

WEATHER - JANUARY 2020

Total rainfall for month	125mm	5.20in
Rainfall same month last year	31mm	1.22in
Total for 2019	31mm	1.22in
Total for 2020	125mm	5.20in
Max temp	13C	56F
Min temp	-4C	24F

Weather here is fine and warm and average temperature for last month is 26C, up to 30C some days, but heading north soon.



*John Smail
(from somewhere sunny!)*

WORD OF THE MONTH

Here are two topical, little used words which seem appropriate for this month:

Firstly PLUVIOPHILE - a lover of inclement weather... had plenty of that (new word for ☁)
Secondly MENTIMUTATION - as we are all to be the beneficiaries of a momentous change of mind in The Valley this week....

Barbara Carrodus

LADIES COFFEE MORNINGS

The March Coffee Morning will be hosted by Anne Yeaman (01256 896432) at Paddock View, Hurstbourne Priors on Monday, 9th March 2020 from 10.15 onwards.



CHURCH AND VILLAGE CLEAN UP

The Hurstbourne Priors Annual Village Clean Up will be held on Saturday, 14th March. Please meet at the Church or Cricket Pavilion from 10am where we will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and homemade brownies to help you keep your strength up.

There is a range of tasks from polishing and cleaning in the church, clearing in the graveyard, recreation ground and play area with a bonfire to get rid of all the debris following this very windy weather and general litter picking along the lanes.

Please wear suitable clothing and gloves are recommended for outside tasks. We will have pick claws and rubbish bags available in the Pavilion. Cleaning products will be available in the church for those wishing to take part in 'inside' activities.

Everyone is welcome; no one is too small or too old for a useful task!

*Many thanks,
Your Parish and Parochial Church Councils*

VOX CANTAB CONCERT - 19th APRIL

MUSIC LOVERS – SAVE THE DATE!

RETURN VISIT OF VOX CANTAB

ST ANDREWS CHURCH
SUNDAY 19th APRIL at 3.30 pm

Back by popular demand VOX CANTAB, the talented madrigal group from Cambridge will be performing 'A Mixed Bag' ranging from motets to madrigals, glee and gospel. Tea and cake afterwards. Admission free and there will be a retiring collection. Not to be missed!

CHURCH FLOWERS

A lovely group of villagers arrange flowers for the church each month and make sure that it looks lovely for our services and celebrations. If you would like to join the team you would be very welcome. People work as a pair and arrangements can be as formal or informal as you wish - you do not need to be any sort of an expert. Enthusiasm is the key! At festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas we get together as a team to arrange flowers in the windows as well as the larger arrangements.

If you are interested in joining our happy team, please contact Clare on 07711 917375 or clareread@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Longparish Village Choir presents

A Roaring 40's Evening to mark the 75th anniversary of V.E. Day

Friday 8th May, 7.30pm, Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall.

Also on Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm Longparish Village Hall.

BYO supper. There will be a cash bar.

Optional 40's costume.

More details in the next issue of Hill and Valley.

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This handsome man is Snowy who came into our care as his owner was struggling due to ill health. The vets estimate he is about 6 years old. He has had lots of dental work done and will be ready for homing soon. He is very friendly so will love a fuss once he has

settled in. Daisy, our featured cat from last month, was homed to an older couple and is being thoroughly spoilt.

Helpful tip - Cats have evolved to eat little and often – in the wild a cat would eat around 10-12 small meals throughout the day.

Pet cats will often prefer the same, although once neutered, cats typically have reduced energy needs, so consider cutting down their daily amount accordingly.

We are urgently in need of more volunteers and have several roles available. Please get in touch if you think you can offer any assistance to help our little branch.

For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries; Telephone: 0345 260 1501 or

Email: [sylvia.cp@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.cp@outlook.com)

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit [www.andover.cats.org.uk](http://www.andover.cats.org.uk)

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY AND GARDEN FESTIVAL 2020

This year's Hampshire Country & Garden Festival will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Bere Mill so do put the date in your diary. This wonderful family day raises much needed additional funds for the NHS through the Hampshire Medical Fund which supports our local hospitals at Andover, Basingstoke and Winchester. For more information and ticket details go to [www.hampshiregardenfestival.co.uk](http://www.hampshiregardenfestival.co.uk)

## GILL NETHERCOTT CENTRE

### Ideal Home Show - Olympia

Tuesday 31st March 2020 8.30- 6.30pm

£33 incl coach and admission

An opportunity to visit the Ideal Home Show-Olympia. The coach will leave Whitchurch at 8.30 am and will bring those tired feet all the way back to Whitchurch at 6.30pm. Lots to see and do for a memorable day.

### 'The Test Valley Citizens' Wallpaper'- Martin Nangle

( This is an innovative re-envisioning of the Test Valley Tapestry for our contemporary time)

2nd March – 29th March (accessibility Friday mornings only 8.30 am – 12.30 pm)

The project uses photojournalism to produce a series of large colourful collages representing life in the Test Valley, focusing on the area in the North of the Valley – from the source of the River as far as the Whitchurch area.

### Stowe House and Gardens

Tuesday 28th April 2020 8.30- 6.00pm

National Trust Members £29.00

Non Members £41.00

(prices incl admission to House and Garden, guided tour of Stowe House, Tea/Coffee and biscuits upon arrival)

Gardening of the grandest scale in this Georgian landscape garden and park which must be seen to be believed.

In the eighteenth century, the powerful Temple-Grenville family chose to create an idyllic landscape filled with temples. Amidst these large gardens, they built the most lavish temple of all, Stowe House. A breath-taking experience making for a lovely day out!

For further information on any of the above please contact: Julia and Sue, The Gill Nethercott Centre [gillnethercottcentre@btconnect.com](mailto:gillnethercottcentre@btconnect.com) or 01256 896270

## BIG BREAKFAST AND PANCAKE RACE



Racing frying pans at the ready, a happy band of all ages gathered in the Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the Big Breakfast and Pancake Race. After a hearty breakfast of bacon and egg rolls, eager competitors of all ages lined up to race up and down the length of the Village Hall with eagle-eyed marshalls checking that pancakes were tossed in the right places.

Congratulations to our champions: Annabel Adeney (under 5s), Rufus and Freddie Adeney (joint winners under 16s) and Andrew Ross (adults).



This was an opportunity for villagers to hear about the plans for this year's May Fair on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and find out how they can help before, during and after the Fair. Thank you to all those who have offered to help so far.

If you were unable to come to the Big Breakfast, and would like to help with the May Fair, we would still be glad to hear from you.

Please contact Kim French [home@thefamilyfrench.co.uk](mailto:home@thefamilyfrench.co.uk) or Fenella Williams [fenella.williams@btopenworld.com](mailto:fenella.williams@btopenworld.com)



## NEW BUS SHELTERS AT LAST!

The Parish Council is delighted to report that work has now started on replacing the bus shelters which were burned down in the lorry fire last year. The haulier's insurance company have been dragging their feet and coming up with lots of excuses not to pay up. Luckily we have now had confirmation that they will be paying to replace them as they were and to replace the wooden bench.

The thatched shelter was made of English Elm which is quite hard to get hold of, but we have a fantastic team working to re-build it exactly as it was before.

It is unfortunate that the metal bench, which had survived the inferno, didn't fare so well when hit by a VW beetle last month, but again their insurance company will be paying to replace it.

Both shelters and benches will be in place by the time of the May Fair.

Clare Read

## ANDOVER FILM CLUB



March's film is *Harriet* a 2019 American biographical film about abolitionist, Harriet Tubman showing at the Odeon Cinema, Andover on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm. Directed by Kasi Lemmons, it tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes whose courage and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

Pre-booking on line is recommended at [www.andoverfilmclub.org](http://www.andoverfilmclub.org)



## KINGS AND SCRIBES EXHIBITION WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Fascinating details from manorial account rolls in the late Middle Ages reveal that Hurstbourne Priors was one of the most important manors belonging to and supplying the Benedictine Monastery in Winchester. The monastery was a major landowner in and beyond the city and the monks were major and demanding consumers of agricultural produce from their rural estates of which Hurstbourne Priors was pre-eminent.

Some of the more unusual supplies the busy manor farm at Hurstbourne sent down to Winchester included swans, much prized and reserved for the Prior and distinguished guests on feast days. Geese were also in demand for their meat as well as for their feathers which provided quills for pens. Between one and two dozen geese a year were supplied and, as was the custom, the geese would have been walked the fifteen odd miles down to the Priory in Winchester! In addition, Hurstbourne Priors was a major supplier of chickens and capons (castrated cockerels, much valued for their size and flavour).

Fowl were not the only animal exports. Hurstbourne was one of the largest suppliers of cows and calves, a priceless commodity for milk, meat and skins tanned to make leather or treated to make parchment for writing. Bulls and bullocks as well as pigs, sheep and lambs were all in demand. Wool went off too, to make the monks' habits.

Grain crops went down to Winchester in vast quantities. One year, Barton Stacey, another important manor, sent 2.5 tonnes of wheat and Hurstbourne only slightly less. Oats and barley were also to be found in the carts going down to the monastery. Oats fed monks and horses alike and barley, the principal ingredient for beer, was an essential part of the monks' diet given the untrustworthiness of the water supply. 'Dredge', an old word for a lower grain crop, probably oats and barley grown together was useful to make a coarse bread. Lastly, Hurstbourne Priors was a major cheese supplier. In some years, together with the manor at Wootton, as much as half a ton of cheese was made for the monks!

So, the picture emerges not only of very well fed monks in Winchester but also of a highly productive and busy manor farm at Hurstbourne Priors with high standards of animal husbandry and crop cultivation. Such was the pattern of life until the

Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII. Thereafter the Hurstbourne estate was sold into private ownership.

Do go to see this terrific exhibition which among many other exhibits features the latest techniques and analysis by Osteoarchaeologists of pre Conquest human bones, many thought to be of Anglo Saxon royalty. The bones were originally placed in mortuary chests but were famously looted and tossed about willy nilly by Cromwell's men during the Civil War. A skeleton of a young Anglo-Saxon lad has been painstakingly pieced together with various interpretations of his identity, royal or otherwise. In addition, not to be missed is the Library of the famous bibliophile, Bishop Morley, the exquisitely illuminated Winchester Bible and a reconstruction of the enormous tomb of Winchester's patron saint, St Swithin, destroyed among other priceless artefacts when the cathedral was brutally plundered in the 1530s.

Early history comes vividly alive and Hurstbourne Priors takes its place in the exhibition alongside an illustrious monastic foundation and the Kings and Bishops associated with it.

*Mandy Briant-Evans*

## MACABRE CRIME IN HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

*From the Hampshire Chronicle, 22 Nov 1830*

A fortnight ago the body of Jane Matthews interred in Hurstborne [*sic*] Priors church yard, was exhumed, supposed by the same men who attempted, a few nights previous, to take up the body of [James] Ball, interred in Hurstbourne Tarrant church yard. It is strongly suspected that the resurrection men carry the produce of their nefarious pursuit to London by one of the luggage vans. A few days after the interment of Jane Matthews information was given that resurrection men were in the neighbourhood, but this was disregarded. The earth of the grave was entirely removed, the lid of the coffin unscrewed, the shroud left, and after the body was taken out the lid was again put in its proper place, and the grave so nicely filled up as to defy suspicion. The clerk, however, imagined that the turf was not exactly as he had left it, and this induced him to open the grave, when he discovered that the body was missing.

*Hampshire Burials* - 14 Oct 1830 Jane Matthews, 77, Hurstbourne Priors; 7 Oct 1830 James Ball, 35, Hurstbourne Tarrant.