

## WEATHER – MARCH 2020

Total rainfall for month	72mm	2.83in
It rained on	11 days	
Rainfall same month last year	104mm	4.09in
Total for 2020	381mm	15in
Total for 2019	217mm	8.54in
Max temp (on 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	19C	66F
Min temp (on 6 <sup>th</sup> )	-3C	26F
Frost	9	

After two very wet months it was no surprise that March was a lot drier. In fact the second half of the month saw only 4mm of rain – almost a drought!

*John Smail*

## WILD GARLIC PESTO RECIPE

50g cashew nuts (or any nuts you have to hand)  
 75g wild garlic leaves and stems  
 35g freshly grated Parmesan  
 Finely grated zest of ½ lemon, plus a good squeeze of lemon juice  
 100-150ml rapeseed oil  
 Sea salt

1. Place the cashew nuts into a dry frying pan and toast until golden. Set them aside and allow to cool and harden up. During cooking they go a bit soft.
2. Wash and roughly chop the wild garlic, you can include the stems, but any flowers you may have you can keep for salads or add to a bottle of oil to infuse.
3. Finely grate your Parmesan cheese
4. Zest and juice your lemon
5. Place the wild garlic into the blender and add 100ml of oil, gently pulse until you have a coarse texture, if you need more oil add it and mix it through. I like mine coarse and quite oily.
6. Add in the toasted nuts, lemon zest and juice and pulse again until the nuts have blitzed down into tiny little chunks
7. Add the Parmesan, season to taste and mix well.

If you have patience you can keep the pesto in the fridge for up to 3 days.

*Lulu Beesley*



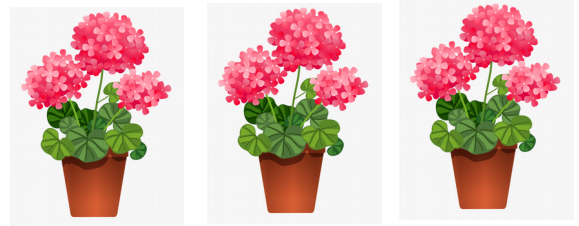
## MAY FAIR ON-LINE PLANT STALL

There is no May Fair this year but you can still buy plants for your gardens from our on-line plant stall!

Precelly Murray has a range of favourites from her usual May Fair stall including geraniums, cosmos, dahlias, tomato plants, runner beans, courgettes, herbs and perennials such as lavender and penstemon.

There are too many to list them all here and if you would like a full list of plants with prices and instructions on how to order and pay, please email:

[hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com](mailto:hurstbournepriorsmayfair@gmail.com)



## A NEW ARRIVAL

On 1st April, at 9.41pm, the Ross family welcomed a new addition to our clan. Flora Nancy Fiona Ross, weighing a healthy 8lb 13oz, very nearly arrived in the car but we managed to get to Basingstoke hospital just in the nick of time.

Her brothers Archie and Henry are enjoying lots of cuddles and have been very helpful so far. Long may it continue!

Thank you everyone for the well wishes and Flora hopes to meet you soon after the lock down ends!

*Hannah and Andrew Ross*



*Archie and Henry's rainbow*

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

PERICLITATE - to expose to danger or put at risk

OCHLOPHOBIA - abnormal fear of crowds

POGONOTROPHY - the cultivation of a beard, moustache, or other facial hair. There is also pogonophilia (love of beards) and pogonophobia (an irrational fear of beards).

Lastly that which we all long to reconnect with, is to be able to OBAMBULATE (to wander aimlessly) though not necessarily in our own homes! *Barbara Carrodus*

## ANDOVER FOODBANK

During these current difficult times the need and demand for the Andover food bank is greater than ever. Over the past three weeks we have been amazed at people's generosity in continuing to make donations - both of food and non-food items and cash - particularly when so many are facing financial hardship and practical difficulties such as getting to the supermarket!! So, a huge thank you goes to all those who have made donations. We are incredibly grateful as it has meant that we can continue to help those people who are really struggling.

If you would like to make a donation, here is a list of the items we are currently in need of: Packs of rice, tinned potatoes or instant mash, tins of rice pudding or custard, tinned fruit, long life milk, long life fruit juice, deodorant, laundry products and multi-purpose cleaner.

Our current opening hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-12.30 and Wednesday 11-12.30. Thank you.

**Andover Foodbank**

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

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING and AGM

The next Parish Council meeting and AGM is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 19.30 in the Village Hall. At the time of going to print the Parish Council are unsure whether lock down will still be in effect and whether the meeting will go ahead. There will be an announcement on the village website:

[www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriors-pc.org.uk) if the meeting has to be cancelled.

If you have anything which you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council please contact the Clerk, Richard Waterman on [Richard.waterman150@btinternet.com](mailto:Richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) or the Chairman, Clare Read on [clareread@aol.com](mailto:clareread@aol.com) Any resident of Hurstbourne Priors can attend Parish Council meetings.

*Richard Waterman*

*Clerk to Hurstbourne Priors PC*

## RECREATION GROUND

During these difficult times the Parish Council have decided to keep our Recreation Ground open to residents so that they can enjoy the outside space and calm that its beautiful setting affords. It has been very nice to see people taking their daily exercise safely distanced from other users of this wonderful community space. In addition, two of the benches have been moved into the church yard so that those wishing to sit in quiet contemplation may do so safely.

We have installed two football goals, placed well, so that family groups can have a kick-about safely. The grass has been cut much earlier than usual to make it easier for pushchairs and children's bikes.

Don't forget to ensure that hands are well washed after using the playground equipment.

Please can we remind dog owners that they must clear up after their dogs and place bags in the bins provided.

*Hurstbourne Priors PC*

## WALKING: ITS HEALING POWER....

In recent weeks I have been reminded how healing walking the local paths can be, especially in Spring.



Four years ago I had treatment for primary breast cancer including chemotherapy. You may remember me walking every day, just to the church and back on bad days and up to 4 miles on good days. My life was in lock down, a 3 week pattern of chemo for 18 weeks. Over that time I walked 300 miles, never further than 2 miles from home. The gentle exercise really helped me find focus and a positive way pace through that time. Since COVID 19 Lock down I have got back

to brisk local walks. This spring has blown me away; every day there is something different, something new. The power of nature getting on with new life has really helped sweep away the stress wrought by this virus. I have discovered patches of bluebell wood I had never noticed before; photographing the horse chestnut trees come out into leaf and blossom has been a real joy. Hares racing, deer bounding, swallow (just one seen so far) flying, the chatter of birds nest building, wood anemones, lesser celandines, wood sorrel, blue bells, the oak trees coming into leaf will all live long in the memory. A real privilege to have the time to appreciate the beauty of Hurstbourne Priors. *Sarah Milne*

## BASINGSTOKE & DEAN BIN COLLECTIONS

Basingstoke and Dean have made a change to the frequency of bin collections during the COVID-19 outbreak. From Monday 20 April, residents should put out their green recycling bin and glass container on their normal recycling collection day and the following week put out their grey waste bin. The grey waste bin will be collected every fortnight instead of every week. The day of the week that bins are collected will not change. This temporary change will be kept under review and normal collections will resume as soon as possible after the government restrictions have been lifted. For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling)

## DIARY OF A WIMPY CYCLIST

This year marks the start of my third cycling season. It turns out that April will be 300 days long. Britain has been hit with a hammer-blow, and that stark reality of being under-prepared has hit home on many fronts. For decades we have serially under-invested in our front-line health services and operated on razor-thin margins of capacity. This is why we have all been asked to stay at home. We need to watch four different news channels to achieve some kind of balanced world view, and the media is already leading a merry dance to pressure an 'exit' strategy. As a cyclist, my heart goes out to the Italians who were hit first in Europe, and the hardest. As Hill & Valley goes to print, the Giro D'Italia should have started – an event that sparks cycling enthusiasm all across Europe – but, alas, not to be.

By now your sheds are re-organised and the gardening projects have begun, the car and bikes are detailed to concours-condition, the bathrooms are spotless, you have learned more about your household appliances, and discovered the 'Mute' button on Zoom.

It seems like an age since the Safari Supper, where early reports from the WHO were being pooh-poohed, and Trump was promising it would all be over by Easter while washing his hands like Pilate.



It also seems like an age since I re-introduced my 65 year-old father to road cycling. We took on an 80-mile ride around the New Forest on a blustery 7<sup>th</sup> March with 300 others. We had bought a second-hand Trek Domane from a fell-runner in Shepton Mallet. Dad took to the bike well, and it was not entirely without mirth that I helped him from the floor once he'd taken

his first clipped-in fall while stopped at a junction: "I think we're on a winner here, Trig, play it nice and cool son, nice and cool..." We completed the ride as a practice for a long charity ride for Royal British Legion that we are taking in September (hopefully).

Much like today's circumstances, cycling is about balance and probability. On average we are not doing much more than half of the speed limit, we have to slow for road-hazards, parked cars, errant pheasants and now illegal street-parties conducted by dog-walkers. We have to swerve the pot-holes and help flatten the curves.

Group cycling is banned, but I see the same people out riding solo – with a nod and a wave all while holding our breath. For 23 hours a day I am at home, but my 1 hour out on the bike on quiet country lanes is the safest it has ever been. I am delighted to see households of families (2 adults, 3 children) enjoying the lanes, I am equally delighted that thousands of women are being urged out by their lycra-clad husbands, in lieu of the local chain-gang. Cycling requires concentration and forces fresh-air and fitness upon you – it is a mental escape from life's noise and tragic news. You connect with others from a

distance, or share on-line pedalling with a global community of tens of thousands.

Avoiding hospital is a key concern, so it was disappointing to read on the St. Mary Bourne signpost Facebook group when one wag rather uncharitably suggested a stick through the spokes, followed by 'Likes' of tacit approval. We could do without armchair aggression, especially as such action would land two of us in hospital. Cyclists are not perfect, we are human, like you. We are also walkers, runners, and drive cars too. In fact, I welcome new cyclists to the roads – it gives you a new perspective on road-speeds from cars, and rewards you with the wind in your corona-beard and birdsong across the open fields. You can expect a cheery "hello" from me as you enjoy your daily walk. Happy Easter, keep moving, stay healthy and May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you.

*Simon Mattison*

## Message from the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Diane Taylor

I have always noted that humans are great adjusters. Whenever there is a difficult and significant change in our lives, perhaps a death or illness or relationship break-up, we can feel that we will never get used to it... but somehow, with time, we always manage to adjust to our "new normal" and get on with life in its different format. If you had told me last year that in Spring 2020 I would be confined to my home for weeks on end, working forever at the computer, not meeting people face-to-face, queueing to get into food shops, unable to attend a single public meeting or event, I would have been horrified. How can I live like that? Guess what – I can! Like everyone who is either completely isolated for health reasons or, at the other end of the scale, working all hours to save the lives of dangerously ill people, somehow we humans adjust and find a way to get on with life.

One of the final public duties of my Mayoral year would have been to lead the celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May. Needless to say, there will be no public event to mark this significant occasion – just a video of me at the War Memorial at 10am on that morning which will go out on social media.

However, can I encourage everyone to find a way – perhaps in the afternoon at about 3pm – to raise a glass or a tea cup in in your own homes in celebration of a victory that brought us the great life that we are privileged to lead today. The resilience, courage and determination of this nation during World War Two astounds me. Let's celebrate the outcome of a war that logically we should have lost – but, with our great allies, we won! And what's more, we will win the Coronavirus war too!

In the meantime, please stay safe by staying at home unless it's for an essential journey as outlined by the government and help to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If you are a vulnerable resident self-isolating due to an increased risk of illness, and have no friends or family nearby, you can register for support to access food supplies and collection of prescriptions. Call the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline on 0333 370 4000, available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm or visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub) for more information.