

*around..... Longparish*

**St. Nicholas Christmas Sale 2000**

To be held this year on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, at the Village Hall.

Doors open at 2.30p.m.

Anticipated Stalls at the sale will be:  
 PLANTS, HOME BAKING, BOOKS,  
 STATIONERY, CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
 WHITE ELEPHANT, FANCY GOODS,  
 PRODUCE & PROVISIONS, TOYS.

The wonderful hamper will once again be one of the raffles and refreshments will also be available.



Items for these stalls to sell will be required. Please, everybody, have a good hunt round at home so that the stalls will have things to sell! If you want anything collected, please 'phone me on 01264 720300. Otherwise bring them to the Hall on the morning of the sale. The Hall will be open from 10.30am. on the 9<sup>th</sup> to set up the stalls.

SALE STARTS AT 2.30pm. Come and buy, go in for some raffles, Have a cup of tea and enjoy the afternoon. All monies raised go towards keeping our village Church in good repair for all of us to enjoy  
 John Collins

**Scramblers**

Services for pre-school children take place in St. Nicholas Church monthly, usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon. They start at 2.15p.m. and finish in good time to collect children from school. The next one is on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, a special Christmas service, and the theme will be "Getting Ready for Jesus' Birthday"

**FoLS 100 CLUB**

The recent winners are:

**October**

- 1. Mrs & Mrs Ellicock 29
- 2. Mr & Mrs Wrey 74
- 3 Mrs J.Rist 3

**November**

- 1. Tom Dawnay 81
- 2. Mrs & Mrs Burnett 77
- 3. Mr & Mrs Gould 16

Your support this year for the school is much appreciated. The time will soon be round to renew your membership, as the 2001 draws start in January. Please ask for forms from the school or from Mrs Sandy Lelliott tel. 01256,

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

To raise funds for Longparish Playgroup we shall be singing through Forton and Middleton on the evening of Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, starting from 6p.m., weather permitting.

If you would like to join us, please contact either Andrea Hulme on 720347 or Maggie Barber on 720459.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available to sustain all participants.



**CAROL SINGING BY CANDLELIGHT**

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Meet at 7p.m. at North Acre, Longparish (or, if wet, on 20<sup>th</sup> December)

Please join us - singers, musicians or just to listen - everyone welcome.

Followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and sausage rolls.

To give us numbers for catering please phone:

Vi Meares 720472 or Wendy Ellicock 720386.



**HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLES**

The first entertainment of the winter season, subsidised for village halls by Hampshire County Council, was a two man show by Steve Jordan, who sang Hampshire folk songs, woven into a narrative of some of the highlights of local history, and Paul Hutchinson, who accompanied on the accordion. It was an enjoyable evening, and attracted a good audience. A raffle helped to raise funds and refreshments were provided by members of the Village Hall Management Committee. The total contributed to Hall funds after expenses was a splendid £230.

A highlight of the show was a spirited enactment, aided by several members of the audience, of the Andover mummers' play. Longparish, too, had a mummers' play, not dissimilar from the Andover one, which was recorded in the Women's Institute Book of 1951, dictated by Ernest White. It was the custom for some men, dressed in costumes made of shredded newspaper (according to a photograph in the W.I. book) to go round the village at Christmas time performing the play and collecting money. It was apparently last performed about 1926. I transcribed it a while ago and thought that, this might be a good opportunity to publish it, as I have few contributions for this Christmas issue.

Is there anyone who remembers seeing the mummers?  
It would be very interesting to hear your recollections.

Mary Jo Darrah tel.720320

**LONGPARISH MUMMERS' PLAY**

"Characters: Father Christmas, King George, Foreign King, Doctor, Tall and Smart, Twing Twang.

FC Room, room, ladies and gentlemen, room I pray.  
In come I, old Father Christmas, welcome or welcome not  
I hope old Father Christmas will never be forgot.  
To all in this room it shall be shown  
The dreadfulest battle ever known  
Twixt King George and the Turkish Knight.  
I took my travels abroad a country for to see  
What three fine acts I brought straight from victory.  
The next that do come in, he is the noble King  
Straight from the wars glad tidings he will bring  
Room, room I pray; 'tis I that lead King George this way.

KG In come I, King George, a man of courage bold  
With my sword so valiant by my side I won a pot of gold  
Twas me that fought the fiery dragon, and brought him to the slaughter  
By all these means and pains, I won the Queen of Egypt's daughter  
If any man dare enter this kitchen or hall  
I'll cut off his head and kick it about like a football.  
Room, room, I pray; 'tis I that lead the Foreign King this way.

FK In come I, old Foreign King, with my broadsword I will swing  
Likewise I am a Turkish Knight, just come to England for a fight.  
I'll fight thee, King George, thou man of courage bold  
If thy blood runs hot, I'll quickly fetch it cold.

KG Well done, my little lad, thou talkest very bold  
Just like the little lads I have been told  
Ah, thou Turkish Knight, draw out thy sword and fight.  
Draw out thy purse and fees: for satisfaction I'll end thy life before thou goest away.

FK No satisfaction at all, King George, for in two minutes I'll take thy life away.

KG Battle to battle thee I'll call  
To see which on this ground shall fall.

FK Battle to battle, thee I'll play  
To see which on this ground shall lay.

KG Guard thy hits, and guard thy blows  
Likewise thy head and also thy nose.

(They fight, and Foreign King sinks to his knees)

FK Oh, King George, King George, what hast thou done!  
Spare my life, not cut it down  
Let me rise, go home, and tell what champions do in Old England dwell.

KG I'll cut thee down, never to rise again.

(King George strikes the Foreign King again)

FC Oh, King George, what hast thou done!  
Thou hast ruined me by killing my son.

KG He gave me the first challenge, so how could I deny it?

FC Oh, is there a doctor to be found  
To cure this dead and wounded young man  
That lies bleeding on the ground?

Doc. Oh yes, oh yes, there is a doctor to be found  
Who'll cure this dead and wounded young man  
That lies bleeding on the ground.

FC What can'st thou cure, Doctor?

Doc. I can cure the itch, the stitch, palsy and gout  
A pain within or a pain without  
A broken leg, or a broken arm  
If his neck is broke I can set it again  
and charge nothing extra for the pain  
Bring me an old lady four score and ten  
With all the teeth out of her head  
And I'll soon bring her round again.

FC Where hast thou been for all thy learning, Doctor?

Doc. I've been to Italy, France and Spain  
And I've just returned to Old England again.

FC What about thy fee, Doctor?

Doc. Fifty Pounds my fee, and this money paid down  
I'll have: but thou being a poor man, Ten

FC Pounds I'll have from thee.  
Hold, hold, Doctor. Don't be too hard.

Doc. I'm not too hard. I'm not one of these mountebank doctors who rides about from stage to stage telling people a pack of lies. I'm a good old southdown doctor. What I take in hand I can cure.

FC Try thy skill, Doctor.

Doc. And so I will. Ladies and Gentlemen come forward and see me cure the sick and raise the dead to life again. I have a little bottle by my side which I call the elegant pain. I drop two drops One on his heart, another on his temple. I say Arise, arise, you valiant man, And walk as gently as you can.

FC Walk in, walk in, both Tall and Smart Show the ladies and gentlemen thy best part.

T&S In come I, both Tall and Smart I'll tell thee my mind with all my heart Likewise I am a cutting star Just come from that dreadful war. My sword you see that shines so bright Will fight from morning, noon till night. My sword you see that's held by me Will cut and slay and clear the way And teach all rebels to obey

Me, myself and seven more  
Fought and conquered eleven score  
Eleven score of valiant men  
Shall never rise to fight again.  
My head is made of iron, my body is lined with steel  
My breeches fit my middle so tight, my garters drag my heel  
First comes Christmas, then comes Spring.  
I'm the jolliest little lad that can either dance or sing.

FC Walk in, walk in, little Twing Twang Show the ladies and gentlemen thy press gang.

TT In come I, little Twing Twang I think myself the best man of this press gang. Come to press all you proud members to be men o' war and board a ship to fight the French and Spaniards also  
Although I am but a Johnnie Jack With my wife and family at my back My wife so great, my children small I think myself the best man of you all For when I come I come with these.

Ladies and gentlemen, give the Christmas Jacks just what you please.  
Money in pockets is a very fine thing;  
Roast beef, plum pudding and mince pie,  
Who likes that better than Father Christmas and I.



**A CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS**

We are getting together a choir for Longparish and Hurstbourne Priors to lead our singing at the Carol Services on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Whether you are an experienced singer or just enjoy singing - it is great fun- come and see!

For details of rehearsals, contact Nona Harrison (tel. 720215) or organist John Martin (tel. 352308)

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

The fourth session of our Advent bible study will be on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8p.m. Please contact Nona Harrison tel. 720215 for venue.

These meetings have proved to be very popular, and it has been really good for those from Longparish and those from Hurstbourne Priors to get to know each other better. We shall follow this with a new course in the spring. Watch this space!

The club's A.G.M. was held on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, when arrangements were discussed and officers elected for the next season. Most of the present officials were re-elected but we shall have a new treasurer in Steve Benco and a new vice-chairman in John Young, who is also to be responsible for pavilion maintenance – how wonderful to have someone new from the village. Anne Herbert is continuing as secretary for the moment but she has been a tower of strength to the club for six years now and really has done her stint!

It is not very easy to think about cricket at the moment with the ground under water, but come next April Ken Ball and Dennis Heagren will have everything neat and green again; - and even dry! Christmas will soon be here and hopefully everyone will enjoy a really festive holiday: - and then New Year, and nets will start at Testbourne —what a very happy thought!

Alan Snow 01256 895338



**LONGPARISH SCHOOL**  
*There is a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisory assistant at the school.*

*Please apply to the school tel. 720317 for details of hours and pay.*



*In memoriam***Alastair Fleming**

"We offer our deepest sympathy to Kit Fleming on the death of his brother, Alastair. Ali had got to know many friends in Longparish during his visits over the last twenty years, and was much appreciated for his sense of fun and life, and will be missed here. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held in St Nicholas Church on 15th November."

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**LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL**

Any letters or queries to the Parish Council should usually be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Karen Dickson

4, Burdock Close

Goodworth Clatford SP11 7RS

Tel. 01264 353008

Email [karendickson@hotmail.com](mailto:karendickson@hotmail.com)

From now until mid-January, Jeremy Barber, the Vice-Chairman will be acting Chairman. He is at 2, Forton, tel. 720459.

**Resignation of Nick Reeve**

The Council learned with regret of the resignation of Nick Reeve from the Council because of increased commitments at work. Nick had been a councillor since May 1995, and did valuable work on the finance committee, including pioneering the computerisation of the Parish Council accounts, and, more recently, with footpaths, helping to replace stiles by kissing gates.

The vacancy has been advertised, and the deadline for applying to fill the vacancy will have passed by the time Hill & Valley appears. The Chairman and Clerk are always keen to hear of anyone who would like to contribute to the Council's work.

**WELCOME CLUB**

The December meetings are festive ones.

On the afternoon of **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December** the Club will have its Christmas party.

On **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a Christmas lunch at the Plough.

New members are always welcome.

Contact Gordon and Joyce Gadsby tel.333803

**FOOTBALL FIELD**

The football field behind the Plough is generously made available by Richard Wills of Middleton Estate for the young to play football. The Parish Council has it cut, and at weekends it is used by Swan Hill Football Club in Andover for its junior teams. The Club looks after the pitch, and welcomes members from the village. Contact numbers are in the new Directory.

Recently the Club has had trouble because dogs are fouling the pitch and making it unsuitable for children to play on. Will all nearby residents, and anyone using the footpath please ensure that their dogs are not allowed to mess the pitch, and that if it does happen the owner clears it up.

**ALLOTMENTS**

There are now three vacant allotments. Anyone who is interested in taking one should contact Julian Curl at 1, Elm Cottages. Current holders are Peter | Brown, Julian Curl, Nigel Griffin, Charlie Howett and Brian Jones.

**LONGPARISH HANDBOOK DIRECTORY 2000**

The Parish Council has sponsored and financed a revised Directory to accompany the Handbook which was distributed last year, and which is still on sale for £2 in the shop and the pubs. I hope that the new Directory will be correct for a while. The various village organisations all have their AGMs at different times, and then officials change. The bus timetable will change again in February.

The Parish Council is very grateful to Jane Sterndale-Bennett, the organiser, and the volunteers who deliver Hill & Valley to every household, and who are kindly including the Directory this month.

If anyone has moved into the village recently and did not inherit a Handbook, please contact Mary Jo Darrah on 720320. It is hoped that anyone moving away will leave the Handbook in the house.

**St. Nicholas Wives Group**

On October 19<sup>th</sup> nineteen members met at Mallards to enjoy an illustrated talk by Ron Pearce. For a full ninety minutes Mr Pearce spoke to us without notes. He showed us dramatic and technically superb photographs of a local nature as well as a large number of celebrities that he had worked with. The saying "every picture tells a story" was indeed very true with Mr Pearce. He entertained us and gave us an insight into his varied, busy and unpredictable career as a photojournalist.

An interesting and thought provoking twist to an otherwise light-hearted talk was the inclusion of some photographs of a crash just off the A303 a few years ago. There was worldwide interest in his photographs as he was the only journalist to cover the story. The story had an air of mystery as it linked the untimely deaths of personnel working on secret communications projects.

The December meeting of Wives Group will be held, thanks to Daphne and Stuart Bevan, at Woodstock on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. The Rector, Nona Harrison, will be speaking to us about "Preparations for Christmas."

***JANUARY DEADLINE Please note that the deadline for inclusion in January Hill & Valley is very early: December 8<sup>th</sup> at the latest to M.J.Darrah***