

## WEATHER – APRIL 2020

Total rainfall for month	75mm	2.92in
It rained on	6 days	
Rainfall same month last year	48mm	1.88in
Total for 2020	456mm	17.95in
Total for 2019	265mm	10.43in
Max temp (on 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	27C	80F
Min temp (on 6 <sup>th</sup> )	-1C	30F
Frosts	2	

April was a nice, dry, sunny month apart from a 30mm downpour on 17<sup>th</sup> and 43mm on the last four days. It was the joint warmest April on record (with April 2016).

*John Smail*

## RHUBARB CRUMBLE CAKE RECIPE

## Ingredients

## For the Crumble

50g butter  
25g demerara sugar  
40g caster sugar  
100g plain flour

## For the Rhubarb

275g untrimmed rhubarb  
50g caster sugar  
25g plain flour

## For the Cake

6tbsp of soured cream  
1 free range egg and 1 yolk  
100g plain flour  
100g caster sugar  
75g softened butter

1/2 tsp bicarb of soda  
1/2 tsp of baking powder  
pinch of salt  
75g ground almonds  
1 tsp of vanilla extract

1. Line and grease a tin, ideally 5cm deep and 20cm square. Pre-heat the oven to 180C
- 2 Top and tail the rhubarb and cut into 2.5cm pieces place into a bowl and add the sugar and flour, mix well and set aside for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Next make the crumble, melt the butter in a pan and add the sugars, mix well over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved and you have a smooth toffee like sauce, you will need to stir constantly. Pour the sauce over the flour and mix well to make a cookie style dough, leave to cool. Once cooled break the mixture into little nuggets and set aside.
4. For the cake mix the sour cream, egg and yolk in a bowl until thoroughly combined, add the vanilla and mix.
5. Sift the flour, baking powder and bicarb in a bowl and add the sugar. Add the butter and using a hand whisk mix well until it resembles fine breadcrumbs, add in the nuts and gradually the egg mix, stir until smooth.
6. Pour the cake mix into the prepared tin, scatter over the rhubarb and then finally the crumb mix.
7. Bake for 45 minutes until golden. Allow to cool before you cut into portions.

*Lulu Beasley*

## THE MAY FAIR ON-LINE – DELI STALL

Following the success of the Plant Stall, we are delighted to bring you another of your favourite May Fair stalls on line. Josephine Hutchinson and Denise Bradley have been busy making jams and chutneys and have the following for sale at £3.50 per jar:

## Chutney

Banana  
Traditional Apple  
Spicy Apple  
Apple and Tomato  
Hot Apple and Tomato  
Tomato  
Mild Carrot,  
with Garlic & Coriander  
Hot Carrot,  
with Garlic & Coriander

## Marmalade

Ginger  
Orange  
Whisky  
Orange,  
apple with Calvados

## Jam

Raspberry  
Strawberry  
Jumbleberry  
Plum and Apple  
Apple and Walnut  
Apple and Jumbleberry

Tame Bengal

Fierce Bengal

Ferocious Bengal

To order, please email

[josephine.hutchinson@btinternet.com](mailto:josephine.hutchinson@btinternet.com) She will confirm your order and send you instructions for a BACS payment and how to collect your order. All proceeds are in aid of the May Fair to support our village amenities.



## MAY FAIR PLANT STALL

“The Plant Stall” would like to thank all the kind people of our village and the Benefice who have supported our venture to make use of seeds already sown before Lock-down. Thanks too, to Gina Yates for her usual high quality plants while some of my seedlings sulked - and I can only apologise to all those affected by this childish behaviour. I hope that when you read this you are not still waiting for your Tomatoes....

This could not have been done without the enthusiasm and encouragement of the May Fair Committee, in particular Kim French, who is a Wizard on her computer and an absolute Rock in every possible way for which I could not be more grateful. She tells me we have taken more than £800.00 so even more thanks to our generous friends.

*Precelly Murray*

## THANK YOU PRECELLY

Every year, many hours of dedicated care are invested in growing the lovely plants to sell at our famous May Fair Plant Stall. This year has been no exception, despite some very difficult circumstances. On behalf of the May Fair team and the whole village, a huge thank you to Precelly Murray who has truly gone above and beyond this year. She has delivered some much needed joy to all our gardens, as well as raising an impressive and very welcome sum to support our village amenities.

THANK YOU!

*The May Fair Team*

## ANDOVER FOODBANK

The Andover Foodbank would like to thank everyone who has made a donation over the past few weeks - your generosity and kindness has been greatly appreciated.

This week we are in need of the following, non-food items: shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, general cleaning and laundry products, dinner plates, cereal bowls, saucepan and frying pans.

Thank you for your support.

**Andover Foodbank**

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

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Public Parish Council meetings have been cancelled until further notice. A meeting will be held in late June via Zoom. If there is a resident who wishes to raise something at this meeting and therefore wants to join the Zoom meeting please can they contact me, the Parish Clerk, and I will notify you of the date, time and give you an access code.

If there is something you wish to bring before the Parish Council, please email me.

*Richard Waterman, Parish Clerk*

*Richard.waterman150@btinternet.com*

## REFUSE, RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE

A number of residents have asked whether the usual refuse and recycling service will be resumed once the current COVID-19 outbreak is over. BDBC Cllr David George has confirmed that the black bins will be collected weekly and the recycling every two weeks as part of the Council's contract with Serco, as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Green Waste service which was suspended in April will restart in mid-June and customers will receive a letter advising them of the start date. No new customers can be accepted at this time. For those who have bulky waste which needs to be collected, that service will go live on Tuesday 26 May, booking online only at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bulkywaste) with the collections starting the following week.

HCC has given details of the regulations for the newly reopened tip: It will only be open between 10.00 and 16.00 and is for householders who have nowhere to store waste. There are some exclusions as to what can be accepted at the moment so please check the website. Please note that you must not queue on either Columbus Way (by Lidl) or South Way (by Twinings) as it causes congestion for vehicles making deliveries to the Industrial Estate. Cars waiting to use the tip should use Livingstone Road - which is the road the tip exit is on. And the queue may be 'closed' if the operators of the tip feel that it will not be possible for all cars to enter and un-load by closing time.

*Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

## THE TALE OF TEN TANKERS

### ...or an ornithological account of sewage matters

No one living in the Valley will have failed to notice that the tanker migration season started early this year after a particularly wet winter. As leaks from rising groundwater into the sewage system threatened to overflow the creaky network once again, a flock of multicoloured tankers arrived just after Christmas to save the day. Led by canary yellow ones from main contractor MTS, there were also long-tailed white ones from Kent, short stubby brown ones from Birmingham, and, best of all, two shiny silver ones all the way from Scotland whose chirpy Geordie drivers preened and polished them all day long.

Whilst they were busy in the heart of St Mary Bourne, they particularly favoured the area around Cressington where they could frolic in the dust and create havoc in the mud waiting their turn to sip from the pumping station at the viaduct.



In late April, however, the message got out to tanker central who decided to turn off the sewer completely and an even greater swarm of yellow

tankers of the MTS species descended upon us to roost at Cressington. Flushed with the excitement of their arrival, they chattered loudly all night about their sex lives, revved their engines, flashed their yellow lights, left their windows and doors open for all to hear the dawn chorus from their amplified radios and beeped their reversing beepers throughout the night to ensure local residents were aware of their presence and got no sleep.

Tired of the intense competition around the viaduct, some of them also found their way down to Hurstbourne Priors where they continued to shout, beep and flash all night whilst their colleagues dug holes in roads and fields in search of elusive leaks. Two unfortunate ladies from Basingstoke encountered a rare green spotted one on the road below the Chapmansford crossroads and ended up in the ditch.

How long will this go on? Not until the chalky aquifer below us has receded and the river stops flowing at Gang Bridge. And now construction is about to begin on another 44 houses at the Hurstbourne Station site which will be connected into this inadequate infrastructure. It is simply not good enough Southern Water! It is time for a public meeting in this valley when you tell us what you are going to do to solve these problems. Otherwise you may find that the next time your bills come fluttering into our letterboxes there will be a whole lot of empty nests!

*Martin Briant-Evans*

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**TRAVELLERS' TALES**


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*Hurstbourne Priors*

Having spent 35 years in Hurstbourne Priors, 10 months in Longparish and 5 nights in St Mary Bourne, we have varying ideas of these three delightful villages. Our hearts are of course in Hurstbourne Priors because we were there for so long – our family of three children grew up, and then they went away, then they came back with wives/partner, then two of them had children, they brought their seven children to see us, and now the eldest of our grandchildren has gone away to University.

Hurstbourne Priors is not however blessed with footpaths. Gina Yates, who now lives in Andover (but still comes to Hurstbourne Priors to give help), the daughter of an Apsley gamekeeper, who appropriately lived in Keeper's Cottage, used to walk across the fields to go to Hurstbourne Priors School (which became our house). This footpath no longer exists. The footpath beside the B3400 fell into rack and ruin many years ago, but at least this has been replaced by a Permissive Footpath provided by a generous landowner. The only other path remaining out of the village is the one to Longparish. If you can face the short walk along the road towards St Mary Bourne, you will come to Racky Row on the left, shortly before the iron bridge over the Bourne Rivulet. If you walk up Racky Row you will on the left meet a lovely path that takes you to the B3400. Recently, there has been little traffic on it, but when it is busy you need to stop and listen before crossing. Continuing on this path you come to lovely countryside above Longparish.

Along Racky Row the African-American soldiers were housed in the run-up to the D-Day landings. During the war the Bank of England was moved to Hurstbourne Park where it was protected by a platoon of soldiers. The minutes of Hurstbourne Priors Invasion Committee's meetings record their presence. If you turn right at the top of Racky Row you can walk through the Apsley estate and after crossing the railway line, pass above St Mary Bourne eventually coming to the Test Way and then on to Combe Gibbet, high up at the head of the valley.

*Longparish*

Our time in Longparish was short but we enjoyed it because of the friendliness of the people who live there. We also enjoyed being able to look out to the Test River (big brother to the Bourne Rivulet) from our bedroom window. When the rains came last Autumn, the river level rose up and up, but never entered the garden. It is a quite disciplined river and much favoured by serious fisher-people.

Perhaps because there is a large and active estate in Longparish, there are quite a lot of footpaths that are kept in good order. Because Longparish is – well long, there is a footpath that goes through the fields but not far from the road and which schoolchildren still use to go to the primary school. It links up with the footpath to Hurstbourne Priors. Other paths go into the edge of Harewood Forest where American soldiers (white) were housed in the run-up to the D-Day landings.

The battle for banishing the dreaded Incinerator was an example of the ability of Longparish to come together (and with the other villages) to ensure that it would never be built. With the arrival of Covid-19, the village got together again to make sure that all who might need help were cared for. We were even allocated a "carer" because of our great age. VE Day was celebrated with the erection of scare-crows. Sir Winston Churchill appeared in a well-made pin-stripe suit, complete with a cigar and the familiar V sign. Walking and bicycling have become very popular during the "lockout". A notable part of any walk is the "Longparish Reel". When you meet others walking in the opposite direction, you step off the path into a nearby field or wood to maintain the required 2 meter space. At the same time there is much bowing and passing of thanks and greetings, before both couples (and dogs of course) resume the path.

*St Mary Bourne*

It would be presumptuous to say we have got to know St Mary Bourne in 4 days, but we have visited it often in the past particularly for the walks it offers, and more recently because of the Derrydown Clinic and the very well-run and stocked Village Shop. The short queue allows us to meet friendly folk from the village. In the past we have also arranged with others to hold a charity Burns night Scottish Country Dancing in the excellent village hall. St Mary Bourne of course has also housed our Vicar and we hope that it will again in the future. There are plenty of good walks around St Mary Bourne. Because the Test Way footpath runs past, there is access to long-distance paths, but there are also many paths that will take you to nearby hamlets such as Egbury and Binley. We look forward to exploring these walks.

*Jeremy Goad*

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**INCUBATING BANTAM EGGS**


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When I was 11 years old I joined with my brother to buy an Ecostat egg incubator. We successfully raised some chicks and had the pleasure and excitement of waiting and watching the arrivals hatch. They were reared in the house and when old enough were promoted to outdoor chickens' quarters - but would often be found sneaking back into the house, strutting through the kitchen... especially when it rained!!



Now, following in my footsteps Rosie (11) decided she wanted to hatch some chicks for her birthday. Memories came flooding back and after a search, my family identified which barn the old incubator was in, along with the heat lamp... built to last it still works and

is currently warming a mixture of bantam eggs. Today (day 4-20th May) we candled the eggs and the girls were so excited to see some of them had blood vessels. Bantam eggs take 19-20 days to hatch unlike a normal chicken egg of 21 days and we hope to hatch some on 4 June. Photos of any chicks to follow in the next edition.

*Joanna Macmillan*

## THE LAST NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS - Part 1

During World War II our village faced an invasion not from a deadly virus but from a menacing foreign power. The years 1939-1944 were anxious times as a German invasion seemed highly likely. In Hurstbourne Priors, as in every other parish, an Invasion Committee was formed. The objectives were to liaise with the military authorities, to collect information about the supplies and manpower available and to look after the civilian population.

Hurstbourne Priors (which included Tufton) sprang into action despite its small size, numbering only 480 inhabitants. Major General Sir Philip Grant assumed the Chair (later replaced by Mr H.A. Game from Tufton Manor). Mrs Weston of 'Fellows' was secretary and Police Constable Purver from Long Parish was included in the eight strong team. From then on, all tasks and decisions were meticulously recorded and kept for posterity in an Invasion Committee Handbook.

The sense of urgency and importance must have been enhanced by the presence in the village of 600 employees from one of the country's vital institutions, the Bank of England, who were evacuated to the mansion and a camp at Hurstbourne Park. A representative was always included in all the Committee's deliberations and although their first priority was always their own staff and proceedings, the Bank stood ready to help the village in case of dire emergency.

The initial task was to assess the available manpower. Just over 200 men were deemed capable of work although many already had jobs and would only be available part time. Others had enlisted in the Home Guard or were limited by their age or physical condition, a challenge for the committee as it was envisaged that the most important task if the invasion happened was to clear fallen trees or fill in craters to free up army manoeuvres. 140 women were listed including 3 Land Girls but many of these were listed as caring for children or old people, or in some cases as 'nervous' - a classification showing not only the caring face of the village but also the high state of anxiety among its inhabitants. To free up the young Mothers for emergency work, 'parking places' were arranged for children at numbers 24 and 28 Hurstbourne Priors and at Fox Cottages and at Paper Mill Farm.

Government posters were put up urging civilians to play their part, to 'stand firm and remain in good heart' and to offer their services to the Committee. The village rapidly formed its own task force: 12 wardens, 17 messengers and 36 fire guards were appointed. The senior parish warden was Miss Darling from Park Cottage, Hurstbourne Park. In the event of invasion, she would be stationed at Committee HQ at Fellows and receive 'Red Warnings' passing on the danger of fire (by whistle) and gas (by rattle).

The hard working Miss Darling was also the voluntary food organiser and in charge of one and a half tons of emergency rations of tinned food to be issued to every inhabitant if normal supplies ceased. If the water supply

was cut off by enemy action, water would be drawn from emergency sources (all wells were listed together with the availability of stirrup pumps). *(to be continued)*

Amanda Briant-Evans



Lottie and Fred Tufnell



William Ryan

## UNDETERRED BY LOCKDOWN

We remain within each other's lives in many different ways.

Working from home - wearing PJs, slippers and Zoom suits on special days.

Quizzes and chats with family and friends, a highlight in confinement time.

To see them all in virtual mode, together enjoy a glass, or three, of wine. Cloud-based video conferencing took church services into homes. Each Sunday, hosted by Dodie, with readings, hymns and poems.

The HBP May Fair was fated, but the flower stall managed to bloom. Selling bedding and perennials on-line, so we can still enjoy their perfume. Preserves also available to buy, each jar delish and all homemade, including hot and spicy chutneys, fruit jams and marmalades.

Home schooling's been a challenge, with parents rather confused. Helped by Disney, rainbows and baking, our youngsters are kept amused. The dogs have never been so fit, gardens, even fields, as well tended. Enjoying clear skies and sunny days whilst flying's been suspended.

VE Day we hung up bunting to celebrate this special day to mark the end of World War II, remembering the sacrifice along the way. We all enjoy our countryside, with bike rides and long walks, but, should we meet some other folk, keep six feet apart to talk.

We applaud our NHS, our gratitude has no bounds. Thank you posties, food deliveries, and binmen, Sir Tom, raising £33 million pounds. Whatever happens when lockdown eases, only time will tell. Let's hope we get a vaccine soon to save us buying thick bleach gel.

Denise Bradley