## Parish Councils

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
Barcheston	David Sutton	Lindsey Walker (663567)
Barton-on-the-Heath	James Coker (674601)	Julia Hicks
Burmington	Robert Hutchings (661496)	
Cherington	Philip Townsend (686529)	Sara Cole (686250)
Long Compton	Simon Bing (684827)	Sam Weller (684897)
Whichford	Peter O'Kane (684888)	Nicky Aldenton
The Wolfords	Pippa Lines (01608 674035)	Elizabeth Gilkes (684336)

# CHURCH NOTES

I wonder what you dreamt of being when you were a child. My childhood dream whilst growing up was to play cricket for England. I don't remember how old I was when I first realised that this was never going to happen, but since then I have taken great pleasure in watching and listening to the exploits of the England cricket team with all the highs and lows that this entails. The highlight of the last year has been watching a group of cricketers completely change the way the game is played, led by a man who seems to be able to ignore or defuse the pressure of playing sport at the highest level.



One of the interesting things about reaching the top in any field, is that those who do frequently say it that leaves them feeling empty and dissatisfied. Jonny Wilkinson arguable England's greatest ever rugby player said this:

*'To say I have played through four World Cups, two Lions tours, 91 international games... gives me an incredibly special feeling of fulfilment. I know myself well enough to know that I will never truly be satisfied.'*

Famous author Jack Higgins was once asked about what he would have liked to have known when he was younger. He replied. *'That when you get to the top, there's nothing there.'*

Of course, these kinds of feelings don't just affect those of us who happen to be fortunate enough to realise our childhood dreams. Most of us at some time or another will have been disquieted by questions about the meaning of our lives. Is there more to my life than just the daily routine of work and getting by? Do my actions have any lasting significance? Does my life have purpose beyond acquiring possessions or experiencing pleasure?

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes in the bible asks similar questions about the meaning of life, and his rather dispiriting conclusion is that *'everything is meaningless'*. If all there is to life is what we see, says the writer, then money, pleasure, career success and even knowledge are all ultimately meaningless.

Why, why is it that those things we look to, to give us satisfaction so often prove to be empty? The Christian response is that those things were never designed to bring lasting fulfilment; and when we look to them to do so we end up feeling dissatisfied and disillusioned. We were made to enjoy God forever and it is only in knowing him that the deepest longings of our hearts will be satisfied.

I don't know what you think of that claim. Perhaps you're sceptical. After all it is a huge claim to make that by knowing God our hunger for meaning and fulfilment can be satisfied, but here's the thing; if there's even a chance that it's true then surely, it's worth investigating, examining the evidence for yourself.

Christians claim that knowing God is the meaning of life, and that the only way to know God is through Jesus of Nazareth God's Son. So why not take some time to investigate Jesus for yourself? You can do this by reading one of the four early biographies written about his life (the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) all based on the eyewitness accounts of those who knew him. Why not see for yourself whether what Jesus claims is true. Who knows you might find in him the meaning and purpose you've been searching for. I know I have.

Rev. Ben Dyson

# Perspectives on the Cross

## Shipston Deanery Lent Services 2024

More details:  
Rev'd Sarah Edmonds  
[rector@shipstonchurch.org](mailto:rector@shipstonchurch.org)

Tuesdays at  
2.30pm



February 20th in St Mary's Tysoe  
**Bishop Ruth Worsley**

February 27th in St Gregory's  
Tredington  
**Katherine Walakira**

March 5th in St Edmund's Shipston  
**Rev'd David Runcorn**

March 12th In Ettington Church  
**Rev'd Rob Harrison**

March 19th in Long Compton Church  
**Rev'd Barry Jackson**

26th March in St Peter's Whatcote  
Holy Week Communion  
**Rev'd Sarah Edmonds**



**DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?  
COME AND JOIN OUR NEW CHOIR**

Our new Choir in the SW7 Benefice which will be singing at the  
Benefice  
Songs of Praise and at Evensong in Long Compton and Barcheston.

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



Please contact Julian for further information:

[jdwyergimshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:jdwyergimshaw@btinternet.com)

or 07891 423855



**SW7 Women's Breakfast**

**Wolford Village Hall Saturday 9th March 2024**

**At 8.30**

**Mike Hill**

*Certainty in a  
Changing World!*

**RSVP**

**Liz Maycock 01608 686404**

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

**Sarah Scotter 01608 686303**

**[sarah.scotter@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah.scotter@hotmail.com)**

**Continental Breakfast @ £12 per head**





March 2024 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 Whitchford	St Michael & All Angels Wolford
March 3 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)				4.00pm GAP Service (BD)		10.30am CW Holy Communion (BD) Little Wolford Village Hall
March 10 4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday			10.30am CW Morning Prayer (BD/MH)			9am BCP Holy Communion (BD/MH)	
March 17 5th Sunday of Lent		9.00am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		10.30am CW Holy Communion (BD)	4.00pm GAP Holy Communion Service (BD)		
March 24 Palm Sunday					10.30 CW Morning Prayer (BD)	9am BCP Holy Communion (BD)	
March 29 Good Friday		10.30am Good Friday Meditation (BD)					
March 31 Easter Sunday	8.30am BCP Holy Communion (BD)		9.00am BCP Holy Communion (AW/CLW)	10.30am CW Morning Prayer (Rst/LM)	11.00am CW Family Communion (BD)	10.30am CW Holy Communion (AW/CLW)	9.45am CW Holy Communion (BD)

South Warwickshire Benefice			
Reverend Ben Dyson	Tel: 01608 628229	email: vicarsw7@gmail.com (off duty Friday)	
Benefice Administrator: Liz Clarke	Tel: 07425868855	email: officesw7@gmail.com	
www.southwarwickshirechurches.co.uk		facebook.com/sw7churches	

It is the first of February and time for some more farming notes for the Link. In the latter half of January we thankfully had a spell of drier and much colder weather. Dan has now set-up an automatic weather station and one night it got down to -9.8c and -6c two nights before that. He used the three hard frosts to plough nearly all the land we intend to sow with spring barley. Walking some of the furrows last week, I was pleased to see that the frost had frozen some of them all the way through. Now, if we have a half-decent spell of weather in March or early April, the ground will break down into a nice tilth of fresh mould and hopefully produce a good crop of barley.

We are encouraged away from ploughing by environmentalists, but on clay soils with a cover crop it takes forever to dry enough to drill in the spring. Last year proves this, as I saw large areas sown with spring corn which lay wet, then baked out to produce a poor crop, and with a wet harvest to follow, gave some very poor returns.

I read with interest in yesterday's Daily telegraph Nature Notes. Someone with laser scanning had mapped 240,000 miles of hedges in England - showing that there were probably more miles of hedges here than anywhere else in the world. I often use my iPad to load up 6" ordnance survey maps - you can get seamless zoom-able overlay layers of 1880-1913 maps and modern satellite imagery on OS maps. It clearly shows how things have changed with some hedges gone to agriculture, but much, much more gone to housing, roads, industrial sites etc. All I hear on any nature programs is lost to wicked farmers - this is far from true if you scan this area, you will see with your own eyes hedges replanted or improved and woodland plantations. There's not much for birds or insects in a concrete jungle.

At the start of these notes, I talked of ploughing. In the past when I was ploughman, an interesting chap by the name of Nelson Ratcliffe would wander up the track to see my handiwork. Nelson, when he left school started work on this farm with his father. He told me of his first day ploughing with horses following his father with his team working Barn Ground, which is behind Yerdley Barn. They walked up from the village to collect their teams from Yerdley Barn, ready to go, from old Carter Howse who lived in the cottage by the barn. His daughter, Daisy Howse used to run a taxi service with her Austin 10 car. Nelson left here to work at Weston Park, then for the Walton's at Woodlands. He finished at Clarage's timber yard when he retired.

On the ourwarwickshire.org.uk website Long Compton archive photos is a picture (below) of Nelson driving an early Fordson with a duckfoot cultivator on this farm, and not as the caption says, ploughing.



The Fordson is an early model from (I guess) around 1930-35, as it has long mudguards and cleats on the wheels, not spade lugs. I'm sure someone took the photo of a brand-new tractor, with Nelson as a young man driving it

John 'Tufty' Richardson

## GARDENING NOTES

**Editors: Margaret Welsh  
and Miranda Arnold**

In March we are still hovering between winter and spring. Although the days may be warm, temperatures can drop considerably at night and frosts are still likely to occur. When completing tasks in the garden bear this in mind. As the soil warms up annual weeds will proliferate and should be kept at bay by regular hoeing. Warming of the soil can be speeded up by covering the soil with fleece or cloches in preparation for seed sowing. Hardy annuals e.g. cornflowers, flax, Nigella and Clarkia can be direct sown now but wait until mid-April or May for half-hardy species e.g. African marigolds.

Snowdrops put on a lovely show in February and daffodils should do so in March. Some varieties are now in bloom as I write in mid-February. Remember to dead head them after the flowers fade to prevent them setting seed and losing vigour for the next year.

Winter flowering shrubs such as winter honeysuckle and Sarcococca also add colour and scent to the garden. Prune such plants after flowering is over.

Summer flowering perennials such as Rudbeckia and Heleniums and Hemerocallis can be lifted and divided now. Remove the older, outer growth and keep the younger, inner more vigorous section.



It is also a good time to move evergreen shrubs e.g. Choisya, Hebe and Pittosporum. As the soil is still moist and becoming warmer they should establish quickly. The bare root season is really over, but container grown fruit trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants will also establish well if planted now. Add general fertiliser to the soil, water well and apply compost as mulch. The latter will also help to suppress weeds.

In the vegetable beds only totally hardy crops should be sown now. If planting early peas remember the saying "one for the mouse, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow" i.e. planting fairly liberally. Make a shallow trench about 9 inches wide and sow the peas in a zigzag pattern, add 2-3 inches of soil and cover with netting to protect from mice and birds. Add pea sticks to support the new shoots when they emerge. Some first early potatoes can be planted at the end of March, weather permitting. They should be ready to crop towards the end of June.

Strawberry runners grown on in pots can be planted up into beds leaving sufficient space between the plants for healthy growth. Red currants should be pruned like gooseberries into a goblet shape. Rather than cutting old stems to the ground like black currants, only the top 2-3 inches should be removed from the main shoots to stimulate new growth and the laterals cut to one bud. Finish the pruning of fruit bushes and trees before the leaf or flower buds have burst. Also finish pruning roses and apply rose fertiliser and water in. Cut down summer flowering viticella clematis species to their lowest buds about 12 inches above the soil.

Pests may well start to appear in more abundant numbers in March, so be alert and remove them as they are spotted. Slugs and snail are more active towards dusk, so it is a good time to go on a mollusc hunt.

**Margaret Welsh**



# NATURE NOTES

Editor: David Sewell

March...breathe out, spring is finally here!

One sound I hear on my walks is great spotted woodpeckers drumming away, highlighting how critical it is to leave standing dead wood for certain species of birds. They are drumming for two reasons – one is to communicate with other woodpeckers and the other is to get at grubs and insects lurking beneath the



bark. To winkle these insects out, a great-spotted woodpecker can extend its tongue by a remarkable 4 cm; but a far more impressive feat is managing to do all that drumming without getting concussion.

Until recently scientists held the belief that somehow woodpecker's skulls were acting as shock absorbers, and indeed many zoos, museums and avian-orientated websites state this as fact; however, recently biologists at the university of Antwerp concluded that the smaller a creature is, the more impact it can sustain without injury. Think of a fly hitting a window then flying off. A bit boring really, I much preferred the shock absorber theory!

In the February issue I promised to talk a bit about hedgehogs, known as fuzz-pigs or furze pigs in the West country. Until 2020 I'd never seen one of these unassuming little prickly monsters in Stourton, but that all changed one evening when I carefully chased down an unmistakable rustle in the border and found one blinking slightly myopically in my torchlight. I was thrilled! The following day I shot across the road to ask my wildlife-mad neighbour Ian if he'd seen one too and was informed he had an entire family visiting the garden each night. We've been seeing them ever since.

They start emerging from hibernation when the weather warms, so late March is a good time to start looking for them. They will be super-thirsty and hungry, so now's the time to put a bowl of water and a bit of chicken-based cat or dog food out. Each hog sports between 5000-7000 short spines which are a great

deterrent to all potential predators apart from badgers, who just prise apart the hapless rolled-up hedgehogs and eat the soft underbelly. There's plenty of



evidence indicating the badger cull has led to an increase in hedgehog numbers, but like everything that's not the whole story. These animals compete for the same food (mainly earthworms ) in the same habitats, and the exponential rise of badger numbers versus the catastrophic fall in hedgehog numbers suggests

that when you heap on more pressure in the form of habitat loss, strimmers, artificial grass, pesticides and bonfires, badgers are simply better competitors. Gardens remain really important places of refuge for these endearing creatures, so please bear them in mind when you're doing the spring tidy up.

There are few more delightful sights in spring than newly emerged butterflies gracefully air-dancing across the garden in their quest for nectar rich flowers. Locally we have a decent species count for you to look out for, which include brimstone, red-admiral, painted lady and orange-tips among the whites and the holly blues. Other species will emerge later on, and on my 'to-do' list for 2024 is to try to find purple emperor in Whichford Woods. I've never seen one locally but I know they're here! If you want to bone up on our local butterflies and moths check out the excellent website [www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk)

**David Sewell**

## **SCHOOL NOTES**

**Contact the Editor: [editor@swlink.gmail.com](mailto:editor@swlink.gmail.com)**

### **Rocks, Relics and Rumbles**

Class 2 at Acorns have had a great start to 2024, with lots of learning already covered in *Rocks, Relics and Rumbles*. They started off the topic by learning about rocks and their uses, the Earth's layers and fossils. In art, pupils have started looking at ammonites, identifying the patterns and colours in them, and sketching examples using different shading techniques to add tone and texture to their drawings.

In English, the children have planned, written and performed volcano poems. In lessons, Miss Higgins used videos of volcanic eruptions to add to the class list of vocabulary. The children chose a style of poem to write, choosing from acrostics, shape poems, rhyming or free-verse poems, and created entertaining poems which they enjoyed sharing with families on Seesaw.



Forest School has been lots of fun so far this half term. The class started off by creating dens in week 1, using lots of different materials to make them. They then linked their creations to the class key text, *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, making pictures of Hamlet, the white elephant. The children then worked in groups to create a diagram of the earth's layers and made

volcano creations; some groups went big, using lots of materials to show the volcano's crater, magma chamber and lava flow, as well as touching on the destruction a volcanic eruption can leave behind.

### **Frozen Kingdoms**

Class 3 have been working very hard in English, fully immersing themselves in their topic, *Frozen Kingdoms*. The children have planned and written their own survival narratives whilst exploring survival stories in Book Talk sessions, including Ernest Shackleton and Eric Le Marque. In topic lessons, the children have been learning about the Arctic and Antarctica, comparing climate, wildlife and landscape within geography lessons. This learning has continued in science, where the children have been finding out how animals have adapted to their environment.

### **Acorns in the Community**

The children at Acorns were lucky enough to participate in first aid workshops last month, learning basic and vital first aid skills. All the children in Key Stage 2 had the opportunity to take part in a range of practical activities from correctly applying bandages to imaginary injuries, to doing CPR on a Resusci Annie. In Key Stage 1, children learnt how to phone 999 for help, how to apply plasters and

how to put somebody in the recovery position. They listened attentively and enjoyed their session.

A big thank you to Michael and the PTA for arranging such a fun day and allowing the children to develop such important first aid skills.



## Once upon a Time

All children and staff at Brailles School had a fabulous start to 2024 with a trip to the theatre in Chipping Norton to see Cinderella. After watching the pantomime, Rabbits class learnt to write recounts. Miss Wilson chose parts from all the children's independent writing and put them together to give a full report of their fabulous trip:

*On our first day back, we went on a school trip to the theatre. After lunch, we got on a huge pink bus which took us to Chipping Norton. On the walk to the theatre, it was freezing cold and our pairs made a long snake down the pavement. When we got there, we sat down and the spooky show started. One of the best bits was when the ugly sisters made us laugh. Another good part was when the man held his head under his arm and told us a joke. Near the end, they threw sweets to us and everyone got one.*

Cinderella marked the beginning of Squirrels class's new topic, *Once Upon a Time*. Children have been immersed in fairy tale worlds, booing at baddies and cheering when the big bad wolf has had his bottom burnt on the fire by those



clever pigs. The role play area has been a castle and a cottage deep in the woods. Nursery and Reception children have been learning about the key elements of a story (characters, setting, problem and resolution) and are so excited about creating their own fairy tales and sharing them with the other classes.

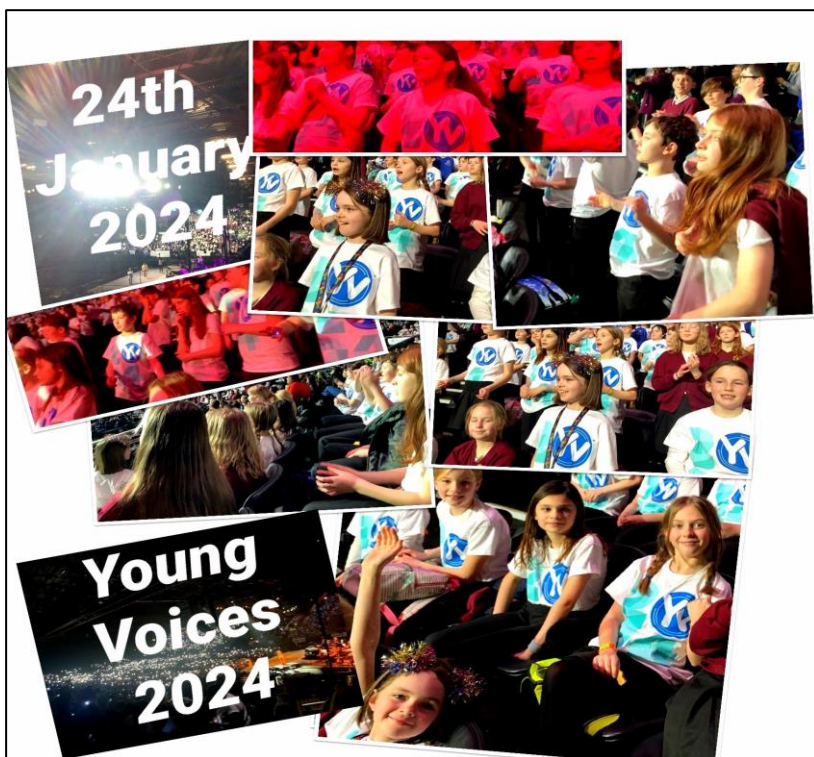
## Young Voices 2024

On Wednesday Class 3 from Acorns and Badgers Class from Brailles attended the Young Voices concert at The NEC in Birmingham. They sang their hearts out and represented school beautifully. Despite the rather late night, the children were wide awake and managed to remember all the words to the songs.

Brailles children wrote up their experience:

*As the audience poured into their seats, the Young Voices choir went mad with screaming and yelling all over the stadium. The lights flickered and changed from red to blue to yellow and the evening's host introduced each amazing act. The arena jumped to Urban Strides Street Dance. Their moves were incredible, especially back-flipping Andrew. The amazing singer Natalie Williams left the audience in awe.*

Lizzie





*As the loud excited screams descended into a quiet murmur, the lights came on and I bathed in yellow, pink, purple colours. I felt my heartbeat wildly, and I started to stare in amazement at the scene. As the dancers moved into position on the stage and the band started to play, there was the last buzz of anticipation before the whole choir of 6,500 children started to jump up and down! My favourite was the 90's club mix when the choir and audience went wild with dance moves led by Urban Strides. The whole arena was a sea of rainbow lights and it was the best experience at school ever!*

**Iris**

*When I walked up the stairs into the arena, my body filled with excitement. As the lights went down, there was a buzz of anticipation. I thought Young Voices was the best experience. I loved Urban Strides dancing, and especially when the whole choir, and audience did a giant Mexican Wave, it was so cool. My favourite songs were 'Pop Melody', 'Moana Mash Up' and the 'Matilda Medley.'*

**Leah**

*The second the mic sounded, the whole arena exploded into noise, not singing but screaming. Urban strides were a favourite because they really inspired me to dance. I loved MC Grammar and my favourite song was the Pop Medley. When it finished, I just wanted to play it all over again.*

**Darcey**

## **An Ethic of Excellence-Poetry**

One of our Trust strategic development goals is excellence for our children. Our work across The Stour Federation multi academy trust is based on American educator and master carpenter Ron Berger's 'Ethic of Excellence', whose philosophy is powerful. He believes that work of excellence is transformational. Once a child sees that they are capable of excellence, they are never quite the same...they're never quite satisfied with less.

Berger's book sets out concrete steps we can take to establish a culture and beautiful work based on this ethic. Ron Berger regularly talks about mastery of knowledge and skills, developing character and high-quality beautiful work, all things which we aspire to.

The poetry and writing in Badgers class - all based on the key text '*The Midnight Fox*' has been amazing. It follows our Trust writing process and Berger's principles, resulting in making their work public in the school newsletter, village publications, on our school website and on social media.

## **Sustainability at Brailes School-Food Waste**

Student Council are continuing to be the student voice and action group leading on our school's Transform Our World Sustainability Action plan.

Following food waste surveys and sharing results with the school in assemblies last term, it is becoming a habit to waste less food at lunchtime. Eating school

lunch vegetables is improving and the children are encouraging each other to waste less. Whilst we have stopped weighing waste at moment, we can see that there is a noticeably less and we are now separating yogurt pots out of the waste to recycle and peelings from lunch preparation and fruit waste from playtime snacks are now being composted. We need to keep all this going until it becomes something we automatically do.

## **Biodiversity**

We are very grateful to India's Granddad who has kindly made us some super new nesting boxes for our school grounds. Thank you to Mr. Morris for putting up the new boxes in the Forest School area.



Thank you to Mr. Morris for the beautiful snowdrops for the area at the front of school which we are letting grow wild and have sown lots of wildflower seed and bulbs.

We were delighted to hear Darcey in Year 5's news that she has won a nature conservation art competition. Darcey's wonderful artwork of a flower meadow has been used on signs which will be used in local Grassland Enhancement Areas where wildflower meadows are being developed through the local community group The Wasp Collection and Seven Trent Water to improve biodiversity. We are very proud of Darcey for this fabulous Citizenship work.

# VILLAGE NEWS

Contact the Editor

## Barcheston with Willington

### MAY FAIR AT ST. MARTIN'S BARCHESTON

In aid of church repairs

SATURDAY 11 MAY 11.00am to 4.00pm

Stalls, hot beverages, food, cakes and biscuits

We will be having all types of stalls: cakes, jams and preserves, books, bric-a-brac, bottles and plants. Please if you have anything that you would like to go or make or clear out, we would welcome it. These could be delivered to The Old Rectory after May 1 or just bring them on the day.

We look forward to seeing you.

### BARCHESTON WITH WILLINGTON PARISH AGM ADVANCE NOTICE



The Annual General Meeting for Barcheston and Willington will be held on

**Thursday April 11th at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Burmington.**

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

Points to be discussed will include: The Election of Officers, Matters arising at the last meeting including plans for the village Defibrillator and an update from your Local Councillors

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



## BARCHESTON CONCERTS 2024

### **March 9\***

Song recital to include Peter Heise's Kærlighedssange, Schumann's Liederkreis and Britten's Winter Words with Guy Elliott (tenor) and Hamish Brown (piano) at Famington Farm at 7.00pm

### **April 7\***

Schubert's song cycle Die Winterreise with Matthew Rose (bass) and Anna Tilbrook (piano) at Famington Farm at 3.30pm

### **May 12\***

Nathaniel Mander on harpsichord and spinet at St Martin's Church, Barcheston at 3.30pm

### **July 3**

Shipston Proms' Young Musician's concert at St Martin's Church, Barcheston at 7.30pm

### **July 26**

Heidi Fardell and Sounds Historical at St Martin's Church, Barcheston at 7.00pm  
Tickets available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/soundshistorical](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/soundshistorical) [www.soundshistorical.com](http://www.soundshistorical.com)

### **September 20-22**

Shipston Song 2024 at Famington Farm [www.shipstonsong.com](http://www.shipstonsong.com)

### **October 13**

A piano recital by Giulia Contaldo at Famington Farm at 3.30pm. Giulia took part in the masterclass weekend with Dame Imogen Cooper at Famington Farm in January 2024.  
[www.giuliacontaldo.com](http://www.giuliacontaldo.com)

Tickets and information on Shipston Song (September 20-22 ) will be available via the website listed above. For tickets and information on all other concerts please email: [david@famington.co.uk](mailto:david@famington.co.uk)

NB concerts marked \* are in aid of the Fabric and Organ Funds at St Martin's, Barcheston  
Tickets are not issued but entry is by donation. To reserve a seat please email as above.  
[www.stmartinsbarcheston.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsbarcheston.co.uk)

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Barton-on-the-Heath

Editor: Cathryn Aitken



### Defibrillator Training

Thanks go to Adam Jones, ably assisted by Annabelle, who gave a talk in the Village Hall on Thursday February 1 demonstrating on coping with potential heart attack victims. Adam demonstrated CPR techniques and how to easily put a patient in the recovery position. He explained when the defibrillator should be used and demonstrated how to use it. I certainly feel more confident if I have to deal with these situations in the future.

James Hayman-Joyce

### Ridge and Furrow



Great photo, taken in Barton-on-the-Heath by Brian Radford, of this archaeological pattern of "Ridge and Furrow" created by the system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages to improve drainage and increase the area of ground that could be planted.



## Royal British Legion (RBL) – Long Compton and District Branch

Four of the SW7 villages, this one included, form part of this District Branch, which increasingly faced with declining membership. We are keen to stay a relevant presence, and a longer article is printed in the Long Compton section. Please read this if you are interested, as we would be delighted to welcome more members.

## VILLAGE NEWS

Editor: Graham French



### Burmington





# VILLAGE NEWS

## Cherington with Stourton

Editor: Christine Dudfield



### Village Lottery January Draw

1st Jeremy Clark £80, 2nd. Alan Wright £45, 3rd. Helen Beaumont £30.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you all for your continued support.  
For information on joining the Lottery please contact me.

Averell Kingston [aap.kingston@gmail.com](mailto:aap.kingston@gmail.com) 07984 003675

### Brailles Picture House

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start.

#### Sat. March 9 -Barbie

Barbie, the most popular of all the Barbies in Barbie Land, begins experiencing an existential crisis. She must travel to the human world in order to understand herself and discover her true purpose.

Stars Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling.

Future Titles - April 15      Oppenheimer or The Holdover  
May 8                      Wonka or Saltburn



Deirdre and Team

### Coffee Shop Saturday March 3

10.30am-12 noon

The Hall, Stourton CV36 5HG

Bacon baps, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes  
Come along and have a cuppa in our lovely hall,  
meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

There will be a bring and buy stall in aid of the  
village playing field funds. We are looking for more people to help please  
contact Christine on 07866 127409 If you would like to get involved.



Christine Dudfield and Tricia Wilson



The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP)  
are pleased to advise that they will be continuing

## **Feel Good Friday Social Afternoons**

**2.00pm - 4.00pm at The Cherington,  
Stourton and Sutton under Brailes Hall**

**On the following dates:**

**9th February • 23rd February • 8th March**

**Thursday 21st March - Easter Prize Bingo**

**5th April • 19th April • 3rd May • 17th May • 31st May**

- ◆ Want to re-connect with old friends?
- ◆ Looking for friendship or company?
- ◆ Need a change of scenery?
- ◆ Come along, play a game or have a chat whilst enjoying free refreshments in a warm, friendly atmosphere

**Everyone  
Welcome!**



For more information contact

**Vanessa Compton 01608 663320**

**[www.shwp.org.uk](http://www.shwp.org.uk)**

 UK Government

 Stratford-on-Avon  
District Council

### **Lilies for Easter on March 31**

It has become traditional for us to include lilies as part of our church decoration for Easter.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the purchase of these lilies - it can be a lovely way to remember and celebrate someone we love - then please ring me. Alternatively, add your name and telephone number to the list which I will leave in the church and I will contact you.

**Sarah Scotter 686303 / 07984 892431**

## My Life in Stitches -Alison Hulme

Thurs March 21 7.00 for 7.30pm

The Hall, Stourton CV365HG

Alison will be telling her intriguing and inspiring story. A great experience for everyone, all genders, teenagers upwards

*"I've met this inspirational lady twice now, her energy and attitude to life is infectious"*

£6.00 per person to include a glass of wine/soft drink and time to chat and mingle before and after the talk



Email [anniethepatch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anniethepatch@yahoo.co.uk)

## The Feldons Big Garden Birdwatch, 2024

Twelve households around Cherington, Stourton and Sutton-Under-Brailes participated in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch for one hour during the last weekend of January.

An impressive 24 different species were spotted in our gardens, with 329 birds counted (which, at the very minimum, is 118 individuals, assuming that they frequent multiple gardens!).

The most-spotted local birds were blue-tits, which appeared in everyone's garden, while blackbirds, wood pigeons and robins all swooped in to 11 out of 12 households. Some lesser-spotted species also made an appearance, with pied wagtail, bullfinch and blackcap recorded in three, two, and one garden respectively.

Feldon's birds have added to a nationwide count of 8.6 million, as part of the UK's biggest citizen science wildlife survey, run every year by the RSPB ([rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)).

The Feldon wildlife group meets at 18:30 on the last Tuesday evening of every month, and welcomes wildlife enthusiasts of all ages and abilities!

Contact Susan Williams ([gpwilliams20@sky.com](mailto:gpwilliams20@sky.com)) for further details.

## Hall/Playing Field Aspirational Plan – Progress



The Aspirational Plan having recently been approved a Working Group of some 20 volunteers met to start work on the first phase of the work on a sunny Saturday morning. Anyone passing the playing field recently will notice a big change with the roadside hedge having been coppiced and the gaps replanted. Repairs have been made to the playground equipment. Thanks to all who participated, a great deal was achieved. There is going to have to be a big bonfire when conditions allow.

The plan is ambitious and whilst a lot can be achieved by volunteers, substantial funds will

be required, particularly so that the additional car parking area can be constructed.

Thanks for funding on the first phase which has been supported with a substantial contribution from Cotswold Decorative Ironworks for the expensive fencing and G.H. Walton & Son for the hedge plants and guards. If you are able to help fund this project, please make contact with our treasurer Piers Marshall [marshall.piers@gmail.com](mailto:marshall.piers@gmail.com). Your help is essential.



We will be organising further working parties so look out for information on this on the village website. Sign up for regular updates and information.

**Jim Walton**

## **Potholing in South Warwickshire**

I have never entertained the idea of potholing in Yorkshire and certainly not at my age, but potholing in Warwickshire is not age related and many of us do it every day. It gets expensive!

Since the beginning of 2024, and we are only a few days into February, I have had four new tyres and a wheel rim fracture. I may not be the only one but, hopefully there are only a few of us.

I now make a claim for every incident and complete the eight-page form asking for maps, photographs and measurements of the pothole. I ignore the pages asking if a doctor has been involved!

New wheel rims are expensive and after the first two some years ago, I get the fracture welded which is £600 cheaper. To be fair they do not guarantee it but so far, they have proved successful.

So, after the first puncture at the beginning of January I had two weeks grace until number two on a Tuesday, new tyre fitted three days later that was Friday then at 11.45 the next morning, Saturday, puncture number three!

Would you believe the following Friday morning for number four? It's true! I just have to put my head in the door at the local tyre depot and it's "*Good morning, Mr Clark*"

**Jeremy Clark**



## **An Easter Gift**

As part of a Stourton based reunion event, two dozen young people, mostly in their early and mid-twenties are offering a free concert of sumptuous, beautiful, tingly choral music. They have previously performed at many and varied venues. Including the Royal Shakespeare theatre and St Paul' Cathedral.

Older, younger and everyone in between will thoroughly enjoy their music and be welcome. Bar available throughout for refreshments.



*Junior  
Saint  
James's  
Singers*

**A joyful reunion and a celebration  
of music at Easter, featuring music  
by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Liszt,  
Vaughan Williams & Whitacre.**

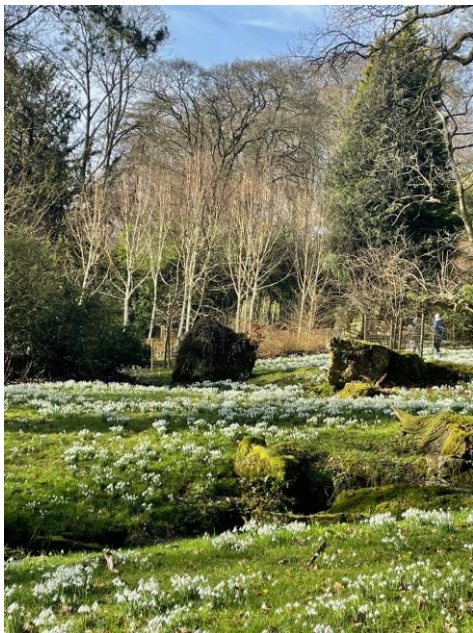
**Conductors    Julian Harris  
                    Julian Shortman**

**The Hall, Cherington, CV36 5HG  
Saturday 30 March 7.30pm**

**Free entry. Donations will be taken in support of the  
international disaster relief charity, Shelterbox**



## Celebrating Spring



Photographs by Christine Dudfield and Lesley Roberts

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Long Compton

Editor: [editorswlink@gmail.com](mailto:editorswlink@gmail.com)



Sometimes you just need a little nudge to get on with a job you've been putting off for years. In this instance, the prospect of table tennis at the hall prompted us to clear some space in the garage so we could store the table. The rain held off and 90 minutes later we were all feeling pretty chuffed with ourselves. Big thanks go to Barbara and Richard Hands for taking away the scrap metal for us. A reminder that

the 'big round tables' (and tablecloths) are available for use in the hall or for separate hire. Just give us a shout.



We've had to cancel a couple of events recently due to broken hips, bad weather or lack of interest. We try to think of things for the community but don't always get it right. We know Social Saturday, Christmas tea parties and quizzes work, but if there's something else you fancy coming along to, do let us know. Better

still, have a go at organising it yourself. I'm still waiting for someone to run a Bingo Night at the hall. "Eyes down!"

Coming up in April is our Race Night with fish and chip supper. These events are great fun so why not get your name on the list by April 5 to reserve your space. If you don't fancy the racing, why not just book yourself a portion of fish and chips and collect them on the night. The chip van will be at the hall so just let us know in advance and we'll make sure there's some for you.

**Mo Read**





## At the Races

**7pm, Saturday 20th April 2024**

**Long Compton Village Hall**

- Feast on fish and chips £10 per head
- Licensed bar
- Lots of fun: 8 races, own a horse, or just place your bet and they're off!

***Advance booking essential, call Mo Read  
07814802814, [lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lcvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)  
by 5th April***



Join us for

## Social Saturday

**Saturday 9th March 2024**

**11am -1pm**

**Long Compton Village Hall**

***Free entry - savouries - cake - chat***



## Long Compton Chapel



A 'Celebration of Spring' will be the focus of the March Service at the chapel on Sunday 17 at 3.30pm. All are welcome to come and join us and if anyone would like to share a favourite reading or hymn do contact Sally so can be included.

It is planned to repeat the successful Arts and Crafts Fair on Easter Monday and if anyone would like to participate do get in contact with Elizabeth. Items for both exhibition and sale welcomed.

Book Swap – there are books galore in the chapel porch – do please call by and take away a book or two but if wishing to donate please let us know as we are seriously running out of room!

Sally Franklin

## 100 Club

The January Draw was done at the Village Hall Social Saturday on 10 February, and the winners were:

1st prize: 146	Dorothy Heeks	2nd prize: 220	Nikki Graske
3rd prize: 131	Mary McFarlane	4th prize: 36	Mark and Yoland Heath

There is still time to join the club for the next 11 draws - £11.00 to the club Lloyds Bank account or to me.

Chris Galloway 684234

## Comptonians

We shall meet at the Village Hall at 2.00pm on March 20 when Phil Collins and Mike Bottomley will give the talk "*What the Dickens.*"

Tea and Cake will also be served.  
All welcome.

Margaret Welsh 684238



## Long Compton book club

We have now introduced a waiting list for new members, in order to keep discussions manageable. If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact:  
Imogen Brown 07710 129181 [brownimogen@gmail.com](mailto:brownimogen@gmail.com)

For those interested in reading along with us anyway, our March books are:  
"The Colour Purple" by Alice Walker  
"The Good People" by Hannah Kent

The Jaffe and Neale Book Club selection for March is "A Bend in the River" by VS Naipaul, and will take place on Wednesday 6 March at 6.30



### LONG COMPTON and DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

## The Healing Power of Plants

with speaker Timothy Walker,  
Ex Director of Oxford Botanic Garden  
Wednesday 27 March 27 at 7.30pm  
Long Compton Village Hall



Mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight and to show that plant products are used every day by all of us to relieve pain and suffering, to heal wounds and cure diseases.

All welcome, please do come and join us!

Annual membership: £12.00, guests £4.00 per meeting

Contact: Anthony Wells, [anthonymgwells@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonymgwells@btinternet.com)

## Compton District History Society

Our new spring season begins next month, on Wednesday March 13, when Deborah Hayter comes to speak to us on the landscapes and place names of the Banbury area.

The meeting will start at 7:30pm in Long Compton village hall and the talk will be followed by refreshments. Visitors will be welcome.

Diana Cook 684771



### 2023 Poppy Appeal -Final Update

Following the news from the Royal British Legion that £2211.00 was raised in our district using the new smartphone/QR code system, I can now confirm that the total sum collected locally was £3534.85.

Once again, thank you to all who donated or helped with the collection in any way.

David Whatley-Appeal Organiser

### Royal British Legion (RBL) – Long Compton & District Branch

Many of you may have seen our RBL standard proudly flying at the war memorial outside the church on Remembrance Sunday. Sadly, due to dwindling numbers the branch exists as a county supported branch at present, whereby we keep our standard but the services of treasurer are provided for us at county level. This is a situation we wish to reverse, so we are looking for new members!

As a branch we have an informal lunch together once a year, occasional meetings and an annual visit to a place of interest with a military connection. We are always on the lookout for more poppy sellers, although those who volunteer to help do not have to be RBL Members.

Importantly, the RBL remains just as relevant today as it ever did – yes, we have much smaller armed forces and well-established welfare services, but many of us are living much longer thanks to advances in medical science. Add to that our greater expectation of quality of life, recognition of PTSD and other mental illnesses, sadly countered by the delays in obtaining medical assistance. There is an even greater need for charitable funds for urgent intervention, extended rehabilitation and the like, all of which are available through the RBL.

Finally, and importantly, for many years there has not been a requirement for members to have served in HM Forces in any capacity – all are welcome.

If you are interested in helping the Legion, please contact Captain Chris Brown (684360) or Chris Galloway (684234) to have a chat.



# VILLAGE NEWS

## Whichford and Ascott

Editor: Melanie Arnold



### The Reading Room Draw

February's draw result will be in the March issue as not everyone's forms are back in for the new year. So, both February and March results will be divulged next month. Bumper issue, good luck everyone.

Jenny Scrivener

### Whichford and Ascott Parish Council

The Parish Council minutes from the regular meetings are available on [www.whichfordandascottpc.co.uk](http://www.whichfordandascottpc.co.uk). This is an invaluable resource for villagers, a way of knowing what is going on, whether it's the Whichford Green planning applications or other considerations, it's a great way to be in touch. We hope to have updates in The Link too.

### Peckett's Piece



The new planting information board is now up on Peckett's Piece, featuring Darcey's winning painting from the competition for the wildflower area sown there by WASP members, with especial thanks to John and Ann Moulson who put enormous time and effort into preparing the space. We really look forward to seeing how this area develops over time. Many thanks also to Severn Trent Water who allowed us to use a section of this land and to the National Lottery Community Fund for their support.

The WASP Collective



## Easter Services at St. Michael's

Palm Sunday Service, Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am, Sunday March 24 . To be led by The Reverend Ben Dyson.

Easter Day Service, Holy Communion (Common Worship), 10.30am, Sunday March 31. To be led by The Reverend Canon Anthony Wells and Clare Wells (Reader).

Everyone welcome.

**Mandy James**

## Memories Section

This photo, sent in by John Lawrence, shows a beautiful Austin from around 1954/5 in the garden, now front yard, of Vernon House, Ascott. The man in the photo was the owner and came over from Leicester to visit the Gibbs family, originally a farming family from Brailles, but by then farming in Ascott and living



in Vernon House. The boy is Martin Gibbs. The Gibbs family farmed the 100 acres that runs up the back of Vernon House to Whichford Hill. Beryl Gibbs, born at Grove End Farm in Brailles in 1917, put down a marvellous and fascinating account of life in a Warwickshire village which John still has.

**John Lawrence**

# JUMBLE SALE

## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024

10am – 12pm

*Coffee & Homemade Cakes  
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We would be very grateful for any donations of  
pre-loved clothes & accessories, books, toys, homeware, bric-a-brac  
(except electrical goods)  
to the church on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March by 4pm

*PROCEEDS IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH*

With many thanks,  
Mandy James 684479  
Sophia Corlett 684369



### Royal British Legion (RBL) – Long Compton and District Branch

Four of the SW7 villages, this one included, form part of this District Branch, which increasingly faced with declining membership. We are keen to stay a relevant presence, and a longer article is printed in the Long Compton section. Please read this if you are interested, as we would be delighted to welcome more members.

Chris Galloway

# VILLAGE NEWS

## The Wolfords

Editor: Lynn Mathias



### The Wolfords Village Hall One Hundred Club

The February winners were as follows;

1st prize – Christopher Wolverson

2nd prize – Geoff Shuttleworth

3rd prize – Roz Warriner

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

James van Helden

### Great Wolford Open Gardens on behalf of the Wolfords Village Hall



An 'Open Gardens' in the Wolfords is being planned to raise much needed funds to maintain the Wolfords village hall. The proposed date is the afternoon of Saturday June 1. We have ten gardens identified so far and are very grateful to those who have already agreed to support. We are also considering a small village fete on the Great Wolford Green and are hoping that this is going to be a fun day for all to enjoy.

We continue to seek further support for more gardens, possibly run stalls or for volunteers to join us to plan and organise the event or to act as guides on the day.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact  
[Melaniegraham123@icloud.com](mailto:Melaniegraham123@icloud.com)



## Burns Night at the village hall

A traditional Burns Night took place on January 26 which was greatly enjoyed by all the 40 guests who attended. The hall was beautifully themed for the evening as shown by the photos below and the whole evening was accompanied by the ceilidh band Brimstone. The haggis was piped in, and Keith Finlay performed the Address to the Haggis in dramatic style. The main course of haggis, neeps and tatties was served followed by cranachan. Huge thanks to Fi Shilling for all the catering for the evening. The Address to Lassies was made by Ed Crossland making some pointed observations and followed the Toast to the Laddies by Marie whose reply was equally observant in kind! Much ceilidh dancing followed, and the evening ended with all linking arms to sing Auld Lang Syne. Many thanks go to all who helped to set up for the evening, especially to Marie for 'making it happen' and for all those supporting the evening. Over £400 raised for the hall is a fabulous result, thank you so much.





## Welcome Ladies!

Although the WI has closed, we had three events over February that illustrated how we come together – a glass fusing crafting event; a visit to Chipping Norton theatre to see Magician James Phelan ... and yes, I did volunteer to be hypnotised ... I do now know my name (I had thought it was Mark) and can say it ... two of the sneaky tricks he did plus (a very nice) dinner at Fratelli's.

We are running our clubs as independent groups – Book, Walking, Supper and Crafting, as well as getting together for coffee mornings and interesting events we come across. The groups are open to everyone. You do not need to be a WI member to come along. So, dates for your diary and contacts:

**Book Club**, meets every two months. Currently reading '*Turning for Home*' by Barney Norris. Next meeting is March 12 at 2.30pm. Venue will be supplied. Contact Gill – 07800 538889 (call/text/whatsapp) to get a copy of the book and let her know you are coming along.

**Walking Club**, meets monthly, date and route are decided by the group walk by



walk, and suitable for most abilities. February's walk was to visit the snowdrops at Upton House. Next walk will be March 16, meet Great Wolford on the green. Route to be decided.

**Supper Club**, meets monthly, usually in the latter part of the month. Date and restaurant / pub are decided by the group. March's date is yet to be set

but contact Theresa – 07908 792116 (call/text/whatsapp) to let her know you are interested, and she will keep you posted.

**Knit, Sew, Stitch etc!** is our Crafting Club. This meets every second Tuesday 10.00 – 1.00pm, with a break for homemade soup and a roll or cakes and coffee (a small donation would

be welcome). This is a beginner friendly project but is also suitable if you want to improve or learn new skills. Contact Trudie – 07929 712540 (call/text/whatsapp) or Netty – 07783 492903 (text/whatsapp)



Coffee mornings and outings are also arranged on an ad hoc basis and details will be shared via your club or clubs. I hope we get to welcome some new faces to our activities; it's a great way to get to know other ladies in The Wolfords and surrounding villages.  
**Gilly Davis**

## **The Wolfords Joint Parish Council**

We held the Parish Council meeting on January 30 in the Wolfords village hall, with all members of the Parish Council present. During the meeting a discussion was started from an observation given to the Chair. Should TWJPC do as other Parish Councils, who allow in the precept for funding of the village hall? It would be good to know your thoughts on this suggestion, please email Elizabeth Gilkes [clerk@thewolfordsjpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@thewolfordsjpc.co.uk) Our Parish Spring Clean was arranged for Saturday March 16 please do come along and help with our annual litter pick. More details on the website [www.thewolfordsjpc.co.uk](http://www.thewolfordsjpc.co.uk) All volunteers will be rewarded with refreshments served in The Wolfords village hall. TWJPC next meeting will be held on March 26 at 7.30pm in the Wolfords village hall. Please do come along.

**Pippa Lines (Chair)**

## **Royal British Legion (RBL) – Long Compton and District Branch**

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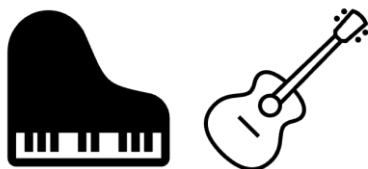
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