

Hurstbourne Priors

Weather April 2012

Total rainfall for month 129mm = 5.07ins
 It rained on **21** days!!

Rainfall April 2011 23mm = 0.90ins
 Total to date 2012 225mm = 8.86ins
 Total to date 2011 164mm = 6.45ins

Min Temperature -2C = 28F (5th)
 Max Temperature 18C = 64F (12th)

Last year we only had 1mm of rain in April. Our 10 year average rainfall for April is 51mm. This year, the wettest on record, it was 129mm, whereas last April was the 6th driest in 100 years when we had only 1mm.

John Smail

Queens Diamond Jubilee Picnic with Cricket, Petanque, Traditional Tea & Bouncy Castle

Join in the Celebrations at Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground

Monday 4th June 12 Noon
Picnic Starts

2pm Cricket Match Starts

4pm Jubilee Tea Party Hosted by the Parish Council

ALL WELCOME !



(In case of extreme weather, the Tea Party will still take place in the Village Hall)

Flower Festival - Free Admission

Friday 15th June to Monday 18th June,

Chelsea Wheelbarrows, Oak Trees, Floral Gardens, Weddings will all be on show over the weekend in the Methodist Church, Whitchurch.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary for the Methodist Church in Whitchurch, a flower festival is being organised. "Work started on the planning for this flower festival some six months ago." said organiser Helen Mehaffey. "We have been very lucky to have been offered expert help by flower arrangers from our neighbouring churches and community. The floral displays will depict our theme of 'The Church within the Community'. All in all it promises to be a very interesting and colourful week-end with many additional attractions."

For further information contact Helen Watson:
HelenWatson641@aol.com or tel: 01256 892956.

Village Pub Night at the Hurstbourne Inn

Mureen and Adrian invite the village and everyone living nearby to the Village Pub Night on:

Thursday 7th June - the meal will be homemade lasagne, chips & salad - £9.95

Mobile Library



The Mobile Library will be at the Village Hall, from 11.05am until 11.35am, on **Saturday 16th June.**

Cats Protection



Many of the cats we have in care at the moment are between five and nine years old. They are victims of the current economic situation and they are with us either because they have been abandoned or because people are being obliged to move to accommodation where they cannot have a pet. We are inundated with calls from people wanting kittens of which we have none (hopefully, partly due to our neutering campaigns) but few families are willing to offer a home to an older cat.

The Andover Market stall which we had planned for the end of April had to be cancelled due to appalling weather conditions. It is now scheduled for 9th June.



Jake was found straying and taken to the vet. The nurses noticed that he was drinking rather a lot of water and blood tests revealed the beginnings of a kidney problem. He is not an old cat

and with a careful diet he has years of life left. By offering him a home you could ensure that he does not spend too much of this time alone in a pen. Cats Protection will help with any veterinary costs arising from his condition.

Enquiries: 01256-892019 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Items for resale: 01256-892773

Claire Bevan

Coordinator Andover & District Cats Protection

Hurstbourne Priors



**HARRY'S
SUMMER BALL
SATURDAY 7TH
JULY
EAST END FARM,
TANGLEY,
ANDOVER**



7.30PM TO 2.00AM

Champagne & Canapés Reception

3 Course Dinner

Tickets £50 per person – Tables of 10

Live Music, Licensed Bar & Ice Luge

Dress – Black Tie

Tickets available from Fliss Davis:

fliss100@hotmail.com or tel 07780686959

“Harry’s Summer Ball” will raise funds for Naomi House Children’s Hospice and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Southampton Hospital. It is in memory of Harry Davis who was born on 24th February 2011 at Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton Hospital and spent 7 days in the neonatal ward but who then sadly passed away on 4th March 2011 at Naomi House.

There will be an auction with Peter Corbett as auctioneer, with a Silent Auction running all evening. We’re collecting sponsorship, promises or raffle prizes for the event and sincerely appreciate any support you can give. We are also inviting people/companies to sponsor the event and we will happily advertise your company in the form of banner/cards on the day and on our website.

For more information call or email Felicity Davis on 07780686959 or fliss100@hotmail.com or Phillipa Hobbins 07810 301751 or phillipahobbins@yahoo.co.uk.

Tribute – Toby John Mason Murray Cox



At his Funeral in St Andrew’s, Simon Harford offered this tribute to Toby’s memory. “A boy with huge blue eyes, yet both his parents have green eyes: a head brimming with ginger curls, yet both his parents have brown hair! Right from the beginning, Toby was his own man. He came into this world over three weeks late, which is much the way he lived life – enjoying taking his time and carefully considering each move!

At birth Toby was given a few hours to live but fought in a determined manner, quietly accepting devastating

clinical treatments in quick succession, and then, having defied all odds, left St George’s neonatal unit after only one week. Multiple visits to neurological hospitals resulted in loud screaming for hours on end, yet this was the first sign that Toby was a fighter and determined to pull through – the hospitals had certainly never heard such a vocal child before!

Early diagnosis was bleak, yet the fighter in him always shone through - with one hand tied up he strengthened the right side of his little body with determination to improve the poor coordination between right and left hand. At school he played in the first XI cricket team, swam on the swimming team and represented Hampshire in the 1500 metres. His extraordinary IQ won his entry to Kings School, Winchester amid fierce competition. With a good range of GCSEs, he went on to study A level English and Law.

He also really enjoyed his free time and particularly liked being with children who enjoyed his limitless sporting energy, patience and discipline. He had an amazing ability to recite football statistics relating to all leagues over a wide range of seasons which raised the eyebrows of even the most committed football fan. He enjoyed bridge, chess, backgammon, tennis, swimming and croquet. He left most adults standing with his patience and application with Sudoku, never giving up until all those squares were filled with the correct numbers. He thrived on resolving huge challenges which most would not have even begun to tackle. Always with a smile, always with a dry sense of humour and never, ever, finishing until the task was absolutely complete and water-tight.

But the patience and discipline did not stop Toby’s creativity. His paintings, cartoon characters and animation have brought pleasure to many for years. His fictional characters—from Thomas Small, a five-year old footballer, to a secret agent—delighted all generations, particularly when presented in a neatly bound book carefully illustrated. Over the last few years, film production was one of his main interests. He spent hours writing scripts, then casting and auditioning to the actual filming, followed by days of editing and selecting supporting music.

And to top this off, Toby was extraordinarily fair, with an exceptionally strong sense of right and wrong.

However, he was always happiest in the heart of the family. One of my fondest recent memories of my godson was seeing him laughing and having fun surrounded by Barry, Patricia, Sophie and Henry at Barry’s 50th birthday party, when we let glowing lanterns float up into the night sky...it was a truly happy memory.

Toby John Mason Murray Cox was an exceptional young man. His premature death will leave a huge void but his spirit will live on.”

We offer our very deepest sympathy to Toby’s family in their great loss.

Hurstbourne Priors

Hurstbourne Priors May Fair

As there are only 3 pages available for Hurstbourne Priors this month, a full report on the May Fair, with photographs, will appear in next month's Hill & Valley.

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council



The following is a summary of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th March. A copy of the full Minutes will be made

available on the Village Web Site.

Tufton - The Telephone Box has been repainted. English Heritage has agreed to support a grant for repairs to the roof of St. Mary's Church, as has the P.C.C. A fund-raising committee has been formed to raise the remaining costs.

In the last edition of the Hill and Valley, it was stated trees were cleared from the footpaths by the Council whereas the work was carried out by Paul Moncaster.

Work has started to narrow the river at Tufton and is estimated to be finished in early April.

The removal of Poplar trees at Tufton had been raised by a concerned resident and the response from the Basingstoke and Deane Tree Officer was that the trees were removed for safety reasons.

Police Community Support Officer - The new PCSO has recently been involved in a vehicle accident but it is unlikely that we will have a temporary PCSO.

Village Web Site - Basingstoke and Dean BC is withdrawing their facility of free Web Sites for Parish Councils so other options will have to be explored.

Village Picnic - It was agreed that the 4th June 2012 Jubilee Cricket Match should be incorporated with the Village Picnic (usually held later in the year). Details would be published in the May Hill & Valley.

Bonfire - The site for this year's event is to be identified, and agreed, to avoid last year's problems.

Highways - The Parish Council met with Steve Goodall from Hampshire Highways and felt they made a valuable contact. The Bridge in Tufton Lane had been damaged and is being repaired.

Broadband - The improved service **may** be available in April.

Vitacress - has one mini-bus available for village organisations to use. In response to complaints about their lorries speeding, Vitacress said all drivers observed a voluntary speed limit of 30MPH whilst passing residential dwellings.

Planning - BDB/75891 - Installation of a 9.87kWp ground mounted solar PV array - Tufton Manor Farm, Tufton Warren. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.

BDB/75652 - Notice of Approval - Change of existing building to agricultural recycling. Apsley Landfill, Picket Piece.

Cycling - The Whitchurch Association, backed by Whitchurch Town Council, wants to establish a "Jubilee Cycle Trail" running from Whitchurch across Hurstbourne Priors Parish to St Mary Bourne, then to Andover, Fullerton and back via Longparish. As the suggested route along Egbury lane has had many

accidents, an alternative off-road route from Whitchurch to St Mary Bourne will be suggested.

Road Issues - There have been several accidents involving lorries coming off the road before the corner leading into the 30MPH from St Mary Bourne. The verge at this point has disappeared and there is a drop of at least 1 foot from the paved surface to the hedgerow below. Repair work is urgently needed and a site meeting with Highways is to be arranged.

As the large Hirst Lorries coming through the village may have helped to erode the verge, it was agreed to see if there were any conditions attached to past planning applications about the lorries travelling through the village.

HCC has raised the matter of mud on the B3400 from the Apsley Landfill site with the site manager. The problem is the road from the wheel-wash to the main road is a dirt track. A concrete road is to be installed from the wheel wash to the entrance.

Under the programme run by the Police for designated locals to use speed guns, the Parish could rent the gun from the Police. The Parish Council thought this was worth pursuing, depending on the cost involved.

A suggestion has been put forward by Mr Chalk to highlight the bridge on the B3400. He supplied drawings showing a white Post and Rail fence which would draw the eye to the narrowness of the road and hopefully encourage drivers to be more cautious. The Parish Council thought this was a good idea.

County Councillor Mr T Thacker's Report - HCC is offering Parishes an Oak Tree to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council is to request a tree to be planted on the verge before the bridge on the B3400. A beacon will be lit on Beacon Hill, Highclere at 10pm on the 4th June 2012.

Borough Councillor Mr K Watts Report - One of the footpaths is flooded in Tufton, apparently due to pipe laying as part of the river narrowing scheme. (*note: the flooding appears to have subsided now that the river and drainage work has been completed. The footpath is now passable.*)

Footpaths Report - All clear and walkable.

Recreation Ground Report - Bookings are going well. Southern Water advised there would be four week's notice of any hose pipe ban. The Footballers are to be requested to pick up all their rubbish after matches.

Village Hall Report - Bookings are increasing following a quiet period after Christmas. A banner is to be erected, outside the Hall, with the telephone number to contact for bookings.

Parish Councillors' Reports - Cllr Mrs C Read reported she had purchased a special Witch Hazel which will be presented to Mr John Perkins as a "thank you" for all his time in relation to the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Mrs C Read spoke about the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field scheme. After discussion, it was decided, by a majority vote, that the existing covenants in the Deeds for the Recreation Ground were sufficient to protect the land so no further action was required.

Date of the Next Meeting - Wednesday 30th May 2012 at 7.30pm in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall.