



Newsletter February 2019

Brrr! Hope you're all keeping warm in this cold spell and looking out for any vulnerable neighbours. We've included some handy tips from Southern Water to keep your water supply tickety-boo.

There's lots of news from the Watership Down pub this month, the practice tennis project has kicked off and our local church has an exciting announcement too. In addition, we have a vacancy on the Parish Council and would welcome a new face onto the team. Read on for more!

You can find a link to the monthly [Overton News&Views](#) here.



Southern Water Winter Tips

Keeping a weather eye open is good advice from Southern Water given the recent fall in temperatures and snow. They are reminding customers how best to prevent any water in pipes, cisterns and storage tanks from freezing. They say they will do everything they can to fix water supply interruptions, due to e.g. a burst water main as quickly as possible. However, some customers are in circumstances where even a short interruption can have significant consequences. Customers on their Priority Services register are contacted quickly during a supply interruption and offered additional support - e.g. customers on kidney dialysis are immediately provided with supplies of bottled water. Customers can apply to join the register online via <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/register-for-individual-needs> or by calling 0800 027 0800.

Cold weather can cause pipes to freeze and burst, so be prepared.

Taking simple measures, including lagging pipes and checking your



Tennis Practice Area Gets Facelift

We're delighted that the new tennis practice project, being run by Whitchurch Tennis Club in conjunction with the Parish council, is finally underway. In just a couple of days we've seen the old tarmac and paved area be stripped back to soil and the old wall demolished. It is expected that the initial groundwork will take a couple of weeks. Then, weather dependent of course, the new tarmac surface can be laid and wall reconstructed hopefully within the next month.

As the contractors will be using some heavy equipment (similar to that used to rebuild the courts a few years ago), we would be grateful if the track between Laverstoke Lane and the Pavilion, and the adjacent car park, are kept clear for access and manoeuvring of large vehicles.

In the Spring the painting of the current courts and new practice court will take place.

We are extremely lucky that this project is being supported by Basingstoke and

internal stop-tap works, in case of an emergency, will help keep you and your home safe this winter. Find out more online at:

www.southernwater.co.uk/weathereye

In an emergency if your pipes do freeze:

1. Turn off the water supply at the stop-tap straight away
2. Don't switch on your boiler or immersion heater
3. Open the nearest tap and gently heat any frozen sections of pipe with a hot cloth or hot water bottle, working from the tap backwards
4. Never use a naked flame to defrost pipes. It's a fire hazard and can cause more damage to your water system.

If your pipes burst: Water pipes in homes are the property owner's responsibility, so if you notice a burst or leak at home:

1. Shut off your water supply and then open all hot and cold taps until they run dry
2. Switch off your mains electricity supply
3. Try to temporarily fix the burst pipe by binding it tightly with cloth, tape or using a pipe clamp
4. Call a qualified plumber and turn off all taps until the pipe is repaired.

Deane Borough Council. They are providing a grant of up to £27,900 (90% of the project costs) and Whitchurch Tennis Club are contributing 10% of the costs.

Thank you to everyone for bearing with us during the works. Please ensure your little (and big) ones keep out of the orange-fenced area.

In the meantime we have high hopes of enabling some local Wimbledon champs of the future!! And we'll keep you updated on project progress.



Breakfast in the Pub!

Come and join us in the Watership Down Inn for a lovely warming breakfast, we are launching our new breakfast service on Monday 4th February. Service will run every day 7am – 10am and on Sunday 7am – 9am. If you would like to see the full menu please [click here](#).

Top tips to prepare your home for the cold

1. Insulate water tanks and pipes: Use pipe lagging / jackets or insulation to prevent any exposed or unheated water tanks or pipes from freezing. Think lofts, garages and also garden taps. When insulating, make sure there are no gaps in the lagging.
2. Fix dripping taps: In cold temperatures, even a small trickle can cause water in the pipe to freeze.
3. Find your internal stop-tap: and make sure you can turn it off. Most stop-taps are fitted under the kitchen sink or stairs and can be turned off by turning them clockwise.
4. Service your boiler: Have your boiler serviced regularly (usually every year) to keep it working as efficiently as possible and avoid it breaking down during cold weather.
5. Block breezes and draughts: Minimise draughts and shut doors and windows to unheated parts of the home. If your property is going to be empty for long periods, turn off the water at the stop-tap and consider draining your pipes (open your taps while the stop tap is off).

We are really pleased to announce that our new bedrooms will be available to book from the 1st March. We will be adding 3 spacious double/twin rooms and a stunning family room, giving us much more space to allow people to come and visit our beautiful area. Thank you to so many of you for entering our competition to name the rooms, we have had some brilliant suggestions and the new names will be announced on our social channels soon. Why don't you come down and check out what has been done?

Just as a reminder we will be hosting a tasting menu on the 22nd February, this is a fantastic event with a seasonal selection of four courses and wine supplied and presented by [Stone Vine and Sun](#). The full menu is available on our website, [please click](#) here for details. These events have been extremely popular in the past so please do give us a call or email us to book a table on enquiries@watershipdowninn.com or tel: 01256 892254

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for the latest on Ales/ Specials and we will be running more competitions soon so don't miss out.

Southern Water are doing their bit to fix external leaks. If you spot a leak when you're out and about, please tell them about it via

www.southernwater.co.uk/report-a-leak or call freephone Leak Line on tel 0800 820 999.



Short Back and Sides

The Laverstoke Lane hedge looks pretty splendid in the snow. Great job by Bob Coleman and team who reduced its size to more manageable proportions last week. It hadn't been done in years and now we hope we can maintain it a bit more regularly. Thanks to everyone in the lane for moving their cars and making cups of tea for the hedgers. It was much appreciated.



Daisy Shoots for Gold in First Competition



New Rector Announced

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Revd James Russell as the new incumbent for Overton & Laverstoke with Freefolk. He will also be Priest-in-Charge of North Waltham, Steventon, Ashe and Deane. We expect James, his wife Annabel and their children to move into the rectory in Overton sometime in June, and his collation service will take place on Monday 1st July at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church, Overton. The family will be most welcome, and, having met them, will be a boon to the benefice.

Church Electoral Roll

I am drawing up a revised electoral roll for the church (due every 6 years). Those already on the roll will be contacted directly to re-apply, but if you come to church on a reasonably regular basis and are not yet a member, you may wish to be included.

Please contact me if this is the case.

Closing date is 28th February. Being on the roll means you have some say in how the church is run, and are entitled to vote for the churchwarden at the annual

Daisy Ballantyne, the club's youngest member, shot her first competition on the 20th January at Brookfield Community School, Sarsbury Green. She shot a Portsmouth round (60 arrows, 20 yards at a 60cm target face). Using a barebow without sights she scored 366 with 59 hits. It was a new personal best for Daisy and she was pleased to receive a gold medal and trophy along with the judges award. Jodie Buckner also shot and came 2nd with a silver medal in the recurve with sights class. She scored 517.

The Southern Counties Archery Society are running a County Indoor Postal League in 2019, over a Portsmouth round. In the January stage, Hampshire had 143 scores submitted for possible selection for the County Teams. Richard Buckner was selected for the County Gentleman's recurve team and Jodie Buckner was the highest placed Junior Girl selected for the team. (Ed: It's getting mighty competitive in the Buckner family!)

The latest beginners course is FULL. The next one will be starting in June on Tuesday evenings at Laverstoke. If you are interested please send a request to beginners@overttonblackarrows.Org. We recommend advising us of your interest early as places fill up quickly.

parishioners' meeting in March.
Brenda Bond, Churchwarden.



Your Local Valentine's Event

A well know distillery within the parish boundary is holding a special Valentines Day dinner from 7 - 11pm on Thursday 14th Feb. The event is being run in conjunction with Little Kitchen Company. It starts with an arrival cocktail and access to the Glasshouses followed by a 3 course dinner for 2. Each course has a cocktail to match and there's a special gift to take home at the end of the evening!

For a sneaky peek of the menu click [here](#). Tickets are £200 for two and you must be over 18. More details are available on the Bombay Sapphire (Ed: darn I gave it away!) website:

<https://distillery.bombaysapphire.com/experiences>

There are a couple of Wednesdays when the sports hall at Testbourne Community School is not available for use and so the club are holding social events instead:

The first took place on 30th January - a Charity Quiz evening in the Lady Rose Hall, with profits going to the Air Ambulance. The next is a Skittles evenings on 13th February in the Kingfisher Day Care Centre.

Regular midweek club shooting will start again at Laverstoke at the beginning of March.



Parish Council

Vacancy Exists for Parish Councillor

Would you like to get more involved in how your local parish works? Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish council have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

This could be your opportunity to help us improve our local area. You don't need any particular skill other than enthusiasm and a can do attitude. You do need to attend monthly PC meetings (normally the second Tuesday of the month) at Lady Rose Hall from 19.30 - 21.30. The position is open to anyone who is a British subject over 18 years of age, an elector, resident within the parish or within 3 miles of it (or having their principal or only place of work in the parish). If you are interested or know someone who may be please contact clerk, Nicky Nicklin, for further information. Email: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com or tel: 07725 368012.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

12th Feb

12th March

9th April

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



Lady Rose Hall Class contacts

[Watership Down Nursery:](#)

Day nursery offering full child care services
Contact Will & Lucy Jones
on 01256 895504 or
contact@watershipdownnursery.co.uk

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



Continued...

Our Local Day Care Centre:

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

kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

Millennium Green:

landfreefolkmillenniumgreen



Contacts

[L'stokes and Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Nicky Nicklin, Parish Clerk:

Tel. 07725 368012 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: 01256 890078

(Also use to alert BS security you are collecting **Defibrillator**).

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](#)

**Lane. Note: no
meeting is held in
August.**

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Our emailing address is:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

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