



September 2023

We hope you have made the most of the summer and managed to take a break at some point. The Parish Council's next meeting is on Tues 12 September - note a week later than the usual first Tuesday of the month. It is hoped to see as many members of the public as possible - there are important items coming up for debate. Also, thank you to all those who turned up to give their really useful feedback at the August extraordinary PC meeting. It was much appreciated.

It's great to hear that the Watership Down inn has a new chef... can't wait to try the new menu. Up at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants they have been celebrating in style and we have a new look old seat in the parish. For all this and more read on!

Find a link to the [Overton News&Views](#), available a few days after the start of each new month. Also the latest Whitchurch Town Council newsletter [here](#)



A new Chef in town!!

As some of you who have been in to sample the new food know, we have a new Head Chef at the Watership Down Inn! We have had some really good feedback from those who have visited, so thank you for the lovely comments.

For those who don't know, or have not sampled his new "Chef Specials", here is a taster of what you have missed. These are currently still on this [seasonal menu](#) - so come in and try them.

The main course is shown in the picture above (Ed - looks scrummy!).

And this is the scallop & prawn starter:



Followed by the delicious pudding:



12 Sep. PC meeting

We would encourage residents to attend the next PC meeting on 12 September as we have a number of important topics to debate and welcome your input during public time.

The Laverstoke Pavilion and use of lights by Whitchurch Tennis Club is probably top of the list. The building is in poor condition with collapsed drains and we are considering proposals for future repairs and ongoing use by Test Valley Men's Shed and possibly Whitchurch Tennis Club. However, the PC will need to consider what actions to take if there is continuing breach of its current pavilion licence by the tennis club. They currently use the pavilion room and electricity for court lights without the permission of the PC. They have planning approval following their contested planning appeal but they do not have the PC's permission for use.

Also on the agenda for consideration is a proposal from the archers for 2 gazebos/shelters in the archery area.

As always, the meeting starts at 19.30 in



Do please come in and see the new team.
To book a table
visit www.watershipdowninn.com or
telephone 01256 892254. Also follow us on
[Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

The Watership Down Inn team

*St Mary the Virgin,
Laverstoke with Freefolk*



Fund raising Autumn Concert

Celebrating Love

Saturday October 14th 6.30pm

Concert to raise roof funds

St Mary's Laverstoke with Freefolk will be celebrating Harvest festival on:
Sunday 10th September at 11.30 am at St Nicholas Church. Bring a picnic or a sharing platter to have in the churchyard after the service. We will provide the Pimms!

Lady Rose Hall. So topics, amongst other items, include:

Pavilion repairs and related costs for the village

Pavilion licensing

Licence enforcement

Archery shelters

Finance reports and insurance



Hardy's celebrations!

From flaming June to soggy July and stormy August - we hope all your gardens are looking wonderful and lush!

Whilst at the RHS Hampton Court Place Garden Festival not only did Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants receive another gold medal, we were also delighted to be recognised for our 30th year of exhibiting there. Rosy and Rob had some lovely coverage in this year's Festival Guide.

Donations of fresh or tinned fruit and vegetables gratefully received and can be left inside the church if you are unable to attend on Sunday. Perishables will go to Kingfisher Day Centre and tinned goods to Andover Food Bank. A great way to celebrate what the good Earth gives us.

Sadly, our two lovely churches are being defiled by drug users who leave their debris and paraphernalia for others to clear up. Thankfully, there are no needles – yet. Parents, be aware, especially if your children play in either of the areas.

On Saturday 14th October in St Mary's Church at 6.30 pm. To raise money for our roof repairs, the Winchester Consort are performing songs celebrating love, with readings and wine to top it off. The church will look amazing after a wedding earlier in the day so please do come and support our Roof Appeal. It will be a fantastic evening. Tickets are £15 and are available from David Ellis on 01256 892895 or info@stmaryslaverstoke.org.uk



Hampshire bat group

30 seems to be the magic number as we also celebrated Hills working at Hardy's for 30 years as only we know how... with a wonderful cake!

During July, we enjoyed hosting a work experience student from Testbourne School for a week. He worked in all areas of the business and our Facebook followers will have seen his daily logs. We also said goodbye to Jasmine, a student from Sparsholt Collage who has been with us once a week for the last 6 months. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm, and wish her every success in the next chapter of her horticulture career.

This month will be just as busy as we shall attend various shows including the RHS Wisley Flower Show 5-10 Sept. Plus, there are still some places available on Rosy's Early Autumn Flowering Perennials talks taking place 12 & 13 Sept. Please see our website www.hardysplants.co.uk for details. Lastly, a date for your diaries:

You are invited to a **Macmillan Coffee morning** on 29 Sept 10 - 12 noon at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. Please come and support this fundraising event.

Our Watercress and Winterbourne's team who run projects to improve the River Test and Itchen headwaters recently sent this video info on a bats project they have been supporting. Bat boxes have been put up in the vicinity of Overton and Laverstoke! View here: <https://youtu.be/P1GYabildZw>



Active tennis summer camps

Whilst the weather has been a bit unpredictable, there has still been lots of tennis going on when possible. Our club's friendly league continues alongside our regular mix-in play on Tues, Thurs and Sats

Coaching: Our Coaching provider has run all day camps for 4 weeks of the school holidays. This has provided fun activities and an introduction to tennis, as well as much needed Holiday Activity and Food scheme places funded by the county council for those who otherwise may not have access to holiday camps. Regular junior tennis recommences on Sat 9 Sept. For info and to book, please go to: [WhitchurchTennisCoaching](#).



Millennium tree seat

On 25 November 2000 an oak tree was planted by Rt Hon Sir George Young at the opening ceremony of the Millennium Green. A beautiful tree seat was fitted around the oak, with a commemorative plaque. The Test Valley Men's Shed has now helped to repair the seat (fantastic job!) which was damaged a number of years ago.

Unfortunately, due the lean on the oak it no longer fits around the tree! We have therefore temporarily installed the bench around one of the new horse chestnut trees in the playground and plan to plant another oak tree in the field in the autumn/winter. The seat will then be moved back into the field.

Your Millennium Green team.

For adults, new to tennis, returning or wishing to refresh core tennis skills we have a Tennis Xpress course on Sat mornings.

Please see: [Whitchurch adult coaching](#)

The club's social scene continues to be active this autumn, starting with a Skittles evening on 9 Sept. There's a walk/pub lunch on 15 Oct, a progressive dinner on 28 Oct and finishing up with our annual dinner on 25 Nov. Don't forget you can join the club as a social member for £10 and come along to these events.

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.



Fires in local woods

There have been reports of fires that have been lit in the woods behind Laverstoke Lane. Recently this escalated to fires being left alight overnight with the obvious risk of them spreading and getting out of hand. Thanks to the kind resident who lugged buckets of water to extinguish the last one.

If parents reading this are aware that their children are going out in the woods please ensure you speak to them about the danger of lighting fires and the potential risks to the local community. Also, that the littering of lynx cans, shaving foam and marshmallow packets is not appreciated. Thank you!



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

12 Sep

3 Oct

7 Nov

5 Dec

Laverstoke and Freefolk PC meetings take place on 1st Tues of month in Lady Rose Hall starting at 19.30 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 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-



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

or hello@bombaysapphire.com

(monitored daily 10-16.00)

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](#)

[Elderly](#) or

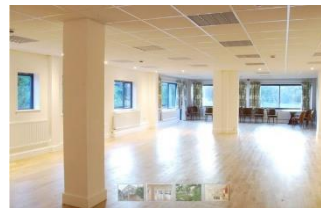
kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

Millennium Green:

[landfreefolkmillenniumgreen](#)

To Report problems with:
roads, footpaths & verge

[Hantsweb](#)



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

Parish Councillors:

David Ellis, Chair

Jo Probut, Deputy Chair

Andrew White

Diccon Harvey

Julia Chedgey

Jayne Hudson

**dependent matter
arises.**

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

Jim Marsh
on: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Borough Councillors:

Colin Phillimore 771127
cllr.colin.phillimore@basingstoke.gov.uk

Karen Watts
cllr.karen.watts@basingstoke.gov.uk

Chloe Ashfield
cllr.chloe.ashfield@basingstoke.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Juliet Henderson
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