

Village News

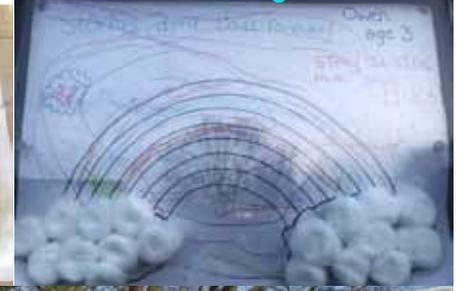
for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

May 2020



Rainbows

Children are putting rainbow pictures on their windows. These colourful pictures cheer up passers-by and make us smile. The message is of hope. *Thank you Millie, Tabby, Alfresco Pre-School, Alyla, Lucy, Mason and Owen for the wonderful pictures that you sent us.*



Alas, a Shortage of Turnips



We had an organic one in the shop last week, and it sold, much to our surprise. Another one arriving weekly. An interesting addition to the new style fruit salads we are all enjoying.

We are open 7 days each week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10.00 - 1.00pm and 3.00 - 6.00pm

Wednesday closed

Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 11 am - 2.00pm

One person/family in the shop at one time, please. Use the hand sanitiser as you enter. We clean our card machine and other surfaces VERY often. Try not to handle the goods,

p l e a s e ,

unless you intend to buy them.

A word about our staff—we've furloughed about a dozen of them from the chop house and the pub, in the hope that we will re-open, re-invigorated, at some point; and the five who've stayed on are working for turnips (peanuts, actually) in return for being fed, mostly getting a hotel room, and keeping at least two metres away from me, which they prefer to do anyway. The hotel is being used part time by two of Helen's farm staff, and occasionally we have key workers in there—the week that I write this, we have four guests staying who are building

a medical testing lab at Harwell, in case the neighbours are wondering.

Step forward Anna, Emilly, Rita, PJ and Nick, with a bit of help from me. In the space of four days, they transformed a pub and hotel into a village farm shop, selling organic bread, pastries, turnips, (and lots of other more palatable fruit and veggies), milk, cream, cheese, yoghurt, butter, ready meals cooked by us, bacon, sausages, fresh meat packs, fresh and frozen beef and pork mince and meatballs; juices, flour, rice, sugar, eggs and ice cream. And more (even loo roll cur-

continued on page 3



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continued from front page



rently)—often too much to list, and the range changes quite a bit too, depending on what Rita and PJ are cooking. We also do deliveries locally, and within Swindon area, with notice, and are especially keen to help as flexibly as possible the people classed as genuinely vulnerable. Most of it is organic—occasionally our fruit is not, and the flour can be from our own wheat or someone else’s. It’s been an interesting exercise bringing it all under one roof—our HB meat business has products manufactured in Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, and Northamptonshire from our own pork and beef; and sausages in Germany; our pub business has its bread made by Astons in Hungerford, using our wheat; our dairy products from Berkeley Farm and Rays, both in Swindon, using our organic milk. Apple juice and some damson cordial made from the fruit foraged in the village, by us and others. Norman’s Lotmead asparagus here by mid April...

There will be an absence of humour in this column, not for the reasons you imagine (ie the blight of COVID 19) but because some people in Ashbury are clearly not in tune with the style of humour employed here. After jokingly berating the good people of Ashbury for not being able to provide intelligent young staff a couple of

years ago, I received an anonymous death threat as a result (pinned to the ladies’ toilet notice board!). Last month, after my gentle reference to Oxfordshire people and their relationships with farm animals, the village on-line noticeboard received a missive, presumably written in goats’ blood, saying how the author would like to join the queue to knock my head off. Well, it’s all too much, and so we devote ourselves this month to the quite serious issue of feeding people, on farm animal products and other tasty things, in troubled times.

The Royal Oak diary has grabbed the front page of this journal by being nice to Mogs; and if she is looking for another occasional writer in these villages, I suggest Alec Nichols, whose superb reminiscences about some eccentric sporting event appeared on a national website last week, much to his and Belinda’s surprise.

TF

Big thank you to Steve Bell (honourary newsletter photogtapher) for the Royal Oak Photos on the front page.

Anybody Need Help?

From all of us, a massive thank you to all our Bishopstone and Hinton Parva volunteers who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to support our vulnerable members.

Many have been dashing about for neighbours almost from Day 1 of lockdown, doing shopping, putting in group orders for veg boxes, and picking up prescriptions.

Hinton Parva.

If anyone is unable to get out and needs help, including shopping and prescription collection, then please contact:

Lisa Cox - 07463 405 237 or
Kate Wright 07725 911 367
01793 791 399)

We have a contact list of resident helpers and will find someone to help.

Bishopstone

If you have not received a card from a neighbour with their contact details in case you are required to self isolate, please contact:

Belinda Nicholls 07956 654 873

You can find out what

Covid-19 Emergency Help

is available from Swindon Borough Council via their website:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/emergencyhelp>

Or email: customerservices@swindon.gov.uk

or phone 01793 445 500

Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm



Originally...
...this was supposed to be an advert for food supplements, and now, spring of 2020, we've got other more important things on our minds. Vitamins & protein shakes feel a bit of a luxury; still, they are available if interested. Hope you get plenty of sleep, sunshine, time to think, read that book and listen to some Bach

For many years I have been using **Emotional Freedom Technique (eft)** on myself, to feel better, manage stress etc.

If anybody reading this would be interested in trying or just learning a bit more about eft/tapping, I'm happy to schedule sessions on the 'phone, free of charge. (Fully qualified to teach and practice, once c19 is over I am hoping to run a workshop in the Village).



Peter Svensson, Wellness coach
01793 710 537 or 07832 193 362

Hinton Parva Village Hall Covid 19 – Lock Down

It is very sad to see our lovely Village Hall unused at a time when community support is so important but needs must and it is beyond our control.

The committee wish you all well and trust that *normal service* will be resumed as soon as we emerge from our social isolation.



Conditional bookings can still be made through our Bookings secretary, Janet: 01793 791 391 – please leave a message

Booking rates:

£7.00 /hr for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£9.00/hr for those living outside the parish

A cosy warm atmosphere for meetings, clubs, groups and private parties with full kitchen facilities and ample free parking.

Bishopstone Village Hall 100 Club Announcement

For those who are not aware, the 100 club is a popular village draw with favourable odds due to the relatively low number of participants. The results are published in the village newsletter; a fun and simple way to have a *flutter* whilst supporting the charitable trust of the Village Hall.

As many of you will know, Rob and Jo Selbourne will be moving on later this year. Jo Selbourne has run the 100 club tirelessly for the last 21 years cajoling, collecting money and distributing winning cheques each month. From this she deserves a well-earned rest, and she has our utmost gratitude for her long-standing support of the Village Hall.

Clearly, 21 years on £10 doesn't really go as far these days, a companion 500 members club, initially running alongside the existing 100 club.

The hope is, with time, all existing members will be prepared to upgrade to the 500 Club which will have a £50 annual membership fee paid by Standing Order. We plan with immediate effect to move all current paid-up 100 Club members to four quarterly draws throughout the year with two winning prizes of £70 & £35. This will commence in June 2020. For 500 club members, as well as the quarterly draws, you will also be entered into an additional Decem-

ber Christmas Super Draw with two prizes, £500 & £250, a nice Christmas bonus! (tbc subject to uptake)

Clearly, these changes come in most unprecedented times, and we fully appreciate many people face much more serious personal financial struggles of their own, so we understand not everyone will feel this is something they can support right now, and that's absolutely fine! But for those of you who are willing to upgrade to the 500 Club membership, it will help us through what we all hope will be a short-term crisis whilst uplifting our spirits in a fun way.

And finally...moving forward, we would prefer to collect and pay all monies through bank transfers. For the many of you who currently pay with an annual standing order or direct debit, please cancel and arrange a new annual £50 Standing Order payment set up to the details below. For those who have historically used cash, I hope you understand and are willing to set up a Standing Order at time of renewal, through internet or phone banking.

Your support is much needed and appreciated at this time. We hope you will all continue to support our Bishopstone Village Hall over the coming years, and that those who can will upgrade to the new 500 Club soon.

Please email or phone me once you have set up your annual £50 Standing Order payment and I

will notify you of your unique 500 Club draw number. Email:

phil.collins13@icloud.com

Phone: 01793 790 358

Standing Order payment details:

Name: Bishopstone V Hall

Sort code: 40-43-35

Account: 01509322

Ref: 500 Club

Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

Wanborough Farmers' Market

Having run March's market (just) and cancelled April's, we imagine we'll have to cancel May as well. But, if the country by some miracle is back to normal by **16th May** the traders want to come, and the hall is open, we'll go ahead. That's as certain as anything is nowadays!

Our veg suppliers are doing very well through their shop, though approaching the *hungry gap* when they don't have much anyway. Bath is the only farmers' market still running in the area albeit with restrictive conditions.

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley 01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Suggestions for walks

If you are new to our area and casting around for a decent walk look at our village website -

<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org>

org

click on information and then walking guide, there are maps and walks from 1/2 mile to 8 miles.



Thanks Richard Walker for a possible sighting of a stray chicken.

Bishopstone Pottery

From Medieval tiles to Grayson Perry's pre-therapy years.

Recently, Adrian and I have been battling with what to do first, the garden or make pots. As the weather has been so lovely and the garden needs lots of attention at this time of year, most of our time has been devoted to projects in the garden. However, one project has given us the chance to combine both the garden and pottery. A new



garden shed meant that we needed to extend a small brick patio into a bigger brick patio. Adrian did all the planning, the engineering, the cement mixing, and I laid all the bricks!! I think we may be getting too old for this game as it caused creaking backs and knees. However, we decided to include some of our own inlaid terracotta tiles into the design. Adrian has always been inspired by the encaustic tiles seen commonly on floors in medieval churches. In medieval times these tiles were made by pressing a pattern into unfired red clay, using a carved wooden mould. Then the indentations would be filled with a contrasting colour slip (liquid clay) which was usually white. They were then fired and glazed. The impurities in their glaze would turn the white slip to a warm honey colour and the red clay would turn a rich brown.

Adrian has made a number of inlaid tiles but, rather than using a wooden mould, he carves out the design in the



red clay and then adds the white slip. After firing, a honey coloured glaze is used to create the same effect as the medieval tile. So, using Adrian's methods, we both set out to make a



personalised brick for our patio with our initials on. A bit his and hers maybe! Adrian stayed with a traditional medieval pattern and I chose to carve a more early 20th century design that I have used on some of my pots. Although the patio is complete, our inlaid bricks still need their glaze firing, then we can lift a couple bricks on the patio and put them in place. Perhaps we could then have a small ceremony with a glass of champagne and a sit on the garden bench to admire them. Hmm that sounds like a plan.

A few weeks ago, we really enjoyed



a trip to the Holburne Museum in Bath to see an exhibition of the earliest works of Grayson Perry. I have to confess

that I absolutely love Grayson Perry after seeing him speak about his work at Cirencester Brewery Arts a few years ago. He is such an engaging and intelligent speaker that we soon forgot about his Minnie Mouse outfit and

got absorbed in his view of art and his political views of the world.

The exhibition brings together pieces from private collections that had been considered *lost* and date from 1982 to the mid 90s. Some of the work is shocking, some is historical, some is political.

I am not good at arty blurb so I will quote what Grayson Perry said about this early work.

It is as near as I will ever get to me meeting myself as a young man, an angrier priapic me with huge energy but a much smaller wardrobe. I had to look priapic up. I'll leave you to do the same!!!

That's artists for you.

Grayson Perry had used a lot of text on his work, and it inspired me to think about using words on some of my pots. I slab built a tall pot and, after slip decorating with images of bam-



boo, I added the words from a Japanese proverb: *The higher you grow, the deeper you bow.* In other words, be humble and compassionate no matter how great you think you are. That is my attempt to be profound, but I am not so good at original thought as Grayson.

We are still busy preparing work for the postponed *Made in Bishopstone*, which will go ahead as soon as we are able. So we look forward to seeing you then.

Sue and Adrian Dent



My motivation for these notes is to improve the connection between town and country, which was recently reported as nationally poor but, surely, is I hope better here .

Since the start of the lockdown on 23rd March we have enjoyed three weeks of good weather, and with our team healthy, farming has definitely not stopped. We are so fortunate to be still busy in the open air without restrictions other than care over distancing. We have planted malting barley (for lager), milling and naked oats (for breakfast cereals), and spring beans (for animal protein). Winter wheat, which took a bashing this winter, is starting to improve. Environmental wild bird cover/nectar strips, some of which double up for shooting cover, and forage maize for a neighbour's dairy cows will follow later, when the soil is warmer. The point is that farm production has so far escaped the consequences of this evil virus. Fat cattle have been sold, and more younger cattle have arrived. Cattle markets are continuing but with only buyers present and no vendors allowed. We are still loading bread wheat off the farm from last harvest. Unfortunately the same cannot be said everywhere, with dire repercussions in places. As in the 2002 foot and mouth crisis, which then badly affected Cumbria, the lockdown of the service and hospitality sector, including all restaurants, hotels, and garden centres means that those businesses and farms supplying that sector are in trouble. In our benefice there is at least one farmer with a large 3m litre/year dairy who has had to discard milk because the buyer, Freshways, which largely supplies coffee chains and hotels rather than supermarkets, can't take his milk because their demand is heavily down. They are also currently delaying payment. That's very worrying. We all know that panic buying created empty shelves. Home bak-

ing created a temporary shortage of flour. Fresh vegetables supply is still patchy and, with the asparagus season imminent, growers need a land army of pickers this summer to replace the migrants who cannot get here. The beef market is still weak. Pigs are very strong because production in China, which is 50% of world supply, is down 25% on the back of mortality there from African Swine Fever. With lambing in progress, sheep meat is also firm but worries persist going forward next year over tariffs affecting trade to Europe. I know of one local organic chicken/duck producer struggling to keep up with demand. Grain prices are stronger, but profits there are thin, though we shall enjoy some cheaper diesel prices.

This crisis has focussed the nation on its food supply. Supermarkets, butchers, farm shops, and farmers' markets have benefited and are very busy, but are earning their keep with home delivery to the vulnerable. Successive governments have never been interested in enhancing our nation's food security. This crisis might just alter this.

Meanwhile, I hope farmers and landowners can continue to welcome sensible access to walkers and riders onto their land. I am not so keen on the four-wheel drive selfish cowboys who drive across our crops.

Richard Green

From Charlotte our Hairdresser

Dear Clients

I hope you are all well; I'm missing you all!

I have been overwhelmed by your kind and supportive wishes at this difficult time...thank you. Thank you also for the generous suggestions of how you can support my business at this time. One of these was to sell vouchers so that I can keep some cash flow coming in and I thought that was a fantastic idea! Especially as I will need to purchase

plenty of stock for my re-opening! With the wonderful help of my on-line booking system team, I am now set up and ready to offer this option should you wish to purchase.

The vouchers can be purchased through my website

www.charlottebentley.co.uk

Please Go to *Book Now* and you will be directed to a screen offering to book an appointment or purchase vouchers. As you realise, you are unable to book an appointment at this time but you can select to purchase a voucher and will be directed to the payment screen. You can choose any amount of voucher which can be bought for yourself for future appointments, or for you to use as a gift. I have not put an expiry date on these vouchers due to the uncertainty of timeframes around the corona virus pandemic. You will receive an access code to use for your own personal account, and that code can be used when we are back up and running to see your future appointments, update your personal details etc.

I am now also set up to take online payments through Paypal Business. So, in future, you will be able to pay for your appointments directly on my booking system through Paypal or you can continue to pay by Direct Payments, Cheque or Cash.

When I am able to re-open (in accordance with government guide lines), I will let you all know.

If you were booked in during the shutdown period, I will re schedule your appointment.

If you are unable to attend that appointment, you will be able to change the appointment as you would normally through the confirmation email.

I will send you a reminder of how to use the booking system etc once I have an opening date.

I am also taking the opportunity to do some decorating outside whilst we have such wonderful weather, so I hope when you return you will see lots of improvement!

I hope you and your families stay safe and well.

Love and best wishes

Charlotte x



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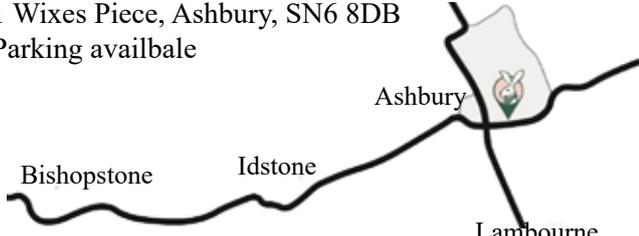
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The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

God said to the old man, the un-renewed man, the yet to be renamed man, *Leave your country, your family and your father's house for the land I will show you. And then I will bless you out of your socks.* This was the promise made to a guy called Abram, later to be renamed Abraham. It's what Lent was about, leaving our old ways for a way that we are both made for and called to follow. It's only God that knows what we're really missing out on, and God wants to help us get there. With story, with faith, and with personal experience. This lockdown has been a lot like leaving our country, the old way of living that used to be our every day, before this dreadful virus became a pandemic. Abram was at least seventy-five years old when this part of his story took place. He was older still when he went into battle to free his nephew from capture, and he was over a hundred when he and his wife Sarah had their first child. So, it's never too late to draw closer to God, and more importantly, it's never too late to be used very powerfully by God. It's all about our motivation.

A lady raised huge amounts of money for the work of a nun that many of us will know as Mother Teresa. On a visit to London, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, as she is now known, went to spend time with the homeless. When she got back to the convent, she asked to see the woman who had raised so much money for her. They sat and chatted, and after a while the Saint asked that a promise be made. The promise was that the woman stopped raising any more money but instead spent her time looking after her son. The fundraiser's son was one of the homeless that the Saint had discovered and spent time with the previous day. God wanted to transform Abram into the guy we know as Abraham, and Jesus took some of His friends up a mountain where He was transfigured Himself. Going up a mountain always indicates drawing closer to God, and of course Jesus is God - the Son. We

remember too that Jesus is the epitome of humility, so He didn't take His friends up there to show off; He took His friends to show what we are all called to be; to demonstrate that we are spiritual beings as well as human beings. In short, He showed us what our heavenly bodies will look like.

Moses and Elijah were there at that meeting, and they were there for our benefit. To give us hope, reassurance, and to build our faith and trust in God's laws and in God's promises. Promises like the dead do in fact come back to life (Elijah had died more than 700 years before, and Moses more than 700 years before Elijah), that we do have a heavenly home, and, more importantly, that we are all called into a relationship with God. A relationship that, by God's gentle prompting and our agreement, will lead us onto a place where like Abraham, we too will be blessed out of our socks. Saint Teresa of Calcutta said that she saw the face of Jesus in the face of the poor and the destitute. She was able to do so because her primary focus was on ministering to that little bit of God that lives in each of us and our neighbours. It's been amazing to see so many rallying around in this, our hour of need. The Thursday evening applause for key workers is another example, and is a huge source of motivation for them in these difficult times. In this way, we contribute to their needs, and our focus on their value and their presence has indeed changed.

It is by focusing on God's presence in our own lives, and in our circumstances, that we become so God-centric that people around us cannot help but be blessed by God; by Love. Jesus promised us that wherever two or more meet in His name He is there in the midst of that meeting. It holds true at home, by phone and over the internet. Someone asked a priest why they should go to church. The priest responded by saying that there is moisture all around, in our breath and indeed everywhere, but when we need a drink we have to find a fountain or a well. Whenever we gather in Church, not only do we drink, but it also allows

our collection of individual fountains of prayer to become a torrent. Similarly we don't limit ourselves to visiting the pub simply for what comes out of that particular well. We enjoy each other's company and often use it as a place to celebrate too. I really do look forward to seeing you all again; in Church, in school, in the pub and soon!

Bill

Prayers

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

telephone - 790 088

villageprayers@gmail.com

Church Fete 2020

Dear all,

How lucky we are to be in a relatively unaffected part of the country, as coronavirus wreaks havoc in the major conurbations. Lucky too that some of us can spend time with our immediate families, appreciate the peace and quiet, and appreciate nature more than ever. Economically, socially, and physically, many of us will be finding it harder; my thoughts and prayers are with us all.

With a bit of luck, the effects of the virus will lessen soon and we can start going about our lives again - perhaps more thoughtfully. The PCC have considered the Church fete timing and want to try to go ahead, albeit at a later date. Early September looks possible at the moment and, if so, it's a great opportunity to reconnect with each other, get out and have fun. Further details to follow in due course. The April meeting for stall holders and volunteers will be rescheduled as well.

Thank you and best wishes,

Tom

01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

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:
St Mary's
Roz Boot 01793 790 508
John Lowry 01793 790 271
St. Swithun's
Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148
tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:
Doug Stevens 01793 791 107
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk
Karen Stevens 01793 791 107
kschurchview@gmail.com
Penny Green 01793 791 310
Sara Hall 01793 791 202
thecourthouse@gmail.com
Tom Sargeant 07517 145 051
tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

St Mary's Bishopstonz
Cleaning Rota

May Rachel Blunt & Caryn Greenhalgh
June Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
July Fran Shishton & Karen Stevens
August Jill White & Karen MacGregor
September Chris Thomas & Gill May
October Jane Golding
November Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow
December Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

Mary Darling, 790 700, is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc. Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean. We always welcome new volunteers on the rota, please join us!

Sarah Best 791 121

Diary of a Sane Person During Coronavirus Lockdown

With all the hairdressers out of action my hair is getting longer, which isn't great as, at my time of life, it's a bit thin, and it's grey. Altogether, not a great look, so I purchased a pair of hairdressing scissors for myself, and some Salon Professional Hair Clippers for the man in my life.

Jackdaws continue to wake me up at first light, excitedly screeching to each other as they gather on the small bird-feeders. I noticed the level had gone down quite rapidly and thought they were to blame, until I saw a squirrel dangling upside down on the nut cage, his bendy, furry shape secured by a single hind claw to the metal chain put there to deter squirrels. I ran outside, clapping and yelling loudly. His response was immediate and satisfyingly funny. It was then I realised I was still wearing pyjamas and had not even put a brush through my unruly hair.

Friends and relatives have been 'phoning, and, more alarmingly, video calling. This is a whole new level of communication that makes me feel uneasy; one



that necessitates prior notice, decent clothing, full make up, and a conscious effort to remember not to fidget or pick anything during the call. A recent video chat with my elderly parents-in-law revealed views of their conservatory ceiling, along with a virtual garden tour of a nifty blue checked shirt. Well, I must go and get dressed. My husband requires a haircut.

Me? Oh - I've decided to wear a hat for the duration.

Sub

Hinton Quiz

If you get bored on your daily walk here are some anagrams of house names and such that you may see around Hinton. Perhaps somebody in Bishopstone might do one next month? Thanks to Pete Walker for this one:

Woo it, not bed cage
Toss energy
Sub post
Rush on eyebrows
Rue Hank, harp goes
Oxbow Shoe Duo
Otter can get weather
Nascent octagon
Motel Gate C
Me of Harm
I'd swindle
Hot verge
Hi ill Des
Hero Lottery CD
Hen whist
Haste thee mod
Has millions
Granted weather
Fur Mapper
Former's housemates
Eh mutton

Coffeepot doltish
Caught teen Scott
Avocet pegs toy
Adapt US RV
Acton dew protégé



Meanwhile one of us has busied himself making a scarecrow. Rick is the one on the er?...now let me see.



During this unprecedented time, nature and Spring continue regardless. I know some of us find solace in our gardens; working – or just relaxing in a garden can be very therapeutic. Only recently, my friend mentioned to me how she had thoroughly enjoyed getting down on her hands and knees for hours and hours, over several consecutive days to weed the whole of her front garden. I'm sure she wasn't being sarcastic...

Sarah has sent me some information taken from **Charles Dowding's Vegetable Garden Diary**. May 2020: *What you sow in May will define many summer and autumn harvests. For example, May's first half is great for undercover sowing of summer beans, autumn cabbage and Brussels sprouts. Basil and beans need steady warmth to grow. Even in mid-May, best results are from starting seeds undercover, to improve germination, reduce losses from pests, and avoid damage from cold nights and winds. Spring is the season for aphids, hatching out from winter hibernation. May is awkward because aphid numbers must increase, before predators can get going themselves. I find the best way to reduce aphid numbers is by watering, both on leaves where the aphids are clustering, and to the plant roots, so that health and strength increase. Check the date*

of your likely last frost...and I plant out nothing frost-tender until after that.

Unfortunately, our Annual Plant Sale, which was scheduled for Saturday 16th May, has been cancelled. I understand, over the coming weeks, there may be a few ad-hoc opportunities to pick up some superfluous plants as you go on your once-a-day walk. Please do note that this is down to individuals and it is imperative that social distancing is always maintained.

Sheila (secretary) 01793 790 358 and Sarah (outings organiser) can be contacted at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com
Sheila

The Hocker and the Bench

A timely reminder from BHoGL* Get Your Hockers off to a good start, pot them up now.

If you didn't eat them all, and saved the small ones in a cool dry place, they



should be spouting by now. Put two very small tubers in a three-inch pot, cover, water and keep in a light frost-free place. The 1st of May is traditionally the date for planting out, or when there is no chance of frost.



Hockers make masses of lush green foliage, interesting in salads; it has a tart *Granny Smiths* flavour. It is a member of the oxalis genus. *O. tuberosa*.



Hockers have a remarkably long growing season; they only start to produce tubers after the Autumn Equinox, when the days begin to shorten. Lift when the first frost touches the foliage, (or bring into a cold greenhouse if you have a few in buckets).

You will be rewarded. The History of the Hocker in Bishopstone, to be continued...

*BHoGL - Bishopstone Hocker Growing League. (boggle)

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Life in the Slow Lane

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, (apologies Mr Dickens!) - but all in one day?! I'm sure during these Covid-19 times, I'm not the only one who can experience a whole gamut of emotions that for once has nothing to do with my age or hormones, but comes just from watching the 6 o'clock news.

I consider myself both lucky and grateful during these challenging times. My immediate family can all work or be schooled from home. I may be considered *vulnerable* but my husband has embraced food shopping - if not the queueing. Of course, we miss our wider family and friends, but this feels trivial compared to the real hardships some people are facing, and the dangers many of our key workers find themselves in to keep us safe, fed and our lives as near normal as possible.

Fortunately, I've had very few truly difficult times in my life but during one cancer-related episode, I remember I was so scared and over-whelmed that I found myself *stuck* - unable to move forward or even recall the things that helped me and made me feel better. Shortly afterwards, I wrote myself a list, which I still have today. Although these are different times, I thought writing about some of the things that are (sometimes surprisingly) helping me, might be useful to others too.

Finding a new (healthy) normal I can get a little lost without routine to punctuate my day but I've built in a few healthy habits that have helped - some indoor exercise first thing in my PJs (which I'm sure must frighten the neighbours!) and a walk or a cycle half way through the day which hits my reset button. We're so lucky to have abundant green space on our door-steps, rich with wildlife. Without my coronavirus confinement, I doubt whether this year I would have witnessed boxing hares; or already seen my first swallow. Bring on that cuckoo! And (almost!) powering up to the Ridgeway, is doing wonders for my thighs - with no need for a costly gym membership. I'm doing a

daily puzzle - I love the Daily Mail's Kurosu - to help keep my brain sharp - non-working days obviously! And I've got a jigsaw on the go, normally reserved for just holidays, which helps calm the mind. Now that we're not trying to fit in sports, gym sessions, or ferrying children around in the evenings, we're watching more films together as a family which I love. Finally, reading a few chapters of a book before going to sleep helps me drift off effortlessly. (Or it could be powering up to the Ridgeway!)

A sense of achievement

I love a todo list - mainly I suspect because, without one, I simply wouldn't remember half of what I really should get around to doing! I've gone full belt and braces - I have an online one - todoist.com plus I write out the old fashioned way what I want to achieve that day, knowing that if I can get half of it done, I'm doing well. I've been tackling one of the been-round-for-quite-a-while tasks every day. Highlight of this week - replacing the elastic in 2 pairs of PJ bottoms!! I really should get out more - oh, I can't...! And I love a 'How to...' video on You Tube. This week, I've given my two Dysons an overhaul. One is still working. Hopefully I can watch another video on how to put the other one back together tomorrow!

Embrace your (well-hidden) domestic god/goddess!

The whole family are cooking and baking more - even using up some of the items lurking at the bottom of the freezer - thanks to my new what's-in-the-freezer list - see todo list above! I've been devouring the *How to clean your whole house with white vinegar and half a lemon* serialisations in the newspapers, from various *instagram cleaning sensations*. Have you noticed that they have all suffered from some mental health trauma or other but found that cleaning their house from top to bottom relieved their anxieties? I can't help feeling, though, that anyone who feels the need to wash their floor a couple of times a day may still have problems to deal with, even if recording their cleaning

hacks has become a lucrative career. But I was suitably inspired to tackle my saucepan cupboard! And my own little life hack - audio books! They make chores less of a ... chore! I've also come over a little Marie Kondo - I guess it's a version of trying to create a little order out of chaos - even if that order is just your underwear drawer!

(Finding new ways to) Keep in touch

I've never been a fan of social media, but am now enthusiastically video conferencing with my work colleagues so that I can remember what they look like and check out their homes! We've had regular Zoom meetings with friends. Unfortunately, we're not of the selfie generation so don't think about lighting, flattering camera angles, make-up, and such like so all the time we're thinking *Hmmm, they've let themselves go* - when, no doubt, they're thinking the same about us!

Finally - sing along now - *Neighbours, Should be there for one another. That's when good neighbours become good friends*. Sickeningly sweet perhaps, but oh so true.

I'm sure Covid 19 will have long-lasting and far-reaching consequences, but I've no doubt some of them will be improvements - perhaps making us appreciate what we have more, and making our lives better, slower, calmer.

Karen Walker



It's Spring

I expect we have all noticed that our lockdown has coincided with the arrival of glorious weather. Only a few weeks ago Toby Ford told me there were field fares on his lawn and now it's all butterflies and swallows (well a swallow). I saw a roe deer walking purposefully across the field today. Thanks Rod Peck for the photo of the hare that visited their garden

Ed



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva And so it continues. . .

I'm disappointed to report that I have, as yet, been unable to source any of the Royal Oak's finest Turnip Surprise (though I have invested in one of their boxes of most excellent meat). Never fear - it looks as though I'll have several more weeks to spend trying. Maybe it's just not turnip season?

Equally, I have not spent the time since my last Newsletter wordage chatting with people who know more about my driving habits, and unfortunate (but fortunately non-existent) accidents, than I do myself. Strangely, they don't seem to fall into the category of people who can work from home - why ever not, I wonder? Surely all that's required is a phone, coupled with the hide of a rhinoceros, and the sheer determination to keep going in the face of overwhelming experience and universal hatred?

Perhaps now is a good time to confess that, during particularly fallow periods in my working life, I've held a couple of jobs in tele-sales? They were singularly unedifying periods, both for me and my unfortunate managers. While I had a phone, I lacked the rhino hide and determination to make a success of the job. When someone told me that they didn't require any life assurance, I tended to believe them; I hadn't got the hang of the job, really, and failed to understand that my role was to persuade them otherwise.

The current changes in working life have thrown up some highly resourceful approaches. I was particularly impressed by the police officer who used his helmet and some seawater to douse a barbecue being held by someone who clearly hadn't received the memo about not going to the beach. Newsreaders and politicians are giving us sometimes disturbing insights into their home lives. Some have interesting bookshelves, full of well-used tomes; others just have a lot of distinctly strange art-work on show. I think one of the newly-named Shadow Cabinet had clearly learned from the mistakes of others; she participated in a skype interview from a very spartan,

personal-touch-free, spare bedroom, giving us no glimpse at all into her life. Hopefully there's more to her than there was to her spare room . . .

My admiration for Jacinda Ardern, PM of New Zealand, knows no bounds. Not only has her brisk and clearly-communicated approach to lockdown yielded amazingly good results for the Country, but, when asked a particularly tricky question during an interview, she had the foresight to reassure New Zealand's children that the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy were both key workers. Wonderful. Certainly a lot better than the confusion here over whether or not Easter Eggs constitute essential items. (Clearly, that's a *yes*).

Also confusing is the number of people (and dogs) we've never seen before, walking the highways and byways of Hinton P. Where are they all coming from? Are they all people who generally are working too hard to venture forth for a walk, or is there a Brigadoon-style area of the village that only appears at times of crisis, populated by couples with dogs of varying shapes and sizes? Answers on a postcard to the Editor (and if you know a good source of Turnip Surprise, you might mention that as well). . .

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...



When we entered this weird, unpredictable, parallel, day-to-day universe in which we find ourselves at the moment, I panicked, no church services, village hall bookings and events, the future on hold forseeing a sadly depleted newsletter. Of course, I need not have worried; the team and I are so grateful to all of you who have sent lots of words and pictures to cheer, entertain and advise. Hearing all these different voices is a delight.

Please, please carry on sending them. I was sad to hear of the death of Bryan Greenwood, long time editor of the Lyden. My condolences to his family.

Is Mr Finney being nice to me as he claims on page 3? I hadn't noticed. Oh, then that will be a large G & T (no ice), please Mr F.

Take care chaps,

mogs X

(from the social distance of 2 metres)

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:

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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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