



Newsletter May 2021

In this month's edition the local calendar for May is starting to look busy once again! We have Bere Mill opening as part of the National Garden Scheme, Hardy's have a special invitation for residents and Bombay Sapphire is planning to welcome visitors once more! June also promises to be active with the return of the Hampshire Country and Garden Festival.

The Spring village maintenance day will be Sat 15th May starting at 10:00. Volunteers are needed for our socially distanced workgroups of 6. Please just turn up at the Pavilion car park with wheelbarrows, rakes, strimmers etc.

The PC AGM and Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tues 4th May at 7:30pm on zoom. All are welcome. Please let Nicky know if you would like to attend, tel. 07725 368012. We will provide a telephone number for those without internet access. The June meeting will now take place on Tues 22nd June face to face - hooray!

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.



Footpath deadline 1st Jan 2026!

Did you know that the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act has a deadline that extinguishes historical (pre-1949) footpaths, bridleways and byways that are not on the definitive Rights of Way map at 1st Jan 2026? We will no longer be able to apply to recover lost paths based on old maps (for example), and they will be lost forever. 2026 might seem like a long way off but it has now come onto the Parish Council agenda. Thanks to residents for bringing this to our attention. The PC would like to start scoping a project that looks at permissive routes working with landowners and considers historical routes too.

To see the current definitive paths map for our area, follow this Hampshire County Council [web link](#) and put in the postcode of your address.

We are looking for residents to help with this project and you can get involved in a couple of ways.

Firstly, we are extremely interested to understand about traditional old routes in the parish that have lapsed especially from those who have lived in the area for a long while or who have an interest in old maps.

Secondly, we are going to need volunteers from the community to help us with the project/scoping the



National Garden Scheme at Bere Mill

Spring is now in full bloom. We love this time of year and seeing the gardens burst into life. Bere Mill will be opening its gardens this bank holiday weekend on Sunday May 2nd, in association with the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

Tickets are limited so don't miss out! Due to the current situation, this will be a ticket only event and a time slot will be given (between 1 and 5pm) to avoid queues and overcrowding. Please visit the NGS website (ngs.org.uk) and search for us in the section 'find a garden' for more details. Tickets are priced at £7.50 for adults, with all proceeds going to worthwhile charities. (Free child entry).

As well as this one, we have two other NGS open days planned for

project. If you can help in any way please contact Diccon Harvey via laverstokeclerk@gmail.com.



Children enjoying tennis classes

As you will be aware, we have experienced some initial problems with our new lights and the amount of light on Laverstoke Lane when they are in use.

Thank you to residents for their patience as we make adjustments to find a workable solution. We apologise for any inconvenience to residents.

In other news, the junior tennis camp kicked off our new coaching partnership with JG Tennis for 4-15 year olds. Feedback was very positive - it was lovely to have lots of juniors back on court. Regular junior coaching classes are now taking place on Thurs after school and Sat mornings. To book a place go to [our website](#). Group adult coaching is coming soon.

Members can arrange private coaching by contacting Josh direct at info@jgtennis.co.uk

All being well, if the roadmap continues as expected, we will be able to hold more events this year. Here are a couple of diary dates, subject to confirmation nearer the time:

this year:

Monday 31st May

Sunday 12th September

Bere Mill is also home to the farm, where we have our own herd of native breed cattle and sheep. We also have our own butchery which will be open from 1-5pm on the Sunday garden opening.

We will have plenty to choose from... a delicious joint of lamb or beef for a bank holiday roast or some tasty sausages and burgers for the BBQ (let's hope the good weather continues!)



Sunday 23rd May Hardy's show invitation

First and foremost, we would like to give everyone in the village who has been up to visit us in the last few weeks a big thank you. We appreciate your custom in these difficult times.

- Rusty Rackets – Saturday 22nd May. Dust off those tennis rackets and come down and have a few games and meet other members of the club.
- Strawberry Sunday – 4th July. Come and enjoy the tennis club's version of Wimbledon with an afternoon of tennis and of course strawberries and cream.

Keep an eye on [Facebook](#) for more details.

It's membership renewal time and with a 25% discount on fees this year, we hope you will join and play lots of tennis.

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

Hope to see you on court soon.



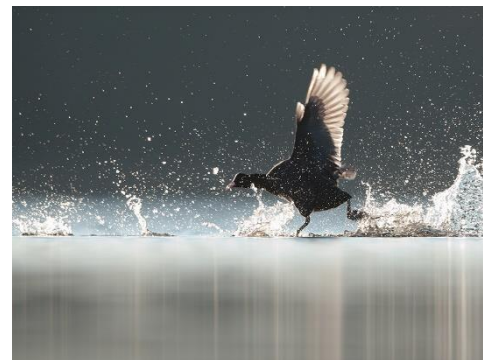
Book a table to guarantee your spot

It's so nice to see so many of you again, thank you for supporting us. The first few weeks back have been so busy, but we are loving it and the weather

Ever wanted to see a garden designed for display at Chelsea? Well this year you will have the chance, because with the show having been moved from May to September this year, Rosy and Rob are going to construct the exact garden they would have at the show in May within the nursery. We would like to invite you to a special evening for the residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk on Sunday 23rd May, 5pm – 7.30 to view it. If you want to come along, please email us at info@hardysplants.co.uk with a time in mind. As you will appreciate, given the current circumstances we will do our very best to accommodate your required slot but may have to alter it slightly depending on numbers.

If you cannot make it on 23rd, please look at our website for full details of when else it will be open for viewing.

We look forward to seeing you.



Save Every Drop

is being kind (although a little bit chilly in the evening). Don't forget to book a table if you are coming for food or just a drink and then we can guarantee you get a spot.

We wanted to let you know we have opened our garden bedrooms for B&B, they are completely self-contained and continental breakfast will be provided in the room – great for visiting family or friends. All rooms can be [booked online](#).

As always we will keep in touch via our social channels, email and [website](#).

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



Hampshire Country & Garden Festival 2021

Back again on 26/27th June, the Hampshire Country and Garden festival is an event not to be missed. The Family day is on Sunday 27th and there is an evening gala on Saturday 26th. The event is being held at Bere Mill to support the amazing work of the Hampshire Medical Fund. This year they will be raising funds for the neonatal departments of Basingstoke, Winchester & Andover NHS hospitals - specifically for Resuscitaire machines!

There's lots of fun activities for children such as

As the weather grows warmer, many of us are doing more laundry and reaching for the garden hose. But did you know that doing so could have serious implications for nature? A new Watercress and Winterbourns project, called Save Every Drop is challenging the communities of the Upper Test to use water wisely this summer. Chalk streams are an incredibly precious type of habitat, housing iconic species like the brown trout, water vole, kingfisher, damselfly, and white-clawed crayfish. Their cool, clear, mineral-rich water is the result of an underground chalk aquifer, which supplies them with a fairly steady flow throughout the year.

Another quirk of the aquifer is that, in loftier parts of the landscape, some stretches of stream may dry out for weeks or months at a time. This natural drying of winterbourns is limited to certain areas, and the resident species are suitably adapted. But if the streams artificially run dry over larger stretches, or for longer periods, then wildlife can really suffer. A major cause of this problem is humans tapping the aquifer for fresh water, a process known as 'abstraction'. Since water is drawn to meet our demands, we all have a say in how big our impact will be –

circus skills, martial arts, storytelling, mural painting, a petting zoo and lots more. You can enter your dog for the family dog show! Enjoy workshops and demonstrations as well as the Festival talks programme and, of course, the array of specialist plant nurseries. There's live music and lots of great food stalls too. And new for 2021 is a Garden Clinic with three of Hampshire's most exciting and leading garden designers available for you to discuss all things garden related.

For more detail visit the [website](#). Tickets are also available [online](#)

As usual we are calling for helpers on the tea tent on Sunday in the morning and afternoon (2 hour slots). Contact Brenda Bond on bondb@btinternet.com if you would like to get involved. Volunteers will receive free Sunday entry for themselves!



this precious resource should be seen as something that people and wildlife are lucky enough to share.

From May onwards, we'll be sharing lots of tips on saving water in your home and garden, as well as deep dives into how the issue affects our streams.

In the meantime you can sign up for our [monthly email newsletter](#), where we share news, events, and other opportunities and enjoy Andrew Parkinson's picture of a Coot splashing on water (2020VISION)



17th May Bombay Sapphire re-opens

Bombay Sapphire are planning to reopen their visitor centre on Monday 17th May with an ongoing reduction in tour capacity, in line with COVID guidelines. Our Mill Bar will initially only be accessible by ticketed visitors until our capacity allows, and as usual our Café continues to be for ticketed visitors

Test Magazine subscriptions

I will be collecting annual subscriptions at the beginning of June when I deliver your magazine. It will be £5 for current subscribers, and £7 for new subscribers. If possible, please have cash ready. If you don't currently receive the magazine and would like to, please contact me on 01256 895594 or bondb@btinternet.com.



Thanks to.....

Jenny Straker who was spotted out litter picking last month. Thank you from us all for helping keep the area tidy. There was also a new wood chip path laid by Jamie Nicklin. It has brought back some rural charm to the Millennium Green woodland. We also mustn't forget all the volunteers who have now removed all the invasive Parrot's Feather from the pond. This has taken several sessions and 14 people in total have got wet (well, waded knee deep or more in waders) in the name of improving biodiversity!

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

only. Non-ticket holders may visit the Gift Shop if capacity allows, but will have to go through the same safety checks as ticketed visitors before being allowed access (temperature check, face masks, COVID declaration).

We have also adjusted our opening hours slightly. Until further notice our advertised opening hours will be 11am-6pm Monday to Thursday, and 10am-8pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Sam Halsall - Visitor Centre Ops Manager



Archers active again

The month of April has all been about returning to archery and to



Unfurling Hart's Tongue

This beautiful plant preparing for new life was spotted by Jo Probut in a mystery, local location!

the range at Laverstoke. Our head grounds man Maurice has done a great job of keeping the site tidy and the grass mowed. We resumed shooting on the 29th March and have seen a steady stream of club members return to the range. We have a booking system in place to adhere to current Government guidelines and its been great to meet up with fellow archers and resume shooting. We also started our latest beginners course on Sunday mornings with 11 new archers learning the basics of how to shoot. May will be a busy month for us as we host the All British Field Archery Championships. This will be at our Field Archery site in Kingsclere and we are expecting some close competitions from the UK's top archers. If you are interested in Archery or wish to know more about our club please message

secretary@overtonblackarrows.org



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

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

22 Jun - back in LRH!

13 July

14 Sep

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

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](#)



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](#)

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

To report trees on roads:
0300 555 1388

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Our mailing address is:

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