

WEATHER – MAY 2021

Total rainfall for month	137 mm	5.39 in
It rained on	17 days	
Rainfall same month last year	4 mm	0.16 in
Total for 2021	428 mm	16.85 in
Total for 2020	460 mm	18.11 in
Max temp (on 31 st)	28C	82F
Min temp (on 6 th)	-1C	30F
Number of frosts	3	

We have had the wettest May since 1967 when there was 131.7mm of rain. We beat that with 137mm.

It was a dry May in 2020 and we had 5ins more rain this year than last - it certainly made up for the April drought!

John Smail

MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION AND CHARITY AUCTION – NOW 11th SEPTEMBER



HURSTBOURNE PRIORS
Midsummer Celebration Dinner and Auction
NOW SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Calling all friends and your families ...

To this fundraising event being held in aid of St Andrew's Church.

Tickets are £30 a head and your support will be greatly appreciated.

Please email:
MidsummerCelebrationHBP@gmail.com
to reserve your places by 20th August.

Drinks and canapés will be served at The Barn House, 50 Hurstbourne Priors, with a three-course set dinner including wine in the Village Hall.

Dinner will be followed by a charity auction of prizes.

Ann Orr, Lulu Beasley, Emma Ryan and Denise Bradley

MAY FAIR ON LINE PRESERVES STALL



The Preserves stall is back in production with Marmalades, Jams and Chutneys at £3.50 per jar.

To find out what is currently available to purchase, please email Josephine at:

josephine.hutchinson@btinternet.com

All proceeds from the sale of preserves to the Hurstbourne Priors May Fair which raises funds for our village amenities.

*Thank you for your support
Josephine and Denise*

LADIES' COFFEE MORNINGS

The July coffee morning will be on Monday, 19th from 10.15 to 12noon with Fiona Obert de Thieusies at Bourne Cottage, No.55/56 (tel.896996). If restrictions still apply and the weather is fine we shall be in the garden.

There will be no coffee morning in August. If anyone would like to host a morning in the months thereafter, please contact Susie Sorby (tel. 892665 or sbsorby@hotmail.com)



SAVE THE DATE!

Back by popular demand, a recital by talented pianist
CHRISTOPHER BURROWS

Saturday Evening October 9th 2021

In St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors.
Refreshments served.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE – KS1 & KS2 TUTORING

Fun, engaging and confidence boosting 1:1 tutorial sessions run by a qualified primary teacher and former Head of English in both London and Hampshire prep schools.

Hannah Ross teaches all ages of primary education and also Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning for the 11+ entrance exams and is fully DBS checked. Sessions will run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from September at the School House, Hurstbourne Priors. Session 1 is from 3.30-4.10pm and Session 2 from 4.20 – 5pm.

For further information, please contact Hannah Ross
Tel: 07890 514 938 or hannahvictoriaross@gmail.com

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

WHITCHURCH **Colour, Light and Play**
SILK MILL

We are starting to look forward to our summer exhibition now the weather is looking brighter! There'll be family fun in an interactive sensory play zone exploring colour and light in the Mill and the garden, where we will be growing a grass labyrinth. Covid19 precautions will be in place. FREE with admission/family ticket, Sat 3 July to Sun 5 September.

Could You Be a Trustee of the Mill? We're seeking two new Trustees to join the Mill's board and we need individuals who are strategic thinkers, dynamic, resourceful, have leadership experience and who are capable of contributing to the successful management of the Mill Trust. In our Trustees we like to have diverse voices, skilled expertise and relevant experience, and we're keen to involve people from all backgrounds and perspectives. If you feel you'd be a suitable fit, find out more at www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk/opportunities/

New Café Menu We've recently updated our menu to offer a wider variety of options. As well as our popular standard menu of sandwiches, paninis, jacket potatoes and light snacks we're now also offering savouries packed full of delicious ingredients from local suppliers, including the famous ChalkStream® cold-smoked trout paté. We have gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options. Check our website for the new menu. The café is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10.30–4.30.

Pins and Needles is Back! Join our friendly adult crafting sessions on the first Friday of each month to learn a new skill or just enjoy the company of some like-minded crafters. Tickets £10 per session, to include tuition, all materials and a hot drink from the café. In July, Deborah will teach felt making (a nice messy activity to have fun with outdoors!) using merino wool and silk in an array of colours to make a handy bag, pouch or purse. Future sessions will be advertised on our website.

Inclusivity and Diversity Blog Are you reading our regular blogs on the Mill website and via social media? Their subject matter is varied, educational and entertaining; the most recent one was written by Nat Hawrylak, a Welcome Host at the Mill. Last year Nat undertook one of the Mill's heritage traineeships, working on an inclusivity and diversity audit, and in her blog she discusses what we have learned as an industrial heritage museum and business on our journey to becoming more inclusive and diverse in our work.

Volunteer & Friends Coffee Afternoon

Drop in at any time between 3pm and 4pm once a month on publicised dates for news about upcoming events and to find out about volunteering opportunities. **For the time being these get-togethers are being held via Zoom.**

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

WORD OF THE MONTH

My words for July and August words are:

Boscage ...Useful shelter from the heat and the rain. Boscage is a mass of trees or shrubs giving shelter from heat or rain.

Velleity ... A wish or inclination not strong enough to lead to any action, reminiscent of loosing one's round-to-it (or tuit) !!!

Barbara Carrodus

NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

It has been a very busy term at Testbourne. Early on, our Year 11 students were finishing the last of their exams and course work, which are now being rigorously assessed and graded ready for results day in August. While we risk sounding like a broken record, once again we would like to recognise and congratulate their hard work and effort which will inevitably be reflected in their final grades.

At the end of the term we had our Year 11 Leavers Event. During the event we had speeches, awards, shirt signing, a barbeque and we hired an ice cream van. The positive atmosphere was overwhelming and the afternoon was full of emotion, laughs and goodbyes. It has been an honour for many of our staff members to watch these students grow into young adults.



Although our Year 11 students have not been physically attending school since the May half holiday, we have encouraged them to engage with a wide range of activities and opportunities that we have signposted them to. For instance, they have the opportunity to book a further one to one careers guidance interview with a qualified careers advisor; and we have also given them access to an online careers platform (Unifrog), which includes videos, virtual workshops and top tips on many areas of work-related learning and careers.

Overall, they have been a brilliant year group and we have enjoyed getting to know them over the years. They have consistently demonstrated our school learning qualities of respect, integrity, courage in learning, ambition, responsibility, diligence and leadership. We wish them all the very best in their future.

Aaron Baker - Marketing & IT Officer
[Testbourne Community School](http://www.testbournecommunityschool.org.uk)

ANGELA THOMAS - 1963 - 2021



As a village, we were greatly saddened to learn that Angela Thomas had passed away on 31 March in the Countess of Brecknock Hospice after a diagnosis of cancer. A dedicated nurse in A&E at Hampshire Hospitals, Ange worked unstintingly in the front line throughout the height of the pandemic last year.

Ange was well-known and loved in the village. She was frequently seen out walking her black flat coat retrievers the latest of which, Jeeves, was an enthusiastic greeter of fellow walkers! She was a stalwart supporter of village activities including baking her delicious scones for the May Fair teas. Those of us with long memories will recall her in medieval costume with Sid and the Jousters at the May Fair.

We fondly remember Angela's warmth, friendliness and kindness and offer our sympathy to Sid and her family.

TWO RIVERS MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

Looking after our admin team at the surgery - This year has tested us like no other and we have managed to continue to provide care throughout the pandemic, in no small part due to the incredibly hard work of our admin staff (receptionists and secretaries) who deal with endless problems, queries and issues every day.

We are all thankful for the support that so many have shown us, and it really has kept us going through very difficult times. The unexpected surprises of cakes and cards have been fantastic, as have the patients asking, 'and how are you?'

I would like to use this short note to encourage everyone to recognise the work of our reception and admin team. I think they tend to get a little forgotten and I am sad to report that they have seen an increased level of hostility and frustration from patients, being very much in the firing line. This can have an impact on their own wellbeing. As their employers, we value – and have a duty to look after - all our staff. It is in everyone's interest that admin staff are treated in a civil way: the surgery absolutely relies on its receptionists and secretaries to function.

I'd ask patients not to get angry because, for example, a receptionist is unable to solve a problem in the way they would like and they are in a very vulnerable position, being unable to answer back and having a fairly strict set of rules and criteria to meet. Any incidents involving aggression or intimidation will be treated seriously. So, this is a heartfelt plea to everyone to treat the receptionists and admin staff in the same courteous way that is used for the clinicians: they are not separate - we are all the same team.

Ask yourself, what can you do to brighten up their day?

Dr Paul Barber

WATERCRESS AND WINTERBOURNES

Tackling invasives Around 10,000 years ago, a land bridge connected Britain to what is now mainland Europe. The end of the Ice Age allowed wildlife to colonise this newly habitable space, until rising sea levels formed the English Channel. All the plants and animals that were present in Britain at this point are classified as native species. Non-native species, by contrast, are those transported outside their natural range by human activity.

Such introductions aren't always a bad thing - the little owl is a transplant from Europe and the apple tree comes from Kazakhstan, but neither poses a problem for native wildlife. When a species negatively impacts the environment, the economy, or human health, however, then it's classified as invasive. It might hunt native species, out-compete them for food and habitat, carry new diseases, or be able to hybridise.

These effects make it easy to demonise invasive species, but it's important to remember that they were brought to Britain by human activity. In a way, they're a victim of their own success: they're usually tough, adaptable opportunists with a talent for fast reproduction. These qualities allow them to survive in their natural ranges, but can seriously upset the balance of other ecosystems.

Because of their detrimental impact, the UK's invasive species are often subject to control measures. There may be restrictions on importing, trading, and owning them. There may also be efforts to remove them, or to stop them from spreading further. These activities can be hazardous or counterintuitive if not done properly, so it's important to get informed before wading in.

What can you do? Remember to 'Check, Clean, Dry': some species can survive long periods out of water, and may be hitching a ride on your damp clothes or equipment. Follow this three-step process to avoid spreading plants, animals, and eggs.

Be 'Plant Wise': plants are natural escape artists, and we don't know which ones could become invasive in the future. Try to fill your outdoor space with local species, or take steps to stop non-native ones from 'jumping the fence'.

Record your sightings: reports of invasive species are an invaluable tool for controlling their spread. There are several websites and apps for recording sightings, even if you're not completely sure what species you've seen.

Join our team: in our local area this issue is being addressed through the Tackling Invasives project, which is part of the Watercress and Winterbournes Landscape Partnership Scheme. Our amazing volunteers are removing invasive plants in the Bourne Valley this summer, and also monitoring American mink populations – could you help us?

You can learn more about all of these actions on our website: www.hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes/invasives

Sophie Evingar

DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

Interview with a Cumbrian cycling mountaineer.



It gives me enormous pleasure to dedicate this article to a fellow wimpy cyclist in the village who recently completed a gargantuan challenge.

I sold him my road/gravel bike some months back so he could train for the event:

Wimpy Simon >> Crispin, thanks for joining me in the cycle-garage, and congratulations on your recent mountain passes in Cumbria – tell me why?

Wimpy Crispin >> A group of us set out to raise funds for SnowCamp. It is a charity that gives young people from inner-city communities across the UK positive futures through snow sports. It raises aspirations, gives them life skills and opens up a world beyond the gaming console.

Wimpy Simon >> I can see a correlation with the “need for speed!” – what was the challenge, and how much did you all raise?

Wimpy Crispin >> There was a team of 16 of us and with fantastic charitable contributions from across the UK we raised £35,000. The 1-day challenge we set ourselves was immense: We had to cross 10 Cumbrian mountain passes, including Kirkstone, Honister, Newlands, Whinlatter, Hardknott and Wrynose. After 9 hours and 43 minutes in the saddle I covered 115 miles and logged 12,000 ft of elevation gain.



Wimpy Simon >> Outstanding! That has truly gasted my flabber! Were there any major wipe-outs, and did the descents make you all squeal? Was it like the patchy Black Run down to the Alpine village on a warm March afternoon?

Wimpy Crispin >> The weather was on our side and we were in good spirits as we headed through Ambleside and alongside Lake Windermere. Then the uphill was upon us as we headed up and over Kirkstone Pass and we knew the challenge was on! Everyone returned safely, and yes, the descents were terrifying – especially confronting the opposing Chelsea tractors on their way up the 1-in-4 hairpin bends! There were genuine concerns that some of us might not make it.

Wimpy Simon >> Any mechanicals?

Wimpy Crispin >> Yes – one team member had a tyre blow-out descending Honister at speed. On the way up Britain’s toughest climb, Hardknott Pass, no mercy was shown by the mountain when one team member snapped their pedal crank through the sheer force of tackling the 30% gradient.

Wimpy Simon >> Where did you all muster the energy to achieve this? – I have come to learn that cycling is all about nutrition

Wimpy Crispin >> We were supported by an amazing crew who met us at the top of every pass with flapjacks and good cheer. As usual for my endurance events, I ate my way around the Lake District! To add to this, we were all spurred on by the stunning views and the promise of a cold beer or three at the finish!



Wimpy Simon >> I can imagine their enthusiasm was akin to Giro D’Italia fans willing you up each hill. Glad you all

survived, and it sounds like a true tale of Derring-do!

For the full write up from SnowCamp, check out: www.snow-camp.org.uk or the full www.snow-camp.org.uk/2021/06/09/skiers-cumbrian-cycle-challenge/ address. Chapeaux!



... and finally, in the spirit of giving and charitable endeavours, it would be remiss not to mention my forthcoming 300-mile pedal to Paris in aid of Royal British Legion and in memory of my father, Major Mattison, who died training for the event. Please search for our online JustGiving page here:

“mattisonsp2pforrbl” (Mattisons P2P for RBL) or even try your phone camera on this QR code to get the link: As this is the July/August edition of Hill & Valley and we pause for Summer, I look forward to writing-up a successful trip in the September edition. Please take a moment to give if you can.

Simon Mattison