

The Squeaker



January 2026

Number 171

**The village magazine of Langrish and Ramsdean in
Hampshire**

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Please send copy/photos to langrishramsdeanfriends@gmail.com

Information for websites:

Squeaker website: - Please contact: ian.c.wesley@gmail.com

Parish Council news: Please contact: langrishparishcouncil@gmail.com

Church news: Please contact: iblackwell1@outlook.com

St John the Evangelist website: [St John the Evangelist, Langrish - A Church Near You](#)

Editor: Langrish and Ramsdean Friends

Thanks to the following contributors: David Mowlam / Julie Blackwell / Jan Mallett / Joy Sang / Terry Louden / Philip Stoneman / Michael de Styrcea / Ian Wesley / Marjorie Day / Claire Vennis / Dave Butcher / Save the Children

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EDITORIAL

A busy time on the roads here in Langrish over the past few weeks, not helped by the wet weather recently. However we've missed the worst of the snowstorms hitting the rest of the country.

There has been much activity in road repairs, church tidy, wifi being laid through the village and improved access for walkers to the fields. Unfortunately it seems that some drivers are being careless through the village with at least two accidents in the past few weeks. More of this in the magazine.



The church report will update everyone on the closure project.

There are some interesting stories as usual but we invite new contributors to the magazine to keep it lively and dynamic so please make sure your achievements and events don't go unnoticed in the community.



More contributors from Ramsdean please. We hope you enjoy this current issue.

This issue will be printed and distributed to homes in Ramsdean and Langrish. Surplus copies will be left in St John's church.

We are grateful to Chris Hayward for formatting the January Squeaker design and Horndean Technical College for printing.

Electronic copies of The Squeaker are available online since 2000

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10HGuvGX1Kk2PsNrRyNKcA9boP1IygHOO>

There is also a library of flyers produced to advertise Friends events

<https://squeaker.org.uk/friends-meeting-archive/>

Editor – Langrish and Ramsdean Friends

LANGRISH AND RAMSDEAN FRIENDS

The Friends committee meets and communicates regularly to ensure information and events are part of the villages' communities.

The Friends AGM will take place by Zoom on Tuesday 24 March at 7.30pm. The link will be sent from the Friends email for those who are available to join the committee and hope to see some familiar faces. We maintain the request for donations for event subsidies and donations at £5 per person.

We are very sorry to lose Caz Nichols from the committee due to other commitments but are very grateful for her support over the past few years.

However we are delighted to welcome Gerry Clarke on to the committee. He and wife Miriam recently moved to Langrish from Dublin to be near family in Petersfield. They have also lived in Canada. This means we do still have one vacancy on the committee and would welcome new requests to join.



There were few Friends events recently but there are several events planned over the next few months, which we hope will be fun and with good attendance.



The coffee morning hosted by Marjorie Day in October was a cosy enjoyable affair.

In November Nigel and Robina held a drinks evening at Langrish House which was very well attended and the bar tended by Charles Haydon.





The Christmas dinner was enjoyed by a number of Langrish and Ramsdean residents at the Olde George in December. This will be booked again for 10 December 2026.



The coffee morning on 29 January was hosted by Debbie Luff

Some years ago Ian Wesley gave us a talk on 40 years of the Squeaker. Now having seen it in existence for 45 years, we thought you might like a reminder of what's happened over the years. This is only readable online so if you don't have an online copy of the Squeaker then please email langrishramsdeanfriends@gmail.com for the link, otherwise you can see it from [here on this link](#)



FRIENDS EVENTS CALENDAR 2026 – updates will be sent by email

Tuesday 24 March – Friends AGM by zoom at 7.30pm

Thursday 26 March 1030-12noon – Coffee morning hosted by Marjorie Day at the Old Hop Kiln, Langrish

Saturday 11 April Litter Pick at Langrish and Ramsdean Greens 10am and refreshments afterwards at Langrish House

Sunday 26 April – Lamb Sunday Cream Tea at Lower Farm, Ramsdean

Monday 25 May – Village Walk from Langrish Green to Seven Stars pub

Saturday 12 September – BBQ on Church Field, Langrish, more details later and the pathway along the A272 will be cut back to allow better access

Sunday 18 October – Flo and Joan at the Theatre Royal Portsmouth

Thursday 10 December – Christmas dinner at The Olde George, East Meon



Jan Mallett sent us a lovely illustration of Hellebores which she painted some years ago, which are visible now and in the spring.

Julie Blackwell on behalf of The Friends Committee

**FRIENDS
EVENTS**



**26 MARCH 1030-12NOON - COFFEE MORNING AT
OLD HOP KILN LANGRISH**

**11 APRIL 10AM - RAMSDEAN/LANGRISH LITTER PICK
and afterwards at Langrish House**

**25 MAY 10AM - VILLAGE WALK
starting at Langrish Green and finishing at 7 Stars**

**12 SEPTEMBER BBQ
AT CHURCH FIELD TBA**

Details from
langrishramsdeanfriends@gmail.com

**Farm
Cream
Tea**



at **Lower Farm**
Ramsdean GU32 1RU
Sunday 26 April 2-4pm



...Enjoy a Farm Cream Tea and see our sheep
– Swiss Valais Blacknose, Welsh Balwen
& Welsh Torddu Badger Faced

£3 per adult, children free

 **Save the Children**

2026

THE BIG SALE

**Gorgeous Good-as-New
Garments and Goods**

NEW VENUE

For more info, please see the Petersfield Branch website:
www.petersfield-savethechildren.co.uk   

Churcher's College, Petersfield

Mon 16 Feb Fashion Show - 7pm £10 Entrance includes a free glass of wine. For tickets email stcfashionshow@gmail.com	Wed 18 Feb 9.30am - 4pm ALL ITEMS HALF PRICE
Tues 17 Feb 9.30am - 7pm	5.30pm - 6.30pm Fill a Save the Children bin bag for £10

Registered charity in England and Wales (213993), Scotland (SC029914), Isle of Man (No. 199). Registered with the Fundraising Regulator.



Warnford Snowdrops!
Every Saturday in February
At
Warnford Park

2 to 5pm

 Pre-booked Tickets Required
£6.00 per person
Use QR Code to Book
Or Visit 

<https://www.warnfordparkwalks.org.uk/>



WINTON PLAYERS



The Unfriend
by Steven Moffat

Petersfield Festival Hall
Thursday 23 - Saturday 25
April 2026 7:30pm
Saturday Matinee 2:30pm

Tickets £16 adults £10 children
Tickets at The Festival Hall, Heath Road
01730 264182 www.thefestivalhall.co.uk
or www.wintonplayers.co.uk
or One Tree Books, Lavant Street 01730 261199




THE FESTIVAL HALL PETERSFIELD
Registered charity number: 1181736
This is an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

PETERSFIELD MUSICAL FESTIVAL
13 - 21 MARCH 2026

THE FESTIVAL HALL PETERSFIELD

Celebrating 125 years 1901-2026

Nine days of musical diversity featuring talented young musicians and brilliant professionals. Music by Verdi, Duke Ellington, Gershwin, and more, including the flagship Youth Concerts and the ever-popular themed Family Concert.



On public sale from Monday 2 February 2025
Tickets available from: www.thefestivalhall.co.uk
or from One Tree Books, Petersfield 01730 261199
www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk
Registered charity no. 900489



The Petersfield Seed Swap
Saturday March 14th, 10am-12:30pm
Winton House Centre, 18 High Street



swap seeds * gain advice from experts *
meet local garden & nature organisations *
find inspiration for the growing year ahead *
seed sowing corner * cake!

Free Workshops

10:15-10:45 Growing veg, with Ben Pope
11:00-11:30 Foraging in Spring, with Helen McAra
11:45-12:15 Flowers to sow in March & April, with Helier Bowling

For more information: www.shineradio.uk/events



Now in its 4th year, the Petersfield Seed Swap encourages all to grow and try something new in their gardening space this year. Taking place on Saturday March 14th, from 10am-12:30pm, at Winton House on the High Street, it's free to enter and open to all.

Along with seeds to swap from a selection of vegetables, flowers and herbs, there will be the opportunity to meet local gardening and nature organisations, gain advice from experts and find inspiration for the growing year ahead. The seed sowing corner encourages young visitors to grow - complete with compost, eco-friendly pots and trowels, they can sow a sunflower or pea seed to take home.

As in previous years, the seed swap will offer free workshops for all to attend, hosted by

gardening and nature experts from the area. This year the workshops will be hosted by head gardener and RHS Herbaceous committee member Ben Pope, Helen McAra from Wild Seasons Foraging and award-winning garden designer Helier Bowling.

10:15-10:45 – Growing veg, with Ben Pope

11:00-11:30 – Foraging in Spring, with Helen McAra from Wild Seasons Foraging

11:45-12:15 – Flowers to sow in March & April, with Helier Bowling

Local organisations and charities that have supported the seed swap include the Petersfield Community Garden and the Tree Squad, PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network), the Petersfield Men's Shed, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Petersfield Beekeepers, Petersfield Physic Garden, Alitex, Hampshire Swifts, Petersfield Area Lichen Enthusiasts and more. There will be National Garden Scheme yellow books for both Hampshire and West Sussex available too.

A special Friends event to see some very special people

Flo and Joan – With Feeling Tour 2026

Sisters Nicola and Rosie Dempsey (aka Flo and Joan) have been performing musical comedy since 2016 and Edinburgh Fringe on at least six occasions.

Two UK and Ireland tours in 2019 and 2022. Royal Variety Performance 2019. International appearances in Canada, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, New Zealand and Australia. Soho 2024/25. London Palladium 2025.

Comedy is observational, with a take on current affairs and modern culture. Radical and edgy with some strong language.

Nicola and Rosie are the daughters of Alison Loudon, married to Terry, who was our vicar. They lived in East Meon in the noughties.

The Friends committee has made a block booking for their performance at Portsmouth Theatre Royal on Sunday 18 October 7.30pm. Tickets are £32, if you are interested in joining us then please email with your ticket request at langrishramsdeanfriends@gmail.com Payment is not required until May.

If sufficient people request tickets we can look at hiring transport to go as a group but this can be decided nearer the time.



WIFI and POTHoles



There is an ongoing problem in Langrish on the A272 junction to the village and East Meon beyond. The access road



forms a triangle by which heavy farm traffic, buses and large trucks have to negotiate. The road is so full of potholes that cars have to swerve to miss them, causing problems with oncoming traffic. This was sent to the Petersfield Post and residents also reported it to the Hants web page.



There have also been two accidents on this corner, thankfully no-one was hurt. One of them demolished the stile into Lambert's field, which has now been replaced by a 'kissing gate' so some good came of this incident



and the access for dog walkers and ramblers is now much improved.

Eventually the potholes were fixed, but suffice to say that this seems to be only half a job as some further along the road were not addressed, and those that were are showing signs of wear and tear already.



Along with all this road work came the



installation of optic



fibre for broadband.

At one point the Langrish triangle was so full of work vehicles there was little room for residents.



Views of the before and after repair at the junction and road..is this just half a job?
Before: After:



Here's an image of the corner before it became the road it is now...



Editor has since heard that there is a plan to move forward with repairs.

A SAD WORKING DAY

This story is one of a series introducing railway staff who worked on the south coast of England before 1939. They've been researched as part of the 'Portsmouth Area Railway Pasts' project – which you can [read more about here](#) Celebrating 200 years of the Railways in 2025.

As far as William Howard, 47, was concerned, Monday 21 February 1927 was just another working day. It was an early start for William. He left his home at Rottercome Cottage, North Lane, Stroud, to start his shift and be on the 05.30 ballast train that left from Petersfield sidings. He was employed by Southern Railway (SR) as an underman. The job of an underman was a general hand, who laid ballast, helped with the fitting of rails, cleaning, fencing and general labouring duties.



The train left Petersfield on time and travelled the short distance south to Buriton siding, the train then moved into Buriton Tunnel. The job was to unload ballast onto the track. The train consisted of nine wagons. William Howard was on the third wagon from the engine. Before entering the tunnel the flaps of the wagons were dropped. The train moved slowly into the tunnel, ballast was manually unloaded along the length of the tunnel. At the end of the tunnel the train reversed back towards Petersfield.

The procedure of stopping and starting the train was the responsibility of George Willshire, 36, of Rushdean Road, Petersfield. He blew his whistle for his men to stop shovelling and move to the centre of each wagon. The train would only move when he gave a green light to the engine driver or a red for stop. In response to the green signal the driver would sound the locomotive's whistle before moving the train slowly at walking pace.

The engine driver that day was Alfred Thomas Greenyer of Littlehampton. His shift had started at Littlehampton at 03.00. He immediately stopped the train when he heard the shout that someone was injured. He found the injured man on the floor of the tunnel next to the train. This was the last time the injured man, William Howard, spoke. It was found that the train had run over William's right arm.

Working on the train that day were two volunteer St John Ambulance men. They attended to William's wounds and he was transferred to the Cottage Hospital, Petersfield.

At 07.45 Dr DF Turner attended the patient and found he was suffering from severe haemorrhage and a considerable degree of shock. He found the right arm much mutilated. No other injuries were found. At 10.30 Dr Turner and Dr Pankridge amputated William's right arm. The procedure went well and he was returned to the ward, where he made a slight improvement by the evening.



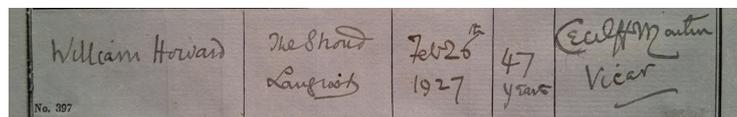
The following day he had his wounds re-dressed by Dr Turner between 10.30 and 11.00. Dr Turner received a telephone call from the Matron to say William Howard had died at 12.50. Death was attributed to haemorrhage and severe shock.

The body was identified by Royal Navy pensioner Reece William Porter of East Meon, as his cousin William Howard. Although William was born in Langrish, his father and mother, Charles and Louise Howard, lived in East Meon, at Fish Pond Cottage and where he lived as a child.

An inquest was held at the Cottage Hospital, conducted by Mr GH Warner, Deputy Coroner, on Friday 25 February 1927. A verdict of Accidental Death was given. All procedures had been adhered to and it was stated by Mr Wilcox that the Southern Railway wished to say how sorry they were to lose a good and valuable servant and how deeply they sympathised with his bereaved relatives.

Although no person witnessed the accident, it was the opinion of Accident Inspector Mr JPS Main that all safety procedures were adhered to and no other person was to blame. It appears that he had slipped and fell from the wagon when the train had started.

The afternoon of Saturday 26 February the funeral of William Howard took place at Saint John the Evangelist at Langrish. The service was officiated by The Rev Cecil H



Martin. A large number of friends and family members gathered to pay tribute. Up to 40 SR employees attended as well as staff and regulars from The Seven Stars at Stroud. The bearers were Messrs Mayson, Leggatt, Glaysher and Stubbington. William Howard was a single man. Chief mourners were Mr F Howard and Mrs E Coleman (brother and sister). In his will William left all his effects and the sum of £49.5.7 to his sister.

A very sad ending to what started out as just another working day.

VILLAGE PEOPLE – MASTER FLETCHER

I became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers by accident. I was encouraged to join because my family coat of arms features an arrow. Never did I think that one day I would become Master. The family name comes from Romania. The coat of arms has on one side the head of an Auroch – the extinct European bison that is the emblem of Moldavia (not present day Republica Moldova) which is the province of Romania that the family comes from. On the other side, the arrow commemorates the occasion in 1467 when my Great x 13 Grandfather shot the arrow that wounded the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus who was invading Moldavia and forced him to retreat.



The Fletchers are one of the ancient livery companies of the City of London. Historically Livery companies were trade guilds. Our trade was arrow making. We trace our origins back to times of yore but were formally recognised as a Livery Company in 1371. Business was brisk in those days; Agincourt, Crecy etc. followed by the Wars of the Roses created huge demand for arrows. With the introduction of firearms, the trade of fletching went into decline and nowadays most arrows are made of metal or fibreglass and used mainly for sport.

The Fletchers therefore reinvented themselves as a fellowship which encourages and supports the craft of traditional arrow making, awarding annual prizes for the best made arrows. Its main activity is now charitable. We are the principal sponsors of the highly successful UK Paralympic archery team already gearing up for the Los Angeles games in 2028 as well as archery for people with disabilities including visually impaired and blind archers.



As Master, my role is to lead the company for my year of office. I am ultimately responsible for our activities, finances etc, ably supported by our Clerk (CEO) and Court (Board).

I represent the Company at City events, e.g. the elections of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, the Remembrance Service and the annual sheep drive across London Bridge. I also represent the Company at many archery events, particularly where we sponsor the annual disability, wheelchair and visually impaired championships.

As one of the six warrior companies (alongside the Bowyers, Cutlers, Armourers and Braziers, Gunmakers and Blacksmiths), we take our responsibilities to support the armed forces very seriously. We have championed and signed up to the Military



Covenant (whereby organisations encourage and support staff to join the volunteer reserves). Our direct military affiliations include the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, HMS Defender (a Type 45 air defence destroyer based in Portsmouth) and RAF Northolt plus Oxford University OTC, various cadet units and a number of schools in London, where we award prizes for excellence.

Is it time consuming? Yes - very! We have a Charitable Trust and a Livery Hall, both of which require managing. Our members are loyal supporters of our charitable objectives and enjoy events and, of course, our dinners and lunches. Conviviality is important!

Is it worthwhile? Without question. It is a huge privilege to lead a Company that has been in existence for 655 years and to play an important role in upholding the Lord Mayor and the traditions and activities of the City of London, as well our traditional craft and the disabled archery community. It is worth reflecting that the Livery movement last year donated in excess of £80 million towards charities...

Is it good for the waistline? Sadly not!

Michael de Styrcea

WARTIME STORIES FROM HOME FARM

Philip Stoneman continues his wartime memories with his Uncle Bill. He took his service and Home Guard training very seriously and had become a radio operator. They trained very hard and had been trained to sabotage Nazi forces. He still remembered how to make a Molotov cocktail bomb! He said they were supposed to jump up on top of Nazi tanks and throw the bomb down the Hatch to set fire to it or to blow it up or any other vehicle they could attack.



They would go on guard nights then go back to milk the cows and do a full day's work. It was mostly hand work or with a horse. Anything with a wooden handle is hard work. They had very little fuel (petrol) rationed to them and so it was mostly muscle power to do the work. He said many a morning he would dip his head in the water trough to wake himself up enough to milk the cows after a night on guard.

Milking was done by hand giving you very strong inner arms and huge veins in your arms. He still had very strong arms and huge veins even in later life. One of the nurses at West Meon surgery did a blood test on him when he was about 70 years old and was delighted to find a huge vein in his arm. She said "that's not a vein that's a Channel Tunnel!!!"



One of the training exercises was where the young men would play the part of Nazi paratroopers. They would be dropped off somewhere like old Winchester Hill by the Vicar. He had a car with running boards on the sides and an open top. They would all get onboard, those who could not fit inside would stand on the running boards and hang on...

Their objective was to capture East Meon hall without being found. It was an old corrugated hut, not the current one. The hall was defended by the rest of the older East Meon Home Guard who put out patrols to find them. The younger fit men could move fast and knew every lane, field and hedge in the area and often got to the hall only to be discovered at the last minute. One of the young men was the son of the Commanding Officer of the Home Guard who had asked the youngsters to slow down as the old men defending the hall could not keep up with them. His son said to his father "Nazi paratroopers wouldn't slow down!". Uncle Bill reckoned no one else would have said that to the Commanding Officer!

Philip Stoneman

WASSAILING the ORCHARD

The word “wassail” has its roots in the Old English toast “Waes Hael”, meaning “be well” or “good health”. The traditional response, “Drink Hael”, completed the exchange, offering the wish: “drink well”. This blessing, over time, gave its name to a seasonal custom observed in various forms throughout England. Wassailing took two forms, “house-visiting wassail” and “orchard wassailing”.

The first recorded mention of orchard wassailing dates from 1585 and it was especially common in apple-growing counties where the focus was on encouraging a fruitful harvest. On a day in mid-January villagers would gather in the orchard after dark where the oldest or best-producing tree would have offerings of cider-soaked toast hung in its branches as a gift to the tree spirits. Cider would also be poured over the tree roots and the wassailers would then sing traditional rhymes and make a mighty noise by banging pots and pans, firing shotguns, and shouting loudly to drive away malevolent spirits thought to threaten the orchard’s bounty. One traditional wassail rhyme went as follows:



***Here's to thee, old apple tree,
Whence thou mayst bud
And whence thou mayst blow!
And whence thou mayst bear apples enow!
Hats full! Caps full!
Bushel—bushel—sacks full,
And my pockets full too! Huzza!***



This tradition is kept alive today in many places, including locally at an annual “Wassailing the Orchard” event held at Butser Ancient Farm, this year on 16 January. Attendees are led by the Lady of Wassail round the various reconstructed buildings where four guardian spirits (from the Stone Age, Iron Age/Celtic (me!), Roman and Saxon periods) are called on to join the procession to the orchard. To scare away any evil spirits everyone is encouraged to make a “hullabaloo” with anything they choose to bring along.

Entertainment is provided by two local(ish) groups – Prize Old Mummers (who this year adapted their usual mummers play to have a nautical theme involving Lord Nelson and Napoleon rather than the traditional St George and the Dragon) and Hook Eagle Norris, who did a superb job of performing in a very limited space inside an Iron Age roundhouse!

The weather was kind to us this year, if a bit chilly, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Dave Butcher

Commemorative mugs/coasters of St John's church are available

St John the Evangelist mug and Commemorative glass coaster



Mug @ £3 or 6 @ £15

Coaster (10cm) @ £5 or 6 @ £25

1 mug and 1 coaster @ £7

Contact Julie Blackwell on 07796 146882 or iblackwell1@outlook.com

BACS to Langrish PCC 30-96-26 A/c 80924560

CHURCH NEWS

It is coming up for 3 years since we asked the Bishop of Portsmouth to close Langrish Church for worship and I think, at last, at last, the bitter-sweet day is approaching when the church will be closed and the Parish of Langrish will merge with that of East Meon.

The Pastoral Scheme raised by the diocesan staff has undergone all its official stages; circulations for comment, committee approval, a pause for last-minute appeals and so forth and has now, finally been approved by the Church Commissioners. Some of the potential sticking points I mentioned in the September Squeaker were surprisingly quickly resolved and the date on which the church closes is to a large extent up to Langrish PCC in consultation with Fr Tony, East Meon PCC and the Archdeacon of the Meon, The Venerable Kathryn Percival who acts for the diocese.

The length of this period before closure will be dictated by the need to get a faculty to remove the war memorials from the church before it closes. A 'faculty' is the ecclesiastical equivalent of Listed Building Consent and will take 2 to 3 months to achieve. We then have to get the contractor in to do the work and, of course, we can't give him the go-ahead until we have the faculty approved and so the weeks roll on.... It could be as late as July therefore before we close. We have a meeting arranged for 25 February with the Archdeacon, key diocesan staff, legal advisors and East Meon representatives to thrash everything out and then, with any luck, we will be able to predict a closure date more certainly. We will, of course, be planning a final Thanksgiving Service in the church before the doors are finally shut.

I called the closure day 'bitter-sweet'. Sweet because it will mark the end of three years' worth of wrangling with ecclesiastical authorities often not understanding why the process was taking so long and being frustrated at the seeming lack of action. To have finally reached a decision on the matter is therefore a relief. It is a bitter moment though for the small group of faithful worshippers that make up the regular congregation of the church. They, I should say 'we', are losing the use of a building we love and the strong bond of fellowship that has resulted from us gathering on a Sunday to worship together then chat over a cup of coffee and biscuits!



CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENTS

In the autumn we held the Remembrance Service in Langrish church on 9 November which was well attended, the church decorated and wreaths presented.



The church tidy was scheduled for the end of November but typically took place the following weekend due to the weather. There was still a hardy team who undertook both the churchyard and the



church interior, followed by delicious bacon butties provided by Robina T-P and plenty of hot coffee and tea.



There were three well attended services over the Christmas period. The Carol Service on 21 December with the choir and followed by mulled wine and mince pies was a great success. The congregation was in full song with many familiar carols. Thanks to Langrish House for the wine and Sue's (in absentia) ladies for the food.





The Scratch Nativity on 24th December is a Langrish highlight. This year the villages and East Meon families succeeded in providing an 'actor' for every person in the Christmas story. In previous years not everyone was portrayed but this year, even down to the 'Shpringer' ie sheep/springer was present. Revd. Terry Louden presided over the



action with a light touch as befits an essentially chaotic and hugely enjoyable occasion. The Scratch band also played its part.



Christmas Day Communion service rounded off the season, taken by Rev John Paul.. The church had been beautifully decorated by Joy Sang and Cheryl and Kay's flower arrangements, candles and greenery festooning the window ledges.



LANGRISH CHURCH SERVICES - Morning Prayer is usually held at 9am on Wednesdays, to check please contact Joy 01730 261991 joyrsang@gmail.com

Sunday Services are still being held on the second Sunday of the month at 09.00 (a Service of the Word) and 10.30 on the fourth Sunday of the month (a Eucharist, usually with a choir). Other services you may wish to attend at St Johns Langrish:

FEBRUARY

Sunday 8 - 0900 – Service of the Word with rev Tony
Wednesday 11 - 0900 - Morning Prayer
Wednesday 18 - 0900 - Ash Wednesday
Sunday 22 - 1030 – Benefice Eucharist with Rev Tony
Wednesday 25 - 0900 – Morning Prayer

MARCH

Tuesday 3 - 1800 – Compline with Charlotte Denby
Wednesday 4 - 0900 – Morning Prayer
Sunday 8 - 0900 – Service of the Word with Rev Tony
Wednesday 11 - 0900 – Morning Prayer
Wednesday 18 - 0900 – Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 - 1030- Benefice Eucharist with Rev Tony
Wednesday 25 - 0900 – Morning Prayer
Sunday 29 - 1030 – Palm Sunday
Monday 30 - 0900 – Holy Week Morning Prayer with Rev Tony
Tuesday 31 - 0900 - Morning Prayer with Rev Tony
Tuesday 31 - March 1800 – Compline with Charlotte Denby

APRIL

Friday 3 – 0900-1400 – Walk of Witness Langrish to Warnford
Sunday 5 – 1030 – Easter Day
Tuesday 7 – 1800 – Compline with Joy Sang
Wednesday 8 – 0900 – Morning Prayer
Sunday 12 – 0900 – Service of the Word with Rev Tony
Wednesday 15 – 0900 – Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 – 0900 – Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 - 1030 – Benefice Eucharist with Rev Tony

Joy Sang

BOOK REVIEWS – LANGRISH BOOKENDS

October – Gabriel’s Moon by William Boyd

From the vibrant streets of sixties London to the sun-soaked cobbles of Cadiz and the frosty squares of Warsaw, an accidental spy is drawn into the shadows of espionage and obsession. Gabriel Dax is a young man haunted by the memories of a every night, when sleep finally comes, he dreams about his childhood home in flames. His days are spent as an acclaimed travel writer, capturing the changing landscapes in the grip of the Cold War. When he’s offered the chance to interview a political figure, his ambition leads him unwittingly into a web of duplicities and betrayals.

Falling under the spell of Faith Green, an enigmatic and ruthless MI6 handler, he becomes ‘her spy’, unable to resist her demands. But amid the peril, paranoia and passion consuming Gabriel’s new covert life, it will be the revelations closer to home that change the rest of his story. It keeps you in suspense as he continues his journey ‘in’ and ‘out’ of his early life with his mother and later his brother.

November – You are here by David Nicholls

The story follows the character Michael and Marnie as they find themselves completing the Wainwright Coast to Coast walk, arranged by their mutual friend Cleo. For Michael, the walk was a deliberate choice. Having recently separated from his wife and recovering from a breakdown, the geography teacher finds solace walking by himself. Marnie, on the other hand, only planned to walk for a couple of days, but perhaps against her better judgment, finds herself extending her walk until she almost walks the full coastal path.

A contemporary read and close to home as it involves places we know and the walks we have done. Walking with a group or companion gives the opportunity to talk freely and cover all sorts of topics so it was a popular read.

Dec/Jan – Roar by Cecelia Ahern

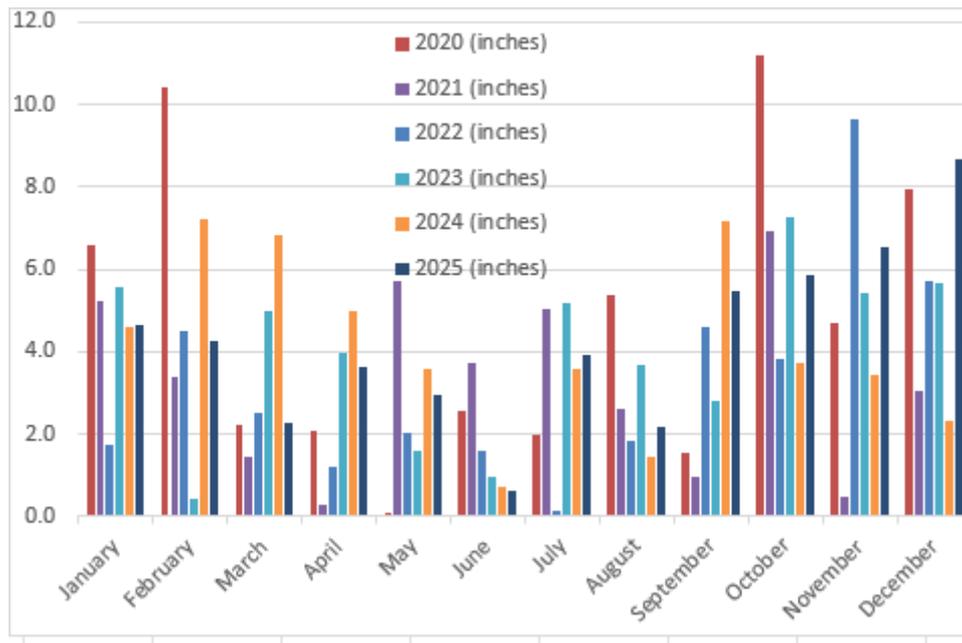
A powerful collection of thirty short stories that explore the complexities of women’s lives, blending magical realism with poignant social comments. A collection of imaginative and thought-provoking stories that delve into the experiences of women navigating various challenges in contemporary society. Each story features a protagonist simply referred to as ‘the woman’, allowing readers to connect with the universal themes of empowerment, identity, and resilience. The collection is characterised by its blend of humour, whimsy, and emotional depth, making it both entertaining and insightful. Easily identifiable with one or other of the women in these stories, it can be a very personal read.

If anyone would like to join the Langrish Book Club, we meet at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month at one of the members’ homes with wine and nibbles. Please email langrishramsdeanfriends@gmail.com if you are interested. *Julie Blackwell*

LANGRISH WEATHER 2025

Rainfall

2025 was another very wet year, the second wettest year since we moved to Langrish 18 years ago. The total rainfall was **51** inches compared to our average of **40** inches. (The record was 56.8 inches in 2020.) The first 8 months of the year were fairly dry with 24.5 inches of rain. However in the last 4 months of the year it's been really wet with 26.5 of rain including 8.7 inches in December.



Temperature

The lowest temperature in 2024, was **-8.3° C** on 5 January; the highest temperature was **33.7° C** on 12th August. So, an unremarkable year for highs and lows even though the Met Office tells us that it was the warmest and sunniest year ever.

Reminder

You can access “Langrish Weather” in real time using the following link which you can bookmark in your browser for easy access. Alternatively, you can follow the link on the Squeaker website:

<https://www.weatherlink.com/embeddablePage/show/e7fb481459124d7d9f1f6f6ec6627fef/fullscreen>

Ian Wesley

LANGRISH/RAMSDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Much of the Parish Council's focus over the past few years has been on the severe deterioration of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs), particularly those going up to Butser and Fiveways in Ramsdean. Hampshire County Council (HCC) has spent significant amounts of public money on repairing these BOATs, only for them to be quickly damaged again by motorised vehicles such as Trail Bikes and 4X4s, exposing the BOATs to further damage by exceptionally heavy rainfall. HCC now propose to permanently close BOATs 14 at Langrish (Twenty ways) and BOAT 50 (Lime Kiln) both on Butser. This decision is expected to be strongly opposed by the Trail Riders, so HCC are preparing significant legal work before the permanent closure of the BOATs can be made.

Following reports from Parishioners, the Parish Council are concerned about the safety of the junction where the C28 meets the A272 on The Old Hop Kiln side of the Green at Langrish. Accidents and damage have been caused by large Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) taking the smaller road alongside The Green, where the narrow exit onto the A272 is clearly not suitable for HGVs. Cllr Blackwell has agreed to discuss the problem with HCC Highways to see if weight restrictions can be introduced to encourage large vehicles to use the C28 on the other side of The Green, which is a wider and safer exit.

The Parish Council have also approved the purchase of a new Speed Camera to replace a very old existing camera on the A272. This decision arose following a speeding vehicle trying to overtake a tractor caused an accident and damage to one of the houses on the A272 at Langrish.

The Community Orchard at Langrish Meadow has suffered the loss of several trees after last year's severe drought. New trees have been purchased and will be nurtured until the roots are sufficiently rigorous to withstand another drought. Full details of Parish Council discussions can be found in the Minutes of Meetings regularly published on The Langrish PC website. All are welcome to attend meetings at The Cow Shed, Barrow Hill Barns, the next one being Monday 10th March, 2026.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the same address on Wednesday 13 May, 2026, where everyone is very welcome to join the PC to discuss local matters.

Debbie Luff

Useful telephone Numbers

Police

101 (non 999 emergencies) or 01962 841534 (faster!)

East Meon Care Group

Provides transport to surgeries and hospital outpatients for the elderly and disabled. Call 03300 434823

Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111306 / 0300 3300650

Emergency planning for events such as flooding/extended power cuts. Here are attached details of warm spaces in the local area.

[Warm spaces | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/warm-spaces)

Petersfield Library

Also the link for Winton House Community Cafe [Winton House Centre | Run by the community for the community](#)

Winton House welcomes older people and especially solo people. An affordable place to relax and meet other people. The information desk holds details about resources and services in the local area.

WHO'S WHO

Parish Council

Cllr Debbie Luff (Chair)

chair@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Hetherington (Vice Chair/Planning)
[pc.gov.uk](mailto:rogerhetherington@langrish-pc.gov.uk)

rogerhetherington@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Blackwell (Roads and Reeds Meadow)

ianblackwell@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Cheryl Walder

cherylwalder@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby (Tree Warden)
[pc.gov.uk](mailto:nigeltalbot-ponsonby@langrish-pc.gov.uk)

nigeltalbot-ponsonby@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Robert Bewes (Footpaths)

robertbewes@langrish-pc.gov.uk

Sam Marchant (clerk)

clerk@langrish-pc.gov.uk

County & District Councillor

Cllr Rob Mocatta

robert.mocatta@easthants.gov.uk

Parochial Church Council

Councillors

Cdre David Mowlam (*Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer, Open/Close Rota, Mowing Rota, Sub Treasurer*)

Mrs Susan Ricketts (*Deanery Synod Rep*)

Mrs Joy Sang (*Deanery Synod Rep, Verger and Sidesman/Reader Rota*)

Mr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby (*Chair*)

Mrs Julie Blackwell / Mr Jon Allen / Mrs Robina Talbot-Ponsonby / Mr Nick Roe

Helpers

Cheryl Walder *Altar Frontal Care and Changing*

Sue Ricketts *Refreshments*

Betty Wesley *Cleaning Rota*

Emily Rich beneficeuppermeon@gmail.com

Secretary to the United Benefice (Langrish, E & W Meon and Warnford)