## Ten Days in Bukanaga



For ten days in February this year I was very lucky to be able to go to Uganda with Dodie Marsden and a team of Learning Support Assistants, Teachers and Headteachers from schools in the Whitchurch Diocese. We visited and taught in our link schools in the Mityana region of Uganda, as well as attending local church services and visiting a children's rehabilitation centre.

The first weekend, Dodie and Rachel had organised a conference for all teaching staff from the Ugandan link schools. It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know the staff and a real privilege to share their hopes and fears for the children in their schools. Like some schools in England, the schools struggle with poor attendance, but in Uganda it is due to children needing to work at home or surprisingly, due to apathy towards education. It was a chance for us to discuss how these problems might be overcome, to teach the staff about some of the teaching strategies and approaches that we use in the UK and to work with them to explore how they might be applicable in the Ugandan context.

The staff and children were all incredibly welcoming; dancing and singing for us and were excited to hear news from their link schools back in the UK. The children in Longparish Primary School had produced some wonderful books about their families and home/school lives, which fascinated the children in Uganda.

During the week Doreen Gregori and I taught in all of the classes in Bukanaga Primary School on subjects such as children's rights and responsibilities, sustainable living and identity and belonging. We were able to explore the concept of a 'Student Voice' with children and staff by examining the workings of our school council through photographs and pieces of writing from our school councillors explaining their roles. One of the lessons that was a particular hit with the children was based around the well-known children's book, The Gruffalo. I had taken a bag of soft toys with me to represent each of the animals in the story; the children listened to a part of the story in English, then in Luganda and then acted it out in Luganda. They loved the story and had great fun pretending to be the different characters. Their challenge was to remember all the descriptions of the Gruffalo and draw their own pictures at the end. Special thanks have to go to the Sykes and Smallwood families for donating some much loved Gruffalo toys!

Thanks to the generosity of so many children, families, members of the community, staff and school, I was able to take some fantastic new teaching resources out to Bukanaga School as well as gifts of appreciation for the staff. The children and teachers alike were so excited to receive the teaching clocks, geometry sets, 3D shape sets and lots of pens, pencils and paper. The money raised by FoLS and St Nicholas Church will be used to buy fencing for the school gardens to keep out animals and trespassers. This will be invaluable because it will protect the crops that provide lunch for the children. The children, staff, church and members of the community in Bukanaga are grateful for the ongoing support we give them and for the love and care that we extend to them. We look forward greatly to welcoming Mrs Susan Nashuha, Assistant Head Teacher at Bukanaga Primary School, who will be teaching in Longparish Primary Peggy Mercer School during the week 18th-22nd May.

# **Bell Ringing**

Would you be interested in starting a new hobby that takes up just two hours a week and can be enjoyed by many people in Longparish?

We are starting a bell ringing team so that the lovely peal of bells at St Nicholas Church can be rung regularly. This involves an hour on Wednesday evenings and, if you want more support, ringing at Hurstbourne Priors for an hour on Tuesday evenings. We would like to ring the bells eventually for half an hour before the start of a service on Sunday to welcome people.

To learn with a friendly and welcoming group of a mixture of ages, please contact Peter Hull on 720478. You would be most welcome.

# Church Farm Cottage House Fire

The 1st April 2015 will remain in our minds as the day that we lost our home to fire. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their tremendous help and support throughout this period. There were many people who either helped on the day or offered accommodation, furniture, cups of tea, baskets for our cat or just sympathies on the day and all of this was gratefully received and we will never forget your kind generosity. This public spirit and sense of unity is what makes Longparish such a wonderful place to live. Special thanks has to go to John and Carol Metcalf and Jon, Anna, Mimi and Kitty Bennett for providing us with accommodation and a place to house our possessions whilst alternative accommodation was found. Your generosity in our hour of need will never be forgotten.

I am pleased to say that we are now living in temporary accommodation in Barton Stacey as we begin the long, long process of rebuilding our house. This experience, although dreadful and one that we would not wish on our worst enemies, has not dampened our enthusiasm for the village. In fact, the way in which you all pulled together to offer help has strengthened our love for the village and the people who live in it and this will not deter us from our desire to live here for a very long time. In short, you are stuck with us I'm afraid and we look forward to returning the mile or so, across the A303 and back to our home and friends in Longparish.

Malcolm and Gill Edwards

# A NEW WHEELCHAIR FOR TOM!



Fancy making use of those red, green or blue plastic milk bottle tops that you throw away? We are collecting them in order to transform them into a new wheelchair for Tom!

Tom is 7 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. He loves swimming, riding and wheelchair basketball. His current wheelchair is very basic and limits his independence. A new chair will enable Tom to push himself around more

quickly and easily as it will be lighter and he will be able to fully reach the wheels. The new chair will help Tom sit better so that he can push the wheels more easily. This will dramatically improve his independence Our goal is to raise £300 towards a new chair just by recycling! This amounts to about 5,000 Kg of tops. We know it's a lot of tops, which is why we need your help! Thank you for any tops you can donate!



Tom with 1Kg of tops

Please bring them to Longparish Primary School.

Peggy Mercer



# Longparish Primary School May Fayre

Come and join us on **Saturday** 9<sup>th</sup> **May** from **12noon to 3pm**. Together with all the usual stalls, we will have storytelling and arts and crafts in the Tipi, Test Valley Brass Band playing and Maypole dancing by children from the school.

Thank you to the following organisations who have already provided donations: The Ageas Bowl, Beckys Beezzzs, Brassiere Blanc, Burlison Photography, Esseborne Manor, Freedom Joinery, The Lights, Living Rainforest, Motorola, Museum of Army Flying, Newbury Racecourse, Pinx Florist, Room to Float, Wiltshire Council, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Smarties Kids, Southern Sports Limited, Jeanette Stroier, Thomson Reuters, Usborne Books and The White Lion. We would like to say thank you to all those who have offered their time or donations to the event. You can help too. We still need:

- Volunteers strong arms from 6pm on Friday 8th to help erect tents, gazebos and the tipi. Also help on the 9th itself. If you can help, please let us know.
- Cakes for the cake stall if you are unable to drop them off, we can collect these from you on the day between 9-11am. Please see contact details below.

- Lucky Jars empty jam / coffee jars filled with items that a child would like e.g. sweets, toys, pens etc. Please feel free to be creative with any original ideas!
- Gorgeous gifts / Bric-a-Brac
- Toys / Books
- Plants
- Gazebos do you have one we could borrow to protect our stalls from extremes of weather?

Please bring any items to school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May or by 10.30am on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to drop things off at the school, please contact either Penny Billingham on 720226 or Laura Harding on 720298 and we can arrange collection.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

## **Longparish Playgroup**

We have had some new residents move into the Playgroup garden this springtime and not just the birds in our bird box ... fairies! That's right, five fairies have moved in and scattered fairy dust everywhere. They left a note to tell us their names and asked very politely if they could stay. The children have been writing letters to them and have made a post box to put the letters in so the fairies can collect them when we go home. We also have some new 'bugs' toys in our outside small world area and the children have created their own dinosaur land using sand and water.

The children have shown a real interest in dinosaurs so we have been doing lots of fun things like dinosaur sponge painting and foot printing. We also googled dinosaur sounds on the computer and copied them ourselves. We even got the clay out to make some dinosaur fossils (as well as volcanoes, gingerbread men and a family of 'mole heads'!).

To continue our theme of professions and occupations we were lucky enough to have James from The Plough visit us to tell us about being a chef and all the famous people he has cooked for.

Now that the summer term has started, which for many of our children will be their last term before starting school, we are filling up spaces for next year (starting September 2015). We take children from all around the area - including Andover, Picket Twenty, Whitchurch, St Mary Bourne, Hurstbourne Priors etc. from 2 years and 9 months. They can start at any point in the academic year once they have reached this age.

If you are interested in a place for your child next year please do contact Claire Nash on 01264 720455 or playgroup@longparish.org.uk. *Kirsty Stephenson* 

#### **FOLS 100 Club Winners**

#### March

1st prize - Penny Billingham

2nd - Eric Alridge

3rd - Mrs. P. Sawyer

# April

1st - Richard West

2nd - Andrea Harris

3rd - Richard Williams

# **Longparish Crosses 2 - The Monument at** Deadman's Plack (SU 40097 44818)

Longparish is distinguished by having two nineteenth century stone crosses. If Henry Burnaby Greene's wayside cross of 1867 has its puzzling aspects, even more enigmatic is the tall memorial cross at Deadman's Plack, hidden away in the portion of Harewood Forest between The Middleway on the north and the A303 on the south.



Standing 18 feet high (5.51m), the Grade II listed monument is a plain stone cross on a two stage pedestal. The main inscription facing southwest records. in now indistinct Gothic script, that on this spot, known traditionally as Deadman's Plack, around AD 963 the Saxon King Edgar vengefully

killed Earl Athelwold, owner of the forest, on account of the 'beauteous Elfrida', who later in contrition founded the nunnery of Wherwell. On the opposite side is inscribed: This monument was erected by / Lt. Col. William Iremonger / A.D. MDCCCXXV. (1825—The date is in Roman script, not Gothic as the first two lines and the front face: was it added later?)

Col Iremonger inherited the Wherwell estate, of which Harewood Forest was part, on his father's death in 1805. Resigning his commission in 1811, after three years of apparently undistinguished service, he lived in Wherwell Priory until his own death in 1852. The dedication of Wherwell church, next to the Priory, is St Peter & Holy

While the story of Athelwold and Elfrida may be legend. what is historical fact is the power of the Saxon tale of lust and revenge on the Georgian literary imagination, with various tragic poems, plays and even an opera on the subject published between 1709 and 1815.

The monument at Deadman's Plack is proof enough of the hold of the dramatic tale on William Iremonger's mind in the 1820s. But there is further, more personal indication of what it meant to him. No less than three of his four children born 1821-5 were given Christian names after characters in the story: Pennant Athelwold, born 1821; Henrietta Elfrida Susanna, born 1822 (died 1824, aged 2½); Elfrida Susanna Harriet, born 1825—the same year as inscribed on the monument. This seems close to obsessive.

Deadman's Plack seems to be a local name and so of uncertain antiquity: deadman's, a place where a body has been found (or perhaps a name, Dodman's?) and plack or plat, a small plot of ground. Could it have stuck from Anglo-Saxon through Middle English for the almost 900 years from the death of Athelwold until the

monument was erected? W H Hudson, naturalist and prolific writer, argued it was possible given a static local population, in his 1920 book, Dead Man's Plack and An Old Thorn. The cross is a folly, originating in the mind of William Iremonger, but that is what makes it worth

Access to the monument is described in the Exploring Longparish leaflet available from the Shop and downloadable from the village website (www.longparish.org.uk/about-longparish/localwalks.html). It can only be visited on foot, about 0.4 mile from the road (620m): wheelchair access is difficult. Dwarfed by trees, this strange memorial blends into its forest surroundings just as the legend which it records is blurred through over 1000 years of history.

Martin Coppen



# LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

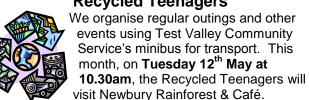
Tuesday, 26th May 2015, 6.30pm

Evening garden visit to Ashe Park, Overton RG25 3AF (by kind permission of Graham and Laura Hazell)

Extensive new gardens within the grounds of a Georgian Country House and Estate with further development in progress. Parkland and specimen trees, woodland and bluebell walks, large, contemporary potager, lime avenue and several newly planted areas.

> LGC members free (Non-Members £8.00) Any gueries to Rosie Lowry 01264 720325 or rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com or Marion Bell 01264 720205





Cost is £8.

Next month, on **2<sup>nd</sup> June** we will be visiting Hayling Island (nice flat sea side and a Fish & Chip shop!). Why not join us for just £3?

If you or someone you know is interested in booking or you would like further information please contact Corinne on 720643

### Open Studios Open Sat, Sun, Mon 2nd-24th May 11am-5pm

Walnut Tree House, Longparish

This will be my first opening with North Hampshire Open Studios and an enjoyable opportunity to share what I love so much. I am known for painting dogs and hounds. horses and country subjects in oils and acrylics with a modernity and vibrancy. I also enjoy portraiture in strong vibrant watercolour and love the luminosity it gives to the human face, suiting children especially - an eclectic mix as always.

Paula Vize 720418

www.paulavize.co.uk

### **OPEN GARDENS, LONGSTOCK**



# 13th and 14th June 2015 from 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Nine gardens will be made available for viewing - most of which have never previously been seen by the general public. The Village Allotments Association also hopes to put on a fine display.

Some of the gardens are

maintained by retired professionals (formerly of Hilliers and Longstock Park Nurseries) and we are also privileged to include on the list, a prestigious garden that enjoys National Gardens Scheme status.

Many of the gardens are on sloping sites with poor chalky soil so why not come and see how these problems have been overcome.

Programmes (giving entry to all gardens) will be on sale at Longstock Village Hall and at other designated car parks from 1pm onwards. Entry price to all gardens are £6 for adults and £2 for children aged 5 - 16.

Afternoon teas will be on sale at the Village Hall from 1.30pm where there will also be a plant stall

Unfortunately dogs will not be allowed into any of the gardens.

All proceeds are in aid of St Mary's Church, Longstock. Contact Garry Hedley (Church Treasurer) on 01264 810284 e-mail gh2900@btinternet.com

# Plant Stall - School May Fayre Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of May

Are you looking to buy some plants? Then why not buy them from our stall and help raise money for the school



I have been busy growing on lots of plants for you to buy - vegetables, annuals and of course there will be perennials too. They all need good homes to go to! I have already kindly been given some plants, but if you have any others you

at the same time?

would like to donate then either bring them along on the day or you can leave them at Tudor Cottage.

Sylvia Crook 720792

## **BIRDS OF LONGPARISH - THE WATER RAIL**

The water rail is a very secretive bird; it spends most of its time hidden in reeds. It is 23-28cm with a wing- span of 38-45cm, just a bit smaller than a moorhen, but it has a long beak of 3-4cm. The plumage is dark brown and black above and slate grey below with white-barred black flanks, red legs and beak. They are more common now than they used to be and I occasionally see one around the Cleeves or the second bridge on Southside Road.

The water rail starts nesting in late March, producing a replacement clutch if the first fails and very often a

second clutch too. They nest on the ground or very close to, usually in dense vegetation, made of dead leaves and plant stems. If the water level rises it will add nesting material to keep it above the water level. Six to eleven eggs are laid; oval, glossy, off white to cream, spotted and blotched redbrown. The incubation period is 19-22 days and fledging occurs in 19-22 days, but the young



leave the nest soon after hatching. They are omnivorous mainly feeding on animal matter but also plant material.

I saw my first swallow this year on the 4<sup>th</sup> April - a week earlier than last year and I heard the cuckoo on the 10<sup>th</sup>April - 2 weeks earlier than last year. Red kites are nesting in the village again and we now have ravens nesting for the first time. I also have a new tick for the village; a Cettii's warbler. It, or they have been around the Cleeves for sometime, often heard more than seen. This is another bird on the increase and one of the few warblers that winter here.

Chris Bowman



# **Longparish Cricket Club**

Cricket moved outdoors midway through April, and Longparish opened up with a series of friendlies against Southampton-based Pear Tree and local sides Hurstbourne Priors,

Amport and Collingbourne. The season proper begins on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May with an away tie at Tichborne Park In the National Village Knockout competition with the league campaigns for the three senior cricket sides beginning on Saturday 9th May. The Colts sides are all up and running with the U15s playing their matches on Friday nights and the U11s and U13s in action on Sunday mornings. The midweek 20/20 side play their matches on a Wednesday evening and Monday and Tuesday is given over to Colts training. Nets for those involved with the senior sides are on Thursday evenings which is all of the week taken up and at some point a gang have got to get around the ground and cut grass and prepare wickets. It is a very busy time for Longparish Cricket Club, details of all that is going on over the next few months can be found at www.longparishcc.co.uk.

Longparish Cricket Club were paid a visit by the Lloyds TSB working in the community team who arrived one day last month to paint the outside of the pavilion, the score box and the Ladies and Gents loos. Thanks very much to Lloyds for their generosity and for considering Longparish Cricket Club a worthy recipient of their support.

Chris di Cani

# The Cricketers Inn Reopens Under New Management

Family run, by brother and sister team Paul and Debbie and Paul's son Josh, the pub offers a warm, welcoming environment with a great menu of pub favourites, well kept beers and delicious wines. Come along and try for yourself and keep our Village Pub alive.



# LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month Handicap Race

It was a beautiful, bright morning for the April race and all finishers got a special medal to celebrate 100 runs. There was a record turnout of 27 runners of whom 12 beat their handicaps and six got Personal Bests. Well done!

We welcomed new runner Matilda Murray and it was also great to see four people who joined us to for this special run after long absences.



Magnus Stroier beat his handicap by over three minutes to become our Rising Star with a new PB. Close behind him was Mikey Sykes with a new PB by nearly 3 minutes. Derrick Gardiner was our Most Improved Man, also with a PB and Sandra Jones was our Most Improved Lady. Oscar Reid, Wilf Hillier and Camilla Janmohamed also recorded PBs.

There were 100th Run awards to

- Most Improved Man Ian Beveridge 12 MIMs in 70 runs,
- Fastest Man Mike Ellicock 17mins 16secs,
- Most Persistent Man Rob Biggs 71 runs (including 6 MIMs),
- Most Persistent Junior Jack Dundas 21 runs,
- Most Improved Junior Magnus Stroier 5 MIJs in 11 runs
- Fastest Junior Matthieu Rident 19mins 49 secs,
- **Top Lady** Alice Evans 13 MILs in 58 runs and fastest lady in 19mins 15secs

There were also special awards to two people who work hard to keep the show on the road: David Gould, our Webmaster and Course Setter, who has also completed

the run 70 times and Maggie Barber who has taken charge of marshalling and timekeeping for nearly all of the 100 races and made acres of flapjack to sustain us afterwards.



Thank you also to everyone who helped with marshalling and refreshments, by accompanying other runners and, of course, to the Longparish Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** starting at the usual time of 10am at the Cricket Ground. It is a handicap race so runners of all abilities have a chance to win. Everyone is welcome!

# LCA Monday Night at the Movies Village Hall 18th May - 7.45pm start

# (Doors open at 7.15pm) The Theory of Everything

The Blockbusters keep on coming!!

Winner of 2 Golden Globes, Winner of Academy Award for Best Actor, Winner of 3 BAFTA Awards including Outstanding British Film and Best Actor



The Theory of Everything is the extraordinary and uplifting story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, and of two people defying the steepest of odds through love. The film, based on the memoir - Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen, by Jane Hawking, is directed by Academy Award winner James Marsh (Man on Wire).

Entry is free to LCA Members – You can join or renew your membership on the night for £1.00

Donations gratefully received

\*\* Cash bar available \*\*

#### WARNING

#### **Suspicious Unsolicited Telephone Calls**

Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service would like to alert residents to reports of suspicious unsolicited telephone calls from individuals claiming to be from Hampshire County Council.

The callers ask if the recipient has had an accident in the workplace or in the car. Trading Standards suspect these calls to be 'phishing' attempts to gain personal information, and are concerned that money may be asked for. Advice is to never give out personal information and never to pay any money over the telephone to unknown persons.

Hampshire County Council will not cold call to ask for money over the telephone.

Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service Montgomery House Monarch Way Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5PW Tel: 01962 833620

Fax: 01962 833698 E-mail: doorstep.crime@hants.gov.uk

# LCA Coffee Shop - Village Hall Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 10am-noon

The LCA Coffee Shop in the village hall is open every second Friday of the month.

Drop in with your friends, children, parents. Everyone is welcome.
For £1 you can enjoy a cup of tea or delicious ground coffee and biscuits.

# **Longparish Parish Council** Report from Meeting Held on 13<sup>th</sup> April

Minutes of previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish web-site (longparish.org.uk). **Planning** 

The Council had no objection to:

- Erection of a close-boarded fence at Ropers, West
- Tree work at Forton House, Forton
- Tree work at White Windows, Middleton
- Replacement of a telecoms mast at Firgo Farm, Tufton

The Council had no objection in principle to the erection of a lofted double garage at Lower Mill Villas. West Aston, but would comment on the height of the proposed building and the size of the roof lights.

# **Other Planning Matters**

The Council agreed that the Village Design Statement should be updated, and that approval for a designated Neighbourhood Area should be sought. It was also noted that Forest Edge Kart Club had applied for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use for operation up to 28 days a year at its site on the MOD training area, which was in the Barton Stacey Parish boundary.

#### **Open Spaces**

Arrangements for grass-cutting were discussed, and it was reported that a solution had been found to the problem of emptying the dustbin at the playground. Improvements to the surface of Footpath 11 were noted following the felling of the adjacent poplar plantation.

#### **Highways**

Hampshire Highways had recently provided an update on a range of outstanding issues, including the bank of the stream near the Ash Burn Rest and the road surface outside the Village Hall. Some progress has been made, but the Council would continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Village Infrastructure

The Council agreed energy saving proposals from HCC for the streetlights in North Acre.

#### **Farewells**

Five members of the Council (Jeremy Barber, Christopher Duxbury, Karen Marie Dinesen, Phil Harris and Georgina Ridpath) stood down at the meeting and all were thanked for their various contributions during the period of their respective tenures. Particular mention was made, however, of the outstanding record of service to the village of Jeremy Barber, who had been a Councillor for over twenty-five years.

# **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting, which will be the annual meeting, will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th May in the Village Hall. Parish Council meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcome to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman – Jonathan Frere (tel: 720574, or email: clerk@longparish.org.uk).

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall before the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th April. This was an opportunity for those living in the village to hear from the Parish Council - and other organisations such as the Village Hall Committee, Longparish Community Association and the Playgroup - about what had been happening over the past year. In addition, there was the chance at the end of the meeting to raise issues in an Open Forum. Attendance from the public was disappointing, but there was a discussion about Community Right to Bid, Superfast Broadband and noise from the A303. Minutes from the meeting and the details of individual reports will be available on the Longparish website after the May meeting of the Parish Council.

# Parish Council profile - Sally Lawman



The Clerk to the Parish Council plays a vital part in the work of the Council. She is usually the first person parishioners contact when they wish to raise issues with the Council, whether by email or telephone, and she also deals with all the Council correspondence with others including local government agencies. In consultation with the Chairman she

prepares the agendas for meetings, takes minutes and deals with the finances of the Council. She also advises the Council on its legal responsibilities. As a past chairman I know that a good Clerk is worth her weight in gold in helping the efficient running of the Council.

Sally became Clerk to Longparish Parish Council in June 2013 and is currently working for her CILCA – Certificate in Local Council Administration. She was born in London and moved to Whitchurch at the age of 4. She was educated at Whitchurch Primary and Testbourne School, and then at Basingstoke Technical College. After ten years in banking she worked in the Student Services office at Andover College. She and her partner have two children now 6 and 8 years, who were born in Weyhill. They were keen to get a bigger garden and moved to Stoke, living in a caravan for the first year while they renovated their house. They are now enjoying country living, growing their own vegetables and keeping chickens. Sally also does a lot of sewing. The children are at St Mary Bourne School. At the time the Clerkship was advertised Sally was keen to secure part-time work. which would fit in with her home life, and she is finding the job of Clerk both interesting and enjoyable. Her past experience of working with money and people is useful.

She likes working for a Council which is close to her home but where she is not personally involved in the issues she is handling. The work varies through the month, with a peak at the time of the meeting on the second Monday of the month. April is busy with the Annual Parish Meeting as well as the normal meeting and the elections in early May. Five of the ten current Councillors are not seeking re-election this time, including Jeremy Barber who has served on the Council since 1986 and as Chairman from 2001 to 2010 and Christopher Duxbury who joined the Council in 2006 and was Chairman from 2010 to 2013. The loss of them and other experienced Councillors, Phil Harris and Karen-Marie Dinesen, as well as Georgina Ridpath, who joined quite recently, means the Clerk will be an important element in maintaining continuity. Mary Jo Darrah