



Newsletter March 2019

Spring Greetings! Yes, officially we are in spring even if it seemed more like mid summer recently. Let's hope the rhythm of our gardens and wildlife hasn't been too disturbed.

Great progress has been made on the new tennis practice area. It's going to be a fantastic sports resource for all the parish. The archers have been active as always and will be spreading the joy of their sport at trial sessions over the summer. The pub has gone live with it's online booking system for its new rooms. Hardy's has opened again for this year. Read on for more.....

Oh, before that just a little reminder - that Lady Rose Hall is available to hire for children's birthdays and other events and activities. See below for contact details.

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



Hardy's Now Open

It's 1st March and we're taking a wander around Hardy's Cottage Garden plants! Yes, they've opened for the season today - for 7 days per week 9 - 5pm (except Sundays with closure at 4pm).

Rosy and team are already preparing for the highlight of the year which is Chelsea. There's lots of hard work going on behind the scenes.

We were amazed that it has been 22 years since Hardy's got the go ahead with planning permission for their 'new' site up at Priory Lane - with support from the then PC. Where has that time gone?!

As usual they have lots of events coming up and they are particularly focused on children at Easter. On 3rd April Rosy is giving a talk on Spring Herbaceous Perennials. For these and more events see Hardy's [web-site](#).



Men's Shed activities

The Test Valley Men's Shed really seems to have become a popular destination for people from our local villages. And this is increasingly so now that we have completely renovated the 'shed' - with floors replaced throughout, kitchen re-situated, damp sorted out and most importantly the wood burner has been commissioned!

We're expecting our next group project to start soon. There's a large consignment of wood arriving any day so 'manufacturing' of the next round of bird boxes can begin. The Men's Shed will use this as part of fundraising stock to sell at local events. They were very popular at the Overton Christmas fair.

The Test Valley Men's Shed is a community project based in the old Pavilion in Laverstoke. It provides a space where 'mature' gentlemen can gather and work on practical projects of their own choice, in addition to providing a great place to talk. Come and visit to see what we're up to.

The Men's Shed meets on a Tuesday and Thursday morning in the Pavilion on Laverstoke Lane from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.



Easter at St Mary's

We are having Family Communion at 10 am on Easter Sunday, 21st April, followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Please do join us for one of the most important Festivals in the Christian calendar.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has supported me and my family during my husband Richard's illness and subsequent death. I have had so many cards, flowers, cakes and really lovely messages, all of which have been such a help. His funeral is on Monday 11th February at 2.30 pm at St Mary's, Freefolk, followed by refreshments at Keepers Cottage. I would love everyone who knew him to come along.
Brenda Bond, Churchwarden.

If you have time on your hands and you'd like to get involved in projects at the Men's Shed send us an email via testvalleymensshed@gmail.com or just turn up. New members are always welcome!



Another busy month!

It has been another busy month at the Watership Down Inn!

We just wanted to give you a bit of an update on the tasting menu evening 22nd Feb. We are super pleased to say it was completely sold out. During the evening our chef created 168 plates of amazing food, paired carefully with selected wines from [Stone Vine and Sun](#). The pictures above are just a selection from the evening, this is one that we will definitely repeat!

Mother's Day is the next event in the diary on the 31st March, don't forget to reserve your table as we get booked up



Black Arrows compete at national and county events

Archery Great Britain January Challenge was entered by a large number of club members with some great scores in this national event (60 arrows @ 20yards on a 60cm face). To highlight a few:

Chris King 19th of 204 Gent Recurve Archers (still in their 1st year).

Jodie Buckner 26th of 315 Lady Recurve Archers

Bill Jones 44th of 163 Longbow Archers and

16th of 209 Barebow Archers

At the county level the club entered Hampshire Archery Association Indoor Championships where Richard Buckner came 5th in Gents Recurve.

extremely fast.

Last month we launched the new breakfast service. This has been a great success and thank you to everyone that came in. We will definitely be continuing this service, running every day between 8am and 10am (Sunday 8am – 9am). If you would like to see a copy of the menu [click here](#)

Last but by no means least we have just launched our [new website](#) and we are pleased to say that you can now [book bedrooms online](#) as well as buy [gift vouchers](#). Any feedback let us know!

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for the latest on specials, events and promotions and more!



Tennis developments

The WTC AGM will be held at The White Hart at 8pm on Thursday 21st March. All are welcome to attend, to look back at the tennis and social events of 2018, and forward to the club's plans for the coming

Chris King, Steve Allam, Alex Allam and Eric Dunlop were also all well placed.

At a more local level the Battle of Basing was waged recently!

Richard photographed above came 4th in Battle of Basing Vegas (20cm face @18m) and David Mahers came 35th shooting Barebow

The Battle of Basing Nerves of Steel was then fought between 30 Recurve archers, shooting a single arrow at steel plate with a 12cm hole in it.

Those who made it through and still had a shootable arrow, then shot 1 arrow at steel plate with an 8cm hole. Richard was one of 8 succeeding. However no one then managed to shoot 1 arrow at a steel plate with 4cm hole! All 8 have had to share the £80 prize!

Also at the Basing event Jodie Buckner became Southern Counties Archery Society (U16 ladies) recurve Champion!

Confirmed 'try archery' events the club are staging in 2019 are:

28th April 2019, Oakley primary school

18th May 2019, Big Weekend,

Laverstoke

22nd June 2019, Micheldever Fete

27th July 2019, St Mary Bourne Fete

The Black Arrows are also delighted to announce that their charity for this year

year.

In particular, Whitchurch Tennis Club is delighted that the new practice project, being run by the Club in conjunction with the Laverstoke & Freefolk Parish Council, is finally underway. Initial groundworks are complete, the tarmacing has begun and the practice wall is being reconstructed.

The Club is very lucky that this project is being supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. They are providing a grant of up to 90% of the project costs while Whitchurch Tennis Club is contributing the remaining 10%. In the spring, the painting of the current courts and new practice court will take place.

Provided the courts are ready in time, our first event of the new season will be a Rusty Racquets afternoon between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 6th April. Come along for a game, bring friends/family who have not played or are a bit rusty to have a go. This is an open social event with refreshments and the date will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Then, if the weather obliges – and the courts are ready – the first club night will be on Tuesday 9th April when play hosted by a committee member will begin at 6pm during April and continue until dusk (from 7pm when the days start

is Hampshire Air Ambulance.



Abandoned?

There appears to be an abandoned car in the Lady Rose Hall car park - it hasn't been moved for a few years. Does anyone know who it belongs to? The PC are making enquiries through B&D and DVLA but thought someone locally might know something about it. If you do please contact Nicky on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com or 07725 368012. Thank you!



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

12th March

9th April

May tbc (PC elections)

11th June

9th July



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

getting longer). Club nights are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with weekend tennis continuing on Saturday afternoons (please ask for details).

Ours is a friendly club, always looking to welcome new members whether they are beginners, or experienced and hoping to play matches, or just want to get back into tennis. There is also the opportunity to join as a social member only, for those who do not want, or have little time, to play tennis. Details can be found on our [website](#),

For more information about the Club, please contact:

our Membership Secretary Lynda Frith,
membership@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk or
our Secretary Wendy Helsby,
secretary@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk



Contacts

[L'stoke 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:

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.**

To book the hall for your party or events see www.ladyrosehall.co.uk or email laverstokeclerk@gmail.com



Continued...

Our Local Day Care Centre:
[Kingfisher Day Care Centre for Elderly](#) or
kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

Millennium Green:
landfreefolkmillenniumgreen

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](#)