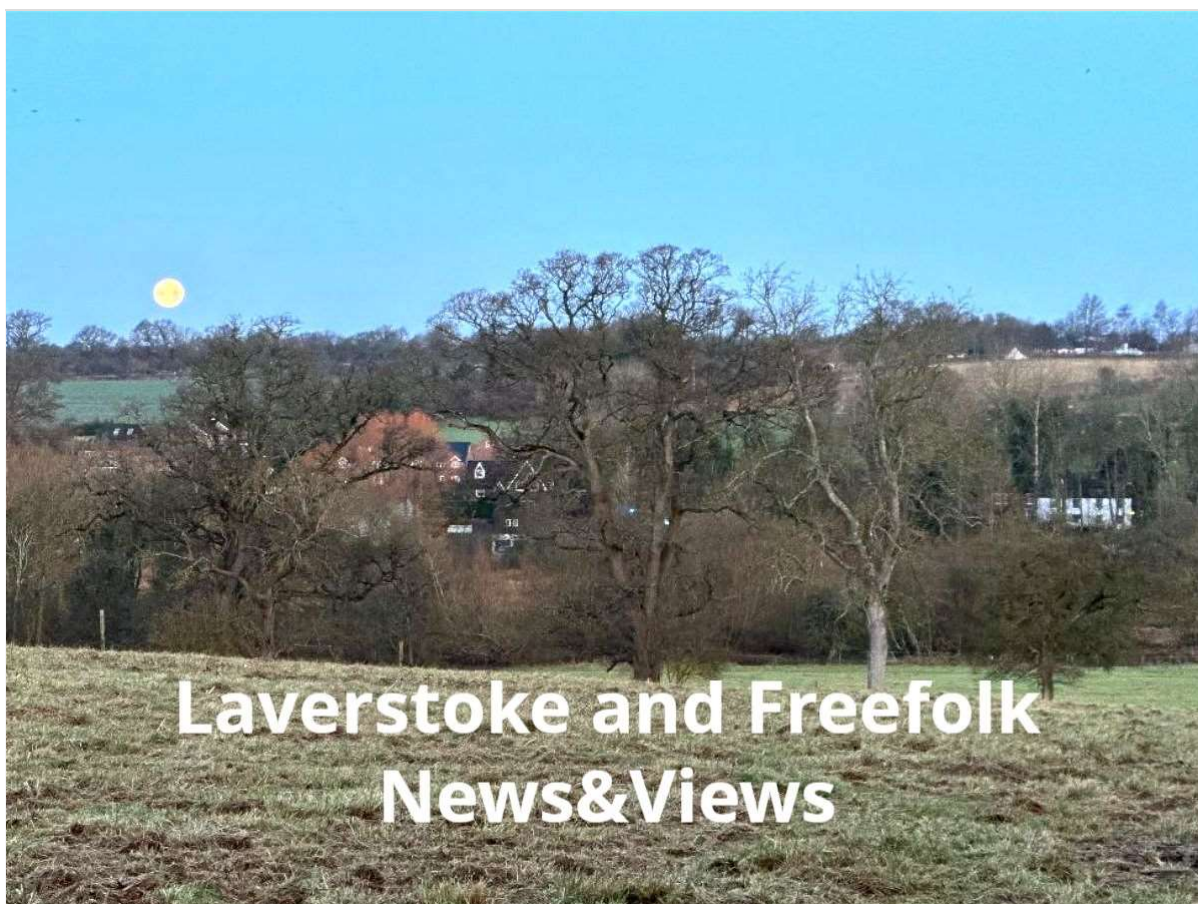




January 2024!

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

In this edition we wanted to remind residents about gaining conservation area tree work approval before taking action with your trees. We've some good news about the county council removing charges for DIY recycling at waste centres, a reminder of primary school application deadlines as well as some less welcome statistics on children vaping. Read on for this and more.....

The first Parish Council meeting of the new year will take place from 19.30 on Tues 9 Jan, a week later than usual due to falling so close to the 1 Jan bank holiday. As always, you are welcome to have your say in public time!

Thanks to Jo Probut for sharing her recent photo of the moon in the early morning over Freefolk.

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](#)



Tree works need Borough approval

Just a reminder for those living in the Conservation Area - the majority of L&F- that you need to seek approval for any tree works before going ahead. So for example, if you wish to lop tree branches to stop them overhanging phone cables or you have sick ash trees (or even just trunks remaining) or want to replace old fruit trees with a trunk diameter greater than 7.5cm you almost always need to apply to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to get their approval beforehand. The Parish Council are also consulted and can give their feedback to B&D. Usually the PC will make a request that trees are replaced given their environmental and aesthetic importance. As with normal planning applications tree plans are discussed at PC meetings as the PC are statutory consultees.

Unlike normal planning applications it is free to apply for tree works. However, it can be tricky to find the right form. On the B&D website go to the [Planning application forms and requirements page](#) and scroll down and click on Trees and Hedgerows section. This takes you to the



Jan 9 PC Meeting

As always, you are welcome to attend and have your say in public time at the 9 Jan PC Meeting. It starts at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall, Laverstoke. Tea and coffee will be served as usual. Topics among other items, will include:

Precept setting for 2024-25

Quarterly update from Bombay Sapphire
Borough Councillor update

Any planning applications that come in after 3 Jan.

The PC looks forward to welcoming you!



No charges at HCC DIY waste sites

News from HCC just in:

Waste disposal.

From 1 Jan 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes.

offline form and details. If you want to complete online then start an application on the [Planning Portal](#)

In a conservation area all trees with a trunk diameter greater than 7.5cm, when measured at 1.5m from ground level are protected and require a tree work application and approval before any works can take place. However, for more info including what to do if a tree has imminent dangerous implications, or when the Borough Council might issue a Tree Protection Order, see B&D Tree faqs basingstoke.gov.uk/treesfaqs



Thanks to all Christmas helpers

Christmas is over for another year but what a time we had at both our churches with Carols, Midnight Mass, and Family Communion on Christmas Day. Thank you to the amazing team who made it happen by cleaning and decorating, lighting candles, and then undoing all that hard work in the big clear-up. Thank you, Charlie and Bethan, for the outrageous tree! Then we had Carols on the Green. Lovely to see so many of you there.

Up to 2 x 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free, at a maximum of 4 visits over 4 weeks. Anything more will be chargeable at current rates, to cover specialist disposal costs. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste.

Primary School applications

Parents with children due to start school or move to a junior school in Sept 2024 are reminded that they have until Mon 15 Jan 2024 to submit their primary school applications. Parents will have the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools by applying on time and naming three preferences on their applications.

Vaping by children

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hants shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes. The survey shows that experimentation increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13! Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13. The Council is therefore continuing its clampdown on shops selling vapes illegally to underage buyers. Since Sept 2023, Trading Standards has prevented the sale of over £200,000 of illegal vapes and e-cigarettes by removing them from shops across Hants

It is subscription time for the Test magazine. Just £10 for the year. Paying on-line is easy. Visit stmarysoverton.org.uk and click on Test Subscription Renewal. It will take you to a renew subs page. Please could you let me know if you do renew this way. Otherwise, I will be collecting cash or cheque from you. Many thanks.

Brenda Bond, Church Warden on
bondb@btinternet.com



Chalk stream talks

For those that missed any of the **Watercress and Winterbourne's free talks** about our precious chalk stream habitats you can watch them now online:

[Riverflies: The Canaries of Chalk Streams](#)

[SmartRivers: Monitoring the Health of UK Rivers](#)

[Chalk Stream Moths and Butterflies](#)

Photography for Chalk Stream Conservation

11 January, 7 - 8pm | Online

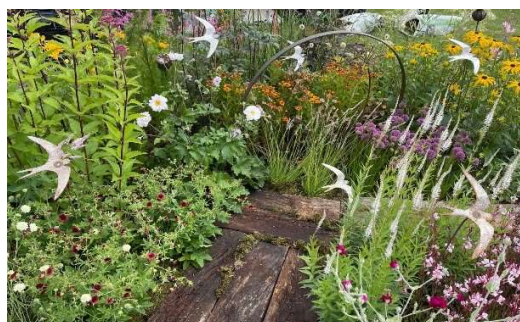
Our chalk streams are home to amazing species, but some are small, rare,



Happy new year

A message has just come in from The Black Arrows Archery club ... wishing all residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing the archers out practising on the range at Laverstoke in 2024. A gentle but important reminder to everyone - please do not cross the archery field when the red flag is up!



New year - new garden?

Happy New Year from all here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants.

A new year - a new garden perhaps?!

These dark evenings are the perfect time to start planning those new borders, or sprucing up the old ones? Rosy has been busy filming some more videos where she shares her wealth of horticultural knowledge

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](#)

which can help you. They can be seen on Youtube under '[Rosy Hardy Gardening](#)'.

Dates for all of Rosy's live talks planned for 2024, being held here at the nursery, are on our [website](#). We look forward to seeing you.



Pick up after your pet!

I am sure everyone is aware of the unacceptability of leaving dog mess on footpaths, pavements, front lawns, archery field etc. Dog owners/ dog walkers it is your responsibility to pick up after your dog. The evenings may be dark but that is still no excuse. Perhaps 2024 might be a dog mess free year?! Thank you.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates

9 Jan

6 Feb

5 Mar

2 April



L&F Contacts

[L&Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Lady Rose Hall:

www.ladyrosehall.co.uk



Classes in Lady Rose Hall

Ladies Boxing: Mon 18:45 - 19.45

Contact: Brandon Elliott on 07402 366067

Yoga: Tues 19:30 - 20:30 (except 1st Tues of month)

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

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laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:
Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter
Lady Rose Hall
Laverstoke Lane
Whitchurch
RG28 7NY

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](#)



Notice Your Neighbourhood

If you spot an issue, please let us know and we'll do our best to help.

What can I report?

You can report the following to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report or call 01256 844844

• Graffiti • Discarded needles • Fly-tipping • Litter • Broken glass • Dog fouling • Overflowing bins • Abandoned vehicles	• Overhanging vegetation and hedges • Damaged equipment in parks and open spaces • Grass cutting • Leaf clearing
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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

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