



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

May 2024

It's bluebell time and what a beautiful display in the parish this year... surely this means we're heading towards the warmth of the summer months!

In May we'll be looking for volunteers to help with the next phase of the rodent removal plan. We need to squirrel away (apologies!) some of the carpet of beech nuts in our Laverstoke Lane car park on 11 May. Whilst we're out and about there's news on more buses and for those walking, more ticks to be aware of. The Test Valley Men's Shed is making great progress with its fund raising and is open to new members as always. Also, there are many fantastic events to look forward to in the summer. Read on for more....

This month 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!

Just as we go to press... Gill Baker has been appointed tree warden by the PC. We are pleased to have the benefit of her knowledge to help us in our lovely conservation area. More info next month.

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](#)



Annual Parish Meeting - 14 May at 20.15

Coming up in May is our Annual Parish Meeting starting at 20.15 with Cheese and Wine! Come and meet your councillors, hear what they have been up to and meet others from your Community. There will be some brief presentations from the PC, County & Borough Councillors, Bombay Sapphire, the Millennium Green Trust amongst others. And of course an Open Forum for you to raise or discuss any topics you wish or ask questions. All welcome



L&F PC AGM - 14 May 19.30

Taking place before the Parish Meeting, is the PC AGM. This is a more formal meeting All welcome but note the public time will take place in the Parish Meeting section. Currently on the agenda:
 Appointments: Chair, Vice Chair, Millennium Green Representative, Internal auditor
 Planning: T/00217/24/TCA. Location:



Children's nature writing events

The Wildlife trust have written to us about the following events for young people:

Free Children's Poetry Workshops

A guided children's 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. Ages 7-11.

Overton – Sun 9 June, 13.00 - 16.00. For tickets [click here](#)

Whitchurch – Sun 16 June, 13.00 - 16.00. For tickets [click here](#)

Poetry Competition

Open to 7-18 year olds – the theme is chalk streams. Prizes of up to £75 in National Book Tokens and inclusion in a poetry booklet. Free to enter and the deadline is 31 July 2024.

[More info](#)

Nature Writing Workshops

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. Ages 12+.

Whitchurch – Sunday 2 June, 13.00 - 16.00. For tickets [click here](#)

Overton – Sunday 23 June, 13.00 - 16.00. For tickets [click here](#)

Florence Portal Close Laverstoke.

Proposal: Tree works as per Tree Survey to included repollarding, crown lifting etc.

Finance & audit approvals



Ideas for spring shrubs

April has been a busy month here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants despite the weather! We've been stocking up the Sales Area on a daily basis to keeping both the benches and the inspiring displays looking full and fresh. Some of our customers are using their time now to design new borders and planting them up to give their gardens a wonderful colourful scene, whether it be cooler pastels or vibrant hot colours.

Rosy has been busy publishing some more videos through youtube. Click for: [8 Excellent Spring Flowering Shrubs & Trees](#) & ['Geum Mandarin'](#) Both can be seen for free. Plus, there are some new articles on our website www.hardysplants.co.uk.

Talk by Author Matt Gaw Sat 15 June, 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+. Tickets free [here](#)

Talk by Amy-Jane Beer Wed 26 June, 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+. Ticket free [here](#)



Altar news

Revd Ken Bell is taking his final service at St Mary's on Sunday 12 May at 09.00 after 50 years of Ministry. Quite an achievement!

The church roof repairs are nearing completion so hopefully we will have no more leaks. The summer season is almost upon us (who would believe it with these temperatures) and we will be holding our Communion Service at St Nicholas church at 09:00 on the first Sunday of the month from May till September.



'Robin Hood' achievement

This month we have seen some of our members compete in the first outdoor competitions. Well done to Steve Allam taking a gold medal in the English Field Archery Championships and also claiming a silver medal in the Welsh 3D Championships. Also to Angus getting a bronze medal, Ian Edwards (Flat bow) and Ollie Hicks (Barebow) taking gold medals.

Over the Winter as part of the Hampshire Team, Ed Pockett and Rob Aldridge helped bare bow team win gold and Richard Buckner helped the team win gold in the recurve event. So well done gents on some great indoor shooting.

A fun achievement for Archers is to get a "Robin Hood" where you shoot one arrow into the shaft of another one. It does not happen very often and so well done to Tricia Crawley who shot one at our Laverstoke range last week.

May will be a busy month for club with a major event at our field range in Kingsclere hosting the UK top archers at the British Field Championships. If you want to know more about us please have a look at

Important 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.

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



New 'shedders' welcome!

If you enjoy wood or metal working or crafts or think you might and have some time on your hands, then why not join the Test Valley Men's Shed? The welcoming group are a friendly bunch who meet in the Pavilion on Laverstoke Lane. They have been very active recently creating wonderful gifts that they sell such as their range of bird boxes and flower planters. You may have spotted their wares in the 'Renasce Designs' shop window, Overton. They also help renovate items for members of the community such as chairs and benches. Some of the shedders have skilled backgrounds, others are learning these skills and some just enjoy the friendly group

facebook.com/overtonblackarrows

or overtonblackarrows.org



News for Hants bus travellers!

Thanks to a £4.2m boost from the Government's Bus Service Improvement Partnership, our local bus operators including Stagecoach South are supercharging their services!

What's New? Enhanced Services: 15 Hampshire bus routes are set to enjoy more day and evening services. Sunny Sunday Specials: Welcome three new services making your Sundays brighter and better connected. Extended Hours: Enjoy late-night escapades and early morning rides with improved timings.

From May onwards by Stagecoach:

- Buses between Newbury, Kingsclere and Basingstoke will run later into the evening and on Sundays for the first time, as well as more frequently at weekday peak times. These changes are in partnership with West Berkshire Council.
- In Andover, more buses will run to and from East Anton throughout the week, with extra trips during the day as well as into the evening and on Sundays. **Service 76 between Andover, Whitchurch and Basingstoke will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.**

From the 14 April by Bluestar:

atmosphere, playing cards and reading the papers.

Recently TVMS welcomed some new supporters who have really helped them with their fund raising e.g by attending the monthly Saturday market in St Mary's Hall and the Borough Councillors are doing a fundraising walk on 18 May. For more info and to contribute please see the Justgiving link on the [TVMS Facebook page](#)

TVMS welcomes new members. Just pop down to the shed on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning anytime from 09.00 - 12.00 or send an email to testvalleymensshed@gmail.com.



Rodent plan update

Last month we wrote about a plan to **remove the rats** in the beech hedge car park. Thanks to the Millennium Green team,

- The Bluestar 1 between Winchester and Southampton will run every 15 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays (current frequency is: every 20 minutes).and there will be additional evening weekday services and new late-night services in each direction on Friday and Saturday evenings.



Photo ID and tick awareness

Don't forget your ID to vote on Thurs 2 May at Lady Rose Hall. Polling will be open from 7am to 10pm and you'll need to bring one of the following

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

Going for a walk? Remember to protect against ticks. It's that time of year to be 'tick aware'. These tiny insects can transmit bacteria such as Lyme disease so it's important to take steps to avoid being bitten.

Tick advice

- Keep to footpaths and avoid long grass
- Wear appropriate clothing (a long-sleeve

progress has been made with the old trim trail vegetation trimmed and twigs and branches from the surrounding area collected and chipped.

The next step is to collect beech nuts and remove the vegetation in the corner of the car park. Volunteers will be needed. Calling all those who use the car park, and others, to please give a bit of time to this on:

11 May from 09.30. Please bring rakes, trimmers and wheelbarrows.

The car park will then be scraped back to its base and the soil placed on the trim trail.

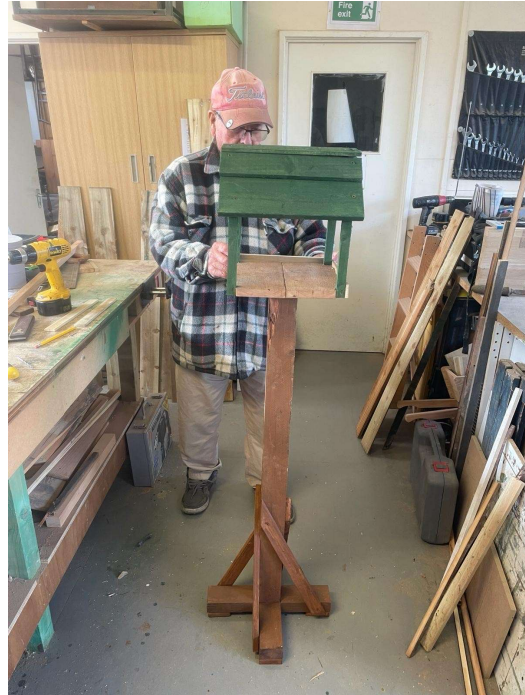
In progress - removal of abandoned blue car and relocation of Salvation Army clothing bin further from tree

Lastly, but not least, we would urge everyone in the lane to ensure they consider carefully what they are leaving around their properties that may be attractive food for rodents and by securing your compost bins. Thank You.

shirt and trousers tucked into your socks)

- Use an insect repellent
- Wear light coloured fabrics that may help make it easier to spot a tick on your clothes
- Inspect your skin for ticks, particularly at the end of the day, including your head, neck and skin folds (armpits, groin and waist)
- Check children's head and neck areas, including their scalp
- Check that pets do not bring ticks into your home in their fur.

See the [Government's tick awareness pages](#) for advice on ticks or visit the NHS website for more information on signs, symptoms and treatments for Lyme disease.



Bird table in production at Test Valley Men's Shed.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

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
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)

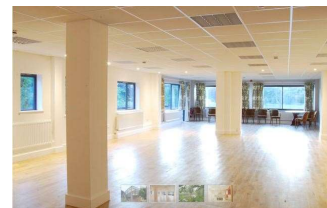
Neighbouring web-sites:

[Whitchurch Town Council](#)

[Official Whitchurch web site](#)

[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

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

cldr.colin.phillimore@basingstoke.gov.uk

Karen Watts

cldr.karen.watts@basingstoke.gov.uk

Chloe Ashfield

cldr.chloe.ashfield@basingstoke.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Juliet Henderson

juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk

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