



# LONGPARISH VILLAGE HANDBOOK

March 2011







## **Foreword by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

This is the second edition of the Longparish Village Handbook produced by Mary Jo Darrah with the help of Paul Knipe and it is illustrated this time by photographs as well as Mary Snow's delightful drawings. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has contributed and it has sponsored a free copy for every household. With its history of the village, descriptions of the wildlife and many other points of interest, the Handbook is a resource which both residents and visitors will find useful and informative.

Longparish is one of the best places to live in the Test Valley. Much has changed since the first edition was published twelve years or so ago. For example, the increase in the number of families with young children is very welcome. Such change helps to enhance and maintain the thriving and vibrant community that we all enjoy.

We are justifiably proud of our village and parish; and we need to continue to work together to preserve and improve our facilities and the activities that bring life to them.

Christopher Duxbury

## **Author's acknowledgments**

I first thought of a handbook of information about the village for residents when I was Chairman of the Parish Council and the 1999 version was produced with the help of Paul Knipe and John Woodcock. I had envisaged revising it at least once and have been surprised how much has changed over the last 12 years, which have been a particularly constructive period. The Parish Plan itself and the process of producing it have enhanced the sense of community in the village. In this version Paul Knipe and I have taken the opportunity to update the information, to eliminate a few errors and to include some new material.

We are grateful to all those who have read the draft and made suggestions, including the major landowners, the Parish Council and the Communications Committee. Jeremy Barber provided the stimulus to rewrite it and he, with his wife Maggie, has given constant support, useful suggestions, proof reading and invaluable technical assistance in formatting and in preparing it for the printer. Jeremy also organised the map with the skilled help of Hampshire County Council staff. Thanks are also due to Fiona Gould and Jeremy for their contributions, to John Woodcock for his contribution to the original edition and to him, Christopher Duxbury, Rupert Dawnay and Richard Wills for their careful reading and useful suggestions. The authors take full responsibility for any remaining mistakes or omissions.

The Handbook serves to record what the village is like in 2011 and to preserve Paul's knowledge of its wildlife and what I have learnt about its history in the 51 years I have lived here. We hope that there will be some who will continue our work in the future.

The Directory, which is updated regularly, gives current information on organisations and contact telephone numbers. The village website, [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk), contains all the information in the Handbook and Directory and much more besides.

Mary Jo Darrah

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### Illustration credits

Many thanks to all those who have provided photographs and helped with the illustrations.

Andover Advertiser for allowing reproduction of the 1987 cutting.

CB Chris Bowman photographs @chris bowman. There is a fascinating collection of his photographs on his website [www.chrisbowman.co.uk](http://www.chrisbowman.co.uk)

FG Fiona Gould

Hampshire Record Office for the picture of Lower Mill from a 1912 sale brochure for Middleton Estate

JB Jeremy Barber

JW John Woodcock has allowed me to use some photographs from his collection.

MJD Mary Jo Darrah

ML Martin Lampard

MS Mary Snow has kindly allowed me to use some photographs from her family collection, which can be seen on [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk)., also some of her own.

MS drawing Mary Snow did some line drawings for the original Handbook and for the Directories which she has kindly allowed me to use again

Ordnance Survey and Hampshire County Council

Wheables' Collection Chris and Jenny Wheable



## INTRODUCTION

Longparish is a village of about 2000 hectares (5,331 acres), lying along the river Test, about 4 miles equidistant from Andover and Whitchurch, and about 10 miles north of Winchester. The name, Longparish, was not generally used until the mid-sixteenth century, but it is appropriate since the village is about 3 miles long by road and includes several small settlements:

- across the A303 are Gavelacre, once a manor house, Longparish Station, and Balls Cottages;
- on the A303 is the garage in the area once known as Cuthedgend or Cottage End, or Cutty;
- Forton, lying off the main road, contains some of the older cottages;
- Middleton includes the church, the school, the village hall, as well as Middleton House, where the Lords of the Manor lived;
- West Aston includes North Acre, a small estate of about 90 houses where the first Council houses were built in 1936;
- East Aston with Longparish House and Upper Mill.

There are also outlying farmhouses, some now just residential:

- Fox Farm to the north where the parish boundary crosses the B3400 to Harewood Peak,
- Budgett Farm, opposite Apsley on the B3400,
- Firgo Farm near the A34 to the east,
- Larkwhistle, Vale, Owls Lodge and Southside Farms along the south side of the Test, on the back road known as Nuns' Walk.

The parish also contains most of Harewood Forest, which was a Saxon royal hunting forest.

## HISTORY

The population of Longparish according to the 2001 census was 702, a drop from 730 in 1991, and according to Hampshire County Council Small Area Forecast, based on 2009 figures, it was 680 in 2010. John Spaul, a local historian who once lived in the village, calculated in an article based on a study of wills that the population in the 16<sup>th</sup> century was about 400. In 1725 the vicar, Corbett Shelbury, thought that it was about 500. When the first census was taken in 1801 the population was 558. It rose to 875 in 1851, but dropped somewhat to 729 in 1911. There has not, therefore, been a great change in numbers since the 19th century, but there are now considerably more households with fewer occupants.

### Before 1539

The early history of the village is not easy to trace. There is evidence of Bronze Age settlement in some barrows on the slopes south east of the river, now almost obliterated by ploughing. Tidbury Ring is an Iron Age hill fort. Some Roman and earlier artefacts have been found in the area and there was a Romano-British burial site on Firgo farm.



Harewood Forest to the north west of the village was royal forest in late Saxon times and after the Norman Conquest was part of the royal forest of Chute. All rights of chase were reserved to the King and any felling was strictly regulated. The Normans reinforced these Forest Laws and until the 1217 Charter of the Forests land could not be enclosed or cultivated, nor game taken or timber felled. A Royal Enquiry of 1295 allowed the Abbess of Wherwell to cut down timber in Harewood.



A monument called Dead Man's Plack in Harewood Forest, erected in 1825 by Colonel William Iremonger, commemorates a colourful episode, mentioned by the 13<sup>th</sup> century chronicler William of Malmesbury, which historians now think is apocryphal. It claims to mark the spot where Earl Aethelwold was murdered by King Edgar in 963, after the Earl had himself married the bride, Aelfrida, whom the King had asked him to woo on the royal behalf. What is true is that Aelfrida subsequently married the King. Sometime after his death in 975 she retired to Wherwell and laid the foundation of a nunnery, which her son, Ethelred, generously endowed, enabling it to become one of the leading Benedictine Abbeys in Wessex.

The Abbey was wealthy and evidence from its cartulary shows that the tithings which came to form Longparish were owned by the Abbey. A confirmation of the abbey's lands and rights by Pope Gregory IX in 1228 mentions Forton and "Eston". The only name listed in Domesday Book in 1086 is "Middeltune", which it says was always held by the Abbey. Two mills are mentioned, as well as land for nine ploughs, 'a fishery for the use of the hall' and nine acres of meadow. The cartulary of Wherwell has evidence of the abbesses defending their rights in Harewood Forest against the king, and rights over church appointments against the Pope, as well as charters relating to their lands. The church of St. Nicholas was started in the time of Abbess Matilda de Bailleul, 1174 –1213, who restored the abbey after it was burned in 1141. The next Abbess, Matilda's niece, Euphemia de Walliers, 1214 – 1257, was also a builder. Her obituary says "The Manor of Middleton, which had been situated on a dry site on the public highway and spoilt by old and dilapidated buildings, she transferred to another place, where she erected new and strong buildings made to last, on the banks of the river, together with barns." (*Rhoda Bucknill – unpublished thesis 2003*). It has not been established where this manor house was.

For most of its history the economy of the village has been based on farming, milling and fishing. The church is the only building which can confidently be dated before the sixteenth century, although some of the cottages may be older than has been thought hitherto.

### **1539 - 1880**

When the Abbey of Wherwell was dissolved in 1539 by Henry VIII, most of its estates, including Longparish, were granted to Thomas West, Lord de la Warre, and subsequently bought in 1695 by Edward Boulter of London. He almost immediately sold his Longparish estates in 1698 to Richard Widmore of North Oakley whose family or their trustees were Lords of the Manor and owned Middleton House until 1912. The last of the direct line of Widmores at Middleton was James who died in 1825 and left £10 a year to buy blankets and clothes for the poor. There are several memorials in

the church to the Widmores, including Mary Anne Widmore, a cousin of James, who married William Joshua Iremonger, son of Colonel William Iremonger who put up Dead Man's Plack. The Widmore trustees continued to own the estate and let it throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A lawyer, Henry Beaumont Coles, who served as one of Andover's two Members of Parliament from 1847, leased it from 1825 until his death in 1862 and is commemorated by a window in the church. Thereafter there were shorter tenancies until it was sold to the Earl of Portsmouth in 1912 after the death of Mary Anne's son, William Henry Iremonger. One of the last tenants was Colin Grant Patrick whose widow commissioned the east window in the church. Lord Portsmouth sold the estate in 1914 to William Whitely, later Lord Marchamley.

In the 18th century Longparish was regarded as a poor village. Most villagers were employed in agriculture, either as labourers or as associated craftsmen. In 1789 the Rev. Iremonger produced figures to show that the income of a Longparish man with two small children was £20 16s, whereas unavoidable expenses were £23 1s 9p. The village was affected by the agricultural labourers' riots in 1830 and 1831, when part of Longparish House was burnt, and wages were then improved.

The main enclosure award in Longparish occurred in 1804 when the strips in common fields at Middleton and West Aston were consolidated by agreement of the landowners, large and small. An earlier award was made in 1742 when Ham Down and Southside common fields were apportioned by indenture. After 1804 the common land remaining was at East Aston where grazing rights on the Cleeves were preserved by some commoners. This land was registered as common in 1969 along with the Middleton gravel pit, the sand pit by Larkwhistle and the chalk pit by Vale Farm.

Longparish had some distinctive customs. The Christmas Mummers play, which is preserved in the Church and on the website thanks to Ernest White who dictated the words, used to be performed in the big houses, and the mummers were given food and ale. The last performance was about 1926. The Post Office Directory in 1859 states "Longparish Harvest Home is a great public festival at the expense of the farmers and landowners, for the benefit of the labouring poor of the village". In 1865, a letter in the Andover Advertiser on 10th March describes how wife-beaters were dealt with. "In passing through Longparish on Tuesday evening I was much surprised at the noise and excitement going on. I should think I met 100 to 150 men and boys with numerous instruments of every shape and form, capable of making a noise, marching and yelling in the most excited manner, which they termed "rough music". I was led to make enquiries respecting it, and was informed it was in consequence of a brute, calling himself a man, who had "wallop'd" his wife in a most unmerciful manner—simply, one would think, to satiate his brutal appetite. I enquired of one person, who appeared to be respectable, why such proceedings were allowed, as I thought them very dangerous to individuals passing with vehicles; but he assured me it was the opinion of the whole parish that a man who was guilty of such brutality ought to be held as a despicable object and treated with contempt and scorn, and that this was the way they did it." A record of the village made by the Women's Institute in 1951 records that Lewis Andrews, then 91, had 80 years earlier witnessed a skimmity ride, which was a procession intended to ridicule a husband or wife who was unfaithful to or ill-treated the other, as described above.

Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee on June 11th 1887 was celebrated in style by the village. 49 of the wealthier residents subscribed £72 13s 6d towards a communal

dinner for 600 in tents on the school field. 9 ladies cooked joints of beef and 11 ladies, mostly the same, made 200 lbs of plum pudding. These were served by young ladies of the village with bread, potatoes, cheese, lettuce and radishes. 117 gallons of beer were consumed and 94 dozen mineral waters.

Longparish House in the late 18th and 19th centuries was owned by the Hawker family, whose most famous member was Colonel Peter Hawker, who was born in 1786 and died in 1853. He was shot in the hip at the battle of Talavera in 1809 during the Spanish Peninsular campaign, which put an end to his military career. It did not deter him from the serious pursuit of country sports, especially shooting and fishing, though his wound continued to give him trouble. His book "Advice to Young Sportsmen", first published in 1814, is to this day regarded as one of the best introductions to young people taking up shooting or fishing and is still in demand. He was interested in technical matters, and helped to improve sporting guns, which he used to deadly effect at Longparish and at Keyhaven. The Gun pub at Keyhaven, near Lymington, commemorates his great punt gun for shooting duck, one of which is still at Longparish House. His Sporting Diaries, covering the years 1802 to 1853, mainly record what he shot and his travels, with little personal detail. After his death Longparish House was let by the trustees. Tenants included the Tippinges whose daughter married Hawker's grandson. Mrs Tippinge presented the village with a brick-built Reading Room in 1893, which was nearly opposite Yew Tree Cottage by the Newton, and was demolished in the 1960s. Col. Hawker's granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth, wrote novels under the name Lanoe Falconer.

Another notable character of 19th century Longparish was the Rev. Henry Burnaby Greene, who married Amelia Woodcock (great aunt to John Woodcock, currently patron of the living) and was presented as vicar by his brother-in-law in 1821. The Woodcock family has held the living of Longparish since 1765, and the family patron has had the right to nominate the incumbent. Henry Burnaby Greene built a new vicarage by the church in 1823, and was also responsible for improving both the vicarage and the church during his long incumbency. To make room for a front garden and give himself more privacy he had the main village street, which used to go up to the lychgate and pass straight in front of the vicarage, diverted. To do this he had to buy and demolish an attractive house, shown on page 24. He rehoused the owners in a new house, then known as Homecroft, built on land he owned on the other side of the new road. The house is now called Greenholme. Folk memory says that it was at one time a pub, known as The Green Man. The cross which now stands in front of Woodbury House (formerly the Rectory) is a memorial to Henry Burnaby Greene's much-loved wife, Amelia, who died in 1867. Henry Burnaby Greene was also responsible for the grindstone, and for Ash Burn Rest, which was erected in 1868. He died in 1884 aged 88 years, having held the living for an astonishing 63 years.



## **Railways**

The railway came to Longparish in the 1880s, when the London and South West Railway Company built a branch line between Hurstbourne Priors and Fullerton which

ran through Harewood Forest to link the London-Exeter line with the Andover-Redbridge line. The line came to be called the Nile, perhaps because Queen Victoria likened the views to those of the Nile Valley. She disliked tunnels, and this was her preferred route to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. New stations were built at Hurstbourne, Longparish and Wherwell which were completed in 1884. The first passenger trains ran in June 1885, and the school log book comments that the roll had fallen because the railway labourers had left. The railway was never profitable as a passenger line. In 1913 it was reduced to single track and in 1931 the passenger service stopped, but it was useful for local goods traffic, especially during the second world war, when Harewood Forest was used for storing RAF munitions, and Middleton House was taken over by the RAF Maintenance Unit no. 202. After the war the military pressed British Rail to keep the line open until the long job of clearing munitions was completed in the 1950s. The last goods train ran in May 1956; in 1959 the station was sold and in 1960 the track lifted. In 1961 plans for the Andover Bypass necessitated blowing up the railway bridge over the A303. The bypass opened in 1962.

The other railway through the parish was part of the line built by the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway Company to link Didcot and Newbury with the London Southampton line at Shawford which opened in 1891. The old embankment can be seen to the south of the village, running parallel to the river. This closed to passengers in 1960, but continued to carry freight to Fawley for a few more years.

### Chapels

There were at one time three dissenting chapels in Longparish.



In the 1753 Visitation return the curate said that there was a licensed meeting-house for the Anabaptists, and the 1788 return reports 22 Anabaptists in Longparish. The earliest chapel was the Particular Baptist Chapel in the spinney between White Windows and The Barton, built in 1818. According to the 1911 Directory it held 200, but in 1851 the Visitation return says that the usual

morning attendance was 113. The records only run to 1914 and in 1923 permission was given to sell it and Captain Arnold Wills bought it in 1924. Jane Sterndale-Bennett, a later owner, wrote that Mr & Mrs Suckling who rented White Windows said the chapel fell down in a storm the night their daughter Bridget was born, probably in 1935. In 1937 the Parish Council minutes say that it is "very unsightly." The Sterndale-Bennetts bought the land in 1983 and it became part of the garden of White Windows. Part of the chapel can just be seen on the left of the old photo of the Plough.

From 1844 on according to the 1851 Religious Census a group of Wesleyan Methodists met in a room which would hold 40, though the average attendance was 27. In 1866 a chapel was built next to Stream House in Southside Road, which still stands. The 1911 Directory says it would hold 150. It continued to function until it was sold in 1975 and converted to a private house.

The third chapel was built in 1869 for the Primitive Methodists in Forton, roughly in front of Apple Tree Cottage. They had broken away in 1811, and favoured a church that was simpler and allowed more lay control, which was popular in poorer rural communities. The chapel was sold and demolished, along with Chapel House next door, in the 1960s. The chapel roof can be seen behind Chapel House in this photograph.



### Charities

There used to be three small charities in the village:

**Thomas Baker** in 1696 gave a yearly rent-charge on Baker's Yard, which became part of the Middleton Estate, of 10 shillings for teaching poor children. In 1969 Captain Andrew Wills bought Treasury stock to produce a similar sum.

**James Widmore** who died in 1825 left in his will £333 6s 8d in consolidated stock at 2½% to buy blankets and clothes for the poor, which was originally administered by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor and later by the Parish Council.

**Richard Stanbrook** in 1913 gave £136 0s 5d in consolidated stock which was administered by the Parish Council.

These charities were amalgamated in 1969 and the Rector and two others nominated by the Parish Council were trustees under the Charity Commission. In 1983 the annual income was about £12.22 a year which was not enough to carry out the wishes of the founders. The charities were finally wound up in March 1998 and the balance of the funds amounting to £335.58 was given to Longparish School to help poor children of the parish with educational extras.

**The Gwyer Outing** was an annual Sunday School outing endowed by a trust set up by Miss Gwyer of Church Farm, which was also wound up in the last 20 years.

### 20<sup>th</sup> century

Both world wars had an impact on the village. The war memorial in the cemetery commemorates those who lost their lives in the services, 28 from 1914 to 1918 and 11 from 1939 to 1945. (Inside front cover.) The cemetery section of the village website has a link to the British Legion website page giving details of those recorded. The small Harewood Industrial Estate by the Station started with the Kynock factory in the First World War, which used wood from the forest to make the ingredients for explosives. Industrial use continued after the war with the agricultural engineers, Kennedy and Kempe, as the largest firm. The Second World War had a more direct impact as an important army transit camp was established at Drayton at the top of Southside Hill. It had its own cinema and post office, and the men who passed through there liked to come to the village pubs, and the small café near Stream House. Dances were held in the village hall, resulting in some marriages with local



girls. During the years of National Service following the Second World War, the camp became a headquarters of the War Office Selection Board. The camp remained until 1985 when the buildings were demolished, and the land is now used for training exercises. A book held by the church records the ways the villagers, both men and women, mobilised to help the war effort. These included the Home Guard and an active Observer Corps, which scanned the skies from a post at the top of Southside Hill. From 1943 large quantities of munitions were stored in Harewood Forest ready for the D-Day landings, and RAF Maintenance Unit 202 occupied a camp near the station as well as Middleton House.

In the early 20th century both the major estates changed hands. Major-General Guy Payan Dawnay sold Beningbrough Hall, the family estate in Yorkshire, and in 1919 bought Longparish House (see inside front cover) and the sporting estate and farms which went with it. The estate remained in the family until 1989. During the Second World War General Dawnay and his wife moved to Upper Mill and the house was occupied by Bank of England staff who worked at the Bank's outpost at Hurstbourne Park. His son, Kit Dawnay, became a Colonel in the Coldstream Guards and served as Aide-de-Camp to Field Marshal Montgomery. It was a great day when Monty came to inspect the Longparish Home Guard.

In 1989 most of the Longparish House estate was sold to Mr Roger Smee, chairman of Reading Football Club. He carried out major renovations to the house, but never lived in it. Mr Robin Kelton, whose father spent much of his childhood at Longparish House, bought the estate in 1993. He renovated the house and most of the cottages, including Firgo Farmhouse. In an effort to rebuild the estate, he also bought back substantial areas of land which had been sold...Before his sudden death in April 2007 most of the farmland was sold to Mr Tim Tacchi of Testbourne Estate. In 2008 Mr Chris Woodhouse bought Longparish House and the remaining estate.

An interesting house which arrived in the early 1920s was Britwell Priors, shown on the inside back cover. Captain Charles and Lady Clare King were friends of the Dawnays and wanted to live near them. They moved the Elizabethan house complete with fittings from Britwell Salome near Oxford and General Dawnay let them rebuild it above the Cleaves.

The Middleton Estate was purchased in 1925 by Captain Arnold Wills, whose main residence was Thornby Hall in Northamptonshire. He used it for shooting and fishing a few weeks a year until he came to live there after it was recovered from the Royal Air Force in 1955. His grandson, Captain Andrew Wills, took over the estate in 1961, moving from Bransbury to Middleton House in 1965. His great grandson, Richard, moved into the house in 1997. The house is shown on the inside back cover.

The mills in the village were once of economic importance, as the Domesday entry shows. The Forton mill was a fulling mill for cloth. More recently a mill at Forton drove the Estate Sawmill, and although half the Turbine was removed by order of the Water Board, it still provides enough electricity to light one bulb at Middleton House. Upper Mill in East Aston was a working flour mill until about 1906 and was then used to supply electricity to Longparish House and the Mill. It ran a sawbench until the 1950s. Starting in 1989 Rupert Dawnay restored the machinery, and it ran again in March 1998; in 2003 he ground flour before selling the property. Lower Mill, shown on page 18, was connected with brewing, and was linked with Malthouse Farm (see inside cover). In 1921 Lord Marchamley built a new large house round the old mill room,

using the same architect who built Buck Close in Forton. Sir Geoffrey Watson owned Lower Mill from 1926 until about 1950 when it was given as a wedding present to The Hon. Patrick Wills, a cousin of the Wills family at Middleton House.

Once many of the village houses were owned by the estates, and occupied by their employees. As late as the 1940s most of the people living in the village were employed in the village, either on the farms or in the larger houses.

The mechanisation of farming since the 1930s has meant that fewer have been employed in agriculture. In the late 19th century there were about 12 farms, but gradually they have been amalgamated. There are now three main farms, Middleton, Firgo and Vale, and the other farmhouses have been sold.



The same is true of the cottages, many of which have been sold or let to people who could use the increased flexibility provided by the car and a public bus service to work elsewhere. These new owners also have the means to maintain the thatched roofs which are such an attractive feature of the old cottages. Many old barns have been demolished, like the large barn in the picture above which was opposite Mill Lane and next to Malthouse Cottage. It belonged to Southside Farm and as well as agricultural purposes was used for Home Guard training in the war and occasionally for cricket teas. The advent of electricity in the 1930s, a public water system in the 1950s, and main drainage, which came to most of the village (but not East Aston) in 1965, has made village life more attractive.

North Acre, the only recent large building development, was a Council housing estate.

The first eight houses were built in 1936 (see inside back cover), and during the Second World War it was enlarged by some prefabs. In 1946 more houses were added to complete the original road. In 1956, the houses were built along the top of the estate, including the flats. In 1968 bungalows for the elderly with a warden replaced the prefabs. The estate was further enlarged in 1974 with more bungalows and houses and street lighting. Since the right to buy Council houses was introduced in 1980, over 40% of the houses, including most of the 3 and 4 bedroom houses suitable for families, have been sold by Test Valley and are now privately owned. The remaining Council property, now owned and managed by Testway Housing, is mainly bungalows and ground floor flats suitable for the elderly and disabled. Acre Stores was built by Mr and Mrs Pat Burke in 1964-5, and when Mrs Priscilla Kingston retired from the old Post Office in 1989, the Post Office moved there too.

## **21<sup>st</sup> century**

There are in Longparish in 2010 307 houses with 680 residents according to Hampshire County Council's Small Area Forecast. In the 1851 census there were 181 dwellings housing a population of 857. Since 1936 about 90 houses have been built at North Acre. Recently strict planning controls have limited residential new building in the village to "infilling" the existing settlements, so very few new houses have been built in the last thirty years. Some of these have replaced small houses in poor

condition or burnt down. There have however been a great many alterations, improvements and extensions to residential properties which, coupled with the lack of new small properties, has changed the character of the residential stock.

There is a steady movement of families in and out of the village and only a few have lived in the village for several generations. Those who had grandparents born in the village include the Balls, Bowmans, Bournes, Brunsdons, Kingstons, Mills, Smiths, Snows, Taylors, Tonges, Warwicks, Whites and Wootons. Lack of low cost housing is making it increasingly difficult for those who have grown up in the village to stay or to return when they marry.

Opportunities for employment in the village are now very restricted, and most residents commute to work in surrounding towns, and several to London. Helped by computers and the advent of Broadband in 2004 an increasing proportion work from home. At the 1981 census 15.6% of residents were retired; in 1991 21.9 % and in 2001 25.9% The social composition of the village is now weighted to the more affluent due to the high cost of housing. In the last few years more young couples with families have moved in.

Access to the village from the south had become dangerous by the 1990s because of the amount and speed of traffic on the A303, and there was great relief when two bridges were built, one linking with Barton Stacey in 1994 and the other with Wherwell in 1995. A long-requested speed limit of 30mph through most of the village was introduced in 1996, and extended to the rest in 2010.

In 1997 a waste recycling station was built on the small Harewood Industrial Estate and in 2008 the Bedmax woodchip facility at Patchington nearby.

### **The Parish Plan 2005**

The idea of a Parish Plan for Longparish emerged from the work done to produce the 2003 Village Design Statement (VDS) because people wanted to think about what the village should be like as well as what it should look like. As well as suggesting ideas for change, the Plan aimed to conserve and enhance the best features of the village.

Developing the Plan took about three years. The first exhibition was in December 2002 and a Steering Group was formed shortly afterwards of people who were interested in helping to lead the process. They consulted widely within the village, with exhibitions, discussion groups and a questionnaire and around 500 of the 700 parishioners contributed their views. The Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council in May 2005.

The proposals were in four broad categories: community, housing and sustainable development, environment, transport and road safety. They led to:

- Establishment of the Longparish Community Association with a youth club (KidzZone) and one for seniors (the Recycled Teenagers).
- Extensive discussions about affordable housing. Following the Parish Plan consultations and a change in planning policy, a scheme to build about 12 low-cost homes with some market housing was proposed. The plan proved controversial and after prolonged debate the Parish Council issued a questionnaire to every household in the village to provide information about the extent of village support for an affordable housing project. The outcome was that the Council decided that the results did not give a mandate for further work

on a project for affordable housing on the sites proposed, either south west of North Acre or in the field between Malthouse Cottage and Meadow Sweet.

- A footpaths leaflet.
- A pavement linking the Village Hall car park and cemetery with the school and church, which was also a priority in the 2005 School Travel Plan (see inside cover).
- flashing warning road signs for the school.
- an extension of the 30mph speed limit zone

Consultations also showed a demand for Broadband connection to the telephone system which enabled the village to be one of the first to benefit when in 2004 BT decided to provide it in communities where 100 subscribers wanted it.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Longparish Conservation Area**

Most of the village was designated a Conservation Area in 1983. In 2009 the Conservation Area was reviewed and a slight extension of the boundaries was made when the review was accepted in 2010. The boundary is shown on the map (centre page). The revised Conservation Area Character Assessment which provides much detailed information about the village and its buildings can be purchased from TVBC or is on its website under Transport and Planning/Conservation/Conservation Areas.

Longparish contains about 80 listed buildings or monuments. These are listed below, and more information about each building can be found on the same TVBC website under Listed Buildings, or through links on the village website. The church is a Grade 1 Listed Building, Longparish House Grade 2\*, the rest Grade 2. It is an offence to demolish or alter a listed building without listed building consent. The Conservation Area includes nearly all the areas of the village which contain old buildings, but excludes Southside Road and Mill Lane beyond the river, and North Acre.

Stricter planning controls are imposed in a Conservation Area. The Test Valley Planning Department should be consulted before any changes are made. Any alterations to existing buildings and any new building must respect the character of existing architecture in style, materials and scale. In addition, no tree in a Conservation Area may be felled, uprooted, lopped or topped without six weeks notification to the Planning Department. unless the diameter is less than 100mm at 1.5m above the ground and it is being pruned or felled to help the growth of other trees; or it is a fruit tree being pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice; or it is dead, dying or dangerous. The danger must be present and the onus will be on you to prove this. Removal of dead wood from an otherwise healthy tree is considered to be covered by this exemption.

Those living in historic houses can obtain advice on caring for their buildings from Test Valley Conservation Department.

### **Village Design Statement**

A Village Design Statement, approved in 2003, records what the community most values about the village and its buildings and aims to influence future development so that the character of the village is preserved. It has been accepted by Test Valley Borough Council as planning guidance and should be consulted when residents are thinking of making changes to their property. It is on the village website.

## Listed Buildings



### East Aston

Millhouse and mill. Early C19 house attached to water mill, C20 additions.

Grade II (see above)

Meadow Farm Cottage. Late C18. II

Home Farm Cottage. Late C18. II

East Aston House. Early C19. II

Orchard Cottage and barn. Late C18 II

Garden Cottage. C17 frame, C18 cladding. II

Cowleaze Cottages. C17. II

Longparish House. Late C17 or early

C18. Late C19 additions. Grade II\*

Granary. C18. II

### Forton

Forton House. Early C19. II

Inglenook Cottage. II

Kingfisher Cottage. C17. II

Test View Cottage, originally two. Early C18. II

Rose Cottage, originally two. Mid C18. II

Old Beams, originally two. C17. II

Forton Cottage. Early C18 house. II

Owls Cottage, originally two? C18 II

Yew Tree Cottage. C17. II

7, 9 (Sirrah), 11 (ex-off-licence) Early C18. II

1, 3, 5, II

Riverside Cottage, originally two. Late C18. II

6 & 8, pair of houses 1865 II

2 & 4 (Queen Anne Cottage). C16 (probably earlier) II

Forton Farmhouse. C18. II

Barn & Stable. C18 II

### West Aston

Vine Cottage. Late C18. II

Yew Cottage, originally two. Late C18. II

Janor. C17. II

Newton Cottage & wall. Originally two. C17. II

Cricketers Inn. Early C19. II

The Drove. Early C19 house. II

Maiden Cottage. C18. II

Meadow Lawn. Late C18. II

Preston Cottage. C17. II

West Aston & Aston Cottage. Late C18. II

Little Newton. C17. II

Keeper's Cottage. C17. II

Tudor Cottage. C17. II

Malthouse Cottage C17. II

and granary. Early C19. II

Cricket Field Cottages. C17. II



## Middleton



Middleton House Early C19. II  
and granary. Early C19. II  
Church Farmhouse, originally two. C18  
II  
Stable and cartshed. Early C19. II  
Granary. Late C18. II  
9, Middleton (Church Farm Cottage).  
Late C18. II  
Woodbury House (former Rectory)  
Early C19. II  
Church. c.1200. Grade I  
Stone Cross. 1867 II  
Stocks  
The Old Curacy. C17 II  
The Cottage. Mid C19. II

White Windows. C18. II  
Westbrook & Brookside, row of small  
dwellings, now two. Early C19. II  
Fellmongers Barn. Late C18. II  
The Thatch, Southside Rd. Late C18.  
II  
Southside Farm. C17. 1815 additions.  
II  
Barn & cartshed C18  
Granary Early C19 now River Barn II  
Stable Mid C19  
Honey Cottage, Sugar or Cotton Lane.  
Early C18. II  
Lower Farm Cottage, Sugar Lane.  
House, formerly two. Early C18. II

### Outlying buildings

Dead Man's Plack. Monument in Harewood Forest 1825. II  
Gavelacre. Early C18. II & Barn C18 II & Stable & granary Early C19 II  
Smallwood Lodge & Harewood Halt (former station) 1884 II  
Firgo Farm. C17 II with barn & stable II.



## **Wildlife (by Paul Knipe)**

Longparish lies in the valley of the River Test which was designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 1990. Grants are available to landowners and farmers if they agree to manage their land in a way that is sympathetic to the natural environment. Middleton Estate joined at the outset and has a management agreement with the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency with regard to the Meadows. The Cleaves were designated by English Nature as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1987 and the River Test itself became an S.S.S.I. in 1997. This means that they have restrictions placed on them regarding their management and owners may not carry out operations which would damage the plants or wildlife the notification was designed to protect. Also any development is subject to approval by Natural England as well as normal planning controls. Harewood Forest was one of the now superseded Countryside Heritage Areas named by Hampshire County Council and parts of it are now designated as Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINCs). Middleton Estate has entered the latest conservation vehicle, the Entry Level Stewardship Scheme and has plans to upgrade to the Higher Level Scheme. The results can be seen in part from the Test Way with new grass margins, floristically enhanced, as well as other measures designed to enhance wildlife habitats. Testbourne Estate, which owns the Cleaves and East Aston Common, is working actively with Natural England on nature conservation projects.



The countryside along the River Test and the surrounding woodland has been managed over several centuries for fishing and shooting by local estates. Early 20th century photos, such as the one above of Lower Mill in 1912 (demolished in 1921), show a very open landscape resulting from the grazing of pasture, cropping of hay meadows and the traditional working of water meadows. The valley became much more wooded because the disuse of these farming practices allowed natural regeneration of woody species and riparian owners planted trees to make use of land no longer agriculturally economic. This has resulted in great biodiversity. Various environmental schemes, part-funded by governmental and non-governmental organisations and the owners, have made a contribution to the improvement of the area, particularly in landscape terms.

## Varied habitats

**The River Test** provides an important breeding ground for fish, including brown trout, salmon, grayling, minnows, miller's thumb and brook lamprey. It also supports a diverse invertebrate fauna including mayflies, stone and caddis flies and molluscs.

The margins of the river support a rich flora and fauna, including riverine plants such as purple loosestrife, angelica, hemp agrimony, marsh woundwort, yellow flag and water dropwort and three different types of comfrey. Typical of some sections of the river are the distinctive towers of the great tussock sedge. Extensive areas of reed, lesser water sedge and reed mace provide essential cover for sedge and reed warblers, water rail and ducks (mostly mallard and tufted). Mute swans, moorhens, coots, little grebes (or dabchicks), grey wagtails and herons are the most commonly seen river birds. Occasionally kingfishers flash past. Greylag geese breed by the river. Canada geese, although reduced from their numbers in the 1980s, are still numerous and less welcome residents. In the last few years little egrets, easily recognised in their snow white plumage, have become a common sight in winter.

The watercress beds provide overwintering habitat for common and green sandpiper, redshank, very occasionally water rail, and, once in the early 1990s, a bittern.

**Water meadows** There is evidence that the fields on either side of the river were at one time managed as water meadow. This meant that in winter sluice gates were used to allow controlled flooding through channels cut in the fields. Flooding enriched the soil, protected the grass from frost and encouraged earlier growth. This system benefited wildlife as well as stock, but was abandoned in the early years of the 20th century as being too labour-intensive. Middleton has now restored all its sluices so that flooding could take place to enhance the habitat for wintering birds, such as snipe and redshank, but due to increasing abstraction the river is not as full as it was and unless the winter rainfall is excessive it cannot happen. There are still pockets of some of the biodiverse plant communities resulting from this annual flooding, especially in spring fed areas. Indicator plant species include common spike rush, Devil's bit scabious, water avens, bog bean, ragged robin, southern marsh orchid, marsh and fen bedstraw, meadow arrow grass and greater bird's foot trefoil. Where there is no grazing, as on the Cleeves, non-intervention results in reversion to woodland.



**Willow scrub and alder carr** Wetland scrub habitat through this part of the Test is becoming less common having grown into mature alder carr, or been overplanted with poplars. The scarcity of scrub habitat is one reason for the decline in certain birds: grasshopper warblers, willow tits, whitethroats and nightingales. Poplar was originally planted to supply Bryant and May with matches, and when they were taken over the market vanished, so the trees have been left to mature. The Middleton estate carried out the felling of sections of poplar plantation as part of an initiative to encourage further the nesting of wading birds such as snipe, redshank, lapwing and curlew and the regeneration of the tussock grasses, sedges and reedbeds. The removal of the trees encourages more open riparian habitats and removes sighting posts and roosts for predatory species such as cormorants, corvids and raptors.

**Chalk grassland and scrub** is found on the disused railway embankment along the eastern end of the valley. The sward is grazed by rabbits and rich in species, of which stemless thistle, spring sedge, eye-bright, horseshoe vetch, quaking grass, twayblade, common spotted orchid, purging flax, common broomrape are among the less common. There is a healthy colony of marbled white butterflies. Scrub species such as dogwood, guelder rose, privet, spindle and purging buckthorn shade taller grassland and herbs, which include field scabious, giant knapweed, parsnip and hardheads.

**Hedges and road verges** Hedges are mostly hawthorn, with sections of wild privet, hazel, field maple, elm, blackthorn, spindle, wayfaring tree, elder and dogwood. Middleton Estate has been actively managing its hedgerows and has carried out a programme of pollarding a lot of the hedgerow willows. These trees provide good nesting sites for many hole nesting birds, in particular little owls (see page 26). There have also been recent examples of hedges being managed by hedgelaying, at East Aston, the top of Southside Hill and along the Wherwell Road. This traditional craft involves partially cutting through the stems, laying them over at an angle and weaving them through stakes. This allows the stems to continue growing and regenerates shoots at the base of the hedge so increasing its thickness, making it stockproof.







Wide road verges are characteristic of the village and are mostly dominated by false oat grass and cow parsley with small numbers of chicory, field scabious, giant knapweed, meadow cranesbill, common mallow and parsnip. A project to increase the floral diversity of the road verge running along the road directly in front of Longparish House was set up in 2004 with the support of the Longparish House Estate. Longparish Primary School used the opportunity to raise the children's interest in the local environment by helping grow wildflowers from locally collected seed. These plugs were planted out by the children in the Autumn of 2005 and included meadow cranesbill (a blue-purple geranium), black mullein (yellow spike), field scabious (pale pink-blue) and the nodding yellow flowered cowslips. The verge has been managed as a hay meadow with mowing over the winter and again in June to reduce competition from coarser species such as hogweed, docks and nettles. Over the years more species have been added including ox-eye daisy, wild carrot and chicory; in the drainage areas meadowsweet, hemp agrimony and the wasp-pollinated water figwort have been added. Plants have now seeded themselves and in the summer of 2008 a pyramidal orchid flowered having probably lain dormant for many years.

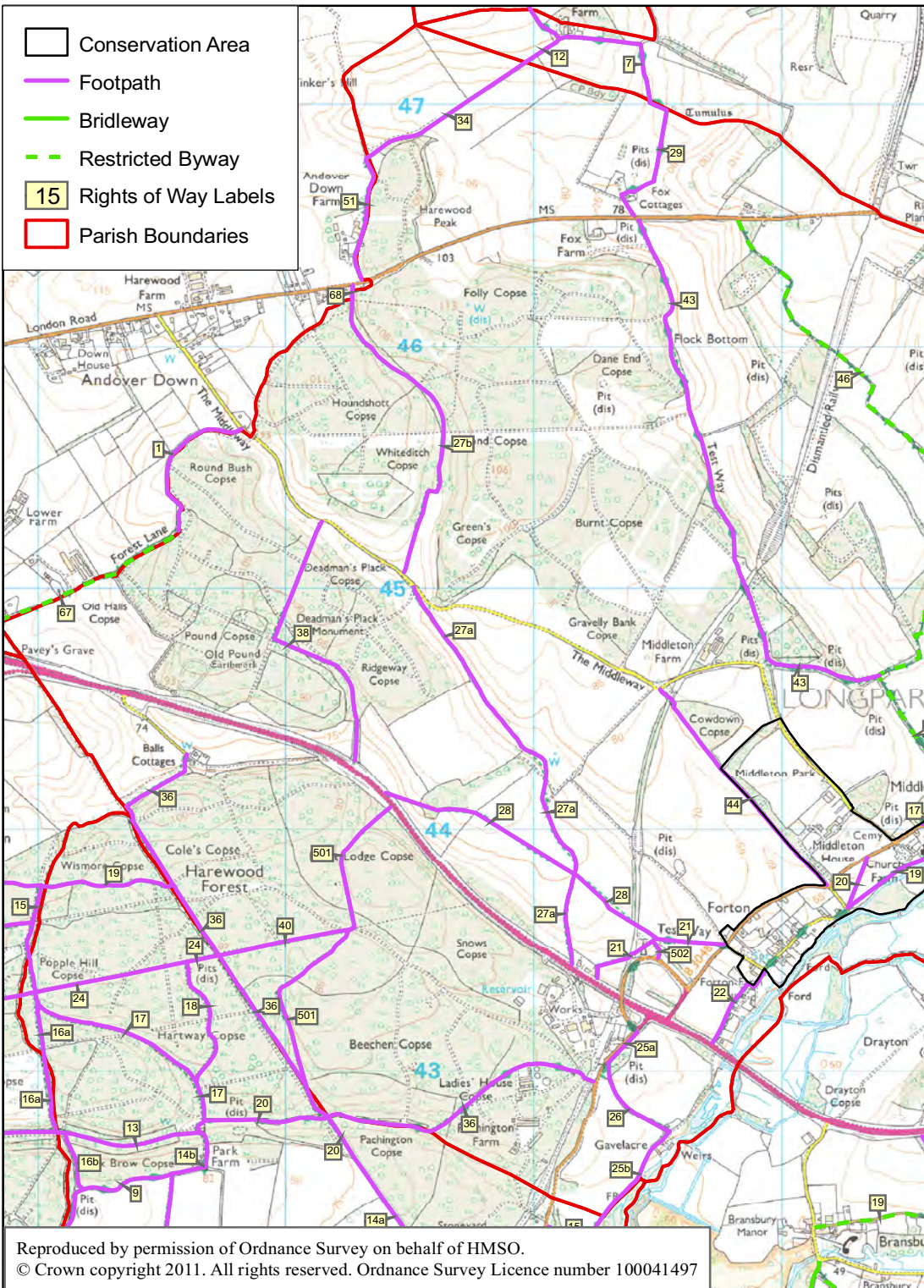
**Harewood Forest** is a remnant of ancient forest. Since the mediaeval period it has been managed as coppice with standards; the crown kept the oak standards and allowed locals to use the coppice. By the 14th century Andover was an important centre for the tanning industry which required large quantities of oak bark from Harewood. This would have been a strong local market until the 19th century. In 1884 it was noted that Harewood consisted of "one large wood dominated by oak and beech and other coppice wood common to the country. None of the trees were of very great dimension". In the First World War the establishment of the Gunpowder Factory at Harewood resulted in all trees over 6 inches in diameter being felled for the war effort. Current management is directed to converting the stools left back into standards and providing a quiet habitat for fallow deer, muntjac, roe deer and woodcock.

The ground flora is rich with wild anemone, bluebell, primrose, wood spurge and Solomon's seal. As well as oak standards and hazel coppice, there is some beech, birch, ash and sycamore, and a few areas, less than 15%, of conifer plantation.

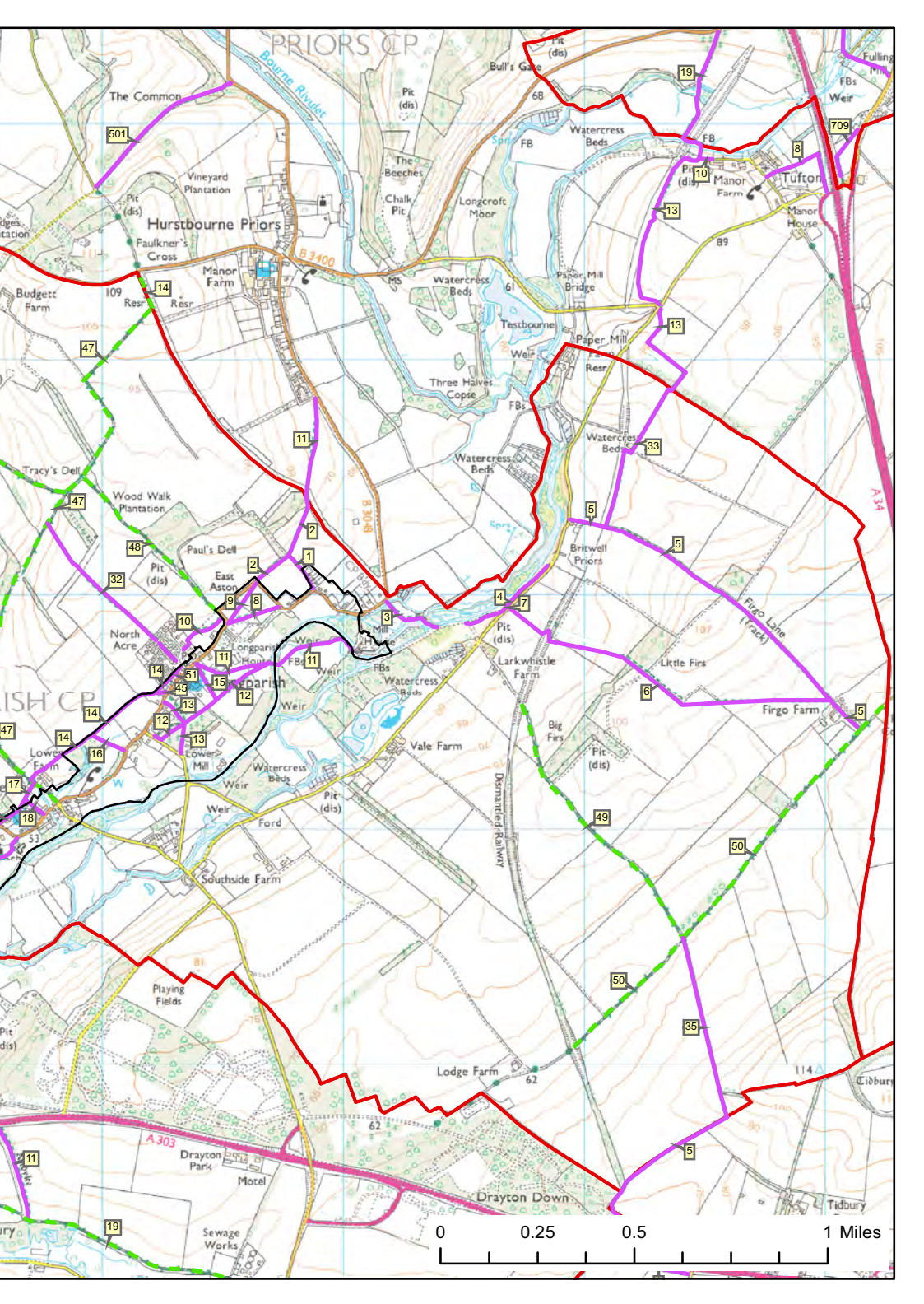




-  Conservation Area
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  15 Rights of Way Labels
-  Parish Boundaries











THIS  
SCHOOL HOUSE  
WAS ERECTED BY  
THE RED HERRY WOODCOCK RD.  
A.D. 1837  
ENLARGED  
A.D. 1871  
BY THE REV. GEORGE W. WOODCOCK



Our changing school



## **Southside Common Pocket Nature Reserve**

The Parish Council has funded the management of an acre of common land in their ownership just off Southside Road. The area had been used for gravel extraction and was neglected, overgrown with bramble, nettle and collapsed crack willows and had suffered from fly tipping over the years.

With help from local volunteers, rubbish has been removed, garden waste burnt and the site has been managed by Paul Knipe to encourage wildlife. Self-sown trees which had sprung up around the boundary have been thinned and the overgrown hedge is being cut and laid to allow it to thicken. The hedge, a bramble patch and an area of planted blackthorn has been managed to encourage nesting birds, especially summer migrants including blackcap, chiff-chaff and nightingale. The open areas have been mown to reduce the areas of nettle and cut paths are maintained during the Spring and Summer to encourage flowering plants such as ragged-robin, cowslip and water avens. In the areas of taller herbs are patches of comfrey, marsh thistle, angelica, marsh trefoil, lady fern and yellow flag. Drier areas have field wood-rush and creeping cinquefoil.

During the summer curtains of dancing mayfly can be seen on still evenings and the site offers a refuge for a variety of wildlife including, slow-worms, hedgehogs, frogs, toads and roe deer. Grass snakes also occur on the Common enjoying the wet conditions, feeding on various animals, especially frogs. The female lays a batch of some 30 eggs with off-white leathery skin; this is often sited in mounds of decaying vegetation, compost heaps in adjacent gardens being ideal locations.

### **Birds**

There is a rich diversity of birds in Longparish, both resident nesting birds and migrant species. Chris Bowman has recorded seeing 110 species in the village to the end of 2010 and photographs of many of them can be seen on his website [www.chrisbowman.co.uk](http://www.chrisbowman.co.uk)

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers and species of birds of prey. The reasons for this are an increase in awareness through legislation, a greater tolerance by gamekeepers as well as the reduction in the use of pesticides. Common buzzards are one example; thirty years ago a stronghold for these birds was the West Country. Today there are at least six pairs breeding in close proximity to the village and as many as 13 have been seen at one time.

Another success story is that of the red kite. This bird has been given a helping hand with a large reintroduction programme in the Chiltern Hills to the North and with releases from the Hawk Conservancy to the South West. As many as seven birds have been reported seen at one time in this part of the valley, and one pair nested on Middleton, the most southerly nest recorded. Kestrels and sparrow hawks are common. Other birds of prey include tawny owls, a barn owl hawking along the field hedges at the top end of the village, and a pair of little owls nesting at East Aston. One down side of these successes is the impact on smaller species and their young.



A lone raven is regularly seen flying over, with its deep call and a distinctive diamond-shaped tail.

Wading birds are well represented with suitable habitats such as flooded fields, the braided river, cress beds and ponds.

Snipe can be seen 'drumming' in the spring, a spectacular diving display in the sky with a vibrating noise made by a pair of loose stiff feathers either side of the tail.

In spring male woodcock carry out a display flight called roding to attract females. This involves the cock flying a regular circuit at dawn and dusk, uttering a frog-like croak and a 'twisick' call. On a summer's evening they are heard whistling as they fly overhead at dusk on their way from their feeding grounds along the river, where they largely feed on worms using their long beaks, back to their roosts in the surrounding woodland. Middleton and Testbourne Estates help the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust in its research on these shy birds. A current radio-transmitter tagging programme has dramatically increased knowledge of the species.



Some farmland species, such as turtle dove, yellowhammer, corn bunting, linnet, whitethroat, skylark, tree sparrow, grey partridge, lapwing and stone curlew have suffered a decline. The reasons for this are complex, and include a huge increase in raptors, more efficient farming methods, a move to more intensive farming and a move away from livestock, resulting in less waste feed and a reduction in nesting sites for hedgerow species.

Birds often seen in gardens are song thrush and mistle thrush, coal tit, blue tit, great tit, long-tailed tit, marsh tit, pied wagtail, dunnock, blackbird and robin. Green and greater spotted woodpeckers, tree creepers, nuthatches and spotted flycatchers are visitors. Some species

such as song thrush, starling and house sparrow have declined in numbers, although they are strengthening. An instance is the several noisy colonies of house sparrows; these are very local and inhabit half a dozen bushes often close to bird feeders, one in Forton and one around Little Newton in the main street.

The river valley acts as a flight path for many migratory birds, such as redwing and fieldfare, families of tits, siskins, warblers and birds of prey, such as hobby and osprey.

Swallows, swifts and house martins are a delight sweeping the sky for insects in the summer, and cuckoos are often to be heard.

Species recorded breeding in the period 1920-1960, but not now, include Montagu's harrier, land rail (corncrake), redbacked shrike, quail and stone curlew.



## **Mammals**

The forest has at least one major badger sett complex and large numbers of deer are present in the area. The biggest seen locally are fallow deer, with their spotted coats in the summer which tend to roam over a wide area in large herds of ten to twenty animals. Roe deer, the size of a large dog, usually have a rust-coloured coat and are often seen grazing along field edges in pairs and like the cover of tall vegetation along the river. The smallest deer are the muntjac, not seen here until the 1990s; with a coarse, dark brown coat and a downward pointing head, it is reminiscent of a pig. They are a pest as they eat bluebells amongst other things, and breed all the year round. They are usually found in Harewood Forest and surrounding woodland. The deer in the Forest have been carefully managed over the last 35 years. Deer generally are an occasional nuisance in gardens.

Deer can be a hazard on the roads, and anyone seeing a wounded deer or a dead one by the side of the road is asked to report it to the Middleton Estate gamekeeper tel. 720256, so that the Estate can either destroy it or clear it away. On average 25 deer are killed by cars each year on the A303, B3400 and the Middleway.

One of our best loved animals, the brown hare, is found on the large arable fields throughout the parish. They can reach levels when a sustainable number have to be shot. Large numbers of brown hares usually mean that there are few foxes who are their main predator, but the species nationally is in decline.

Otters have been reported along the Test. The water vole population has fluctuated dramatically over the past ten years. Numbers crashed as they did nationally. and then for a couple of years, 2006/7, increased, with some dozen water voles recorded from Sugar Lane to Ashburn Rest. The animals now seem to have suffered another decline for no obvious reason. Wild mink are serious predators of water voles as well as coots and moorhens.

With the local abundance of insects, bats are regularly seen. The most common are the small pipistrelles and the larger noctule bats; serotine bats, associated with hunting over water, have been recorded on the river near the church.

There are healthy populations of hedgehogs, moles, field mice, common and pigmy shrews, and short-tailed and bank voles.

## **Invertebrates**

Longparish is fortunate in being surrounded by a variety of habitats, woodland, riparian sites, chalk grassland, meadows and pasture as well as buildings constructed of natural materials, such as straw and brick with lime mortar. The village is rich in invertebrates including Ephemeroptera (mayfly), with hatches occurring throughout the spring and summer. The largest, white-bodied species, *Ephemera danica*, is the most characteristic and is seen during the month of May.

The following groups are well represented with many rare species: Diptera (flies), Hymenoptera (bees and wasps), including many solitary species such as masonry bees which burrow into lime mortar; Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies) including the rare and magnificent golden-ringed dragonfly.

Harewood Forest, with large remnants hugging the higher ground to the north of the village has many Ancient Woodland species of butterfly including: purple emperor (a male was seen in the village in summer 2009), purple hairstreak and white admiral.

There is also a strong population of our largest orange-coloured fritillary, the silver-washed fritillary, the larvae of which feed on violet leaves.

Marbled white butterflies are occasionally seen and occur on the chalk grassland especially on the route of the old railway to the south of the village. Garden butterflies include brimstone, peacock, red admirals, small tortoiseshell, comma and the ubiquitous whites.

With larvae feeding on the poplars and willow along the river valley the large greyish poplar and eyed hawk moths are often seen; their larvae are at least the size of a little finger, with a characteristic upward-pointed fleshy tail.

Migrants from Europe arrive each year especially at the end of the summer; common species such as red admiral, clouded yellow and painted lady are swept over on winds from as far afield as North Africa. One of the largest swarms occurred in spring, 2009, when large numbers of painted lady butterflies flew over from Europe and were recorded coming through at 500 per hour. The most exotic confirmed migrant seen in the village was a Camberwell beauty in August 2007 which would have been blown over from North America.

### **Fishing on the River Test**

Although barely 30 miles in length, the Test is the most famous trout stream in the world. If the quality of the fishing is not quite what it was, that is because of the declining water level, the result of ever-increasing abstraction and a recent shortage of the rainfall which is needed to fill up the chalk aquifers. The Middleton Estate estimates that the water level has fallen about 2 feet in 50 years. The river is fed by springs throughout its length, and these are essential for the watercress industry. Much of the river in Longparish has either been narrowed or allowed to grow in, in order to give it depth. The water flow is controlled by hatches; because of that, and the fact that the chalk acts as a sponge to soak up surplus water, flooding in the village is not a danger. The beauty of the river is maintained by careful keeping. The weed is cut, and the banks built up with chalk.



The fishing is privately owned and is of great value. Much of it goes either with the Longparish House Estate or with Middleton, whose owners let rods by the day or by the season, which runs from May 1st to September 30th. The accepted method of fishing is with a dry (or floating) fly, cast upstream with a view to deceiving the fish into thinking it is part of its normal diet. There is currently no fishing on the Testbourne Estate.

The river is regularly stocked with brown trout, and occasionally rainbow trout. The more inaccessible a fish is to the fishermen the better the chance it has of surviving the season. Grayling are also plentiful, and make good autumn sport.

## **Shooting**

Longparish became noted for game shooting through the Sporting Diaries of Colonel Peter Hawker, which covered the years 1802 to 1853, and is a classic book of its kind.

Hawker once shot a woodcock from the window of his bedroom in Longparish House.

Today the shooting in Longparish, like the fishing, is all privately owned and expensive. Until the second half of the 20th century, wild English partridges were plentiful (204 brace were killed by eight guns in six hours over 700 acres of the Lower Mill estate in 1930), but these are now very scarce, due to changes in agricultural practice. For their main sport, guns depend upon pheasants and French partridges, reared by hand.

The two main shoots, centred on the Middleton and Longparish House Estates, are family concerns. The Lower Mill Estate has been broken up. Birds are driven over the guns by beaters, providing targets which vary in quality according to the lie of the land and the weather conditions. As a rule, the steeper the ground and the higher the wind, the better the sport. The pheasant season runs from October 1st to February 1st, the partridge season from September 1st to February 1st. There is no shooting on the Testbourne Estate.

In 1996 Richard Wills won the Laurent Perrier award for wild game conservation for his project to recreate a habitat for snipe by flooding part of the water meadow, which has not only helped snipe, but also a variety of duck like teal, wigeon, mallard and gadwall. He is hoping to encourage the breeding of more English partridge, having restored the old rubbish tip at Cutty Brow and planted it up with 1.5 miles of mixed hedgerow and various beneficial grasses and crops.

There is wild duck, geese and snipe shooting through the water meadows. Hare drives are organised when the game season is finished. Rabbits, still the farmer's greatest scourge, were more or less wiped out by myxomatosis in the mid-1950s. They are now returning in increasing numbers, only to find themselves run down on the roads, or hunted at night by car headlights. To protect crops, farmers have to try to keep numbers in check.

The rising deer population has to be kept under control by careful and professional culling, the fallow does in winter and the bucks in spring and summer. There is stalking to be had in Harewood Forest and other lesser coverts. The deer are mostly fallow. Roe deer were first seen at Middleton in 1974 and muntjac in 1990. Occasionally venison, including Chris Howard's venison sausages, is available for sale from Middleton House.

## **Agriculture**

The numerous farms which once existed in the village have mostly had their farmhouses sold and the land taken back in hand. The main farms now are Firgo, from which Tim Tacchi farms the land which used to belong to Longparish House Estate. Vale Farm, and Middleton Farm on the Middleway. Nearly all the farmland, which is free-draining chalk, is now used for arable crops such as winter wheat, rape, barley, field beans and peas, with the exception of the water meadows which are grazed by a few sheep, cattle and horses. The farms in the area are still thriving despite the problems now being experienced by the farming industry in this country. In the last few years some landowners have tried to diversify and find new uses for their land.

There is a piggery and a chicken farm at Patchington near the Station. In 2008 a new

processing plant was established by Bedmax at Patchington to make wood chips for horse bedding, utilising some timber from Harewood as well as softwood from elsewhere from other local woods and forests. A compressed fuel made from sawdust is a by-product of the process.

Watercress has long been an important industry in Hampshire, and since the early years of this century the Biggs family have had beds in Longparish. The family concern near Larkwhistle Farm is now managed by Jim Smith and produces high quality organic watercress. There are also some beds at East Aston opposite Broadacre House, run for the last two years by Martin Chilton. He took them over from his brother who brought the beds back into use about 7 years ago but sadly died.

Nigel Jackson at Testwood Trout Farm has trout rearing ponds and a lake in the water meadows near Southside Farm. The Dunfords of Vale Farm have created coarse fishing lakes in front of the farm.

The late Bruce Faulds and his son, Richard, who won a gold medal at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, established a clay pigeon shooting school behind Owls Lodge Farm, which provides Trap shooting, the Olympic discipline at which Richard Faulds excels. It is now managed by Richard and his wife, Tanya.

### **Footpaths**

The parish is criss-crossed by about 20 miles of footpaths, which Hampshire County Council and the Parish Council have done their best to preserve with the cooperation of the landowners. A footpath leaflet produced by Hampshire County Council with the help of the Parish Council is available in the shop and pubs. It features some of the best local walks. Paths are marked on Ordnance Survey Landranger 185 map scale 1:50,000, and more clearly on Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1223 map scale 1:25,000. The map in the centre pages of this handbook is based on the 1:25,000 OS map but reduced in scale to fit the page. It shows the rights of way and includes the official HCC footpath numbers which are useful if you want to contact them about a path. The paths include part of Hampshire's long-distance path, the Test Way, which runs from Combe Gibbet to Totton.

In the last year or two the already excellent network of paths has been extended. In exchange for closing a small section of footpath through Papermill Farm, Mr and Mrs Tacchi of Testbourne Farm Partnership dedicated a much longer stretch of path between Britwell Priors and Tufton which opened in 2009; and established a new permissive right of way between Whichchurch and Hurstbourne Priors, which was completed in 2010. The permissive path means that it is now possible to walk safely between Whichchurch and Hurstbourne Priors and you can combine the new paths and existing rights of way to make a circular route of about six miles. A map can be found on the website [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk). Richard Wills of Middleton Estates has made a permissive path to Deadman's Plack which is shown in the footpaths leaflet. Chris Woodhouse has also created a permissive path and in so doing has allowed the linkage of footpaths 2 and 10 by walking inside his field above Longparish House instead of walking on the road.

In 1995 the Parish Council joined the Parish Paths Partnership, through which the County Council gives grants, training and advice to help Parish Councils maintain their paths. The landowner still has the duty to ensure that paths are not obstructed, that vegetation from the side does not fall in and that paths are restored within 14 days of ploughing. Landowners are also liable to maintain stiles and gates. The Parish

Council encourages the use of kissing gates wherever possible and has replaced many stiles through the Partnership. A few kissing gates now allow access by wheelchairs and buggies. See the photograph on the inside front cover.

Those using the paths should observe the Countryside Code, and make sure that they shut gates, do not drop litter and keep themselves and their dogs on the path. This is particularly important where stock or game may be disturbed. Owners have a duty to clear up any mess made by their dogs and this is particularly important on footpaths.



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Parish Council**

Parish Councils were established in 1894 taking over responsibility for village affairs from the Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways. Longparish Parish Council has 10 members and is elected every four years. The next election is in May 2011. Those interested in serving on the Parish Council are particularly welcome to attend meetings, and should ask the Clerk for advice on election procedures. The Council normally meets in the Community Hall at 7.30pm on the second Monday every month except August. The Annual Parish Meeting when the Council reports back to anyone who wishes to come, is held in March or April, and the annual Meeting of the Council when officers and committees are elected for the following year, is in May. The agenda of each meeting is posted on the notice boards by the village shop and in Forton four days before the meeting. Parishioners are welcome to attend any meeting, and time is made available for them to voice any concerns. The District Councillor tries to attend Council Meetings, and the County Councillor will try to attend if there is a compelling issue affecting the County. Both receive the minutes. The Council employs a part-time Clerk to deal with all correspondence and day to day finance, take minutes, and execute Council decisions.

The main responsibilities of the Council are as follows.

1. It has adopted the 2005 Longparish Parish Plan which you can see on the village website. The proposals fall into four main areas: Community (largely implemented by the Longparish Community Association), Housing and sustainable development, Village environment, Transport and road safety.
2. It looks after parish property, which includes the playground equipment and the skate ramp, three bus shelters, the Ashburn Rest, the grindstone, the stocks, the 1977 Jubilee Seats (one by the church and one in Forton), the memorial cross by the school and the parish notice boards.
3. It expresses its views on planning applications and applications for tree works.

These applications are decided by the Test Valley and (in some special cases) Hampshire Planning Committees. It prepared a Village Design Statement in 2003 which TVBC has adopted as supplementary planning guidance.

4. It leases the Village Hall from the Diocese and delegates the day to day running of it to a management committee. It manages the car park opposite the Village Hall by arrangement with Middleton Estate.
5. It is responsible for the children's playground, the allotments and the cemetery.
6. It leases the football field behind the Plough from Middleton Estate, and has it cut for the benefit of local players and recreation.
7. Hampshire County Council is responsible for around 20 miles of footpaths and rights of way in the parish. Using volunteer labour, the Parish Council helps with maintenance through the Parish Paths Partnership.
8. It owns three areas of common land: The Common, off Southside Road (which it manages as a pocket nature reserve), the sand pit by Larkwhistle Farm, and the chalk pit by Vale Farm.
9. It appoints a transport representative, a tree warden, the Parish Lengthsman (who refers road issues to the Highways Authorities and leads the Adopt a Road scheme) and the Clerk to the Burial Board (who administers the cemetery) and it nominates members to serve on the Village Hall, Hill & Valley, and Community Association committees.
10. It arranges for Hill & Valley to go free to every household and is responsible for the village website [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk)
11. It has a Planning committee and working parties for Finance, Open Spaces, Footpaths and Communications.
12. Generally, it looks after the interests of the parish by doing what it is empowered to do, and drawing other needs to the attention of the relevant authority. It also responds to consultation from other authorities.

The Council charges Test Valley for the money it needs to carry out its responsibilities, and this amount, known as the precept, is shown as part of the Council Tax bill for households in the parish.

### **Village website**

The idea for a village website was raised by David and Fiona Gould at a Parish Council meeting chaired by Rupert Dawnay in 2000. Since David had the technical expertise to create a site and was prepared to do this free of charge, the Parish Council was pleased to give the concept of a website its blessing. The site, which went online in 2001, was primarily based on the village handbook and directory, but with links to sites giving useful information. Since then the Longparish website has grown 'like Topsy', winning a couple of unexpected prizes along the way, including the HantsWeb award for Best Town or Parish Council site in 2004. As well as being kept as up to date as possible by the Goulds and Jeremy Barber with notices of local events, it has also become a repository of information about village projects and galleries of photographs – both historical and records of village events. Emails to the site show that it is also viewed by people from outside the village – often by people hoping to move to or visit the area from all over the world.

## **Test Valley Borough Council**

Longparish belongs to the Harewood ward of Test Valley which is represented by one councillor. For administrative purposes Longparish is in the Northern Area of Test Valley which is based at the headquarters in Beech Hurst, Andover. Some departments are based in the Southern area offices at Duttons Road, Romsey.

The Borough Council is responsible for most planning issues, some aspects of transportation, housing, leisure facilities, environmental health, including waste collection. It levies Council Tax which partially funds local government.

Meetings of the Council and its committees are advertised in the Andover Advertiser, and members of the public are allowed to attend. Provision is made for objectors to planning applications to make a short verbal presentation to the Planning Sub-Committee. Those who wish to do so should notify Test Valley by noon on the working day before the meeting. Planning applications are advertised in the local paper, and plans can be inspected at the Planning Department at Beech Hurst. Letters should be addressed to The Planning Officer at Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover. SP10 3AJ. The village website, [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk) has useful information.

## **Refuse collection**

Test Valley is responsible for collecting household refuse. Since October 1998 two wheelie bins have been provided, the black one is for waste which cannot be recycled and the brown topped bin is for recyclable materials, paper, cardboard, cans, and plastic bottles. Each is emptied on alternate Wednesdays; in Bank Holiday weeks, the collection is usually a day later. Normally the bin should be put ready by the road on collection day, but special arrangements can be made if this is impossible for you.

If you cannot compost your garden waste TVBC can supply green bags for an annual charge, and these are collected fortnightly on Mondays.

Test Valley Borough Council will arrange to collect large items from your house on request (tel. 368000).

The nearest household waste recycling centre is on the Walworth Estate in Andover. Bottles can be recycled in bins beside The Cricketers and clothes and shoes in the Air Ambulance bin behind the Village Hall. Newspapers and bottles can also be taken to bins by Tesco, or Asda in Andover, the bottom of Roberts Road in Barton Stacey or by the surgery in Whitchurch.

## **Hampshire County Council**

The County Council is based at The Castle in Winchester. Longparish is in the Andover Rural ward. The council is responsible for education, police and fire services, social services, public transport, roads, libraries, recreation, rubbish disposal.

## **Parliament**

Longparish is in the Romsey and Waterside constituency.

## **European Parliament**

Longparish is in South East constituency which has 10 MEPs, elected by proportional representation.

## **LAW AND ORDER**

### **The Police**

Longparish is in Beat 114 of the Hampshire Constabulary based at Stockbridge. For emergency contacts see the Directory. Lost Property is based in Andover.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Longparish takes part in the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme under the direction of the Hampshire Police. The object of the scheme is to assist the police in preventing crime or apprehending offenders by observing and reporting unusual events and the suspicious behaviour of individuals. Recording car numbers can prove useful. Please ring 999 if you see anything that might need investigation, and keep your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator informed. Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators are located throughout the village. It is useful to inform them if your house is likely to be unoccupied for any length of time.

## **TRANSPORT**

Most residents rely on private cars.

### **Buses**

Longparish still has five buses on weekdays and three to four on Saturdays, but none on Sundays. They are very important to those without access to a car. Hampshire County Council produces an indispensable guide to bus services called Connections. It includes current timetables for buses and trains and information about services can be found in the Directory.

### **Dial-a Ride**

This service is available for those who are unable to get to a bus stop or on to a bus. It can accommodate wheel chairs and provides door to door transport to Andover shopping centre on Wednesday or Thursday. See Directory.

### **Trains**

Whitchurch and Andover are the nearest railway stations. Many of the Waterloo-Exeter trains stop in Whitchurch; all stop in Andover. An alternative service is available at Micheldever on the Waterloo-Southampton line, where some trains stop, especially at commuting times.

## **THE CHURCH**

St. Nicholas Church dates from the late 12th or early 13th century, though only the transept pillars and the priest's door in the south chancel, survive from that time. The Church Guide produced by Canon Martin Coppen in 2009 describes the various extensive restorations made by the Rev. Henry Burnaby Greene, vicar from 1821 to 1884. These were paid for from his own pocket to modernise the church so that it could accommodate the increasing congregation and the high church form of worship he favoured. A major change came in 1956, when the screen between the nave and the chancel was taken away. The walls were stripped of the texts that had been painted on them between 1882 and 1884 and then limewashed, apart from a small section in the bell tower. The turreted tower was built in the sixteenth century, possibly using stone from Wherwell Abbey after the dissolution in 1539. Unusually the churchyard has two lychgates, dating from 1866, where coffins could rest, which may indicate the importance of Forton as a settlement.



The memorials in the church are mainly of the leading families: the Widmores, Hawkers, Durnfords, Woodcocks, Burnaby-Greenes and other rectors. Most of the stained glass, which is admired by those who sign the visitors' book, was also contributed by these families. The window by Francis Skeat commemorating Major Lanoe George Hawker VC, DSO, was given in 1967 by Hawker's brother and sister. . Hawker, a great grandson of Colonel Peter Hawker, was born at Homecroft, now Greenholme. He joined the Royal Flying Corps and became one of the most successful fighter pilots of the First World War. He was finally shot down in 1916 by Manfred von Richthofen, known as the Red Baron. A book in the Church records his life, and the window is reproduced at the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop.

The first of the church bells was hung in 1731, and four more were added in 1791. Those five were recast in 1936 and a sixth added to celebrate the coronation of George VI. Inside the belfry is the following inscription:

To call the folk to church on time, we chime,  
When mirth and joy are on the wing, we ring,  
When we lament a passing soul, we toll.

The bells are rung on special occasions by a team of volunteer ringers.

The churchyard was closed to burials in 1883 and land for a new cemetery was given to a Burial Board by the Middleton Estate next to the site of the Village Hall. When the Parish Council was established in 1894 it took over the functions of the Burial Board and the cemetery was extended in 1912 and again in 1968. Since 2010 a Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard has been set aside for the interment of cremated remains.

The stocks which stand outside the church are a copy made by Rupert Dawnay in the 1990s of those which used to be there.

The parish registers, recording baptisms, deaths and marriages and dating from 1654, are to be found in the Hampshire Record Office in Sussex Street near Winchester Station.



Until 1954 St. Nicholas had its own Rector, who had no other parishes to look after. Until the Great War (1914-1918) and for some time after there was even a curate to share the Rector's duties. He usually lived at the Curacy. The Rector lived in the large white house (now called Woodbury House) which stands next to the Church. The old Rectory was sold in 1980, and replaced by a smaller house, now known as St Nicholas House, just east of the Sugar Lane/Southside Road crossroads.

Since 1954 St. Nicholas Church has been joined with St. Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors. Between 1980 and 1999 All Saints, Barton Stacey and St. Michael and All Angels, Bullington were also part of a united benefice. In 1998 this link was broken when the decision was taken by the diocese to join Longparish and Hurstbourne Priors with St. Mary Bourne and Woodcott. Canon Martin Coppen, vicar of St Mary Bourne, became also Rector of Longparish and a part time priest now lives in St Nicholas House as part of the ministry team for the benefice. Details of church services can be found in Hill & Valley which is distributed free to every household each month

### **The Parochial Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council currently has 17 members. A proportion of the members are elected every three years at the Annual General Meeting in March by all those on the Church electoral roll who attend the meeting, and members serve for three years. It meets every other month on the second Thursday, and is chaired by the Rector. All parishioners and those who attend church regularly from outside the parish are eligible for the electoral roll. Technically the Church wardens are elected at a vestry meeting preceding the A.G.M. at which any parishioner may vote.

The P.C.C. is responsible for

1. supporting the Rector, for example, giving advice about services
2. the upkeep of the fabric of the church and maintaining the churchyard
3. finance. The money raised in the parish from collections, donations, bequests, covenants, the Fête and sales is used not only for the running expenses of the Church but also for the contribution, or quota, which each parish pays to the diocese. This goes towards clergy stipends and salaries, as well as other local and central church expenses. Because Longparish has a church school the P.C.C. is also responsible for paying a Barchester Contribution to the diocesan education fund. Major programmes of renovation are financed by special fundraising.
4. nominating, with Hurstbourne Priors P.C.C., the foundation governors appointed by the church to the school. A church trust owns the school building and land.
5. hearing complaints
6. the village hall is owned by the Diocesan Board of Finance, but is leased to the Parish Council, and run by the Village Hall Management Committee. A proportion of the profits from the Fête is given to the village hall.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Playgroup**

A village playgroup was first set up in the village hall in 1965 by Caroline McClintock and a group of mothers and was later run for many years by Iris Maidment and Jean Geary. It was revived in the Sports and Social Club behind the Village Hall by Clare Bowman in 1988 and in 1990 moved to a hut behind the school bought by the committee. Maggie Barber took over as supervisor in 1997 and as part of the school building project she planned the move in 2005 to new purpose-built accommodation attached to the school. It now has an attractive play room, with an office, toilets and a small kitchen shared with the Community Hall. It has its own playground and also shares some of the school facilities by arrangement. There are sessions every day for

children from 2 years 9 months to school age, though children attend only a few sessions. It is run by a committee of parents and the supervisor, and links with the school are close. Any interested parents should contact the supervisor.

### **Longparish Church of England Aided Primary School**

The first school on this site was built in 1837 by the Rev. Henry Woodcock under the auspices of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church. It was a brick and flint building on the current car park, and included a headmaster's house on site. The two classrooms in the original building were quite small as were the numbers of pupils. The 1851 census shows that of 155 children in the village between 6 and 13 years only 26 attended school. Numbers grew in the 1870s and in 1894 the main classroom was enlarged, and as was the infant room in 1898, when 131 children attended. In 1903 the school site and buildings were transferred to the Diocesan trustees. In 1951 it was given Aided status.

The old school buildings were demolished in the winter of 1956-1957 and a new school was built in a modern style with large windows overlooking the river, timber cladding and a flat roof. There were still just two classrooms, for the rolls had dropped.

In May 1969 Hurstbourne Priors School was closed, and since then the children from there have come by bus to Longparish School. A temporary classroom was added, and when the mid 1960s bulge went through, a second one in 1973.

In 1997 a permanent addition was built on the front of the school to provide offices, a waiting area, a medical room, and a library, funded mainly by the sponsors of John Ellicock's great walk from the Needles to Cape Wrath, and also by parents' fundraising and grants from the Department for Education and the Diocese.

A further major extension was opened in 2005. In 2001 it was revealed that the temporary classrooms were no longer safe and the playgroup hut housed in the school grounds was in poor condition and beyond repair. An architect consulted in 1998 about modernising the Village Hall had suggested that it would be more cost effective to build a new hall than to renovate the existing one. A Community Project was devised to bring all these plans together, first under the leadership of Stuart Bevan, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee until March 2002, and subsequently under John Ellicock, Chairman of the School Governors. Much work was done to try to secure funding. In 2002 the Diocesan Surveyor suggested applying for a grant from the Department for Education and Science to pay for the new classrooms at the school, the playgroup and a Community Hall. Revised plans were drawn up by John Alexander, the architect, and in 2003 an 80% grant was secured from the DFES, and 10% from the Diocese. Raising the necessary local contribution of 10%, which amounted to nearly £200,000, became a tremendous community effort. Richard Wills of Middleton Estate gave a strip of land. Substantial donations were made by some individuals, the Friends of Longparish School worked tirelessly, and major projects included an Open Gardens Festival in 2004.

During 2004 and 2005 the contractors, Lashleys, added 2 new permanent classrooms, (while existing classes were taught in temporary huts), turned the existing school hall into a classroom and a computer room, built a new school kitchen, a large hall for school and community use with a paved area outside, a music/committee room off the hall, and the playgroup facilities detailed above. During the autumn term of 2005 the new facilities were opened, just before Ros Hobrough retired as Headteacher. The new music/committee room was named after John Ellicock in

recognition of his splendid leadership of both the project and the fundraising, ably supported by Tim Sweet and the Steering Group. The project made a little bit of VAT history when the governors argued successfully at the VAT tribunal that the hall and the playgroup did not attract VAT [*Longparish Church of England Primary School v Revenue & Customs [2007] UKVAT V20464*].

As part of the project the school field, whose use had been restricted by occasional flooding, was raised and drained in the autumn of 2004.

In 2010 the staff room was enlarged, as the space originally intended for 2 or 3 staff had become very cramped with over 100 children in the school and a disabled toilet was added. Photographs of the school buildings are on page 24.

The school has a Governing Body which includes the Rector, the Head, a teacher, 2 parents, 1 governor appointed by the County Council, and 7 foundation governors who are nominated by the Parochial Church Council and appointed by the Diocese. Hampshire Education Authority provides funding for running the school, but the building is owned and partly maintained by the Church. The Governors have wide powers to appoint staff, supervise the running of the school, ensure the National Curriculum is delivered, and oversee finances.

The school is keen to maintain strong links with the community, and welcomes those who are willing to share their experience and expertise with the children. Each month in term time senior citizens are invited to have lunch at school for a modest charge, and the resulting friendships between old and young are much valued. For forty years now children from the school, now into the second generation, have been taught to swim in the pool at Middleton House.

### **Testbourne School**

Transport for children from 11 to 16 is provided to this grant-maintained secondary Community School in Micheldever Road, Whitchurch which has opted to be a specialist school for the Arts. Courses for adults and sports facilities are also available.

### **Andover College**

The nearest sixth form education is provided at the tertiary college in Andover. The former Cricklade College merged in 2007 with Sparsholt College and the new Andover College comprises a Sixth Form Academy, a Music Academy and a Skills & Professions Academy, which has a wide range of vocational and leisure courses for adults.

## **VILLAGE AMENITIES**

### **Shop and Post Office**



In the past Longparish was much better provided with local services than it is now, and they were concentrated in Middleton. The local farmers, Mr Snow at Southside, Mr Lywood at Forton and Mr Beaves at Church Farm, had milk rounds. There were two coalyards: Turton's behind the

Methodist Chapel on Southside Road, and Englefield's where Shallow Waters now stands, which both closed in the early 1960s. There was a blacksmith by what is now Blacksmith's Bridge on Southside Road. Opposite Englefield's there was a shop on the corner of Sugar Lane. In the 19th century it was a cobbler's, and more recently a small general store run by the Toveys. It closed about 1964. Stream Stores, on the other corner (picture on previous page), was a shop until the late 1980s, and at one time had a butcher's shop run by Mr Kail on the end. Where Lacey Gates now stands there was a small cafe, run by the Judd brothers, from about 1930 to 1960. This was very popular in the war. Mr Ted Plummer had a bicycle repair shop on the side at one time.

Since the closing of Stream Stores, and in 1989 of the old Post Office nearly opposite the grindstone, the only shop left is the Londis store at North Acre, which now includes the Post Office. It was built in 1963 by Pat and Anne Burke and has been run by them ever since. It sells groceries, basic stationery, toiletries, Calor gas, National Lottery tickets and also has an off licence. Dry cleaning can be left there. Newspapers



and magazines are sold in the shop or can be delivered. Increased car ownership and the popularity and availability of supermarkets, especially as they now offer home delivery, has made business difficult for small shops, and the warning to all residents, based on the experience of other villages, is "Use it or lose it". The more transactions made through our post office, such as paying bills, the more viable it will remain.

### The pubs

Although only two survive, The Plough (dating from 1721) and the Cricketers (previously The Free House), Longparish had several other pubs, beer houses and off licences. The last to go was The Buck (previously The George) which was on the

A303 just to the Andover side of the new bridge linking Longparish with Wherwell: it stood where the filling station is now and was open until the mid 1980s.



The last of the beer houses (no spirits) was the Stream Inn, which later became the Stream Stores and is now a private house. The sign for the beer house can just be seen on the right edge of the photograph at the foot of the previous page. Its last

landlord, Mr Hounscome, also ran a carrier service. The last off licence in the village, other than the present village shop, was in one of the thatched cottages in Forton, and remained in business until the late 1970s. That was also run by one of the Hounscome family, Mrs Vera Richardson.

In the Second World War, when there was a large transit camp between Southside Hill and the A303, and beer was very short, long queues of British, Canadian and American soldiers would form outside The Free House and The Plough if it were known that the brewers, Marstons in the case of The Free House, and Strongs of Romsey at The Plough, had called that day. The 1908 photo on the previous page shows the Free House, now the Cricketers, second on the right.

### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall was built on church land in 1910 as a church hall. By the early 1960s it was badly in need of renovation, and so in 1964 the Church leased it to the Parish Council. Grants were obtained and the kitchen and cloakrooms were added. This lease was renewed for 21 years in 1993. In 1976 the Longparish Sports and Social Club built a clubhouse on to the rear, which was demolished in 1995 after the club disbanded due to lack of village support and problems with the building, as the extension had deteriorated beyond repair. By 1998, it was evident that further renovation to meet new standards was necessary, but a decision was postponed until it was clear that the new Community Hall at the school would not be able to satisfy all the needs of the village. The Hall is run by the Village Hall Committee, a group of devoted volunteers, who have drawn up plans and are undertaking the necessary refurbishment. Photo on back cover.

### **Community Hall**

The Community Hall was built as part of the School and Community Project and opened in 2005. It was funded for joint use by the school and the village, and a committee representing all users was set up to organise this. In practice it is used by the school during school hours, and is available to other users in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays. Its sliding doors and outside paved space make it an attractive venue for parties. There is a small kitchen shared with the Playgroup, which is included with hirings and the school kitchen can be hired by qualified users for larger functions. The Ellicock Room is a committee room off the Hall which is also available for hire outside school hours. The toilets at the Hall were designed to be used separately from the Hall and they are opened to serve the Church during services. Photo on page 24

### **Playground**

The Parish Council minutes from 1894 on periodically record the demand for a children's playground but it was not until 1971 that a suitable site was generously made available adjacent to the cricket ground by Captain Andrew Wills of Middleton Estate. The Parish Council paid £300 to equip it with help from the National Playing Fields Association and it opened in 1972. It is maintained by the Parish Council and the equipment has been updated from time to time. Safety surfaces under the equipment were added in 1995

In 2002, following representations from some young residents, Fiona Gould led a group including them which researched and raised funds to build a half pipe skate ramp, thanks to Richard Wills who allowed the use of a bit more land. The ramp was opened by Richard Faulds on 17th November 2002. Photo on page 21.

### **Allotments**

Since 1976 there have been eight allotments in the field opposite the cricket field, which are rented from Middleton Estate by the Parish Council and organised by the holders. Photo on page 21.

## **Football field**

The football field behind the Plough is made available by the Middleton Estate and kept cut by the Parish Council.

## **VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

### **Past organisations**

Organisations in the village change over time. The Women's Institute founded in 1919 lasted, with suspensions from 1935 to 1948 and 1959 to 1972, until 1989 when officers could not be found to carry it on. In the last 10 years two other women's organisations folded for the same reason, perhaps reflecting the changing role and interests of women as they combine family responsibilities with work outside the home. The Longparish branch of the Mothers' Union, a national Christian organisation founded in 1876, lasted for about 100 years until November 2001. The St. Nicholas Wives' Group met for 50 years from 1959 to 2009 once a month in members' houses. It was started by Mrs Agg-Large, the rector's wife, as a Young Wives group and later changed its name. It had monthly meetings, usually with speakers, including a Christmas Party and a summer barbecue. The Group also served teas at the annual village fete. The Welcome Club was a relatively short lived club for older residents. Some fundraising groups lasted for a few years but fundraising events for good causes continue to be organised by those who want to help.

### **Current organisations**

Contact information for all current organisations can be found in the Directory.

### **Bellringers**

Longparish Tower has six bells, and used to have a full team of ringers, but now there are not enough trained ringers in the village to ring all six bells. For weddings and other special occasions ringers from other villages kindly help out. Recruits who can ring would be especially welcome and it is possible for novices to learn free of charge. Change ringing is fascinating and you do not have to be big, strong or musical to ring, nor do you have to be a churchgoer.

### **Fête Committee**

Longparish Fête has been a key date in the calendar for many years. In the past it was held at various large houses in the village and from the 1950s to 1989 usually at Longparish House, as it had grown and required more space. In recent years it has also been held in the school field and cricket field. It is the major fundraising event for the church and the village hall. Help is always needed, and there is considerable experience and expertise available to help new recruits. Planning starts in the New Year and there is a social event the day after the fête to hear the result and celebrate its success.

### **Friends of Longparish School**

This is an organisation for parents and others who share their concern for the education of the children of the village. It is particularly concerned with fundraising for improvements to the school, playgroup and toddler group, and holds a May Fayre in late spring. It also organises social events, and runs a 100 Club from January to December with a monthly draw to raise funds.

### **KidzZone**

This youth group was set up as part of the Parish Plan with the help of the Community Association, and is run for 11-16 year olds by volunteers on two evenings a month.

## Longparish Choir

The village choir was originally started just to sing at Christmas. It has flourished under Cathy Yelf's baton and since 2007 has sung at most of the major church festivals as well as at other village events. The choir still leads the village carol singing at Christmas in church, pubs and halls. All enthusiastic singers are welcome, especially men!

## Longparish Community Association

The idea for a community association for the village came out of the Parish Plan discussions as a way of providing ongoing support for the changing needs of the community and to facilitate activities within Longparish. The Longparish Community Association had its inaugural meeting on 26th January 2006. It is a registered charity with the purpose of 'promoting the benefit' of the inhabitants of Longparish. It has been partly funded by the Parish Council, with the balance coming from membership fees, donations and the surplus from occasional fund-raising activities. It has a bank account, holds insurance and purchases equipment for the benefit of the village – details of which can be found on the website. It has subsidised and supported the establishment of a youth group, KidzZone in 2007, and in 2008 the Recycled Teenagers which organises trips for the more mature members of our community. It aims to make it easier for individuals and groups of residents to organise activities in the village and periodically organises village events such as the Midsummer Fun Day.

## Longparish Cricket Club

Longparish Cricket Club has a reputation as one of the most illustrious village cricket clubs in the country. It was founded in 1878, and the rules of the club date from 1884.

Its first ground was in the Upper Park at Middleton House until about 1930. Dick Snow remembers playing there. It then moved to the present lovely ground in the middle of the village, generously provided by the Wills family, and beautifully maintained. In 1993 the thatched pavilion was rebuilt in the same style as the old one, but with much improved facilities.

## Cricketing kings of Longparish



President John Hodgson shows off the trophy as his Longparish colleagues hold his aloft at Lord's - 1987 ODI

Notable players in the early days included F.R. Wilkinson, who was killed in the Great War, and Cobden Snow, whose sons, Dick and Allen, have played a prominent part in the affairs of the club, both on and off the field. Over the years, a host of famous Test cricketers came to play for John Woodcock's XI against the village, and the club achieved national fame on 31st August 1987 by winning the National Village Championship, beating Treeton Welfare, the Yorkshire Champions, in the final, played at Lord's. Seven years earlier they had lost in the final to Marchiel from North Wales. Dennis Luff, their champion batsman and a great village cricketer, scored an astonishing 55 centuries for Longparish. With the departure to other clubs of some of their best players, Longparish's fortunes declined, but the last few years have seen a resurgence. Thanks to a coaching scheme for young

players there are now two Colts teams as well as three senior XIs, and they play in indoor leagues in the winter.



### **Longparish Gardening Club**

Longparish has some keen gardeners, some of whom open their gardens: Karen-Marie Dinesen at Lower Mill and John & Wendy Ellicock at Longmead House. This club was started in 2007 by Rosie Lowry and meets most months on the fourth Tuesday, either with a speaker or for a garden visit. Members are welcome from the surrounding area.

### **Longparish Players**

Recruits are welcome to join this small group of amateur actors who occasionally produce light-hearted farces and 'murder mystery' evenings in the Village Hall.

### **Longparish Reading Groups**

The Longparish Reading Group meets monthly in members' houses to discuss books agreed by the group. The Benefice group, advertised in Hill & Valley, does the same.

### **Recycled Teenagers' Club**

This club was formed in 2008 with the help of the Community Association to arrange activities and outings for older members of the community.

### **Second Sunday of the Month Handicap Race – L2SOTM**

Runners of all standards are welcome to join in this handicap race starting from Longparish Cricket Ground at 10am on the second Sunday of each month. The handicap system means that the slowest have as much chance of winning the cups as the fastest.

### **Smooth Movers – Keep Fit**

This exercise class on Thursdays in the Village Hall is worked at a low level so no previous experience is needed. Ideal both for complete beginners or more senior ladies.

### **Toddlers Group**

This informal group meets on Wednesday mornings in term time in the Village Hall, and anyone looking after babies and children under school age is very welcome. It gives the children a chance to play together, and mothers and carers an opportunity to meet others and talk. Tea, coffee and soft drinks are served. Those with transport difficulties should contact the organisers who will do their best to arrange lifts.

### **Village Hall Committee**

The committee is made up of representative of the organisations in the village who may use the hall, and can co-opt other members. Meetings are held in the hall, normally the 3rd Mondays in January, April (the Annual General Meeting), July and October. It is responsible for the day to day running of the hall, including cleaning and bookings, which should be made through the bookings secretary. It also ensures that the hall is decorated and kept in good order, and that facilities meet current standards.

Several of these groups have started because of the enthusiasm of individuals who wanted to encourage others to try what they enjoyed. Such shared activities make Longparish a real community and such a good place to live.



### **Sources**

It is difficult to make a list of sources. I have learnt so much by talking to people, many of whom, like John Spaul, John Woodcock, Kathleen Hewlett, John and Joan Driver, Muriel Sudbury, know much more than I do about the village. The Victoria County History of Hampshire is the starting point for village history before 1900. The Hampshire Record Office has 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Directories, the census returns, Church and Parish Council records, microfiches of newspapers, old maps and many other interesting documents. A search of its online catalogue using Longparish as the search word brings up a long list of relevant documents.

I would urge anyone who owns documents and pictures relating to the history of the village to ensure that they find a safe home in the Record Office, which is willing to make copies if you do not want to part with the originals.

The village website is also a useful resource with its searchable store of Parish Council records and Hill & Valley since 2000 as well as old photographs.

Mary Jo Darrah





