



July 2024

Well, if you like outdoor theatre then you are in for a treat this month with 2 Shakespeare productions scheduled on our doorstep! There are more river conservation volunteer sessions coming up and Bombay Sapphire has just won a wildlife award. Hardy's is taking a look at the many varied careers in horticulture and can provide advice. Read on for more....

And don't forget it's Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday at 19.30 - all welcome - and on Thursday remember your photo ID for voting in the General Election. The polling station, as usual, is Lady Rose Hall.

If you have any new neighbours please let them know about this community newsletter. They can contact Nicky on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com if they would like to be included on the email distribution.

Thanks to Jo Probut for her fab picture of the inquisitive cows on Batts Meadow.

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](#)



2 July PC Meeting

Our next Parish Council meeting is Tues 2 July and as usual we shall be kicking off with public time at 19.30 at Lady Rose Hall. Topics under discussion include:

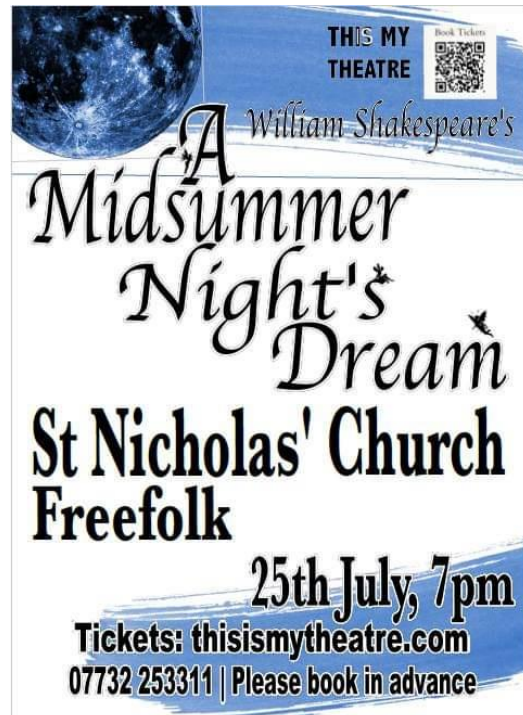
Planning

Ref: 24/01347/LDEU. Location: Hazel Cottage, Micheldever. SO21 3BA. Proposal: Cert. of lawfulness for existing use of cottage as single dwelling following conversion of 2 cottages in Aug 2018.

Ref: 23/02658/FUL Location: Land Opposite Bere Mill, London Road. Proposal: Installation of ground mounted solar array of 144 solar panels. 1) Amended plans: Proposed elevations/details & proposed site plan 2) Response to Landscape Team's comment

Pavilion

- Electricity supply arrangement.
- WTC request for lease with permission for lights use Mon-Thurs 16.00-21.00 (Weds till 22.00), Sun 16.00-18.00 .



Don't forget to book your tickets!

Coming to Freefolk on 25 July, a delightful outdoor production of Shakespeare's Athenian story of love, mistaken identity and magic. There's a conflict amongst four lovers and some amateur actors are trying to rehearse a play....

Why not bring a picnic and make an occasion of this very local event. Refreshments also available.

Click here [to book your tickets](https://thisismytheatre.com) - £16 for adults and £10 for under 16



Bombay Sapphire wins wildlife award

We're delighted to share that the Bombay Sapphire Distillery has won in the category of Wetlands and Water Bodies Project at the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) awards, recognizing the amazing work the team is doing to protect the section of the River Test that runs through the site.

The WHC Awards are presented annually in June and recognize excellence in corporate conservation. The Bombay Sapphire Distillery was selected as a finalist winner ahead of more than 100 other projects. The distillery was the first spirits production site in the UK to hold WHC certification, and in 2023, joined other sites in our portfolio - Bacardi in Puerto Rico, and the Bacardi Bottling Corporation site in Jacksonville, Florida - in securing WHC certification.

With thanks to the local team of volunteers from the Watercress and Winterbournes project who helped us achieve this. They come on site monthly to monitor the invertebrates thus gauging the health of the river running through the visitor centre.

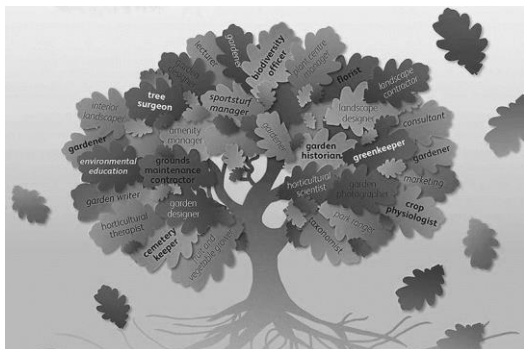


Local conservation in action

In June a group of volunteers, local people as well as from Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust, spent a very pleasant morning clearing the overgrown vegetation in the outflow stream from the pond at Laverstoke. It was a beautiful but hot sunny day - perfect for those wading in the cooling chalk stream water which remains at a constant 10 degrees throughout the year. We spent 3 hours (including mandatory tea and water break!) chopping a fallen tree branch blocking the stream, cutting back overhanging shrubs and pulling invasive Monkey Flower from the pond. The resulting wood debris was stacked inside the Millennium Green boundary fence to provide a natural screening and wildlife habitat. It was exciting to find evidence of the water voles living along the bank of the outflow stream.

The next tasks will be the removal of the non-native invasive Parrots Feather along sections of the stream to ensure that it doesn't flow into the Test further down. Also, Azolla (an Australian matting like fern)

Helen Coles, Visitor Centre Operations
Manager



Horticultural career routes

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) states that Horticulture contributes £9 billion to the UK economy each year and employs around 300,000 people across a range of disciplines. A career in horticulture could be anything from a garden designer to a horticultural scientist. Whether you're a young person leaving school or a career changer, there are several pathways leading to a career within the horticulture industry.

Qualifications and training courses

There are a range of different qualifications and training courses suiting all ages, interests and time frames across the country. Recognised qualifications can be full or part time and vary in length. They are practical and/or theoretical at a range of different levels. There are a range of formal qualifications available to both hobbyists and people aspiring for a career in the horticulture industry.

blanketing part of the stream reducing light and depleting oxygen, will need treating. To tackle these issues we have 3 more volunteer sessions coming up:

Thursday 18 Jul 9.30-12.00

Thursday 15 Aug 14.00-16.30

Thursday 3 Oct 14.00-16.30

If you would like to get involved in improving the environmental health of this important habitat at one or more of these sessions then please email pnic@hotmail.co.uk. Thanks.

Phil Nicklin, Chair Millennium Green Trust.



Bere Mill hosts Macbeth

What's better than a summer picnic or a barbecue, perhaps after a pleasant stroll through the fields? Well, how about combining that with watching an outdoor performance of Macbeth? On 11, 12 or 13 July you can do just that at Bere Mill

On our website hardysplants.co.uk there is a full article on the subject, including the various courses available. Here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants we will be happy to talk to anyone who is thinking of taking this path. Tel. 01256 896533 or visit us in Priory Lane, Freefolk, RG28 7NJ

(Image courtesy of RHS education & learning.)



Overton cups - greener party hire

Did you know the Overton Cups can be borrowed for your party or community event, to save you using single-use, disposable, plastic cups or plastic-coated paper cups? It's better for the environment and will save you money. There is no cost to borrow the cups as we want to help

Butchery, Farm and Gardens with WADS (Whitchurch community theatre group) performing.

Bring a picnic or to buy a pre-theatre meal at the Bere Hill Butchery barbecue that will be on hand before the show. Gates open at 18.00 and performance starts at 19.00. A cash bar is available until 19.00 and you can eat and drink during the performance. Please bring camping chairs or picnic mats.

Tickets are available [online](#) or tel 07903 194767 or email

wadswhitchurch@gmail.com.



Tennis courts get a makeover

It's been 5 years since the creation of the **practice court**. In order to keep the surface in good order it has been painted with 3 coats of paint to stop it degrading. The main courts have also been painted by the tennis club. Our photo shows the painters half way through. On completion the courts looks much more vibrant and ready to withstand

reduce single-use plastic, but a small donation to help us run the scheme is always very welcome!

Please get in touch with us at

sustainableoverton@gmail.com or via

Facebook messenger if you would like to find out more.

Overton Cups. Borrow, use, return .

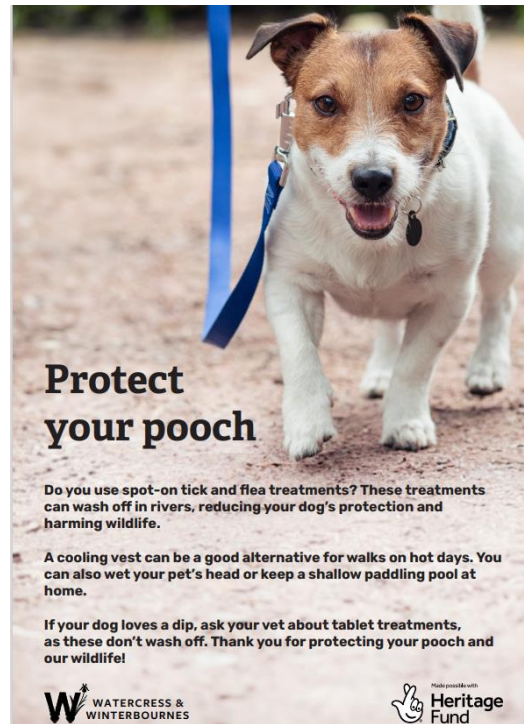


Beech hedge car park open

Just a reminder to those living in proximity to the beech hedge car park on Laverstoke Lane that you are welcome to start using this area again. (Please remain clear of the temporarily fenced section which we still need to work on.) We hope to move the Salvation Army clothing bin to the hedge side of the area. Following feedback from residents, it will be less visible to the overlooking homes.

Please can we kindly ask that cars owned by residents at the beech hedge end of the Lane that are currently using the parish council's 'layby' parking (or Lady Rose Hall parking) be moved back to the beech hedge car park. There are 4 houses with no direct

the stresses of weather and tennis for the next few years.



Reminder about tick treatment & rivers

Do you use spot-on tick & flea treatments? These can wash off in rivers reducing your dogs protection and harming wildlife. If your dog loves a dip please ask your vet about tablet treatment as these don't wash off. This will protect your pooch and our wildlife!

There is quite a bit of research coming out about how tick / flea treatment chemicals are getting into the water courses and it's not just from dogs jumping into the river but washing of their pet beds too at home!

Links to research and more info:

sciedirect.com/science/article/

road frontage that can benefit from the 'layby'. Thank you

sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/

theriverstrust.org/about-us/news/flea-



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

2 July

17 Sep tbc

1 Oct

5 Nov

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



L&F Contacts

[L&Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Lady Rose Hall:

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk/lady-rose-hall/

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:



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

held in August unless a planning or other time-dependent matter arises.

[landfreefolkmillenniumgreen](#)

To Report problems with:
roads, footpaths & verge

[Hantsweb](#)

trees on roads:

0300 555 1388

water:

[Southern Water](#)



Andrew White

Diccon Harvey

Julia Chedgey

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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laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter

Lady Rose Hall

Laverstoke Lane

Whitchurch

RG28 7NY