

## *Around Longparish*

### **St Nicholas Sale** by John Collins

This was held this year on 4th December - quite a different sale from previous times! Within three-quarters of an hour of the doors opening, the hall was nearly empty! Where was everybody? Despite this quick surge of customers, the stall-holders and raffle organisers did a marvellous job, as £521 was raised.

An hour after the doors opened, we were drawing the raffles. Ten minutes later, all were clearing up. What a wonderful achievement raising that amount in just over an hour! A thank you and a very well done to you all.

### **Friends of Longparish School - 100 Club**

The 100 Club raises funds for Longparish school and last year helped the school to buy books, a digital camera, picnic tables for the playground and helped to fund a Science day. FoLS is now recruiting members for 2000 who will subscribe £12. About 50% of the money goes to the school and the rest to fund monthly prizes of £25, £10 & £5, with extras in December.

Please contact Brigitte Graham at Lyewoods, Forton, tel. 01264 720256. Cheques payable to FoLS

### **Winners of the November draw**

1. Mrs Barter number 49
2. Mrs Haley-Vetter number 45
3. Mrs Healey number 3

The December draw was held after the Carol Service on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Winners will be in the February issue

### **New Clerk to the Parish Council**

Since Penny Reeve resigned in the spring of 1999 after 5 years as Clerk, the Parish Council has been seeking a replacement. At the November meeting John Spaul was appointed. John and Marion Spaul now live in Andover, but between 1967 and 1984 they lived at Cypress Cottage, now called The Barton, and their two sons attended the village school. John was largely responsible for ensuring that the Longparish common land was properly registered in 1969. John combined his teaching career with research into local archaeology and history, and has published many articles and some books on Andover and the surrounding area, including Longparish. John retired from teaching a

few years ago, and is now able to devote more time to research and to the University of the Third Age in Andover.

Because he does not live in the village, he plans to be available to parishioners in the committee room of the Village Hall every Monday evening 7-8pm for a trial period. Do make use of the opportunity to see him. His address is 57, Charlton Road, Andover SP10 3JY, and his telephone number is 01264 364943.

### **Longparish Cricket Club** by Allen Snow

The first 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium 100 Club draw will be held at The Cricketers on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We shall be hoping to welcome plenty of new members. Everyone's effort is really needed.

Indoor cricket "nets" start at Testbourne School on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2000 and take place every Tuesday 6.30-7.30pm. Cricketers of all ages will be most welcome. The Club is always looking for new talent.

### **Mobile Library**

The next visit will be on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, and thereafter every two weeks. It calls at Forton, Gravel Lane, from 9.20-9.35am; The Plough from 10.40-10.55; North Acre Stores from 11.00-11.40 Wood Walk, East Aston from 11.45 to 12noon. It carries a wide selection of books, and you can order books for a small charge.

### **Longparish Playgroup**

The children raised £25 for the Children in Need appeal by selling their Pudsey Bear biscuits.

### **Longparish Church of England School**

The School welcomed two new members of staff, Miss Hole and Mrs Gomme at the beginning of term. The numeracy hour was introduced in September as part of the National Numeracy Strategy and the children seem to be enjoying the mental work involved. Year 4, (8-9 year olds) spent a week at Minstead Study Centre in the New Forest. Years 5 and 6 (9-11 year olds) have had some German lessons from Testbourne staff, and work in the Testbourne computer suite. Tag Rugby with PC Filbey proved to be a popular activity with the Junior children. A party of 20 parents, children and staff travelled by train to London for a Saturday Children's concert at the

Royal Festival Hall followed by a boat trip on the Thames.

New guests to the monthly lunches for Senior Citizens are most welcome. Next term's dates are **January 18<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, March 21 and April 4<sup>th</sup>**, and the cost is £1.41. Please call the school a day or two before to reserve a place on 01264 720317.

Next term the school grounds should be bright with daffodils as the school took part in the Lord Lieutenant's planting scheme in October.

### *In memoriam*

**Mildred Mary (Pat) Porter** - 9<sup>th</sup> May 1925 - 16<sup>th</sup> November 1999

In their letters of sympathy to Douglas on Pat's death, a number of people paid tribute to her kindness, lively, happy, helpful character: she was a joy to be with. Mildred Mary Bennett was born in Coventry, where Douglas also came from. After leaving school, she worked as a sales assistant in Austin Reed. She and Douglas were married in 1949 in Coventry, and after a few years they moved to Harlow, where she worked as an assistant in the Development Corporation of the new town. It was in the late 1960s that they moved to Longparish where Douglas worked at Cannon Electric in Basingstoke, and Pat (as she now wanted to be known) as a psychiatric social worker at Park Prewett Hospital. She had qualified through a four year course at the London School of Economics.

She retired from the hospital in 1985 and was able to devote herself to voluntary work at the cathedral as a guide, as a steward in both the library and the triforium museum, as well as running occasional workshops on gargoyles for children - always very popular. Through the cathedral both she and Douglas made many friends. She was also an enthusiastic gardener, and flower arranger in this church. She liked to paint in the Chinese style, enjoyed classical music, opera and ballet. She was an excellent cook. She and Douglas earlier this year celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was after they arrived back from their celebratory cruise that her illness was eventually diagnosed, and she so quickly died in the Countess of Brecknock House Hospice. Friends and neighbours offer their deepest sympathy to Douglas in his loss, as they were so close.

### **Village Design Statement**

A Village Design Statement based on the opinions and observations collected both before and after the public meeting in 1998 has been

drafted by Catherine Sweet, who has worked very hard to produce a coherent statement from the mass of information.

A public meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** from **2-4pm** to present the document and to debate the key issues. The subsequent draft will then be circulated to all residents and businesses for comment and formal approval in March 2000.

The Countryside Commission has encouraged villages to produce Design Statements which describe village communities and buildings and define what it is that the people living in them most value about their own village and what sort of development they think will enhance it. Test Valley Borough Council has said that it will take note of such statements, as well as the County and Borough Plans, when making planning decisions. By contributing to the Statement, you will be helping to influence the future of the village.

### **Welcome Club**

Members very much enjoyed their Christmas lunch at the Plough on 13<sup>th</sup> December and look forward to welcoming new members in 2000. See below for details of next meeting.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **January**

**Jan. 6** 2.45pm Special service in St Nicholas Church for School, families and friends. Each child will receive a Millennium gift.

**Jan. 10** 7.30 Parish Council Meeting in the committee room of the Village Hall

**Jan. 15** 2-4pm **Village Design Statement** public meeting in the Village Hall.

**Jan. 17** Mobile Library

**Jan 17** 2.30 pm Welcome Club in Village Hall. New members very welcome for entertainment, tea, cakes and raffle. Contact Joyce Gadsden tel. 01264 333803

**Jan. 18** Senior Citizens' lunch at the school

**Jan. 22** 7.30pm **A.D.V.E.R.T. presents**

**A Variety Show** for all the family in the Village Hall. See advertisement for details of ticket sales.

#### **February**

**Feb. 12** 7.45 for 8pm **FoLS Quiz Night** at the Village Hall. Tickets from Brigitte Graham 720256

**Feb 26** **West End Magic** presented by Three's Company in the Village Hall, with extracts from Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Cats etc. Suitable for all the family. Tickets from Stuart Bevan, Maggie Barber and Acre Stores.