

around..... Longparish

**Clear up Day
Saturday April 1st**

With any luck your copy of the magazine should reach you just in time to give you the chance to join in helping other volunteers to clear up the village and to make it a still more attractive place to live before summer comes.

Many jobs need doing from scrubbing seats, clearing the stream by Ashburn Rest, and picking up litter to helping to clear up a fallen willow on the Common. You may have noticed something yourself that needs doing.

Please meet at 9.30 am at the Sugar Lane crossroads. Wear suitable clothes and footwear and please bring gloves and any useful hand tools you have. Contact Gloria Goodliffe tel. 720425 with any queries.

Longparish Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall (entrance at the back) on

Thursday, 4th May at 7.30 pm

The Village Hall is a registered Charity. Under the terms of the Trust Deed the Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee with the affairs of the Village Hall managed by a Committee of Management, The Village Hall Committee. The Trust Deed makes provision for Village Organisations (eg. Cricket Club, Wives Group, P.C.C., Mothers' Union, Parish Council etc.) to nominate representatives to the committee and for up to five other members to be elected at the A.G.M. The Committee also has power to co-opt members. The Committee elects the Chairman at the first committee meeting following the A.G.M.

Allotments

Ever since the current village allotments were made available by the Middleton Estate in 1976, Martin and Rosie Lowry have collected the rents on behalf of the Parish Council, and helped to organise the maintenance. They have now retired which marks the end of an era. The allotments have been a great success and currently all the plots are taken.

Open Garden in aid of Naomi House

Mrs Sterndale-Bennett, Chairman of the Hardy Plant Society, is generously supporting the charity fund of the Inner Wheel Club of Andover by opening her garden at White Windows in Longparish, on Saturday, 13th May.

Jane's garden is included in the National Gardens Scheme and is a delight not to be missed.

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

has a vacancy for a

PART-TIME CLERK

Approximately 12 hours a month

Basic rate £6.28-£7.22 according to experience.

The job requires the ability to use a computer/word processor and to keep simple accounts.

Training provided.

Enquiries to the Chairman, Rupert Dawnay, at Meadow Farm Cottage, Longparish SP11 6QQ 01264 720344

The garden will be open from 10.30am until 1pm.
Light refreshments will be available.

Entrance £2 . All proceeds will be donated to the
NAOMI HOUSE WESSEX CHILDREN'S
HOSPICE. Daphne Bevan

VILLAGE HANDBOOK

The time has come to revise the Directory for 2000-2001. I should be very grateful if those who are aware that their entry is now out of date would contact me to correct it. I hope to get the new Directory out in May.

My phone and fax number is 720320, and email is g.darrah@virgin.net.

Mary Jo Darrah

St Nicholas Wives Group

On Thursday, 16th March, a meeting was held at Woodstock with a guest speaker from Test Valley Community Services, which helps and co-ordinates the work of voluntary organisations in the district. He gave a very informative talk and answered questions.

The next meeting will be at Woodstock on Thursday, 6th April at 7.30pm and there will be a raffle. Please bring a small home-made gift that you would like to give a friend for Easter. Sue Elford

WELCOME CLUB

New members are always welcome at the



Welcome Club on the third Monday in the month.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 2pm on Monday, 17th April and will be a Beetle Drive. The meeting on 15th May will be a visit to a garden centre, and other outings are planned for the summer. Contact Gordon and Joyce Gadsby on tel. 333803 for more details.

MARATHON FUND RAISING LONGPARISH PLAYGROUP



If you live in Longparish or Hurstbourne Priors or have used the Playgroup you should by now have received a sponsorship leaflet.

Thank you very much if you have already pledged a donation. The Playgroup is a vital part of our community. Please support them if you can. Thank you.

Jeremy Barber tel. 01264 720459.



Friends of Whitchurch Silk Mill

On Friday, April 7th, Mrs Emery will give a talk 'Not Just Another Roll Of Wallpaper' about the work of William Morris. The talk will be in the Parish Hall, Whitchurch at 7.30pm. The cost will be £4 for Friends and £5 for others, including wine and nibbles. Everyone welcome.

Donations of anything with a horticultural nature will be welcome for the annual Plant and Garden Miscellanea sale, which will be held at the Silk Mill on Saturday, May 27th from 11am to 4pm.

Continuing our theme for the year, we are running a coach trip to the William Morris Museum at Lechlade, Gloucester on Thursday, 22nd June. Coach £10, tokens welcome.

Contact Geraldine Mouat on 01256 892149 for further details.

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL The Annual Parish Meeting 6th March

The Council was very pleased to welcome the one parishioner who came to hear the annual report.

Mrs Darrah, Vice-Chairman, read the Chairman's report. It had been a difficult year, without a Clerk for some of the time, and particular thanks went to Jeremy Barber who had volunteered to deal with the accounts, and to David Gould who had taken over as volunteer Clerk to the Burial Board. Improvements were noted, including the provision of the Millennium picnic table in the Playground, a kissing gate by Upper Mill, and the Village Handbook. The bridge at Lower Mill is now open to light traffic, and later in the meeting, a parishioner asked that a 10mph speed limit should be asked for on that road.

There is increasing controversy about building in the village because there is very little further space where development can happen successfully. This has meant that any new building is very often on a site that in village terms is inappropriately crowded, or applications are refused on the grounds of access or traffic. The result is that existing houses are enlarged, and most planning applications relate to extensions. The Village Design Statement, which

should reach final form this year, is concerned with these matters.

Ian Bush presented the audited accounts, which showed that in 1998-9 the Council's income was £9453, and expenditure £7364. The surplus of £2088 was added to the reserves. The Council is subsidising Hill & Valley, and saving towards the major expenditure which will be required on the Village Hall in the near future.

Parish Council Meeting on 13th March

The meeting began with an explanation by Mrs Pat Phipps, Regional Director of the Rural Housing Trust, about how low-cost housing could be provided in villages through a Housing Association. Several small schemes had been successfully completed in the Test Valley district. The Council agreed to explore the matter further. David and Fiona Gould then demonstrated to the Council how a Longparish Website could be set up and offered their help. The Council agreed to register the name and to set up a small group to plan the way forward.

An advertisement for a new Clerk was approved. The comments of the auditor on last year's accounts were explained to the Council. The revised Standing Orders were approved, with a few more financial points to be added. An estimate for cleaning the War Memorial was accepted, and it was agreed that Mr Palmer should continue to maintain the Open Spaces. Clear Up Day is to be 1st April.

On roads, the new signs for North Acre, ordered last summer, were finally ready, and will be put up when it can be organised. The Council agreed to apply for a 20mph speed limit past the school. The Area Surveyor was about to improve the drainage where the road floods by Middleton House drive, and since the meeting this has been done.

Longparish Church of England School

All those involved with Longparish C of E Primary School had cause to celebrate after the nervously awaited publication of the OFSTED inspectors' report following their recent three day visit. There was a ringing endorsement of Longparish as a 'highly effective school that provides a very good quality of education with excellent aspects.'

The inspectors attributed much of the school's success (and rightly so!) to the dedication of headteacher, Rosalind Hobrough, praising the quality of her leadership. (I hasten to add Miss Hobrough does not write this newsletter!). But every one had a mention - parents were described as 'highly supportive', the governing body as 'committed', the

staff as 'hard working and talented' and the pupils as achieving standards that are 'well above average overall'.

The inspectors were very impressed by the behaviour of the 87 pupils and the happy atmosphere of both classroom and playground, where children 'respect individual differences and develop a sense of 'mutual responsibility' for other people and the environment.

Whilst the school's strengths 'far outweigh' areas in need of improvement, the inspectors noted that standards in mathematics at key stage two did not quite match the very high standards reached in English and science. There was also some criticism of lack of space for indoor dance and gymnastics, but then what's new? In an inspection of 1898 it was noted 'the instruction of the infants has improved a good deal: but they are sadly hampered by want of space'. A hundred years later though, the inspectors acknowledged that available resources were used 'very effectively' and commended the provision of extra curricular activities

At the same time the school was also inspected under Section 23 of the School Inspection Act which looks at the religious education, collective worship and ethos of the school. Again the inspector praised the 'purposeful leadership of the headteacher in promoting a strong Christian ethos in the school'. He was also impressed by the high quality of collective worship and the provision for pupils' personal development.

In short, an excellent outcome and congratulations to the staff and children for doing the village proud and for coping with the stresses so well. Anyone who is interested in reading the full OFSTED report can now find it on the web.

VILLAGE HALL

WEST END MAGIC AT LONGPARISH

Three's Company, a group of very talented and professional artists, provided a most enjoyable evening' entertainment, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The event raised just over £120 for Village Hall funds. We are grateful to the Hampshire County Council who arrange an excellent programme of events every year, which are made available for community entertainment at subsidised rates. The Village Hall Committee was encouraged by the support received from the village and adjoining areas, and we will certainly book further shows, so watch this space!

Stuart Bevan, Chairman of Village Hall Committee.

Deanery Pilgrimage

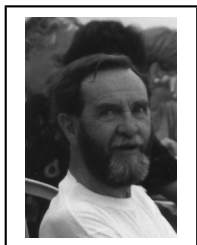
There are details in the St. Mary Bourne section of the Pilgrimage to be held in Whitchurch Deanery, visiting 24

churches over 4 days. On Friday, 29th April, the pilgrims will walk from North Waltham to Longparish, and evening prayer will be held at St. Nicholas on that day.

Village Profile

It has been suggested that it would be interesting to include articles about people living in Longparish, and who better to start the series than the last editor of Parish News.

Wing-Commander Barry Elford



Barry and Sue Elford came to Longparish in 1978. He was then project manager for the Hospital Savings Association's move from London. He chose Andover as the most suitable location for HSA, and then saw in the Times an advertisement for a house in Longparish. They loved it at first

sight, and have very much enjoyed living in the village. When Barry finally retired in 1985, he had more time to pursue his passion for birdwatching, shared with Sue. He was Chairman of the RAF Ornithological Society for 5 years, and on the International Council for Bird Preservation. He is saddened by the decline in numbers and species of birds he has witnessed while in Longparish. He was on the Council of Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and also played an active part in Andover Music Club and Longparish Conservative Association.

Barry was born in 1919 in Salisbury and went to Bishop Wordsworth School. He joined the RAF in 1936, first as a wireless operator and then a gunner. During the 2nd World War he flew 118 operational sorties, including the 1000 bomber raids on Cologne and Emden, before being posted to India in 1942 as an instructor. He spent the rest of the war there, finishing as director of staff at the Officers' Advanced Training School.

A brief spell in Ceylon in 1946 led to him meeting Sue, then in the WAAF, in rehearsals for a production of *The Ghost Train*, which, co-incidentally, was filmed at Longparish in 1927. They married in England in 1947 and had two children, Anthony and Angela. Barry had several administrative postings in the UK and Germany, including President of the Officers' Selection Board at Biggin Hill. In 1963 he went to Ghana for 3 years as Chief of Staff Administration. His final posting was in charge of quartering air staff for all of NATO, after which he was well-qualified for his first job at HSA as office manager.

He has had an exciting life, which has included many adventurous holidays. He qualified as a glider pilot in the 1950s, and has his Yacht Master's certificate. He was involved in sail training in Tall Ships, as well as much sailing with friends in the Mediterranean. They enjoyed skiing in Germany and he and Sue are great walkers. 7 or 8 years ago they had six weeks walking at about 13,000 feet in the Himalayas, and when Sue broke her leg, she walked down.

They are about to embark on another adventure. They have bought a house in the Dordogne, about 40 miles from their daughter, and at an age when most people are putting their feet up, they are taking off with their dog and their caravan. They will be much missed, but it will be good to think of them, glass in hand, enjoying the sun and a new life.

MJD

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Obituary

Jane Jackson

1930 - 27th February 2000

Many friends and family gathered at St Nicholas on 7th March to support John in his loss and share in the Holy Mass for her.

John offers this tribute to the memory of his late wife, and wishes to thank everyone for their many kind letter, cards and flowers during Jane's illness. They were a great comfort to him.

"Jane was born in a village near Worcester almost 70 years ago. She had a happy childhood in Cheltenham, where she was educated at the Cheltenham Ladies College and at a Convent. After working for a short time in a hotel on the south coast, she joined the Women's Royal Air Force, serving at bases in the UK, Northern Ireland and Singapore, where we met. She represented the Women's Royal Air Force at tennis. On returning from Singapore in 1966, she became the Girls Public School Liaison Officer for the WRAF. She retired from the Service in 1970 when she had completed 19 years. After a year's sabbatical, she was appointed House Mistress at Westonbirt, the Girls' Public School near Tetbury in Gloucestershire. After two years there, she took up an appointment in an Estate Agent's office in Cirencester where she had bought a flat. Here she looked after her father, Leslie Ovens, for three years.

In 1975, John and Jane were married at St Peter's Church in Cirencester and they moved to Longparish in that December. Jane quickly involved herself in village activities. She joined the St Nicholas Wives Group, was active at every village Fete, was Treasurer of the Longparish Conservative Branch for 8 years, was a member of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society). She was also a very keen Bridge player. She read the lesson frequently at her local Roman Catholic Church in Whitchurch, and was the Poppy Seller around Southside and the Common in Longparish for 20 years."

Jane will be remembered for her natural charm and dignity, her kindness and concern for other people; her love of nature and the joy she derived from her

