



Newsletter January 2015

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you and your families!

In this issue we would like to thank all the people who took time out of their weekend to help with the Millennium Green/Village Clear up on Sunday 18th Jan. We had a good turnout and lots of maintenance and gardening jobs got done! We are also seeking your opinion on seating in the bus shelter at the new Bombay Sapphire stop. If you use this bus stop we want to hear from you!

We have included lots of useful information on how to get on SSE's Priority Service list in case of a power cut and extra funds for the elderly for issues with the cold weather.

Thanks to Gill Baker for letting us use her lovely photo as our banner pic. If you have any photos of the area that we could use we're always grateful. Send them to [Nicky Nicklin](#)

Mark your calendars for a Meet the Parish Council informal coffee morning on Sunday 22nd Feb 10-11.30 a.m. See more below....

We do hope you are using the link here to retrieve your online copy of the February [Overton News & Views](#) as we try not to duplicate news. If something is in the Overton News we tend not to include it in ours below.



Millennium Green & Parish Clear up!

A big thank you to everyone who gave their time for The Millennium Green and Parish Council maintenance day. It was a record turnout and a fantastic amount was achieved. The damaged equipment has been removed from the wooden trail playground and the quiet garden looks much tidier. We also managed to sweep and wash Parish council bus shelters, clean signs, pick litter and more.

The Millennium Green Trust is delighted to welcome Clare Albert, as representative of the Parish Council, onto the committee this month. While many of you know why the Millennium Green Trust was set up we are aware that over time new families residents have arrived, and as such we felt it would be a good idea to explain how the Green came to exist:

In preparation for the Millennium the Countryside Commission (now Natural England), backed by Lottery funding launched an initiative to create open spaces. In 1999 it was uncertain what would happen to the area that formed the old Portals recreation ground. To secure the future of the area, the Parish Council initiated the creation of the Green. The land is held in perpetuity in a



Shelter Seating Opinion

Are you a user of the new Bombay Sapphire Bus stop? Recently Bombay Sapphire and the Parish council have been asked by a parishioner if they will consider putting a bench in the new bus stop at Laverstoke. Initial estimates looks like it might cost £700-£1000 to put one in. Before we make decisions on spending that budget we would like to understand whether the seat would be used. So 1. Are you a bus stop user? 2. Would you use a bench? 3. why or why not? and 4. do you have any particular feedback on type of bench? We have been looking at the seats in Harvey's Field and Southington. We would really like to hear your opinion on this important topic so please call Nicky on 07563 942360 or email laverstokeclerk@gmail.com Thank you.



Charitable Trust. This was a grant condition and enabled Portals/De la Rue to sell the land as it cannot be re-sold or used other than as an open space. A matched funding grant was raised from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The Parish Council funded the planning work and the villages raised further funds from generous donations and by running events, including a Duck race on the Test and village sports fetes. Over £60,000 was invested to create the space.

The Green is an unusual shape! The tennis courts, archery field (old football pitch), and the rough car park were carved out of the old recreation ground because the grant would not permit the purchase of sports facilities and car parking. The grass area was extended with the purchase of the wood (it will be full of snowdrops in a couple of weeks!) and adjacent field area from Gary Boon. The rough car park was transferred to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has more recently been able to secure a long lease on the rest of the area and rents the the land to the Whitchurch Tennis Club and Archery Club.

The Parish Council has kindly assisted the Trust with the insurance cost (£752) and the grass cutting of the playground. The basic cost of grass cutting for the rest of the Green costs is £1,400 a year. In addition, the Trust has to fund playground inspection reports, repairs, and improvements. The mostly costly items are the playground and tree maintenance. As a community charity, it benefits from local support both on the maintenance days and financially. Gift Aid

Coffee at Watership Pub

New for February at the Watership Down: coffee mornings each Wed - 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th. Starting at 11a.m. coffee and homemade cakes will be served.

A Game Evening is planned for Saturday 7th February. The menu will be mostly local game, including venison, pheasant, wild boar etc. For Valentines Evening, 14th February, you could treat your loved one to a delicious dinner at the pub. Booking recommended! Mother's Day is on Sunday 15th March. Last year the Watership had a very successful Mothering Sunday where parties pre-ordered a joint to be carved at the table. There'll be further information on this year's event next month. The menus for these events will be on the pub [website](#).

Finally.... Quiz night. Over the Christmas period a quiz night was held and Philip, Jules and team would be delighted to hold another if there is sufficient interest.

For further information on any of these events or to book a table just pop into the pub or phone: 01256 892254. Also if anyone would like to suggest a theme evening then the pub are happy to hear from you.

forms can be obtained from any of the Directors listed below and a standing order (however small), or donation would be hugely appreciated. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of us if you would like to help further or have more information. We would love to hear from you and again thank you to all those that helped on 18th January.

[David Ellis](#), [Phil Nicklin](#), [Lucy Arthur](#), [Clare Albert](#), [Dawn Waters](#) and [Paula Baker](#)



Informal Meet the Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to invite you to join them at an informal coffee morning on Sunday 22nd Feb from 10 – 11.30 a.m. at Longhouse, Church Lane, Freefolk (previously Freefolk Village Hall). Residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk are welcome. This is an opportunity to come and have a chat with your Parish Councillors and neighbours in a relaxed setting, outside the formality of the monthly PC meeting. See you there!



Hardy's Winter Welcome

We are closed for the winter but people are welcome to come up and visit us if they want. We are in the process of prepping and re-potting plants ready for the Spring. Clearing rows and tidying up the Nursery

We are re-opening on 1st March 2015.

Rosy Hardy is holding Propagation Workshops this year

Thursday 5th March [Spring](#)

[Propagation Workshop](#)

Thursday 9th July [Summer](#)

[Propagation Workshop](#)

Thursday 15th October [Autumn](#)

[Propagation Workshop](#)



YOGA in L'stokes & Freefolk

Calling all potential Yoga students! We now have two regular classes in Lady Rose Hall. If you want to relax and de-stress, tone and strengthen muscle, complement your current exercise regime, learn the importance of breathing during exercise and gain many of the health benefits associated with practising yoga then join one of our classes now.

On Mondays at 7-8.30pm Yoga with Gloria. To book or for more information call Gloria on 07594 621857 or email yogawithgloria@gmail.com or visit: [yogawithgloria](http://yogawithgloria.com)

On Fridays at 10-11am. Sam runs Yogamaniac. To book or for more information call Sam on 07884 384339 or email yogamaniac@hotmail.com or visit: <http://www.yogamaniac.co.uk/>

They are both happy for you to turn up on the day too!

Join Rosy Hardy at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants for a practical Propagation workshop covering all aspects of herbaceous perennial propagation in a hands on environment.

Tea, coffee and cake included in the ticket price. 10.30am - 12.30pm - £25.00 each



Tennis Club Horse Race Night!

Whitchurch Tennis News: Still no tennis yet, but it will not be too long now, with the start of the season just weeks after our AGM (8pm on Wednesday 18th March at The White Hart).

Before then, to help bridge the gap, the Tennis Club is putting on a Race Night for members, their families and friends (7.30pm on Friday 20th February at Lady Rose Hall in Laverstoke Lane). Funds raised will help the Club with the ongoing costs of keeping the courts and their immediate surroundings in good shape.

Do you feel lucky? Join us for an evening of fun and excitement. A fish and chip (or sausage and chip) supper is included in the advance ticket price of £10; and the bar will offer wine and soft drinks in



News from our Seniors

Mady Oram writes: Once again this year we took our pensioners and helpers out for a traditional Christmas lunch which was held in the Watership Down Inn, Freefolk. Over 50 pensioners and helpers sat down to a delicious traditional roast turkey lunch, followed by Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, which was much enjoyed by everyone. The pub was decorated and a beautiful Christmas tree greeted us as we walked in, there were little Christmas trees along with crackers on the tables. The staff were so obliging and nothing was too much trouble.

It was such a treat for the Committee girls as well because they could sit down and enjoy being waited on. A superb lunch was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Philip and Jules Denee, and of course to Dean and Steve the Chef's, Bea and all the staff for all their hard work in making this lunch such a success.

Whist writing we are a willing group of Committee girls who run two coffee mornings, or cake stalls a year to subsidise various activities including a Christmas Party or lunch and Garden Party for our Senior Citizens in the

exchange for a suggested cash donation.

Do not forget to bring extra cash, so you can place your £1 bets and take part in the raffle! Please arrive in good time for a 7.30pm start. The Lady Rose Hall asks that visitors park in the ample spaces of the main LRH car park (beside the Kingfisher Day Centre), and not in Laverstoke Lane. Saddles are available in advance only, so e-mail social@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk asap to book your grandstand seat.

Whitchurch Tennis Club is based at Laverstoke. For more information about the Club contact: Membership Secretary Lynda Frith, membership@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk or Secretary Wendy Helsby, secretary@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk



Social Entrepreneurs Programme

Recruitment for a Year-Long Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs Programme 2015/16 will open on 2 February until 3pm on 2 April.

If you are at an early stage in the development of a social enterprise, the Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneur Start Up programme will support you in personal development and basic business skills to help turn your social

Laverstoke, Freefolk and Wells—in the-Field area.

If you are not currently on our list of Senior Citizens and are eligible to join (62 years and over and retired) we would love to hear from you. Please call Mady Oram, Chairman on 01256 895396

Extra support for you during a power cut

Join our Priority Services Register



Worried about coping in a Power Cut?

SSE Power Distribution look after the network which delivers electricity to the meter in our homes. They keep our lights on by maintaining and repairing the network. If something unexpected happens and there is a power cut in our area, they are the fixers.

For some people a power cut can be particularly distressing and difficult. SSE can offer extra help and priority treatment during such an event if you are on a Priority Services Register.

All of SSE Priority Services are free. There is a dedicated 24 hour priority services phone number, they give priority updates during a power cut. You can nominate someone for SSE to contact on your behalf and information can be provided in the format you need, for example Braille or audio cd. A Security password is used to keep you safe.

enterprise idea into a reality.

To help you understand the unique learning approach offered by the School for Social Entrepreneurs, how the programme works, what you can expect and what's required from you there are a number of **'taster' sessions across Hampshire during February & March**. You need to book to attend, all the details [can be found here](#).

In 13 days over 12 months you will cover:

- Setting up a Social Enterprise
- Measuring Social Impact
- People and Money
- Marketing including digital media
- Leadership
- Presentation Skills

And, there's also a £4,000 grant that comes with a place on the programme, funded by the Big Lottery Fund! You can get a flavour of how some of the sessions are run with [these short videos](#).

What past students have said about their time on the Programme:

"The programme has pointed me in the right direction with the essential tools and equipment; my social enterprise has launched!"

"The programme has given me confidence in my ability to run a business while still making a difference to others."

For any further information contact Angela Dunning SSE Hampshire Coordinator (Normally Mon-Thurs) 01962 857388 angela.dunning@actionhants.org.uk

You are eligible to join our Priority Services Register if you:

- Are dependent on electricity for home medical care, e.g. use a kidney dialysis machine.
- Have a chronic illness or short term medical condition e.g. recovering from a major operation.
- Are disabled.
- Have special communication needs e.g. because you are blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing.
- Have a young baby.
- Receive a state pension.

If you have other needs and feel you will need extra help if you have no electricity, please contact SSE to discuss. They can't promise your electricity will never go off, but when it does, they want to make sure you have the support you need, when you need it.

To register yourself, or have someone register for you: Contact 0800 294 3259, or by mobile 0345 072 1900 or text phone 0800 316 5457

or

Visit www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegister/

www.actionhampshire.org



Increased Sophistication of Scams

Bank Card Courier Scam: The Trading Standards Service is continuing to receive calls from Hampshire residents who have been caught out by a sophisticated and malicious scam which keeps changing over time. This case study demonstrates the lengths fraudsters will go to appear plausible:

Mrs G received a phone call from a woman who said she worked at her bank, and there was a problem with her debit card. They told her not to use it and that a new one had been ordered which would be delivered in 2 days. The next day Mrs G visited her bank and they told her the card was fine to use. When Mrs G got home she received another phone call from the same woman who told her the new card would be delivered on Monday. The woman gave Mrs G a security number to quote when the card was delivered. Mrs G later received a phone call from a man who said there was fault on the phone lines in the area and she must remove all her receivers from the hook. Later that day a man arrived at Mrs G's door and said he had her new bank card. He asked for her



Alpha

Alpha Course in Laverstoke

In case you missed it in the Test Magazine there is an open invitation at 12c Laverstoke Lane on Thursday 26 February 2015 at 7.15 pm for a meal, a talk and a discussion. The talk 'Is there more to life than this?', is the introductory talk in the Alpha Course. This is an introduction to the Christian faith, designed for everyone. Not sure what to believe? Never been to church? Want to brush up on the basics? Want help with your Christian faith? Want to know if there really is anything to what Christians believe?

It will be relaxed, informal and stimulating & will follow with discussions every Thursday from 26 February at 7.15 pm at 12c Laverstoke Lane. There is no charge but a contribution towards food is

current card which she gave him. Feeling uneasy about the situation she returned to her bank for advice. The bank discovered £2000 had been withdrawn from her account!

Should you receive a call of this nature do not engage with the caller - hang up as soon as possible. Do not use your phone to check the plausibility of the caller as they may leave the telephone line open, which will reconnect you to them. NEVER disclose personal information or bank details over the phone.

International Lottery Scam: Trading Standards also continue to receive reports from residents receiving notifications that they are the winner of an international lottery. The unsolicited post typically carries a post mark from Australia or Canada, but it may claim to be from anywhere in the world.

This type of scam has been around for a long time but scammers are becoming more sophisticated with the documentation they use, providing official looking certificates and authorisation stamps. They may also use genuine sounding addresses or websites to make the lottery appear convincing. They will often personalise the letter which makes the recipient believe they have won a valuable prize. DO NOT send any money, pay a fee or disclose bank details to an unsolicited person claiming you have won a prize. The only winner will be the person operating the scam!

If you are worried about a potential scam

requested. To book contact Ian on 01256 770207 iansue.smale@btinternet.com or Nikki Richards 07552 914916 niksrichards@gmail.com or Jayne Hudson 01256 895739 jayne_hudson@uk.ibm.com

please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: on 03454 04 05 06.



Hitting the Cold Spots

Extra Funds are available for Fuel Poverty in Rural Areas of Hampshire - thanks to funding from the Hampshire County Council Rural Development fund.

As well as the standard level of support available through their Hitting the Cold Spots programme, HCC recognise that those residents living in the rural areas of Hampshire can face added challenges.

Hitting the Cold Spots can help individuals and families throughout the Hampshire County Council area with practical support and detailed advice including visits from skilled Advisors. This can lead to the provision of emergency heating, access to funding for repairs and replacement heating or hot water systems as well as small grants to help cope with winter emergencies.

Hitting the Cold Spots will also provide practical support with debt, financial advice and benefits as well as assistance with switching energy providers. Home Safety visits offering carbon monoxide

detectors and smoke detectors are also available.

For further info

see www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots and for advice contact the Hitting the Cold Spots Advisor on 0800 804 8601 or email staywarm@environmentcentre.com



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

10th Feb
10th March
14th April
12th May
9th June
14th July

Laverstoke and Freefolk PC meetings start at 7.30pm with up to 15 mins public time. Anyone is welcome to attend to ask questions, make suggestions or air views on local issues during the public time. Time

Lady Rose Hall Class contacts

Kettlebell Fitness: 7 - 8p.m.
Thursdays with John Ruffell
Tel: 07910 736432

Yoga Friday: 10 - 11a.m. Yogamaniac Tel: 07884 384399

Yoga Monday: 7- 8.30p.m. Yoga with Gloria on: 0758 462 1857

Other dance or fitness sessions: Does anyone know a teacher who may be interested in running a class here on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening? Let Nicky know: 07563 942360

To booking the hall for your events see www.ladyrosehall.co.uk



Contacts

L'stokes and Freefolk Facebook
laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Nicky Nicklin, Parish Clerk:
Tel. 07563 942360 email:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Bob Hough, PC Chairman:
Tel. 07990 570035 email:
laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Newsletter:
lfparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Lady Rose Hall:
www.ladyrosehall.co.uk

Bombay Sapphire
Emergency
Only Tel. no.: 01256 890078

Our neighbouring web-sites:
The [Official Whitchurch web site](#)
The [Original Whitchurch web site](#)

will be split equally between the number of people wishing to speak. After public time parishioners are welcome to stay on but they are unable to interrupt the Council meeting.
Venue: Lady Rose Hall, Laverstoke Lane. Note: no meeting is held in August.

Our mailing address is:

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter
Lady Rose Hall
Laverstoke Lane
Whitchurch
RG28 7NY

[Overton Parish Council web site](#)

Our Local Sports Clubs

[Whitchurch Tennis Club](#)

[Overton Black Arrows Archery Club](#)

[Overton Rugby Club](#)

Our Local Day Care Centre:

[Kingfisher Day Care Centre for the Elderly](#)