

Longparish Parish Council

At its January meeting the Parish Council:

- Heard reports from people affected by flooding. The main sewer comes down the valley from Hurstbourne Tarrant. A pumping station opposite the Plough pumps it all away up over Southside Hill. The pump was not able to cope with the volume of water in the sewer following the heavy rain at New Year and more recently. The result was a large lake on the school field, flooding near the Plough and many problems elsewhere. Southern Water has supplemented the pump with a second pump that discharges filtered water into the river and by tankers. With any luck that will keep it under control and we must be grateful that we didn't have problems to the same extent as St Mary Bourne and Shipton Bellinger. The Council will write jointly with the school governors to the various authorities explaining that it is vital to keep the water level in the sewer under control.
- Raised no objection to a plans for pool house at Braeside, Micheldever Road
- Considered the budget for next year and decided to set the precept (the amount which the council raises from the village through the Council Tax) at £15,000
- Reviewed the draft Village Design Statement which will now go to the Borough Council for their comments
- Decided to replace the fence round the playground and take in the extra ground kindly given by Middleton Estate at the same time
- Decided to have another clean up day on 29th March. Please put the date in your diary

If you'd like to know more, the minutes are published on our village website www.longparish.org.uk and should be available soon after this report is published.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 February at 7.30 in the Village Hall. There is also a special meeting on 27 January to consider the draft Borough Plan. Our meetings are public and all parishioners are welcome to come and can speak. The agenda will be on the notice boards at the shop and in Forton a few days before the meeting.

Jeremy Barber Chairman tel 720459

Dogs on the football field

The School children will be using the football field for games while the school field is wet. So please keep your dog on a lead if you take it on the football field and clear up if it makes a mess. Thank you.

Village Hall curtains and bookings

Thanks very much to Kim Andrews, Sandra Jones, Gloria Goodliffe and Georgina Knipe who have put excellent new curtains on the stage and fireproofed the rest.

Sandra will be dealing with the bookings until the middle of March. You can phone her on 720551 or email her at Sandra@Sandrajones.co.uk

Parish Council elections

There will be elections in May.

- If you can spare some time to help with the council's work, please stand for election
- If you think 'they' should be doing things differently, please stand for election.
- If you'd like to improve our village, please stand for election.

To find out more about what the council does and what being a councillor involves please contact the chairman, Jeremy Barber, email jeremy.barber@longparish.org.uk tel 720459, or ask any councillor.

VALENTINES QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 15th February 2003
in Longparish Village Hall

Admittance from 7.30,
first questions at 8pm
Tickets £5 from Georgina Knipe 720713
Delicious supper included

Join us for a fun and friendly evening -the
winning team receives a bottle of wine each

Hosted by the Friends of Longparish School

scramblers

Service for under-fives in St. Nicholas Church
Mon. February 17 What's in our church building?
Mon. March 17 Mini-beasts

The service starts at 2.15pm and finishes in good time to collect children from school. There are bible stories, singing, making music, craft and refreshment in a relaxed atmosphere

Nona Harrison 720215

Longparish School -the Bid Goes In

In the last update in September we spoke of the bid application from the 'Target Capital Fund' for the project at the school having to be submitted in December and we were waiting for new guidelines from the Department for Education and Science. These were eventually received late in October and thanks to a joint effort by governors; the architect, John Alexander; the Diocesan Surveyor, Carol Finch and the headteacher, Ros Hobrough, we were able to submit on time. The new guidelines support the concept of multi-use of facilities. This enabled us to make some useful additions to the original plan and to include in the application funding for the playgroup. We should know the outcome by March. We keep our fingers crossed!

John Ellicock

NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE SCHOOL

Testbourne has proved a popular choice for pupils who will be starting secondary school in September. We have received nearly 170 applications for our 140 places in Year 7. In order to be able to offer place to who all those who made Testbourne their first preference, the Governors have agreed to increase the numbers being accepted this year and to make six rather than five tutor groups. This still means that we have had to refuse applications from some families. We regret having to do this but in doing so have borne in mind our wish to maintain reasonable class sizes. The Governors will be meeting to discuss if we should seek to continue this increased number on roll and if so what the numbers should be and how we can comfortably accommodate them. We could be in for some interesting meetings ahead!

Our Science facilities have definitely seen better times so we were delighted to hear from the LEA that two of our labs stand a good chance of complete refurbishment in the new financial year. They have been included in a county bid for New Deals for Schools funding. Initial plans have already been drawn up and we hope to have the final go ahead in March. If decisions go our way we should have two state of the art labs for pupils to work in from September.

For the first time we have taken the plunge and entered the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition. This is a national competition, organised by the Citizenship Foundation, which aims to introduce young people to the workings of the legal system. Our team of 12 pupils, from Years Eight and Nine, will be playing a full range of roles, including prosecution and defence lawyers, witnesses and magistrates. We have already begun preparation and will be competing against other local

schools in the first heat, in Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, on Saturday March 15th. It is proving quite an intense, but fun, learning curve for all of us. We'll let you know how we get on!

PLAYGROUP VANDALISED

Longparish Playgroup were very disappointed to discover that vandals had broken a window in the portacabin. This occurred over the Christmas holidays, and it is sad that destruction of a facility for small children could occur at such a time. This means that staff have had to work extremely hard to ensure that there is no glass remaining in the building to harm the 3 and 4 year olds that attend, taking time out from their own Christmas break to do so. In addition the Playgroup have had to spend in excess of £70 to repair the damage, money it cannot afford and will ensure that extra fundraising will have to take place to replace it. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Andover Glass for their prompt and helpful assistance. If you have any information on the above incident please contact Maggie Barber 720459 or Crimestoppers.

Major Lanoe Hawker V.C.

Those who are interested in Longparish Church will probably have noticed the window dedicated to Hawker V.C. While watching a programme called "Dogfight – The Mystery of the Red Baron" on Channel 4 on Sunday, 22nd December, I was surprised to see on film the last dogfight between von Richthofen and Major Hawker.

Major Lanoe Hawker was born in Longparish on 31st December 1890 at Homecroft, which is the house behind the Old Curacy. His grandparents owned Longparish House estate. He took out 24 Squadron RFC to France in February 1916 as Squadron Commander.

Von Richthofen's combat report reads as follows:

"1500 hours, south of Bapaume
Vickers one-seater plane lying near Bapaume
Occupant – Major Hawker – dead
I attacked, together with two other planes, a
Vickers one-seater at 3000 metres altitude. After a
long curved flight of 3 to 5 minutes, I had forced
down my adversary to 500 metres. He now tried to
escape flying to the Front. I pursued and brought
him down after 900 shots."

Lanoe Hawker was already a well known figure, not only to the British but also to the Germans. To have conquered him would have given any German flyer more than a moment of acclamation.

Gillian Goddard

Long Bridge restored to use

The maintenance team of H.C.C. Rights of Way maintenance team recently completed their work on Long Bridge on East Aston Common. Using the existing concrete supports they have built a most attractive wooden bridge with rails on both sides. In keeping with the policy of trying to improve access to the countryside, they have built ramps each side and built a new bridge over the carrier so that there is now wheelchair and pushchair access to the bridge. Residents are delighted to have the use of footpath 3 restored and the new bridge is a great improvement on the old one. Thanks have been sent by the Parish Council to Peter Watson, our Rights of Way Officer and his team.

MUSIC with MUMMY

Calling all parents of children aged 3 and under. We have a wonderful new group starting in Longparish called Music with Mummy. Of course it can be with anyone - Daddy, granny or anyone else important.

Music with Mummy is a structured programme of pre-school music education, which has been running successfully since 1992. It takes the form of a series of weekly sessions designed specifically for small children.

The objectives of the classes are as follows:

- To foster in young children the idea that music is a pleasurable social activity.
- To encourage listening skills, so essential not only in music but in all other areas of learning.
- To develop a sense of rhythm through movement, games and the use of simple instruments.
- To promote speech development.
- To provide early training in singing.
- To introduce some basic concepts such as "stop" and "start", "loud" and "soft", "up" and "down" etc.
- To have lots of fun!

There are two sessions of 30 minutes in Longparish on Tuesdays at 10.15 and 11am. The groups will be limited to 10 children, (accompanied by an adult).

For further details tel. Nicky Derrick 01264 720452

St Nicholas Wives Group

The next meeting of our group will be on Thursday 20th February. The meeting will be held at Woodstock "Television in the early days" is the title

of the talk that Stuart Bevan is going to present to us. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Gloria Goodliffe

Parish Council Profile: Ricky Bourne



Ricky and Liz Bourne moved to Longparish in 1981 with their two young daughters, Becky and Bobby. They bought their current house in Gladstone Terrace and instantly felt at home in the village. It was only after their move that they discovered from a

cousin that Ricky's great grandmother, Mrs Bishop, had lived in the village in Southside Cottage and that his grandmother was born here.

Ricky was born in Poole and brought up with his twin sister in the New Forest in a family which has been in farming for generations. It was natural that he should study at Sparsholt Agricultural College and there he met Liz at a Young Farmers' dance.

They settled in the New Forest and Ricky became a self-employed agricultural contractor. They remember producing masses of beansticks from hazel coppice together. Increasingly Ricky became involved in training others to use agricultural machinery, and decided to qualify by doing the Certificate of Education in Agriculture at Wolverhampton Polytechnic. Since then he has spent about three quarters of his time training people to use a variety of machinery, from quad bikes to lorry-mounted cranes, in places as varied as Marwell Zoo, Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, wine cellars, prisons, as well as farms and factories. He says that he only teaches what he himself is proficient in and as a registered instructor he works to strict standards. During harvest he has a break from training others and spends three months hauling straw bales. He and Liz are both long-term members of Stockbridge Growmore Club and Liz is just retiring as Chairman.

Ricky joined the Parish Council in May 1999. He became interested after he had attended some meetings to raise issues with the Council, and as a committed councillor he tries never to miss a meeting. In his view councillors should always seek to make decisions in the interests of the village as a whole. He is particularly interested in planning issues and in trying to ensure that Longparish retains some affordable housing. He thinks that more low-cost rented housing would help to keep a social mix in the village. Another priority is to encourage more

business and employment opportunities in the village. He is on the Footpaths Committee where his practical skills are greatly valued and he is keen to ensure that the footpaths are kept open.

In memoriam

Peter Curtis Grimes

Died 10th December 2002, aged 75 years

From the address by his fellow freemason, John Howell:

"I would like to share with you a few thoughts about my friend, Peter. He was a good friend to many. As I am an only child, I was proud to be able to call Peter my brother. He always met you with a beaming smile and a firm handshake.

He did not have an easy life. Born on 22nd April 1927, he went to Peter Symonds' School in Winchester. Unfortunately his education was interrupted when he contracted tuberculosis and he spent some years in recovery. He was not a well man for some time, and we must be thankful that he had such a good life, largely due to the skill and care of his wife, Mary.

His career started in the motor trade in Winchester and he later moved to Rolfe's of Romsey. He became a transport controller with the Hampshire Police and on his retirement joined the R.S.P.C.A. part-time in a similar capacity. Peter then assisted Mary in her successful champion kennels and established a thriving business in wholesale dog foods, which his son, Anthony, now runs.

Peter became a Freemason in 1959 in Old Symondians Lodge No. 5734 in Winchester and, later, in King Alfred Lodge in Romsey. He was also a member of other degrees. Ariel Lodge welcomed him into its ranks in April 1984 and he persevered through the various offices with his usual dedication until he became Master in 1994. He did not find the work easy but determination carried him through, and at the end of his year in office he received great acclamation from his brethren.

In 1997 he accepted the office of almoner, a duty he performed with skill and enthusiasm. His unfailing friendliness and care gave support to any of his colleagues who were sick or in trouble and he always remembered our ladies whose husbands were no longer with us. This valuable work was recognised when, in July 2002, he was granted Provincial rank and I had the pleasure of seeing him installed in Southampton.

A few days ago I heard a reading from a piece written by the Dalai Lama. The following is an

extract from it, which, I believe, describes Peter to a tee:

"The essence of all religions is love, compassion and tolerance. Kindness is my true religion. When you are motivated by kindness it does not matter what your profession is. Whatever your field, deep down there is a kind person. The clear proof of a person's love of God is when that person shows a genuine love to fellow human beings."

We shall all miss Peter but I am sure that he has heard the words that we all wish to hear when this life passes away – 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys of the Lord.' "

Mary Anthony and Mel would like to thank everyone for their support, cards, kindness and donations to the Countess of Brecknock hospice. It has all meant a great deal to them, and our love and prayers continue for them now.

Longparish Toddlers

Just a quick 'Thank you' to everyone who has come along to support the new group. We have had 15 children with their mum or granny each week. What a fantastic response considering the first week it was snowing heavily and the second pouring with rain! We meet every Wednesday (term time only) 10am – 11.45 in Longparish village hall. Hope to see you there.

LONGPARISH VILLAGE HALL

**Someone is needed
to check and clean
the village hall.**

**Approximately 2 hours a week.
£30 a month.**

**If you would like to know more
Please contact Sandra Jones tel.
720551**

Friends of Longparish School 100+ Club

Congratulations to the Christmas winners:

1 st prize £100	Mark Skinner
2 nd prize £50	Graham & Kim Andrews
3 rd prize £25	Gabrielle Dryden
4 th prize £15	Tina May Ogilvie-Graham
5 th prize £15	Ray & Gwen Budd

Thank you very much to all those who have renewed their membership. We do also need new members. The 100+ Club is a major contributor to fundraising, enabling the school to buy much needed equipment and to help with school trips etc. If you would like to join, the annual membership is just £12, and draws

are held monthly, usually at the senior citizens' lunches at the school.

Please contact Debbie Skinner, 8, Hurstbourne Priors on 01256 895013 or pick up a form at School. Cheques should be made payable to F.O.L.S.