



December 2023

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone all the very best for the festive season. Have a Very Merry Christmas!

At the Watership Down Inn Christmas is already underway and their festive menu can help you get into the spirit of the season. By popular demand St Nicholas will host the villages' midnight mass - get in early to bag your seat. Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants have a couple of spaces left on their wreath-making workshop. The Hampshire Wildlife Trust is holding more online chalk stream talks and the County Council have a scheme to deliver free trees along the main routes including the B3400. A great opportunity for local landowners. Read on for all this and more!

The final Parish Council meeting of the year will take place from 19.30 on Tues 5 Dec. Come and have your say in public time!

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](#)



Watership festive season underway!

We've had our annual haircut – as you can see from the photo, the bunny is on full display again !!

Our festive menu will run through to the 31st December 2023 – excluding Sundays and Christmas Day – [see it here](#). Enjoy dining in our newly refurbished restaurant.



For those of you looking for Christmas gifts for your friends and family why not take advantage of our vouchers that can be



Dec 5 PC Meeting

As always, you are welcome to attend and have your say in public time at the 5 Dec PC Meeting. It starts at 7.30pm in Lady Rose Hall. Tea and coffee will be served as usual along with festive mince pies. Topics, amongst other items, will include:

Budget setting for 2024-25

Planning applications:

Ref: 23/02252/FUL Location: Hazel And Pinetree Cottages, Laverstoke Lane, Micheldever Proposal: Conversion of 2 no. semi-detached dwellings to a single dwelling and erection of a two storey side extension.

Ref: 23/02904/HSE Location: 3 Watch Lane, Freefolk. Proposal: Erection of a single storey side and two storey rear extension

Ref: 23/02909/HSE. Location: Pot Bottom Cottage Laverstoke Lane Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension and construction of dormer windows to existing main roof following demolition of existing single storey garage and workshops

The PC looks forward to seeing you!

purchased and redeemed against food, drink and rooms at the Watership Down Inn. Take a look on our website [here!](#)

In other news, thanks to the hard work of our Housekeeping, Kitchen and Front of House teams, we are very proud to announce we have received two more awards in the last few weeks:

- Trip Advisor Travellers Choice 2023 for our wonderful rooms
- Good Food Award Gold Seal 2023/24 – for the consistent excellent quality of our food and service

Merry Christmas from the Watership Down Inn team



Quizzers - thank you!

Thank you to all the residents and their friends who attended the wonderful Millennium Green quiz last month in Lady Rose Hall. It was in equal measure a fun social and opportunity to pit wits against friends and neighbours in our annual fundraising event. An impressive £1600 was raised, including some donations, which will help us to maintain the Children's



Christmas at St Mary's

Christmas is almost upon us, and we have several ways of celebrating!

Sun 10 Dec at 6 pm – **Carols by Candlelight** followed by mulled wine and mince pies. A wonderful way to start the season. We'd love to have all the children singing the first verse of Away in a Manger so please bring them along.

Sun 24 Dec at 12 noon - More singing at **Carols on the Green**. Wander down to the playground in Laverstoke, sing heartily and enjoy a cup of mulled wine and a mince pie or two.

Sun 24th Dec at 11.30 pm – **Midnight Mass at St Nicholas** led by Revd Charlie. It was so popular last year that it was standing room only.

Christmas Day at 9.30 am – Family Communion at St Mary's. A chance to show off that Christmas jumper and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Playground, Quiet Ornamental Garden, woodland, open field and beautiful pond area that all form part of the Millennium Green.

For more information on the Millennium Green Trust visit our [website](#) or contact LandFundraising@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas - Laverstoke & Freefolk Millennium Green Team!



Chalk stream talks

Free talks coming up on our precious chalk stream habitats from the Watercress and Winterbournes team:

Chalk Stream Moths and Butterflies

5 December, 7 - 8pm | Online

With their lush vegetation and abundant animal life, chalk streams are havens for moths and butterflies. These colourful creatures light up the landscape, but also have great ecological value - Butterfly Conservation will explain why this is.

[Learn more and to book](#)

Photography for Chalk Stream Conservation

11 January, 7 - 8pm | Online

Our chalk streams are home to amazing

Test magazine subscriptions will be due in Jan (£10). I will collect them on 2 Jan but if you can pay by BACS, that would be great. Please let me know if you no longer wish to subscribe or if you are a 'newby' and would like to receive our parish magazine.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden,
bondb@btinternet.com



A successful 2023!

It's been a great year of Archery for the **Black Arrows**. We have the use of two main shooting ranges, the Laverstoke range is for club members to practice, improve and set up equipment whereas our Field Archery range near Kingsclere is where we run competitions and events. This year we have staged a number of major events including the Hampshire and Southern counties 3D competition and our archers have achieved some great results. We have also seen a number of the British Archery teams come along to practice and shoot at our events.

species, but some are small, rare, nocturnal, or hidden beneath the surface. Experience these more elusive animals through the incredible images of Paul Colley, an award-winning wildlife photographer.

[Learn more and to book](#)



Hardy's at Christmas

As it's December the wreath workshops are here once again at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, and there are still a couple of spaces available. Our website is hardysplants.co.uk for full details. We are open up to 15.00 on Friday 22 Dec for any last minute Christmas presents, including vouchers or beautiful metal work forged locally!

We would like to thank everyone for their support, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Notable results include Ollie Hicks winning the European Field Championships and coming third in the Kings of Archery event. Steve Allam came first in the English Field Championships and second in the British 3D Championships. Richard Buckner won both the British 3D Championships and English Field Championships. Rob Aldridge became the Hampshire Field Champion and was second in the English Field Championships.

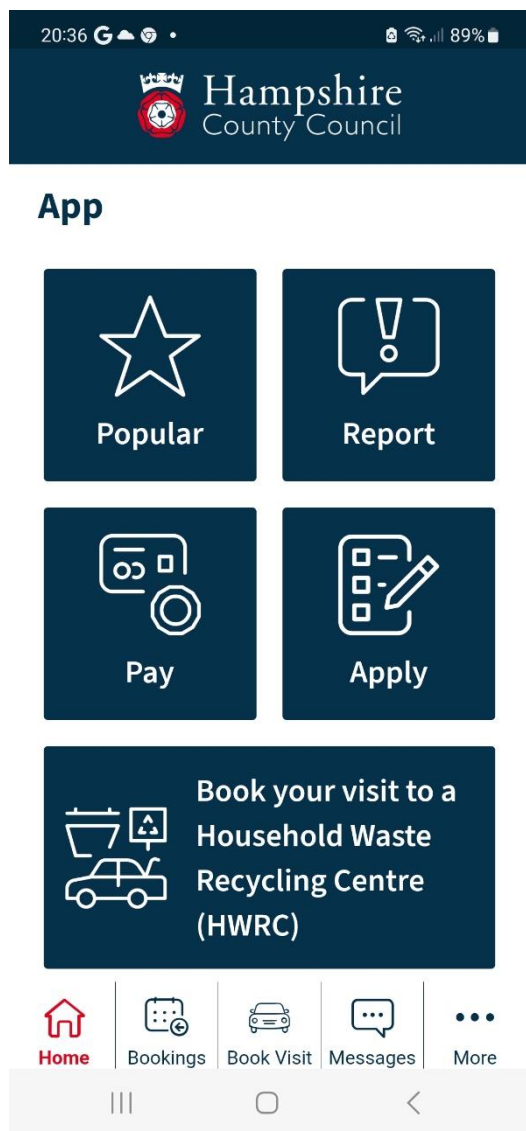
We had 20 new archers take up the sport in April and have a beginners course starting in January. So from all at OvBA we wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Free trees from Hampshire Forest Partnership

Shoots Along the Routes - free trees to create green networks along Hampshire's roads!

HCC's Hampshire Forest Partnership will be providing free trees to landowners/managers to create over 630 km of new green networks. These networks will follow several A and B-roads across Hants including the B3400! The scheme will



New OurHants mobile app

Hampshire County Council's new mobile app, 'OurHants', is now live – available for Apple and Android mobile devices.

In the future, HCC hope to be able to offer many online services through the easy-to use mobile interface on the new app. We are moving forward into this new territory in small steps, starting by offering the full range of County Council web pages, to allow residents to access all services, and

support eligible tree planting schemes within a 2km wide corridor along the routes. The scheme will deliver a multitude of benefits including reduction of noise pollution, cooling the air, alleviating flood risk, boosting nature recovery, sequestration of carbon as well as providing cultural landscape features for the future.

Green corridors and linkages are widely seen as a key mechanism for reversing the effects of fragmentation on biodiversity. They can enhance local landscape character, mitigate climate change and improve soil health. Trees can also alleviate our stress levels, just by being around them.

A mix of native species will be available to choose from. The project will also provide 700 disease-resistant elm trees across the routes selected. This is an ambition for HCC to help address the loss of Hampshire's mature elm and the widespread reduction of the White-letter hairstreak butterfly.

Free trees will be available for planting outside of existing woodlands, to create new linkages. The scheme will also support planting of interesting landscape features such as tree circles or clusters to create iconic features for the future. Shoots Along the Routes will fund new hedges, individual trees, linear features, shelter belts, standard trees in hedges, and trees within areas less than 0.5 ha.

new functionality in one of our most widely used online services – the booking of appointments for Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

When booking an appointment at an HWRC, OurHants app allows individuals to save details such as the registration of their vehicle, and any permits they have, to make future bookings quicker. It also allows people to see and manage their bookings in one place and will notify the user of any important updates about their booking.

We will be reviewing how people respond to the app and measuring the benefit to both customers and the HWRC service. This will allow us to plan the future growth of the app into other areas of online service.

Anyone can download the app, without charge, from the Apple or Google Play app stores. Please do try it next time you need to visit an HWRC.

This is a very positive step which we hope will lead to further incremental changes and additions to our online offer.

County Cllr Juliet Henderson

The free trees are part of HCC's goal to plant one million trees by 2050. For an Expression of Interest Form, Guidance, and further detail on eligibility, please email treeplanting@hants.gov.uk



Mayor's Carol Service 9 Dec

You are invited to attend the Mayor's Carol Service being held at St Michael's Church, Church Square, Basingstoke on Sat 9 Dec 2023 at 18.00.

The Tadley and Kingsclere Singers will lead the carol singing and will be joined by the South View Junior School Choir. The Mayor's Charity representatives Shopmobility and Citizen Advice Bureau will be reading the lessons.

All are welcome and free tickets are available [here](#) on a first come first served basis. You will also need to provide your name to the stewards on duty who will show you to your reserved seating block. Guests are asked to be seated by 17.45.



More local carols

A number of L&F residents belong to the Overton Choral Singers and this is their annual carol concert which is free to attend - no tickets required - but with closing collection for St Michael's Hospice. Well worth attending at 7.30 pm on Mon 18 Dec at St Mary's Hall, Overton.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates

5 Dec



L&F Contacts

[L&Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

There is no parking available at the Church - please use town centre car parks. Dress: Day Uniform / Lounge Suit or Dress. Badges may be worn

A photographer has been engaged to take photos at the event. If any person does not wish to be photographed, please make yourself known to an Officer or the official photographer

Refreshments: The congregation are invited to join the Mayor and Mayoress for refreshments following the service

If you have any queries please do get in touch with the Mayor's Office on MayoralCoordinator@basingstoke.gov.uk or tel. 01256 845487.



Classes in Lady Rose Hall

Ladies Boxing: Mon 18:45 - 19.45

Contact: Brandon Elliott on 07402 366067

2 or 9 Jan tbc

6 Feb

5 Mar

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-dependent matter arises.

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](#)

trees on roads:

0300 555 1388

water:

[Southern Water](#)

Yoga: Tues 19:30 - 20:30

(except 1st Tues of month)

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 Chedghey

Jayne Hudson

Jim Marsh

on: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Borough

Councillors:

Colin Phillimore 771127

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Karen Watts

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Chloe Ashfield



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County Councillor:

Juliet Henderson

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