



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

March 2024

Welcome to our first spring newsletter for 2024. We hope you are enjoying the daffodils and beautiful blossom in the hedgerows and gardens... and that you also enjoy reading our village news.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tues 5 March from 19.30 at Lady Rose Hall. We are kicking off public time with the Portals Heritage & Memories project team talking to us about what they are up to and how we might get involved. For anyone with family roots in the area this might be particularly fascinating and you may be able to get involved with helping uncover the past.

Last month was a bumper volunteering month with huge activity for Shoots for the Roots hedge and tree planting on the Millennium Green. It was a team effort as shown in our lead photo - planting willows by the Laverstoke pond.

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](#)



Portals Heritage & Memories project!

You may know that Portals Mill in Overton was built in 1922. With the closure of the Mill in 2022 Heritage Overton believed it was important to record its 100-year legacy.

Since the Spring of 2023 a small team, led by Charles Cardiff, has been working to record both the history of Portals Mill and its impact on Overton. Our research is not just through the substantial archives but also, and most importantly, through the recollections of those who worked at the Mill and were otherwise employed by Portals both at Laverstoke and Overton Mills.

As we have researched, we have come to realize how substantial and far-ranging were the many roles Portals Mill played in the local communities. At the peak of its productivity the Mill employed 1,500 people. In addition to those working in the Mill, there were those who worked for the Portals estates. And all employees benefited from



5 March PC Meeting

Our next PC meeting will be starting with a presentation during public time at 7.30pm from Portals Heritage & Memories Project team - see separate article for further info. 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:

Borough Councillor update
Status S Water Drain Activity Freefolk
Planning

- 23/02658/FUL. Location: Land Opposite Bere Mill, London Road. Proposal: Installation of ground mounted solar array 144 solar panels. Amendment to App.
- 24/00255/RET. Location: 2 Watch Lane, Freefolk. Proposal: Erection of detached stable feed store (retrospective)
- 24/00338/FUL. Location: 2 Watch Lane, Freefolk. Proposal: Hay Store
- Any other plans received after 29 Feb

Pavilion - authority to incur fees for TVMS lease arrangement

active social clubs and events, from training and from education, the latter which often included grants for their children's education. There was medical support both on site and beyond. Many workers were housed by Portals and some retired workers remained in their homes rent free. The influence of Portals Mill on the fabric of Overton village and nearby communities over 100 years cannot be underestimated.

So, this is why our plan is to capture this heritage and these memories through our research and, in due course, to publish them on the Heritage Overton website and in the form of a printed book.

And if you have memories to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Charles Cardiff and the team.

Heritage.overton@gmail.com



Shoots for the Roots volunteers

Across a couple of weekends in Feb more than 30 people came out to help the Millennium Green team plant hedges and

Correspondence

The PC looks forward to welcoming you!



Watership Down Inn ACV nomination

At the Feb PC meeting Parish

Councillors agreed to support the Community Interest Group who made an application to list Watership Down Inn as an Asset of Community Value. We can confirm that our submission was received by B&D ACV team as part of their 8 week consultation process. We look forward to hearing the result.

A big thank you should go to all of you who provided evidence to the PC of your use of the pub and it's social value to you. We put it all in! It's just a shame this newsletter couldn't show the best party photo received, best pub dog photo, best pub baby photo..... The pictures were great! Thank you for taking the time to write and email.

Also thanks to the resident who was instrumental in the ACV nomination and spoke so clearly in the PC Meeting and also to the Community Interest Group team.

trees that had been granted via the HCC 'Shoots for the Roots' initiative. This project aims to provide networks of trees and hedges along the main A and B roads in the county including the B3400 with the aim of boosting nature recovery.

Native mixed hedging has been planted along the entire length of the southern side of the tennis courts and in the playground along the fence bordering the pavilion car park. It is in blossom already! We are also lucky enough to have been given trees planted in the green and alongside Batts Meadow - a new resistant Elm tree as well as Common Beech, Silver Birch, Rowan, Callery Pear and Northern red Oak. In the wild area between the pond and archery field several Goat Willow saplings have been placed. They should love the wet conditions there.

The aim is to help increase plant and animal biodiversity, introduce a corridor for small mammals, encourage a wider variety of insects, butterflies and birds and in turn these will play a part in the food chain and growth of nocturnal species, not least our bats and owls.

Many thanks must go to Gill Baker for leading the application, Jayne Hudson for kick starting the project and all the lovely volunteers who came to plant. In particular it was wonderful to see all the young people participating from age 4 upwards! Thank you also to the Hampshire Forest



New archers aim for awards

We had our final beginners session at the beginning of the month with the new archers passing their assessment and shooting for their first archery awards. It was a fun morning with many of them trying other bowstyles including longbows and horse-bows. Also that weekend, Richard Buckner, Steve Allam and Rob Aldridge shot at the Hampshire indoor championships with Richard taking gold in the Recurve category. Steve Allam took silver and Rob got bronze in the barebow. We also continue our club competitions with Dave Mahers now heading up the indoor league and Tony Reynolds the outdoor one. March and April will be a busy time for many archers as the outdoor competitions start and we host a number of events at our field archery range. We will also have the final rounds of our inhouse competitions and move from indoor sessions to all outdoor.

If you want to know more about Overton Black Arrows follow us on [Facebook](#) or check our website: overtonblackarrows.org:

Partnership project for supporting our community.

See our volunteers in action in the photos at the end of the newsletter.



Easter at St Mary's

We will have our traditional Family Communion service on Easter Sunday at 09:30 followed by an Easter Egg hunt.

Please do join us.

Thanks to everyone who helped us reach our target money-wise to get the church roof repaired. We are hoping that work will start in April.

Our parish magazine, The Test, is available for just £10 a year. If anybody would like to subscribe, please get in touch with me.

There will be another bell-ringing practice on 7th March in the evening. Lovely to hear our bells being used. We have our very own bell-ringers in the village – David and Jenny Ellis. Do speak to them if you would like to take up the art.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden on

bondb@btinternet.com

YourHampshire
The latest from your County Council



HCC Future services consultation

We've a reminder and more details of Hampshire County Council's public consultation to understand people's views on options to change/reduce some local services and help address a £132 million budget shortfall faced by April 2025.

HCC aims to focus key support to the most vulnerable people e.g. protecting children from harm, abuse and neglect, social care for older people, supporting adults and children with disabilities and additional needs - while meeting its legal duty to deliver a balanced budget. There are 13 proposals to help lower costs in future with differing implications.

The following services would be affected:

- Adult social care charges
- Adult social care grant schemes
- Competitive (one-off) grant schemes
- Hampshire Cultural Trust grant.
- Highways maintenance
- Homelessness Support Services
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs):Library stock
- Passenger transport
- Rural countryside parking
- School Crossing Patrols



St Mary's historic altarpiece

A resident is running a special meditation based on the Life of Christ on Saturday 29 June from 10.00-15.00.

It will study the history and context of the St Mary's altarpiece (shown above) and the altarpiece in Rottenburg which inspired it and also look carefully at the different paintings, panels and statues and how they work together to invite us into an unfolding the story of faith. There'll then be time for personal reflection and conversation together.

For more info and to book contact Jenny Ellis jenny.battsrow@gmail.com on 01256 892895

Jenny has an MA in Christianity and the Arts. No charge but donations for St Mary's gratefully received.

Feedback can be provided by using the consultation Response Form, available online via the [consultation webpage](#): Responses can also be emailed directly to HCC via: insight@hants.gov.uk or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE. (Please also write PandO, IEU, FM09 on the back of the envelope).

The consultation closing date is 31 March 2024.



B&D Local plan - includes Popham Airfield

You may be aware that some local sites have been identified within the local plan update for residential building up to 2040. The old Portals mill brownfield site in Overton is now included with potential for c.340 homes, Popham Airfield (Popham Garden Village) for 3000 and Southern Manydown (east of North Waltham) for 7500 to be built up to 2040. To have you say in the consultation respond to Basingstoke Council by **midnight 4 March**

To find out more visit basingstoke.gov.uk

To respond visit: consult.basingstoke.gov.uk

You can also write to the council at:
Planning Policy Team



It's Spring.....

Well we thought January was wet, but what about February! We needed our waterproofs near enough every day, although there were a few chinks of sunlight showing us the way forward. We have been so busy here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants working to get the place ready now that we are back open 7 days a week. Dogs are always welcome, providing they are on a lead, so if you are out and about pop in to see us as part of your walk.

Rosy has already given her first specialist talk of the year on early Spring flowering perennials but there are many more throughout the year. Look on our website at hardysplants.co.uk for full details of all of them together with those from guest speakers.

Photos show: *Ipheion uniflorum* 'Froyle Mill'

Request for help

If there are any independent auditors who could donate half a day's work to the Millennium Green Trust we would be most appreciative. Our examiner has retired and we're looking for a replacement. If you can

Civic Offices
London Road
Basingstoke
RG21 4AH

We have been made aware of the Dever Society campaign to object to the Popham Airfield and North Waltham plan. Their concerns include:

An increase in carbon emissions, car use and traffic on A303, A34 and A33, as well as on local roads. Negative impact on Micheldever Station with increase of commuters with small station car park already full every weekday and lack of capacity on railway line. Costly (investment & environment) infrastructure, destruction of greenfield sites & erosion of green gap between Basingstoke and Winchester, unacceptable impacts on River Test, water supplies, biodiversity and nature conservation. Unacceptable impact on 2 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI,

help, please contact Chair, Phil Nicklin on pnick@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.





Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates

5 Mar

2 April

7 May

4 June

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



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

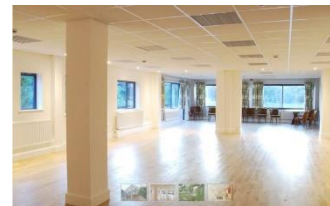
or hello@bombaysapphire.com

(monitored daily 10-16.00)

Neighbouring web-sites:

[Whitchurch Town Council](#)

[Official Whitchurch web site](#)



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

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.

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



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

Jim Marsh

on: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Borough Councillors:

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County Cllr:

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