



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

April 2024

April showers started a little early and the river is higher than ever, making new channels and fords in Freefolk!

In this edition read on for.... how we are dealing with pesky furry fiends in the area, a volunteering afternoon on Saturday 6 April, conservation in action, guided walks in the North Wessex Downs, the Millennium Green AGM and much more.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tues 30 April at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall. In May the PC AGM will be on Tues 14 May. A short formal meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 20.15 with Cheese and Wine. Please put the date in your diary - all welcome!

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](#)



Conservation in St Nicholas

This week a conservator is finishing his work preserving the medieval paintings on the North wall of St Nicholas. The early fifteenth century picture depicts St Christopher holding Christ on his shoulder.

This conservation is made possible with grateful thanks to two generous benefactors and the craftsman, Oliver, is following in the footsteps of his mother who last did this important job at St Nicholas in the 1970's!

The church of St Nicholas is maintained by the [Churches Conservation Trust](#) and is used for a few services in the summer every year. The first of the season is on Sunday 5 May.



Millennium Green AGM



May 14 Annual Parish Assembly

Our next Parish Council meeting is now on Tues 30 April starting at 19.30 with public time. This is a new date in our calendar. All welcome.

Our PC AGM will then take place on May 14 at 19.30. The formal meeting will be followed directly after by the **Annual Parish Assembly starting at 20.15 with Cheese and Wine**. Short presentations reviewing the past year's activity and future plans will be given by the PC, Bombay Sapphire, the Millennium Green Trust amongst others and we shall finish with an open forum for you to give your views, share your ideas or just listen to those of others and of course.... all welcome - the more the merrier!

The PC looks forward to welcoming you to our next meetings.

On Thursday 25th April at 8pm the Millennium Green Trust is holding its Annual General Meeting in Lady Rose Hall. Land at Laverstoke is held in trust for the village as a green amenity space. It includes the field, woods, pond, quiet garden and children's playground. On a regular maintenance days are held where all the Community are welcome.

The meeting is open to any residents wishing to attend or wanting to find out more about this important facility.

For further info contact Phil Nicklin, Chair on pnic@hotmail.co.uk



Outdoor club nights recommence

As we move into spring and hopefully the weather improves more of our members will be out shooting at Laverstoke. Our maintenance team have already started trimming the hedges and we are planning some work on refurbishing our targets and mowing the range. It's the start of the outdoor season and we will switch our Wednesday evening club nights from indoors at Testbourne to Laverstoke.



Summer cinema nights coming

Following the success of their cinema nights last year, Bombay Sapphire are holding one cinema night a month up until the end of September.

Films and times are now showing on their [website](#)

1st date is Sunday 28th April with.... Back to the Future!



Plan to remove rodents

Many of you have mentioned the high numbers of rats they've seen in the rough beech hedge car park on Laverstoke Lane. The PC has taken professional pest control advice and has developed a plan, in conjunction with the Millennium Green Trust, to reduce the cover and habitat to allow natural predators such as birds of

Congratulations to our archers, Ed Pockett and Richard Buckner who shot for the county recently in a competition against 4 other counties and did very well. Also well done to Steve Allam, second and Angus Relf, third who shot in the Welsh Field Championships recently. Our final event in the Winter Field League took part in March with 40 archers shooting at our field range near Kingsclere. It was a great event with six Overton Archers in the top 10.

If you want to know more about Overton Black Arrows follow us on facebook.com/overtonblackarrows or check out our [website](#)



Trees on Millennium Green/ Batts Meadow fence line

prey to control them. Unfortunately there is a plentiful supply of beech nuts so poison will not be attractive to the rats or effective. The food source needs clearing as much as possible and the car park and neighbouring old trim trail area need tidying and clearing of vegetation.

The plan is to clear the the old trim trail to remove habitat and allow area to be used for soil scraped from car park. (If the edging sleepers are in good condition it's hoped they can be used for marking the edge of the PC parking area at Manor Cottages.) Residents will be asked not to leave their trailers and cars parked for prolonged periods in the rough car park as they provide important cover for rodents. The epicormic growth at the base of the trees will be removed and the car park scraped to remove the beech nut layer, soil and habitat for the rats. An abandoned car will be removed. (Car in photo.)

Volunteer event:

2pm Sat 6 April - remove epicormic growth from car park trees and gather dead wood and branches from around Millennium Green and Community Site. Volunteers will need gloves and boots and children will need to be supervised. Also, dig soil from around trees (adults only).

Following this the Millennium Green will hire a chipper on another day to clear the wood.

Further volunteer effort may be needed for

Thanks to the volunteers who planted the remaining Oak Trees kindly granted by the 'Roots for the Shoots' project run by Hampshire Forest Partnership.



Roof works at St Mary

Easter at St Mary's - we had such a lovely Family Communion on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who filled the church with flowers, and especially Mady who, once again, made the fabulous Easter Garden. The Easter Egg hunt was much enjoyed by the children too.

Next month sees the start of our St Nicholas season. We will hold our Communion service there on the first Sunday of the month from May till September at 09:00. Please do join us.

Work starts on the roof at St Mary's next week to replace the slipping tiles. A huge thank you to everyone who has made this possible by making donations and supporting our fund-raising.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden.

removing the vegetation on the trim trail and pulling up the old weed suppressant matting and then scraping the car park with a digger. Keep an eye on facebook for further dates.



Event season imminent

It's been a busy month for us here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants both in terms of filling up the Sales Area with all the new stock, plus potting up all the plants we've propagated here at the nursery. By the time you read this the Easter egg hunt will have finished, but we hope all who searched our Sales Area for those elusive eggs enjoyed themselves and had as much fun as we did.

We have new articles on our website. hardysplants.co.uk such as 'Design Tips for a small garden' and '7 Perennials that are Easy to Grow in Shade'. Well worth a read!

Rob & Rosy also have a busy time ahead of them attending various plant fairs. On 6 & 7th April we will have a stand at the Isle of Wight Spring Fair and others throughout the



Last chance for community chalk stream grant

Do you want to protect, enhance, or celebrate your local chalk stream? The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme offers grants of up to £5,000 for community-led projects focusing on the Test and Itchen headwaters including the Upper Test. The grant scheme closes permanently this November, so now is the perfect time to take action!

Projects must focus on improving the condition of locally important chalk stream habitats, or their associated built heritage or enable people to explore, enjoy and learn about the streams and must benefit the public.

Grant recipients have included Hampshire Bat Group, New Alresford Town Trust, Andover Trees United, and Whitchurch Conservation Group. They've installed bat boxes, created information boards, published educational booklets, and run a range of engagement events. The L&F Millennium Green pond platform and footpath was also funded this way.

month. All of these are detailed on our [website](#). If you are at any of these events please pop over to say 'hello'. Alternatively, just take a stroll up to us here on Priory Lane. We are open 7 days a week.



Book North Wessex Downs Walks

North Wessex Downs Walking Festival 31 May - 9 June 2024

We are pleased to announce bookings are now open for this year's walking festival. We have a fantastic programme of 29 walks across the North Wessex Downs with opportunities for you to seek out wildlife, uncover history, picnic with the family or simply soak up the views. This year there are even more farm walks on offer where you can hear directly from farmers and land managers about their work, with some family-friendly options available. Or why not take the Wiltshire 3 Peaks Challenge in a sponsored, self-guided walk for local charity Youth Adventure Trust?

Join our knowledgeable and welcoming guides and explore more as they bring to life some of their favourite places in the North Wessex Downs.

The last 2 funding rounds close on 15 July & 4 Nov. You can find more info at [winterbournes/communitygrants](https://winterbournes.org.uk/communitygrants). Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. (Photo courtesy of by Ross Hoddinott-2020Vision)



Free energy-saving home improvements

More people in Basingstoke and Deane can now get free home improvements to help save money and cut carbon, after a grant scheme increased its income limit by £5,000. Now, residents with a household income of up to £36,000 living in inefficient homes **without gas boilers** can apply for free energy-saving measures from the Warmer Homes Consortium, which Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is part of.

The funding is from the Home Upgrade Grant, a government scheme that aims to help people that own or rent a home without gas central heating to make their property more energy efficient. Improvements that can be fully funded by the grant include insulation, heat pumps, solar panels and heating controls. The scheme closes to applications this Nov and grants are dealt with on a first-come first-served basis. If you are eligible then apply as soon as possible

We would like to thank all our partners and volunteers who help to make the festival such a wonderful celebration of this stunning landscape and we look forward to seeing you in the summer!

For programme of walk and how to book [READ HERE!](#)



Free online river talks

‘An Introduction to Floodplain Meadows’

25th April, 7pm

Floodplain meadows bring beauty and biodiversity to the landscape, but many have been lost over time. How can we restore these habitats?

‘The Role of the River Keeper’

14th May, 7pm

Often responsible for habitat management in fisheries, river keepers can play a crucial role in protecting our precious chalk streams.

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

to make sure you don't miss out.

While properties with gas boilers are not eligible for a grant, funding is available for people living in homes heated by storage heaters, an electric boiler, panel heaters, oil, coal, liquid petroleum gas or solid fuel. More information about the Home Upgrade Grant, including how to apply, is at

WarmerHomes.org.uk

People can get in touch with B&D's Green Team for energy-saving support and advice at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/green-team



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

30 April

14 May (AGM & Annual
Parish Mtg)

4 June

2 July

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



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](#)



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

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.

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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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:

Colin Phillimore 771127

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Chloe Ashfield

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County Cllr:

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