



February 2024

With the riot of snowdrops and increasing daylight hours we're heading towards the end of Winter, surely! This Feb edition brings news that the Borough and County Councils are working on a strategy for Local Nature Recovery which is mandated by the Government in the 2021 Environment Act. They are running a survey seeking to gather your views and ideas. We highlight 2 work-related opportunities that may be of interest and hear news that the grounds of our local historic church will play host to an open air production this summer. Read on for this and more!

A reminder that the next Parish Council meeting is back in its usual spot of first Tuesday of the month on 6 Feb from 19.30 at Lady Rose Hall.

Whilst emailing, we'd like to say a big thank you to 3 members of the Basingstoke & Deane Street Cleansing team who did a 6.5 hour clear up along Rotten Hill. They removed 4 van loads of leaves and detritus and filled at least 5 bags of litter!

Our photo shows volunteers undertaking their monthly riverfly sampling on the Test at

Bombay Sapphire. This is a great way to gauge quickly the health of the river and spot biodiversity changes. And in January we had our second best scoring sample since commencing over a year ago.

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](#)



Nature needs you!

Help inform Hampshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by providing your feedback. B&D Borough Council and the County Council are developing this strategy as a mandatory part of the Environment Act 2021. This will identify the core of our nature recovery networks and strategically important areas for habitat creation and enhancement. In fact, HCC will work with all of the county's local councils, the wildlife and farming organisations, national parks and environmental and conservation organisations.

And feedback is needed from residents, community groups, businesses, PCs and others via a survey asking where you would like to see improvements for nature recovery, what your views for nature priorities are and what actions could be taken to help nature in our area.



Feb 6 PC Meeting

Our next PC meeting on the 6 Feb will be discussing a number of important topics including the nomination by a community group of the listing of the Watership Down Inn as an Asset of Community Value. As always, you are welcome to attend and have your say in public time at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall, Laverstoke. Likely topics among other items, will include:

Quarterly update from Bombay Sapphire
Borough Councillor update
Response to Watership Down Inn Asset of Community Value nomination
Potential Community Orchard
Pavilion - Portaloo removal
Planning:
24/00039/HSE & 24/00040/LBC Location:
The Priory, London Road Freefolk.
Proposal: Remove steps & pedestrian access & reinstatement of a section of

This info gathering is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which aims to ensure Hampshire's natural environment is restored for today's and future generations.

The [online survey](#) should take only a few minutes to complete and will provide valuable information.

People can sign up for regular updates and newsletters on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy here: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy sign up](#)



Midsummer Night's Dream at St Nicholas

Firstly some super news – Charlie and Bethan have got engaged. We are all very thrilled and wish them every happiness in the future.

A date for your diary – 25 July, open air theatre comes to St Nicholas in the form of Midsummer Night's Dream. More about it later, but I do hope many of you will support this fundraiser for the Churches Conservation Trust.

garden wall & railings.

The PC looks forward to welcoming you!



Re-potting with robins!

News from Hardy's We all know how wet and cold it's been this last month but that doesn't stop us here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. We've been very busy throughout January. Firstly, there's the continuation of the propagation of the new stock for this year, which we've started to pot up. Then there's the re-potting of the existing stock plus, in the sales area, we've started to repair all the benches and clean it up to keep it at its best.

All this work is done under the watchful eye of the robins who are ready to grab any tasty morsels that comes to light when we move any of the pots!

More good news – Donations have been received to do conservation work on the wall paintings at St Nicholas. We are so lucky to have this little gem in our midst. Brenda Bond, Church Warden.



Get poetic!

Hampshire's chalk streams are some of its most precious wild places and home to iconic species like the otter, water vole, brown trout, and kingfisher. Their serene beauty and vibrant wildlife inspired authors like Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Richard Adams (Watership Down), and Charles Kingsley (The Water Babies).

This year the Watercress and Winterbournes Landscape Partnership will be sharing our favourite river-focused books, running a poetry competition and literature festival. The competition asks 7-18 year olds to write a short poem inspired by the wonderful world of chalk streams. Winners will receive up to £75 National Book Tokens and have their poems published in a commemorative booklet. Entrants must live within the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme area (includes L&F) and submit their poem by midnight on

We are open Mon – Fri 10:00 - 15:00 at the moment The Helleborus and Ipheions are looking beautiful at the current time if you fancy a winter walk to see them.



Archers year off to good start

A great start to the year for the Archers. We have 24 beginners on our new course running in the Sports Hall at Testbourne School. The course will be complete in February and we look forward to these new archers taking up the sport. Our Laverstoke range remains open allowing archers to shoot whenever they want but I think it's a bit quieter at the moment due to the weather.

Richard Buckner, Ed Pockett and Rob Aldridge are taking part in a postal county competition and with 2 months left are currently in 1st place. One of our archers,

31 July 2024.

At the watery literature festival, we can expect to hear talks by prominent nature writers like Amy-Jane Beer and Tom Moorhouse, and explore our creativity with chalk stream-themed writing workshops.

The events will be held this June in Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, and Alresford.

For more information on the 'Tales from the Riverbank' competition and festival, visit hiwwt.org.uk/tales. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. (Photo courtesy of Matthew Roberts)



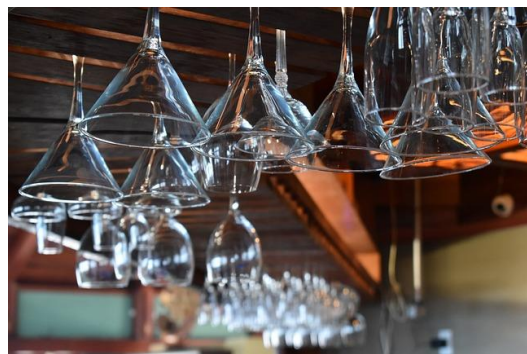
Community orchards across Hampshire

Hampshire Forest Partnership have secured a grant from the King's Coronation Living Heritage Fund to create Community Orchards across Hampshire. They are looking for partners to plant orchards in commemoration of King Charles III's Coronation

Community Orchards provide a wonderful

Ed Pockett recently took part in his first indoor competition and won, well done Ed. In our own competitions we have one of our Juniors Aiden heading the indoor league and Dave who shoots a Horsebow winning the outdoor league.

If you are interested in Archery then please have a look at our [Facebook page](#)



Shake Your Future at Bombay Sapphire

Bombay Sapphire Distillery will be hosting its first Shake your Future event in March.

This is to help people that are unemployed or looking to upskill to become a bartender. Working with local job centres, we will offer a weeks free training on all skills required for bartending work. Hopefully, this will help attendees to gain employment in the hospitality industry. Utilizing the great skills of our team at Laverstoke, we can't wait to share our knowledge.

If you know of anyone that may be interested please speak to Nicky on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com or 07725 368012 and she can pass on your information to us.

space for people to come together and cultivate trees to produce locally grown fruit and nuts. They can become focal points for community activities and learning, allowing people to learn new skills within their natural outdoor classrooms. They are an important habitat for a range of wildlife and can help boost pollinators and increase biodiversity. Research has also shown that spending time in a green space can also improve mood and boost both mental and physical wellbeing.

The Hampshire Forest Partnership can help people plant and improve Community Orchards providing community partners with support, advice, and funding. If you are a parish council, community group, or organisation with permission to plant trees on a publicly accessible site in Hampshire and would be interested in finding out more information on eligibility, or to submit an enquiry form, please email treeplanting@hants.gov.uk or see: hampshireforestpartnership website. (Photo credit to Tristan Martin)



Fancy learning Bridge?

Thank you from the Bombay Sapphire team.

The Kingfisher Centre
We are hiring
A part time paid Admin Assistant.
Between 8 and 16 hours a week. The role will include general office duties including record keeping and invoicing.
Laverstoke Lane, Laverstoke, Whitchurch, Hants. RG28 7NY
Email kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com or phone 01256 893333 for more information.

Could this be for you?

The Kingfisher Day Centre have asked us to include their hiring notice as this Admin Assistant role might well suit someone local!

- 8-16 hours a week
- Includes general office duties, invoicing, record keeping etc.
- Email: kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com or tel. 01256 893333



Fly tipping at clothing bank

Thank you to the kind resident who sorted out the removal of this fly tipping at

Bridge in Whitchurch at Gill Nethercott Centre every Monday 19.00-22.00. Forget

Soduko and Wordle, Bridge is the best game devised by mankind and one of the most popular. It is seen as an old persons game because of the benefits it offers in staving off Dementia and Alzheimer's but it is game for all ages. It is a trick taking card game that evolved from whist in the eighteenth century. A word of warning, it is addictive, competitive but very social and great fun.

The Overton Bridge club meets each Monday evening at the Gill Nethercott Centre in Whitchurch and to date has only accommodated individuals who can play at a reasonable level. **We are now offering to teach new and rusty players at a cost of only £2 per week.** We play duplicate bridge, the same hands are played by several pairs so that you are able to compare your performance against your peers every week. If you prefer to play with a regular partner, we will accommodate this.

If you would prefer to swot before joining, I can recommend Bridge (All you need to play the game) published by Collins written by Andrew Collins, the Times Bridge correspondent. If you want to come along and watch, learn or play please email david.oneill748@btinternet.com or tel 0779 6074991.

the Laverstoke Salvation Army bin a couple of weeks back.

Just a reminder for everyone that if the bin is full please take your donations back home with you. Thanks.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates

6 Feb

5 Mar

2 April

7 May

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.



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

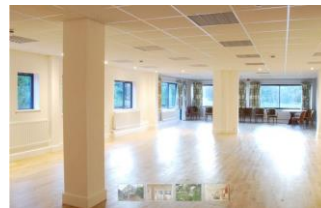
kingfisherdaycentre@gmail.com

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: 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 Chedgey

trees on roads:
0300 555 1388

water:
[Southern Water](#)



Jayne Hudson
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
juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk

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