

2013

Happy New Year

2013

Most of our readers will have made resolutions to lose weight and take more exercise in the year to come. You could not do better than to make good use of our splendid halls which are now offering a variety of opportunities to improve your fitness in 2013. It seems a good moment to list the regular bookings in the halls.

Village Hall regular bookings

Monday	10 – 11.30am	Mothers and Toddlers Group every other Monday	Contact Lizzie Gairdner 720372
	7 - 8pm every Monday from 14 January	Ladies Fitness League Your first session free.	Contact Rachel Panting – see below
Tuesday	10.30am from 8 th January	Golden Zumba £5 per session pay up front; or £6 pay as you go. 1 st session £5.	Contact Sue Russell – see below
	6.45- 7.45pm	Pilates (every Tuesday either in Hall or meeting room)	Contact Rachel Bell 07810 546046
	7.30 – 9.30pm on 15 and 29 Jan.	Sewing Club – It's Sew Easy every other Tues.in meeting room)	Contact Sonya Pereira 07918 765 939 email; sewdoi@gmail.com or Helen Ridge 720256.
	7pm 2 nd Tuesday	LCA Tuesday Talks -	Contact Christine Beresford 720421
	7pm 4 th Tuesdays	Longparish Gardening Club	Contact Rosie Lowry 720325
Wednesday	7 – 8.30 twice a month	KidZone	Contact Andrea Harris 720457
Thursday	9.15 – 10.15am from 10 January	LCA Smooth Movers Low impact aerobics for ladies	Contact Gina Snowden 720128
Friday	9am – 12 noon 2 nd Fridays	LCA Coffee Shop for everyone	Contact Gloria Goodliffe 720425

School & Community Hall Regular Bookings

Monday	7 – 8.30pm	Ballroom Dancing beginners	Contact Amanda 07770 365662 email events@jiveolution.co.uk
	8.30 – 10pm	Ballroom Dancing improvers	Contact as above
Tuesday		Zumba £5 a session	Contact Sue Russell – see below
Thursday	6 – 7pm	Core Stability exercise class. £5 a session Organised by Andover Triathlon Club and led by a qualified teacher.	Contact Sam Pratt 07762 623683

Ladies Fitness League arrives in January

Rachel Panting is starting Fitness League in the Village Hall from Monday 14th January at 7pm.

Rachel says “Fancy something different, lively and fun? In my classes I work to energise and strengthen the whole body using low impact moves set to music - ‘A Complete Body Workout’ So, ladies, whatever your age, size, shape or ability come along. You don’t have to be Darcey Bussell or Jessica Ennis - just be **YOU!**”

- Forget the ‘no pain no gain’ jargon. Exercise at your own level – injury is no fun.
- Travel the world – zumba music is from all continents.
- Make new friends – all classes friendly and men are welcome! (It was founded by a man!)

Still not convinced? Ring me, Sue Russell, on 07947410394 or email me sue@plays-r-russell.com or check out my website www.zumba-around-winchester.com

For more details contact Rachel on 01264 729034 or 07860 705020 or email rapblytheclose@btinternet.com

New Year Resolutions – Zumba Style!

- Eat lots – you will burn it off in class!
- Attend lots of classes – the better you know the music, the more you’ll enjoy the routines!
- Smile and laugh lots – laughter is the best medicine especially at this time of the year!
- Forget your inhibitions – make 2013 the year you ‘just do it’ (still talking zumba here!)
- Forget the gym – music can lift you without any equipment!

Longparish Community Hall Vacancy for Keyholder and Booking Clerk.

There is a vacancy for the post of Keyholder and Booking Clerk from January 2013.

The role involves:

- Taking telephone bookings for the facilities and completing the necessary paperwork.
- Opening and securing the Hall during and after bookings.

For further details, please contact Mrs Christine Leach, Clerk to the Governors, on 01264 720317

Jumble Sale Result



Thank you very much to everyone who supported the jumble sale on 1 December. We raised almost £750 which has been split between Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Village Hall.

Sue Kent, Iris West & Maggie Barber

St Nicholas Christmas Fair

The St Nicholas Fair on 8 December was a great success thanks to all those who cooked cakes, made preserves, made wreaths, donated items for the hampers, manned stalls, and came and supported it.

A profit of nearly £1,400 will be shared between the upkeep of St Nicholas Church and Bukanaga School in Mityana, Uganda.

Jane Young and Eila Chamberlen

Longparish School News

As always, December was a very busy month! Throughout the term, children in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed singing workshops, which culminated in a concert for parents in December. This was one of the first musical performances for the younger children, but they took it in their stride, singing a range of songs from different styles. A new instrument has also been introduced to the school this term, with children in Years 3 and 4 learning the guitar. During their concert for parents, it was lovely to see how they have developed into seasoned performers who can relax and enjoy concerts.

Our celebration of St Nicholas Day (6th December) was led by Canon Copen in St Nicholas Church. This is an important annual service for us, as the school is affectionately known as St Nicholas School. During the service, Troy Churchill was installed as Child Bishop of Longparish, taking over the role from Amelia Bennett.

During the penultimate week of term, rehearsals began in earnest for the whole school nativity, which was to be performed a week later. At the time of writing, the children have impressed us with how eagerly and quickly they have learnt their scripts, at the same time as preparing for the Carol Service and choir performances for the Arbory.

Finally, we were delighted to discover how well the school has done in the 2012 Primary League Tables. When comparing the percentage of children who achieved Level 4 and above in both English and Mathematics, along with the average point scores attained in tests, Longparish came 5th out of 300 primary and junior schools in Hampshire.

We would like to wish you all a peaceful New Year, with our best wishes for 2013.

Alex Foggo

Kingfishers' visit to Roche Court on 23 November

When we arrived at school we immediately got into our groups and boarded the mini bus, it wasn't a very long journey since it was just outside Salisbury.

When we got there, Emma showed us some abstract art, which you could imagine using in a play of some sort; these were done by a clever artist, who likes using shapes, called Laura Ford. The next thing we saw were bright yellow hammers which were wind powered and swung in the wind. People are normally quite scared when it's a windy day, because they worry that one of them is going to fall off, but it has a safety device, so if it is too windy, they stop and don't move at all.

Next we were shown a sculpture we could sit on. It was called the 'Sky Sculpture' and it encouraged people to look up to the sky. It was made of fibre glass and was quite big.

There were lots of sculptures at the sculpture park. One was made by Anthony Gormley and it was of a nude man. Not many people do sculptures with clothes on, as it takes a lot of hard work and it's almost impossible to get a good cast. We were told to touch it, which some of us were more than happy to do until Emma told us how it was made. It was made by a man and some assistants, who covered him in cling film and then put plaster all over him! Emma said that when it was on, to enable him to breathe he had straws up his nose and when the plaster dried it got extremely tight. As soon as Emma told us that, not many people touched the sculpture!

Every one loved the trip, including the adults. THANK YOU to Emma and Jenny who made our trip a once in a life time opportunity! We are very grateful!

By Victoria, Olivia, Chloe and Helen

Chaffinchs' visit to The Lights on 22 November

It was a fascinating trip for us, because we are studying theatres in class. Also, it was very nice of the staff to give us their time.

First of all the manager, Mr Sewell, showed us the auditorium, which is where the audience sit. A few children from Chaffinch controlled some of the actual lights. All of the rooms and scenery gave us a real feel of how to make our small theatres, which we are constructing in Chaffinch.

It was fun and we saw the green room (it was not green) but it looked like a film star's lounge! The dining room had lots of comfy sofas, so performers could have a quick lunch/dinner before the performance. In the room there was also a tiny stage for entertaining people eating. Overall we loved the trip and recommend a visit.

By Katie, Sophie and Rosie.

FoLS 100+ Club Christmas Draw

1st	£100	Mrs Hannah Hunt	no. 1
2 nd	£50	Richard Williams	no. 110
3 rd	£25	Katherine Beckwith	no. 17

LONGPARISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**Calling all LCA members !**

A new year also means that it's the time for renewing your membership of the LCA. Download a form from http://www.longparish.org.uk/communityassoc/document/s/membership_form.php or use the form at the back of the Events Diary. Membership costs £1 per person regardless of age; benefits include priority booking or discounts for LCA events and the use of LCA owned equipment.

The LCA is run by villagers for villagers, so we can all enjoy village life together. It sponsors KidzZone, the Recycled Teenagers, Tuesday Talks and Hog the Limelight events. It also supports other groups which can join as affiliate members. All the details of "who we are and what we do" are on the village website

LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

Is your New Year resolution to become leaner and fitter? Come and join us for our 74th race on Sunday 13 January starting at 10am at the Cricket Ground.! Details and the entry form are in the LCA area on the village website. 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



Jack Dundas (aka Santa) presents the prizes

Conditions were pretty good for the December race. We welcomed new runners Jane Evans and Imrie Wearn accompanied by her mother, Laura.

First home and Most Improved Woman was Katie King. Most Improved Man was Jim Dundas and Magnus Stroier took the Rising Star trophy for Most Improved Junior. There were also tins of sweets for all the winners, thanks to Jack Ellicock.

Congratulations to Sheila, Glynne, Sarah, James and Jesper (Magnus's assistant) who set Personal Best times. Thanks very much to Maggie, Pauline and Wendy for marshalling, to Maggie for the mince pies and mulled wine, Jim for the excellent cake, David for the signs and to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

LCA Recycled Teenagers

We are very grateful to Vitacress who kindly loaned a minibus so that we could go to Wherwell Cricket Pavilion on 3 December. Together with people from Barton Stacey and Wherwell we thoroughly enjoyed a fish & chip lunch with singalong carols. It made a lovely start to Christmas. Maybe we could offer the same in our lovely village hall next year? Maggie Barber

LCA Coffee Shop

Friday 11 January
in the Village Hall



Everyone welcome- young and old alike.

Start the New Year by coming to the LCA Coffee Shop in the village hall meeting room. Open on Friday January 11th from 9 - 12 and thereafter on the second Friday of every month. January's Coffee Shop will be hosted by Gloria Goodliffe and Sarah Harris.

Pop in with your friends and family for a sociable coffee, cookie and chat. Call in after the school run, shopping or at the start or finish of a walk.

Transport available using the school minibus which will leave North Acre at 10.20am. Please contact Gloria 720425 or Maggie 720459 for further information.

Tuesday Talks

The first Tuesday Talk of 2013 is at the Village Hall on: **Tuesday 8 January:** Graham Darrah will tell us about ***The amazing landscape and wildlife of Madagascar***

Graham travelled for 3 weeks off the beaten track by canoe and 4WD vehicles and will show us the island and some of its unique flora and fauna.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm and there is a cash bar. Admission is free, but as we are still raising funds for the Village Hall donations are very welcome.

Don't forget to make a note of the following talks:

Tuesday 12 February: Terry and Ruth Hemming will show us their beautiful photographs on ***The art, setting and hospitality of Orthodox monasteries***

Tuesday 12 March: John Ellicock and Ashley Smith on ***"Keep Calm and Carrion - the Development and Conservation Work of the Hawk Conservancy Trust"***


**Longparish Gardening Club
Tuesday 22 January at 7 pm**

Our speaker is one of Hampshire's foremost gardeners **Patricia Elkington from Little Court, Crawley.**

As this meeting will be our first for 2013 we will be re-enrolling for this year. New members from within Hill and Valley parishes are very welcome.

Raffle towards the cost of future speakers.

Any queries please get in touch with Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 or Marion Bell 720205

**Make Time for Winter**

Check the Highway Agency's website below for useful advice on winter driving, preparing your car and where to find information on weather and travel conditions.

See <http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic-information/seasonal-advice/make-time-for-winter/>

Longparish Parish Council

Planning

The Council had no objection to:

- An extension to the porch at 3 Woodwalk Cottages to provide a downstairs WC.
- Retrospective temporary permission for storage of empty skips related to the MRF operation at the A303 Recycling Facility.
- An extension of time [to September 2013] to allow completion of Bund works at the A 303 Recycling Facility [to further screen the shooting school].

Open Spaces

Village Clean Up Day: A special 'thank you' to around 30 volunteers who turned out on a gloomy wet Saturday morning on 24 November and did lots of useful work.

Weed Cuts: Each year the Test & Itchen Association agrees with the Environment Agency dates when weed can be cut in the rivers Test and Itchen and be left in the river to drift downstream. The dates for 2013 and a new code of practice for weed cutting have been placed on the village website.

Highways

The Council continues to liaise with Hampshire Highways and press for both pothole repairs and more regular and effective pavement / verge / drain / gully clearance. This is, of course, not just a Longparish or even a Hampshire problem, but a national one. However, we and others are lobbying hard for a system that both registers requests and schedules the work.

Broadband

Faster Broadband speeds for Hampshire residents and businesses have come a step closer now that Hampshire County Council has started the formal tender process to appoint a commercial partner. An appointment will be made in February/March 2013 and work will start on delivering faster services in the summer.

In the meantime, Andrew Gibson, our Hampshire County Councillor, has taken all the post codes in the villages in his area of responsibility and asked BT when Super Fast Broadband is likely to be delivered; he has promised an update at the January Parish Council meeting. If the answer is negative, he will quantify the GAP funding that HCC would need to add to get 40 mbps to Longparish.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the committee room at the Village Hall on Monday 14 January 2013. Please enter via the side door.

Meetings are public and Parishioners are welcome to come and speak by arrangement with the Chairman - Christopher Duxbury tel: 720580 or email: clerk@longparish.org.uk

January haiku

Frosty cold morning
windscreens ice threatens the
commuter's timetable.

ADOPT A ROAD

This scheme has been running in the village since 2004. Unsung heroes have been keeping their chosen stretch of road free of litter in addition to the twice yearly Village Clean Up days and the Parish Council are very grateful to them.

People move on and we are looking for new volunteers who would like to adopt a stretch of road to keep clean and tidy. You can choose the length of road you would like to keep clear of litter, anything from 20 metres to 500 metres or more, and it can be done once a year, once a month, once a week, whenever you like. You will be provided with a litter picking stick and fluorescent vest and any safety advice needed.

If you are interested in helping keep Longparish roads litter free, please ring me Christian Dryden tel. 720398

Village Clean Up - Saturday 24 November

Around 30 volunteers turned out on a gloomy, wet morning and did a huge amount of useful work. Jobs done included

- filling potholes and spreading shingle in the church and village hall car parks and on paths in the church yard
- clearing the stream which has already helped the water level to fall about four inches. This will help prevent winter flooding plus, of course, the place looks much tidier
- clearing the road verges and pavements from The Plough to the village hall car park making it much safer and more pleasant for parents with children and buggies who use it daily to get to school and playgroup
- litter picking on the Middleway and the Forton flyover
- removing a dead tree in the village hall car park
- clearing leaves from round the village hall.



Afterwards our tired volunteers enjoyed a well earned lunch of sandwiches and chips at The Plough.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped and a

particular thank you to Raymond Brown who kindly provided shingle and a large skip and to the two Micks whose tractors made it so much easier to move the shingle, fell the tree and fill the skip.

Two families who were not able to come have kindly volunteered to clean the new playground equipment and some road signs.

One or two tools were not claimed when we cleared up. If you are missing something please give me a ring on 720459.

Jeremy Barber Parish Council Open Spaces Chair

The Bishop at St Nicholas Church



A full church greeted Rt. Revd. Tim Dakin, the new Bishop of Winchester, on his first visit to Longparish on Sunday 2 December. In celebration of the church's patron saint, Nicholas, he blessed two icons and the newly installed statue of the saint by Peter Eugene Ball. The joyful service included the premier of a *Hymn to*

St Nicholas, specially composed by David W. Hughes for this service and sung by Longparish Village Choir, conducted by Cathy Yelf and accompanied by Robin Smallwood on the organ. Peter Eugene Ball himself was present, as was Caroline Lees who had painted the icon of *Christ in Majesty*. Previous Rectors, Derek Cottrill and Bill Robson were among the many guests who also enjoyed the refreshments afterwards in the School and Community Hall. The service was a great celebration of sacred art, and the generosity of the donors who made it possible here in Longparish.

Martin Coppen



Christopher Purdue

29 October 1932 -14 November 2012.

At his funeral held at Basingstoke Crematorium on Friday 7 December a good congregation came together to remember Chris, known to many of his friends as Stocker. Chris was a long term resident of Longparish who was known as a good family person, a good friend, a fun-loving person, a great stockman and a good animal-lover; in short he was a good countryman.

Although born at Abbots Ann he went to school in Whitchurch, attending both junior and senior school there. His family report that school and Chris were not best friends and Margaret Brunson, his sister, recalled that there was not a day when he did not get a caning. There were many tales of his pranks including the time when it being cold outside and the school locked Chris got a bundle of Swan Vesta matches and blew the lock off the door so the pupils could get in and have some warmth! He was sent to Sunday School at Overton but there was the time when he decided to play in the river instead. His father discovering this chased him across the fields but Chris ran faster and stayed out until it was dark. His delight in fun and his good sense of humour remained with him right up to his last week in the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester

He left school to work with cattle, working on the first milk bale and then moving to Bognor where he worked for Sir John Cobham. He was very proud of the cattle and showed them and won ribbons. While there he took his driving test which he passed on the first attempt, despite the fact that during the test the examiner went to report another driver to the police for not stopping at a pedestrian crossing. He stayed there until 1958 when he came to work for the Wills family on the Middleton Estate as a stockman. When he arrived it was a dairy herd but it then changed to beef cattle. He was not only a good judge of an animal but was devoted to them, staying with the cattle when they were calving. While living in a caravan in the wood near Fox Farm he was fitting an aerial in a tree when he fell and broke an arm and injured his back. Fortunately as he tried to drive himself away still suffering from shock he was seen by Captain Wills who realised something was wrong, rescued him and made sure he had appropriate medical treatment. After that he returned home. As well as living with his parents he was always a good brother and brother-in-law enjoying Bill's home-made wine and although not a pub regular he also enjoyed his whisky. He was an enthusiastic uncle and great-uncle and enjoyed being part of family festivities. He liked teasing and his loud laughter will be missed.

He stayed at Middleton until he was made redundant in 1992 but continued with beating and enjoyed driving the tractor for the beaters. He was an enthusiastic sea-angler (although he never learned to swim). He loved his dogs. He worked in the garden and was a practical man. He also enjoyed his horse-racing.

He loved his little cottage on the Common and the garden with the birds. He was well looked after by his family especially his niece, Susan, and by his friends as he spent his last days courageously dealing with his illness.

Terry Hemming

Keeping in touch with Longparish Playgroup

Longparish Playgroup is a busy and exciting place. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the playgroup community the children's daily learning experiences are enhanced by many visits, visitors and special activities. Making sure your child doesn't miss out or has the appropriate clothing for some of these activities can be difficult when you're a busy parent with so many things to remember.

Consider just some of opportunities the playgroup children had during the autumn term. They visited the beautiful Hillier Gardens to look at the impact of autumn on trees and plants. A visit from Zoo Lab's animal rangers encouraged the children to think about how small animals use their senses. The children came to playgroup in their pyjamas, had their artwork on display in the Community Hall Art Gallery, celebrated harvest time at the Church, went to The Lights theatre, performed the nativity and celebrated the end of term with a fantastic party in the Village Hall.

We know that it can be hard for busy parents to keep all of these activities in mind. As a result we've tried to improve our communications by updating our website playgroup.longparish.org.uk and opening a Twitter account. You can now follow our activities by visiting <https://twitter.com/longparishpg>. The spring term promises to be just as full of exciting learning opportunities for our children. Please try these new ways of keeping in touch and let us know how they work for you.

If your child is not yet old enough to attend playgroup (2 years and 9 months), remember that it is never too early to register your child for a place. We have some places still available for September 2013. Please visit our website or contact the playgroup for further information on registration.

Claire Nash

Potato Weekend.

On Saturday 26th and Sunday 27 January at Testbourne Community Centre, Whitchurch, from 10-3pm each day the Hampshire Organic Gardening group will be holding their very successful event to sell over 150 varieties of seed potatoes which can be bought by the individual tuber or by the bag. Pea and bean seeds as well as onion and shallot sets will also be on sale and the popular seed swop will have flower, herb and vegetable seeds to swop or to buy including some from the Heritage Seed Library of Garden Organic. There will be other stalls, talks and refreshments.

See www.hampshire-organic-gardening.org/events



Longparish Cricket Club

Sponsored by Barker, Son & Isherwood, Solicitors

In the Winchester & District League, Longparish 1 in its only game last month lost to Bishops Waltham, dashing its chance of the top spot in Division 1. In Division 3 George Kousseff has worked his magic on a Longparish II side who won 3 games in succession. Kousseff hit 23, Michael Taplin 26, Paul Blackmore 33 and Gary Taplin 28 in a tight 2 wicket win over Tichborne Park. In a thumping 40 run win over Easton & Martyr Worthy II, Kousseff's hit a stunning 70 completely void of boundaries. Michael Taplin ran gamely at the other end and hit an unbeaten 30. In the 4 wicket win over Compton & Chandlers Ford, Kousseff hit 27 runs, but the stars of the show were the bowlers. Matt Paice took 2 for 24 and Gary Taplin an incredible 3 for 4 in one over. In Division 4 Justin Jackman's Longparish III could not stop the strong and ambitious St Cross Symondians sealing a six wicket win, although U16 skipper Ollie Coetzee hit a superb 32 and U14s Jamie Blackmore and Dan Bearpark bowled fantastic spells. Ollie Coetzee scored 38 against Bishops Waltham II but could not prevent a second loss.

In the North Hampshire indoor Leagues, William de Cani's Longparish Lightweights started the month in second place in the Premier Division and shot to top spot with a comprehensive win over Hook in which de Cani hit 36, Alex Coetzee 26, Ben Gardner 23 and Brad Aldridge 16. Coetzee chipped in with 2 for 18 to secure a 64 run win. The Lightweights beat the Badgers with de Cani scoring an unbeaten 30 and Michael Taplin 20. Defeat followed against last year's champions Hook Hammers. The Longparish Lightweights remain top of the Premier Division. In Division 1 Paul Blackmore's Longparish Longhops had an emphatic win over Overton and were then defeated by a young Oakley side leaving them mid-table in Division 1

Justin Jackman's young Longparish Lappas side has impressed throughout the month and after two wins and a loss to Portway pirates sit second in Division 3. Against "The Joy of Six", William Jackman whacked 32; Justin Jackman added 42 and an unbeaten 28 from U13 Scott Sturt contributed to a welcome win for the Lappas. In the win over Oakley U14 Dan Bearpark opened the bowling and quickly took to a wicket before adding 10 runs

Longparish U16 started the month with a hard fought win over Otterbourne. Jamie Blackmore, Oliver Coetzee, Harry Samways and Scott Sturt took one wicket each and Nathan Smith picked up a brace as Otterbourne

were all out for 110, a target that Longparish U16 passed in the 9th over with skipper Ollie Coetzee the top scorer with 30. In an exciting game Hedge End batted first and were dismissed for 110 in the 11th over. Nathan Smith picked up a wicket and the other five to fall were all "run out" in a superb fielding display by Longparish U16. They batted well but finished one run short with Ollie Coetzee and Scott Sturt both unbeaten on 25.

Table topping Longparish U15 in its only game had a four wicket win over Dogmersfield in which Sam Frost and Nathan Smith bowled superbly and Jamie Blackmore and Harry Samways took a wicket each. They beat the Dogmersfield total in the 10th over with skipper Dan Bearpark unbeaten on 18 and Scott Sturt 27

William Samway's Longparish U13 side currently lie 4th after a needle tie with Old Basing U13 who set a target of 125. Cameron Proctor bowled well and Callum Giles took 3 for 22 including a sharp stumping by skipper Samways. Longparish U13 lost early wickets but Dean Hanham and Scott Sturt got the innings back on track which closed 8 runs short with Jordan Blackmore unbeaten on 20.

Thank you to all who supported the Longparish Cricket Club Christmas Draw kindly hosted by The Cricketers Inn that raised £450 for club funds, and to all who supported Longparish CC 100 Club during 2012. Chris de Cani

100 Club Christmas Draw

£50 Martyn Clarke, £25 Georgina Bonathan, £25 Frank Hibberd, £20 Barbara Luff, £20 Edward Wills, £20 Doreen de Cani, £10 Jill McHenry, £10 Ann Herbert, £10 Neil Bonathan

BIRDS OF LONGPARISH THE TUFTED DUCK

The tufted duck is another success story, as the population has increased.

It's a medium sized diving duck, which frequents lakes and gravel pits more than rivers. The tufted duck's body is 40-47cm with a wingspan of 67-73cm. It has a small neck, round head and a large broad grey bill. An all black duck except for white flanks and yellow eyes it gets its name from a black drooping crest. The female is brown all over. The tufted duck can be seen most days at Testwood Trout Farm where I have seen 70 in one count, and occasionally on the rivers.



They start nesting in mid May. The nest is usually well hidden in rushes or under a low bush, always close to water. The nest is made of rushes, reeds, grass and is lined with down plucked from her breast. If the female duck is disturbed, as with most ducks, she will quickly cover the eggs over with down to hide them. 8-11 greenish grey eggs are laid. Like most ducks the young will leave the nest soon after hatching, finally fledging after 45-50 days. As I have said they are diving ducks so they feed off the bottom of the lakes, gravel pits and rivers. They are quite timid, but it is another bird we see more of in the village than we used to. Chris Bowman