



Laverstoke and Freefolk News&Views

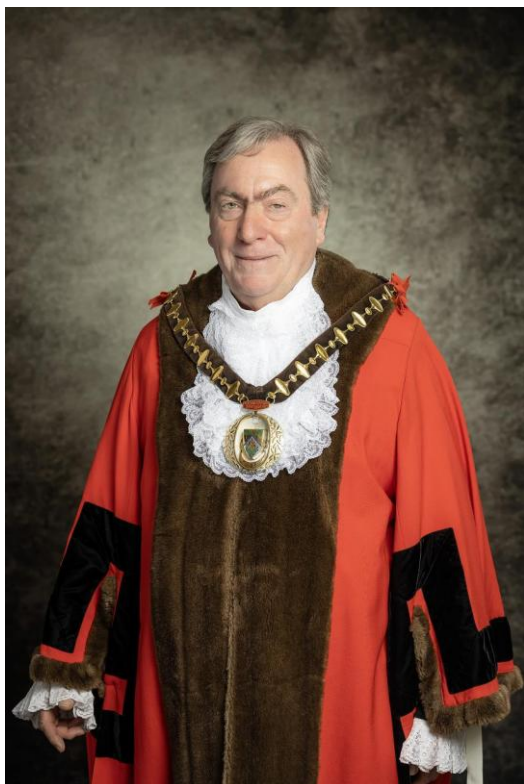
June 2025

June promises lots of fun in the parish kicking off with our Jane Austen Regency Revelries community event on Sun 8 June. We hope to see you at the treasure hunt starting between 11.00 and 12.00. This aims to be a fun challenge for children and adults alike - with prizes! The Bring Your Own Picnic/BBQ starts at 13.00. See our top column below for all the details of the rest of the day's fun & games. Looking forward to catching up with everyone down on the Millennium Green!

Our new B&D Mayor is local Borough Councillor Colin Phillimore. He will be busy this year at events and supporting his 2 nominated charities - St Michael's Hospice & Whitchurch Community Pool. We'll keep an eye out for his activities and communicate onwards. For news of Basingstoke Festival coming up on 20 June as well as lots more ... read on.

We shall be holding the next PC meeting on Tues 3 June but the PC will be considering whether to move to the 3rd Tues of the month in the future. Watch out for details.

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](#)



Colin Phillimore - our Basingstoke Mayor

Since 8 May Cllr Colin Phillimore has been the new Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane for 2025/26! He was first elected as a borough councillor in 2015, representing the Overton, Laverstoke and Freefolk ward which later became Whitchurch, Overton and Laverstoke. He will represent the borough at events during the year while promoting his charity appeal which will be supporting the Whitchurch Community Swimming Pool and St Michael's Hospice. Colin has lived in the borough all his life, either in Overton or Whitchurch and can trace his family history back to 1600 in Steventon! He attended Overton C of E Primary School and later Queen Mary's Grammar School in Basingstoke. After leaving school he had several local jobs, before settling on a career in accountancy. He

Sunday 8 June Regency Revelries: Laverstoke & Freefolk Celebrate Jane Austen!

Millennium Green Field



Regency Ramble (treasure hunt),
BYO Picnic, Games/shenanigans on the
Green, Bake Off & Tea (of course!)

Family fun day, all welcome!

Details and what to bring overleaf

Regency Revelries - Sun 8 June

Coming to L&F and celebrating Jane Austen
from 11 a.m. on Sunday 8 June: Regency
Revelries!

For our community family fun day, we
have put in an order for good weather and
hope to see as many residents, friends and
family as possible.

11.00 - 12.00 - Registration and staggered
start of **Regency Ramble** (Treasure Hunt)
in Millennium Green field. Come ready to
imagine a walk in Jane's footsteps, albeit it
one with walking boots and a mobile
phone!

13.00 - 14.00 - BYO Picnic on the Green,
bring a rug or garden chairs/table. Village
BBQs will be lit if you want to cook up a
feast!

14.00 - 15.30 - Regency Revelries -
themed games on the green such as 'Dear
Cassandra' letter delivery relay and 'Jane

has worked as an accountant in the motor trade for the last 40 years.



Bombay Sapphire inSpirit

Huge thanks to Bombay Sapphire distillery production team for giving us a day of their time to maintain our lovely parish. We have been lucky enough to be the recipient of their aptly named InSpirit community volunteering day. Amongst many tasks, they litter picked throughout the parish, cleaned the bus shelters and sign posts, strimmed footpaths and weeded the hedging in the Playground. Their litter haul included a fly tipped washing machine drum, car tyre and liquid containers. At the end of the day they were ready to enjoy a well deserved tea in a local garden. Great work - thanks guys!



What does our Parish Church mean to you?

Might you want to get married there, have a child baptised, be buried there? It is part

Goes Visiting' carriage driving. *Wear comfy grippy shoes for moving at speed*
15.00 - Georgian Bake Off cake/bake competition. Imagine yourselves as the cook in Mrs. Bennet's kitchen in Pride & Prejudice. Use your creative imagination! There will be prizes.
Bring your bake anytime after 13.00 to the tea area where it will be stored before displaying and then judging.
15.30 - 16.30 - Regency Tea is served!

Everyone welcome!

09.00 - 11.00 - Set up for anyone who can volunteer to help us lug a few chairs, tables & crockery onto the green, help erect a gazebo or two and put up some bunting!

Want more info? Contact Nicky on:
laverstokeclerk@gmail.com or tel: 07725 368012

LAVERSTOKE & FREEFOLK
PARISH COUNCIL

3 June PC Meeting

It was lovely to see so many parishioners at our Annual Parish Meeting last month. It was a great opportunity to meet and discuss local topics of interest and of course to enjoy the cheese, wine and Bombay Sapphire Cocktail!

At our next PC Meeting on Tues 3 June, you are welcome to attend and if you would like to speak on an agenda item, or raise another topic, you are welcome to do so at the start during public time from 19.30 - 19.45. Agenda items include:

of our village heritage but is that enough to keep it open? Did you know that it costs over £300 a week to do just that despite a loyal band of volunteers who keep the show on the road? Could we use the building for purposes other than worship? Could you help occasionally with odd maintenance jobs around the churchyard? Lots of questions but something to think about. You have the answers.

Church bells – there has been a surge of interest in ringing church bells. We are so fortunate to have 6 amazing bells in our belfry. David and Jenny Ellis are on a mission to keep them tolling not just on high days and holidays. Ever fancied having a go? Contact Jenny on jenny.battsrow@gmail.com for more info. Watch this space for a future Open Tower event where you can negotiate the narrow spiral staircase and see the bells for yourself. In the meantime, enjoy hearing them ring out.

Please welcome our new Churchwarden, Sarah Norris, who lives in Overton but worships regularly in our parish. Many thanks to Diana Goodwin who has fulfilled this role for several years but wishes to step down.

Pride and Prejudice comes to St Nicholas on Thursday 14th August at 7pm. Tickets available from thisismytheatre.com. Make this a community event and bring a picnic. It will be fun.

Brenda Bond, Churchwarden

- **Planning**

Ref: 25/01038/ADV, The Bombay Sapphire Distillery. Proposal: Display of 2 no. internally illuminated entrance signage totems to replace existing at entrance gate. Amended plan.

Ref: T/00253/25/TCA. Location: Manor Cottages, London Road, Freefolk. Proposal: T1 Cupressus Elwoodii - Fell - storm damaged and collapsed.

- L&F Priorities for the Year
- Review of fees charged for LRH hire
- Book Exchange
- Proposal to move PC Meeting to 3rd Tues of Month

As usual proceedings start at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall.



Nature Recovery Strategy - views needed

HCC have just launched a 6 week public consultation on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire.

You are invited to have your say on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire, until Mon 23 June. It can be



Hardy's at Whitchurch Open Gardens 22 June

We never thought we'd hear ourselves say in May at Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants 'Where's the rain?'. It has been one of the driest May's on record. We've had a couple of thunder storms but they haven't been enough to soak the pots. That's where our sprinkler system comes into its own - you just don't want to be too near any of them when it gets switched on!

The team is busy propagating and potting up stock for selling later on in the year. This, together with we've got for sale now, means the nursery is bursting with colour.

We've had Ralphie, a student from Sparsholt College complete his work experience here during May. It was a joy to work with him and hopefully he has some fond memories of us.

The weather was perfect at Chelsea and we were delighted that all 3 designers, to whom we supplied perennials, were awarded either golds or silver guilts. You may have seen their show gardens on the television during the week without realising the plants were from just down

viewed at [Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire](#) | [About the Council](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of plans for nature recovery covering the whole of England. They are a key mechanism for planning and delivering the National Nature Recovery Network.

The Hants. plan has been made in partnership with key local partners, a wide range of experts, stakeholders, agencies, organisations and communities across the region who are interested in helping to deliver nature recovery. HCC ran 20 workshops with over 450 attendees and ran an online survey which had over 1,500 responses to help craft the strategy.

[Survey Link](#)



Archery season in full swing

It's been a busy month for the Archers with many members taking part in competitions. Steve Allam is once again the British Field Archery Champion in the Traditional Bow style, Warren member Ollie Hicks is the Barebow Field Champion and Ed Pockett won gold at the Welsh 3D Championships. Well done all.

On 26th May we ran a club competition for our members and Steve Baker, Paul Harding, Ed Mossop and Lilly won their groups.

the road!! We also had designers turn up very last minute from different areas of the country, looking for stock to 'fill the gaps' - knowing they could rely on us to accommodate them.

Whitchurch Silk Mill Open Gardens event is being held on Sun 22 June when various gardens in the town will be open for viewing. We know they will be stunning, and it will be a delight to spend an afternoon walking around them getting some ideas. Attendees will be given a leaflet that will entitle them to 10% off any plants they buy here on the day.



Basingstoke Festival 20 June - 6 July

The award-winning free annual celebration of art, culture, heritage, community and outdoor arts returns to Basingstoke from Friday 20 June to Sunday 6 July.

Produced by B&D Borough Council, free performances will pop-up in Basingstoke town centre and other locations across the borough.

An opening parade, on Friday 20 June, sets the scene for this year's festival which has a sustainability and inclusivity theme. There'll be new acts and some familiar festival favourites that will explore environmental and nature in their shows - 'blooming' with fun, energy and the weird, the wacky and the wonderful!

Our latest beginners course also finished this month with 18 new archers completing the course. We continue to make best use of the range at Laverstoke and are planning a maintenance day on the 7th June.

If you are interested in OvBA please follow facebook.com/overtonblackarrows or visit overtonblackarrows.org



News from Kingfisher Day Centre

At the Day Centre we are looking forward to our next coffee afternoon on Friday 6 June and will be welcoming past and current families.

We will also be taking part in the St Mary Bourne flower show and fete this year to be held on Sat 26 July from 12.30pm. It would be lovely if you could come and join us and show support. We'll be providing a few games, crafts and fun for the children and families of those attending. We are hoping to use this opportunity to raise funds for our charity as well as spread the word about the wonderful team and setting we have and provide for our club members.

Carolyn & all the Kingfisher team

A green 'eco-zone' will give audiences a chance to get involved in activities that promote kindness to the planet, including a show from environmentalist Junk Jodie. Other performances include the premieres of Autin Dance Theatre's outdoor aerial dance spectacle and Simple Cypher's fusion hip hop dance performance. Tit for Tat brings their visually spectacular show Now I Am Become/Deaf (Destroyer of Words). Harvey Juggling, a 16-year-old award-winning street performer and Farm Yard Circus features acrobatics and hay bale juggling, old time tunes and raucous rhythms.

For more information & how to take part, visit BasingstokeFestival.co.uk or [@BasingstokeFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeFestival) on Facebook and [@BstokeFestival](https://www.instagram.com/BstokeFestival) on Instagram.



Summer cinema returns to Laverstoke!

Summer Cinema Nights are back at Bombay Sapphire Distillery! Our popular cinema nights return with one screening each month from June to September, hosted in the comfort of our unique Sapphire Cinema. Each ticket includes a refreshing Bombay Sapphire gin and tonic, along with complimentary sweets and popcorn to enjoy during the film. A perfect way to spend a summer evening! See what's showing and book your tickets online today - bombaysapphire.com/distillery

Jane Austen's
Pride & Prejudice
 **FREEFOLK**
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH
14th August, 7pm
Tickets: thisismytheatre.com
07732 253311 | info@thisismytheatre.com

THIS MY THEATRE
In association with...



Parish Council

PC Meetings

Next meeting dates:

3 Jun
8 Jul tbc
16 Sep tbc

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 people



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
(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](#)



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
Andrew White
Julia Chedghey
Jayne Hudson
Alice MacGinnis
Simon Albert

on: laverstokeclerk@gmail.com

Borough Councillors:

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 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](#)

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Chloe Ashfield

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County Councillor:

Juliet Henderson

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