

# Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

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## March 2021

With the continuing lockdown and terrible weather, several villagers have been putting pen to paper to produce some informative and interesting articles on a range of subjects from swans and garden birds, to the development of international trade during the Iron Age. A big success story is the acquisition by Longparish villagers of their very own pub, The Plough Inn. Coming up on 3<sup>rd</sup> March is a webinar in which everyone can have their say on the management of Cow Common. What a long and miserable winter it's been, but whatever the weather's like when you read this, it can only get better from now on.

*Tessa Youell*

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team Lesley Chin, Anna Cockram and Tessa Youell, supported by Tim Whiteside our 'What's On' Coordinator and Stephen Macdonald our Chairman.

**This month, the magazine is being distributed by the Webmaster in digital (PDF) format, because during Lockdown-3 blanket doorstep delivery is not possible. If you know of a neighbour who is without a computer and who would benefit from receiving a printed copy, please email details to [chilboltonandwherwell@gmail.com](mailto:chilboltonandwherwell@gmail.com). A small number of magazines will also be available from Chilbolton Shop.**

We are a group of volunteers supporting our community. To help us please submit your copy to **[cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk) no later than the 10th of the month** for inclusion in the following month's magazine. It is important that your articles are submitted in MS Word using an A5 template and font Times New Roman size 11. For adverts for local events, please keep to half of an A5 page and please don't create any fancy formatting as this causes setting problems - MS Word text with clip art inside a border is fine.

If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Magazine Chairman, Stephen MacDonald, on 01264 860246 to arrange for your article to be typed by one of the team.

*The editors reserve the right to omit, amend or condense any item submitted for publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily shared by the editors or the magazine team. Any article printed in this magazine may be reproduced on the Chilbolton or Wherwell websites. Contributors who do not wish their material to be published on the village websites must specify this at the time they submit their article.*

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**Church Matters**  
**The Downs Benefice**  
**The Reverend Jax Machin, Rector**



The Rectory, Church Lane, Littleton, SO22 6QY  
email: [revdjax@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:revdjax@downsbenefice.org.uk)

**Benefice Administrators**

Caroline McAulay

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The Benefice Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

**ST PETER AND HOLY CROSS, WHERWELL**

Churchwarden	Pam Prince	4 Manor Cottages, Fullerton	01264 860 441 <a href="mailto:w.prince04@tiscali.co.uk">w.prince04@tiscali.co.uk</a>
PCC Treasurer	Nigel Waters	Bramshill, Fullerton Road Wherwell, SP11 7JS	01264 861 326 <a href="mailto:nigel.waters@sky.com">nigel.waters@sky.com</a>

**ST MARY THE LESS, CHILBOLTON**

Churchwarden	position vacant		
PCC Secretary	Wendy Fakes	<a href="mailto:wendyandrews875@btinternet.com">wendyandrews875@btinternet.com</a>	01264 860 237
PCC Treasurer	Michael Payne	<a href="mailto:michael@mjpayne.f9.co.uk">michael@mjpayne.f9.co.uk</a>	01264 860 296

**Benefice Morning Prayer comes into your home**

Tuesdays at 9:30am on Zoom.

Come and join us!

If you would like to join us for this short service please call on 01962 880 845 or send an email to the

Benefice Office

We can then get in touch with you, sending you a copy of the service and the link to Zoom.

**Dear Friends,**

***'I tell you, there is more joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.'* (Luke 15: 7)**

As we journey through the first anniversary of Lockdown, I still find it incomprehensible that some folks genuinely believe the Pandemic to be ‘fake news.’ It doesn’t seem possible that some see Coronavirus as nothing more than a conspiracy of global governments to suppress and control the peoples of our world. Yet such conspiracy theories *do* exist! Perhaps accepting the horrific reality of this current situation is simply too harrowing for them to comprehend? My prayers are with them, though I have to say my heart is even closer to all those who have had to sit helplessly as their loved ones die in hospitals and care homes: The Coronavirus denying *this* group of people the ability to be with those they love at the end of their lives.

The outrage of society to Pandemic deniers is, perhaps, akin to the pain which people of faith feel when they are vilified by those who do not believe in the existence of God? This thought has come to me as I listen to the heart-breaking story of a man who has been notoriously outspoken against the existence of Coronavirus – that is, until his beloved wife has now sadly died from the virus. From his own hospital bed, where he too is being treated for COVID-19, he has shared his sorrow for the pain his denial has caused; both to sufferers and their families as much as to those who are risking their lives to care for them.

During Lent, as we make time to open our hearts to allow Jesus Christ to dwell in us more deeply, so we must give thanks to God for this man’s courage to seek forgiveness from the community he has wronged. Jesus uses a parable about a lost coin to tell us about the rejoicing there will be among the angels of heaven for one such small act of repentance. In accepting his mistaken actions and beliefs and in seeking to put things right, most likely because of seeing the evidence of Coronavirus reflected back from his sick wife, this repentant man has found the grace to allow the light of truth to shine through even this seemingly impenetrable situation.

It is in these dark places of our human condition where we find the much vilified Christ at work. We know from Luke’s parable how God rejoices over each repentant sinner. Yet, through Jesus’ very presence among the ‘tax collectors and other notorious sinners’ (Luke 15: 1) we are given the vision to see how God loves us all SO much that He sends His beloved Son to come and *search* for us. It isn’t enough for God to wait for us to come and *find* Him. Instead, He comes out from Heaven to tenderly bless us with Jesus, ‘the way, the truth and the life,’ (John 14: 6); knowing all too well the death to which our worldly denial of Him will lead.

So, this Lent, let us not look for the sins of others; we can leave our loving Father to worry about those. Let us pledge instead to behave like the angels, radiating Jesus' concern for the lost and the weak, the lonely and the poor. Maybe in this way, those who deny the presence of Christ will be able to experience His incontrovertible truth for themselves, as they see our Saviour reflected back in the way we serve through His extraordinary love. Then there will be joy in heaven!

Yours in the searching grace of the Lord,

*Jax*

*Revd Jax Machin, Rector of The Downs Benefice*

### **Prayer**

Behold, O Kind and Most Sweet Jesus,  
I fall upon my knees in Thy sight,  
and with the most fervent desire of my soul,  
I pray and beseech Thee,  
to impress upon my heart  
lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity,  
with true repentance for my sins,  
and a firm desire of amendment.  
Whilst with deep affection and grief of soul,  
I ponder within myself and contemplate  
Thy five most precious wounds,  
having before my eyes that which David the prophet spoke,  
O Good Jesus: 'They have pierced my hands and feet,  
they have numbered all my bones'. Amen.

\*

### **Church closure**

Owing to Coronavirus restrictions, we are not able to safely open our churches at the moment. This is being reviewed on a weekly basis so for the most up-to-date information please check our website:

[www.downsbenefice.org.uk](http://www.downsbenefice.org.uk)

or contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845

or [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk)

## ALL ABOUT WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day is a **charity** on a mission to help change children's lives by making reading together and reading for pleasure a habit for life. World Book Day is a **celebration of reading**, authors, illustrators and books. It's designated by **UNESCO** as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

World Book Day will be held on **Thursday 4 March 2021** and is going ahead despite the current pandemic

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator for success in life, more than family circumstances, educational background, or income (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development). Sharing stories together for just ten minutes a day will encourage a love of reading and it's fun for everyone! You can read together anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime! In the park, on the train, on the sofa, on a plane – reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time.

Things may feel a bit different this year, but everyone has worked hard to make sure children can still get their £1 books and there are still plenty of ways to mark the day at home or at school. Take a look at the '50 Simple World Book Day Ideas for Schools' which we've updated for lockdown. This year, World Book Day are rolling out an online programme of events, including YouTube readings featuring this year's authors, from 1st February up to WBD itself on Thursday 4th March. You can find all the events and tutorials on the 'Authors & Illustrators Academy' on their website, along with activity sheets and discussion guides.

From 3rd to 5th March, there will also be a "**Share a Story Live**" events programme with the WBD authors and illustrators, as well as other well-known faces. You can join in too by posting photos of your family or class sharing a story together on social media.

Use these resources to share stories **at home** or in **schools, nurseries, bookshops and libraries**:

- **fun resources** including activity sheets, lesson plans and discussion guides for Nursery, Primary & Secondary
- **FREE audiobooks** for all ages (available until 30th September)
- **videos on their YouTube channel** including stories for under 5s and masterclasses from some of your favourite authors and illustrators,
- the **top 100 Stories to Share** – voted for by the nation.

The World Book Day organisation will be working with schools and nurseries to distribute the £1 tokens with a **new single-use digital version** that can be printed at home or displayed on a phone. You can register for the digital token from the 1st February and it can be used from Thursday 18th February to Saturday 28th March (some retailers will accept the tokens beyond this date). You can find out more details over on the World Book Day website. Go on line and see which book you'd like to get with your World Book Day token and there are plenty of ideas and resources for World Book Day activities over on the official World Book Day website: [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com).

**World Book Day aims to achieve the following for children and young people:**

- World Book Day makes sure every child in the UK & Ireland has a book of their very own (sometimes their first)
- Spending just 10 minutes a day reading with a child makes a big difference to their future success
- Discover reading for pleasure! World Book Day makes books and reading a fun part of every child's day
- Talk about books together: read with your friends and family to make books more fun, memorable and magic

*Anna Cockram*

### Coronavirus Support Group - Wherwell

Just a reminder to all residents in Wherwell that our volunteers are still active and would love to help if you need anything including pick-ups (prescriptions or shopping), dog walking, a lift to a vaccination centre or anything else that will make lockdown easier for you. Please call us on **01264 860060**.



## **Swan Watch**

Magical, mystical, marvellous swans! Who hasn't thrilled to see them gliding along with wings partially raised like sails. Even more of a delight if the bright eyed, fluffy grey heads of cygnets are peeping out from under those wings.

Since we moved here, 26 years ago, there has been a big decline in the swan and duck population on the Wherwell section of the river. Although this might be expected in spring and summer when nesting swans will drive off interlopers, sadly, the decline is all year round. In our early days we used to cross the Long Bridge onto the Common, turn right and walk across to the far corner, downriver of Frelands house. In the winter, there would often be in excess of thirty swans there. Once, on a frosty morning, just before Christmas, there were "seven swans a swimming" by the Long Bridge. Alas no more!



A pair used to nest on the "island" to the right of the Long Bridge, when crossing from Wherwell to the Common, but that has long since ceased. There are still a pair of swans who frequent the river between Mill Lane and the Long Bridge. Some lucky residents in Fullerton Road can enjoy a prime view of them gliding gracefully past the bottom of their gardens.

Whooper and Bewick swans are winter migrants whereas Mute swans live here all the year round. They are said to have been introduced about 1,000 years ago, reputedly by Richard the Lionheart (during a break from his crusading, no doubt) although many ornithologists think they were here long before then.

In the middle ages, swans were a delicacy enjoyed at opulent feasts. They were also a prestigious status symbol as only the wealthiest families could afford the licences to own them. There was an elaborate system of nicks in beaks which established ownership. In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century licences were granted

to The Worshipful Companies of the Vintners and of the Dyers, two ancient trade guilds. They still claim their birds annually in the Swan Upping tradition on the Thames although, thankfully, for the swans, they are marked by leg rings now, not beak nicks. All unmarked wild swans are the property of the Crown. Nowadays this prerogative is exercised only on a stretch of the River Thames where, during Swan Upping, swans are counted by the Queen's Swan Warden as a means of keeping track of the swan population and the health of the River.

As a young child, going to feed the swans on The Thames at Windsor was quite a treat and it was also one my children enjoyed. I used to live near a meandering tributary of the Thames and my friend and I watched a pair of swans, nest and raise their family in the same place year after year. It's through those swans that I learnt they don't always pair for life. One year the male swan was displaced by a (presumably) younger, more virile model. It was so sad to see the discarded male hang around for weeks (safely downstream!) whilst his faithless mate and her new beau appropriated the nest. It wasn't until their cygnets hatched that he finally gave up and disappeared. However, as a rule they do stay together until one dies.

Mute swans eat aquatic vegetation, worms and small molluscs, they also graze on grass. Adults have that beautiful white plumage that glistens in the sun and orange beaks topped by a black knob at the base of their beaks. The females are known as Pens. Males (known as Cobs) are generally larger and have darker orange beaks and a larger knob. Their lovely courtship dance, with an elegant weaving of their necks, is said to have been the inspiration for the Swan Lake ballet.

Although normally peaceful and placid, swans are extremely protective of their nests and young and will defend them fiercely. The female can lay up to 10 eggs, although they might not all survive. Eight is the maximum number of cygnets I've seen in one family – but not locally. The eggs can take 2-3 weeks to be laid and the serious sitting commences thereafter. The cygnets hatch after 6 weeks and are covered in fluffy grey down which is gradually displaced by brownish grey feathers as the summer progresses. Whilst small they are often snuggled safely on a parent's back, shielded by their wings. They might leave their parents in the Autumn or sometimes they stay with them throughout the winter and then get driven off in the Spring. Young swans usually congregate in flocks until they reach maturity at 3-4 years of age when they pair off and start their more solitary lives together. If left in peace, they can live to about 12 years in the wild and up to 30 in a protected environment.

Swans are graceful and agile in the water but slow and clumsy on land. When flying, they can crash land onto a stretch of road instead of a waterway, sometimes leading to fatal injury. Overhead cables are also a

cause of mortality. Other threats include foxes, mink, herons and crows (who'll take young cygnets) and, of course, our society: Vandalism, uncontrolled dogs, discarded fishing tackle, pylons, bridges, pollution and loss of habitat are all hazards for swans.

The Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton, is a dedicated swan rescue (Tel 01932 240790) and Wiltshire Wildlife Rescue in Newton Tony (Tel 0785 0778752) also offer help and advice.

Like all wild birds, swans are protected by the Countryside and Wildlife Act of 1981. It is a criminal offence to kill, injure or take them or to interfere with nests or eggs. If you see anything suspicious please report it. Swans are an iconic part of our waterways. We don't want to lose them.

*Pam Flanagan*

Sources: RSPB [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

The Swan Sanctuary [www.theswansanctuary.org.uk](http://www.theswansanctuary.org.uk)

“The fascinating Regal History behind Britain’s Swans,”  
by Emily Cleaver, Smithsonianmag.com, 31.7.2017

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### HOW WILL YOUR GARDEN GROW?

  
Last year many people got a lot of pleasure tending their gardens. The garden became a refuge, a place to enjoy and to start new projects. A place to escape the boredom of lockdown and to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables. Hopefully the urge to grow is still there and gardens this year will be as full of flowers and the harvest will be even better.



To achieve all this, now is the time to plan. Spring is starting to arrive, the days are getting longer, the birds are singing and the plants are growing. If you are planning to sow seeds, March is the time for early flower and vegetable sowing. Look on the packet for hardy varieties and don't be tempted to sow things too early as we do get late frosts. Prepare the ground where you will be putting your new plants, getting rid of weeds.

Visit the garden centre and be tempted to buy plants such as roses and herbaceous perennials to give colour and scent all summer. Plant your early potatoes, making sure you earth them up as soon as they peep through the soil to protect from frost. Start early salad crops, remembering tomatoes and cucumbers need a warm greenhouse and cannot be planted outside until frosts have passed. Most important of all is to grow plants which give you pleasure and plants you like to eat.

The butterflies were great last year and the insects attracted to the wildflower patches around the villages showed it was all worthwhile. Do carry on with the good work this year. Wishing everyone a happy and successful gardening year

*Jenny Seddon*

## Chilbolton Parish Council launches Community Fund



According to Hampshire Live, Chilbolton is already one of the most desirable places to live in the country - but we are not resting on our laurels. Chilbolton Parish Council (CPC) is keen to ensure we continue to invest in our village and its amenities for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

To build up our resources to do this without large increases in council tax, CPC has launched the Chilbolton Community Fund, specifically focused on raising money for projects within the parish. The fund aims to raise £60,000 over the next two years through grants and support funds, corporate sponsorship and a programme of community fundraising events. These funds will be used to enhance the facilities around the village, at the War Memorial Playing Fields and the Village Hall, as well as contributing to bigger projects funded from our local councils such as a new footbridge to the Mayfly pub.

We're also looking for Chilbolton residents to join in the fun and be part of the team. If you have relevant skills, great contacts or just bags of enthusiasm, we'd love you and your family to get involved. We'll run some virtual events to get things started, then as we emerge from lockdown, we hope to reinvigorate existing activities such as Chilfest and drive new ones too.

We are off to a great start. You can't have missed the TV crew and filming that took place around the Observatory back in December. The company behind that have made a generous donation to help us launch the fund and get things under way and that's just the beginning. We are up and running and look forward to keeping you regularly posted through the magazine and the Village Webmaster mails.

A few people have already put their hand up to be involved and to share your ideas or join the team just contact me and let us know. What better way to banish the Covid blues and build an even better Chilbolton!

*David Hall, Chilbolton Parish Council*  
davidihallld@gmail.com 07813-455069

## The Plough Inn - Longparish



*Christian Dryden (chair of Longparish Parish Council) who is now the proud new owner - handed over the keys to Andy Jolliffe (chair of Longparish Community Pub Limited) who have taken on a 99-year lease.*

**Sale completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021  
Longparish community now owns a pub.  
240 subscribers to the Community Shares Offer  
raises £330,000.**

The Management Committee for Longparish Community Pub Limited issued the following statement: “The village is now the proud owner of its own pub, which just couldn’t have happened without support from 240 subscribers to the Community Shares Offer **and** without the enthusiastic support of the Parish Council, which will legally own the pub, while the LCPL takes out a long-term lease to maintain and run it.”

“The next step is to focus all our energies and attention on getting The Plough open this summer. We already have a list of priorities which includes roof repairs and sorting out the heating and electricity. Plans will need to be drawn up in order to apply for planning permission, where required, for works on the building and the tree works in the grounds.”

“We are delighted that several local professionals have already stepped forward to offer their expertise with design for both the pub and outside areas. Most recently we have also been offered some excellent refurbished kitchen equipment from a company that fits and services professional kitchens. There is still lots of work to do. In the coming months we will need a team of volunteers to help with clearing the garden, building fences, decorating inside and out, and many other tasks that need to be completed so we can renovate and reopen the Plough. Offers of help can be made by visiting <https://www.ploughahead.co.uk/support-us>

*Longparish Plough Ahead*

## **Community News.....**

### **Mayfly Bridge Project**

Chilbolton Parish Council is starting a fund-raising project to reinstate the old bridge across the River Test that was in place 100 years ago at the time of the old Sprat and Winkle line. The plan, if approved, will be to connect the Test Way with a footpath leading to a new bridge following the line of the old barrage and sluice gates and then another short footpath across the island to connect to the existing footbridge next to the grounds of The Mayfly pub.

It has been recognised for a long time that the junction of Coley Lane with the A3057 Andover to Stockbridge road including the narrow bridge crossing The River Test is an extremely hazardous one for pedestrians, children and dogs, cyclists and horse riders. There is no direct access to the Mayfly Pub or The Test Way and other walks, other than by negotiating the narrow bridge and the often very heavy traffic.

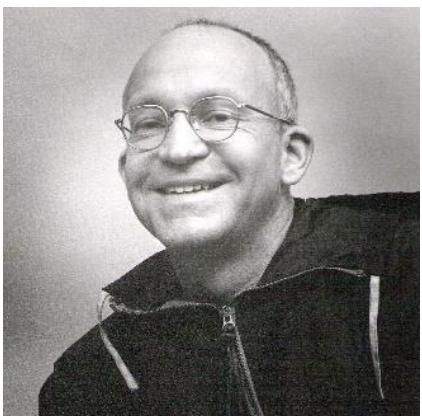
We are getting quotes from local companies who could build the bridge and we need your help! The Parish Council are committed to using some of its reserves towards the project and grants from various sources will be available. We will need to fund raise and look to other local companies and organisations for possible donations. By registering a ‘like’ on our Facebook page you will be furthering the cause! These responses will all add weight to our planning application and help to bring the project to the public’s attention.

To register your ‘like’ now, search for our ‘Mayfly Bridge Project 2021’ page on Facebook.

*Sue Larcombe,  
Chilbolton Parish Council*

## A Journey to Wherwell

by William Edward Osgood



*Book, so it is not unreasonable to imagine that Bill's sense of place went back well before 1638!*

I have always been interested in ROOTS: long tenacious taproots reaching back into antiquity. Yes – even to the time when my forebears munched reindeer meat by the firelight (“I’ll have mine rare dear, if you please.”) and the flickering light cast long shadows on the cavern walls hinting at strange designs.

However, 1638 is the limit of my researches. In that year John and Sarah Osgood, with one or more children, packed up and left Wherwell (variously pronounced locally as “Hurrell” or “Whurell”). They boarded the ship Confidence at Southampton and set out for an uncertain future in the New World. They probably left England because of religious persecution at the time. For that reason, and in the span of a decade, over twenty thousand English men, women and children left their homes to settle in the vicinity of Massachusetts Bay.

But here we are in the Brave New World of 1984. A lot has happened since 1638. John and Sarah founded a sturdy line of New England Yankees. Some of their descendants forsook the cause of rebellion and settled in Lower Canada’s Eastern Townships. My paternal grandparents, Benjamin Edward and Matilda (Dawson) Osgood brought their family back to New England.

And now, on this my first visit to England, on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, I, William Edward Osgood, aged fifty-eight, will set foot in Wherwell again (sic). It happened like this. Thelma, her mother and I were visiting John and Pam Woods at their home, Elm Farm, Landford, Wiltshire. John drove us

around the Wiltshire and Hampshire countryside in his Volvo station wagon. We arrived in Wherwell shortly after noon and stopped at the White Lion for refreshment. I had with me a snapshot which was sent to me by a distant cousin, Weldon D. Osgood of O'Fallon, Illinois. On the back of the photo is typed, "English farmhouse home of John Osgood (1595-1651) that came over here in 1638. It is a lovely farm home along the River Test (best trout fishing in England), in the small town of Wherwell, Hampshire, England."

While we were at the White Lion, John and I made enquiries of the publican as to the likelihood of our finding the house shown on the photo. He scanned it carefully and suggested a place somewhat further along the road and slightly outside the village. We drove there but the house didn't quite match the photo. John knocked at the door. A large-boned woman answered and John showed her the photo. "Oh," she said, "that's Fullerton." She went on to explain that Fullerton is a place near Wherwell just a short distance downstream the River Test. So, we headed back, but first John suggested we visit Wherwell Priory, and near there happened one of the most amazing episodes of my life.

There is a lane leading to the Priory. Neat, thatched cottages cluster along the lane. Right in the midst of these is a narrow bridge crossing the Test. As we crossed that bridge and as I looked at the river, I had a startling flash of *déjà-vu*. But this wasn't the usual *déjà-vu*. No, indeed. This image has its origins in a recurrent dream I've had over the years. The dream is of a cluster of cottages near a bridge crossing a stream whose water is of the utmost clarity. Trees overhang the banks. Water weeds swirl sinuously in the fast-moving water. I know this sounds unreal, but could it be that we somehow inherit consciousness from our ancestors. That John and Sarah carried with them to the New World a certain image in their minds? An idyllic scene from their homeland that they loved so well? And in the difficult days along the sere and rockbound coast of their new home they often called up this image to comfort them?

Well, enough of fantasy. The business at hand is to track down Fullerton. It is indeed only 1.5 km. from *Déjà-vu* Bridge. When we found the place, all agreed that it is definitely the same as the house pictured in the snapshot. The property in question apparently belongs now to Major C.H. Liddell who is listed in the current Southampton telephone directory as "Frmr" (Chilbolton 242) "Fullerton Gnge."

John and I entered the gate and rang the doorbell but no one answered. Then I walked back onto the road to take another photograph of the side of the house. There is a tree of substantial girth there. It pleased me to think that it was a sapling set out by John and Sarah before they left their home.

Meanwhile, a youngster of eight or nine watched these proceedings with interest. I stepped over and said I was curious about the house because ...

“Were his parents at home? No, my father milks the cows here. Will they be back soon? Don’t know. Well, here is my card. It’s a nice place here, don’t you think? Yup, he said, Guess so.”

PS. Ever since I visited Wherwell I have never had that dream again.  
(December 1985)

## The Hampshire Solar Together Scheme

**Group-buying for solar panels and battery storage: better offers together.**



This new scheme, which launched on 15<sup>th</sup> February, brings Hampshire homeowners and small-to-medium sized enterprises, together to get high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage at a competitive price.

**Hampshire County Council** is working with independent and trusted experts, **iChoosr**, to help make the switch to clean energy as cost effective and easy as possible, helping you through the process and keeping you informed at every stage. **iChoosr** has a good track record of working with Hampshire residents and conducting competitive energy price auctions twice a year.

If you already have solar panels, you can register to have battery storage added to maximise the benefits of your system. Simply select this option when registering.

### How to register?

Visit <https://solartogether.co.uk/hampshire/landing>

## How does it work?

1. **Registration:** you can register before 23 March 2021 for free and without obligation. Simply provide details about your roof, such as its size and orientation.
2. **Auction:** a supplier ‘auction’ will be held on 23 March, when our approved solar suppliers will bid for the work. The supplier with the lowest price wins and it usually favours local suppliers too. The more people that register, the better the deal should be for each household!
3. **Personal recommendation:** from 22 April you will be contacted with a personal recommendation, based on the specifications of your roof. This includes your costs and specification of your solar panel installation.
4. **You decide:** the decision is then yours as to whether you want to accept your recommendation. **There is no obligation to continue.** You will have until 21 May to decide and will be invited to visit an information session.
5. **Installation:** if you accept, the winning supplier will contact you to survey your roof and set an installation date. All installations are planned to be completed by the end of October 2021.



A scheme to help Hampshire residents save on their energy bills and lower their carbon footprint at the same time.

Questions can be answered here:

Website : [www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange/whatarewedoing](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange/whatarewedoing) and following the link to ‘Community projects’ then ‘Solar Together Hampshire’

Email: [hampshire@solartogether.co.uk](mailto:hampshire@solartogether.co.uk)

Call: 0800 098 8415 (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm)

## CHILBOLTON REFERENDUM

The Local elections will take place in May and our **Chilbolton Neighbourhood Plan REFERENDUM** will take place at the same time.

Your Neighbourhood Plan team of some 20 local people spent thousands of hours on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please **VOTE YES** so that the Neighbourhood Plan can be formally adopted and form a vital part of local planning policy.

The Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Chilbolton website.

*Tony Ewer*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PARISH OF CHILBOLTON

2019 - 2029



OUR PARISH IN BALANCE FOR THE FUTURE



## Test Valley Walk - Stockbridge Circular

A circular walk from Stockbridge via Houghton

**Start/finish:** St Peter's Church, Stockbridge (SU355351). Roadside parking all along High Street on both sides. Bus stop in front of church.

**Distance:** Eight miles (13km) **Time:** Four hours

Map: OS Explorer 131.

**Terrain:** Downland tracks and paths, old railway line track, riverside grassland, roadside pavements. After initial ascent at start, gently undulating terrain, then downhill and back along the valley.

**1.** With your back to the church, **turn right/west** along High Street/A30 soon crossing the River Test. Carry on up the pavement alongside the main road, pass a turn on the left for the school and as the road bears right turn left into a no-through road called Roman Road. Keep ahead at the end to continue along a restricted byway up Meon Hill, joining an access road for a short distance. When this curves right to the A30 keep ahead along a path soon meeting the A30. Carry on alongside it for about 150m.

**2. Turn left** along a byway beside West Lodge and follow this for a mile to a minor road. Turn left along the byway – the right hand track of the two (the other is for a solar farm) – and follow this south for a little under a mile to a junction where there is a bench on the left.

**3. Turn left** along this grassy track for a quarter-mile, then turn left onto a footpath through a gap in the hedge over a stile. The path soon turns right along a field edge (hedge on left) and joins a farm track/access road. When this turns left, keep ahead along the grassy field edge path. Turn left at the next junction to the 12th century All Saints Church at Houghton. Carry on down to the road, with the Boot Inn opposite. Houghton Lodge Gardens, where there is a tea room, half-a-mile along the road to the north is worth visiting, but the road can be busy, and the bend in the road makes it unsuitable for walking.

**4. Turn right** along the pavement through the village for just under half a mile, then left along the footpath to the River Test, the clear spring-fed water crossed by a footbridge: a beautiful spot. Continue to another footbridge crossing Park Stream, soon after this reaching the Test Way.

**5. Turn left** along the Test Way which here follows the old track bed of the former Sprat and Winkle railway, as the Andover to Redbridge line was known – it was closed in 1967. Continue for just over 2km/one mile.

**6. Leave the Test Way** and go through a gate into National Trust-owned land, Common Marsh. Bear round to the left and then right to walk alongside Marshcourt River, one of the channels of the River Test. Go through another gate and across a footbridge and continue along the path that leads back to Stockbridge High Street, turning left back to the church.

*Anna Cockram*

## Wessex River Trust

Clare and James Hogg wish to publicise an exciting proposal concerning the river Test through Wherwell.

Wessex River Trust have been granted funds in order to restore our chalk rivers and they have offered to undertake restoration work on the stretch of the river which runs through our land. The intention is to reverse the steady decline in both the habitat for and the numbers of wild fish, water voles and all sorts of fly life such as dragonflies, damselflies as well as the famous mayfly. The Wessex River Trust proposes to carry out the work over a number of years. The first step is planned for the stretch of river which flows through the village downstream from Church Street and then along the gardens which lead from Fullerton Road down to the river. A drawing of the work which they have proposed together with a brochure which sets out the benefits of this work is available to read on the Community website here: Wessex Rivers Trust ([www.chilboltonandwherwell.info](http://www.chilboltonandwherwell.info))

The work will be carried out primarily on the north bank of the river in order to create a marginal fringe along the edge of the gardens. There should be a significant net benefit to us all. The work is currently planned for October and November 2021. These are the only months in the year when such work can take place."

If you have any questions, or would like any further details, please contact Michael Taplin – email [michaeltaplin.mt@googlemail.com](mailto:michaeltaplin.mt@googlemail.com)

### Diary Dates

#### **March\***

<b>3</b>	Cow Common Webinar	7pm
<b>4</b>	World Book Day	
<b>19</b>	WHG talk on the Civil War around the Meon Valley	8pm,
<b>21</b>	Census Day Lent talks each Thursday throughout this month	7pm

#### **Chilbolton PC Meeting dates in March**

<b>1</b>	Planning	6pm-6.30
	CPC	6.30pm-8.30
<b>11</b>	COSC	6.30pm
<b>15</b>	Planning	6pm-6.30

\*See articles in the magazine for more information

## WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – March

With so many restrictions as to what we can do and where we can go, "What's on" is mainly online activities. Please make your own enquiries and pre-booking for any event is essential.

(information accurate at the time of writing)

Sun 7th 10 – 1pm	Romsey Farmers' Market - The Alma Road Car Park becomes a vibrant centre of activity on these Sunday mornings with over thirty stallholder producers attending regularly selling meat, eggs, cheese, cakes, wine, cider, bread, honey, jams and pickles, fresh and smoked fish, fresh fruits and vegetables, plants & shrubs
The Great Big Art Exhibition	Fantastic countrywide project to get involved in. Sign up to receive your pack full of inspiration - <a href="http://www.firstsite.uk">www.firstsite.uk</a> (27 page instant download)
Online Church Services	<a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/plough-sunday">https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/plough-sunday</a>
BBC Bitesize	Use BBC Bitesize to help with your homework, revision and learning. Find free videos, step-by-step guides, activities and quizzes
Tue 16 – Wed 31	The Picture of Dorian Gray (Watch at Home Event) <a href="https://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/picture-dorian-gray">https://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/picture-dorian-gray</a>
Downloadable Walks	<a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/downloadable-walks-in-hampshire">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/downloadable-walks-in-hampshire</a>

### Farmers' Markets

Winchester - Second and last Sunday of every month 9am -2pm

Andover - Third Sunday of every month (March to December)

Plus... Andover Market for All Seasons – every Friday 8:30am - 1pm



## **Chilbolton Cow Common - Have Your Say Webinar**

**3 March at 7pm**

Chilbolton Parish Council is interested in receiving feedback and your views on the future management of Chilbolton Cow Common.

We had originally hoped to hold a public meeting to set out the challenges and options for future management of the Common. However, it does not seem likely that this will be possible for some time to come so we have decided to try another approach.

We are proposing to hold an online Webinar on 3 March at 7pm setting out the concerns, constraints and options for future management of the Common. Anyone interested, can register to join in by e-mailing [chilbolton.clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chilbolton.clerk@hotmail.co.uk) and we will send details of joining instructions. I hope to be joined by Alison Graham-Smith from Natural England who will be able to talk about the environmental value of the site. Those watching the presentation will be able to post comments and questions which we will try and answer. A recording of the presentation will also be made available to view after the event together with the comments, questions and our responses for others to refer to.

Earlier this year, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, we saw unprecedented numbers of people attending the Common when allowed to do so during lockdown. Although these exceptionally high numbers have gradually declined as restrictions have eased, it is likely that first time visitors to the site are likely to return in future years. Responding to the huge increase in numbers has exacerbated known issues as well as identifying new challenges.

As owner and custodians of Chilbolton Cow Common, the Parish Council is very much focused on balancing its responsibilities in protecting this very special site with maintaining public access. Over the last few years we have become increasingly aware of the ever-growing popularity of the site for families, dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists and ramblers.

### **Current issues of concern include:**

- Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife Habitats;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Access to Car Parking; and
- Traffic Congestion

After the presentation we will be seeking your comments and suggestions.

Further details and a background briefing paper are available from the Chilbolton and Wherwell Village Website [www.chilboltonandwherwell.info](http://www.chilboltonandwherwell.info). Please read this document before attending the Webinar. Online feedback will be available on the website in March.

*David Neudegg Chair, Chilbolton Parish Council*

## Venetian Beads

I usually write short pieces observing what I see from my office window overlooking the Common but this time you are going to have to indulge me as I ponder about Venetian trade beads.

When I first moved to the Old Cottage about two decades ago I started to fly fish along the River Test. On one occasion, not far from here, I remembered a story by Hemingway where the great writer and his brother trudged into the woods around Albany, NY State and dug under an old tree stump to seek whatever might attract fish. So there I was on the river side, and while there were no tree stumps, there was a large flint about the size of the Times newspaper buried alongside the river. I levered it up and found six small pieces of worked flints together with two smaller arrow heads made from flints pierced in the middle and five blue beads. The six larger flints could be made into a box and the smaller items had, I assumed, originally been a necklace. I cleaned the items and put them on the fisherman's table and eventually after much thought put them back into the ground. The reason was that I imaged the large flat stone, the flint, had been an alter and the box had contained offerings to whatever God these ancient men worshipped. Better let lie I thought, it might bring me luck. It didn't.

Now, in the Daily Telegraph this week there was an article about the same type of Venetian beads and polished stones which were found in Alaska on the side of a river, and this seemed to prove that they had been brought to America across the land bridge that existed from Siberia centuries before Columbus arrived in America.

This had me thinking about the existence of the medieval trade routes that were used by ancient man to distribute goods, and I suppose people and animals, across the globe. Trade and commerce in the medieval world developed to such an extent that even relatively small communities had access to weekly markets and, perhaps a day's travel away, larger but less frequent fairs, where the full range of consumer goods of the period was set out to tempt the shopper and small retailer. Markets and fairs were organised by large estate owners, town councils, and some churches and monasteries, who, granted a license to do so by their sovereign, hoped to gain revenue from stall holder fees and boost the local economy.

International trade had been present since well before Roman times but improvements in transport and banking, as well as the economic development of northern Europe caused a boom from the 9th century. English wool, for example, was sent in huge quantities to manufacturers in Flanders, and the Italian cities of Florence and Sienna took half of the raw wool produced in England. The wool was processed and given the *added value* of dyes and good looms by the Tuscans who created woollen goods

that were traded on an industrial scale throughout Europe and as far as Afghanistan and beyond.

The Venetians, thanks to the Crusades, expanded their trade interests to the Byzantine Empire and the Levant and new financial instruments evolved which allowed even small investors to fund the trade expeditions which criss-crossed Europe by sea and land. Credits and Bonds issued by the Banco del Sal, the state bank of Venice enabled commerce to expand all over the Mediterranean and on and through India and the Far East. Then in the east the Chinese had been trading north and through the various kingdoms south towards Australia. The Chinese had developed their agriculture using irrigation and fertilisers since at least 2,000 BC and had become rich. Wealth creates the need for consumer goods and thus, for example Venetian trade beads would have found a ready market across China.

Written history records states and adventurers building fleets of ships to carry what were consumer goods great distances. Large fleets of Chinese trading ships frequently visited African ports and linked up with the Arab fleets that traded around the Arabian seas.

But before all this activity Iron Age Man and beyond were following game trails over great distances. The civilised, relatively established settlements in the Orkneys, yes the Orkneys at the very end of Scotland established finely build stone houses where in the burial chambers elephant ivory was found together with Arab like beads. The Arabs were not directly trading up to the Orkneys but their trade goods were being moved a day's travel at a time wherever people thought they could swap or sell them, and remember the Orkney settlements predated Stonehenge which is dated to 3000 BC.

At or about this time an ancient hunter/trader that the scientists have called *Otzi* was walking from Italy to Austria and was killed. His body was covered by ice and snow and only found in 1991. On careful examination, he was found to have flints from Cornwall, an axe head from Tuscany and arrows cut from wood quite a way from where he was found.





## Chilbolton Pre-School – Learning Through Play

In these truly difficult and worrying times, and after a short closure, we are pleased to say that Pre-School is currently open, albeit with reduced numbers of children and staff.

To minimise the risk of spreading the virus, as many activities as practical have been taking place outside, including bikes and bricks on the patio, parachute and group song games on the astro turf and some fantastic nature walks and treasure hunts around the field.

The children have also been enjoying lots of activities based around some Traditional Tales. Three Little Pigs, lots of amazing textured craft, making pictures of the three houses and decorating with straw, wood and bricks. Story sacks, counting and small world play to promote fine motor skills. The children also enjoyed some junk modelling and made their own homes.

Little Red Riding Hood, another favourite story that the children have loved: a ‘story box’ with ‘spoon characters’, a textured cottage and of course Grandma and the Wolf. This theme provided us with opportunities to talk about creatures who live in the forest, food and picnics, and much more. The children made a marvellous group picture on a roll of wallpaper on the floor. They drew Little Red Riding Hood’s walk through the forest until she reached her Grandma’s cottage, a great example of how children can work and play alongside each other.

Lots of fun sensory play in the messy tray – making cups of tea, mark making in flour, pouring and filling containers, using tweezers to pick up pasta – all fantastic for exploring different textures and materials.

The children celebrated Chinese New Year by grouping together to make a fabulous Chinese dragon which they marched around with and played the musical instruments.

Our popular sensory tray has been turned into a farmyard complete with animals, tractors, mud and straw, a sparkly silver ice rink with mini ice-skaters, an artic landscape with flour snow and polar bears and also noodles and chopsticks. The children can experience and explore new materials and feel different textures whilst playing alongside others.

We are all really hoping that we can reopen our beautiful Forest School as soon as we can. As you all know, this environment is such a magical place for the children to learn whilst having so much fun.

Our future themes will include the books, ‘Rosie’s Walk’, ‘Handa’s Surprise’, ‘Laura’s Star’, and activities to help learning about health eating, our bodies, maths, positional language and space.

Thank you, and on behalf of us all at Chilbolton Pre-School, stay safe.

*Clarey Gibson, Chilbolton Pre-School, 07753378182*



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TURBULO  
*Supported by*

## Wherwell Toll Road



The Romans, who built such splendid roads in this country, had no form of toll charges on their roads, but raised the necessary money by general and what we would term, county rates, so nothing changes! After they left the country, deterioration soon began and by the 17th Century the roads were in a very bad state with enormous pot holes in them, large enough, it was said, to swallow an ox! They had become just muddy cart tracks, virtually impassable in winter. Road making, with good solid foundations as we know it today, did not come into existence until the early 1800's, when the work of Telford's and McAdam's improvements was put into operation. They worked on exactly the same principle as the Roman road builders.

During the time of the great lords of the manor, the lord was responsible for the upkeep of the roads in his area, this included the costs and the labour from his own workforce. This duty later fell on the parish as the power of the manor declined, but the work was still carried out by local people who had no real knowledge of road maintenance. As traffic increased, Parliament decided that something must be done to raise more money and introduced the system of turnpike roads to assist the various parishes maintain their local roads and so Turnpike Trusts were set up by Act of Parliament, whereby investors were invited to lend money on interest usually 4% or 5%.

The very first tollgate was at Wades Mill in 1665, to raise the necessary money for repairs to the very heavily travelled Great North Road. The Trustees themselves, fixed the rate of charges on their particular road and appointed a surveyor, usually a local man, to keep his eye on the repair work. They were also responsible for hiring the necessary labour, although local people were expected to give four days labour a year and local landowners were expected to provide materials such as stones, gravel, sand, free of charge for the upkeep of the road. One duty, the surveyor had to carry out, was to see that people living beside the road did not steal the materials collected for repairs, or dump rubbish on the road!

The Tollgate Keepers were also elected by the Trustees and lived in the houses provided alongside the Gate. They were expected to keep full records of all the tolls paid, so they must have been men able to read and write in an age when many could not?

By 1750, most main roads out of London had been turnpiked and by about 1830 the country, as a whole, had a very extensive network of turnpike roads covering over 20,000 miles controlled by over 1000 trusts and raising about £1½ millions of toll receipts each year. A very substantial sum of money! The County of Hampshire raised £25,813 in the year 1837.

After 1850 the revenue from tolls began to decline owing to the coming of the Railway network, which took on a great deal of the goods traffic, previously handled by road transport. Toll gates were gradually abolished, the last one being in 1895 in North Wales.

The turnpike from Andover to Winchester was governed by the ‘Andover, Winchester and Andover District Trust’ and opened in 1762. It reached from Andover to the present roundabout at the top of Three Maids Hill, where it joined the Winchester to Newbury turnpike road. It covered a distance of 14 miles and included a branch road from Winchester Corner (beech trees) to the Seven Stars public house at Fullerton; here it joined the Chilbolton to Stockbridge road, which was never turnpiked.

There were three gates or bars on the road, the chief one of them being at Wherwell, where the house known as Tollgate Cottage was built for the purpose of accommodating the Keeper. Many toll houses had a set of steps beside the gate to enable the keeper to mount up on a level with the cart drivers and horse riders for the easier acceptance of the toll fee. It would appear that the Wherwell toll house was built up on the bank purposely, for this same reason, as the road is rather narrow at that point and falls sharply away to the river on the other side, allowing room for only the gate itself.

Further along the road in the Winchester direction at Butchers Corner, are the remains of a gravel pit, now very overgrown. This pit was obviously used to provide gravel for the maintenance of the road across the low-lying marshy land between the corner and Wherwell, which must have been very boggy at all times of the year. The local Trustees raised the sum of £594 at 4½% interest but the returns from the tolls were rather poor and it seems that it never really paid its way throughout its hundred years of existence.

Unfortunately, the Trust Records appear to be lost and so it is not possible to list the Trustees but, in all probability, they would have been the local landowners living along the route of the road. Also, the date of closure is not certain but it was still in operation in the 1850s. On the Romsey to Stockbridge road the toll charges (in old money) were 4½d per horse or other beast, presumably oxen, drawing any carriage or cart and 1½d not drawing, in other words, riders. No toll was levied on dog carts or goat carts and

persons were allowed to return toll free, so obviously toll users must have been issued with a ticket which would have to be shown on the return journey. No doubt the tolls at Wherwell were much the same as those above.

A John Smith was the Gate Keeper in 1844 and he was required to pay half-a-crown church tithe fee for the cottage and garden, as his name appears on the Tithe Map record for that year, which covers all the houses in Wherwell and surrounding district.

There are still tolls on two public roads in Hampshire, one on the new Itchen Bridge over the river at Woolston and the other at Eling Causeway, Southampton - a very old toll in use for the upkeep of the causeway damming back the Bartley Creek Water to provide power for the Eling Tide Mill, which has been restored to full working order

J. Morgan

*Footnotes:*

\*\* This article was published 40 years ago in Wherwell Anthology VIII (1981)

\*\* John Morgan (1919-2000) was a prominent figure in the Wherwell community. He moved to Yew Tree Cottage (now Riverside) in 1943 when he married Grace Barnes. They moved to Dancing Ledge in 1956. John was a garden farmer, Churchwarden, Scoutmaster and founder of Andover Creameries. In 1947, he became a life-long member of Wherwell Parish Council. In 1950, he was elected to Andover Rural District Council, which began his career in local government at all levels; district (serving twice as Mayor), borough, county, national and international and which lasted for over 50 years.

\*\* The toll bridges at Woolston and Eling are still in operation today!



For homing, fund raising & volunteer enquiries;  
Telephone: 0345 260 1501 or  
Email: [sylvia.cp@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.cp@outlook.com)  
To view all cats currently up for adoption  
visit [andover.cats.org.uk](http://andover.cats.org.uk)

This fluffy girl is Bronte. She is 3 years old and looking for a home with a safe garden as she likes to be out and about. She will need regular brushing to keep her gorgeous coat in tip top shape. Our feature cat from last month, Suki, went off to her new home a couple weeks ago and has settled in really well.



We don't have many cats available at present but we are still hands free homing when possible. If you are looking to adopt a cat, please get in touch as we can put you on a waiting list.

# Civil War Around the Meon Valley

*Precis of a talk to Wherwell History Group*



The Meon Valley is only about 21 miles long, and there were no set battles within it, but it was part of the ‘war front’ between support for Parliament in the south-east, and mainly for the King in the rest of England. So, the inhabitants, along with much of the country, suffered badly, with loss of life, pillage, taxes and near starvation. Many skirmishes took place around our area. One of the key battles was at Cheriton which was won by Parliament, but with the preparation taking place in the valley, which have left their marks and stories. Ordinary citizens who just wanted the war to end, formed the ‘Clubmen’ – but their arms were out-of-touch arms, and even though they fought, they failed.

When Charles I surrendered, he was taken to Hampton Court as a prisoner where he heard rumours that he would be tried, so he escaped, fleeing to the Earl of Southampton’s home near the mouth of the Meon, hoping to get a ship to carry him to France and safety. However, he ended up in the Isle of Wight! Negotiations between King and Parliament were prolonged, but ultimately unsuccessful, Charles being beheaded in 1649.

The ‘Commonwealth’ followed with Cromwell imposing his strict Puritan ideology on the country. This was not popular, and Charles II (as he became) hoped to gain an advantage by invading England with a Scots army, but was soundly defeated by Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester (1651). Charles then had to flee for his life, hidden by clandestine, brave supporters, coming to the south coast to find a boat to take him to France. On that journey he spent a week near Salisbury, and then when all appeared ready, travelled across the Meon and spent a lively night in the village of Hambledon before escaping via Shoreham, but it was a close call.

With Charles’ return and the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the valley and the area around started to return to a normal life, but it had been in the thick of the conflict and not all was peace and calm. The Civil War was brutal, carried a high mortality (estimated to have been 3.6% of the population were killed, compared with 2.6% in the Great War), but it changed the way the country is governed for ever; and it continues to affect us today.

*Duncan Colin-Jones*

### e-Consult

**e-Consult** enables patients to contact the Surgery electronically via our website; [stockbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://stockbridgesurgery.co.uk) to ask questions at any time day or night which the surgery staff pick up and action during working hours. Due to our concern for the safety of patients' who fall ill over a weekend, who have been leaving messages asking for assistance, we have taken the decision to **switch off** e-Consult on a Friday from 18:30 until Monday 08:00. If you are unwell at the weekend please contact 111 (either by phone or online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)). This will ensure you get the care you need as quickly as possible.

### Carers

If you are a **carer** you can have this recorded on your medical records. Go to our website [www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk) and you can request an update to your personal details.

### Dr Ed Gibbons

**Dr Ed Gibbons** has had the opportunity to develop his career in a different direction. He has spent the last 12 months undertaking additional training in Dermatology and now works 3 days a week in Winchester and Andover Hospital as well as working as a GP Appraiser. He has therefore stepped down as a Partner in the practice, however, he will continue working at Stockbridge one day a week helping with the urgent care team.

### Chilbolton Coronavirus Support Group

### VACCINATIONS!!!! WE MAY NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

With vaccinations under way, some villagers may need help with transport to their vaccination appointments.

So far, it seems that **Stockbridge Surgery** are sending patients to The Holiday Inn, next to the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium, Telegraph Way, Winchester, SO21 1HZ. This is about 14 miles and a 20-minute drive. Anyone offering to help would need to wait for the person to have their appointment and return afterwards. If you can help be a driver OR you need a lift to your vaccination appointment, please contact either:

**Fiona Barrie** of the Coronavirus Support Group 01264 **860264**, or  
**Su Field** of the Chilbolton Care Group 01264 **861338**.



## Big Garden Bird Watch (29-31 January 2021)

Who took part in The Big Garden Bird Watch at the end of January? More people than ever took part this year – so much so that the internet lines for presenting results were down for a while from overuse! Further, more people than ever have signed up to join the RSPB!

We had to spend an hour watching the fascinating antics of our garden birds. From squabbling starlings, lively long-tailed or fluttering blue tits, you would never know what would show up until you started looking and that certainly was the case for me.

I spotted 3 bold robin redbreasts (*one skinny little thing and another that was like a soft round ball*), numerous tiny fluffy blue tits, some strikingly masked great tits, 8 beautifully patterned longtail tits feeding on the same feeder, 4 fat waddling wood pigeons, a few pretty coal tits, 2 brown fluffball dunnocks, 2 strutting magpies, 2 blackbirds (*a black male with a bright orange beak and a brown female*), a couple of migrating back caps (*the female had a red cap*) and finally a large shy colourful jay!



*A great tit and fat robin*

Hampshire has an abundance of birds, the Boaz team spotted collared doves, bullfinches, chaffinches, nuthatches, goldfinches, house sparrows, starlings, a great spotted woodpecker, redwing, red kites and even a golden eagle during their individual birdwatches!



*Three long tail tits*

To encourage all of us Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin were on live from their garden in the New Forest on the Saturday morning at 10 am together with views of live bird feeding stations from different locations around the UK – an exciting array of different bird species were captured to be seen by us all!

The Birdwatch creates a fascinating snapshot of how our garden birds are faring, and these add together to create an impressive big picture of garden birds all over the UK.

Thanks to people taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, RSPB now have over 40 years of data and this has helped increase their understanding of the challenges faced by wildlife.

It was one of the first surveys to identify the decline of song thrushes in gardens. This species was a firm fixture in the top 10 in 1979. But by 2019, those numbers had declined by 76% – coming in at number 20. And did you know that house sparrow sightings have dropped by 53% since the first Birdwatch in 1979? However, in the past 10 years their numbers have grown by 10% showing that we are beginning to see some signs of recovery.

Results like these help the RSPB spot problems. But, more importantly, they are the first step towards putting things right. It is so uplifting and therapeutic to focus on the wildlife around us, particularly in the current climate – something so engaging, positive and free!

We can still continue to observe these beautiful birds and try to identify them and of course feed them during the harsh winter!

### **Would you like to encourage more birds in your gardens?**

Besides the bird mixes available for bird feeders, tables and ground feeding, here are some ideas of foods which attract specific birds:

- **Blackbirds** mostly feed on the ground and will eat anything – from fatty nibbles to mealworms
- **Blue tits** and **Great tits** use a feeder, eating seeds as well as suet and peanuts
- **Finches**, including **chaffinches** and **greenfinches**, use both a feeder and a bird table, and they love sunflower hearts
- You can put out leftovers such as some bread, fruit cake, dried fruit, unsalted nuts, or fruit such as apples and pears. Don't use anything mouldy or salty though, and if **you have a dog don't put out dried fruit** – vine fruits such as raisins can be toxic to them.
- Look for good quality bird food – those that don't include “fillers” such as dried peas and beans that the birds rarely eat. You'll find some bird food great mixes in the RSPB shop [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) and lots more information, including an identification chart.

*Anna Cockram*

# Wherwell History Group

## Programme of Talks



March 19<sup>th</sup>

Duncan Colin-Jones

**The Civil War around  
the Meon Valley**



April 16<sup>th</sup>

David Poole

**Clock Making  
Past and Present**



June 18<sup>th</sup>

John Smith

**Roman Life  
around Wherwell**

Assuming Lockdown-3 continues into March and beyond, talks will be illustrated presentations using Zoom video conferencing.

**Talks will start at 8pm**

To make a booking, please email [wherwellhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wherwellhistory@gmail.com)

For 2021, an annual membership fee of £15 gives free admission to all talks.

For non-members, the admission fee is £4 per event.

*Andrew Flanagan*



## *Excerpts from English Spring by Laurie Lee (Words of Encouragement?)*



“Spring comes to England as to no other country, as though this island were its natural home, as though this small green platform on the edge of the Atlantic was the original spawning ground of the season.

For one thing it seems to last longer here, lingering voluptuously over the passive landscape, like the trembling wing of some drowsy bird stretched in a trance and loathe to leave it.

Spring in England is like a prolonged adolescence, stumbling, sweet and slow, a thing of infinitesimal shades, false starts, expectations, deferred hopes, and final showers of glory.

February is zero, twenty eight days of waiting, a month of silence and frozen growth, when germs of spring stand on the brink of stillness, life loaded but as yet unfired. The tight buds of the trees hang like polished bullets ready-poised for the sun’s first spark. Roots are buried fuses, set for detonations of petals; fields stand stripped for the first green flame. It is a month when all life huddles in a carapace of ice, in a shell of necessary impatience.

Then almost overnight comes gusty March and the first real rousing of spring – a time of blustering alarms and nudging elbows, frantic and scrambling awakenings:



Hares dance in shivering grasses;  
Rooks load their loud nests on the bending treetops;

The wild duck mates in the reeds;

Giant combs stir in the woods, shaking out catkin and pussy willow;  
Early flowers appearing in the woods, pointed periwinkle, anemone, violet,  
are sharp tiny stars on the cold black ground;

Dawn songs of robin, blackbird and thrush are like drops of warm oil in the dark, liquid sounds that pour softly upon our deadened senses,

**healing us back to life.**

Buds are swelling, cows fattening,

farmers ploughing their fields,

cottagers turning the clods in their gardens,

cocks crow, hens lay,

the pond is cloudy with frogspawn –

**you know at last things are going to be all right.”**

*Anna Cockram*

## Lent Course – February/March

### Lent Course - #LiveLent 2021, God's Story, Our Story

The Church of England is running a Lent course based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele (Church House Publishing), which will form the basis of our Lenten series in the Downs Benefice.

For each of the 40 days of Lent, the course booklet includes a short Bible passage, a reflection and a prayer. Both the booklet and the accompanying daily reflections encourage all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives. The booklet is £1.99 and is available to buy from Church House Publishing and is also available in a Large Print format. The reflections in the booklet are also available via the **free** App, emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

You can access the course either by buying course materials, by uploading the course App or simply **by attending each weekly Zoom meeting which Revd Jax will host on a Thursday evening at 7.00pm, beginning 18<sup>th</sup> February**. Each of the seven weekly sessions offers a reflection on a given bible reading, a prayer and an action on what is described as 'a unifying theme' to be undertaken during the week. To join the weekly Zoom meetings you will need to register with the Benefice. [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk)

Week 3 Thursday, 04<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm Jesus in the transformation

Week 4 Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm Communicating like Jesus did

Week 5 Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm Passing on the story of Jesus

Week 6 Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm Echoes of the story of Jesus in our world today

Week 7 Thursday 1st April – Stories of finding Jesus

More info on: [www.downsbenefice.org](http://www.downsbenefice.org),

## Census Day is Here!

With March 21<sup>st</sup> literally around the corner, Census 2021 is in full swing in Hampshire. The letters, with your unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

“A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said, “It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future.

We’ve had a fantastic response so far, with many of you completing the questionnaire on your laptops, phones and computers. ‘It takes just 10 minutes to take part and you can’t get online, paper forms are available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history.’

Operating in line with the Government’s latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

This census is the most inclusive yet. Everyone can identify as they wish using search as you type online and write-in options on paper if they need it.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces. For those aged 16 and over there are also new, voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To complete your census, and to find out how you can get help, please visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call 0800 141 2021.

Peter Dewberry

*Census Engagement Manager (Test Valley) – Office for National Statistics*



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# Would you like to.....

- ✓ Be part of a valuable village activity
  - ✓ Freshen up your IT skills
  - ✓ Work in a friendly team (**socially distanced**)
  - ✓ All without huge commitment

**Then you'd be an ideal member of the magazine team!**

## Where do we need volunteers?

Role	Type of person it suits
Content Manager	Enjoy exchanging emails with people in the villages
First Editor	Enjoy reading, improving and formatting articles

### What's the commitment?

A few hours a month **just three times a year**, with full training and shadowing provided before you 'go live'

### Who's on the team?

Currently twenty-three of us – a mix of full time employed and retired from both villages, all with an active interest in village affairs

### Do I need a computer?

You need a computer with an email account. Familiarity with Microsoft Office helps with the editing roles, but no more than you'd use for home or work. Everyone shares their expertise

### Is there a social side?

Yes - when you are working on an edition, that month's production team meets to discuss any issues. At Christmas we have a party. It's a good way to meet lively, like-minded people

## What next?

If you're interested, **call or email me** and I'll put you in touch with a current team member who'll give you more detail on the role and help you decide.

**Stephen MacDonald (Mag Chairman) [smacdonald500@btinternet.com](mailto:smacdonald500@btinternet.com)  
or 01264 860 246**



## Recipe of the month

### Linguine with Garlic, Prawns & Spinach (Serves 4)



#### *Ingredients*

*300g linguine  
salt and freshly ground pepper  
4 tbsps. extra virgin olive oil  
1 garlic clove, sliced  
150g spinach leaves  
400g uncooked prawns, peeled  
4 tbsps. chopped flat-leaved parsley  
Grated zest of 1 unwaxed lemon  
10 cherry tomatoes, quartered*

#### **Instructions:**

1. Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of boiling salted water until dente.
2. Meanwhile, in a large frying pan, heat the oil over a medium heat and fry the garlic for 1 min. until golden. Add spinach and cook for further 2 mins.
3. Add the prawns with the parsley and season. Stir well and continue to cook for 2 mins.
4. Once the pasta is cooked, drain and add to the frying pan, then lower the heat.
5. Add the lemon zest and cherry tomatoes and stir everything together for 30 secs. Serve immediately

*Anna Cockram*

#### *Note from editor:*

*Please send in your recipes to cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk. If not published in the same month as submitted, they will appear in later issues ©*

## Volunteering Testimonial from the Boaz Project- 'Learning and Working Together'



Galina was made redundant in September 2019 from her role as a project manager with a large bank, and before returning to professional employment she volunteered at the Boaz Project, a therapeutic work environment for adults with learning disabilities located in Sutton Scotney. She said, '*I decided it would be great to help the community and do something useful that would not actually require 24/7 involvement. Instead, I would do what I could to help some people, and feel good about that.*'

In addition to developing COVID policies using skills from her previous employment, her role included working through the morning alongside

members in tasks such as counting chickens' eggs, feeding animals, and doing woodwork. She said, '*to an unexpected extent, this experience changed everything- my ability to assess what people can do, and I learned from the members the passion they had for their work and their great resilience towards problems in life.'*

*'The Project was a breath of fresh air after my previous job which could require traveling around Europe for 20 hours a day'. Boaz was so welcoming, and its country setting made me feel very peaceful and calm'.*



Galina has moved onto a new job that offers a volunteering day and hopes to use this to continue volunteering at Boaz in the future.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering or supporting the Boaz Project, please visit their website at: [www.boazproject.co.uk](http://www.boazproject.co.uk) or contact site manager Stuart Palmer on: 01962 761749, or email: [admin@boazproject.co.uk](mailto:admin@boazproject.co.uk)

*Credit / Amy Cooper*

## To All Magazine Contributors

We are eternally grateful for the regular contributions provided by villagers for the magazine each month. However, we would be even more grateful if the submissions were all provided in the A5 Template format.

If you are a contributor and already doing this – thank you! If not, please ask the magazine Content Manager to email you the template next month before you copy and paste your submission into it. Many thanks.

*Stephen MacDonald, Mag Chairman*

## Magazine Committee

Stephen MacDonald <i>(Chair &amp; Secretary)</i>		01264 860246 <a href="mailto:smacdonald500@btinternet.com">smacdonald500@btinternet.com</a>
Geoff Cockram <i>(Advertising)</i>		<a href="mailto:cw.advertising@outlook.com">cw.advertising@outlook.com</a>
Terry Gilmour	01264 860507	Tessa Youell      01264 860368

## Village Contacts – Parish Councillors

### Wherwell Councillors

Sean Hutton (Chair)	860443
Lizzie Broadbent (Vice Chair)	860434
Jo Baughen (Clerk)	01264 586899 <a href="mailto:wherwellclerk@gmail.com">wherwellclerk@gmail.com</a>
Sue Blazdell	860462
Peter Bryant (Tree Warden)	860541
Susanne Hasselman	860741
Diane Newell	720464
Steve Shean (Flood Warden)	860249

### Chilbolton Councillors

David Neudegg (Chair)	07894 475 708
David Griffiths (Vice Chair)	860313
Mandy Denyer (Clerk)	07514 670 919 <a href="mailto:chilbolton.clerk@hotmail.co.uk">chilbolton.clerk@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Tony Ewer	860486
Geoff Cockram	07703 775 743
George Marits	860293
David Hall	07813 455 069
Sue Larcombe	860277
Fiona Barrie	860264

## Village Contacts - District & County Councillors

### Wherwell District Councillor

David Drew	01264 357024
<b><u>County Councillor:</u></b>	
Andrew Gibson	01264 861138

### Chilbolton District Councillor

David Drew	01264 357024
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## Wherwell Parish Council website

<https://www.wherwellparishcouncil.org.uk>

# Village Contacts – Clubs & Organisations

## Clubs and organisations

Badminton	Jill Lord	860667
Beavers/Cub scouts	Frances Waghorn	01962 776048
Brownies	Julie Shone	01962 761269
Care Group (Driver Coordinator) (Admin)	Su Field	861338
Chilbolton Church Flowers	Sally Griffiths	860313
Chilbolton Coffee Morning	Jane Brown	860726
Chilbolton Neighbourhood Watch	Sheila Laughton	860460
Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee	Denise Hall	860543
Flood Advisory Group	David Griffiths (Chair)	860313
Horticultural Society	Terry Gilmour	860507
Joyrides Community Bus	Sheila Evans	860697
Midday Mums	Mary Dunne	860398
Pre-School	John Musters	810459
Short Mat Bowls	Joyce Payne	860296
Village Hall (Chilbolton) - Booking Only	Sam Inglis	07732 095814
Village Hall (Chilbolton) - All other matters	Deb & Richard Richardson	861082
Village Hall (Wherwell) - Bookings	Kate Ballard	860524
Village Webmaster	<u>chilboltonhallbookings@outlook.com</u>	
Village Website	Tony Ewer	860486
Wherwell Church Flowers	Julie Dickenson	07519 357593
Wherwell Cricket Club	<u>chilboltonandwherwell@gmail.com</u>	
<u>www.chilboltonandwherwell.info</u>		
Wherwell History Group	Jo Baughen	860319
Wherwell Home Guard Club	Nigel Horne (Chair)	07876 122927
Wherwell Ladies Night	<u>nigelhorne@ntlworld.com</u>	
Wherwell Playing Fields	Andrew Flanagan	860560
Wherwell Primary School (Admin Officer)	Sandie Bastable (Chair)	363499
Wherwell Primary School (Chair of Governors)	Angela Hughes	860877
Wherwell Neighbourhood Watch	Sean Hutton (Chair)	860443
Wherwell Singers ( <u>www.wherwellsingers.org</u> )	Denise Hall	860384
White Lion Folk Club	Sean Hutton	860443
Women's Institute	Michael Payne	860296
Yoga	Dale Webb	860074
Test Villages U3A ( <u>www.testvillagesu3a.org.uk</u> )	Roly Clarke	07919 120159
	Pat Lloyd	01264 353635
	Pam Flanagan	860560
	Geoff Thompson	01264 782771

## **Coronavirus Helplines:**

**Wherwell – Jo 860 277**

**Chilbolton - Fiona 860 264; Jo 07910 280 702; Geoff and Anna 860 333**