

WEATHER – APRIL 2021

Total rainfall for month	26 mm	1.02in
It rained on	2 days	
Rainfall same month last year	75 mm	2.92in
Total for 2021	291mm	11.45in
Total for 2020	456mm	17.95 in
Max temp (on 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	22C	72F
Min temp (on 12 <sup>th</sup> )	-3C	26F
Number of frosts	17	

We had the frostiest April for 60 years with more frosts (17) than in February and March combined.

It was the coldest April since 1922 and the driest since 2007 (we had 27 consecutive days with no rain).

*John Smail*

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION AND CHARITY AUCTION

MAY FAIR NEWS



MAY FAIR 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](mailto: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*

MAY FAIR PLANT STALL

A very big thank you from the May Fair Plant Stall to all the wonderful people who supported us both from this Valley and further afield.

It has been a monumental challenge owing to the extraordinary behaviour of the weather - some plants just simply didn't grow while others grew too quickly and were cut down by the frost and the vicious wind. We therefore offer special thanks to all those who accepted 'damaged goods' and hope that by the time you read this most, if not all, of them have fully recovered.

At the time of writing, 18<sup>th</sup> May, we have taken orders for over £1,600.00 - THANK YOU AGAIN!!



And a special thank you to Katherine for managing all the technicalities of the on-line orders so efficiently alongside family and a full-time job!

*Precelly Murray*

LADIES' COFFEE MORNINGS

Hopefully we can celebrate the lifting of restrictions with this month's coffee morning on Monday, 21st June, from 10.15 am to 12 noon. Clare Read will host it at Hurstbourne Priors House (tel 896672) and all children are welcome too.



## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL



### Welcome Back to the Friday Country Market

The Friday Country Market has resumed in the Mill's garden and it's been lovely to see all the producers again and, of course, to be able to buy their varied and colourful wares. The market is here every Friday from 9.30–11.30.

### Mill Open and a Very Special Offer

It's exciting to have the whole of the Mill site open again and to be able to welcome visitors. Although some restrictions have eased, many social distancing restrictions will remain in place so you can safely and confidently enjoy your visit. In celebration of the re-opening, all our windows were washed inside and out. That's 800 panes of glass! A proper challenge for the window cleaners.

To say a big thank you for helping to raise more than £1.7m to create a sustainable future for the Mill we're offering free entry to National Lottery players from Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 June 2021. We are open Tuesday to Sunday, 10.30am to 5pm. To redeem this offer all you need is one National Lottery ticket or scratch card per family, adult or group of adults. Paper and digital tickets/scratchcards for all National Lottery games qualify.

### Our Blogs

Are you reading our regular blogs, on the website and via social media? Their subject matter is varied, educational and entertaining and we recommend them wholeheartedly. Recent blogs have featured Shannon Bye, our weaver and tackler, offering her thoughts about textile industry waste and how to purchase textiles more sustainably; Amy Hammett, our marketing and social media volunteer, telling the story of a black silk weaver in Tudor London; and Brittany Peckham recounting what she learned during a work experience placement with our Visitor Experience Team. We provide annual work experience placements for university students, who get a chance to work behind the scenes and learn what it takes to run the Mill.

### We Are Recruiting for Our Digital Media Volunteer Team

During lockdown we've been harnessing the power of digital media to bring the Mill experience to virtual visitors. We are active on social media and YouTube and would like to grow our volunteer team so we can keep creating great and engaging content for our followers and visitors.

- Do you have an interest in, or experience with, social media?
- Have you created content for online platforms?
- Would you like to gain experience volunteering for a heritage organisation?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Zoë Umpleby, Visitor Experience Coordinator, for more information and for an informal chat about joining the Digital Media Volunteer Team at Whitchurch Silk Mill. E: [zoe.umpleby@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:zoe.umpleby@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) – 01256 892065 – [www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)

## FOOTBRIDGE AT TUFTON - UPDATE

We are very pleased to report that the Hampshire Countryside Service has been very busy carrying out a full survey of the footbridge and have already put the work out to their contractor. They have assured us that the work is going to be carried out as quickly as possible. We are also very happy to report that, to the best of their abilities, the bridge will retain its character and will be rebuilt in a similar style.

*Hurstbourne Priors PC*

## THE MONTH OF JUNE

June is most likely to have been named for the Roman goddess Juno, patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Another interpretation says that the name came from the Latin *juvenis*, "young people," who were celebrated at this time of the year.

The longest day of the year is 21<sup>st</sup> June when the sun is at its most northerly point. Midsummer's day is the day after the solstice and is associated with witches, magic fairies and dancing. On Midsummer's eve, bonfires would be lit around the country. This was to try to strengthen the sun which appeared to be getting weaker as the days started to get shorter.



## DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

*The H man gave me Kudos...*



According to the rules, it is completely unacceptable to intentionally turn one's steed upside down for any reason under any circumstances – the only exception is during mid-rotation while crashing. There were no crashes for me at the recent Beast to the East event that set off from Bishop's Waltham on Saturday, but I did suffer from a terrible bout of ignominy at the start: In order to transport my bike in the car I remove the seat post. On this new bike, however, the seat post is held in place by a locking nut that promptly descended into the bowels of the frame. I had to turn my steed upside down and shake it vigorously as if seeking a pound coin from a beer bottle – much to the mirth and horror of the onlookers at the event. As penance I let my fellow sportive competitors all set off before me – so I could swear at my bike in the pouring rain of the car park.

My wife is always incredulous, nay deeply impressed, at the sheer volume of faffing (*in German, Pfaffing*) required ahead of a cycling outing: Bike computer, pump tyres, check brakes, add front light, rear light, water bottles (“bidons”), ginger nuts, bananas, jelly babies, adjust hat, mount glasses, tie on the race number, tighten shoes, send tracking link to family, switch on heart rate monitor – then go undo all your clothing for a pee in the village hall.

Over the next four hours, I clawed my way back through the various small groups of riders – I was labelled “Bananaman” by a few of the ladies, which I took as a great compliment then remembered the fruit in my rear pocket. A cruel Butser Hill sorted the field into walkers and riders, at an average of nearly 12% gradient, and compounded by a blustery cold wind and rain-fogged glasses and further hills such as Winchester. The only stop – a feed station - seemed to be an eternity (2hrs 20mins) away, near South Harting. In true Strava comedy, someone has named the segment ‘Straight out of SHarting’. Knowing the weather, and invoking the spirit of Oates, I had elected to wear the cycling equivalent of a wetsuit but overlooked the soggy socks that blessed me with numb toes – “I’m going out, I may be some time”. My thanks to Claire at BigFeat Events for organising a great day.

May has so far been a wash-out, so it has been important to seize the weather windows where we can. Today in Whitchurch I snatched a moment with a coffee from Kudos, and it felt briefly barmy – dreaming of a Portugal beach almost. It turns out that I came in second on my Saturday Beast ride after four hours and 90 kilometres of gritted teeth and hailstones, but the effort is all for training for my Royal British Legion ride later this year – please spare a couple of quid if you can on JustGiving – look for my name.

*Simon Mattison*

## ANDOVER FOODBANK

The Andover Foodbank would like to thank you for all your continued support which is, as always, greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make a donation to the Andover Foodbank, we are currently in need of the following items:

FOOD ITEMS: Long Life Fruit Juice (1ltr)

NON-FOOD ITEMS: Shampoo/conditioner, Men's deodorant, Shower gel

**Job Vacancy at Andover Foodbank**

**Warehouse Supervisor Andover Foodbank, 12 hours per week, £12.50 per hour.**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated Warehouse Supervisor to manage the day to day warehouse operation including stock management and delivery. You will coordinate volunteers in the warehouse and help ensure that we provide a reliable, accessible, and compassionate service of food and associated support for clients. The role is for 12 hours a week at £12.50/ hour.

The full role description and details of how to apply is available in the news section of our website

[www.andover.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.andover.foodbank.org.uk)

*Jenny Lelean*

**Andover Foodbank**

**Tel: 01264 362111** [www.andover.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.andover.foodbank.org.uk)

## WORD OF THE MONTH



LIMICOLOUS - dwelling in mud or muddy regions. As we wait to hear if this May is going to be a record breaker for rainfall, *limicolous* may well describe our riparian neighbourhood currently.

*Barbara Carrodus*

**NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

It is wonderful to see students and staff settling admirably back into school-life. Our Year 11 students have been hard at work with their mock exams and we have been extremely impressed with their maturity and diligence during this period. We are confident that they will have pride in their efforts and as such, we would like to congratulate each and every one of them here in this article. Well done!

A lot of exciting and engaging learning has taken place this term. One example that stood out was the Year 9 Health and Social Care students recently having a taste of parenthood as they took care of robotic-training babies during our Virtual Baby Programme. It was a very bizarre experience to walk past a classroom and hearing babies crying! Students had to provide the necessary care for a newborn, including activities such as rocking, feeding, changing and winding their virtual baby. This gave them a valuable experience and insight into parental responsibilities. On the subject of parenthood, our resident duck was seen with 14 ducklings of her own! It is a shame we do not offer a Virtual Ducklings Programme!



At the time of writing this article, our Testbourne Student Prefects, led by our Executive Prefect Leadership Team and Art teacher Mrs Horner, are actively organising our participation in ‘Denim for Dementia Day’ (a charity fundraiser for Alzheimer’s Society). Lots of effort has gone into making posters, arranging competitions and activities for the event that takes place on Friday the 14th of May. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and website, where we will post pictures, videos and the total amount of money raised.

*Aaron Baker - Marketing & IT Officer  
Testbourne Community School*

