



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

Newsletter December 2020

The festive season is nearly upon us and the Parish Council would like to wish all residents a Very Merry Christmas. We hope that the slightly relaxed Christmas rules enable you to have a nearly normal celebration! And in case people are feeling a little isolated we have a little suggestion below for those residents taking walks in the area during the school holiday....

It is fantastic to see that our local pub, sports clubs and church are able to open up again. Please don't forget to support the Millennium Green when you are online shopping. They are keeping our green space in trust for us. And Bere Mill have been really busy gearing up for Christmas too. For all this and more please read on...

Our Christmas edition picture was taken by the Watership Down Nursery. It is so lovely to see the children enjoying the lights outside Lady Rose Hall at this special time of year.

You can find a link to the monthly [Overton News&Views](#) here, a few days after the start of the new month. It includes the Overton library opening times.



Millennium Green online shop links!

It's December, Christmas is really around the corner! As and when it comes to your CHRISTMAS SHOPPING... if you are buying online please do consider supporting, the Laverstoke & Freefolk Millennium Green Trust. There are a couple of ways you can do this:

If you are using Amazon then there is Amazon Smile - select the Trust at this [link](#).

You can also download the Easy Fundraising button for your toolbar at this [link](#).

Using these links of course costs you no extra but gives the trust a commission.

If you would like to make either a one off donation or a regular donation to help maintain the green we have now set up an online page making it much easier to do so. See the [CAF Donate link here](#).

Thank you for your support!

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And it's not all about online.... let's also try



Make L&F a little more of a wonderland!

We have been thinking what we can do/suggest, given the current restrictions, that might bring a bit of joy into our villages at Christmas and also enable those who may be feeling a little isolated to feel less so. Well, it seems that there are a lot more people now out walking these days and it is the time of year many of us go mad on our Christmas displays. Have you spotted some of the lovely lights and displays up already around the village?

So combining the 2, when you are walking in the school holidays between 2 - 4 pm why not include the housed areas before heading across the fields? This way anyone wanting to can pop their heads out and chat with walkers as they pass by.

Get your Christmas displays up before the school holidays start around the 18th Dec. Let's enjoy our beautiful villages as well as the area around. Socially distanced, of course.

and support as many local businesses as possible too!



St Mary's services start again

Services begin again this Sunday with Holy Communion at 09:00 am. Then Matins at 10:00 am on 13th December.

Come join our Christmas celebrations:

Carol Singing will take place on Sunday 20th Dec at 3:00 pm in the Playground.

On Christmas Eve 24th Dec we are holding a short Family Christmas Reflection / Service starting at 4:00 pm in St Mary's.

Also in St Mary's, at 9:30 am on Christmas Day, there will be a Family Communion service. Please come along and bring your family and friends.

For further information on Christmas services contact Charlie Seligman on cseligman@savills.com or 07967 555624

Test Magazine



Open with 'Good Food' of course!

We're so pleased to be opening and can't wait to see you all and share with you the amazing menus that Steve and team have put together. Just before lockdown 2.0, we won **Good Food Awards for Gastro Pubs 2021** and we have been chomping at the bit to share our [new winter menu](#) with you.

We have a couple of new COVID-19 rules that we have to adhere to. We will only be serving alcohol with food and we are only able to seat single households, or support bubble of up to 6, inside. The good news is that we are putting up a marquee on the terrace to extend our all-weather dining and mix households can dine in there (tables of 6). Please discuss this with the team when you book and check our [website](#) for slightly altered opening times and full details of Christmas opening.

Just a couple of reminders, we launched our fantastic winter B&B promotion last month, if you want full details simply [click here](#). Also, if you have family visiting over

Subscriptions will be due in January – only £7 for current subscribers due to Covid resulting in missed copies this year. If anyone new would like to subscribe to our wonderful parish magazine, it is only £10 for the year. Please let me know.

Happy Christmas everyone!

Brenda Bond – 01256 895594 or bondb@btinternet.com.



Bere Mill and butchery shop

It's a busy time here at Bere Mill. The farm is getting ready for Winter and the butchery is going from strength to strength.

Since the first lockdown, we have offered free local delivery to the local area for online orders. This has remained popular and we will be continuing to offer this service for the near future. All of our beef and lamb is home-grown at the farm and is grass-fed in the fields surrounding the

Christmas that need accommodation email the team as we have a couple of rooms available (room only).

As always you can follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to find out the latest pub news.



Mayor's message!

Do you remember days gone by when your diary was full of visits and engagements and it was sometimes a bit of a relief to get a day off? It is a distant memory for me, although the 'busy-ness' has been gradually building up as we find new ways to keep in touch and run events. But it's not the same!

I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to meeting people in person again without the need to plan how to avoid getting near to them. People need people, not telephones and computer screens. The virus has robbed us of so much invaluable personal contact. I do hope that when we emerge fully from the threat of COVID-19 we won't be frightened to join with family,

RiverTest. Even in the winter, we feed them the haylage we grow ourselves.

Christmas: This year has been challenging for us all, and we felt it was important to make sure it was something we should all be looking forward to. We wanted to pull out all the stops! We are currently taking Christmas orders, with free local delivery, of our own produce alongside a range of turkeys from Walters' Turkeys. This is a family run farm near Newbury. We shall also be making all the trimmings including pigs in blankets and festive stuffing. And if that's not enough, we will be selling Christmas trees from the mill every Saturday and Sunday from 10-4 pm from the 5th and 6th December.

This year, we have taken on a new apprentice. David joined us officially in September but he has been helping around the farm and with the Saturday deliveries since March. His decision to become an apprentice was quite a big one. David has been a primary school teacher for 25 years and he left his role as deputy head to start something new! This extra pair of hands has given us the opportunity to now open the shop on a regular basis. We are open every Friday from 12-7 pm, where we will be selling our wonderful produce including a range of our delicious sausages and locally sourced free-range chicken.

Please pop along and take a look. David and Leigh, our butcher, will be there to help

friends and colleagues. Such fellowship is so vital for our mental health and well-being. Roll on the post-COVID era!

Sadly, we shall not be having a Mayor's Carol Service this year. We hope that we'll be able to celebrate Christmas throughout December by producing a "Mayor's Advent Calendar" portraying and celebrating some of the interesting places around the borough – places which we can all hopefully freely visit next year as things get back to normal. I have lived in the Basingstoke area for over 40 years, but I am learning about some fascinating places that have passed me by. Our borough is rich in history. Follow the [@BasingstokeMayor Facebook](#) page commencing on Tuesday 1st December.

It seems that this year Christmas has become more important than ever; perhaps because this special time of year, which emphasises our love for our family and friends, has been under threat from the efforts to stem the coronavirus. Out of so much tragedy, it is good to recognise a few positives from the past few months. Being with people and showing care for them has never seemed so important as it does right now. I do hope that continues when the virus has finally gone.

Useful links:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Latest Government information and guidance

and offer any advice you need.



And play resumes..

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be out of lockdown and back to playing tennis again. We were disappointed that tennis wasn't allowed at all during this last lockdown, given the benefits for physical and mental health and that it can be played socially distanced. Fortunately, post-lockdown, this has been recognised and outdoor tennis will be able to continue in all the tiers going forward. Online booking of courts for when we reopen is now available and we hope to see you playing soon.

Once we can, Saturday mix-ins will start again between 2-4 pm, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome to join us for a game. Look out for emails and updates on our Facebook page.

We continue to be unable to organise any social events at the moment as we wait for the covid situation to improve. The club is a very social club, so we will look to make up for the lack of events once it is possible to get people together. In the meantime, whilst we are closed, we have taken the

- COVID-19 - [Community hub](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community-hub) ([basingstoke.gov.uk](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)) local support
- [The Borough Basket](#) supporting local businesses

Diane, Cllr Diane Taylor

opportunity to introduce our committee and get to know others in the club via our [Facebook page](#). Look out for our 'Getting to know you' posts and introduce yourself to other club members there too.

For more information about the club and membership, please visit our website: www.whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk, follow us on [Facebook](#) or contact us via Wendy Helsby, Secretary – secretary@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

08 Dec
12 Jan
09 Feb
09 Mar

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

LAVERSTOKE & FREEFOLK LOCAL HELPLINE

Just in case you find yourself in need of a hand we've got a network of friendly Laverstoke and Freefolk volunteers who want to help.

From picking something up from the shops to walking the dog - just call any one of the below contacts and they will share the request so someone will be able to help you.

Nicky Nicklin	892698	07725 368 012
Caroline Johnson	893457	07802 254 631
Charlotte Stewart	896267	07792 208 660
Clare Charles	n/a	07860 804 654
El Harvey	n/a	07916 250 802
Holly & James Bretel	242182	07852 300 249
Jenny & David Ellis	892895	07845 399 851
Jim & Lu Marsh	895070	07703 885 432
Jo Probut	893175	07375 486 586
Katie Black	895995	07803 046 919
Luby Hough	242875	07876 685 762
Lucy Arthur	n/a	07990 563 921
Michael & Evelyn	893669	07702 592 198
Richard Darley	893508	07909 687 231
Rosy & Rob Hardy	n/a	07949 761 858
Sarah-Jane Shirreff	896678	07778 509 744
Suzanne Bailey	n/a	07773 253 305

Please follow medical guidelines published on www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 or call 111

L&F Calling Tree contacts



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**).

local issues during the public time. Time will be split equally between the number of people wishing to speak. After public time parishioners are unable to interrupt the Council meeting. Currently meetings are held online.

Contact

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com if

you would like to join the

meeting. **Note: no**

meeting is held in

August.



Contacts

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

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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Our mailing address is:

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter

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