

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva September 2020

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Toby

A few words from friends...

I asked some of Toby's old friends (well, not that old) if they would like to write a couple of lines to wish him a happy birthday; here are the results:

*Did you say you were from Hinton Parva? I say, Yes and they say Isn't that where Toby Ford lives? I say, He is Hinton Parva.*

Such is the affection we all have for the man we know simply as *Toby*. His distinctive and soft friendly voice is known to all who care to listen. Knotty problems are soon resolved. His knowledge and love come from a lifetime of learning and friendship. Home Farm is his pride and joy, but the community he shares is also uppermost in his thoughts. Here is a man who loves this country and never asks what this country can do for him but asks, *What can I do for my country?* Fantastic.

His dedication knows no bounds. As one entertainer used to say *And there's more!* Lots more I hope. Good Luck to you Toby. You are the best. 100 and not out. Throw your hats in the air.

*Howard*

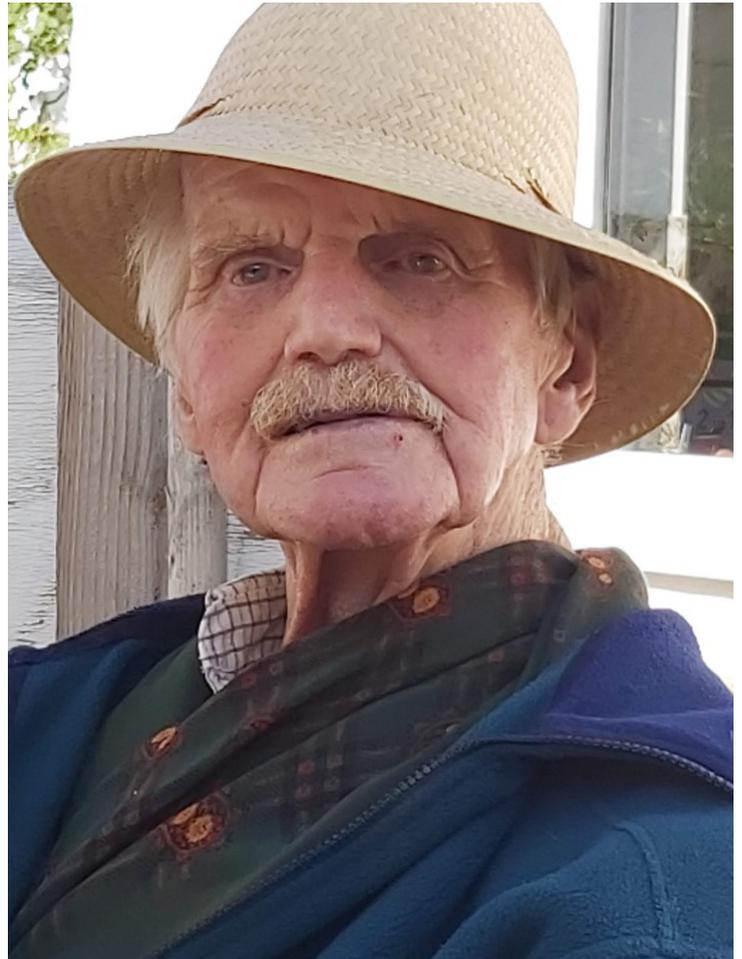
Toby gave us a wonderful welcome on our arrival to Hinton Parva in March 1967...he arrived with a bag of home grown vegetables. He and Peter went out for many lunch time *noggins* and when on Peter's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday (to keep the party a surprise), Toby was asked by the family to get him out of the way... to the pub they tottered!!!!

An incredible man with a host of stories, still to this day, always welcoming and generous and full of *bonhomie*.

We thank you for your friendship and look forward to popping down to Home Farm for yet another piece of memorabilia.

*Our love, Dodo & Peter*

I've known Toby for twenty years as a churchward-



en and a good friend, and, in that time, Toby and Mary have always been very hospitable to Linda and me.

I've appreciated his knowledge and love of farming and the countryside, and his curiosity about rural affairs and people. As a long-serving churchwarden (38 years) he has impressed me by his loving care for St. Swithun's church, and his concern for the maintenance of Christian life within the community.

Above all he is a wonderful person to enjoy a pint of beer and a joke with.

Congratulations on achieving your century.

*Robin & Linda*

*continued on page 3*

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

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*Continued from front page*

I remember that Toby gave us a really warm welcome when we first moved into Hillside. I would often find a lovely bunch of sweet peas and a lettuce on the gate, from his vegetable patch.

Toby's love of St Swithun's Church was evident and when I succeeded him as churchwarden they were big boots to fill. I was lucky to have his guidance and expertise to fulfil this role. Toby is a true gentleman, who likes things done properly. He always makes time for everyone. I am very lucky to count Toby as one of my friends.

*Marguerite*

We had very happy times during our 32 years in Bishopstone and, of course, one of the many neighbours that come to mind is Toby. He was a long-standing member of the Parish Council (1966-2002), as well as the Parochial Church Council, and a hard-working, knowledgeable churchwarden for St Swithun's for many, many years. We also knew him as a loyal supporter of the Old Berks Hunt, regularly turning up to the Meets, following in his 4x4, and then almost certainly calling at a local pub. Toby is always good company and at times, delightfully unpredictable. We hugely value his friendship, and have enormous respect for both his wartime service as a Royal Marine Commando, and his great knowledge of local life, espe-

cially, naturally, of farming. We wish him a Very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Where have the years gone?

With very best wishes to Toby, Dennis & Lorna, Diana, and all Toby and Mary's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

*Simon & Joanna*

Dear Toby, must come to gossip with you soon. We'll be thinking of you on your birthday. Have the most brilliant day, with many more to come.

*Mogs & the Boons XXX*

**Swindon: It's up to all of us to control the spread of coronavirus**

Residents of Swindon are being urged to play their part in minimising the spread of COVID-19 to help keep themselves and the community safe. Swindon Borough Council has been working alongside partner agencies

to encourage Swindonians to keep following Government advice to control the spread of the virus. In particular, this includes continuing to wash hands, wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces, and social distancing from people not in their household.

People are also being asked to stay at home if they have symptoms of coronavirus, no matter how mild. The symptoms to look out for are: a high temperature, a new continuous cough; or a loss of, or change to, people's sense of smell or taste.

Crucially, anyone who has symptoms must book a test immediately. You can book a test, either at a local testing centre or by ordering a home testing kit, by calling 119 or visiting the NHS website.

The Council's *Swindon: It's up to all of us* campaign was launched in August and aims to engage the community and encourage everyone to play their part in keeping Swindon safe. So far, this work has included leaflet drops, engagement with local businesses and community groups, and social media campaigns.

Regular updates are given on Swindon Borough Council's Facebook and Twitter pages, so head there to find out the latest information and advice. Together, we can control the spread of COVID-19.

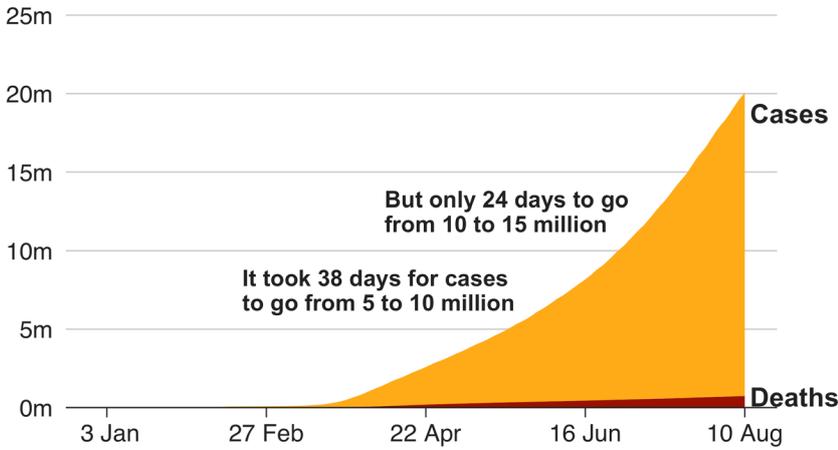
*Emma Pocock*

**Small Changes Can Lead to Big Results!**

*Peter Svensson, Wellness coach*  
 07832 193 362      peter@swepan.com

## Opening the Village Hall, Bishopstone under the *New Normal*

### About 20 million coronavirus cases globally, and still rising fast



Source: Johns Hopkins University, national health agencies, data to 10 Aug **BBC**

We are fortunate to have two engineers on the Village Hall Committee, so our review of Covid impact has been comprehensive. Our working document took the form of a FMEA (Failure Modes and Effects Analysis) which has the added facility to rate and prioritise risk. It is telling that the *failure mode* standing head and knees above the others was ‘nobody’s in charge’. We intend to upload this analysis to the Village Website as a working document, since we need to be fluid to adjust to everyday changes in legislation and our approach to additional risks that may manifest themselves.

**Key points:**

- Opening from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- A responsible person is designated for your event at the time of booking.
- A risk assessment will be required for your event (we can help).
- Protecting at risk people - essential
- Lettings are unsupervised we rely upon your common sense and cooperation - responsible person to be nominated.

- Please leave the hall as you would expect to find it and sanitise equipment and touch points used.

- Arrangements will be put in place to help you facilitate social distancing, hygiene, and sanitising (this includes closing the kitchen, and limiting entry to the Ladies & Gents toilets to one person).

- Our 21 page Covid-19 Risk Assessment to be made available

In conclusion, from 1<sup>st</sup> September the hall will be available to hirers within the Parish and *regulars* for activities permitted by legislation and at the discretion of the committee. Any user/hirer must conduct their own Risk Assessment and take responsibility for cleaning down equipment and all touch points. Guidelines will be provided to facilitate this particularly in the Foyer /Kitchen/WC areas, including a one-way system, exit via the fire exit in the hall.

The hall capacity is set at 25, unless you can demonstrate by means of your

risk assessment that it could be more. You will have to sanitise *touch points* before and after your event and any equipment used e.g. tables, chairs, mats etc. Suitable products will be provided at the kitchen serving hatch. The kitchen will be closed so please bring a picnic and a flask for refreshments.

*Richard Walker*

01793 791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

### Little Hinton Village Hall - Covid-19 restrictions

Although there have been some relaxations of rules, to allow more facilities to open after the main lockdown, the Village Hall Committee does not have the man, or woman, power to put in place all the requirements to meet the Covid-19 Guidance rules at the moment. The situation and capabilities will be reviewed each month with a hope we can soon get to semi-normal opening in line with Government guidance.

The hall will remain closed until further notice via the newsletter, village website and hall notice board.

*The Committee*

### The Return of Old Father Time

The story began with the news in September 2015, *Village Icon Takes a Turn for the Worse*, when our eagle eyed headteacher, Emma, spotted Old Father Time, the weather vane on the Village Hall, Bishopstone rocking and rolling in the high winds. (Probably in contravention of our entertainments licence.)

Upon further investigation we noticed that North was South, East was West etc. The whole assembly had been gyrating on its mounting nuts and there was a screw loose.

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With the kind help of Clive Hill and a JCB thingy from Eastbrook farm Old Father Time was demounted for repair and refurbishment and a volunteer (or small team) sought to undertake this work.

In addition to the mechanical aspects, he also needed a good going over with a stiff wire brush and repainting. There were traces of gold and red on his flowing robes. We wanted to return Old Father Time to his former glory. Fortunately, Stuart and Judith Mcguigan stepped forward and volunteered to faithfully carry out the restoration work.

Stuart welded and fettled, installed new bearings and mountings in his workshop.

Judith's forensic examination of the paintwork revealed the original colours, and she returned him to his former glory. A marvellous job; thank you.

But of course, the story does not end here. Now what we need is to get him back up on the hall roof...If you think you can help in this respect, please contact:

Richard Walker 01793 791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk.

Or Russell, quite often to be found at the Royal Oak.

*Pictured right - from left to right: Old Father Time; Stuart and Judith.*



### Drive Through Milk Collection Service

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### Pete's Prize Puzzle

#### Across

2. Are togas made from these animals?
4. Large wet expanse
5. Sexy animal if oxen reduce
6. It's British Rail else this relative
- 9 & 8 down. Left hanging
10. This girl gets up early
11. Commemorative structures

#### Down

1. You old short number
2. Falling for a serious attraction
3. If you wait, this will never arrive
6. Cricket playing flying mammal, dude!
7. Opposite of ten
8. This guitar is easy to play

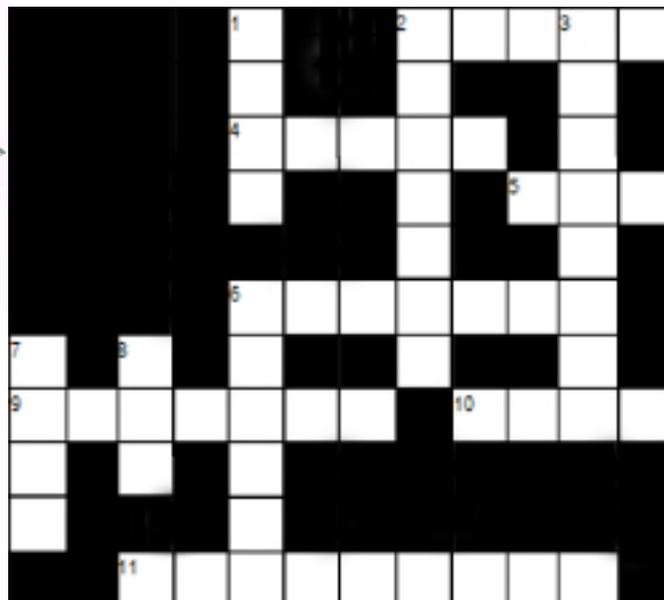


All of the answers can be linked to one actor's films. To be in with a chance of winning *this month's Star Prize* send the the completed crossword and the name of the actor to the editor *by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month*

mogsboon@hotmail.com

or deliver to Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva.

### Film Star Crossword



#### Answers to August crossword

##### Across:

1 lap; 4 boxer; 6 retriever; 8 gate; 9 bowl; 10 dogs; 11 walkies.

##### Down:

2 purrfect; 3 cats and; 4 barking mad; 5 beagle; 7 moggie  
Anagram: furball

**The winner of the Royal Oak Voucher for the August Crossword was David Whitaker - congratulations!**



All things must end though, and so we arrived into Cuxhaven with the yards manned, the trainees aloft all resplendent in their red oilskin trousers and blue hoodies, belting out shanties that echoed around the port while their parents clapped and cheered at a socially acceptable distance from each other behind the port fence. It was glorious.

I cried a fair bit that day, I'll not lie, but it was a happy sort of crying - tired, proud, and knowing I was going to miss the lot of them despite their strops and eye-rolling and huffing, and generally requiring chasing around to get things done - but that's the thing; in those 6 months we had become a family. In this line of work, as well as being sail trainers and teachers, we are stand in parents, and, as such, our job is to teach them about life. It's not an easy task; teaching *Life 101* is difficult to lesson plan for, but I think we do a pretty good job of it, nonetheless. The real impact of this, or any sail training voyage, is going to be seen by their parents, family and friends far more than by us, though the life skills we have given them will take root and grow, and I am quite certain that we will see great things in the future from many of them.

So what now in these weird times? Well, we had to get the ship home first of all; as soon as the last teacher had left we were off, with just the 7 of us Permanent Crew (having dropped the Doctor off in Portland). The weather was cold but fair, and we even managed over 24 hrs under sail alone as we made our way along the south coast of England. We picked up a few extra hands in Penzance so we'd have



enough people to moor her and then made our way to Sharpness where the ship has laid up. We have had to cancel our summer programme sadly, and while this does mean we can achieve some maintenance, we are not even able to get large contingents of volunteers on-board to help due to social distancing, nor can we afford to splash out on major re-fit items. So we are hunkering down, doing what we can, plodding along and keeping afloat (metaphorically as well as literally) and will be back when this has passed. The next Ocean College voyage is still being planned, and I can't wait to meet and welcome on board the next Pelican Family.

*Tamsin*

Chief Mate, TS Pelican of London  
Tall Ship Pelican of London is operated by Adventure Under Sail, registered Charity No. 1124276.

Please visit:

[www.adventureundersail.com](http://www.adventureundersail.com)  
for more information.

*Photographs by Tamsin Lambert*

### **Update**

The Pelican sailed on a science project from Sharpness on 1<sup>st</sup> August to Falmouth and then Plymouth, east up the English Channel to Folkestone, and returned visiting Southampton, the Isles of Scilly. She has just left Lundy.

*Ed*

### **Bursaries for Educational Expenses**

Little Hinton Educational Foundation offers bursaries to help young people in our parish with expenses related to their education.

If you are under 25, live in Hinton Parva or Bishopstone, and need help with the cost of books, travel, materials, equipment or other learning resources required for your academic, social or physical education, please get in touch. We need to know your name, age, address, where and what you are studying, and what costs you could use some help with. Please ensure your application is received before 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Write to:

Mrs Valerie Brodin

The Coombs, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH



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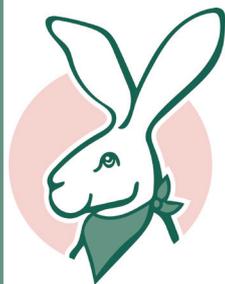
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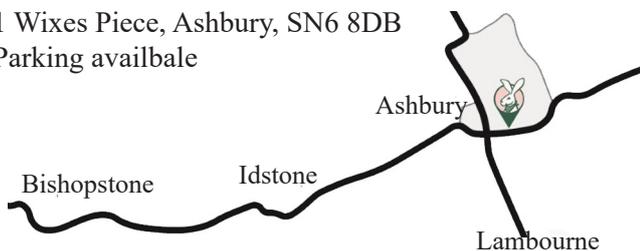
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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>		No Service	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>		No Service	
	Vigil of St Gregory the Great			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm		Hinton Parva
	Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm		Bishopstone
	Vigil of St Hildegard of Bingen			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			
	Harvest Sunday			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	6.00pm		Hinton Parva
	St Matthew (transferred)			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>		Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			
	Harvest Sunday			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm		Bishopstone
	St Michael & All Angels (transferred)			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			
	Harvest Sunday			

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

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Would you like to enjoy an extra two years on this wonderful planet of ours? According to research, we can do this simply by joining in with everyone else that is starting a new academic year. While this year will be very different in so many ways, schools, colleges and universities will try their best once again to feed the hearts and minds of pupils, teachers and support staff alike. Learning from, and inspiring, each other as the year progresses.

Twenty-four years of one particular piece of research has shown that those who read just thirty minutes per day live, on average, two years longer than their peers who don't. By the way, Facebook may not count! In an eleven-year span of that research, those who

read a book were found to be 23% less likely to die than those who only read magazines and newspapers. Other reported benefits include improved intelligence, emotional IQ, and a reduction in stress. And, to be honest, anything that helps reduce the stress of this *new normal* has to be a good thing.

A critical care sister was sent to see me by her matron. An articulated truck had driven over the top of her as she sat in her car while patiently waiting to enter a roundabout. Not surprisingly, she had mobility issues as a result. The thing is, her low mood seemed to be even worse than we had anticipated. Unable to work, it turns out that she spent a lot of her time watching horror movies. Changing the type of movie literally changed her mind, and, in a matter of weeks, she was a lot closer to the bubbly

personality that we knew and loved.

So, for me, there is no doubt that we become what we spend our time on, and who we spend our time with, as our relationships with others can be affected in much the same way. Many a recovering alcoholic has been doomed to failure because of the unrelenting condemnation of those around them. Sadly, limiting another's potential through carping criticism happens in life and in ministry. However, the joy of books came home to me when a child tagged with *behavioural issues* was transformed simply by being given the ability to read.

Discovering that they were able to transport themselves away from their chaotic home environment noticeably improved their attitude towards their teachers and their peers too. They also became a joy for me

to listen to. There are many quotes in the Bible on reading. The fact is, the Bible is God's love letter to each and every one of us, where we can learn that our weaknesses are nothing new, and, more importantly, that we are loved despite them. Written that we may learn to build up, rather than demolish, it goes on to promise more than a two-year extension, it promises eternal life. Happy reading! With best wishes and prayers  
If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

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

St Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

**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*

### 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

### Wanborough Farmers' Market

Wanborough Village Hall,

High Street, SN4 0AD,

9.00am - 12.00 midday

As I write I still don't know if the August farmers' market will go ahead in a few days' time. So what can I say about September? Fingers crossed, the farmers' market will be held on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

**\*\*\*\*New!!!!** The Gourmet Goat Company, currently appearing on Thursdays at Lotmead Farm, should be with us too. The Lacock Dairy ice cream is also a possibility. Ken's Fish will keep up his appearances - if you haven't tried it, do. We've

### Bus Route 47

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, the 47 bus is returning to its normal route, although there will be some minor changes to the times. It will be a Monday to Friday service initially. If passengers wish to travel on a Saturday they should contact West Berkshire Council:

**01635 519 394, or email transport@westberks.gov.uk**

and the service will be reinstated when there is sufficient demand. Information on the Saturday service will be posted at bus stops in the villages when it restarts.

### LAMBOURN - SWINDON

via Upper Lambourn, Ashbury, Idstone, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough, Great Western Hospital, New College, Swindon Town Centre

#### MONDAYS -FRIDAYS

Lambourn, Market Square	0800	1000	1200	1705
Ashbury, Rose & Crown PH	0812	1012	1212	1717
Bishopstone, Pond	0817	1017	1217	1722
Wanborough, Calley Arms PH	0826	1025	1225	1731
Great Western Hospital [D]	R	R	R	R
Swindon, New College	0835	1034	1034	1740
SWINDON Bus Station [9]	0842	1041	1241	1745

#### MONDAYS -FRIDAYS

SWINDON Bus Station [9]	0845	1045	1345	1620	1750
Swindon, New College	0852	1051	1351	1626	1756
Great Western Hospital [D] ...	1057	1359	1632	1802	
Wanborough, Calley Arms	0901	1102	1404	1637	1807
Bishopstone Pond	0909	1110	1409	1644	1815
Ashbury, Rose & Crown PH	0913	1115	1416	1648	1819
LAMBOURN, Market Square	0925	1128	1428	1703	1831

R - only serves Great Western Hospital on request of passengers.

never eaten so much fish in our lives!

For confirmation contact:

Sue Birley 01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

or see the parish website:

www.wanborough.info

### The Community Café

If at all possible (restrictions permitting!) we will be back offering tea, coffee and home baked cakes and cookies at the Farmers' Market in September. It's been a long time and we've missed you, and inevitably we'll be doing things rather differently; come and see!

*The Community Coffee Morning Team*

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

**Not, we stress from our parish:**

- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



Phew! It's a scorcher and we are (13<sup>th</sup> August) just finishing the wheat harvest. This is early for us and so far so good, with very good quality, little to dry and, considering the wet autumn which only allowed us to plant the high, easier ground which is usually less rewarding, our yields are satisfactory. Both wheat and the straw which we have baled behind the combine should be a good trade. Both are in short supply; the wheat because very little was sown on the heavy land, and the straw because the dry April and May limited growth. Now we will be cutting the spring barley which is expected to be a weak trade, with premiums for malting hard to find, if the weather stays kind. Later, in August/early September, our beans might be ready. This is a new crop for us. In common with our neighbours, we had to find another crop to plant this spring following the failure of the oil seed rape, destroyed by flea beetles. Because beans are a legume they are a good entry for us, to follow them with wheat this autumn. Beans are destined as an export to Egypt as a human protein feed, or for animal rations here, replacing imported soya. Some cereal stubbles will be left, under an environmental scheme for birds to forage seeds over the winter, and some planted as soon as we can with vetch and phacelia, to give a cover over winter of green manure to help soil structure, and lift organic matter. Despite last year's wet winter, with springs gushing water like a leaking colander in March, we have noticed that the Lertwell brook, running through our Zulu farm in the vale, has dried up. Young elm trees are once again dying in our hedgerows and there are growing signs of ash die-back, shown as small branches within the canopy minus their leaves. A conversation with a tree surgeon confirmed that affected trees in vul-

nerable situations will have to be taken down before the big branches become brittle and unsafe for climbing. It is disappointing to be losing part of our heritage, but this all goes to show that nothing is static in the countryside. Some features die, however, this year I planted more hedges in spring but have needed to water them twice to keep losses to a minimum. A word over the ammonium nitrate explosion in Beirut. This is the same product that inorganic farmers use here stored in big bags and marketed as nitram 34.5% nitrogen, to stimulate crop and grass growth. Regulations require us to keep this product safely and in a locked building. It will deteriorate over time, potentially becoming unstable and we would not dream of extending storage, particularly in bulk, over many years.

### *Every Product Has a Story...*

This is the strap line of Hinton Marsh Farm's farm shop in Shrivenham High Street which, fortuitously, opened ten days before lockdown. The owner, Rebecca Jones, is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer whose family have been tenants at Hinton Marsh Farm since 1956. Rebecca is passionate about good, honest, ethical, sustainable, local food. There's no lip service here – she lives it. Her family take part in the full food life-cycle – breeding and rearing the animals, growing their food, butchering and selling their award-winning, fully traceable meat, burgers and sausages in recyclable or compostable packaging. Her Mum even sells pictures of the animals in the shop! The shop also supports many of her like-minded local farmers' market colleagues.

The shop itself has been beautifully done using upcycled materials from the floor boards to the toilet suite, with milk churn stools, and a counter made of sanded-down wooden pallets. All the seasonal fruit and vegetables are grown in Bourton or Evesham – who knew water melons were grown in Bourton?!! There are local jams, honey, apple juice, and peanut butter; Cotswold ice cream and award-winning cheeses; fill-your-own olive oil and local rape seed oil and milk. There are delicious homemade cakes and sausage rolls, free-range eggs, and Severn Bakery preservative-free bread finished in the shop. Fair-trade coffee – for home or takeaway (fully recyclable cups!) Even sustainable BBQ charcoal from Westonbirt Arboretum. There's a real community vibe, with a local notice board, and the shop offering a delivery service to the vulnerable and our NHS heroes struggling to make the opening hours of 8.30am – 5.30pm.

I want to eat well, be environmentally conscious, and support local producers but am mindful of both cost and time. But those delicious sausages – tonight I'm having *Toulouse* and my husband is having *Alabama* (the flavour, not the pig's name!!) – are comparable in price to the premium brand in the supermarket down the road with no need to compromise or buy a whole packet. The soft fruits have been superior in taste, at a more than fair price, with no plastic packaging in sight. I think I've found our future.

*Karen*



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As I write this, on an autumnal August day, only three days after I had watched—watched—beads of sweat forming on the backs of my stationary hands as I sat in traffic in Hungerford, the car's outside temperature gauge reading 36 degrees (again), my thoughts turn to fruit. Hard and soft.

Hungerford is where the outstanding Richard Paget, his family, and his gang run *My Apple Juice*; in fact, it's a complex route off the Common—watch out for very slow cattle with no highway code instinct—but it's worth the journey. Have you not noticed the sheer volume of fruit on those trees this year? Apples, crab apples, pears, in the gardens and hedgerows. Plums and damsons and greengages bringing whole boughs close to the ground. Even the occasional vines round here are fruiting. I expect the wild hop harvest in Cues Lane to be significant this year, as well. Keep your eyes open—it's interesting what those hedges hide.

*My Apple Juice* does just what it says on the tin—take him your apples, and he'll juice them for you. Throw in some pears and the label will say Pepple, or a similar mishmash of words. We had Grapple one year—you can work it out. Bespoke labels, lots of fun, and the best juice you'll ever have at breakfast (except Helen's beetroot and ginger, of course).

If it's all a bit of an effort, or for whatever reason Hungerford seems a hike too far, bring them to the pub—leave them with your name and a phone number, and we will organise it all; every year we have about 200 big bottles from him, the results of our own foraging and others' generosity. I am happy to do the hard work, and to repay you for the raw ingredients with a few bottles of your own. Delivered to your door with our customary charm and polish.

Our shop continues to draw lovely

customers, but fewer since lockdown was eased. We have built up a surplus of frozen stock, stuff that we have frozen rather than allow to go out of date, like organic bacon, sausages, corned beef, various steaks, all from the farm, and other nice stuff. This normally non frozen food is available at half price from the minute you read this until **10<sup>th</sup> September**, unless it's sold by then. Bring this organ with you please, when you take up this offer. The offer does not apply to items that normally sit in the freezer, eg Helen's truly scrumptious ice cream, which continues to be the most expensive (and loveliest) ice cream in the whole of the big wide world. Our new shop and retail manager has been poached from Harrods and she starts work late September. Expect golden elephants in the reception area. For hard core (thuggish) football fans,

a little opportunity, especially if, like the landlord, you are a Leeds United enthusiast. Their former manager, David Hockaday, is hosting a private supper for 15 people in the pub on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. He promises to reveal all about his entertaining and semi-disastrous two months in charge under some lunatic Italian owners four years ago. It will be fun, just before the new season starts. Keep it you yourselves, please.

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Tim Finney

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12<sup>th</sup> September  
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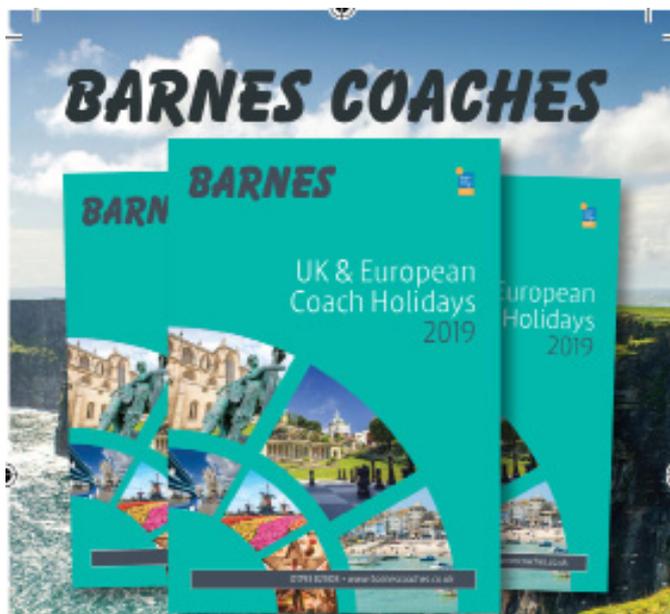
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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva Where's the \*\*\*\*\* Fairy Door???

Before I get started, let me just reassure those of you who've been on tenterhooks - I've managed to get my words to Mogs on time this month, so am not sitting on the naughty step. This is a matter of some relief to me, at least, as the naughty step is a considerable distance from the freezer and a ready supply of heatwave-busting ice cream.

There again, by the time you're reading this, the heatwave will doubtless be a distant memory. If so, let me remind you that it stopped most of us from sleeping or moving about at more than a slow sashay, and even made salad look appealing. It made most of us grumpy and uncomfortable. We generally really didn't enjoy it but, if it's gone now, we're probably already wishing it would come back. . .

I must admit to having missed the *worst* of the weather here, as we spent early August in Cumbria. We were surprised to be hiking around with temperatures in the mid-20s, as we'd expected the usual Cumbrian rain, but that's as hot as it got. Pleasant, and not strength-sapping. Which was a good thing, as our strength was sapped enough by The Nature Trail. On the face of it, the fact that we were staying somewhere that offered an outdoor activity to entertain children was a Good Thing. Over the course of the week it turned into a Very Bad Thing. Indeed, for the simple reason that the Trail was clearly laid by someone who wanted to blight people's holidays by making it completely impossible to ever find all the hidden animals.

Things started well - within a minute of starting the walk, we'd spotted Sally the Spider and Simon the squirrel. It pretty much went downhill from there. Thankfully, the Trail was close at hand and the weather was conducive to walking round it several times a day (yes - we really did). After two days, we'd managed to add Sid the snake to our tally - or was he Derek the dragonfly? - he was so far up a tree that it was hard to tell. Freddie the frog was eventually spotted af-

ter several circuits of a particularly large oak tree; we weren't sure what he was doing up there - are frogs particularly well known for their tree climbing antics or love of acorns?

By this time, we had laid hands on a map of the Trail; we knew, in theory, the general location of the 11 items we were hunting down. This helped, and we added Lottie the ladybird to our list, but only after another five treks around. By now, Brecon the dog (the real, live, dog we'd taken with us on holiday) was getting impatient with our hopeless hunting attempts; he found Fiona the fox for us, sniffing around her den impatiently, clearly finding our lack of tracking skills an embarrassment. We wouldn't have found her without him. By the end of the week, we'd resorted to asking staff for clues. One very nice lady handed over a coin to hammer into the Penny log when we eventually found it, having followed her directions to the letter. Not everyone was as kind and one request for help was met with the brusque assertion that *wildlife isn't easy to spot, you know*. Yes; we do know that. However, if a Nature Trail is laid out for children to enjoy, surely it should be fun and not turn into a chore that sees families driving home from their holiday with despondent children wailing, *We can't go home yet; we still haven't found the Fairy Door?*

*Mrs Mantelpiece*

### And Almost Finally...

Autumn is almost upon us. Time for a little review of this weird year.



The lockdown hasn't adversely affected me as it has some. I'm not one to go on holidays and hate shopping. I have discovered frozen raspberries, go for long walks most days, and have bagged two more great members for the editorial team, so all in all it's been OK.

Tamsin's nautical tale of sailing in time of corona has come to an end. If you enjoyed it, let me know and

I'll try to persuade her to write more. Oh good grief! Have you read the vicar's letter (page 8)? Apparently people who read books live longer than those who don't. Looks like I'm going to live forever, unless I get run over by a truck, of course.

*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

[mcanespie@gmail.com](mailto:mcanespie@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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