



ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 8th December

2pm – 4pm in the Community Hall

Put the date in your diary and come along – make it a real community event and bring your family and friends. Entrance £1 for adults – including a glass of mulled wine.

- **Santa's grotto**
- **Home produce**
- **Christmas cake & pudding raffle**
- **Book stall**
- **Children's crafts & tombola**
- **Gift stall**
- **Hamper tombola**
- **Teas & cakes**
- **Mulled wine**
- **Grand Draw**
- **Cake stall**
- **Local gift & craft stalls**

We would be grateful if you could help by donating any of the following:

Bottles of wine
 Packaged foods and drink for hampers
 Chutneys, jams, mincemeat, mince pies, cakes etc
 'Good as New' books
 For more information or collection of donations please ring
 Christian Dryden 01264 720 398 or
 Andrea Hulme 01264 720 347

Longparish Parish Council

This report covers the November meeting. Minutes of meetings and the current agenda are on the village website www.longparish.org.uk.

Sand and Gravel extraction

The County Council is drawing up the county mineral plan for the next ten years. They are consulting about proposals in which they have identified 37 hectares (around 90 acres) of land at Cutty Brow as a preferred area for extraction of a million tonnes of sand and gravel over a 10-year period from 2009. The area is Northwest of the old railway line on both sides of The Middleway. The parish council is seeking further information but concerns were raised about the impact on the countryside and vehicle movements. Copies of the consultation documents are available at libraries (unfortunately Andover is closed but there should be a copy in the mobile library) and on the HCC website at

<http://consultation.limehouse.co.uk/hants/drafts/15/index.html> The page about the Longparish site is at http://consultation.limehouse.co.uk/hants/drafts/15/section_38.html. The consultation period expires on 12 December. If you have any views you would like the parish council to take into account please contact our Chair of planning, Christopher Duxbury on 720580. You are, of course, welcome to register your views direct with the County.

Open Spaces

Thank you very much to everyone who turned out for the Village Clean Up Day. The stream was cleared (which we hope will reduce the risk of flooding later in the winter) lots of litter was collected and road signs cleaned.

Parishioners have raised a number of concerns about Mr & Mrs Tacchi's proposals for the common rights over approximately 20 acres of common land at East Aston Common (mainly comprising river bed and islands) to be extinguished in exchange for them granting new common rights over approximately 33 acres of meadow land (known as Nether Regions and Bank) on the east side of the B3048 to the east of East Aston.

Finance

The external auditor has approved the accounts to 31 March 2007. We are now approaching the time when we set the budget for the next financial year to 31 March 2009. If there's anything you would like to see included please contact a councillor.

Planning

The council had no objection to tree works at 2 The Withies or central heating at Westhay, Forton (listed building consent).

Village and community halls

The council has arranged surveys of the village hall to consider its state of repair and what is needed to comply with disability regulations. The village hall committee has already made a start on the work with woodworm treatment and a French drain outside the kitchen. Next will be replacement of the rotten kitchen window and door with a new window. Ideas are being discussed for other improvements including making the hall better accessible and providing disabled parking spaces and toilets.

The community hall management committee is being re-launched and representatives of the village hall committee and the community association will join it and help draw up terms of reference.

Road safety

The council is considering joining with other parishes to buy a speed meter that will show motorists how fast they are going. It will be demonstrated in the village on Tuesday 11 December between 10 and 12. If you'd like to find out more please contact Ricky Bourne on 720500.

The next meeting is on Monday 10th December in the Ellicock Room at the Community Hall. Meetings are public and all parishioners are welcome to come and can speak by invitation. Jeremy Barber Chairman. Tel 720459 email jeremy.barber@longparish.org.uk

*Obituaries***Christina Peggy Ashton****22.12.1926 – 2.11.2007**

Christina Peggy Ashton, always, known as Peggy, had lived in Longparish since 1976, since the house they had in North Acre was first built, so many people in Longparish have known her a long time.

She was born near Bath into a farming family, and was a country girl at heart all her life. She married George, who also worked on a farm, and, as his work took him, they gradually moved further from the Bath area and came from Sherborne in Dorset to Hampshire. They were first in Fakenham, then Tanglely. When the Tanglely farm gave up livestock, they moved to North Acre and George worked in Andover. Peggy had always helped first her parents and then George with the farm work, but in 1976 she started working in the kitchen at Barton Stacey camp.

Her main interest in life was her home and family, so she would have been well qualified to work in a large kitchen. She and George had three sons, Michael, Chris and Richard, and two daughters, Sue and Nina. Nina was tragically killed as a pedestrian in a road accident nineteen years ago, which was even harder for Peggy as George died soon after. Peggy had five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, to keep her busy, as well as two brothers, Dennis and Michael, and a sister, Diana, and their families. Apart from her home and family, Peggy enjoyed flowers and flower arranging and reading romantic fiction.

Peggy had suffered with her heart for a while and for the last two years life had been hard for her, in and out of hospital. She moved into Willow Court Nursing Home just before she died. We offer our love and prayers to Michael, Chris, Richard and Sue, as well as to the rest of her family and friends.

Nona Harrison

Mary Elizabeth Grimes**1928 - 2007**

Mary Grimes was an extraordinary lady, a “one-off”, as a close friend of hers remarked just after her funeral. The fact that there were about fifty people at her funeral at Basingstoke Crematorium in the morning, and then nearly two hundred, mostly different people, at her thanksgiving service in St. Nicholas Church in the afternoon testified to that. Friends were relating all sorts of personal stories of times when Mary had really helped them and been a significant influence in their lives, so we gradually came to appreciate what a remarkable lady she was.

She was born in Winchester, the daughter of a cabinet maker, and through his work she became involved with the Theatre Royal. She went into nursing, and then married Peter, and Anthony was born. In the early 1960s

they took on Difford Kennels on the edge of Barton Stacey. She went back to nursing for a while as Anthony grew up. They then moved to Belsud Retrievers and she became much more involved in breeding her dogs. She bred several breeds, but mainly flat coat retrievers, which were much valued as working dogs in local shoots. When people went to Belsud to choose a puppy, little did they realise that they were being interviewed for their suitability as owners of these special dogs. Fortunately, Mary was a good judge of character and rarely made a mistake.

Mary upheld high standards - for others, but especially for herself. Whatever she did, she did very well. In nursing she showed qualities of leadership and quickly became a staff nurse. As a dog breeder she was known far and wide. She judged at dog shows all over, including Crufts and abroad. Many times vets would refer owners to Mary with especially difficult doggy problems! Among all the dogs she owned over the years, she inevitably had her favourites: Guinness, her elderly and favourite four-footed friend who came to say goodbye to her at the crematorium, Bella, a flat coat retriever, and Sudie, a boxer, from whose names the name Belsud, emerged.

Though Mary had a very full and active life, her friends testify what a good friend she was, always finding time for them. Life became hard for her after Peter died five years ago. She missed him terribly and had various health problems herself, so she became really frustrated as her life became more limited. Our love and prayers go out to all her family, but especially to Anthony. She will be missed by many.

Nona Harrison

Children at St. Nicholas Church

Scramblers All children under 5 and their carers are welcome

Dec. 10th 2.15pm Jesus came into God's World

The Ark The last meeting this year will be at Longparish Playgroup at 9.30 on Sunday **December 2nd**.

December 9th 9.30 A special family Advent service at Hurstbourne Priors

December 16th 9.30 A special service at St Nicholas
Looking Forward to Christmas

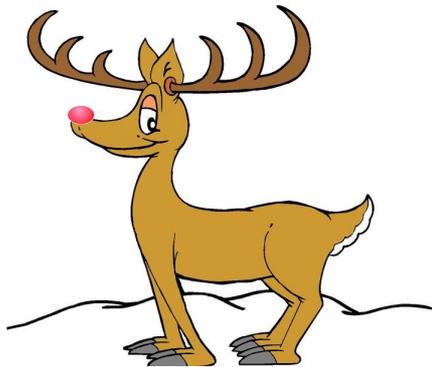
December 24th 5pm Christingle – crib service at St Nicholas

December 25th Family services for Christmas Day
9.30 at Hurstbourne Priors
11am at St Nicholas

Country Matters

Reindeer as a sustainable crop

At this time of year, thoughts inevitably turn to turkeys and reindeer. Generally speaking this is because one is destined for the table and the other provides transport for the great man himself! Given they are both animals then, are reindeer a sustainable crop? Let's examine the evidence: The present population of reindeer in the



tundra at the moment is around 1.5 million. Father Christmas uses only 9 of these – he has Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and of course Rudolph. Even if he employs a further 100 in reserve should any of his usual reindeer get flu or food poisoning that still only accounts for no more than 109 reindeer.

Whilst FC's reindeer spend Christmas Eve munching their way through mountains of carrots and mince pies that no doubt last them the entire year, the remaining reindeer tend to eat lichen which in the tundra areas inhabited by these animals is now seriously over grazed! Now it could be argued that as reindeer can fly, they can easily make their way to other feeding grounds, however, despite a 5000 year history of breeding there is no documentation of reindeer, other than those employed by Father Christmas, who can fly.

We also need to consider the amount of methane that such a large number of reindeer can produce. According to some recent calculations, a team of nine reindeer would emit methane with a global-warming impact equivalent to 40,667 tonnes of carbon dioxide as they covered the 122 million miles needed for Father Christmas to deliver presents to every house in the world. If you add in the additional food factor in the form of raw vegetables being given to FC's reindeer on Christmas Eve, just these nine reindeer alone could potentially destroy the world as we know it! Factor in the rest of the reindeer who don't have gainful employment for FC and we can blame the reindeers on their own for melting the polar ice cap. They are in fact on a road of self-destruction – melting their own home!

So as a sustainable crop – reindeer need to be for the table. Reindeer is considered to be 'healthy eating', since it contains very little fat. It is also ethically sound, since reindeer live in the forests enjoying almost complete freedom. Cooking reindeer steaks requires only a knob of butter, a sprinkling of black pepper and some parsley to sprinkle over the top. Sautéed reindeer is best accompanied by mashed potatoes and crushed lingonberries, washed down with a pint of beer! No more flying around the world, but destined for the table – this will make reindeer a sustainable crop. So next year, it won't be turkey, it will be reindeer on Christmas tables!

A Russian couple was walking down the street in Moscow, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining", he said. "No, that was snow", she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain" he said. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing" said the man. "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?" "It's raining, of course", he replied, and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" to which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear"! Boom boom!! Happy Christmas!

Country Bumpykin

Evening of Christmas Festivities in Stockbridge

11th December 2007



This year, Stockbridge is building on the success of last year's late night opening evening by making sure the town offers something for everyone. Commencing with the Christmas tree lights being switched on at 6.00 a range of events will follow on to

make this Christmas evening a colourful, fun and exciting experience for all ages. This will be followed by the primary school children singing Christmas carols in the Church with mulled wine and mince pies available.

Visitors will be able to watch a range of street acts playing music, performing acrobats, stilt walking, fire juggling and much more as they consider which of the many shops will provide them with that perfect Christmas present. Father Christmas will also be in evidence and will have his own grotto in the Town Hall where children can also have their faces painted in glorious technicolour if they wish, whilst eating tea and cakes!!

The local traders will be waiting to welcome shoppers through their doors and will be offering something exclusive for the night, whether it is a warming drink or a special offer on goods, Stockbridge residents and visitors won't be disappointed. Children are invited to get involved in a competition which will see the lucky winner gaining tickets to the Pantomime in early January. A sumptuous hamper is also on offer for the clever people who can work out which of the traders kidnapped Rudolph!!

In addition to all this, there will be roast chestnuts available to buy together with a stall selling luxury hot chocolate, what a combination, plus other stalls to tempt you. As if all that wasn't enough, the evening is set to finish with fireworks in the football stadium to make sure the night's entertainment ends with a bang.

Longparish Community Association

Membership renewals

Thanks very much if you have already renewed your membership and to people who have made an extra donation as well. If you haven't already renewed your membership please fill in the form on the back of the November events diary and return it by mail or by hand to Christine Beresford. If you can't find it there's another one on this month's diary and there's a link to one you can print out on the front page of the village website, www.longparish.org.uk. At only £1 per year the subscription is very good value. Please re-join.

Shopping trip to Winchester - 6 December

We'll be leaving from the shop at 9.45am on Thursday 6 December for a shopping trip to the Winchester Christmas Market. We'll be back around 2pm. The cost is a small donation towards the petrol for the minibus.



Any Smooth Movers who wanted to come could be picked up after the class on the way through the village.

Stunningly situated in the grounds of Winchester's historic cathedral, the German-style Christmas market comprises 80 wooden chalets surrounding the Winchester Cathedral ice rink. A wonderful range of interesting, tasteful and unusual gifts and foods, including British crafts, will satisfy the most discerning of shoppers. Contact Maggie Barber on 720459 to confirm details and reserve a seat on the minibus.

The Great Longparish Santa Dash

Come and run off the Christmas pudding in the Longparish Santa Dash on Boxing Day. Assemble at the Shop at 11.45 where the best



dressed and most glamorous Santas will be judged followed by a dash to The Plough starting at 12 noon. Please put on a Santa outfit (available from The Range for under a fiver) or just come and support or cheer along the route. The pub will be open for Santas and supporters to satisfy their thirst.

The Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch at the Longparish school is on 11 December tel. 720317

LCA Midsummer event 2008

Following our extremely successful Midsummer Fun Day in 2006, we would like to run another event in the summer of 2008. If you have any ideas of things we could do or are prepared to volunteer to help with the organisation of any part of the day please contact Andy Smith on 720034.



A DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY

Longparish Players need a woman! Rehearsals are currently underway for the Players' next production 'The Continental Quilt' a comedy by Joan Greening, which we hope to perform in early March. However, the cast of ten is still missing a member to play a female role. If you have ever thought about treading the boards or wish to make a return to the stage, even if your last appearance was a school nativity, then you would be more than welcome. If you are interested and would like to find out some more about the role then please give me a call.

Andy Smith 720034.

L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of The Month Handicap Race

The weather for the November race was overcast and numbers were down a bit with the early start. We welcomed two new competitors, Di and Nigel. Jack Ellicock presented the cups for most improved competitors to Wendy Beveridge and David Gould. Well done! The next race is on Sunday 9 December starting at the Cricket Ground at 10am. Runners of



all standards are welcome. The handicap system means that the slowest have as much chance of winning the cups as the fastest. Hope you can come. There will be mince pies and mulled wine afterwards and supporters of all ages are very welcome.

Afternoon Tea

Maggie Barber is hosting the afternoon tea this month at Queen Anne Cottage, Forton on Tuesday 18th December between 2.30 and 4.00. Do come along and enjoy the company of your old friends and neighbours and maybe meet some new ones. If you need a lift please give Gloria a ring on 720425.



SMOOTH MOVERS KEEP FIT

Are you worried about those extra pounds you may put on over Christmas?

Well, worry no more. Come and join us at Smooth Movers Keep Fit for a complete body workout.

**Thursday mornings
9-10 am in the Village Hall.
£4.50 per session.**

New Year classes start on 3rd January, and the first class is free to newcomers with coffee for all participants after.

Classes comprise:-

A gentle warm up.

Cardiovascular exercise to get that heart rate increased (nothing major!!)

Toning – concentrating on those problem areas (Arms, Bums, Tums)

The entire class is worked at a low level so no previous experience is needed. This is not a high impact fast pace class so is ideal for complete beginners or more senior ladies.

New to the class is the optional Swiss Ball



to improve torso for tone and definition, strengthen spine for pain free back, improve posture and develop core stability which also helps with balance.

Anyone is welcome to come along and see what we do or feel free to give me, Carol Dunford, a call on 07737115268

(An unsolicited endorsement from the editor who finds this class both enjoyable and beneficial)

Christmas Quiz

Test your knowledge with the LCA Christmas Quiz. 250 general and local knowledge questions suitable for all the family and you won't be able to answer all of them by sitting in front of the computer. LCA is delighted to offer our second Christmas Quiz. You can get the questions for a fiver, either from committee members or by phoning 720459 or emailing LCA@longparish.org.uk. The deadline for entries is the end of January so you can agonise over the whole holiday and still have time to work on the last few answers. The best entry gets a prize of £70. And this year, by popular demand, we will include QuizLite – a selection of 100 questions with a separate prize of £30 for those who find 250 questions too much of a challenge.



Halloween fun

Many of the Kidz turned up in fancy dress on Halloween, so we held an impromptu competition with winner Gemma Dunford winning a bag of tuck shop goodies.

Helpers

Thanks go to several parents who have offered to help out at club nights. We are in the process of arranging the rota for next year. One change is that there will be no club nights during the Easter and summer holidays.

Dates to remember

The Club night on 12 December is the last one for this year – it will be the Christmas club night, more details to follow.

After the Christmas break Kidz Zone will meet again on 16 January 2008 and something to look forward to early in the new year will be Go-Karting in Andover - thanks to the LCA for allowing the money raised from the summer gig to heavily subsidise this event.



Longparish Gardening Club

There will be no meeting in December of the Longparish Gardening Club.

The next meeting will be on

Tuesday 22nd January 2008

A talk by Patricia Elkington of Crawley, Winchester All welcome.



Longparish Cricket Club

Sponsored by Barker Son & Isherwood Solicitors



As I write this item in the middle of November, activity at the ground has dropped to a minimum, although Ken Ball and his team of helpers are still carrying out some essential maintenance work.

All of our teams playing indoor cricket, at the River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester and at Dummer Cricket Centre, have now started their programmes and, to date, have had mixed fortunes. The second and third teams playing at River Park gained promotion last year and are finding life in the higher division quite hard – for the seconds especially, as they are playing for the first time on Pitch A.

A hectic schedule in the newly formed “Serious League Cricket” at Dummer is giving our teams, the Longhops and the Lightwaits, plenty of exercise and practice over the coming months, so much so that they will not be having nets this winter! Nets have however been booked at Winton School for the Colts, starting on Friday, 1st February between 6pm and 8pm, and if you would like further information, please contact Justin Jackman on 01962 760302.

The December 100 Club Draw and Annual Buffet will be held at The Cricketers on **Wednesday, 12th December from 8.30pm.**

Winners in the October 100 Club Draw were

1 st	£35	no.49	Hilda McDonald
2 nd	£15	no.9	Pete Askew
3 rd	£15	no.11	Keith Paice

Looking forward to Christmas?

Are you looking forward to Christmas this year? Or are you, like most of us, over faced by all the Christmas displays in the shops, and does it fill you with more anxiety than pleasure, more dread than anticipation?

Christmas has become so expensive and competitive it tests family relationships and our coping skills to the limit. Do come and join a series of informal discussions on Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 9.30pm at Longparish Rectory exploring the issues these ideas raise, whether or not you are a churchgoer.

December 5th Christmas as it has become

December 12th Christmas – could there be more to it?

December 19th Christmas – a celebration of all that is good
Nona Harrison 720215

♪ ♪ Christmas Choir ♪ ♪

For the last few years we've created a small choir for the annual carol service at St Nicholas. The choir will also lead the carol singing at The Cricketers on 16th December at 7.30pm. We would welcome anyone who'd like to take part. The carol service is at 6.30pm on Sunday 23rd

December. Rehearsals are in church on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. It's great fun and it's not too late to join. All voices of all standards are very welcome. If you'd like to join in please let Maggie Barber know on 720459.

NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE

Pupils have been making a very positive contribution to our community in a number of ways recently; through the presentation of gifts to the local Crisis Centre at our Harvest Assembly; at the fundraising Halloween Talent Show; when the Head Boy and Girl laid a wreath on our behalf at the Basingstoke Remembrance Day Service; when the pupils from the Belgian Battlefields trip helped deliver our Remembrance Assembly; at our Presentation Evening when they provided food and music for our guests and on Children in Need Day, when almost every tutor group ran a stall for the lunchtime fair, raising £430 in just one hour. It is always encouraging when young people see and act beyond their immediate lives and I am always pleased and surprised at how thoughtful they can be in such circumstances.

Staff, too, are very generous with their time and have continued to provide pupils with an outstanding range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities. These have include: a new Netballastic lunchtime league, a Languages at Work day for all Year 9, a Geography field trip to Pompeii at half-term, a History trip to the Belgian Battlefields, a PE Activities weekend at Osmington Bay, an RE visit to a local Mosque, a Year 7 Art trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum, a full-scale production of Grease, workshops with the Southern Sinfonia, as well as the usual range of lunchtime clubs and activities.

A particular highlight this term has been the successful visit by 14 of our pupils to our twin school in Mityana in Uganda. The visit has had a real impact on their young lives and their comments since their return have included “it's made me realise that material things aren't the most important things in life”. They shared their experiences at a whole school assembly and 39 pupils have already written letters of application to be included in next year's group! Sadly Janet Evans our Head of RE, who has played a key role in making this partnership possible, will be leaving us at the end of this term to join her husband, who has a four-year posting in Australia. We shall miss her enthusiasm and commitment, both in and out of the classroom, and we wish her and her family the very best in their new life down under.

Forthcoming events

This year our music department will be helping us celebrate Christmas with a special oratorio for schools called “Holy Boy”. This is being performed in school on the evenings of Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th of December. Tickets will be available from our Performing Arts office and members of the community are very welcome to join us. Hilary A Jackson Head teacher