

WEATHER – JANUARY 2021

Total rainfall for month	126mm	4.96in
It rained on	21 days	
Rainfall same month last year	125mm	4.92in
Total for 2021	126mm	4.96in
Total for 2020	125mm	4.92in
Max temp (on 28 th)	14C	58F
Min temp (on 23 rd)	-4C	24F

January 2021 was the coldest January for 10 years. The coldest January ever was in 1963.

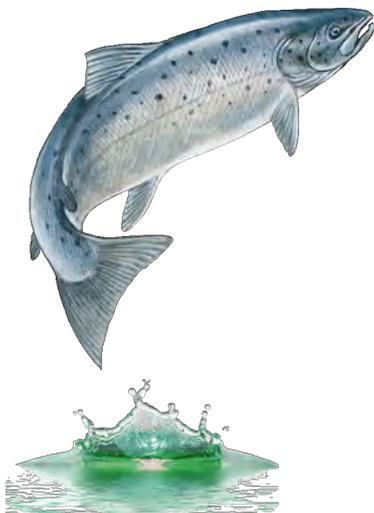
John Smail

MOTHERING SUNDAY – 14th MARCH

There will be a special Benefice Service on Zoom for Mothering Sunday on 14th March at 11am. This will be for all ages and we do hope that you can join us. If you are not already on the mailing list for Church services, and would like to receive details on how to join the Mothering Sunday service on Zoom, please email fenella.williams@btopenworld.com



WORD OF THE MONTH



Flowing on from last month's word, we seem to have a watery theme developing here! DIADROMOUS FISH are split into two categories: ANADROMOUS - spend their adult life at sea, returning to freshwater to spawn. and CATADROMOUS - spend most of their adult life in freshwater, returning to salt water to spawn.

Barbara Carrodus

FAREWELL GRAHAM AND DOREEN

After many years as stalwarts of the village, Graham and Doreen Finlayson are leaving us for sunny Somerset and April Cottage will have new owners.

Graham was for many years the Hurstbourne Priors editor of *Hill & Valley* and set up the Parish Website which he continues to manage and run on behalf of the Parish Council. Doreen arranged the ladies' coffee mornings, ensuring that everyone who wanted to host had a turn, and that no-one got competitive about biscuits!

Graham and Doreen helped Brian Mehaffey on the Tombola stall at the May Fair and ran a very efficient stall raising lots of money for the village. When the bonfire and fireworks evening was running they both manned the very popular drinks stall dishing out mulled wine to thirsty visitors.



Doreen (as the White Rabbit!) and Graham at the May Fair
We shall all miss them enormously, their enthusiasm for Hurstbourne Priors and their support for our community here. In due course we hope that we will be able to hold a 'proper' farewell and get them back to visit. We wish them the best of luck in their new home, safe travels and we hope to see them again soon. Somerset's gain is our loss.

From all your friends in Hurstbourne Priors

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meets every other month on the final Wednesday at 7.30 in the Village Hall and the next meeting is on 24th March. Due to the Covid restrictions Parish Council meetings have been held via Zoom. Please check the parish website for details.

All Parishioners are very welcome to attend. You do not need to give any notice, however, if there is a particular item which you would like to discuss and which you feel it would be beneficial for the Councillors to look into prior to the meeting, please contact either the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman, on richard.waterman150@btinternet.com or Clare Read, Chairman, on clareread@aol.com or 07711 917375. Minutes from previous meeting are available to view on the Parish Website.

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL



WHITCHURCH SILK MILL Covid-19 Update

At the time of writing, restrictions mean the Mill, café and shop are closed to the public. It's impossible to say when we'll be able to open the Mill buildings; updates will appear on our website.

Meanwhile, the Mill team and the weavers are working hard, and we'll continue our digital programme of talks and virtual group tours and social media and blog posts (see below). Our online shop offers a free local click and collect/delivery service, and we're running a fundraising campaign at:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill

Ripping Yarns and Objects in Focus

We hope you've been enjoying our continuing digital media 'Ripping Yarns' videos, including the ones about Glad Rags and Shoddy by local celebs Mike Bushell and Paul Sartin. Nowadays something described as 'shoddy' means it's poorly made or done, but the term is actually an example of early recycling, dating back to at least 1813. Shoddy was an inferior wool yarn originally produced in West Yorkshire by grinding woollen rags into a fibrous mass and mixing this with fresh wool to create a new, cheaper cloth. It made clothes much more affordable and also created a huge demand for rags and waste wool. Shoddy came to mean 'second rate' or 'cheap and nasty' when less scrupulous cloth manufacturers began adding shoddy in their weaving process but passing the cloth off as top quality made with new wool.

We're very excited to announce that future Ripping Yarns will include one presented by 'Antiques Roadshow' expert Lars Tharp.

Also soon to come will be a new series focussing on objects in use around the Mill, such as the weaver's bench. Further announcements will follow.

Blogging from the Mill

We're currently creating blog posts on various subjects, historical and otherwise. Watch this and our digital spaces!

Beamed Off!

Are you looking for things to fill long lockdown days? Did you enjoy our many creative ideas videos last year? Or did you not know about them? They are still available via Beamed off!/Whitchurch Silk Mill.

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 – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk



ANDOVER FOODBANK

We have started our annual Easter Egg scheme when we will be distributing Easter eggs via local agencies, to children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

We are now taking donations of medium sized eggs at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road - opening hours Monday to Friday 9.30-12.30. Because of the potential difficulties in distributing the eggs due to ongoing lockdown restrictions we would ask that all donations be with us no later than Friday 19th March.

This month we are in need of the following items:

Food Items : Tinned potatoes, Long life Milk

Non-food Items :- Laundry powder (small), Multi-surface cleaner, Shampoo, Bleach/loo cleaner

Thank you.

Jenny Lelean

Andover Foodbank

Tel: 01264 362111 www.andover.foodbank.org.uk



This fluffy girl is Bronte. She is 3 years old and looking for a home with a safe garden as she likes to be out and about. She will need regular brushing to keep her gorgeous coat in tip top shape.

Our feature cat from last month, Suki, went off to her new home a couple weeks ago and has settled in really well.

We don't have many cats available at present but we are still hands free homing when possible. If you are looking to adopt a cat, please get in touch as we can put you on a waiting list.

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

Email: sylvia.cp@outlook.com

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit www.andover.cats.org.uk



NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

It has been a challenging term for all students and teachers while we have all adjusted to work from home. Whilst the savings afforded by our ability to reduce commuting time are welcome, the lack of face-to-face interaction proved a challenge; this is particularly so for our teachers attempting to deliver engaging lessons to students. Teachers enter the profession for the rich and numerous interactions in a day and are trying to recreate the magic of face-to-face lessons via live video lessons.

At Testbourne Community School, as we have adapted our approach to teaching, our students adapted their learning. We started using new learning software (Microsoft Class OneNote, SAM Learning and The National Tutoring Programme) as well as ensuring all our teaching staff had the correct tools such as laptops, visualisers, microphones, and webcams to effectively teach from home. We have continually evaluated and refined the online teaching process from the start of January, knowing that it seems likely that this situation will consider for more time than originally anticipated.

Nothing beats the buzz and inspiration afforded by classroom teaching, yet we feel we are as close as we can be to the physical classroom experience using the virtual classroom. You can find some exceptional examples of our students' hard work on our Testbourne Facebook page, which I would encourage you to look at so you can get a sense of what we are doing. We have also received a lot of positive messages from parents and carers which is not only reassuring but also fantastic in keeping staff morale at a high.

Change can be difficult but with the collective support from parents, teachers, and members of the community, we hope that most have found the transition a little easier to cope with. We hope that schools will open soon but, in the meantime, we could not be prouder of our staff, students, parents and wider community for the work they are doing during this pandemic.



Stay safe, Mr Jon Beck, Headteacher Testbourne Community School 01256 892061,
<https://www.testbourne.school/>,
admin@testbourne.school

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

As an alternative to the usual Wyatt-Tilby curry and quiz night in the Village Hall, on 6th February, the full span of generations in Hurstbourne Priors embraced the power of Zoom to take part in Sarah and James' Covid friendly version to help raise funds for the May Fair.

A total of 23 teams took part, ranging from whole families to individuals, with most people keen to try to earn extra points by donning some fabulous hats and wigs. Clare Read's very tasty cheesy snacks were distributed in advance as an alternative to the usual curry, and the quiz retained its usual fun and ever so slightly competitive edge. It was a close-run thing between team Family French, team Family Adeney and team Josephine & Helen, with the French's ultimately taking the trophy. All three podium positions received a generously donated bottle of fizz, while £140 was raised for the May Fair pot. Thank you to everyone who took part in such good spirits.



Intrepid on-line quizzers

NEW ARRIVALS IN THE VILLAGE

A flock of sheep with their lambs have moved into the field beside the church. A welcome sign of spring!



FUN IN THE SNOW AND PANCAKE TUESDAY



Crepes St Jacques! Seafood pancakes with scallops, prawns and smoked haddock! All cooked by Chef John Lavers!

In recent years, we have held a Big Breakfast and Pancake Races event in the Village Hall on a February weekend to kick start the May Fair organisation for the season. Sadly not this year, but we didn't let the occasion go unmarked. Thanks to everyone for sharing their pancake adventures!



Award for the highest calories? The Urquharts had a jolly nice 'American' experience baking peanut butter cookies and then making a huge American-style fluffy pancake topped with bananas and brown sugar served with a side of Nutella. Rose gave up first!



Archie and Henry and their frosty friend.



Flora enjoyed her first pancake.

DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE HALF TERM LEGO CHALLENGE

Hurstbourne Priors villagers of all ages have been busy building their own Lego creations for the Half Term Challenge. A reminder that judging will take place in early March with prizes for each category, so please remember to send your final design photos to hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com by end February. To date we have raised the fantastic sum of £75 from entry fees, which will go the May Fair fund to benefit village amenities, so a big thank you to all the master builders for taking part!

