



June 2024

And summer is here finally, or should that be hopefully! Welcome to our June edition with news and events happening in or around our beautiful parish.

Congratulations to our Borough Ward Councillor Colin Phillimore on his re-election and on becoming Deputy Mayor for Basingstoke & Deane.

We do hope all those who came to the Annual Parish Meeting in May found it worthwhile and, of course, enjoyed the cheese, wine and Tom Collins kindly provided by Bombay Sapphire. The main topic raised in the Open Forum was a request for a book library/exchange. This seemed to have much support from the people at the meeting and so it is on the agenda for 4 June PC Meeting. Thanks to the resident who raised it.

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](#)



Pond & stream maintenance

In conjunction with the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust/ Watercress and Winterbournes Group, we have arranged dates to carry out essential maintenance works in the pond and stream at the end of Laverstoke Lane.

All the works to maintain this valuable chalk stream environment are carried out on a voluntary basis.

The work will include clearing fallen trees, removing invasive plant species and improving the flow in the stream to encourage more animal and plant diversity.

The dates are:

Thursday 20 Jun 9.30-12.00

Thursday 18 Jul 9.30-12.00

Thursday 15 Aug 14.00-16.30

Thursday 3 Oct 14.00-16.30

HIWWT re arranging for 4 x external volunteers to come and help us carry out the works. However, we also need local volunteers. Tools will be provided and you will be covered under the Millennium Green Insurance.

If you would like to be part of this important local project, please email



4 June PC Meeting

At our Tues 4 June meeting this month we are back to the usual 7.30 pm start for public time. All are welcome. Topics for the meeting agenda include:

Rodent removal plan – clearing trim trail soakaway chamber & finishing car park surface;

Alder replanting

LRH website move to L&F website

Library/Book exchange

Review Project list

Community Site updates - incl. repainting practice court.



Car park maintenance

Last week the beech hedge car park off Laverstoke Lane was surface scraped by a contractor. This has removed a lot of the vegetation that was providing cover and

pnic@hotmail.co.uk. Thanks.

Phil Nicklin, Chair Millennium Green Trust.



Bombay Sapphire 'InSpirit' day

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, Bombay Sapphire holds an annual 'InSpirit' day. For the second year in a row we have been the beneficiaries of a team of volunteers sprucing up the neighbourhood. On Mon 13 May Laverstoke Lane and the B3400 were cleared of litter and the bus shelters, benches, playground swing, some of the footpaths and other areas of the community cleaned and tidied. We even managed to coordinate with B&D litter team who picked up the resulting 4 pallets worth of litter the next morning.

After their exertions the team relaxed with tea and cakes in the garden.

A big thank you to Bombay Sapphire for dedicating a day to the benefit of the community.

food for our unwanted rodents. It has also opened up the area considerably and we are back to being able to see the original edging kerbstones again. An area of the surface is now fairly soft and we have fenced it off temporarily. Scalpings will be used to harden off this surface so that it can be re-used.

The Salvation Army bin is also being re-positioned over the next couple of weeks so that it backs against the beech hedge and is hidden from view of the overlooking houses.

The next phase of the plan involves looking at the puddle and soakaway chamber and incorporating the scalpings. Volunteers may be required so please keep an eye out for a request on facebook.



Chalk Stream Lit Festival

A reminder of a series of 10 free events coming up over the next month, mainly for children

- Poetry Competition for 7-18 year olds – the theme is chalk streams. Prizes available, deadline 31 July.



UK's largest field archery comp

Our focus this month has been on our field archery range near Kingslcere and hosting the largest UK Field Archery Competition for 2024. The All British Field Archery Competition was a two day event on 25 and 26 May with 170 archers including the top Archery GB and Olympic team in attendance. It was a tough course making use of the steep slopes on Watership Down and a great success. Many of our club members also took part and congratulations to Steve Allam, Angus Relf, Dave Mahers, Ollie Hicks, Fin Hicks and Richard Buckner who all achieved medals at the event.

It's been a good month for Steve Allam who also claimed top spot in the UK 3D Championships with Richard Buckker and Ed Pockett also getting medals. We continue to shoot at Laverstoke and have a new maintenance team in place to look after the range. If you would like to know more about us please have a look

- Nature Writing Workshop for 12 yrs plus - A free guided walk along the beautiful Upper Test, hearing folk tales and wildlife facts along the way. Followed by a workshop on turning inspiration into amazing nature writing - Overton 23 Jun
- Children's poetry workshops for 7 - 11 yrs. A free guided walk along the lovely Upper Test, using our senses to explore this special habitat. Followed by a workshop on turning what we've learned into an awesome nature poem - Overton 9 Jun, Whitchurch 16 Jun
- Talk by Author Matt Gaw Sat 15 Jun, 19.00 - 21.00. Acclaimed author and journalist Matt Gaw will be speaking about his adventures in nature, his incredible wildlife encounters, and his creative writing process. Age 12+
- Talk by Amy-Jane Beer Wed 26 Jun, 19.00 - 21.00. Celebrated author and naturalist Amy-Jane Beer will be speaking about her exploration of Britain's rivers and writing her Wainwright Prize-winning book 'The Flow'. Ages 12+.

For all the details and to book see: hiwwt.org.uk/tales/festival

at facebook.com/overtonblackarrows

or overtonblackarrows.org



Rosy meets Queen Camilla at Chelsea

What a busy month May has been for us at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. Not just here in the nursery but at the various shows as well. We've not only been growing plants for our own stands at various places such as for RHS Malvern, where we were awarded a gold medal, but for numerous designers at RHS Chelsea as well.

At Chelsea we supplied the perennials for Tsuyako Asada of Alice Garden Design, who achieved a Silver Gilt for her first balcony garden titled Tomie Cuisine's Nobonsai. Maximalist Verdure who Rob has been supporting got a Gold in the House Plant studio. Our own Jasmine Theobald who is studying at Sparsholt College, was part of a group of 3 students who attained a Silver Gilt, so we are very proud of her. We also supplied some of the perennials for the world renowned designer,



Summer at St Mary's

Summer dates for your diary:

Sat 29 June, 10.00 - 15.00 at St Mary's Church. **A Meditation on the Life of Christ** based on our beautiful reredos (altarpiece behind altar). Lunch provided. Booking essential – jenny.battsrow@gmail.com or 01256 892895.

Sun 30 June **United Benefice Service** at 10.00 followed by coffee and cake.

Thurs 25 July, 19.00 at St Nicholas' Church, Freefolk, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, outdoor performance raising money for the Churches Conservation Trust. Tickets at: thisismytheatre.com/freefolk.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden



Sun 9 Jun Spring Pond garden opening

Please join the Friends of St Michael's Hospice for drinks and canapes in the

Tim Stuart Smith's garden and the Boodles one too.

Rosy was also asked to contribute plants towards the monument there. The piece called 'Seed to Seed' was acknowledged by HRH Queen Camilla whom Rosy was privileged to meet - as can be seen in the photograph. She completed the display with Emma Tipping who she mentored for it. In fact, you may have seen the two of them featured on the BBC in a piece titled 'A day on the nursery: Insights into the life of a grower'.

As detailed in this newsletter, Carolyn & Julian Sheffield are opening their garden on 9th June in aid of St Michael's hospice. Rosy will be there giving tours and answering horticultural questions.



Election delays future services decisions

As a result of the General Election and conventions around making significant decisions during an election period, the democratic scrutiny and Cabinet decisions on Hants County Council's SP25 savings proposals have been postponed until later in the year.

beautiful Spring Pond garden created by Carolyn Sheffield! On Sun 9 June a fundraising garden party is being held to raise funds for St Michael's hospice - from 11.00 - 14.00. Booking is essential and the ticket price of only £30 includes access to the garden, canapes and drinks.

For more information and to book see: stmichaelshospice.org.uk/event/20433/



Lady Rose Hall website moved

This week we have moved the Lady Rose Hall booking information onto the main PC website,

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk. If you would like to book Lady Rose Hall for your next evening or weekend festivity you can of course visit the website or just contact the clerk directly on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com.

The ladyrosehall.co.uk website will be shut down over coming weeks.

HCC are aware retention of Recycling Centres and School Crossing Patrols, maintenance of vital community transport routes and the continued provision of homelessness grants to the end of their planned contract term are important to both the public and partners. They are considering all detailed proposals included in the SP25 package and also what other options may be available so that they could choose different solutions and timescales at the point of their decision making in the autumn.

If agreed, the proposed changes to services would not commence until April 2025, so there is time for full democratic scrutiny to be undertaken this autumn. There was huge public response to the consultation on the proposals that ended on 31st March.

Surface dressing programme making Hants roads more resilient

Hampshire roads will be given a new lease of life this summer as HCC's annual programme of road surface strengthening gets underway at 400 locations.

[To read more](#)



Tree warden appointed for L&F

As you may be aware, the PC was delighted to appoint Gill Baker as local tree warden at one of our recent meetings. Her knowledge and interest in trees will be really beneficial. Gill will see sight of all the applications for permission to undertake treeworks and advise the PC on the suitability of the work. As any of you who have applied for tree works recently will know, the PC is very keen for any trees or hedges that are removed to be replaced.

Gill is also happy to provide advice to anyone unsure what the best approach is with their trees. If you would like to contact her for advice then pop an email into laverstokeclerk@gmail.com and it will be forwarded onto her.

As a reminder, in the conservation area any trees with a trunk diameter greater than 7.5cm when measured 1.5m from ground level are protected. Works to these trees require permission from B&D before they can be undertaken. for further info see B&D [website](#)



Beautiful verge

At the end of Laverstoke Lane just before the A303 bridge there is a fantastic verge of wild flowers. It seems to be where the soil from the flood ditch was deposited. In 10 minutes last week we counted 27 wildflower types and that excluded any of the myriad of grasses! Sadly, the photos don't do it justice.



Craftsmen, at leisure!

We were blown away by the craftsmanship in this fabulous rocking horse at Test Valley Men's Shed today.



PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

4 June
2 July
17 Sep tbd
1 Oct

Laverstoke and Freefolk



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



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

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.

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

SCAN ME

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Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Newsletter
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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

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