



Newsletter June 2019

We hope you are managing to take advantage of the (mainly) lovely summer weather. May it continue into next weekend and the Hampshire Garden Festival at Bere Mill.

Last month we had our Parish Assembly and PC AGM. Thank you to all those who turned out to the meeting. We had a good discussion on the proposed giant Barton Stacey/Longparish Incinerator, amongst other topics. As usual, the minutes are posted on the [Laverstoke & Freefolk website](#).

For those of you who follow Chelsea Flower Show you may already know that Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants have won another Gold Medal! Well done Rosy and team. Also in May, we were honoured with a mayoral visit. The practice tennis facilities were formally opened by Mayor Diane Taylor. Whitchurch Tennis club organised a fine spread and a very successful event. We hope many new members will join and take advantage of the formal facilities. The practice area is available to all in the parish and we'd like to remind everyone that it is for tennis rather than cycling or skating. We don't want to damage the lovely new surface.

And don't forget the Millennium Green quiz on Sat 29th June. Contact Clare Albert for tickets on landffundraising@gmail.com. Tickets are £7.50 per head including a chilli supper. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. There's prizes and an auction. Get

planning your crack teams of 6 people. BUT don't worry if you are not in a team we can help put teams together on the night - it is a great way to meet new people.

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



Hampshire Country & Garden Festival

We're counting down the days till the garden festival at Bere Mill in celebration of the restoration of the Mill, following severe fire damage last year. The festival is raising money for the Hampshire Medical Fund and promises a whole host of entertainment, workshops and demonstrations, more than 40 gift, garden and food and drink stalls. So it's perfect for anyone who loves the great outdoors. Some of the activities available include: Dog show, pottery workshops, demos on fly fishing, bee keeping, cake icing, pasta



Mayor's visit

Whitchurch Tennis Club celebrated the opening of their re-painted courts and the new parish practice facilities last Saturday. The Juniors played some impressive tennis with LTA coach Carol Rogers, who works with the youngsters throughout the year.

A special visitor was The Worshipful the Mayor and Consort of Basingstoke and Deane, Diane and Andy Phillips. The Mayor celebrated the coming-together of the community by cutting the ribbon to declare the courts open, and was presented with a bouquet of flowers by one of the Juniors. There were many other guests who have helped this project come to fruition in attendance.

It was a brilliant turn-out and a very happy occasion, with much chat and

making, jam making, flower-arranging. There are lots for children to do too, including circus skills, den building, sand art, cooking classes, storytelling and yoga. There'll be music entertainment provided by a local band.

Launch Evening - Saturday 8th June 6:30 - 10pm

Main Festival - Sunday 9th June 10am - 5pm

[Click here](#) to book or just turn up on Sunday.



New Vicar

Reverend James Russell has been appointed as our new Vicar, and his collation service will take place on Monday 1st July at St Mary's, Overton at 7.30 pm. If you wish to attend, please let me know so that we have an idea of numbers. We welcome James and his wife, Annabel, and hope they will be very happy here.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden
on bondb@btinternet.com or 01256 895594

refreshments enjoyed by all. The Club's aim is that the newly re-painted courts should benefit everyone from Juniors, who showed how well the courts will be used, upwards to adults. The practice area is open to all in the community with priority being given to WTC when Carol's coaching sessions are underway.

Thanks to Basingstoke and Deane for supporting us with their Local Infrastructure grant of £27,900.



Spring Pond garden open 16th June

We're looking forward to another beautiful garden opening on 16th June. Julian and Carolyn Sheffield are kindly opening their Garden at Spring Pond, Laverstoke Lane, RG28 7PD as part of the National Garden Scheme. This raises money for nursing and health charities. Come along between 2 - 5pm to see colour coordinated borders, with an abundance of roses and clematis. Hornbeam, yew and box hedges add structure to the garden. There is a pond



Watercress and Winterbournes update

If anyone would like a copy of the news from this project please contact Nicky at laverstokeclerk@gmail.com and I can forward the newsletter above so that it is a bit easier to read!



Muddy Stiletto pub win!

Muddy Stiletto 2019: We are very proud

with a wide variety of marginal plants, an arboretum full of ornamental trees, and a conservatory with Mediterranean and tropical plants. Home made tea will be available. Tickets are £6 for adults, children are free. Just turn up. If you need more info see the [NGS website](#).



Beer Mill

On our monthly butchery open days we'll have a wide range of beef and lamb cuts available all bred and reared at Bere Mill, pasture fed and bursting with flavour! We will display as much meat as possible unpackaged. Please bring your own container or wrapping to take your meat home in, and help us to reduce plastic waste.

Butchery open days 2019

Sunday 9th June - Hampshire Country & Garden Festival 10am - 5pm

Saturday 6th July 9am - 5pm

Saturday 3rd August 9am - 5pm

Saturday 7th September 9am - 5pm

Saturday 5th October 9am - 5pm

Saturday 26th October - Bere Mill Apple

Day 10am - 5pm

to have be the winner of the Best Destination Pub 2019. This is our 2nd successful year and it was against some very tough competition so we wanted to thank you all for voting to get us there. We constantly use the feedback from our customers to improve so this award is testament to that.

Dates for your diary

On the 16th June we will be holding a special Father's day lunch, this has been a very popular event in the past so we wanted to ensure that you booked early to avoid disappointment. We have not published the special menu just yet but for an example please click here* this will be updated on our website as soon as it is available. Book today on enquiries@watershipdowninn.com or tel: 01256 892254.

Beer and Food Festival

This was the first time we extended the Beer festival to include street food, cocktails, crepes, wine tasting and English cheeses. Bombay Sapphire kindly created a gin cocktail specifically for the Watership! The cocktail proved to be a great success and included a slug of Bombay and curacao. The feed back was that it was very refreshing! For entertainment we had live music on the Friday and Saturday evening. On Sunday we had a families day. This included a magician who was incredibly successful

Saturday 7th December 9am - 5pm

Saturday 21st December 9am - 5pm

Hampshire Country & Garden Festival - see details in above column.

[Bere Mill website.](#)



Archers' snippets

Richard Buckner and daughter, Jodie were part of the Hampshire team which won an Inter county match against Sussex.

Maurice Berridge was one of the Judges at the World Archery International staged by Andover Archers.

August 'try the sport' dates are:

Mon 5th: 2 - 4pm

Weds 7th: 11 - 1pm

Fri 9th: 2 - 4pm

Mon 19th: 11 - 1pm

Weds 21st: 2 - 4pm

Fri 23rd: 11 - 1pm

The cost is £2 per adult or child and we'll try to let you have as many shoots as possible.

at removing money from people's pockets! Katie Black did a children's cooking demonstration which culminated in the children either eating their creations or plastering it over each other.

Parking: We are aware that parking outside the pub at times can be an issue. Hardy's have very kindly allowed us to use their car park as an overflow.

Ric's Memorial beer: Longdog have bottled a beer in memory of Ric who was killed in a traffic accident prior to Christmas. All profits are going to Brake, a charity specialising in highway safety. Bottles are available to purchase at the pub.

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

*please note that this is an example menu and the dishes will vary due to ingredient seasonality and availability



Incinerator

Following a discussion in the Parish

For those that want a go before August we will be at the Micheldever fete on 22nd June 2019.

The Big Weekend of try the sport, the same day as the tennis club opening, saw over 500 arrows shot!!

Over the Bank holiday weekend two of the clubs members travelled to Northern Ireland for the British Field archery Championships. Gerald Farrell, shooting compound (bow with mechanical advantage), attained 9th place. Steve Allam shooting recurve (bow as shot in the Olympics) was placed 6th. On the left in this picture:



In the British Archery league, (Portsmouth round of 60 arrows shot at 20 yards at a 60 cm face) the club were placed top club in division two!

Assembly the PC are looking to object to the proposed Harewood Industrial incinerator being planned by US company Wheelabrator technologies. The site is 2km west of Bullington Cross, just off the A303, half way between Longparish and Barton Stacey. As the crow flies this is less than 8km southwest of Laverstoke & Freefolk.

We covered the visual, environmental and traffic implications of this in the May News&Views. However, a resident has been doing some detection and pointed us to the [scoping document](#) which you can access here.

If you wish to join the petition 'Stop the Barton Stacey incinerator' the 38 Degrees petition can be found [here](#)

There is a also website under development called [Keep Test Valley Beautiful](#) where you can sign up for further info about the incinerator development.

Also you can sign up to the [Stop the Harewood Incinerator facebook group](#).

We'll also keep you updated as we hear more...

On the 21st June, Overton Black Arrows will be holding a marathon shoot, in aid of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight air ambulance. Club members will be shooting continuous "Frostbite" rounds from 10 am Friday until 10 am Saturday over the summer solstice. A minimum of two archers will be shooting at all times at 80cm targets, placed 30 metres from the shooting line. Their aim is to reach and exceed a cumulative total of 20,000 points. Both beginners and seasoned competition archers will be taking part, with many different bow styles being represented. Anyone who wishes to support the club, and through them the Air Ambulance can donate via the [fundraising page](#).



Hardy's - 24 carat gold!

Great news from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. They were awarded their 24th RHS Chelsea Flower Show gold medal on their 27th year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019. They launched three new exciting, long flowering perennials - Digitalis 'Firebird', Salvia 'Amethyst Lips'



Tennis news

Tues and Thurs club nights are now starting at the slightly later time of 7pm and continuing until dusk, hosted by a committee member, so that 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 of the courts. Sat afternoon club sessions are continuing as usual.

The next diary date is Strawberry Sunday afternoon, on 8th July, from 2pm until 4pm. This is the middle Sunday of Wimbledon, when there is normally no play at the tournament – so what better way to bridge the gap in your viewing schedule than by coming along to enjoy a fun game of tennis, followed by strawberries and cream? Members and non-members are most welcome. (Of course, each of the six lucky club members whose names were drawn in our ballot this year will be able to soak up the SW19 atmosphere at first hand, along with a guest!)

and Dianthus 'Cherry Burst'. One of which the Digitalis 'Firebird' came runner up in the RHS Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year!



White Clawed Crayfish pond request

Our native white-clawed crayfish are now considered to be internationally and nationally endangered. This decline has been due to habitat loss, pollution, and abstraction. However, most significant has been the introduction of non-native crayfish, particularly the disease 'crayfish plague' carried by signal crayfish from North America, which results in up to 100% mortality in populations of our native species.

3 upper tributaries of the River Itchen are considered to support Hampshire's last remaining viable (robust) white-clawed crayfish population. However, a small, highly isolated relic population has recently been (re)discovered on a tributary of the River Test, the River Anton, and importantly for us white-clawed crayfish have been recorded at a

Those of you with children at Testbourne may be interested to know that the tennis club is sponsoring a short course hosted at Testbourne School, to mark the opening of the new and refurbished facilities at Laverstoke. WTC will provide any equipment needed, and our resident licensed LTA coach Carol Rogers will put year 5 students from the Primary School through their paces.

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

very small number of discrete locations on the River Test and its tributaries in the past 20 years.

We are trying to gather as much information as we can about distribution of crayfish in the area, as we currently have no records for some areas of the upper Test. We would be very interested to hear of any signal or native crayfish sightings in the area, both historic and current!

We are also interested to hear from any landowners who might have an existing pond that might be suitable as an Ark site (a refuge), or would perhaps be interested in creating a new pond. There are several criteria that ponds need to meet to be suitable. These include holding permanent water, good water quality, free from signal crayfish, at least 1km from the river, and between 0.2-1.5Ha in size. For further information, please contact Sarah Boswell on 01489 774435 or sarah.boswell@hiwwt.org.uk or visit [HIWWT website](#)



Parish Council



**Lady Rose Hall
Class contacts**

[Watership Down Nursery:](#)



PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

11th June

9th July

10th Sept

8th Oct

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.**

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 or

email

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com



Continued...

Our Local Day Care Centre:

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

kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

Millennium Green:

landfreefolkmillenniumgreen

To Report problem with roads, footpaths & verge

Hantsweb

To report trees on roads:

0300 555 1388

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:

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](#)

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