



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

Newsletter April 2021

We need to preface our April news with an apology to Laverstoke Lane residents. Last night the Laverstoke Lane section of the parish was bathed in light from the newly installed tennis lights. The PC contacted the tennis club immediately and they have agreed to not use the lights again until their set up has been corrected. The LED lighting was chosen due to its directional nature. In their correct position the lights should flood the court only with light and have little light spill. Unfortunately the lights were not correctly angled towards the courts, thus the directional lighting was aimed towards the houses on Laverstoke Lane. The tennis club are sorry for any inconvenience caused to residents.

What a glorious display the daffodils are making, cheering us onwards in hope of better times to come. The pub is certainly gearing up to help us enjoy some new found freedom and Hardy's has an exciting event for us to look forward. The sports clubs have been opening up again and the archers were out at 8 a.m. on Monday morning. We've quite a few thank yous to those who have been preparing the area for spring and apologies if you have been missed out.

Parish Council Meetings may be subject to some date changes as we move from online back to face to face meetings in as safe a way as possible. The PC AGM and Annual Parish Meeting is likely to take place on Tues 4 May. The June meeting may be pushed back a couple of weeks in anticipation that we meet face to face once again - hooray. It may therefore be Tues 22 June. These dates will be finalised at the April PC meeting.

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.



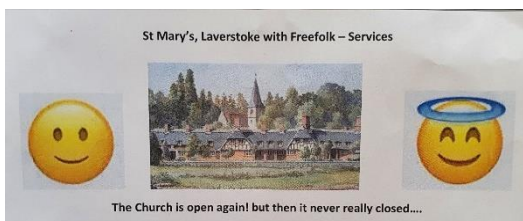
Watership Down Inn open 15 April!

We're really pleased to announce we'll be opening on Thursday 15th April with a new seasonally inspired [menu](#). It has been a tough start to the year but we're looking forward to seeing you again soon!

All dining will be outside until the government re-opening road map allows. In addition to the terrace, we have a new marquee in the garden so that you can enjoy getting together with friends and family. Don't forget to bring a coat for those chilly evenings!

As always we'll keep in touch via our social channels, email and [website](#) and please don't forget to book as the tables are filling up fast!

Click here for [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or join our [email updates](#).



Hardy's opening and super exciting event....

We are delighted to say that after a seemingly endless wait, the Nursery Shop will finally be opening to the public on Monday April 12th. Yay! In the meantime, we've been working hard and given the shop a spruce up. We think it's looking rather smart! So please visit us for all your plant needs plus take a look at our extended range of Melcourt composts (including one containing John Innes, perfect for containers). We are offering a 15% discount to all Laverstoke and Freefolk residents off any plants and compost purchased at the Nursery Shop from 12th - 30th April. Just bring a copy of this newsletter on your phone to claim your discount.

SPOILER ALERT - we want you to be among the first to know about the super exciting event we are holding in May at the Nursery. After many years of exhibiting and winning 24 Gold Medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, we decided 2020 was to be our last year attending. We had planned one of our biggest displays ever but the pandemic threw these plans up in the air. So we put the perennials back to bed for another year. It was hoped the Show would happen in 2021. And the Good News is that it is, but postponed until

Easter family communion service

Church services are resuming – yay! We will celebrate Easter Sunday with a Family Communion Service at 09:30, albeit still following Covid guidelines with social distancing, wearing of face coverings, and no singing. We cannot have our usual Easter Egg Hunt, but there will be eggs for the children to take home, so please join us.

Thereafter, our usual pattern of services will take place on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays of the month at 0900.

St Nicholas Church: We usually start our summer programme of services on the 1st Sunday of May at St Nicholas, but it is difficult to social distance in that tiny church so we are hoping things will be back to some normality to enable us to start in July. Brenda Bond churchwarden: 01256 895594 or bondb@btinternet.com



Thanks to.....

Gill Baker - as ever you have done a super job getting the flowerbed at the front of Lady Rose Hall looking gorgeous! Rich Spooner you are a star keeping the grass area in front of LRH looking tidy. A little late but... thank you Bob Hough for clearing the footpath in Freefolk beside the church/Christmas Cottage back in February. Lots of people commented on facebook.

September. As it takes over a year to grow plants to the standard required by the show we sadly cannot participate.

But WE HAVE A PLAN! We are going to create our biggest, best and final display, in all its glory, with home grown plants plus trees and handcrafted timber sculptures in Freefolk at the nursery. We would like to share it with you, our wonderful neighbours.

Construction of the garden will start in late April ready for the grand opening by a celebrity gardener on May 17th. But from May 18th the garden will be open for everyone to visit for three weeks in a safe, socially distanced way. Entrance is by bookable tickets only - these are free but there is a small booking fee. Any donations provided by visitors will be going to one of our favourite local charities Naomi House and Jacksplace. Details of booking will be available on our [website](#) from mid April.

We hope to see you there and in the meantime Happy Gardening!

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants



Pond clearing continues

In a battle to remove the Parrot's Feather, a very invasive and non native plant, from the Millennium Green pond and stream, volunteers have been active once again. There is one more patch to clear and

If there's anyone you see that the parish council should thank please drop us a line on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com



Archery GB award for Chairman Steve

Until Mon 29th March we had only managed 3 days of Archery but now the range at Laverstoke has reopened! It's been a tough 3 months but archers are already making the most of their return, especially in this lovely sunshine. The first archer was out at 8 a.m.!

We would like to congratulate our Chairman Steve Allam on being awarded a plaque from our governing body Archery GB. This is in recognition of his services to both target and field Archery:



Although we have not shot any competitions lately we have seen Hampshire Archery come first in a Southern Counties postal league with club members Richard Buckner and Rob Aldridge finishing well inside the Top 10.

this is being done on Sat 3rd April at 10.30. If you are interested in wildlife conservation or just in the improvement of our local area and have a couple of hours to spare then contact Phil Nicklin on pnick@hotmail.co.uk.



Courts back open!

Spring is finally here, the courts are back open, the lights are being installed and our new junior coaching programme is launching this Easter. There has never been a better time to join the club or renew your membership.

Our new Head Coach, Josh Gook, and his team are kicking off their junior coaching with an Easter Camp running in the mornings of the 6th-9th April. There are a few spaces left in the 9-15 years old group if you are looking for something active for your child this holiday. The younger age group is fully booked.

Following the Easter camps, the main junior coaching programme starts week commencing the 19th April with lessons on Thursdays after school and Saturday mornings.

Adult coaching courses coming soon and private coaching is available by contacting Josh at info@jgtennis.co.uk.

Archery is considered a multi-beneficial sport that improves both mental and physical fitness. We are hoping to run a beginners course in April/May this year and so if you are interested please have a look at www.overttonblackarrows.org or message Rob Aldridge on secretary@overttonblackarrows.org.



Watercress & Winterbournes chalkstream talks

A beautiful Banded Demoiselle is shown in Susan Simmond's chalk stream photo above from the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Anyone seen one locally?

Talks coming up:

Water Meadows - The Future?

13 April, 7.30 - 8.30pm

In this online talk, Dr Kathy Stearne uncovers the world of water meadows; an intensive agricultural system that was in use for over 400 years. Learn about their lasting importance to landscape history and ecology, and how they could still be managed today.

Book your place by [emailing here](#)

Further details of all coaching programmes can be found at [WhitchurchTennisCoaching](#) or by checking our [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

The club has also recently had it's AGM, electing its new committee, with Howard Bradley as chair. We have welcomed Sophie Mason to the committee, who is taking on the Social Secretary role. Liz, our previous social secretary is taking well-earned retirement and our thanks go to her for the cracking job she has done over the years.

Hopefully, if the roadmap out of lockdown continues as expected, we will be in a position to arrange some social events this year. For more information about the club and membership forms, please visit whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk, follow us on [Facebook](#) or contact us via Wendy Helsby, Secretary – secretary@whitchurchtennisclub.org.uk
Hope to see you on court soon.



Wild Violets in bloom

Thanks to Jo Probut for her lovely photo from a mystery local spot!



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

13 Apr

**04 May - PC AGM &
Annual Parish Meeting**

08 Jun or 22 Jun tbc

13 July

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 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.**

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 Smith	893669	07702 592 198
Richard Darley	893508	07909 687 231
Rosy & Rob Hardy	n/a	07949 761 858
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

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&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](#)

Mailing address:

Laverstoke & Freefolk Parish
Council
Lady Rose Hall
Laverstoke Lane
Laverstoke
RG28 7NY

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