

Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

Merry Christmas!

December 2024

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents of Laverstoke and Freefolk a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Seasons greetings to you and your families.

In this edition we have included a couple of consultations. One on barriers to walking and cycling in the area and the other on the borough budget proposals that they would like to hear from residents on. There are also ideas on reducing waste and how to make some festive savings. There's an article on the Millennium Green and some present ideas from Hardy's and Bombay Sapphire. Some upcoming interesting online talks include mysterious stygofauna living in the chalk aquifer. And it wouldn't be Christmas without some carols. For all this and more read on....

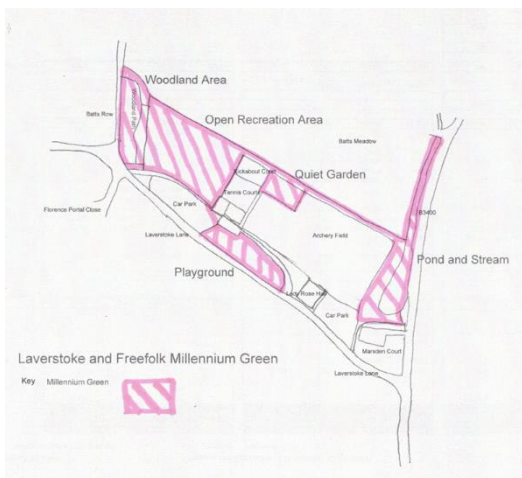
With thanks to our Freefolk residents that lit up so we could take the photo above!

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](#)



Exchange for books

It has been agreed at the last PC meeting to create a book exchange for the village. It will be a small box on posts, similar to the photo above but varnished rather than painted to fit in with the conservation area. The resident who proposed the idea has kindly agreed to be the librarian. The PC are currently investigating the best site. More news as the project progresses.



Dec 3 PC meeting

The Parish Council next meets on Tues 3 Dec at 19.30 at Lady Rose Hall. Public time will be at the start of the meeting followed by the main agenda. All welcome to come along to the meeting and join in Public Time where mince pies will be served!

The main topic for discussion will be a Proposal for Heads of Terms for Lease of Tennis facilities with Whitchurch Tennis Club including permission for lights usage (4 - 9pm Tues & Thurs & 4 - 10 pm Weds, Sept to April.)

The proposal made by a parish councillor is for Heads of Terms for a lease to cover the courts, shared practice area and use of a room in the pavilion and specifies max light usage as above. This would bring all tennis elements into one clear framework. The PC will debate and make a decision whether to accept the proposal. Contact Nicky on laverstokeclerk@gmail.com if you would like a copy.

This follows the tennis club asking the PC in November to consider usage Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 4 - 10pm with the possibility for match use till up to 6pm

Laverstoke & Freefolk Millennium Green

The Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green was created in 2000 as part of a nationwide initiative by the Countryside Agency to create accessible Open Spaces. It is an area of land on the west side of Laverstoke Lane open to public access for recreation.

Most of the land was purchased from Portals, including the existing playground, to secure it for the village for future generations. Creating the spaces we see today took a substantial amount of village volunteer effort. This involved clearing a path through the woodland, creating a quiet garden area, expanding the play area, planting trees, clearing the pond area, building paths, and providing seating. The Green operates as a registered charity with a group of trustees. It is funded by regular monthly donations, fundraising events, and a Parish Council grant to cover the cost of playground insurance. However, over recent years there has been a significant turnover of residents who have moved away and no longer therefore contribute to keep the Green viable. Unfortunately, they have not been replaced. At present there are only 8 local households who contribute on a monthly basis. This together with the fundraising quiz night are our only source of regular income.

In order to maintain the Green to the standards we have become used to

on a Sunday for league match reasons.



Christmas at St Mary's

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 8th

December at 18.00 followed by our traditional mulled wine and mince pies. We would love some children to sing the first verse of Away in a Manger, so please bring them along.

More singing at **Carols on the Green on Sunday 22nd December** at 12 noon, and more mulled wine too. Let's have the whole village there.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at lovely St Nicholas Church at 23.30. Wrap up well, bring the dogs (why not?), and join us for this wonderful celebration.

Family Communion on Christmas Day is at 09.30 at St Mary's. Bring everyone! It is such a joyful occasion.

Test Magazine – our brilliant parish magazine, The Test, is due for subscription renewal in January. If you would like to subscribe (only £10 a year), please let me know and I will set you up for delivery.

(playground maintenance, grass cutting, tree safety and overall Health and Safety matters) we would urge you to consider making a regular donation to help the charity. We also have regular volunteer maintenance days which are advertised on the website and in the Newsletter.

If you wish to know more about the Green and become more involved please visit the website at

laverstokeandfreefolkmillenniumgreen.org.

or contact Phil Nicklin on pnic@hotmail.co.uk



Borough consults on 25/26 investing

B&D Borough Council plans to continue significantly investing in front line services over the next year. Proposals include an additional funding of £750,000 to keep the borough's streets/open spaces well-maintained and £180,000 to improve play areas.

New proposals include an extreme sports event next summer for young people, to improve the Top of Town and to boost the night time economy with free overnight parking between 19.00 – 08.00 in council

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden,
bondb@btinternet.com.

Tackling
**sexual violence,
abuse and
harassment**
Together



Police Commissioner's new Safer Together Hub

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have launched the new Safer Together Hub. The online hub, funded by the OPCC, provides advice, guidance and information to anyone who is concerned about sexual violence, abuse, or harassment to help everyone in Hampshire feel safer.

The platform went live on 25 Nov which coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and signifies the region's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls.

You can read about it here: [Online Safer Together Hub](#) .The hub can be accessed here: [Safer Together Hants](#)

short stay car parks. To tackle the climate/ecological emergencies, plans include the roll-out of food waste collections, continuing the Green Team work to enable sustainability & more car charging points. Energy efficiency improvements for council-owned buildings and boosting biodiversity with additional funding for maintaining the borough's trees.

It is proposed to continue giving housing advice for residents looking for a home and for further money to provide more one-to-one support for residents struggling with their finances by helping them to address issues such as debt. This will form part of a wider action plan which is being developed to tackle poverty.

To help fund these investments an average 10p per week council tax increase is proposed, bringing the borough's part of the council tax to £146.42 a year for the average household. This is still likely to make B&D one of the lowest districts in Hampshire, and most of the country, for council tax. Some additional services provided will increase by an average of 3%.

For more info & to give your view please respond by Fri 3 Jan 25 at basingstoke.gov.uk/budget2025

Barriers to walking and cycling

Have your say
between
28 October and
22 December

As part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improve accessibility and enable more people to walk and cycle for short journeys, you are invited to help us identify where there are barriers to walking and cycling on your local streets.

We want to hear from all walkers and cyclists, including people who use **mobility aids (including mobility scooters), pushchairs or buggies**, people who use **cargo bikes and trailers**, or **other adapted cycles**.



Feedback on barriers to walking & cycling

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Have your say and answer the survey before 22 December at 23.59

For more information, and to complete the survey: Visit: hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling

Email:

engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk or
ring 0300 555 1388

The PC has reported to HCC the extremely narrow pavement from Wells in the Field to Freefolk Priors on the B3400 and also the



Riverside poetry & online talks

Sixteen young poets – including Izzy Reeves and Emmeline Fryer from Whitchurch, and Angelina Ayres from Overton – have been named as winners in the Tales from the Riverbank Poetry Competition. Ranging from 7 to 17 years old, the winners recently received their prizes at a special ceremony in Winchester. Their fantastic chalk stream poems can be read on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website (hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes) in the form of a beautifully illustrated anthology. Congratulations to all!

Online Talks coming up

The Hidden Life in Groundwater – 12 Dec
Deep below Hampshire, there is an enormous chalk aquifer. This is home to mysterious and ancient creatures - stygofauna. To discover their secret world book your free ticket [HERE](#)

Sustainable Drainage Systems – 8 & 15 Jan

As our climate changes and urbanisation increases, some communities are experiencing more water around their roads and homes. Sustainable drainage systems

section at Freefolk opposite The Priory. It would be great if residents fed this back too along with any other areas of concern.



Bombay Sapphire Christmas opening

This month, Bombay Sapphire Distillery is open late on select dates! Stop by the Mill Bar or Gin Shop to enjoy extended hours and make the most of your evening with a refreshing gin cocktail (or two). We're open until 9 pm on Thursday, Dec 19 and until 11pm on Friday Dec 20 and Sat Dec 21. Whether you're shopping for gifts or simply unwinding with friends, it's the perfect time to visit us.

Also please see below our Opening Hours for Christmas and New Year

- Sun 22 Dec - Last day open before Christmas
- 23 – 26 Dec – Closed
- 27 -29 Dec - Open 11am – 5pm
- 30 Dec - Closed
- 31 Dec - Open 11am – 4pm
- 1 - 2 Jan - Closed
- 3 Jan - Open as normal

(SuDS) can help to manage this issue and protect our chalk streams from damaging runoff. Book your free ticket [HERE](#)

Do you own or manage land for horses? Join us for a programme of free online talks by Elizabeth Ranelagh (author of 'Managing Grass for Horses'). Learn how to reduce your environmental impact through methods such as pasture reseeding, hedgerow cultivation, and manure storage. The talks will take place in early 2024 – email winterbournes@hiwwt.org.uk to learn more.



Enjoy festive savings & reduce waste

The festive season may be a welcome time of indulgence, but it's also the time of year when waste levels peak along with spending. Did you know, a fifth of all the food we buy for the festivities ends up in the bin?

To help you enjoy a sustainable and budget-friendly Christmas, we've updated our [Smart Living festive savings webpage](#), where you'll find:

♻️ Our [green gift guide](#) for everything you need to know about sustainable gifts and



Millennium Green Quiz moved to Sat 8 March

With apologies, the Millennium Green Quiz had to be cancelled in November. Please ensure you have the new date in your diary - Sat 8 March. Timing: 19.30 for 20.00 and £10 a ticket.

LandFundraising@gmail.com



Hardy's battling the weather

We've been busy here at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. Earlier last month it was a race against time to get all the tender plants in to our tunnels before the thermometer dropped to freezing! It was then a case of adding layers of clothing towards the end of the month, especially the day of the snow showers. And then we had to make sure all the equipment and trays were 'fastened down' ahead of Storm Bert hitting us! All this whilst continuing with the propagation and potting up of plants ready for 2025.

experiences in Hampshire.

🌿 Ideas for leftover food, such as asking your guests to bring a reusable container so they can leave with a share!

🌿 Environmentally friendly ways to gift wrap – choosing reusables like brown paper, ribbons or empty jam jars.

And for the festive party season, have you ever thought of renting your outfit? As well as doing your bit to reduce fast fashion, you'll step out in style for a fraction of the price of buying new!

Rosy has also been producing more gardening videos which can be found on her [YouTube channel Rosy Hardy Gardening](#).

There are still some bulbs available both online and in our Sales Area, plus 2 places remaining for the wreath workshop on 3rd December. We will be open up until 3pm on 20 December 2024 for any vouchers, metal work or in season plants you want to buy as presents, and then re-open on 6 January 2025.

Thank you all for your continued support during 2024. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you to produce some wonderful gardens in 2025.



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

3 Dec

7 Jan

4 Feb

4 Mar

Laverstoke and Freefolk
PC meetings usually take



L&F Contacts

[L&Freefolk Facebook](#)

laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

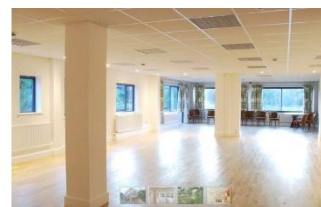
Newsletter:

laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Lady Rose Hall:

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

Bombay Sapphire Main
Reception: 01256 890090



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

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.**

(manned M-F 09.00-17.00, S&S 09.30-15.00)

Duty Manager for urgent e.g. licensing issues: 07971 508691 (manned when duty manager on site i.e. all events plus M-Th 09.00-17.00)

Security is available 24/7 inc closed days.

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](#)



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

Alice MacGinnis

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



Basingstoke
and Deane

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



Councillor:

Juliet Henderson

juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk

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