

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

March 2020

## The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same



A big thank you to our intrepid volunteers, including Parish Council members and their spouses. We came, we saw, we conquered. The heavily overgrown weeds and brambles didn't know what hit them!

*Ian Thomas*

Pictured left: Villagers turning out in 2020, as in 1927; women in evidence these days, but fewer natty jumpers.

*Editorial team*

### Swindon Symphony Orchestra

7.30pm, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March,  
St. Joseph's College,  
Ocotol Way, Swindon SN3 3LR

#### **Programme:**

Tchaikovsky – Romeo and Juliet Overture, Korngold – Much Ado about Nothing Suite, Sibelius – Tempest Suite No 1, Walton – Henry V Suite.

Concerts sell out so advance booking is advised. Tickets are available from any orchestra member, through the: '**Contact Us**' page on the website [swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](http://swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk) in person at Swindon Central Library, and online *WeGotTickets* (see website).



<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org> for breaking news



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Shrivenham,  
Nr Swindon,  
Wiltshire

**01793 780 274**  
**07710 453 579**

**mattheworchardhome@gmail.com**





The 2018 book, *Wilding*, by Isobella Tree, is the story of the exit from farming of her and her husband's large High Weald's Knepp Castle estate in Sussex, in favour of a brave leap into the unknown, replacing it with a fenced in 'return to the jungle', with some grazing semi-wild livestock. Nightingales, turtle doves, and purple emperor butterflies, all red listed species, are increasing. People are asking me *can this be more widely replicated?* Even the Archers have worked in a story line! This January, in north Yorkshire, I detoured to view Rievaulx Abbey, a vast, impressive Cistercian monastery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Those monks would have lived alongside wolves, bears, and eagles but I learned that they survived on a largely vegetarian diet. Recently, a wolf has been spotted in the French Dordogne, having crossed from the Italian Appennines. There is a proposal to reintroduce wolves into Scotland to control red deer numbers and assist forestry regeneration. Beavers have been introduced to a compound in Devon to aid river management,

and one has escaped. I have seen bear poo in the Slovakian Tatra mountains, and a few are said to survive in the Pyrenees. Red kites and ravens are now common here. Great bustards are gaining a foothold on Salisbury Plain, following careful reintroduction. Roz Boot of Bishopstone claims to have seen an eagle locally, and she may be right, because some sea eagles have been released onto the Isle of Wight and one male was spotted in Oxfordshire recently. Tottenham House, on the edge of Savernake Forest, Marlborough, today languishes but it used to be the seat of the Earls of Cardigan, and later, Hawtrey's prep school. I remember seeing a fine golden eagle mounted in the hall there, which was described as the last eagle shot in the forest, around 1880. Global warming has seen some Mediterranean birds move north, so that the strikingly colourful hoopoe and the white egret can be seen in southern England.

So should we rewild our farms? In the national interest, not on the good land, please. Wilding will not feed us or help our nation's food security. One has to say that the introduction

of apex predators is hugely controversial. There could be a good case for wilding on marginal land, with a double win if carbon capture brings, as seems likely, incentives for new forests and tree planting. Why not rewild these areas as new National Parks with wide open spaces for wild life regeneration, associated perhaps with limited access? But without containment fencing, as at Knepp, there will be conflicts with boundary agriculture if semi-wild animals play their part in managing the new landscape and ecological development.

by Richard Green

Swindon Jazz & Soul  
Festival  
supporting  
Swindon & District Samaritans  
from 12.00pm  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Advance tickets are £12 (£14 on the door if available) under 16's free entry. Tickets available at <https://www.book-online.co.uk/cccc/tickets/events>, from the venue in person, or at Old Town's The Royal Oak's weekly Tuesday Jazz

Enjoy a very special Festival and helping Swindon & District Samaritans to always be there for anyone who needs a safe place to talk: 116 123

## Are You Ready for a **Change?**

Book a **Free EFT** session during March 2020!

Tapping, or EFT (emotional freedom technique), is a powerful tool for improving our lives on multiple levels; mental, emotional and physical.

Reduce anxiety, chronic pain, addictions, weight issues, fears, stress, sleep problems etc.

We mostly achieve clear noticeable results in one session, and you learn how to use the technique on yourself, by yourself, in your own time.

I work with the Herbalife range of products and/or EFT along with coaching and food choice awareness to achieve result on: weight control, mental sharpness, emotional wellbeing and amateur sports performance. Face to Face or via skype/zoom.

Peter Svensson - 07832 193 362/01793 710 537



## Hinton Parva Village Hall - March

The prettiest Hall around, with free parking.  
Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391 - Please leave a message if required.

### Booking Rates:

£7.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva  
£9.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties  
Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available  
Free Parking

Informal Bridge	Wednesdays	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
PC	Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm
WI	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 - 9.00pm

Please do come along and join in any of the classes/groups listed above. You can make new friends, enjoy yourself and, most of all, you will be made very welcome. Please note there is a charge payable for bridge classes.

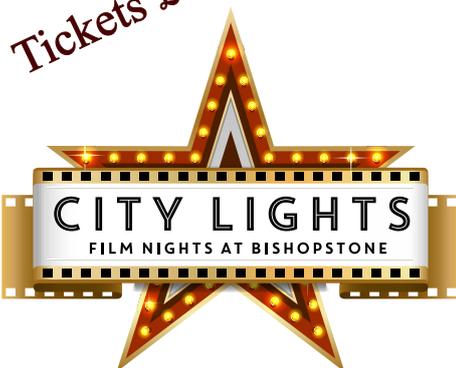
## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - March

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 - 5.30pm
Yoga	Mondays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 - 8.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	3 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
Gardening Club	Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Private Booking	Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 - 2.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 - 1.00pm
Film Night	Friday	27 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 - 10.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin, or leave a message on the answer phone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

At <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/bishopstonevillagehall/> you can find a link to more helpful information about the Hall and the terms and conditions of hire.

Tickets £5.00



## The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Licensed bar - Ice Creams  
Refreshments - Interval

### JUDY

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

1968, Showbiz legend Judy Garland (Rene Zellweger) arrives in swinging London to perform a 5 week sell out run, 30 years after she shot to stardom in The Wizard of Oz. Her voice weakened, her dramatic ability grown - enthralling.



## OFFICIAL SECRETS

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Based on world shaking events.

The gripping story of Katharine Gun (Keira Knightly) a British intelligence specialist who is unable to stand by and watch the world be rushed into an illegal war. Gun makes the gut wrenching decision to leak a classified memo to the press...

Tickets on the door or in advance:

Richard 791 913

[richardw@eddingtons.co.uk](mailto:richardw@eddingtons.co.uk)

Royal Oak; 790 481 for pre show suppers.

Doors open 7.00pm - Film 7.45pm

Our recent showing of *Downton Abbey* brought out our village audience.

A quintessentially English evening followed, our bar, fully stocked and manned by Keith, was busy to say the least. I'm not sure if the spills between the seats were due to excess *tipples* or audience accidents! As always, there was a nail-biting technical pause as the film reels were loaded but all was good, and the film was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

*Knives Out*, 28<sup>th</sup> February promises to be a great night out in the comfort of your own Village Hall, nearer than Greenbridge, less expensive, and only a little colder.

Our fundraising activities continue:

### Skittles Evening

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. 6.30pm

Bring a team if you fancy your chances, otherwise we can make up teams on the evening. A light supper and a glass of wine will be provided. To purchase your tickets in advance, and to help us with catering numbers, please book:

Rachel 07751 868 222

or Carole on 791 453. Witty team names most welcome!

Finally, we are still wading through the CV's of volunteers for the Secretary role at the Village Hall, but it's not too late to register your interest. Don't be shy!!! Call me for an informal chat or further info. We are also still light on the committee, so a perfect opportunity to get involved in village life; lots of fun too.

Richard Walker - 791 913



### Hinton Parva New Year Supper

Residents started the new year with feasting and fun on 18<sup>th</sup> January, in the freshly renovated, warm and cozy, village hall. Greeted by Master of Ceremonies, Rod Peck, revellers enjoyed a delicious menu cooked by village volunteers, including locally sourced pheasant, pork with prunes, and an on-trend vegan option, with home-baked lasagne for those with less adventurous tastes. There was an incredible selection of mouth-watering puddings, generously donated by attendees and other residents, with plenty to go round, and round again! Quiz Mistress Marion exercised the adults' grey matter with her fiendish repertoire of brain teasers, while Karen, Sophie and Lucy Walker organised and led a lively series of quizzes and competitions for the younger villagers. For the first time, this year, parents were encouraged to bring their youngsters to the celebratory supper, and what a success that was! The children (aged from three upwards) all behaved impeccably, ate heartily, and joined in the activities with gusto – adding a fresh dimension of enjoyment for the *oldies*, too, as artwork was displayed and marvellous marshmallow models were admired.



The evening ended with smiles, laughter and the annual feast's highlight - a rousing community sing-along to the tunes of Abba and the Beatles, led enthusiastically by Hazel and her accordion.

*Val*

*Thank you to Jan Brodin for the photos*





## Made in Bishopstone

After 5 years, by popular demand *Made in Bishopstone* is returning to present an exciting exhibition and sale of quality artisan goods and art, produced by our very own local talent.

So pop the date into your diary now.

Previously, the event had an exciting exhibition of arts, from photography to sculpture, with everything for sale. There were also sumptuous foods on sale, such as home made breads and home produced meat.

The emphasis is on the very best quality products our talented artists and artisans can produce.

*Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June*  
*Made in Bishopstone will take place*  
*on, in, and around*  
*The Village Hall, Bishopstone*



If you would like to know more about this event please email Sue Dent:  
 susan.walton790@gmail.com  
 or ring 01793 790 246

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BISHOPSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 7:15PM FOR 7:30PM START - ALL WELCOME

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Places must be booked - please either call Sue at the school on 01793 790 521 or email katew@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk

**Rainbow**  
 Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall  
 Every Thursday during Term Time  
 9.30 - 11.00am  
 £2.50 per family, 1<sup>st</sup> session free

A stay and play session for families with children under 5. Join us for free play, art activities, snacks & singing. A great way to meet new friends.

For more info. call Tori  
 07891 533 654

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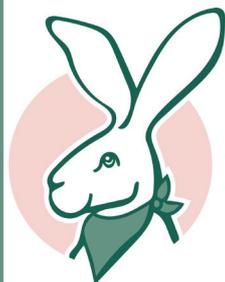
 07710 348 263

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

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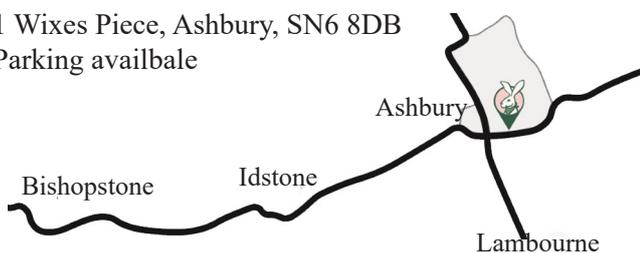
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- Sunday-Monday: Closed

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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
	St David's Day	6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	SS Perpetua, Felicity & Companions			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	St Felix (transferred)			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	10.30pm	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	St Patrick			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddinton
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	The Annunciation			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>		No Service	
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Fredrick Denison Maurice			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

All dates and times printed are as submitted to the Editor.

### *The Vicar's Letter*

Dear Friends and Neighbours

In New York, it was easy to see the buildings and the sights, only to notice the differences between that city and where we live, or perhaps have ever lived. Meeting up with a local girl, whose husband was a patent lawyer, made such a difference in terms of colouring in! Getting to understand the people and the ways of that city made the visit more than a trip to see the sights only previously seen in pictures. It was like the difference between seeing a picture of an orange and holding, squeezing, smelling, and tasting an orange.

With jam-packed diaries, and the constant rush to satisfy employers, employees, customers and family, I wonder how much of life is more like looking at the picture of an or-

ange, rather than experiencing one. A significant number of people, having suffered a heart attack or some other significant event in their lives, have found themselves rethinking their approach to life and to those around them. And a number of us met a guy recently who gave up his international corporate life to develop what is now a very successful winery. He now has the kind of family time that simply wasn't possible before.

The thing is, we don't have to wait to face calamity to understand who we are, and what we might be called to be. Until the 1980's, Life Coaches didn't exist and it doesn't take much thinking to ask, how did humanity manage to exist beforehand? There has been a lot of wisdom throughout the whole of our existence and Thomas Leonard, the guy attributed with being the first Life Coach, put a lot of this wisdom

together in a way that enabled him to make a living out of it. To be honest, if he can, then we can. Skills are one thing, habits another, but working out what is at the very core of our being that gives rise to our thoughts, words and actions is another thing entirely.

This year, we will be thinking about those who had faith in a cause, along with those that were simply conscripted to that cause, that led to VE Day. Faith too can be like looking at a picture of an orange rather than holding, squeezing, smelling, and tasting one. Turning up to church on a Sunday can also become a bit like going for the weekly shop. It's when we do a bit of homework before we go to New York that we have a better chance of getting the most out of the trip. The same is true of faith. This Lent we are going to run two opportunities to do a bit of homework, in the

company of others that aren't so sure. Starting on the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March, at 9.30am on Monday mornings, we will be running the Alpha Course, with bacon rolls and coffee available at the Royal Oak, Bishopstone; and at 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings at St Andrew's we will be running a short version of the Alpha Course, called Alpha Express; and you don't have to be C of E to attend! Whether you know a bit, a lot, or nothing at all, you are very welcome to spend time sharing views and listening to others' on questions like *Is there more to life than this?* and *How can we have faith?* to name but a few. And as something to do for Lent, it's got to be whole lot better than giving up chocolate!

*Bill*

**Parish Contacts**

**The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell  
The Vicarage, Church Road,  
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

**PCC Vice Chair** – Alan Taylor

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

**Church wardens:**

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

John Lowry 01793 790 271

**Church Contacts:**

Tom Cripwell – St. Swithun's

01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

Doug Stevens – St. Mary's

01793 791 107

doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

**PCC members:**

Karen Stevens 01793 791 107

kschurchview@gmail.com

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com

**The Alpha Course**

Mondays 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> June,  
9.30am, The Royal Oak, Cues Lane  
Bishopstone

With Bacon Rolls and Coffee

**Alpha Express**

Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> June,  
6.30pm St Andrew's Church, Wanborough

**Lent Lunches - Wednesdays 12.30pm**

- 4<sup>th</sup> March Hazel Cooke - Canons Cottage, Hinton Parva
- 11<sup>th</sup> March Myra Binks - The Vicarage, 19 Church Road, Wanborough
- 18<sup>th</sup> March Roz Boot - Cheyney Thatch, Bishopstone
- 25<sup>th</sup> March Lorna Ford - Warrens Farm, Lyddington
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April **Thursday**, Sue Gorelle - 18 Church Road, Wanborough
- 8<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Hasmig Topalian - Arax, Orchard Close Wanborough

<b>St Mary's Bishopstone</b>		<b>September</b>	Chris Thomas & Gill May
<b>Cleaning Rota</b>		<b>October</b>	Jane Golding
<b>March</b>	Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow	<b>November</b>	Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow
<b>April</b>	Sarah Best & Jenny Isles	<b>December</b>	Sarah Best & Jenny Isles
<b>May</b>	Rachel Blunt & Caryn Greenhalgh	Mary Darling, 790 700, is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc.	
<b>June</b>	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews	Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean.	
<b>July</b>	Fran Shishton & Karen Stevens	We always welcome new volunteers on the rota, please join us!	
<b>August</b>	Jill White & Karen MacGregor	<i>Sarah Best 791 121</i>	

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

**telephone - 790 088 or email - villageprayers@gmail.com**

**Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

*We've saved a generation, help us save the next.*

This year is a particularly special one for us, as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

Countless lives have been saved since we began operating in 1990.

As a result, a generation of people have been able to resume their lives and celebrate special milestones, such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or the birth of children and grandchildren.

To highlight our work, former patients whose lives we have saved, are featured in videos each month throughout 2020 on our social media channels and website, along with an opportunity to make a donation.

We are only able to provide our vital service thanks to the generosity of people, community groups, schools, businesses, and grant-making trusts who make donations.

Our charity is not funded directly by the Government, and receives no



National Lottery grants.

It costs £3.75 million a year to keep our lifesaving service operational.

Last year we undertook 1,233 missions – an increase of 12% on 2018.

We are honoured to serve Wiltshire and surrounding counties. With your help, we can be here to save the next generation.

To donate, head to our website [www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/) generation

*Registered charity number: 1144097*

**Bishopstone 100 club**

**February Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> 61 Karen Stevens

2<sup>nd</sup> 33 Mary Darling

3<sup>rd</sup> 53 David Whittaker

*Jo 790 485*



## *Bishopstone & District Gardening Club*

What a fabulous evening Quiz Night, on 14<sup>th</sup> February, turned out to be. We had a full house - twelve teams of exuberant players with silly team names, eager to get their hands on the new trophy, (which our team happened to win this year). People came from Wanborough, Shrivenham, Highworth and, even Brinkworth, (the longest village in England), to take up the challenge. All had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, brainpower boosted by a hot meal and delicious desserts. Our thanks go to a team of dedicated helpers, the electronic wizard-guy; the two kitchen keeper-uppers; the many creative cooks; our raffle sponsors; the strong-armed guy who put all the tables out ... the list goes on, but special thanks go to our Quizmaster, Fiona, who had us all laughing in the aisles.



Une petite note from Martin & Rosemary Savage ...we thoroughly enjoyed yesterday evening, even though we came last...anyroad, our thanks to all in putting together a smashing evening, quiz, scoff and organising, all so well done. And as last placers, they have chosen British Wildlife as one of the categories for next year's quiz. The challenge is on folks, The Arty-Farty Party Animals have laid down the gauntlet! See you next year. Or, hopefully, we may see you sooner. **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 – 9.00pm: Cameras & Jeep Safaris** is the title of our talk. We'll catch up with James Andrews to see how Prohides has progressed throughout the year. Bring your cameras and learn some new wildlife photography techniques. Talk/slideshow/demonstration.

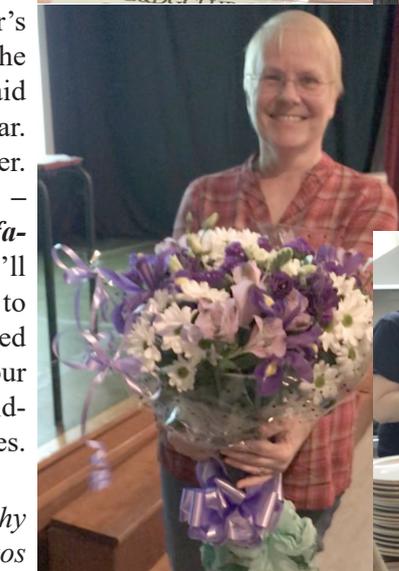
Sheila, of the winning team, proudly holds the beautiful trophy which Russell made for us. Also thanks to her for taking the photos

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April: Growing Michaelmas Daisies:** Talk/demonstration and plants for sale during the evening from Helen Picton, Old Court Nurseries, Malvern.

A reminder that membership annual subs will be due at the March meeting, £10 per person per annum, or just come along and pay £3\* on the door. \*Dates and prices may be subject to change.

Sheila (secretary) 01793 790 358 and Sarah (outings organiser) can be contacted at: [banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com) Friendly bunch of flowers gardeners, always delighted to welcome newcomers. Tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle.

All events held at Bishopstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated.



**THE BREWERS ARMS**  
 WANBOROUGH



**PIZZA & PIE  
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HANDCRAFTED PIZZAS & PIES  
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As we reach the latter stages of mankind's ability to stay afloat amid the flotsam we have managed to create, my mind turns to two important questions: will we still be here when Bishopstone and Hinton Parva become an essential spur on the new Hornby HS2 electric rail set planned by our enthusiastic prime minister, linking us by super-fast, clean solar powered carriages to Baydon and Aldbourne, which is where we all want to go, but much more quickly? Or will the two villages become one of the new Freeports, also being planned by our infrastructure-mad leaders, allowing us to import and export tofu and turnips without any tiresome trade barriers or tariffs? The way sea levels are rising, and I can see (from where I sit as I write this) that the tide is definitely coming in, I suspect a Freeport might be more useful. The only thing to do, as I contemplate my gloom, is to sell the second hand furniture in HB's Royal Oak, and invest it all in Elon Musk's eccentric vision of the future. And hope to get a free ride on his spaceship, to the rest of the EU at least, rather than Mars. Other financial advisers are available. In more earthly affairs, we will from now on be playing the German national anthem (modestly titled Deutschland Uber Alles) on the hour every hour, to celebrate the arrival of our Bavarian super chef Geschäftsführer Manfred Neder. Herr Neder has been poached from our Swindon rival

restaurant Helen Browning's Chop House, where his turnip and tofu deep fried surprises have been an amazing success with the Swindon hoi polloi, and with the UK's Good Food Guide. Expect more kartoffeln, spätzle and turnips. As well as huge lumps of boiled organic pork...or possibly not. We are managing to reel in his more excessive traits, and the rumour that he cooks in his lederhosen and dirndl is simply unfortunate stereotypical slander. Of which we are not worthy. As he arrives, so the delightful Lisa Jones leaves. The two events are not connected. Those of you who've known her will recognise a talent whose assets will be more appreciated on a bigger and better managed stage. She's taking the new HS2 line to Bristol, and helping to run Avon Wildlife Trust from the end of February. Lisa has been a stunning colleague, and, as I put in her employment reference, we will miss her diligence, dedication and intelligence.

As for the pub itself, since this is my monthly diary (or supposed to be...), we escaped Storm Ciara on the whole, although the sign for the hotel car park now reads **Helen Bro....'s Royal Oak**; headline news might be that the door to the bin area blew off, but it didn't make the national papers; we are investing in the HB Bishopstone Raceway—a serious digital Scalextric track for guests and villagers alike, and forming a club for regular users, probably running from early May; and of our regular events, Easter Sunday egg hunt will be the 12<sup>th</sup> of April; Classic Car Day 26<sup>th</sup> April; and international pig racing all day, with music into the evening, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Note the change of day, neighbours, please. The council has been informed, for

our annual risk assessment of wild animals in the street. And some pigs. Pip pip. I'm not going mad.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Pig Racing Day

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Road Closure Notice - Cues Lane  
We will apply for the usual short-term road closure according to the Town Police Clause Act 1847. The registered charities to benefit from this year's event include the Swindon North Deaf Children's Society and the Village Hall

## Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

**9.00am - noon**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**Wanborough Village Hall,  
High Street, SN4 0AD**

As well as the usual stalls, Karen will be there with her sausage rolls and Scotch eggs, and Ken will be outside with his fish, including delicious organic Shetland salmon. He will also be there on Thursday afternoons 3.00 - 5.00pm - phone him on 07590 979 194 if you want to order. For more information about the market contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

[sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)

### **National Deaf Children's Society**

Did you know...there are over 50,000 deaf children across the UK. Come to the Community Connect Coffee Morning for an opportunity to donate towards this life changing charity. Huge thanks to all who donated to Headway in January – you raised over £240 for the Swindon branch!

*Jo Pearce*

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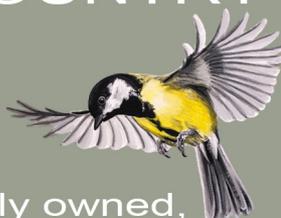


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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

### Leadership and Root Vegetables

In yesterday's big Cabinet reshuffle we saw one person constructively dismissed, another person told to dismiss himself by resigning, and several other people, rather unimaginatively, being simply dismissed, leaving opportunities for other people to be promoted. The changes seemed to be based more on the capability for blind obedience rather than actual capability. Those of us who assume that a person's ability to carry out the job they are appointed to is pretty important are clearly missing the point, and demonstrating a complete lack of leadership skills. Maybe that's why we're not Prime Minister? This tale of leadership and blind following-on clunkily segues into one of my favourite tales of life in t'North. The transition will be - er - seamless. We'd not been living in the beautiful Calder Valley for long, so didn't know all the highways and byways. Dearly Beloved went out for a run, as is his wont. Anyone who knows the Calder Valley knows that it boasts some impressive hills. As he slowly powered up one of these, DB spotted a chap in the distance turning off onto a lesser-used path, away from the main road. Mindful of harmful particulates, he decided the path offered cleaner air, so was a better option, and followed him. DB huffed and puffed closer and closer to the chap and his shopping bag. After some time, when he'd almost caught up, the man turned round and asked, *Can I help you?* *No, thanks,* replied DB, *I'm just out for a run.* *Well,* said the chap, *that's as may be, but for the past quarter of a mile you've been chasing me up my drive.* Which just goes to show that following the leader is not always the best option. . . Perhaps I should write a cautionary note of warning to the new Cabinet? In other, also clunkily related, news, the search is on for the *Devon turnip tosser*. Devon and Cornwall Police have been looking for a prolific vegetable thrower who's attacked motorists from a bridge over a main road

near Torquay 17 times since November. Swedes, mangel wurzels and turnips the size of footballs have all been weaponised, according to officers. They say whoever's responsible has to be caught before a tragedy occurs. I imagine that TF, correspondent of this mighty organ and leader of the Root Vegetable Revival Society, would say the tragedy has already occurred. Imagine all those valuable foodstuffs going to waste. Consider the Turnip Tarte Tatins, the Mangel Wurzel Amuse Bouches, and the Turnip Tortes that could have been produced. What a profligate waste of what will possibly be our only sustenance come January 2021. We may yet look back and weep at such conspicuous waste. Perhaps there's an opportunity here for the Royal Oak to broker a tariff-free trade deal with the Turnip Tossers of Torquay. . .

*Mrs Mantelpiece*



### And Almost Finally...

I'm sitting here staring out of the window, vainly seeking inspiration, and watching Storm Dennis wreak havoc. Where do these storms get their names from? My former husband was called Dennis but I must be honest and report that to my knowledge he never caused floods or blew off anybody's roof. My sympathies go to those whose property has suffered damage, but, as villagers, I hope we do try to look out for and support each other at such times, don't we? At present all that I can see from here is that my garden is partially flooded, but philosophically it means that I won't have to bother watering it for a while. I must confess that I keep referring to weather reports. I love our *Bishopstone tidal observation post + weatherer*. Did you know that our highest rain rate this year (21.6 mm/hr) was at 7.00pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January? Or that our Highest Wind Gust, 51.7 mph,

was at 6:01am on 9<sup>th</sup> February (Storm Ciara) but during Storm Dennis we did have a gust 50.7 mph. And there's the *Netweather Weather Radar* - updated every 5 minutes - obsessed? Me? Never!

*mogs X*

### Finally

The views of individual writers expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the parish council, or the church. If you have any feedback, questions or would like to submit a story for inclusion in the Village News, please contact one of the editorial staff listed below:

#### Editor:

[mogsboon@hotmail.com](mailto:mogsboon@hotmail.com)

*Subject: newsletter* (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or deliver to:

Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626.

#### Sub-Editor:

Sheila Collins

[admin2.collins@icloud.com](mailto:admin2.collins@icloud.com)

#### Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

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

1 Little Hinton Farm Cottages, Hinton. Please note that names and contact details must accompany these letters, but, of course, we will not publish your details unless requested to do so.

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Please note there is no longer any commercial advertising on the website.

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