



February 2023

It may be that misty, cold and grey time of year but doesn't it make you joyful to have to dodge the snowdrops and other new shoots that are bursting through underfoot everywhere? Aren't we lucky to live in such a beautiful environment!

We hope you'll enjoy our articles in this edition on joining the Test Valley Men's Shed and a National Women's Register group. There's news too from our local butchery and garden centre businesses and we've some important info regarding the new voter id for polling on 4 May. Also, we've an important historical and, hopefully. social date in our May calendar with the Coronation of King Charles III. As usual, read on for all this...

The next PC meeting is on Tues 7 Feb at 19:30 in Lady Rose Hall. The tea urn will be on. Everyone welcome!

Don't forget 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. A twice yearly Whitchurch PC newsletter is available [here](#).



Active Men's Shed

Last week the PC clerk popped into the Test Valley Men's Shed in the Laverstoke pavilion for a cup of tea and catch up. The welcoming group of mainly retirees had just had their annual meeting and were buzzing with ideas for Easter activities.

The Men's Shed is basically a warm and active hub for those that wish to make or mend stuff - mainly wood and metal work. Some members have skilled backgrounds, others are learning these skills and some just enjoy the group atmosphere, playing cards or reading the papers. The 'shedders' tend to renovate items for themselves or for the local community and also make things to sell, effectively fundraising, at local craft markets. Their next event is 4 Feb in St Mary's Hall, Overton. They have recently repaired the benches in the playground, made stools, 'turned' beautiful wooden christmas decorations and painted garden ornaments. Last year the PC commissioned the oak noticeboard adorning the entrance of Lady Rose Hall. This year we have asked if they will prepare a new Queen's Jubilee/Memorial bench before it is installed



Parish coronation planning

For those of you that enjoyed our parish platinum Jubilee event last year, we are considering what we should do for the upcoming coronation. Now we have an outline timetable of national proceedings, we are looking for a little team who would be happy to help Nicky organise an event for 6 or 7 May. It should not be arduous - many hands make light work and a wee glass of wine or cup of tea helps the planning! if you would like to get involved contact Nicky on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com or 07725 368012



Discussion topics 7 Feb

in the Millennium Green,

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about the Men's Shed, pop along anytime they are open between 9-12 noon on a Tues, Thurs or Sat and introduce yourself.

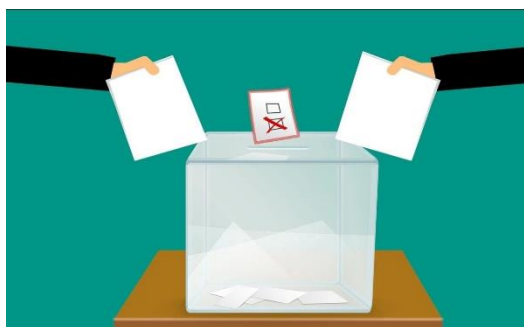


Photo ID for voting

New legislation, requires residents to show photographic ID when voting in a polling station. This is effective from the 4 May 2023 elections.

You must show one of the following documents and be registered on the electoral register:

- Passport: issued by UK, EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- Driving Licence: UK driving licence (full or provisional), or issued by EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Isle of Man or Channel Islands
- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- PASS identity card: Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram required
- Defence Identity Card Ministry of Defence Form 90
- Blue disabled badge

As always, you are welcome to attend and have your say in public time at the 7 Feb PC Meeting. It starts at 7.30pm in Lady Rose Hall. Topics, amongst other items, will include:

Whether we should mothball our Speed Indicator Device

Bombay Sapphire quarterly update

Borough Councillor update

Latest on Portals closure

Planning app ref: 22/03408/LBC for Laverstoke Mill, Bombay Sapphire Distillery. Proposal: internal reconfiguration & refurb of existing Visitor WCs to the Mill Bar, Building 4 and Building 18, each to provide a unisex WC arrangement.



Warmer homes

Lower your energy bills with a grant of up to £10,000. If you are on a lower income and living in a home that is not energy efficient, help may be at hand.

You could be eligible for a grant to make energy efficiency improvements to your home such as solid wall insulation, loft insulation, an air source heat pump or solar panels.

You could receive a grant if

- A national identity card issued by EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- Any concessionary travel pass funded by UK Govt:

- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ Card
- Freedom Pass•

- A Voter Authority Certificate – issued to those without ID.

Expired ID is acceptable if the photograph remains a good likeness to you.

Voter Authority Certificate: If you do not have one of the accepted forms of ID, you can apply for a free Voter authority Certificate. The deadline to apply is 5pm Tues 25 April 2023.

You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate If you would prefer to apply by paper or in person, please contact B&D council's electoral services team on 01256 845467.

[Read More](#)



- you have a household income under £30k or are on means-tested benefits *and*
- your home has an energy performance certificate rating of D, E , F or G (see www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate *and*
- you own or your home (incl with a mortgage) *or* rent privately owned property

Basingtoke & Deane BC is working with Warmer Homes to deliver the scheme. If you think you could be eligible, contact Warmer Homes on 0800 038 5737 or visit www.warmerhomes.org.uk. Applications are on a first come first served basis.



The National Women's Register

A meeting place for lively- minded women, the National Women's Register consists of small groups who meet once a fortnight in each other's homes to discuss a wide range of topics, both serious and light-hearted. Meetings are thought-provoking, friendly and fun. Topics are decided well in advance by members themselves. Meeting

Hardy's busy in winter

hello everyone! Sometimes we are asked locally "What is there for you to do all winter at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants?" The answer is "plenty". From potting in the shed to sweeping up all the leaves, stock taking, making sure the benches in the sales area are safe, and generally planning for the year ahead.

Whilst this is all going on we are still open weekdays as we have plenty of plants for sale that are flowering now such as colourful Hellebores, delicate Ipheions (Ipheion Froyle Mill is pictured), beautiful Galanthus & Crocuses and many more spring flowering plants. If you are thinking of changing a border this year and planning it now, why not take a look on our website www.hardysplants.co.uk where you will find lots of ideas. Being local, if you sign up to our Hardy's Gardener's by sending an email to hardysplants@gmail.com you will get access to exclusive offers, tickets for events and informative articles!



days vary and take place locally, sometimes in the afternoon and sometimes the evening. An optional book group meets every six weeks but this is flexible.

We also have NWR plus whereby extra activities are arranged by members who volunteer to organise a coffee morning, lunch or an excursion once a month to local places of interest, the theatre or the cinema. We have enjoyed some lovely days out recently but again these are optional.

Twice a year we enjoy a lunch party where members are encouraged to bring guests and we also organise a very lively Christmas party. Each month some of the more active members meet for a walk in the country usually followed by a pub meal. Friends are welcome to come along. As a national organisation members can attend the national conference where excellent speakers cover a wide range of topics.

Overall, the programme is a full one, but members dip in and choose what they can manage. So, if this interest you why not contact Gill on gillchivers45@btinternet.com or Julia on jandgchedgey@gmail.com and arrange to have a chat. You would be welcome to come as a guest for three sessions to see if you feel comfortable with the group and find out if it is something you would enjoy.

Bere Mill and National Garden Scheme

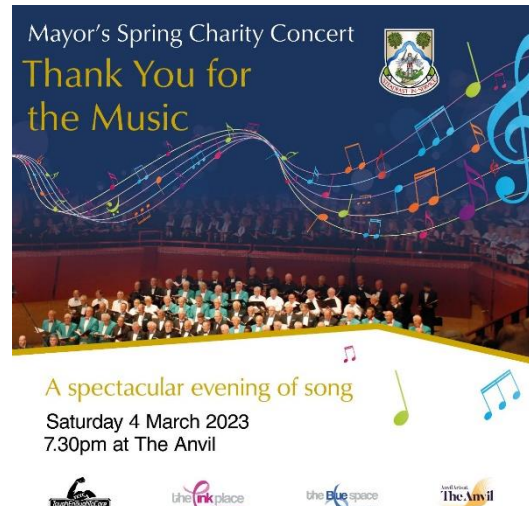
After a very busy Christmas, we are back open for 2023 at the Bere Mill butchery. The shop is open from Wed - Sat and we are still offering free local delivery for orders over £35. From Feb there's a slight change of delivery day from Sat to Thurs afternoons. Orders will need to be in by the end of Mon for delivery that week. Don't forget we also provide a great click and collect service so if you need to order a little later in the week, your order can be ready for collection from the shop from Fri onwards.

Valentine's Day will soon be here. Why not treat your loved one to share a romantic evening with some fabulous Bere Mill steak or start the day with a home cooked breakfast. We now offer a wonderful breakfast for two box, pictured above.

For more information please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages or subscribe to our email newsletter via our website at beremillfarm.co.uk

This year's National Garden Scheme open days are a great opportunity to see the magnificent gardens here at Bere Mill. The dates will be:

- 27th March
- 1st May
- 29th May
- 28th August



Mayor's Spring Charity Concert on 4 March

The Worshipful The Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Paul Miller and Sandra Miller would be delighted if you would join them at the Mayor's Spring Charity Concert 'Thank You for the Music', a concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal. It is on Sat 4 March, 7.30pm at the Anvil

A spectacular evening of song containing something for everyone. Reflecting the Mayor's key principles of community engagement and well-being, the music showcases the huge variety and diversity of the singing opportunities within the borough from 'Les Miserables', 'This is Me' to 'Gloria by Vivaldi'. Special guest choirs include St Mary's CE Junior School Choir, Odiham Military Wives Choir and Kalyna Ukrainian women's choir. You may even spot some local residents from Overton Choral Society!

All proceeds on the open days go to a range of charities supported by the NGS scheme. See the [NGS website](#) for more details.



Please pick up!

On one of the most walked tracks in the parish, we are seeing increasing amounts of un-scooped poop. There is even a yellow sign that should be acting as sufficient reminder! One of our dog owning residents has sent me this complaint and they appeal to all dog owners to act responsibly. At all times, please remove your dog waste from areas that are walked. In the dark evenings please take a torch out with you for spotting those droppings. Thank you!

Tickets are available from the Anvil box Office, open 10 am - 2pm M-F, in person or tel 01256 844244 or via the [anvilarts website](#). They are £19 for adults, over 65s and under 16s £15 (includes £3 booking fee).



St Mary's news

Test Magazine Thank you to everyone who has paid the annual subscription for our parish magazine. If we missed you whilst collecting, please would you consider paying on-line by going to stmarysoverton.org.uk. Select "Quick links" then "Test subscription renewal". Please let me know if you would prefer me to collect cash or cheque from you, or whether you no longer wish to receive the magazine. Many thanks.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mady and Morwenna who deliver the Test every month. You are stars!

United Benefices. There is a draft scheme to unite the benefices of Overton (includes Laverstoke with Freefolk) and North Waltham (incl. Steventon, Ashe and Deane) with Revd James Russell as the incumbent for all six parishes. This should not alter what we are doing at the moment, but if you

have any comments regarding this, please see the notice on the notice board by St Mary's church door.

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



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Note the PC meeting has moved to 1st Tues of month. Next meeting dates -:

7 Feb
7 March
4 April
2 May

Laverstoke and Freefolk PC meetings take place in Lady Rose Hall starting at 7.30pm with up to 30 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



L&F Contacts

[L&Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Lady Rose Hall:

www.ladyrosehall.co.uk

Bombay Sapphire Help

Line: 01256 890078

(& to alert BS you are collecting Defibrillator).

Neighbouring web-sites:

[Whitchurch Town Council](#)

[Official Whitchurch web site](#)

[Original Whitchurch web site](#)

[Overton Parish Council web site](#)

Our Local Sports Clubs:

[Whitchurch Tennis Club](#)

[Overton Black Arrows Archery Club](#)

[Overton Rugby Club](#)

Our church:

[St Marys Laverstoke](#)

Our Local Day Care Centre:

[Kingfisher Day Care Centre for](#)



Classes in Lady Rose Hall

Ladies Boxing: Mon 18:45 - 19.45

Contact: Brandon Elliott on
07402 366067

Yoga: Weds 19:30 - 20:30

Contact: Natalia on
natalia@thelittleyogacompany.com
07880 742817



Parish Council:

Clerk - Nicky Nicklin

07725 368012 or

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

be split equally between the number of people wishing to speak. After public time parishioners are unable to interrupt the Council meeting.

Note: no meeting is held in August unless a planning or other time-dependent matter arises.

[Elderly](#) or
kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

Millennium Green:
[landfreefolkmillenniumgreen](#)

To Report problems with:
roads, footpaths & verge
[Hantsweb](#)

trees on roads:
0300 555 1388
water:
[Southern Water](#)



Parish Councillors:

David Ellis, Chair
Jo Probut, Deputy Chair
Andrew White
Diccon Harvey
Julia Chedgely
Jayne Hudson
Jim Marsh
on: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Borough Councillors:

Colin Phillimore 771127
cldr.colin.phillimore@basingstoke.gov.uk
Stephen Williams
cldr.stephen.williams@basingstoke.gov.uk
Chloe Ashfield
cldr.chloe.ashfield@basingstoke.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Juliet Henderson
juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk

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