



Newsletter February 2016

We're "Springing" into February with the daffodils in the quiet garden in full bloom! In this issue we have the latest on BT broadband and have some diary dates for village clear ups and the next Men's Shed meeting. The old tennis court resurfacing is planned for early March and a residents' appeal for goalposts, basketball hoops & portable tennis net is now underway. We're proud to announce that Peter from Overton Black Arrows has been recognised by the Southern Counties Archery with their highest award for his services to the sport. 2016 will also be a special year for Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. For more on these and other items read on....

The latest [Overton News & Views](#) can be found at this link.



Men's Shed in Local Press

We were delighted that both the



BT Latest on Freefolk Broadband

Basingstoke Gazette and Andover Advertiser included spreads on the Test Valley Men's Shed in their Jan 14/15th issues. The group has already had it's first funding confirmed of £619 from Hampshire CC Adult Services Wellbeing Team. This is to pay for one of the building surveys and floorboarding. Another donation of £500 has been pledged too.

The next meeting is set for **27th Feb** so please pass the word on. Hopefully on the day the shedders can make a start on repairing the broken floors and guttering!

The group aims to bring older men together to work on practical projects of their choice. It should be a social way of getting retired men out of their home/own shed and bringing them together with like-minded people.

For more info on the "youth club for mature gentlemen!" email: testvalleymensshed@gmail.com or tel: 07725 368012



Old Tennis Court: New

With welcome pressure from our MP Kit Malthouse, BT have finally given us an update on Cabinet 7 in Freefolk!

BT have told our lead Clare Albert "Apologies that the work to complete Whitchurch PCP 7 has yet to be finished as anticipated. As you may appreciate the exceptionally wet Winter has impacted on plans. We have been advised as of today (28th Jan) that Openreach are having difficulties with significant flooding on the duct route between Freefolk and the Whitchurch Exchange, particularly at the Exchange end of the route. Despite pumping water away, the manholes are refilling before work can be undertaken. Until the water level subsides, it is difficult for them to predict with accuracy when the work will be completed.

As you are aware the PCP7 is a new cabinet and so a new copper cable is required to be installed from the cabinet all the way back to Whitchurch exchange, a distance of around 3 kilometres, as previously advised. Once this is completed, the fibre works and final commissioning can be undertaken.

As you note this cabinet is not part of the Hampshire Superfast Programme, but I will continue to liaise with Openreach and will advise when a completion date is confirmed."

Play Area!

The Tennis Court resurfacing is scheduled to commence in March. As reported previously, the PC has secured over £10k in grant funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council towards the work. Steve Probut is coordinating a residents "Crowdfunding" appeal to raise funds for a football goal, a basketball hoop and a pop up tennis net. If you would kindly like to make a donation, of any size, email: steve.probut@btinternet.com, call 893175 or pop envelope into 35 Laverstoke Lane.

Thanks for helping build for the children of today and the future a secure safe play environment!



For a new take on Yoga!

Yoga doesn't have to be all chanting and hugging trees. Sometimes we make light about things in life. Come to yoga in Laverstoke Friday Mornings and let your

For the rest of the Parish we are investigating alternate independent solutions. We have been told that once the Government has made clear how it is going to address the remaining 5% of UK without broadband, Kit will hold another Broadband forum event to explain what communities can do to access the broadband they need and any funding that may be available. We expect this to happen sometime in June.



Hardy's
Forester, Farnfield
2016 and 2017 House Show
Basingstoke, Hampshire
Basingstoke
Basingstoke

Hardy's Opens 1st March - ready for a Big Year!!

Our local Priory Lane plant nursery opens again for 2016 on 1st March. Rosy will also be hosting her popular RHS partnership days here at the Nursery with the first on Wednesday 16th March and booking is essentials. See:

<http://www.hardys-plants.co.uk/index.asp?page=20>

2016 should be an exciting year for Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. Back on

inner silly be free.

Friday's 10-11am Lady Rose Hall.

For more info contact Samantha on:

yogamaniac@hotmail.com



Parish Council

Our 2 New Parish Councillors

The PC are delighted to welcome 2 new Councillors: Jo Probut and James Morrison.

Jo is from Laverstoke and brings a wealth of local knowledge having been born and raised in Laverstoke. She currently works in journal editing and has previously been involved in PR and communications. Her children attend Overton and Testbourne schools and her parents have remained local too. She is keen to ensure the villages remain a fantastic place for the next generation to grow up in as well as for our older residents. We're impressed she has already managed to rope husband Steve into coordinating village fund raising for the old tennis court.

James and wife Susie moved into Freefolk in 2011 and have put down strong roots in the Parish - with their 2

10th November it was announced by the RHS that Rosie has been asked to manage the Brewin Dolphin garden at Chelsea 2016. This is the first time she has been involved in one of the main Show Gardens and it's believed that no one has ever run both an internal and external garden before. The theme is Freefolk Forever, featuring a chalk stream flowing from source to fast flowing to drying out, and as such has a strong environmental focus. 70% of water for southern UK comes from aquifers and chalk stream health is crucial - likened to being our rainforest. It is hoped that there'll be lots of publicity around this for Hardy's. Well done Rosy and Rob.



Disgusting!

No apologies that this is the largest photo in the Newsletter. At the last count there were 12 dog poo bags on these logs situated between the Batts

young children having been born since. James is a qualified lawyer working in finance. He's keen to get involved in local issues of improving road safety on the B3400, safeguarding the rural and village character of the parish, improvement of community facilities and ensuring availability of high speed internet. James has already got stuck into helping pave the way for the tennis court work.

Bob Hough, PC chairman, said "It's great having Jo and James on board. We always need local residents who are willing to give up some of their own time for the good of the community and this is exactly what we have in Jo and James."



New Year, New menu!

News from the Watership Down Inn:

The new year sees the introduction of our mouthwatering new menu which you can view on our [website](#). In addition our specials change frequently and where possible, everything is fresh and sourced

Meadow and Archery fence lines. This is completely unacceptable! We ask whoever is responsible please clear them up straight away. Dog owners and carers should be disposing of their dog litter at home (We don't care how many layers of bag you need - but put it in your pockets or backpacks and dispose of it at home.)

We ask that anyone who sees this irresponsible behaviour in the future, anywhere within the parish, advise the PC so we can take necessary action. We are concerned about the potential health issues, especially to our children.



Archer's News

On 6th Feb the next Winter "Frostbite" leg is being shot at Laverstoke. On 10th Feb the Sports hall at Testbourne Community School is being used for school activities, so the club are holding a social evening in the Youth suite when refreshments will be supplied and there will be talks on an assortment of archery matters.

The next beginner's course will be at Laverstoke during the summer. Dates are

locally.

Sunday Lunches

Our Sunday lunches are becoming increasingly popular. We always offer 21 day hung home grown sirloin of beef and at least one other roast. We also have fish and vegetarian options. Booking is recommended.

Valentines Day

This year Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, we are offering a special Valentine menu on Saturday 13th and the evening of Sunday 14th February. Please see website for the [Valentines Menu](#). Booking is recommended.

Greek Night

On 26th February we are bringing a little bit of Greece to Hampshire! [The Menu](#) is available on the website.

Mothers Day

This year Mother's Day falls on 6th March 2016 and is always a very popular event at the Watership, Booking is highly recommended as we get very booked up. More details to follow closer to the time.

not yet set, but if you are interested please email:

Peter@OvertonBlackArrows.Org.

Although regular "club days" at The Laverstoke archery range don't recommence until after Easter, the range is used during the weekends and, for those members that can manage it, during the week too. So if you are using the "[Permitted Footpath](#)" along the front of the pavilion, **look out for the red flag at the corner of the old bowls green** and if the flag is flying **do not proceed** along it. Instead use the [Public footpath](#) up to the car park and around the outside of the pavilion.

Work is progressing slowly on the fencing to the archery range and it is hoped it will be completed by Easter when there will be gates at each end.

Attempts to set fire to the bonfire are proving difficult but somehow we hope to burn, or dispose of it, as soon as it can be done.

Southern Counties Archery Society is giving Peter Turner their highest Gold award. This is in recognition of the enormous work Peter has done over the years. Peter was a founder member of Overton archery club in June 1962, Black Arrows in 1970 and the combined Overton Black Arrows in 1975. Having



19th March Village Clear Up

Diary Date for all willing volunteers!

We're trying to get this years Village Clear Ups in everyones diaries early. Please spare some time if you can on Sat 19th March. It is hoped that both the Tennis Club and archers will also have some of their members out tidying that day too. It is always a fun occasion and an opportunity to meet other residents and make a difference to your community.

held various posts he has devoted countless hours to the sport at local level encouraging new archers with "try a sport" sessions in the club, schools and businesses. He runs the new beginners courses too. He has helped in the development of not just archers but coaches and judges too. At the County and regional level he has been active in committees and competition organisation. He has done much to promote the image of archery in the local and wider community and this award is very well deserved.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

9th Feb

8th March

12th April



Lady Rose Hall Class contacts

Kettlebell Fitness: **NEW**

Start Time: 7.30 - 8.30p.m.

Thursdays with John Ruffell

Tel: 07910 736432

Yoga Friday: 10 -

11a.m. Yogamaniac

Tel: 07884 384399

Yoga Monday: 7- 8.30p.m.



Contacts

L'stoke 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:

10th May
14th June

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 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.

Service times at St Mary's

Holy Communion
Services take place at St Mary the Virgin on the 1st, 2nd and 4th

[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 Wednesday evening? Let [Nicky](#) know: 07725 368012

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

Easyfundraising Link

Millennium Green

[Easyfundraising](#) link. Sign up to support Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green. When you shop online, through this site, a donation is made. This is FREE to you.

Also through the site above you can click a link on the top right hand menu to easysearch. This enables you to earn money for the green on all your searches!

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Lady Rose Hall:

www.ladyrosehall.co.uk

Bombay Sapphire Resident's Help Line Tel.: 01256 890078

Our neighbouring web-sites:

The [Official Whitchurch web site](#)

The [Original Whitchurch web site](#)

[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](#)

Sundays of each
month at 9.00 am.

[forward to a friend](#)

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Our emailing address is:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter

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