

WEATHER - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020

	November	December
Total rainfall for month	88mm (3.46in)	153mm (6.02in)
It rained on	12 days	21 days
Rainfall same month last year	131mm (5.15in)	183mm (7.20in)
Total for 2020	1078mm (42.44in)	1231mm (48.46in)
Total for 2019	966mm (38.03in)	1149mm (45.23in)
Max temp	17C (62F) on 10 th	14C (58F) on 21 st
Min temp	-1C (30F) on 3 rd	-4C (24F) on 31 st

December round up

25 year average rainfall 35.4ins.

10 year average rainfall 39.3ins.

2020 rainfall is on a par with last year, but still beats the averages by 6 or 9 inches .

2020 had:

Driest May on record.

Sunniest Spring since 1929.

Hottest day ever on August 12th: 38.5c

Third warmest year since records began.

Wettest day ever on October 3rd: 45mm.

Wettest month February 2020 9.40ins.

Strongest gust of wind ever on the Isle of Wight on

December 28th: 106mph.

John Smail

WORD OF THE MONTH

In the midst of the lockdown restrictions, many of us feel so grateful that we live in such a beautiful RIPARIAN neighbourhood.

So there you have my February offering. If the word is as new to you as it is to me, its meaning is "relating to wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams".

Barbara Carrodus

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Anne Yeaman is retiring as bookings secretary for Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall. We are very grateful to Anne for managing this so efficiently over the years.

Helen Ford will be taking over the Village Hall bookings from 1st February. Please contact Helen with your booking enquiries: Tel 07789 691018 and email helenford62@hotmail.co.uk

SAFARI SUPPER 2021**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS SAFARI SUPPER VIA ZOOM**

Saturday 6th March 2021

An opportunity to go on safari via Zoom and meet others around the village over drinks and a three-course meal, without leaving home.

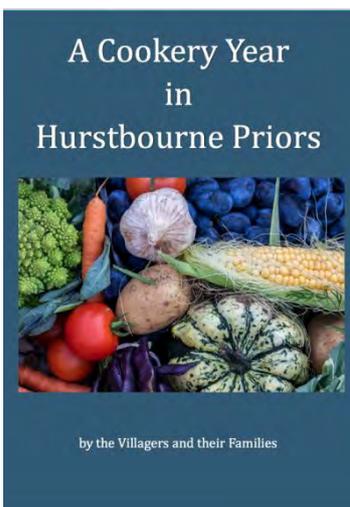
The programme will be:

7:15 - 7:30 pm	Virtual Village Hall (Login to Zoom)
7:30 - 7:50 pm	Drinks and nibbles
8:00 - 8:30 pm	Starters
8.40 - 9:20 pm	Main Course
9:30 - 10:00 pm	Pudding/cheese
10:00 - 10:30 pm	Coffee/chocolates/port

If you would like to take part, and have not already received an e-mail invitation, please contact the Safari Supper Team by Monday 15th February at the following email address:

SafariSupperHBP@outlook.com

Safari Supper Team

**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS COOKERY BOOK**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Hurstbourne Priors Cookery Book Project. Almost 200 copies were sold, raising over £1600 which was shared between St Andrews Church and Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council for playground equipment.

If anyone missed out or would like to order more copies, we're aiming for a second print run in March.

We'd like to order at least 30 copies to keep unit costs low. Price still £16 each. Please indicate your interest by the end February by contacting hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com, payment details once we confirm your order.

MAY FAIR 2021



We are sorry to announce that the Hurstbourne Priors May Fair will not take place in 2021.

At this stage of the pandemic, there is too much uncertainty and risk to run the Fair as we know and love it.

BUT PLEASE STILL SAVE THE DATE – Monday 3rd May 2021 – we still hope to have a Village event, albeit on a smaller scale or even virtual, depending on Government restrictions More details to follow!

We're also delighted to confirm that our very popular May Fair Plant and Preserves stalls are already gearing up for the 2021 season. More details of all these events nearer the time. As Lulu's Village Cookery Book project has proved, there are still some great ideas out there to raise funds, even when we cannot all get together as we would like. So please, we'd love to hear of any other fund-raising projects, especially those that could be organised even under the tightest Government restrictions. And even better if you have some time and energy to help run it!

Finally, with some of our team members leaving the village or stepping down, the May Fair team is now looking for a couple more volunteers to join our team, with a view to being at full strength for the 2022 Fair. If you're interested and would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch via our email address, or directly with any one of the current team.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

The May Fair Team

(Ed Beasley, Kim French, James MacMillan, John Perry, Clare Read, Fenella Williams, Mark Williams)

hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS FUND-RAISING 2020

THANK YOU EVERYONE who supported the Village to raise almost £5000 last year for our Village amenities. In the absence of our traditional May Fair, our resourceful Plants and Preserves stalls went online and proved extremely popular, whilst our Village Cookery Book project provided a welcome opportunity for us all to share recipes even when social-distancing rules meant we couldn't share meals in person!

It has been truly heart-warming to see so many villagers taking part in one way or another. To everyone who nurtured seedlings and cuttings, donated seeds and harvests, made jams and chutneys, shared recipes and anecdotes, generously gave their time and skills to help with promotion, on-line orders, cookery book designing, photography, accounts, deliveries..... AND of course, to all those who purchased our plants, preserves and cookery books this year..... **A VERY BIG THANK YOU FROM THE MAY FAIR TEAM!!**

THE BUS SHELTERS

As I hope many of you will have noticed the bus shelters which were destroyed in the dreadful lorry fire have at long last been finished. Following a long and drawn-out ordeal with the lorry's insurance company we finally received full payment meaning that the thatch was able to be finished off in December. Charlie Ayres of Ayers & Stanley Thatching, did a fantastic job with the weather very much against him, managing to finish it on Christmas Eve. I hope that you all agree that it is nice to see the thatched shelter back to its former glory.

All the English Elm which was salvaged from the original shelter has been reused where possible, a small amount was also used on the South side shelter as there wasn't enough for a full wall on the thatched one. Unfortunately, the cost of replacement Elm was prohibitive, but the Oak used in its place comes from a tree felled locally. Several residents have asked why the Parish Council didn't take this opportunity to thatch the South side shelter. This is because of its position under Lime trees whose sticky sap is very incompatible with thatch and causes it to erode.

We now await the repaired iron bench which was damaged when a VW collided with it last year. It is being rebuilt by Jacks Bush Forge who built the original over 20 years ago.

I would like to thank Paul Knipe for all his help in co-ordinating the team behind this project.

*Clare Read
HP Parish Council*



THANK YOU FROM HURSTBOURNE PRIORS PCC

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, we would like to thank the May Fair Team and everyone who contributed to and supported the fantastic and creative fund-raising efforts during 2020. We are most grateful for the wonderful donations to St Andrew's Church from the proceeds of the on-line Plants and Preserves stalls and the village Cookery Book.

With very many thanks.

*Martin Briant-Evans and Fenella Williams
Churchwardens*

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

**Against All Odds**

Despite the difficulties experienced in 2020, nearly 15,000 people visited the Mill and enjoyed all that we offered, from Winter Lights in January to the successful Great Wishing Tree of Whitchurch in December. What's more, we had our first commercial order for ribbons for many years, which gave our weavers the chance to create something not only beautiful but guaranteed to be money-making. During the year our trainee weaver completed her training and is now working for us full time. We'll be recruiting a new trainee as soon as we can.

Covid-19 Update

At the time of writing, restrictions mean the Mill, café and shop are closed to the public. In the meanwhile, the Mill team and the weavers are working hard, and we'll continue our digital programme of talks and virtual group tours and social media and blog posts. Our online shop offers a free local click and collect/delivery service, and we're running a fundraising campaign at www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill

Ripping Yarns

A new series of our popular online 'Ripping Yarns' is planned. These explain how some common expressions derived from the language of weaving. Previous Yarns can be found on our Facebook page. You can look forward to finding out more about the phrase 'cloth ears'. It first originated in the industrialised mills of northern England during the 1800s. The noise generated by the machinery was quite literally deafening, and the build-up of cotton dust in the workers' ears added to the problem. Nowadays, the expression is used as a rebuke to someone who has not heard or understood what's being said to them, along the lines of 'Oi, cloth ears, wake up!' Naturally our weavers don't talk to each other in this way!

A Look Back in Time

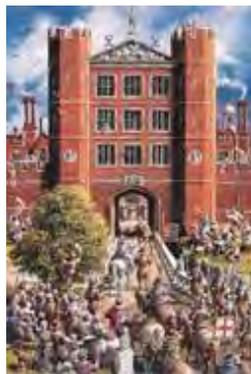
Have you been watching the most recent series of The Crown? If so, did you know that in 1980 the Mill played a vital role in the creation of Diana's wedding dress? The raw silk used to weave the cloth for the dress was wound on to bobbins on our winding frames. It wasn't until after the job was done that the Mill Manager, Ted Moss, told his staff this exciting news.

Regular events

Our regular events including Mini Millers, Young Millers and Pins & Needles will resume as soon as we're able.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

CIVIL WAR ART AND POETRY COMPETITION



The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane has re-launched an English Civil War art and poetry competition for young people in the borough after it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor is inviting all schools and sixth form students in the borough to produce a piece of artwork or a poem relating to the Battle of Basing

House in 1645. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council are co-running the educational project which commemorates the 375th anniversary of the battle in 2020.

Pupils will learn how the nationally important historic site at Old Basing was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. Basing House was the last Royalist stronghold in the south east and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War.

Art entries for the competition can be in any form, for example drawing, photography, sculptures and music, together with poems, and should be inspired by Basing House and/or the English Civil War. The closing date is Friday 12 March 2021 and judging will take place on Friday 19 March 2021.

There are three categories – primary, secondary and sixth form. Subject to coronavirus restrictions being lifted, all the winners will be invited to join the Mayor at a special opening of the English Civil War Art and Poetry Exhibition at Basing House, where they will receive a Mayor's plaque and an annual family pass to Basing House. The winners' schools will also each receive a free educational visit to Basing House, potentially including a travel bursary.

For full information and inspirational local history lesson plans visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition> (Photo credit: Hampshire Cultural Trust)

RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

As a result of the success of the Cookery Book the Parish Council are delighted pleased to announce that they can start the much needed upgrade of the play equipment on the recreation ground. The Vitacress Charitable Foundation have also made a very generous grant which has enabled us to replace both rocking toys. Work is due to start in March as we need to wait until the ground is a bit less wet!

The Parish Council would be very interested to hear from residents with ideas for play equipment to be considered. If you have an idea please contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman richard.waterman150@btinternet.com

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council

BERE MILL RESTORATION



More than two and a half years after Bere Mill at Whitchurch in Hampshire was destroyed by a devastating fire on the night of 7th

February 2018, the reconstruction of this beautiful group of buildings is now complete, and the west barn is available for community uses.

Bere Mill is a historic mill on the River Test, with a significant history, having been home to Portals, the maker of British bank notes, who made paper for the Bank of England in the early 18th century. The fire, caused by an electrical malfunction, destroyed much of the house, the mill itself over the river, and the west barn and destroyed the detailed renovations of the last 30 years which had brought the buildings back into use as a family home, while maintaining their historic identity.



Over the last two and a half years the exterior of Bere Mill has been rebuilt precisely as it was before the fire, with original brick walls, timber cladding, and antique roof tiles. Windows and doors have been remodelled, as previously, in oak. The reconstruction has respected traditional building techniques, through construction of an oak timber frame to match the original, traditional hand-cut joinery, and lathe and plaster wall coverings, with the use of lime render throughout. The mill machinery will shortly be restored to its previous state. The renovation respects the original layout of rooms and the west barn has been fitted internally for community use, with modern lighting, a/v systems and good access. The building renovation was carried out by P J Roper, traditional builders of Whitchurch, Hants and the architecture was by Michael Kaner of Kaner Olette, Tunbridge Wells.

The Bere Mill butchery has remained open throughout the renovation, supplying grass-fed, home-reared lamb and beef, offering a click and collect service, or home

deliveries. The beautiful gardens and water meadows that lie alongside the River Test, complete with Mediterranean, herbaceous and bog plants, and sculpture by well-known artists, will be open for private visits by arrangement, and under the National Garden Scheme on 14 March and 2 and 31 June 2021 (subject to Covid restrictions).

Owner of Bere Mill, Rupert Nabarro, commented “My wife Elizabeth, and I, are grateful for the sympathy and support we have received from the local community through this long reconstruction process and most especially to the building team that has carried out the work, led by Paul Roper of P.J.Roper and his specialist trade colleagues. Their level of skill has been exceptional and they have cut no corners. We were delighted to give the renovation work to local experts, as the entire building team live and mostly originate from the Whitchurch area. They are an extraordinary witness to the continued existence of historic building skills.”

(Photos Miriam Nabarro)

For more information about Bere Mill, visit <https://beremillfarm.co.uk/garden/>



This gorgeous mog is Suki, she is about 18 months old and has just finished rearing a litter of four kittens. She is very friendly and loves her food. Suki is looking for her new family to give her lots of attention. She has had her vet check and is now ready for rehoming. Please get in touch if you could offer Suki a suitable home.

As of December 31st we have homed 84 cats in 2020 despite being in lockdown for many months. We are really pleased with this figure as we are only a small branch of the Cats Protection. Thanks go to all the hard work of the fosterers who completed the training to allow us to carry on homing whilst maintaining strict social distancing measures.

For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries; Telephone: 0345 260 1501 or Email: sylvia.cp@outlook.com

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit www.andover.cats.org.uk