



Newsletter May 2016

We've lots of news in this year's 'Bluebell' issue of our village magazine. Test Valley Garden and Literary Festival organisers have given us further details of all the fun activities available for your children on Sunday 12th June. Bombay Sapphire have been busy winning much deserved top tourism awards and we have a plea for residents to all sign up (or sign up yet again!) for Hampshire Superfast Broadband. For all this and more keep reading!

Oh and don't forget to attend the Parish Assembly on Tuesday 10th May.

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



Distillery Wins Gold!

We're excited to report that Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill has been awarded Gold in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category at the prestigious VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2016 Ceremony. Celebrating excellence across the tourism industry, the ceremony announced 16 winners including Best Tourism Experience, Best Visitor Attraction and Best Large Hotel.

The Gold Award is the highest Award for Excellence in Tourism in England which VisitEngland can bestow. The team from Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill was presented with their Award at a Ceremony held on 8 March 2016 at The Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

Building on its rich history in banknote production for nearly 250 years, the careful renovation of the historic buildings encompassed the highest standards in design, functionality and sustainability, which won the site the highly prestigious BREEAM Award for Industrial Design in 2014. The acclaimed design practice Heatherwick Studio has intricately married the old and new, creating a state-of-the-art distillery for Bombay Sapphire in the historic buildings of the Mill. The legacy of this ambitious project provides the ideal setting to spark inspiration and stimulate the senses of every visitor to the distillery.

10th May - Informal Annual Parish Assembly

Every year between the 1st March and 1st June there's an annual parish meeting or assembly. The aim is to celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community. This year it will be taking place on 10th May from 7.30 - 8.30pm at Lady Rose Hall. It would be great to see as many people as possible attend. We have invited the local Police Constable Support Officer, the Borough Councillors and Bombay Sapphire to give us an update of their activities. The Chairman will be kicking off with a report on the year from the Parish Council. Following the reports there will be an informal open forum for parish residents to discuss and ask questions of the attendees on matters important to them. If you would like anything added to the agenda please let Nicky know on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com before 5th May. The AGM of the PC will follow. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served from 7.20pm!

Test Valley Garden and Literary Festival

at Bere Mill, Whitchurch, RG28 7NH

Sunday 12th June from 10.00 to 17.30

for the North Hampshire Medical Fund
Charity No: 282994



Commenting on the Award, Sally Balcombe, CEO of VisitBritain and VisitEngland said "It is therefore a tremendous achievement for the Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill to win a Gold Award.... They have raised the bar for excellence for others to aspire to and I warmly congratulate them on their exemplary contribution to tourism in this country."

'We could not be more proud to have won this prestigious award' says Will Brix, the Estate Manager of Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill. 'A lot of very passionate people here have worked incredibly hard as a team – every single day, with every single guest, to make the Home of Bombay Sapphire so special. It's great to have these efforts recognised, and I give a heartfelt thanks to all who have made this happen.'



Watership Bands Booked

Bere Mill Children's Activities - 12th June

With an emphasis on the great outdoors and literature there is plenty for children to do at our Family Festival on 12 June. We are running Forest School throughout the day with den building and bush crafts, Juggling Jake will be teaching both adults and kids a vast array of circus skills and Zoo Lab are bringing a variety of animals and reptiles to educate and inform. In our dedicated children's area there will also be a number of storytelling workshops including some which will bring to life various lesser know fairy tales whilst engaging the children in an interactive performance of the stories. Other highlights include sand art classes, seed planting, face painting and a bouncy castle. For further information and for tickets see: www.testvalleyfestival.co.uk



Tennis Season Well Underway

Regular club nights have now started on Tuesdays and Thursdays – it must be

The latest news from our local watering hole....

- Pensioners lunches on Mondays continue to be popular. 2 courses for £10.00
- Live bands for the beer festival (27-30th May) are now booked for Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. A range of over 20 local ales on offer together with a couple of ciders. Barbecues and delicious menu available throughout the weekend.
- Thursday June 9th - "Spring into Summer" is a celebration of the arrival of summer with a 5 course seasonal tasting menu. Making the most of the delicious fresh fruit and vegetables available at that time of year. Each course will be paired with a regional French wine - an opportunity to enjoy some lighter fresh wines. The wines will be introduced by Francois Dupont of Stone Vine and Sun.



Shed News

The Men in the shed have been busy over the last month, the old kitchen floor has been entirely replaced and is now safe. The water in the Old Pavilion has been turned back on and the shed now has a functioning (if a little dark) toilet. The next job is to tackle the electrics, Richard Portsmouth has very kindly

Spring! Sessions begins at 6pm and continue until dusk, and are hosted by a committee member, so members will always find someone on hand to give them a game. Visitors too are welcome to attend a club night, for which the club asks a small fee towards the costs of upkeep. Ever-popular weekend tennis continues on Saturday afternoons.

Though the weather was grey, our Rusty Racquets afternoon in April tempted a number of visitors to come and try their hand. They joined members for some informal doubles, with coffee, homemade cakes and chat between games. Our friendly Summer Tournament will be held between 1pm and 5pm on Saturday 4th June. The tournament will be followed by a BBQ – details will be sent to members shortly.

Whitchurch Tennis Club has an LTA licensed resident coach, Carol Rogers, who runs excellent courses for both juniors (4½ up to 18 years old) and adults. Regular adult coaching sessions will be starting on Monday evenings from May. Full details are available from Carol at carolrogerstennis@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 07939 264999.

Ours is a friendly club, always looking to welcome new members whether they are experienced, beginners or just want to get back into tennis. There is also the

offered his time to clear away some of the old wiring and get the buildings electrics ready for re-connection.

The date for the next workday and discussion about opening hours for the shed is Sunday May 1st.

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



Archery Coaching & News

Mike Humphries has passed his level one coaching assessment recently good news for a club that is continually promoting the sport to new learners.

opportunity to join as a social member only, for those who do not want to, or have little time, to play tennis. Details can be found on our website, www.whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary [Lynda Frith](#), or our Secretary [Wendy Helsby](#)



Coffee Morning - PCC seeks Your Opinion

On Saturday 14th May at 10.30 am, in St Mary's Church, the PCC (Parochial Church Council) would like to invite all residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk to join us for an informal chat over a cup of coffee and a slice of home-made cake. We are asking residents to consider: What does your village church mean to you? Is it simply a building that is part of the village heritage? Is it somewhere for baptisms, weddings and funerals? Is it something you would like to know more about? Is it worth preserving for future generations? Can we offer you something that we are not already providing? Above all, come and meet some of the

Peter Turner has been awarded a Silver Plaque by Archery GB in recognition for his work in archery since 1962. A founder member of Overton Black Arrows, he has been a Field and target national judge, a member of the national field squad and helped organise the World Field Archery Championships in 1982. And not to forget the World Games in 1985 and many other archery activities since that time!

Perris Junior league match - our team scored 666, beat Selby who scored 409 and finished 3rd in their division.

Ontarget trials for National competition between all registered clubs in the country: 6 members shot 3 dozen arrows in the general direction of a 50m target to see who might be part of the team against Romsey in April. Only later to be informed that Romsey have withdrawn so we will go through to the next round by default!

4th June - together with clubs throughout the country, Overton Black Arrows will be staging a "Try the Sport", 12 - 4.00 pm at the Laverstoke Archery range.

Next beginners course starts on Tuesday 14th June for six weeks. If you are interested contact Peter@OvertonBlackArrows.Org to have registration details sent to you.

people that keep the building going. If you haven't been inside before, come and see some of the lovely features that exist. We look forward to seeing you and your family there.

Spire News - Woodpeckers at work

You may remember the saga of the woodpecker damage to the wooden shingles on the spire – well, it is a much bigger job than we first anticipated and is going to cost between £50-70,000 to repair. We are working on help with the costs from various charities but will need to do some fund-raising ourselves, so watch this space!

Would anyone like to join our PCC? We meet 5 times a year and the majority of topics on the agenda are to do with maintaining our church building. We also look at ways of broadening ministry in the Church, as we believe it should be the hub of our community. If you think you have that bit of expertise to offer, please get in touch with me Brenda Bond, Churchwarden at bondb@btinternet.com or 01256 895594.



Thank You

A resident has emailed the PC this week:

"I'd just like to say how FANTASTIC the new play area is. It's perfect for playing ball and on bikes etc and it keeps the kids safe and out of the car park. We love it! Thank you."

The PC would like to pass on sincere thanks to Steve & Jo Probut who organised the village collection towards the hoops and nets. Also of course to all who contributed!!



LRH Refurbishment

Responding to a resident's question at the last PC meeting on the final LRH development costs, we can confirm that the Village Hall sale raised £284,765. The majority of which was used for the



Broadband - Please Action

As you may know, the Parish Council have been liaising with both BT and Kit Malthouse's office about our poor broadband. The most recent update is that BT need to lay new copper cabling in the duct between the exchange in Whitchurch and the cabinet in Freefolk before fibre can be enabled.

Unfortunately due to the heavy rain over the winter the duct is water logged and until it has cleared the new cable cannot be laid down. Once everything is in place and it is up and running Freefolk should have faster speeds. We will then need to work out the various options for the other houses in the villages. Needless to say we are chasing BT on a regular basis for an update and approximate timeframe. As soon as we have one we will let you know.

In the meantime, please can you ensure that if you ARE keen to receive fibre in the Parish that you have registered your details both at :

HampshireSuperfastBroadband and www.bt.com/infinity (Go to Coverage

renovation of Lady Rose Hall at a cost of £251,184 including professional fees.

VILLAGE DIARY DATE

Don't Forget Sat 18th June is Village Ginkhana. This will be a fun day open to all the residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk and their friends and family! More news to follow next month.

checker. It will then tell you "Sorry not yet" then underneath click on "Tell me when" and it takes you to register your interest.)

Finally we would like to update our records from this time last year of people's upload and download speeds so we can see if anything has changed. If possible please let us know what time you tested, upload, download and whether you tested from a desktop, iPad, smart phone etc. Here is a website which you can test it on:

www.thinkbroadband.com

Please send results to Clare Albert via laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Thank you very much for your time.



Hedge Cutting

Hedge cutting: Many thanks to the Marsden Court residents who cut their hedges back off the pavement recently. That is much appreciated by the Parish Council and residents. Can we please ask that anyone else whose hedges or shrubs overhang the pavement or roads and cause blocking or sightline issues to please keep them cut back. We

appreciate the need to be sensitive to wildlife but our priorities will be to reduce danger to residents.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

10th May - AGM &
Annual Parish Meeting
14th June
12th July
13th Sept

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



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

Other dance or fitness

sessions: Does anyone
know a teacher who may be
interested in running a class
here on a Monday or
Wednesday evening? Let
[Nicky](#) know: 07725 368012

To book the hall for your
events see

www.ladyrosehall.co.uk

Easyfundraising Link

Millennium Green



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:

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:

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
Sundays of each
month at 9.00 am.

[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!

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

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Our mailing address is:

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