

# around..... Longparish

## Harvest memories

The sheaf of corn which a local farmer traditionally presents to the church for the Harvest Festival service plays no part in modern harvesting, but evokes memories of the past. These days the combine harvester goes into the field and in a very short time the crop of grain is removed to the grain dryer or storage on the farm, the bales of straw are taken away and the field ploughed. The biggest modern combines can harvest up to 50 acres in a single day. I saw my first combine harvester during the Second World War, and it is in the years since then that harvest has changed so much. Dick Snow remembers harvesting between the wars when his father was farming Southside and Owls Lodge Farms. Some mechanisation was already introduced. A tractor pulled the binder, and either a tractor or a steam engine would be used to run the threshing machine, but much of the work was done by hand and the sheaf was still important.

The grain harvest then started in early August and was a two-stage process that took about a month. First the field was cut by the binder, which both cut the corn and bound it into sheaves which were then dropped in the field. The first



picture shows a binder in the 1980s cutting a field in the old way to produce long straw for thatching the Southside barns. As the binder worked, the rabbits, which were then plentiful and a considerable pest on farms, would hide in the diminishing crop in the centre of the field, and it was good sport for the village lads to chase them as they were forced to flee. They were shared around as a useful addition to the diet as there was no way of preserving them. When the binder had cut the sheaves they were then gathered by hand and 6 to 8 were stood up firmly into a stook. Space for a waggon was left between the rows, as the second picture shows. The stooks had to be skilfully



made to stand up to the weather for 10 days to two weeks until the grain was dry enough to be stored. This was a crucial time because heavy rain or storms could mean that

the stooks had to be separated again and shaken to allow them to dry.

The second stage of the harvest came when the sheaves were brought from the field to be stored in a rick, which was built by a skilled rick builder. First a bed of straw was laid down to keep out the damp, and then the sheaves would be laid flat with the butt end out and the heads in all round the edge, about 9 paces by 6, and gradually built up to about 9 or 10 feet high with further layers of sheaves round the edge and the middle filled in by another man. 2 more men would toss the sheaves to the rick builders. Each rick would hold about 10 acres of corn. When the rick was finished it would be thatched as soon as possible to keep the rain out. Some farms had a rickyard. Others, like Southside, used several areas of the farm for ricks to avoid too much carting. Ideally, Dick records, you needed 3 horses and carts to bring in the sheaves, each with a man and a boy. One would be loading in the field, one would be unloading at the rick and the other going to load. Days were long with the carters preparing the horses from about 6am and finishing about 7.30 at night. The horses had their nosebags, and meals were brought to the field for the men. After the fields were cleared, it might be worth raking what was left, especially the barley, and keepers would use these rakings to feed the partridges, then the main game birds. The third picture shows Dick's father, Cob Snow, leading a cart with such a load, and also illustrates what a special event harvest could be for children too. Last into the fields would be the gleaners, picking up what they could to feed their hens.



The grain would remain in the ricks until the farmer judged that the market was right for sale. It was a major job to keep the rats under control in the meantime, and in the evening by torchlight, dogs and sticks would be used to attack them. Farmers hired a threshing machine when they needed it from, say, Smith Bros. of Stockbridge, and might do so on several occasions through the winter. The ricks were spaced to allow the machine to work between them, and were gradually dismantled as the sheaves were fed in. Grain came out one end to be stored until sold, and straw the other, where it was made into another rick. The worst and dustiest job was working under the threshing machine to clear the rubbish which fell through. Crops contained more weeds in those days, when no chemicals were used. Finally the farmer would take a sample of grain to Andover Market, strike the best bargain he could with one of the grain dealers, and seal it with a pint.

Yields were less in the 1930s: two tons an acre was very good then, whereas now farmers would hope to get three and half tons, with the aid of artificial fertilisers. In the 1930s it was the sheep which fertilised the Southside fields, as they ate their way through the root crops in the winter. Another difference was the number of men involved in the harvest. Cobden Snow might employ up to ten at harvest-time, on a farm of about 600 acres. It was hard work, and you needed a strong back to handle all the lifting; Dick says that the hay harvest was even harder. Despite that it was fun, and much more of a community occasion than it is today.

Mary Jo Darrah after conversation with Dick Snow

### St Nicholas Wives Group

#### **Fete**

The Wives Group would like to thank everyone involved in baking, making sandwiches, setting up the teas, serving, clearing up and supporting the stall. With a massive team effort we were able to contribute £291 to the Fete Fund. A good contribution WELL DONE EVERYONE.

#### **BBQ on 10<sup>th</sup> August**

Thirty three people, Wives Group members, their partners and friends, enjoyed a BBQ in the gardens of Lower Mill. The evening was warm and dry with a sun set to add to the charming setting of the mill. Everyone feasted on BBQ fare cooked by new chefs this year. The puddings, colourful, delicious and laden with calories were prepared by various members. It was Pauline and Barry Cornhill's wedding anniversary on the 10<sup>th</sup> so we were treated to eclairs to celebrate the occasion. Our thanks goes to Mr and Mrs Dinesen for allowing us to use their grounds which provided us with a splendid venue in which to socialise.

#### **AGM**

Your ideas for activities and speakers for this year's programme will be needed at the meeting. Please give the subject some thought before then. **All members are reminded that our AGM is to be held at Woodstock on 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30. Please make a special effort to attend.**

Gloria Goodliffe

### **The Wessex Children's Hospice (Naomi House)**

At the end of my year as President of the Inner Wheel Club of Andover I was delighted to be able to present a cheque for £1400.00 to Juliette Hyde, fundraising co-ordinator at Naomi House.

The Children's Hospice had been my main charity for the year and it would not have been possible to make such a substantial donation without the support of many good friends in our United Benefice. My warmest thanks to everyone, who in various ways, contributed so generously to this very deserving cause

Daphne Bevan

### **TODDLERS' SERVICES AT LONGPARISH**

Remember that the first service in this new venture will be on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be The Tractor and the Supermarket Trolley – a harvest theme.

Now that we have our super new children's area in church, we shall be holding monthly services for under school age children and their mums, dads, grandparents, carers etc. These will be held in St. Nicholas Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of most months, starting at 2.15p.m. and finishing in good time to collect from school. Our meetings will include bible stories, singing and making music, craft activities and refreshments. Do come and join us!



Nona Harrison 710215

### **Longparish Cricket Club**



Hundreds of people visited the cricket ground on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August – not, alas, to watch a cricket match but to enjoy the fun and entertainment of our annual Village Fete. (It used to be called the Church Fete, and was originally held at the Rectory.) It was held on the cricket ground for the first time and the afternoon seems to have been a great success – hopefully it will be repeated next year. Perhaps some parishioners may be encouraged to give their active support to the club.

On the same afternoon as the fete, our team lost the away game at Michelmersh, bottom of the league, and this was particularly disappointing after the previous week's fine victory over Bishops Waltham. It is most important to avoid dropping down into the regional divisions and it may well be that survival in the County League will be dependent on beating Ramsdell on August 26<sup>th</sup> on our own ground. By the time you read this we shall know our fate. I know that the players will be giving 100% effort and that they are confident of success.

Allen Snow 01256 895338

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL at St. Nicholas Church**

**SUNDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

This year the Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. The Church will be decorated at 10am on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

All flowers and home-grown produce will be much appreciated and may be taken to the Church that morning. Any preserved foods, tinned or packaged, will be donated to the Coke Hole Trust Charity.

Any enquiries to Mrs R.Twine 720382  
or Mrs B.Duxbury 720580  
Arrangements can be made to collect produce and/or flowers.

**Altar flower rota - flower arrangers**



If anyone would like to arrange flowers in St. Nicholas Church, we are particularly looking for new members to join the Altar Flower Rota. No experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm.

If interested, please contact Mrs B.Duxbury tel.720580



**Friends of Whitchurch Silk Mill**

The Friends of Whitchurch Silk Mill are running two coach trips during September and October.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a trip to the American Museum at Claverton, Bath, to see their extensive craft collections.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a coach trip to The Red House, home of William Morris at Bexleyheath, Kent, stopping at David Evans' World of Silk on the way.

The Friends AGM will be held at the Mill Tearoom on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be followed by an illustrated talk by Mill Manager, Christine Beresford. Admission free!

For further information on these events call 01256 8992149

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***In memoriam Jane Jackson***

The following donations were forwarded to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice and the St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church in memory of Jane Hospice £1228-25p  
R.C.Church £ 208.25p.

Very many thanks to all who contributed.  
John Jackson

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**PRIZE WINNERS OF THE GRAND DRAW**

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. £200                    | Mrs House                  |
| 2. Ducal stool             | Priscilla Anderson         |
| 3. £50 – The Plough        | Lily 720550                |
| 4. £50 – Clacy's           | Mary Jo Darrah             |
| 5. London Eye              | Justin 7200358             |
| 6. Champagne               | John Newlove               |
| 7. Day's coarse fishing    | Mrs Mansfield              |
| 8. Champagne               | Mrs Turner 720426          |
| 9. Dior Fahrenheit         | Mandy 01962 842251         |
| 10. Coffee                 | Mrs Lowden                 |
| 11. Red wine               | John Newlove               |
| 12. Organiser              | Greg Nicolson              |
| 13. Bowl                   | Betty 8600470              |
| 14. Robinson's mixed grill | Dr Wright 7200598          |
| 15. Red wine               | Jean Sheppard 01256 771494 |
| 16. Postcard album         | Kate Hague                 |
| 17. Jumper                 | c/o James West             |
| 18. Dishes                 | Mrs Groves                 |
| 19. ½ day trout fishing    | Leanne O'Brien             |
| 20. Champagne              | Kim 7200529                |
| 21. Tray                   | A.Johnston                 |

**A BIG, BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SOLD TICKETS BEFORE AND ON THE DAY OF THE VILLAGE FETE.**

Jan West

**Longparish Fete**

Congratulations to everyone involved for a lovely



afternoon, blessed by superb weather. Nona and I enjoyed meeting many of you, and are so grateful for the very generous gift to

St Nicholas' Church funds from the proceeds. It is good that an event which gives so much enjoyment also provides such financial support to the Village Hall and Church. Thank you so much.

Martin Copen



The children's tug-of-war

## Longparish Fete 2000

The Fete, held in perfect weather, as might be expected with Dorcas Henry kindly opening the event, drew a greater attendance than for many years past. Dorcas stayed with us most of the afternoon and was in great demand for autographs, her presence was greatly appreciated.

The afternoon was a rewarding experience for everyone who spent so much time and effort in arranging and running stalls and side shows. There had been a generous response to the call for donations of goods for the stalls and with equally generous money donations covering most of our expenses, the funds raised for the upkeep of the Village Church and the Village Hall was just over £5000.00 ( £3000.00 will be allocated to the Church and £2000.00 to the Village Hall)

The cricket field proved to be an attractive venue. Everyone involved in organising and running the fete is very grateful that the Cricket Club allowed us to use the field and the Pavilion. We were made most welcome and helped in every possible way.

Stuart Bevan



## Acronymia

In a recent mailshot from CA Hampshire, there was a 13(!) page Glossary of Commonly Used Acronyms. As the introduction puts it, "The rapid growth of regionalisation issues has seen a new vocabulary of terms and organisations merge known principally by their initials, especially in the regeneration, environment, social care and training areas." So if by chance you meet a CENVO at a party, armed with this paper you will be able to make small talk about ABEDS in SEEDA's RES, or URBEDS come to that. You may be able to drop into the conversation that you already know that CoCo and RDC has been replaced by CA (a.k.a. COAG) and the LGMB by IDEA. If you thought you knew LOTS about CLAIRE, SEAN or CICERO, you were probably wrong: likewise if you thought PQASSO was a modern painter. Instead LETS RAISE our glasses, avoid getting into a TIFF or a TIZ, and SLOAP off quietly, with a bit of LUCS - not forgetting our CAP

## LONGPARISH WEBSITE

David Gould, the webmaster, reports that it is now possible to read the draft Village Design Statement on the website:

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

He would be very grateful for any comments and contributions, particularly old photographs of the village. His telephone number is 720709, and his address Cherry Tree Cottage, Forton.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Longparish Parish Council is on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7.30p.m.

The recent minutes of the Parish Council are now on the Website,. Go to Administration on the Website (see address above) and then Parish Council.

The Clerk is Mrs Karen Dickson tel 353008

## WELCOME CLUB

The next meeting is on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Brian Page of Age Concern is coming to discuss the problems of older people in rural areas, and what Age Concern can do to help.

All interested are welcome to come

