

WEATHER DECEMBER 2015

Total rainfall for month	115mm = 4.52ins
It rained on 18 days	
Rainfall December 2014	69mm = 2.71ins
Total for 2015	906mm = 35.66ins
Total for 2014	1315mm = 51.69ins
Max. Temperature	15C = 59F(26 th)
Min. Temperature	-1C = 30F(31 st)

Was this the warmest December ever? Not quite here in the warm south. In 1996 we had a high of 16C and in 1991 a high of 17C. Our 25 year highest, average temperature is 12C. The average daily temperature for December 2015 was 12.3C. Our average rainfall for the year, over 20 years is 32.8ins. **John Smail**

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

As many of you may be aware the weekend of 4th to 7th March has been designated a special clean-up weekend to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th Birthday.

The Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Recreation Ground have decided to join together for this initiative and Hurstbourne Priors will be having a Clean for The Queen clear-up on Saturday 5th March from 10am.

There are three areas which need attention; the verges and hedges including the Recreation Ground, the graveyard and the church itself. Volunteers are welcome to take part in which ever area they would like. Plastic bags and litter pick 'claws' will be provided. For the churchyard, please bring your own tools for clearing undergrowth, removing dead branches, cutting ivy, trimming around graves. For the church itself, please bring your own mops and dusters (particularly long ones) for dusting and sweeping, polishing pews, brass and silver, and removing cobwebs. We recommend wearing gloves for outside activities.

Tea, coffee, sausage and bacon rolls and chocolate brownies will be served in the Pavilion from 10 until 12 and we do hope that as many people as possible will take part in this excellent initiative. **THANK YOU!**



VILLAGE MEETING

To welcome our new villagers and discuss our

MAYFAIR

VILLAGE HALL
Wednesday 10th February
at 8.00 pm

There is a warm welcome for all, old and new, plus a glass of wine awaiting at our

NEW YEAR GET-TOGETHER

giving us all the opportunity to discuss our annual village fundraising effort which is held on

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

This is our main event which raises money towards the maintenance of the Church, Village Hall and Recreation Ground and usually attracts an attendance of over 2000 on the day from surrounding towns, villages and beyond.

We welcome any thoughts and all offers of help leading up to the event and also on the day. This is an excellent way to get to know your neighbours, have fun and help maintain our lovely village amenities.

Please join us





Coffee Morning

The Hurstbourne Priors Ladies' Coffee Morning will be on **Tuesday 23rd February** hosted by Clare Read (896672) at **Hurstbourne Priors House** from 10.15am onwards.



**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED
BETWEEN 15 DECEMBER 2015 AND
16 JANUARY 2016**

APPLICATION	PC RESPONSE	B&DBC DECISION
15/04318 Removal of present condition that limits the number of weddings at Clock Barn to 60 so as to allow for 120 weddings per year	No objection but concern expressed about the impact of the increase in the number of vehicles seeking to exit the property via the A34	Unknown
15/04277 Two storey extension to the rear of North Tugbury Cottage	No objection	Unknown

Mobile Library



The Mobile Library will be at the Village Hall, from 11.00am until 11.30am, on **Monday 22nd February**.

**Hurstbourne Priors
Safari Supper**

The sixth Hurstbourne Priors "Safari Supper" will be held on

Saturday evening 12th March 2016

We hope it will be just as much fun as last year and that anyone who has recently moved to the village or who was not able to come last year will join in.

There will be four courses: drinks and nibbles, starter, main course and pudding/cheese.

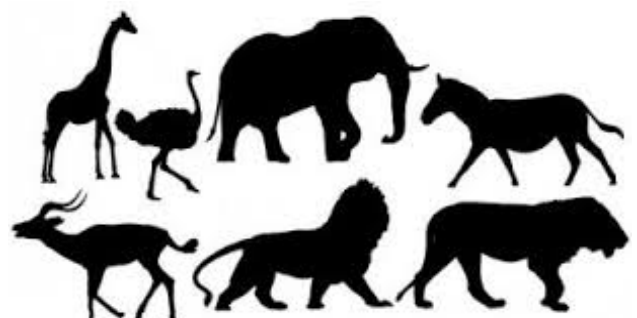
Each couple will host one course of their choice and go to other houses for the other courses where they will meet different people on each occasion. At the end of the evening we will all meet up for coffee at the Village Hall.

We hope that those who do not have a husband/wife/partner will join together with someone else to form a 'couple' for the evening.

If you would like to take part (or would like further information) do contact Susie or Phillida using any of the contact details below by **Monday 15th February at the latest**.

Susie Sorby - 892665
E mail: sbsorby@hotmail.com

Phillida Goad - 893211
E mail phillida@thegoads.co.uk





News release

Golden opportunity for couples' special celebrations

Couples celebrating special anniversaries this year are being invited to a reception with Basingstoke and Deane's Mayor.

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Anne Court is holding a special reception in April for married couples whose golden or diamond anniversary falls between 14 May 2015 and 12 May 2016.

The popular annual event for couples living in the borough aims to make their anniversary celebrations even more memorable and the Mayor is appealing to all eligible couples to get in touch to ensure they receive an invitation.

Cllr Anne Court said: "Golden and diamond anniversaries are very special milestones and it is an honour and privilege to be able to join in the celebrations with so many couples from around the borough.

"I am appealing to couples, or their relatives or friends, to make sure they let us know so that they get an invitation to come in and join us."

A reception will be held at the Civic Offices on Wednesday 13 April 2015 at 3pm. Golden and diamond couples should call the council's contact centre on 01256 844844 and leave their contact details by Monday 21 March to be invited to attend.

For further information on this press release please contact: Sophia Waite-King, Senior External information and Communications Officer, on 01256 845746 or email sophia.waite-king@basingsstoke.gov.uk.

For all media enquiries call 01256 845220 or email communications@basingsstoke.gov.uk



Living Weaving Heritage

Bridge Tea in aid of

"Preserving the Fabric"

Our project to improve access and other facilities at the Silk Mill

2pm – 5pm on

Monday 14th March 2016

In the Tearoom at the Silk Mill



Prizes and Raffle



£60 per table

Please bring a bridge tablecloth, playing cards and score cards - Optional: a seat cushion!

To book a table please send your details enclosing a cheque payable to "Whitchurch Silk Mill" to

Christine Beresford, Whitchurch Silk Mill,
28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch RG28 7AL

For more information contact Christine on
01264 720421

Deadline for booking: 7th March 2016

February

Spring is in sight. This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as *Wisteria* as well as evergreen hedges.



The Month of February

February is the second month of the year, has 28 days in a common year, and is named after the Latin word februum.

February is the second month of the year in our modern day [Gregorian calendar](#). It is the year's shortest month with only 28 days in common years and 29 days in [leap years](#).

Naming February - Februum

February is the second month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and its predecessor, the Julian Calendar, and is the only month that has fewer than 30 days. It was named after the Latin word *februum*, which means purification because the month was a time for purification.

- Middle English - *Februarius*
- Latin name - *Februarius mensis* - Month of Februa
- Latin - *dies februatus* - Day of Purification
- Old English - *Solmonath* - mud month

History of February

The old Roman calendar considered winter a monthless period, thus it only consisted of 10 months. The month of February was added, along with January around 700 BCE by Numa Pompilius so that the calendar would equal a standard lunar year of 355 days. February became the second month of the year around 450 BCE, although it was originally the last month of the year in the old Roman calendar.

February was shortened to either 23 or 24 days at certain intervals in the Roman calendar, in which a 27 day intercalary month was inserted after February to realign the year with the seasons. During the Julian calendar reform, the intercalary month was abolished and leap years were added every fourth year thus February gained a 29th day in leap years.

Second Month

February is the second month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and its predecessor the Julian calendar and consists of 28 days in common years and 29 days in leap years. It did not exist in the 10-month Roman calendar. It is the only month that can pass without a single full moon.

February starts on the same day of the week as March and November in common years. During leap years, February starts on the same day of the week as August. Once every six years and twice every 11 years, the month of February will

have only four full seven-day weeks, where the first day of the month starts on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.

Birth Flower and Stone

February's birth flower is the violet and the common primrose.

The birthstone for February is the amethyst which symbolizes piety, humility, spiritual wisdom and sincerity.

Leap Day Customs & Traditions

Leap Day, on February 29, has been a day of traditions, folklore and superstitions ever since Leap Years were first introduced by Julius Caesar over 2000 years ago.

Women propose to their men

According to an old Irish legend, or possibly history, St Brigid struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men – and not just the other way around – every four years. This is believed to have been introduced to balance the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how Leap Day balances the calendar.

Leap Day Babies World Record

People born on February 29 are all invited to join The Honour society of Leap Year Day Babies.

According to the Guinness Book of Records, there are Leap Day World Record Holders both of a family producing three consecutive generations born on February 29 and of the number of children born on February 29 in the same family.

Unlucky in Love

In Scotland, it used to be considered unlucky for someone to be born on Leap Day, just like Friday 13th is considered an unlucky day by many. Greeks consider it unlucky for couples to marry during a Leap Year, and especially on Leap Day.

St Oswald's Day

Leap Day is also St Oswald's Day, named after an archbishop of York who died on February 29, 992. The memorial is celebrated on February 29 during Leap Years and on February 28 during common years.