

## BIRDS OF THE GAMBIA

I have been asked by quite a few people who knew I was going there on holiday to write about The Gambia and its birds. The Gambia is in West Africa on the banks of the river Gambia and is surrounded by Senegal. It is a very poor country; the average wage is about £30 per month. They have two seasons: wet and dry. It rains in July and October. The rest of the year is mostly sunny and hot. Contrary to most people's belief, there are only a few wild animals, monkeys and crocodiles.

Most of the birds nest in the rainy season. There are about 552 recorded birds in The Gambia. Some are very rare, others are passage migrants. I have seen 226 so far, so still have a long way to go. The birds range from vultures right down to bronze manakins, which are about the size of a wren. Some have long names like the lesser blue-eared glossy starling, the western grey plantain eater and the red cheeked cordon-bleu.

I'll start with the big ones. There are eight types of vulture. The most common is the hooded with a wing span of nearly two metres. One of the funniest sights was a dog on open ground eating a big bone completely surrounded by vultures waiting to see if he left any scraps. There are twelve types of eagles, and thirty one different hawks and



*Hooded vulture*

falcons. They live on lizards, carrion and small birds.

Here we have the red kite; they have the black one (which can sometimes be seen in England). It's more brown than black but very common and can get quite tame. Nearly all our wading birds such as curlew, oyster catcher, redshank and snipe are common. There are fourteen herons and egrets including our grey heron. The biggest is the goliath heron, which is massive. Kingfishers range from the giant kingfisher (17 inches) to the African pygmy (5 inches) similar to ours except purple on the back instead of blue.



*Black kite*



*Abyssinian roller*

Some of the most colourful birds are the rollers. The Abyssinian is mostly pale with a blue head and chest, brown back with purple edges to its wings, and a long forked tail. The blue bellied roller has a cream head and chest, purple belly, black wings and a light blue tail. There are seventeen swallows and martins, most looking like ours, though they have a green swallow called a

fanti-saw-wing. The sunbirds are similar to humming birds; the male is brightly coloured but as with most birds

the female is plain. They have three sparrows: the house sparrow is very similar to ours in looks but it also is in decline. Most of the warblers including blackcap, whitethroat and chiffchaff are resident or passage migrants. My favourite is the yellow crowned gonolek which has a bright red throat, chest and belly with a yellow cap and a jet black back. The bee-eaters are also colourful birds of eight different types, some common, some very rare. A total of fourteen doves and pigeons can be seen, four look like our collared dove. The speckled pigeon is the equivalent of our wood pigeon only a lot more colourful. Gulls and terns are common, twenty three in total and again most of ours are there; the most common is the grey headed. You can't go to Africa and not see the hornbills. There are seven different ones; the most common is the red billed, some of the others are rare. I can't finish without telling you about the starlings. They are all green, blue and purple with very bright eyes ranging from white, yellow, orange



*Glossy starling*

to red with a black iris. Some of the birds I have written about can be seen at the end of my web site [www.chrisbowman.co.uk](http://www.chrisbowman.co.uk) I hope you enjoy reading about The Gambia and its birds. chris bowman



## LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.45pm**  
**Evening Visit to Littlecourt, Crawley.**  
**nr. Winchester SO21 2PU**  
**(By kind permission of Prof. and Mrs. Elkington)**

Little Court is in the centre of the village of Crawley, 300 yards from either pond or church and 5 miles NW of Winchester. It is a 3 acre traditional English country garden, very sheltered. Old walls with climbers and many perennials for all seasons set off by fine lawns. Carpets of naturalised spring bulbs. Productive kitchen garden. Glorious views over rolling countryside. A very peaceful place.

### Plants for Sale

Members Free (Non-Members welcome £5.00).

Please let us know if you are able to come as I will have to let the Elkingtons know numbers.

Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 or Julian Curl 01264 720548  
 or Rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com

**Next meeting - Tuesday 25th May**  
 Evening Visit to Hurstbourne Priors Gardens.



THE LONGPARISH PLAYGROUP  
PRESENTS A

# Spring Concert

**Saturday 22nd May at 8pm**  
St. Nicholas Church, Longparish

Popular music through the ages including:

**Vivaldi** / Gloria (extract)  
**J.S.Bach** / Toccata & Fugue in D minor  
**Mozart** / Laudate Dominum  
**Holst** / Mars from The Planets  
**Mancini** / The Pink Panther Theme

Performed by local musicians, including  
The Longparish Village Choir

**Tickets £5.** Available from:  
Longparish Village Shop / Nicky Smallwood, 01264 720086

All proceeds will go to the Longparish Playgroup, Registered charity #1001065

## Longparish School News

As the long cold winter finally rolled away, children from Longparish Primary School took part in two exciting outdoor activities. Two of the boys from Year 6 have written reports about these events.

### Years five and six football tournament.

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, a team from Longparish Primary School entered a football tournament at Harrow Way School.

In our first match, we won 1-0. We then went on to win all of our following group matches (Clatford, Abbots Ann, Amport and Kimpton) apart from one, which we drew (against Smannell.) We topped our group with thirteen points (out of a possible fifteen.)

After that, we went all the way to the final where we lost 2-1 to Clatford, who we had previously beaten. The match was a good one; we scored first within twenty seconds, they then equalised within another twenty nine seconds! The winning goal came in the last minute of the first half of added time. Overall, everyone had great fun and came out of it with a big smile on their face and a medallion!

Ben Evans

### “Run for your lives” mile run for Haiti.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 33 students of Longparish school ran a sponsored mile to help the inhabitants of Haiti, following an idea of Matthieu Rident.

All the students put in a lot of effort to collect as many sponsors and, of course, to run the mile. Every runner completed the course. Also many parents kindly baked some cakes for the cake sale. Thanks to these cakes and the appetite of the generous public, this cake sale raised £117.92. The total of money raised is not yet known; as not all of the sponsor money has been given in.



helped us prepare for this run every Thursday!  
Matthieu Rident

In conclusion, the atmosphere of this run was very enjoyable and the shining sun made everyone smile. Also, many thanks to Mrs. Gregori, Mrs. Healey, Mr. Barber, Mr. Gould and Mr. Evans for sponsoring all those taking part in the run. It is clear that we need to give a special thanks to Mrs. Healey who organised the run and Mr. Gould who

### New Staffroom

The big event to take place at Longparish Primary School this month has been the completion of the new staffroom. This new extension has made it possible for all of the staff to be in the staffroom at the same time. It has also provided an important working area for teaching staff. We are very sorry that the work overran and offer our most sincere apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

### Car park

We would like to offer our thanks to the Governing Body of Longparish School for providing for the doubling of the hard standing parking area opposite the village hall.

Alex Foggo

## Welcome for new villagers

### Wednesday 12 May 2010

There will be a reception for new villagers at 8pm on *Wednesday 12 May*, in the Longparish Village Hall.

Please do come if you moved to Longparish in the last couple of years. The Parish Council will fund refreshments and it will give you an opportunity to find out more about the village and meet people who lead village clubs and organisations.

If you have new neighbours please bring them along. Please phone Gina Snowden on 720128 if you are coming so we can be sure to have enough food and drink!

Jeremy Barber Parish Council Chair  
Martin Coppen Parish Priest

## Longparish Parish Council

This report covers the March meeting. The minutes are on the village website [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk).

### Vacancy

The Council decided to co-opt Natasha Rouse. Our thanks go to both excellent volunteers.

### Planning

The Council was concerned at the additional pressure on roads that would be caused by a proposed development of 800 houses at Picket Piece and decided to object.

The Council had no objection to

- Tree work at Stream House, Chapel House and Greenfields.
- A shed at Rivers End
- An extension at Forton House

### Open Spaces

- The thuja in the village hall car park has been pruned and looks much better and the trees in the playground have been trimmed. Thanks very much to our tree warden, Graham Darrah for his help and advice in both cases.
- The fence by the football field car park has been mended
- We need help for the Clean Up Day on Saturday 24 April (please see separate article)

### Roads

Christian Dryden (tel 398) and Natasha Rouse (tel 191) are considering possible sites for grit bins. Please do contact them if you'd like to suggest a site.

A working group led by Christian Dryden is considering ways of improving road safety by education of road users of all ages, whether drivers, cyclists or pedestrians. Please contact Christian (tel 398) if you have any helpful ideas.

### Welcome event for new villagers

If you moved to the village in the last couple of years please come to the welcome event on Wednesday 12 May at 8pm in the Village Hall. Please note this is a change from the date mentioned last month.

### Footpaths

Thanks go to the County Footpaths Team who have cut back the blackthorn which had encroached on to Footpath 4 which runs from The Cleaves to Britwell Priors. This is very welcome as the blackthorn had pushed the path down from its true line on to ground which slopes awkwardly in places. You can now walk safely along the proper line of the path.

### Village Hall

The action group on refurbishment of the village hall has concluded that they need professional assistance from a quantity surveyor to produce a schedule of works. This will enable them to obtain comparable quotes from builders and give evidence in support of grant applications. The schedule will be broken into sections to enable the action group to consider what is achievable when the financial constraints have been established.

The Council decided to appoint RJA Associates, quantity surveyors, to do the work.

### Next Parish Council Meeting

The next parish council meeting is on Monday 12 April. Meetings are public. Parishioners are welcome to come and can speak by invitation.

Jeremy Barber Chairman. Tel 720459  
email [jeremy.barber@longparish.org.uk](mailto:jeremy.barber@longparish.org.uk)

## SPRING CLEAN UP OF VILLAGE STREAM AND PLAYGROUND

SATURDAY 24th APRIL 10am. to 1pm

VOLUNTEERS WANTED to help with the village spring clean. Meet at Ashburn Rest.

STREAM CLEAR OUT. Please bring your own equipment to clear out the weed and debris in the stream. We will also clear the banks of weeds – especially the stinging nettles. Other work will include litter picking, cleaning benches and road signs and levelling the ground in the cemetery.

EVERYONE WELCOME TO HELP. Old and new volunteers wanted.

FREE LIGHT LUNCH AT THE PLOUGH FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Please phone Jenny Jolliffe on 720207 if you have any queries.

## Help to put Longparish on the map

Geograph British Isles is a project sponsored by Ordnance Survey which aims to collect geographically representative photographs and information for every square kilometre of Great Britain and Ireland. It is a true open online community project for all, and anyone can contribute. Latest figures show there are over 9,500 users and over 1.65 million images covering 75% of the British Isles.

Grid Reference SU4344 covers Middleton to East Aston and includes (at Feb 2010) 16 images. You can see it using this link

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/gridref/SU4344>

You can navigate to adjoining squares and see more pictures and it is easy to add your own pictures to the website. Wherwell are way ahead of us with 33 pictures on their square. Let's see if we can overtake them!

### WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL REFECTORY Wednesday 21st April

Just a reminder that the first of our 3 dates for this year is Wednesday 21st April. I already have several volunteers but if you would like to come and join in the team of our combined Parishes, we would love you to help. Please contact Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 or [rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com](mailto:rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com)

## Longparish Cricket Club



*Sponsored by Barker, Son & Isherwood, Solicitors*

The past month saw a successful conclusion to the Winchester and District indoor season for BSI sponsored Longparish Cricket Club.

In the knockout competition all three senior sides moved through the opening rounds of the knockout competition, Paul Blackmore's Longparish II side making it all the way to the semi final where they were beaten on the penultimate ball of the game by Swanmore who had 1 wicket remaining. Longparish U16s were crowned League champions following a tight game against third placed Fair oak. Fair oak batted first, Alex Coetzee and Brad Aldridge bowling a miserly opening spell, change bowlers William Jackman and William de Cani picked up wickets and Michael Taplin threw down the stumps twice

as Fair oak closed on 110 for 4, a target that Longparish passed with an over to spare; a superb performance by Longparish U16 that lifted them one place higher than last season's runners up spot. A happy and talented side, they are all still U15 cricketers



and will be able to defend the title next year.

In the Dummer Indoor Leagues Paul Blackmore's Longparish Longhops lie second in Division II and are strong favourites for promotion thanks to some inspirational all round performances from Barry Blackmore and Martin Savage. Justin Jackman's Longparish Lightweights took two steps towards preserving their Division 1 status with impressive wins over Tichbourne Phoenix and Plaza Panthers. Jackman and his son, Matthew, were the principal run scorers while Jack Tosdevine impressed with the ball.

Longparish U15s had a hectic month in The North Hampshire League A Division, with resounding victories over Easton & Martyr Worthy and Alton. William de Cani struck his third fifty of the campaign, and Brad Aldridge Alex Coetzee, Michael Taplin and William Jackman all reached retirement and contributed a significant number of runs. Aldridge, Coetzee and Jackman have all picked up wickets although the stand out bowling performance came from Michael Taplin who took 3 for 20 against Alton, aided by two stumpings from Dan Pomroy. With games remaining against Basingstoke A and Yateley A, Longparish U15 currently top the North Hampshire U15 A Division.

The Longparish AGM was held under the fluorescent lights of the spanking Longparish Community Hall, many of the seats were taken. Mr Chair opened with a summation of the past twelve months and wise words about maintaining momentum. Mr Treasurer called for

fiscal fortitude, loose change, and spoke of a roof to be paid for if we are to be saved from the sky falling on our heads. All of the usual suspects were elected to the usual positions, some *en bloc*, James Young and his big money balls were added to the general committee and fund raising committee, and umpire, Tim Wolfe Barry was welcomed to the club. The possibility of fielding a third side in summers to come was also discussed. The need for continued fundraising to enable the club to improve facilities and provide cricket of a high standard to all ages was highlighted on several occasions.

At the AGM it was voted unanimously that Ken Ball be appointed a life Vice President of the Club. Ken first played for the club in 1945 at the age of 14 against Hurstbourne. An occasional spinner and fine fielder in the covers, he hit his highest score, a good hundred, against Hamble. He played against some of the world's finest cricketers on the Longparish ground in sides assembled by John Woodcock, and also got onto the field at Lords during the Club's first appearance in the Village Cup final. Ken was rewarded by The Hampshire Cricket League for the excellent condition of the Longparish ground, and presented with the award by John Arlott. Ken last took the field for Longparish three seasons ago. He will be preparing the square and enthusiastically following all the Longparish sides this coming season, 65 years after he first represented the Club.



Pre season nets are now underway for the U11s on Friday nights, all of the coming season's fixtures for Colts and Senior sides are now on the website [www.longparishcc.co.uk](http://www.longparishcc.co.uk) Match ball sponsors are being sought for the summer, anyone or anything can sponsor a match ball for £10. The sponsors name will appear in the scorebook, match report and on a board during the game. Anyone wishing to sponsor a match ball can do so by contacting Chris de Cani on 07931111849 or [chrisdecani@googlemail.com](mailto:chrisdecani@googlemail.com)

### 100 Club Winners

£35 Nan Snow  
£15 Georgina Bonathan  
£15 Martin Bearpark

### FOLS 100 Club Draw results

January	1st	96	Clare Sykes
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	91	Mrs M.E.Bell
	3rd	80	Mr Mottley
February	1st	128	Mrs Sands
	2nd	28	Mary Jo Darrah
	3rd	129	Mr Sands

### March Haiku

Sharp frost at midnight,  
prostrate daffodils at dawn.  
When will spring arrive?

## Longparish Community Association

### Calling all LCA members!

A big thank you to everyone who included a donation with their membership subs for 2010.

If you haven't renewed your membership there is still time to complete the application form at the back of the events diary (or from the village website) and return it to Christine Beresford or Jessie Gould. Membership costs £1 per person and offers a discount on some of the activities organised by the Association. You will also be supporting good causes like KidzZone and the Recycled Teenagers' Club.



### LCA Afternoon Tea

Isobel Johnston is hosting the monthly tea and chat at Blacksmith's Bridge House, Southside Road. Do come along between 3.00 and 4.30 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. You are assured of a warm welcome. If you need

a lift give Gloria a call on 720425 and she will arrange one for you.

### LCA – L2SOTM – The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

We had a sunny, bright day for the Mother's Day L2SOTM, although the running field was reduced – probably most of the ladies were cooking the lunch their children were going to say "Happy Mother's Day" at. Congratulations to Jeffrey Wiseman, who ran a Personal Best time to become the Most Improved Man.



Whether by chance or design we had a three way tie of all the women competitors so Jacqui Healey, Sandra Jones and Alice Evans, shown in the photo, became the joint Most Improved Women.

Thanks very much to Graham Healey for organising everyone, Andy and Emma Smith for the refreshment, Ben, Sim and Katie Evans and Jack Ellicock for marshalling, the Goulds for the signs and, of course, to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on Sunday 11 April starting at the usual time of 10am at the Cricket Ground.

Runners of all standards are welcome as are brisk walkers. It is a handicap race so the slowest have as much chance of winning the cups as the fastest. Supporters of all ages are very welcome.

## "Longparish as it used to be"

An illustrated talk by  
**John Woodcock.**

in the Village Hall  
on Tuesday 13th April at 7 pm  
in aid of Longparish Church.  
Tickets £6.00 to include glass of wine.  
from Clare Francis 01264 720361  
or Rosie Lowry 01264 720325



There will be no Kidz Zone during the Easter holidays, so the next club night is 21<sup>st</sup> April. Club hours are now 7 to 8.30pm.

**Smooth movers - no class on April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Village Hall AGM**  
**Tuesday 20th April,**  
**8 pm in the Village Hall.**  
All welcome

## Longparish Fête 2010

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Is it in your diary ?**

If you are a helper or stall organiser you will certainly be needed again if you can generously give your time. So please note the date and start thinking about your stall and team to run it.

Thanks for some suggestions after my last notice. These have been followed up. I am still looking for ideas or links to interesting arena displays or sideshows.

I will be contacting all stallholders soon to check on your tent/table/chairs needs and update my email listing.

With the change in the weather we can actually start 'thinking fête' more imaginatively.

Tom Bremridge 01264 720689  
[tom@brem.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:tom@brem.eclipse.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE

### A Very Special Guest

One highlight has been a visit by the Headteacher of Mityana, our partner school in Uganda. The Reverend Canon Sserunjogi joined us for a wet but wonderful week, finding out more about Testbourne and the wider partnership, including visits to Whitchurch and St Mary Bourne Primary Schools. His warmth and integrity shone through and helped strengthen the understanding and bond between us. He visited lessons, answered pupils' questions and tried school dinners. He impressed the pupils at a final farewell assembly, giving them a lesson in Lugandan, donning the school sweatshirt and Head Boy badge offered as gifts and closing with a prayer and blessing accompanied by the most deep and respectful silence. A very special moment indeed. Our Bella Voce choir sang him out to the strains of "Mityana (not California!) dreaming, on such a winter's day".

### And Some Special Performances

There has been a lot of hard work and excitement on the performing arts front: The Wizard of Oz, performed over four nights in February, was a much-praised delight; our Global Rock Challenge team of 50 produced a powerful dance piece on the challenging theme of the impact of war on those families left behind and won two awards in competition with 12 other southern region schools at the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth; our Kid Witness News documentary film crew has captured the work of the Year 10 dance group with students with profound needs from Icknield Special School, producing a moving film showing you can "Dansez What You Can't Sez".

### Sporting Award

The work of our PE Department was recognised when they won the Secondary School of the Year in Sport Award at the Basingstoke and Deane Annual Awards Ceremony. We are still a smaller school than many and it is a credit to the team that they won in the face of such stiff opposition.

### Exam Preparation Well Under Way

Pupils have, of course, been hard at work academically. Our Year 11s have just a few weeks left before the GCSE written examinations begin and are already involved in revision, both at home and in after school or lunchtime classes. Their hard work is paying off in more ways than one - with those who have already accrued enough reward points being issued with their invitation to the Leavers' Ball later in the year. A good incentive for those who need a little more encouragement to buckle down!

### Admissions

We have received a healthy number of applications for the new Year 7. Overall there are less pupils in the current Year 6 cohort and at the time of writing we, therefore, have a small number of places still available for this coming September.

### Could You Be A Governor?

We currently have a vacancy for a Partnership Governor from the local community. If you would be interested in finding out more about this valuable role please contact Paul Welch, our Senior Finance Manager, on 01256 892061. Hilary Jackson, Headteacher

## Garage Sale for Lymphoma Association

Penny Elkins thanks all those who supported her and raised £135.00 for the Lymphoma Association.

## The May Fayre – May 8th

Spring really must be in the air now – it's time to start getting ready for the May Fayre!

### Plant stall

We are hoping to follow in Maggie Barber's footsteps and run a version of her highly acclaimed plant stall. Some generous gardeners have already offered to donate but we still need lots more plants. If you have a few spare seeds and could pot them up, or a few extra plants – perhaps you are planning to revamp the garden and have a few unwanted plants. We would be delighted to take them off your hands!

Plants can be left at school, at Playgroup or at the Coopers' house (5, The Withies).

For more information, please contact Kristy Bowman on 01962761193 or Alison Cooper on 720324

### The Tombola

The extremely popular Tombola stall again needs to be stocked and we look to our very generous Longparish residents to help us with that. As you know, each year, a member of the FOLS committee comes to knock on the door and ask for bottles of anything you can spare – wine, sherry, spirits, soft drinks, champagne (if we're really lucky), strange coloured liqueurs, anything. A week before we go collecting, you will receive a reminder through the door - just to give you some warning. Alternatively you can always leave your donations at the village shop.

Many thanks from everyone on the FOLS Committee

## HELP FOR HEROES

### The Devizes to Westminster 125 mile kayak race

Full details appeared in last month's Hill and Valley. In brief, my son and I are competing in this year's 'DW' in aid of Help for Heroes. We start at Devizes on the morning of Easter Saturday, kayak continuously through the day and night and finish (hopefully) on Sunday morning at Westminster Bridge. As well as the kayaking we have to make 77 portages around locks. We have trained for over a year and our target is 24 hours. I am very grateful for all those of you who have already supported our fundraising efforts for Help for Heroes. If you would like to support us and have not yet done so, please:

- Give on line at:  
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MikeEllicock>
- Send your donation to me at Longmead House, Longparish, Andover, Hampshire SP11 6PZ or make a pledge by phone on 01264 720386, or,
- Fill out the pledge form or donate at the Longparish village shop

Many thanks.

John and Mike Ellicock

### Yoga classes,

The new term begins on Tuesday 20th April. British Wheel Of Yoga Teacher, Faye Robinson, runs a beginners' class, suitable for all on Tuesday evenings (term time only) from 6.30 to 7.30pm in the Community Hall. A new intermediate class from 7.45 until 9pm is starting, suitable for fit beginners and intermediate students. The aim is to strengthen, stretch and relax you through breathing and movement. Tel. 07717500323.