



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

November 2024

Here's hoping your trick and treating didn't disappoint whether you were out and about with your children or inside treating the little tricksters. With the next fun season just upon us - Firework season - it would be great if we could encourage anyone having a few fireworks in their garden to post a little message of warning on the Laverstoke & Freefolk Facebook page.

In this months edition we have news of the not to be missed annual Millennium Green Quiz on 16 Nov, a call for potential Parish Councillors from the Freefolk area and contact details for Bombay Sapphire and our Community Safety Patrol Officer as well as lots of other news.

Thank you to Bombay Sapphire for organising a behind the scenes tour for residents last month. It was quite an experience to get up close to the operational stills and botanical baskets, see the biomass boilers in operation and as always lovely to have an opportunity to chat with others in the community.

Following planned changes to the National Planning Policy Framework Basingstoke &

Deane Council have provided their feedback to the Government. Councillor Paul Harvey, Leader of the Council, is coming to a public meeting in Overton Community Centre at 19.30 - 20.30 on Thurs 7 Nov to discuss this and the Borough Councils plans.

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](#)



Millennium Green Quiz of the year 16 Nov!

Are You The Quiz Queen Of The Parish?
Have You Got A Brilliant Brain For The Bonkers? Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green Trust cordially invite you to come along on Sat 16 Nov to Lady Rose Hall at 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. Come and Pit Your Wits or Strain Your Brain. The Quiz of the year returns to a village near you!

As usual we are looking for teams of up to 6 people (max). Tickets are £10 per person including food. There is a cash/card bar and of course PRIZES TO BE WON!

To secure tickets, please email names/quantity required to Clare Albert at LandFfundraising@gmail.com.

Your kind participation will help us to fund works and maintain our open space



Tues 5 Nov meeting

Our next meeting is on Tues 5 Nov at 19.30 at Lady Rose Hall. All welcome to come along to the meeting and join in with Public Time at the very start of the meeting. In the main meeting, agenda items include a proposal for a book exchange, an update on the Pavilion lease for Test Valley Men's Shed, and the topic of the week - 2025/26 budget - albeit this is at parish rather than national level!

Also, due to a Councillor Vacancy we are recruiting a new member. A Councillor from Freefolk is wishing to resign. To ensure we have representation across the parish it would be great to hear from anyone interested in joining the PC who lives in the Freefolk part of the Parish. If you have 3 or more hours a month to give back to your community to help enhance it we'd love to hear from you. Contact our clerk Nicky

including the Children's Playground, Quiet Garden, Woodland & Open Field and the beautiful Pond Area.

Your Millennium Green Trust team

Are You The Quiz Queen Of The Parish? Have You Got A Brilliant Brain For The Bonkers? Pit Your Wits. Strain Your Brain..... It Returns!

**THE LAVERSTOKE & FREEFOLK
MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST QUIZ
SATURDAY 16th November 2024
7.30pm for 8pm start**



LADY ROSE HALL, LAVERSTOKE LANE RG28 7NY
Teams of 6 people (max)
£10 per person includes food and cash/card bar
PRIZES TO BE WON!
To secure tickets email names & the amount required to Clare Albert at Landfundraising@gmail.com



Help us to fund works and maintain our open space
Children's Playground, Quiet Garden, Woodland & Open Field, Beautiful Pond Area



New members welcome at Men's Shed

I recently popped into the Test Valley Men's Shed and saw some of their fantastic wood and metalworking activities. The garden planters having a final coat of green paint caught my eye. With Christmas coming the

Nicklin for more info - 07725 368012 or laverstokeclerk@gmail.com.



Community Safety Patrol Officer (CSPO) news

The PC were delighted to have recently had an opportunity to go out on patrol with our CSPO 071 Drew Mechen. We discussed anti-social behaviour issues we were concerned about and highlighted the river in the hot weather as such an area. Drew has said that he will increase patrols in the area. Here is a reminder of the important numbers to ring in the case of anti-social behaviour:

- Call 999 for all serious issues.
- Call 101 for everything else. This can also be done online at [Contact us | Police.uk](https://www.contactus.police.uk) or google "101 online reporting".
- Other Reporting Portals:
[Report something to us](https://www.basingstokeanddeane.gov.uk/report-something-to-us) – Basingstoke and Deane
[Report | Hampshire County Council](https://www.hampshire.gov.uk/report-something-to-us)

Drew has also offered to do either a private 1-2-1 or a walk within the Parish to discuss any issues residents may have. Please

shedders are busy fulfilling orders. See their [facebook page](#) for ideas especially of garden products - bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, planters of various sizes, trellis and some wonderful turned and painted wooden tops and Christmas trees.

If you fancy having a go at making any of these sorts of items, repairing things, working on your own projects or just coming for the social then why not join the club. Membership for the year works out at less than £1 per week! (With a small charge for Tea and coffee.) Just pop down to the pavilion on a Tues, Thurs or Sat from 09.00-12 noon.

Thanks to one of the members who took advantage of the dry spell today and re-varnished the wooden clubs sign at the start of the Pavilion track.

One of the club's fund raising activities is selling their metal scrap including aluminium cans. They have a can crusher so storage is not such an issue. So if you have any cans why not take them down to the Men's Shed and help them with their fundraising at the same time.



contact cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk and in subject line add "FAO Drew".



Trustees wanted - Kingfisher Day Centre

The Kingfisher Day Centre, at Laverstoke, is looking for additional Trustees. Kingfisher is a voluntary sector Day Centre which, for 40 years, has provided day care for elderly people in the Overton, Whitchurch and St Mary Bourne (and sometimes wider) area. This involves assistance with personal needs, a home-cooked meal and a range of activities designed to maintain and enhance mental and physical wellbeing.

The Day Centre is managed, and the care provided, by trained and dedicated staff. But the overall control of the Day Centre is in the hands of a Trust (which is a Charity Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission). All the present

**Starting school in September
2025**



 Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before **1 September 2025**, they can start school in **September 2025**.

For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions
Applications open for Hampshire residents on **1 November 2024**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
IS WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025

DON'T MISS IT!

 Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk

To find out more about the process and to apply for your child see the Hants.Gov.UK [website](#)



100 archery members!

Firstly a request from us at the Black Arrows Archery club. If you are walking your Dog at the range please can you pick up any mess from your dog. We have had a couple of instances lately where dog mess has been left and it's caused some completely unnecessary issues.

Trustees have been in place for some years and feel a need for some fresh blood, and perhaps new ideas and insights. We would particularly like to find someone with experience in finance.

The duties of a Trustee are not onerous. We meet occasionally, for about an hour. Some business is transacted by electronic correspondence or on-line meetings (Zoom etc). The Trustees exercise a general oversight of the operation of the Day Centre, staffing requirements, finance and policy. Of course, if a Trustee wants to get more personally involved with the day to day activity of the Centre, this would be most welcome.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Chairman, Adrian Lewis, on 01256 770980, or the Manager, Nicola Smith, on 01256 893333. If you would be interested in joining us, a visit to the Day Centre, with a wider explanation of what we do, and what we need from a potential Trustee, might be a good way forward.



Contact details Bombay Sapphire

At Laverstoke this month we completed our latest beginners course with 19 new archers having now started Archery (Ed... including, we hear, one lives in strides of the range!) So well done all. We are now a club of 100 members and its great to have many of them shoot at Laverstoke and to start to take part in competitions.

In October some of our members travelled to Exmouth to compete and 4 came away with medals. Apart from our range at Laverstoke we run a range for field archers near Kingsclere. Here we see many top UK archers come along to practice including Jed Cullen and Ian Edwards who recently became World champions in the World Field and 3D Championships.

We continue to run our maintenance programmes at Laverstoke with hedge cutting on the list this month. If you are interested in Overton Black Arrows then please check out our [facebook page](#) or website overtonblackarrows.org.



Thank you!

Following our discussion at the last PC meeting with Helen Coles - Bombay Sapphire Visitor Centre Operations Manager - she has asked us to provide the following contact details for residents.

Bombay Sapphire Brand Home – Main Reception Number: 01256-890090. This is manned:

Mon - Friday 09.00 - 17.00

Sat & Sunday 09.30 - 15.00

There is an answering phone system in place if required.

Duty Manager number: 07971508691

(For anything Urgent – Licensing issues)

This is manned only when we have a Duty Manager on site (i.e. during ALL events & Mon - Thurs 09.00 - 17.00)

Security is available 24hrs a day 7 days a week. Even if we are closed (Christmas Day etc...)



Heritage Event at Bombay Sapphire

A productive village clear up day on 12 Oct included volunteers out weeding and mulching the new hedge beside the tennis courts - its looking very healthy. The shrubs and weeds around the Kick-about-Court fence were also tackled along with the removal of the epicormic growth on the car park and playground trees. It wasn't all just about the green areas, 3 of the bus shelters had a thorough clean too.

Thank you to everyone who gave up their afternoon to improve the villages.



Invasive plants removal Laverstoke stream

The final session of the year removing invasive plant species took place early in October. Thanks to the volunteers from the Watercress and Winterbournes project, led

What a joyous occasion took place last month - the heritage event held by Bombay Sapphire at Laverstoke Mill. This was part of Bombay Sapphire's celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of their move to the mill site. They were joined by Heritage Overton and Portals International in displaying various historic items pertaining to the Laverstoke site. There was a fascinating film shown of Portals made around the time the Queen visited in 1962. I was surprised to learn that this had been the last of 5 Royal visits to Bere and Laverstoke Mills (and 4 to Overton Mill.)

It was such fun to learn about all the jobs local people had with so many in Laverstoke Mill itself - the headquarters of Portals had remained at Laverstoke until about 1995 as well as the silver security banknote thread making. Sue Walker worked at PCI on reception in the 1980s. She is pictured holding a note that made us laugh out loud that referenced her friend and colleague Mady Oram! Also shown is Dave Baker who worked in maintenance at Laverstoke.

And if you want to learn more about Paper Making don't miss the Heritage Overton event below on 13 Nov.

by Community Officer Maggie Shelton, who returned for a fourth time to remove the copious quantities of Parrot's Feather. This clogs the stream and impedes the flow. Whilst undertaking the work we needed to be very careful not to disturb the resident water voles! It was exciting to see their telltale neatly nipped leaf litter.

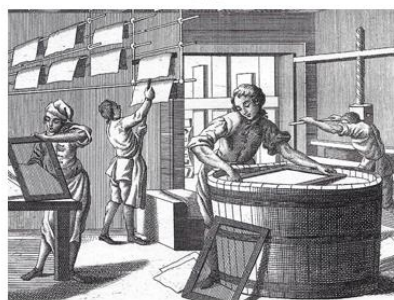
Thanks also to all the local volunteers who have given their time to the pond and stream works.



Hardy's winter hours

During October Rosy gave her last talk on site for this year, at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, although she is already looking forward to next year with the dates for 2025 on our [website](#). We enjoyed a very educational talk by our guest speaker David Hurron entitled ' Ways to Drought Proof Your Garden'

As the clocks change, so do our opening hours. We are now into our Winter hours and are now open Monday to Friday 10.00 to 15.00. We will continue to be busy potting up the new plants and completing an audit of the ones we've got now.



Portals: 300 years of banknote papermaking

Wednesday 13th November
7.30pm Overton Community Centre
Admission free to members, £3 to visitors



St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke with Freefolk.

Please join us for our Act of Remembrance service at 10.50 on Sun 10 Nov.

The popular Carols by Candlelight will be at 6 pm on Sun 8 Dec followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Bring friends and family to kick-start the Christmas season.

For info for those who love carol singing, the other Carol Services in the Benefice are as follows:

There are still a few places left in our 'Make your own Christmas wreath' just go to our website at www.hardysplants.co.uk

Deane – 8 Dec at 18.00.

Ashe – 15 Dec at 17.00.

Overton – 15 Dec at 18.30.

North Waltham – 22 Dec at 18.30.

Churchwarden Brenda Bond on

bondb@btinternet.com



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

5 Nov

3 Dec

7 Jan

4 Feb

Laverstoke and Freefolk PC meetings usually 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



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](#)

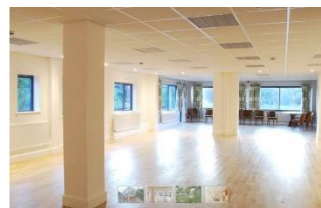
Our Local Sports Clubs:

[Whitchurch Tennis Club](#)

[Overton Black Arrows Archery Club](#)

[Overton Rugby Club](#)

Our church:



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

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.**

[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 Councillors:

David Ellis, Chair
Jo Probut, Deputy Chair
Andrew White
Diccon Harvey
Julia Chedgey
Jayne Hudson

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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