

## Hurstbourne Priors

### Weather January 2014

Total rainfall for month	277mm	= 10.90ins
Did <b>NOT</b> rain on	<b>4</b> days	
Rainfall January 2013	72mm	= 2.83ins
Min Temperature	-3C	= 23F(11 <sup>th</sup> )
Max Temperature	10C	= 50(28 <sup>th</sup> )

The Met says it was the wettest January since records began 100 years ago.

From 14th December 2013 to 31st January 2014, we had 528mm (20.8ins) of rain i.e. two thirds of our annual rainfall in 7 weeks! Our 20 year average January rainfall is 3.20ins.

*John Smail*

### Hurstbourne Priors PCC

The Parochial Church Council hopes the following notes from the meeting on 14th February will be of interest to members of the Parish whether church-goers or not:

The meeting started with prayers for Revd. Canon Michael St John-Channell, who died suddenly on 12<sup>th</sup> February, and for his family and friends, on their bereavement.

**Benefice Service Plans for March and April** - It was noted that, because of Canon Michael's tragic death, the draft plans may need to be amended before issue.

**Fabric Report** - Martin Thomas Associates had been appointed to carry out a study and come up with designs and costs estimates for a gas connection, new boiler and control system and alternative radiator heating for 5, 10 or 15 rows of pews. With this information, potential sources of funding could be approached to supplement the generous donations that had already been received.

David Fiske, a tree Surgeon from St Mary Bourne would make safe the branches of the large yew tree broken in the recent storms.

The Church Music System was fully operational again, using ingenious and cost effective ways of replacing the failed mixer unit transformer. Surge protection was needed. A new CD would be obtained to give a wider range of music for the family services.

**Treasurer's Report** - The Parish Share for 2013 had been paid with a small sum carried forward to 2014.

Arrangements for the trial Parish Giving Scheme that would allow simpler and speedier recovery of tax under Gift Aid were progressed.

**Any other business** - Following Jane Meaney's resignation from the position of PCC Secretary because of pressure of her main work, the PCC were looking for someone who could take on this position.

**Date of next meeting** - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

7.00 pm Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens, 7.10 pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect PCC, 8.00 pm Parochial Church Council Meeting.

### Ladies Coffee Morning



Come along to the **March** coffee morning which will be hosted by Susie Sorby at the Bourne House, 53 Hurstbourne Priors (☎ 892665), on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 10.15 onwards.

### HURSTBOURNE PRIORS VILLAGE TIDY UP

#### Saturday 15th March



Meet outside The Hurstbourne at 10 am.  
Please help if you can.  
Bin bags provided.

#### Whitchurch Films

##### Gill Nethercott Centre

##### Gravity (12a) Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) is on her first shuttle mission, with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky (George Clooney). On a seemingly routine spacewalk, disaster strikes. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving Stone and Kowalsky completely alone - tethered to nothing but each other and spiralling out into the blackness.

Tickets - £5 in advance or £5.50 on the door. Also available from the GNC or Library.

### St Mary's Church - Tufton

#### FLOWER FESTIVAL 17th - 18th May

We will be holding our first ever flower festival on the weekend of 17-18 May this year to celebrate the completion of the essential repair works to St Mary's Church in Tufton.



Please keep the date free so that you can come along and enjoy the floral displays, see the lovely church, hear some entrancing music, enjoy some delicious refreshments and perhaps be tempted to buy from one of the stalls that will be there.

If you would like any information about the work that is being carried out, or would like to support us in any way, please contact Lynda. [lyndafrith@aol.com](mailto:lyndafrith@aol.com) 01256 895556

## Hurstbourne Priors

### St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

#### Election of Churchwardens

There will be a meeting at 7.00 pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall to elect Churchwardens for 2014 – 2015. Any member of the Parish is welcome to attend.

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow at 7.10 pm. Anyone on the Parish Electoral Roll is welcome to attend. The main purposes of the meeting are to elect members of the Parochial Church Council for 2014 - 2015 and one representative at the Deanery Synod, as well as receiving various reports.

### Hurstbourne Railway Station: The end

The date of 6th April this year marks 50 years since the closure of Hurstbourne railway station. As there was no Sunday service, the last train to call at Hurstbourne was on Saturday 4 April 1964. This was hauled by a West Country steam locomotive No. 34030 "Watersmeet" (a very appropriate name for the location) calling at 9.11 pm with a Salisbury to Woking local train. To mark its end, a few people jumped off the train and got on again but few locals saw its departure, which was marked by some fog detonators, placed on the rail, going off.

The station was opened at the request of the Earl of Portsmouth who resided at Hurstbourne Park. The first request was for a siding, which opened in 1871, to serve the Earl's new grain store while the station itself opened in December 1882. The station was on two levels, with the wooden platforms located on an embankment with a staircase connecting it to the main station building. There was no footbridge over the tracks so passengers had to cross the track itself in order to access the down platform. Also, there was no electricity on the platforms, with Tilley lamps, which replaced the original oil lamps, being lit by the station staff. Duty staff consisted of a porter/signalman, one of whom was Bob Bushnell of St Mary Bourne who set up his own taxi business.

Passenger usage of the station was sparse towards the end, even though the weekday service consisted of nine down trains and seven up trains. In those days there was only one London commuter train calling at Hurstbourne at 7.28 am with the return at 6.28 pm (5.00 pm from London, Waterloo). How things have changed, given the number of morning and evening commuter trains now serving Whitchurch. Although named Hurstbourne, the station mainly served the larger village of St, Mary Bourne in which it was situated rather than the smaller Hurstbourne Priors.

There was also a goods yard at Hurstbourne which is now occupied by Joe Hirst's scrapyards and recycling operations. The last freight train to shunt the yard took place on 3 May 1963. The grain store has survived the changed occupancy of the yard unlike a house, which was originally the station master's house, in the middle of the yard plus a row of cottages at the back one of which was occupied by the Bundy family. Usage of the yard was very sporadic and inward traffic towards the end mainly consisted of agricultural fertilisers and some

feedstuffs, with outward traffic consisting of watercress from the local grower (situated by Hurstbourne viaduct), occasionally livestock which used the cattle dock and sugar beet in the autumn months. Watercress was sent daily to Covent Garden during much of the year and photos of the station show barrows on the up platform at the London end, either empty or loaded, with watercress for dispatch on a passenger train in the early evening.

The signal box was little used at the end and only opened when the yard received the occasional freight train. The main exception was on summer Saturday mornings when a convoy of trains, including the Atlantic Coast Express (ACE), one of the most famous trains in the UK, conveying holiday makers to the West Country, passed through.



**Photo 1: This shows the front of Hurstbourne station on its last day. The only notice board used is the closure notice for the station. The involvement of the Earl of Portsmouth has its coat of arms incorporated into the brick work on the left hand side of the building under the eaves (partly hidden by the tree).**



**Photo 2: Shows the down ACE on 5 September 1964 on its last day of operation passing through Hurstbourne station which is already looking somewhat dilapidated five months after its closure.**

Further details of the railway at Hurstbourne are shown on our village website: [www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk/HurstbournePriorsParishCouncil/history-4458.aspx](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk/HurstbournePriorsParishCouncil/history-4458.aspx)

If anybody has any further recollections of Hurstbourne, it would be useful to build up a more complete picture. You are welcome contact me on:

**[lioneljcolby@googlemail.com](mailto:lioneljcolby@googlemail.com)**

*Lionel Colby*

## Hurstbourne Priors

### Speed Limits on the B3400

You will see from the Parish Council notes that it is proposed to reduce the speed limit on the B3400 between Hurstbourne Priors and Whitchurch from 60mph to 40mph. We will try and include a map in the next H&V to show the section covered.

#### QUIZ NIGHT

Gill Nethercott Centre - Whitchurch

Saturday 22nd March 8pm

In aid of St Michael's Hospice Basingstoke

Get together a group of friends and come and exercise your little grey cells for the evening. Tickets cost just £6 per person.

For more information and to book your table call Joan on 01256 896777 or Pat on 01256 892151

### HBP Village Web Site

As Basingstoke & Deane BC no longer offers web hosting, it has been necessary to transfer the village web site to a new host. To see the new site, log on to [www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk).

### Cats Protection



One Sunday afternoon we were called to a house in Whitchurch where a calico tortie cat had been sheltering under a hedge for a week or more. Fortunately she was micro-chipped and we returned her to her delighted owner within the hour. Missing for two months, she had wandered more than a mile from her home across fields and the river. Micro-chipping is quite inexpensive and a better way of identifying your cat than a collar.

Come and meet us at the information stand at Pets at Home from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The store will be taking donations for us at the till. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March we will be providing teas for the NGS Open Garden at Bere Mill in Whitchurch.



This month, we are appealing for a home for Billy, who is very friendly and purrs a lot. He enjoys being brushed and requires a new owner who has cat experience and is prepared to pamper and groom him. He was bullied in

his previous home so would prefer to be an only cat.

Enquiries: 01256-892019 or [www.andovercats.org.uk](http://www.andovercats.org.uk)  
Stories of rescued cats: [adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Fund-raising/volunteers: [adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Items for resale: 01256-892773  
Facebook: Andover and District Cats Protection

### WHITCHURCH SILK MILL



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance are working in collaboration with the Whitchurch Silk Mill that weaves English silk fabric using 19<sup>th</sup> century machinery. The mill has been commissioned to design and weave a silk suitable for giftware to promote and raise money for the Air Ambulance. Using the iconic green and yellow of the

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance logo, placement student Emma Simmonds has designed a pattern.

Production has started and the warp has been wound onto a beam ready to be woven out in the next few months.

The first item will be a handbag mirror compact, in green and yellow HIOWAA silk, and available for supporters to purchase this summer. The silk will be unique to HIOWAA, measuring 18 inches wide with 850 single ends of silk.

All monies raised from the sale of the giftware will be used to help keep the Air Ambulance flying and saving lives across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

### News from Testbourne - February 2014

It seems to have rained constantly since our return in January. Fortunately Testbourne has not been badly hit by storm damage in comparison to other parts of the county. It is good, however, to be looking forward to a drier spell and lighter evenings.

It has been a busy half-term with lots going on. We began by celebrating the hugely successful fundraising event, 'Strictly Come Testbourne'. A record £974.67 was collected in one day – thank you to everyone who contributed to this event but particularly Mr Guy and our School Council organisers. We have had a lovely note of thanks from the charity, 'Little John's House'.

Year 11 are working hard in preparation for their GCSE exams which will soon be upon us! Huge congratulations to those Year 11 students who have already secured their target grade through early-entry in Maths and/or English. When results came in, it was incredibly exciting and gave us all a taste of the results day in August.

Year 9 are just about to embark on their Option Choices and we look forward to meeting parents and students at the forthcoming Options Evening on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Half-term is going to be a busy time for many of our students. We have 15 students out in Uganda with Mrs Taylor and Mr Rowe. During half-term there will be a group of Geographers away with Mrs Shearing and Mr Cole in Morocco and a group of skiers away with Mr Banks and five other staff. We look forward to hearing about their adventures when they return.

There is much to look forward to next term, including the school's production of 'Red, Red Shoes' in March and the Mayor's Concert on March 29<sup>th</sup> when Testbourne's Belle Voce will be performing with the Military Wives Choir. Tickets for both events are available from school. I hope everyone has an enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to our return on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February.

*Ruth Beasley*  
Headteacher

## Hurstbourne Priors

### Mobile Library



The Mobile Library will be at the Village Hall, from 11.05am until 11.35am, on **Saturday 22nd March.**

### Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council



The following is a summary of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th January 2014. A copy of the full Minutes will be made available on the new Village Web Site at

[www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk).

**Declaration of Interest** - Cllr Mr P Smail declared an interest in the planning application for the equestrian centre as he rents land from Mr Tacchi. Cllr Mr C Ekins declared an interest in proposed alterations Chapmansford Farm House. The Planning Authority confirmed the proposed works are permitted development.

**Parish Council Vacancy** - Mr J Broomfield was co-opted on to the Parish Council.

**Tufton** - The recent quiz held in the Hurstbourne Inn raised £362 for the Church fund, giving £105,000 to date.

Work on the footpath from Tufton to Whitchurch has been completed. Highways are still trying to sort out the junction with the A34 slip road. Sir George Young MP is to be asked if he will put his weight behind making this junction safer.

The work carried out to the river bank some time ago is working well and the River Test has not burst its banks.

Cllr Mr C Ekins reported that the left turn by the Longparish junction on Tufton Lane can be dangerous. Cllr Mrs C Read will add this to the list for Steve Goodall from Highways.

**Vehicle Theft** - Mr Henry Du Val de Beaulieu reported his son's vehicle was stolen from outside his house at Apsley.

**Village Web Site** - Mr Graham Finlayson reported that the new Web Site is completed and will be on line next month. The March issue of Hill and Valley will feature the new web address: [www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk)

**Apsley Sita Site** - This has been discussed with the Planning Enforcement Officer and the site will be visited by Parish Councillors when the weather improves.

**Highways** - The speed limit between Hurstbourne Priors to Whitchurch is to be reduced to 50mph for the majority of its length, reducing to 40mph from the "chicane" past the entrance to Hurstbourne Park to the A34 flyover.

**Flashing Speed Sign** - A date to agree the additional sites for the speed sign is awaited from PC Paula Deery.

**Lengthsman Scheme** - Each member parish will get 4 hours of labour a month. There was some question regarding insurance so Cllr Mr M Williams will check with the lead parish, before the formal agreement is signed.

**Planning** - 13/02664/FUL - Retention of an anaerobic digestion unit, CHP unit for the production of electricity, Fertiliser collection pit, Wiefferink bag and associated plant/equipment. Storage area, erection of landscaped earth bund to the north and eastern site boundary, together with additional landscaping (part retrospective) - Faulknors Down Farm, Picket Piece. The Parish Council is to be given time to respond as they did not receive a copy of the application.

Mr Henry De Val du Beaulieu stated his previous planning application was withdrawn. The new application provides a more comprehensive planting scheme and better management of the farm yard. He outlined the route of the new track (a separate planning application with TVBC). The Parish Council will comment when the plans arrive.

**Borough Councillor's Report** - Cllr Mr K Watts spoke about the Community Infrastructure Levy and £10,000 has been allocated for Hurstbourne Priors. The Village Hall Management Committee has put together a project to refurbish the kitchen and produced a Business Plan which will be distributed to Councillors.

There may be more money paid into the fund if planning is approved for the Equestrian Centre and Cressington.

**Whitchurch Station** - There would be no further information about parking at the Station until the draft Borough Plan was ready for consultation.

**County Councillor's Report** - Cllr Mr T Thacker said the footpath from Tufton to Whitchurch is **not** intended for cycle use. Cllr Mr J Broomfield stated that the cats-eyes on the junction when leaving the A34 are confusing as they change from red to white in a short space. Cllr Mr T Thacker will raise this with Highways.

Cllr Mr T Thacker reported that all HCC departments must make cuts of 12% in their budgets. HCC will not be increasing their part of the Council Tax bill for 2014/2015.

**Parish Councillors' Reports** - Cllr Mr J Broomfield reported two new families have moved into Tufton. Cllr Mrs S Sorby will arrange for Welcome Packs to be delivered.

**Longparish School** - Cllr Mrs C Read reported the School had received an Outstanding OFSTED report.

**Village Green** - The hedge has been cut but there is a dead tree that needs felling.

**Bourne Rivulet** - Due to the problems at St Mary Bourne, proposals for two wetlands have been announced and will now go into a scoping process. This water would normally have been pumped direct into the Bourne and the PC felt this was a better way to reintroduce it to the water system.

**Village Bonfire** - Mr Henry Du Val de Beaulieu has guaranteed that the area for the bonfire will be harvested early so the event can take place. He also offered the use of a tractor for building the bonfire. The date of the Bonfire will be confirmed at the next meeting.

**Electrical Surges** - Cllr Mr M Williams said these may be affecting computers etc. in the village.

**Village Clean-up** - The 2014 Village Clean-up will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March..

**Telephone Box** - The telephone box by the Village Green has become an eyesore and BT will be asked to remove it.

**Footpaths Report** - Cllr Mrs C Read reported that all the footpaths are passable if a little wet!

**Recreation Ground Report** - Fixtures for 2014 are looking good and on par with 2013. There will be a site meeting with TVBC about grass cutting in 2014.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that, according to 2013 fixtures list, there is still £100 outstanding. Cllr Mr M Williams gave his assurance that he would sort it within the next few days.

**Cricket Club AGM** will be held on 13th February at 7.30pm in the Hurstbourne Inn - all are welcome.

**Date of Next Meeting** - Wednesday 26th March 2014 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.