

**WEATHER MAY 2018**

Total rainfall for month	59mm	2.32in
It rained on 8 days.		
Rainfall same month last year	57mm	2.24in
Total for 2018	498mm	19.60in
Total for 2017	376mm	14.08in
Max temp	31C	88F (7 <sup>th</sup> )
Min temp	2C	36F (2 <sup>nd</sup> )

May 7 was the hottest early May Bank Holiday ever!

The Met Office says May was also the sunniest and warmest on record. On 31 May we had just over 1 inch of rain.

**LADIES COFFEE MORNINGS**

The Ladies Coffee Mornings are back! The July Coffee Morning will be hosted by Anne Yeaman at Paddock View, Hurstbourne Priors (896432) on **Tuesday 10 July**, from 10.15 onwards.

The August Coffee Morning will be hosted by Susie Sorby at Bourne House, Hurstbourne Priors (892665) on **Tuesday 14 August** from 10.15 onwards.



**Harvest Festival**



St Andrews Church 11 am on Sunday 7 October, followed by a Barbecue on the Recreation Ground.

As usual, we will be collecting donations for the Andover Food Bank.

Tickets for the Barbecue will be on sale in September. Proceeds will be donated to the Mityana Projects Trust.

**VOX CANTAB CHOIR RETURN VISIT**

**5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



In 2016 "Vox Cantab" gave us an exciting concert entitled "All Creatures Great and Small". We are pleased to announce that they are returning to St Andrew's to give us another concert on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00 pm**, after which tea will be served to give us an opportunity to speak to the singers. They will also be singing at the 11.00 am Family Communion Service that morning. Do keep a note of this date and join us for another excellent and interesting performance. Further details will be available later.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018  
@ 7.30pm

**HUBERT PARRY CONCERT**

in ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Commemorating the centenary of the death of this  
Famous English Composer  
who was involved in the commissioning of  
St Andrew's new church organ in 1906

Organ and Choral recitals  
with audience participation to  
'Jerusalem' and other well-known arrangements  
by Hubert Parry

## DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

*A brief write-up from a newbie MAMIL...*

After an evening of 50,000 lightning strikes, the fourth annual "Sams Ride" took place on the Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May, giving me the Bank Holiday Monday to recover from 50 miles' worth of aching quadriceps. My wife, meanwhile, was dashing briskly around Edinburgh with 30,000 people for their annual marathon, so my experience was far more relaxed. The cycle from Thruxton, up through the 'Chutes', followed the ridge line around to Oxenwood and then down the entire valley, stopping at St Mary Bourne for Bananas and Brownies. I passed my house at the 25-mile mark, and we spun on down to Wherwell, Longstock Park and back up through the Wallops to Thruxton.

Snoddington Hall were the generous hosts and the whole event was thoroughly well organised – with good signage and a dedicated team of safety volunteers and tea-stop heroes. All was in aid of the Samaritans of Salisbury and District that is now recognised as one of the premier charity cycle 'sportives' in the Hampshire and Wiltshire region. This was my very first 50-mile ride, and first ever mass group ride.

I only recently bought a road cycle, and now have a new perspective on the speeds and condition of our local roads. Controversially perhaps, I can honestly report that overall they are not too bad, aside from the odd angry pick-up truck. Potholes and trashed edges are deadly for cyclists, and one has to pay close attention to the slippery drain covers and rumble strips cornering through Longparish. Gravel is an enemy of 25mm tyres, hence you may see cyclists two-abreast, as the centre of each lane collects stones and shingle. Cornering our windy lanes means sometimes taking the outside line to avoid said gravel, so if you are in a car please try not to cross over the centre line on the bends.

As a new guy to this, I was welcomed by 2 seasoned cyclists on the day (Alistair and Frankie) who gave me some great tips, nattered about group cycling, and supported me on the hills – true Samaritans they were! The overall event had upwards of 700

cyclists, so our thanks to the patient road-users of the area – I was surprised at how communicative everyone was: "Car up!", "Car down", "on your right side", "clear ahead", as it is difficult to hear modern vehicles with the wind rushing in your ears. As a car driver I was impressed by this consideration.

The event raised in excess of £25,000 – go to [www.Samsride.co.uk](http://www.Samsride.co.uk) for more information. There was a 100-mile route for the crazy brave setting off in the rain, 50-miler for the phoney tough, and 25-miles for the sensible ones. Cycling in this great countryside of ours is proving hugely popular and is both rewarding and exhilarating.



*Simon Mattison*



If you are inspired by Simon's exploits, you can take part in Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust's Ride and Stride on 8th September 2018. Cycle, walk, run, ride or drive to raise money for Hampshire's historic churches and chapels of all denominations. Participants seek sponsorship to visit as many churches on the yearly list as they wish. You plan your own route and set your own speed. You can nominate a Church to receive half of the sponsorship you raise. [http://www.hihct.org.uk/rideStride\\_part.php](http://www.hihct.org.uk/rideStride_part.php)

## OBITUARY – DR GERRY BYE

Gerry Bye, who died on March 10th aged 87, was born in London and grew up in Barkingside, Essex. He remained there during World War II, although half his school, Ilford County High, was evacuated to South Wales. In 1944 his brother, Peter, was born and in spite of minor irritations when the energetic toddler interrupted his listening to classical music, Gerry delighted in his company. He shared his lifelong passion for trains with the small child as he did later in life with his own sons. His other interest at this time was long distance cycling.

He soon showed an aptitude for academic work and a particular interest in Chemistry. There was no hesitation in choosing Exeter to study as he loved Devon where family holidays were always spent. His trunk and book box would be sent by rail and he would enjoy the cycle ride at the beginning of term. These were idyllic days studying in the Chemistry Department, enjoying student life and cross-country running. His parents were easily persuaded to allow him to stay on for another three years after graduating to complete a PhD.

In 1952 he met Anna who was reading English and although she was Welsh and completely unscientific they became engaged and married in 1955 when he was working at AWRE, Aldermaston. Research there was an alternative to National Service and they spent two years living in Reading. An appointment as lecturer in Chemistry at Liverpool College of Advanced Technology followed and they moved to Heswall on the Wirral Peninsular. During the eight years there Philip, Matthew and Gavin were born. The next move was to a lectureship at Sheffield University and it was here in the Department of Ceramics that his research involved the chemistry of cement which was to dominate the rest of his career.

An invitation to join the Research Department of Blue Circle Cement resulted in the family moving south to the village of Shorne between Gravesend and Rochester. He missed the academic life but found his research absorbing and it was inevitable that he would eventually embark on a project to write a text book for students of cement and

this ran into several editions over the years. Reorganisation in Blue Circle meant that Gerry moved from Research to the Environmental Department and there was a move to Hampshire when Head Office took over Aldermaston Court so he ended his working life next door to where it started. He was delighted to find Hurstbourne Priors and was determined not to move from here.

His later years after retirement were taken up with environmental problems and concern for the sort of world his grandchildren would have to live in. He always insisted on the importance of correct facts in argument and gathered evidence from various academic institutions about fracking and other methods of producing energy. He would then bombard politicians with his findings as well as friends and family!

While he was well Gerry was a regular attender at St Andrew's. He was confirmed at Winchester Cathedral under the guidance of the Rev'd Derek Cottrell and helped him in serving communion. For some years he was a member of the PCC, acting as Secretary and organising donations. He was also a governor of Longparish School.

Throughout his life he was guided by his Christian faith and high moral principles and in spite of his increasing debility, he retained a positive outlook and a keen sense of humour. He was devoted to his family and delighted in their company even if he sometimes complained about the noise!

*Anna Bye*

## HILL AND VALLEY THANK YOU

At a party to thank everyone involved in the production and distribution of the Hill & Valley, Craig had a special thank you for Ruth and Michael Widén who are retiring after many years on the editorial team: Ruth as St Mary Bourne Editor and Michael for Production and Distribution.



## ROAD SAFETY - UPDATE

Hampshire Highways have now confirmed that the crossroads at the Harroway and B3048 (Chapmansford) will be re-surfaced. At the time of going to press they have not given a date but as soon as we have it we will put it on the web-site and in Hill & Valley.

Discussions with Hampshire County Council and the Highways Department over the safety of this junction continue and the slow response from the Casualty Reduction Team is disappointing. We are pressing for better signage both before the junction and on the road itself, and would like to install flashing speed signs as on the B3400 and opposite the church. A high proportion of incidents involve people from outside the area who are therefore not familiar with the rights of way – Regular users of the road know how many accidents and near misses there have been in the past few years. Sadly, not all of these are reported to the Police and therefore Casualty Reduction will not take them into consideration. We would ask anyone involved in an accident, or near miss, to report it so that it can be logged and taken into account. You may only report an incident to the Police if you were actually involved. Please use the 101 non-emergency number (unless it is an emergency) or email Aimée Scott-Molloy, our PCSO for Whitchurch, Hurstbourne Priors, and St Mary Bourne at [aimee.scott-molloy@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:aimee.scott-molloy@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

After much lobbying, and with the support of Cllr Tom Thacker and Borough Councillors, Vitacress, the developer of Cressington and the proposed developer of the old Hurstbourne Priors Station as well as residents at Viaduct Cottages and Tugbury Cottages the 30mph zone will be extended from St Mary Bourne through, and around, the crossroads. We are very grateful to Cllr Thacker for his support. The extent of the zone has not been confirmed and it may not take effect until construction work starts at the old station. We will keep you updated via Hill & Valley when we have more news.

*Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council meets every two months. The next meeting is on Wednesday 25 July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Minutes of the meetings are published on the village web site at [www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk)



We are next occupying the Whitchurch Charity Shop in September and are, at the moment, short of good quality bric-a-brac. Please contact the 'items for resale' number if you can help. Large quantities can be collected but please no electrical or large furniture items.



Poor Scrumpy, our 10 year old ginger female is still hoping for a forever home. We have a lot of older cats in care at the moment. Adopting an older cat can be very rewarding. They

offer great companionship and are less likely to wander.

This is Zion, she is 5 years old and a large fluffy Maine Coon type. She is looking for a new home with her friend Squidge who we advertised last month. They will need daily grooming to keep their beautiful long fur in good condition. They are mainly indoor cats but would be happy to potter around in a safe garden once settled.

Homing Enquiries: 0345 260 1501 or [andover.cats.org.uk](http://andover.cats.org.uk)  
Fund-raising and volunteers 07733 242196 or [coord@andovercats.org.uk](mailto:coord@andovercats.org.uk)  
Items for resale: 01256 892773