

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva February 2021

Village News



Vicar Resigns

Bill O'Connell has been the vicar in our benefice for seven years. He resigned on 31st December,

(see page 8)



These lovely pictures were taken around Bishopstone, at New Year, by Lauren Golding.

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Covid News from Around the World

This wretched Covid-19 is a global pandemic. The team came up with the idea that it would be good to get the perspective of some of our friends around the world, so here are a couple of reports. Hopefully, we will have more next month.

Ed (See also page 9)

Canada

There is no doubt that 2020 (and 2021, by the looks of it) was one of the most challenging faced by our generation. The Covid-19 virus invaded Canada early in the year and was initially greeted with some skepticism by many people. Our federal government reacted fairly quickly with guidelines and protocols (and border closures) in an effort to keep people safe. These were taken lightly by some until the extent and severity of the virus became evident, by which time it was already entrenched.

The support given by our government has been excellent, with programmes to provide financial support for individuals and businesses put in place quickly to enable people to stay isolated at home as much as possible. Despite those efforts, as of 11th January, 2021, Canada has recorded 673,000 cases and 17,172 deaths (many in long term care homes) so far, and our health care system remains at maximum capacity. Vac-

cines are slowly being distributed and, hopefully, will help to defeat this latest creation of Mother Nature.

Sue Neave

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Nicaragua

It has been a very weird year. For two years we have had a trip planned to India, but they cancelled it in January, so we booked a trip to Egypt instead. The plan had been to stay in Turkey with friends for three weeks then spend two weeks in India, so we changed the reservations to four weeks in Turkey and a week in Egypt. My sister and I left Nicaragua on 10th March and flew to Istanbul. We were going to stay there for a week, then go to Egypt and then fly back to Turkey and travel all over Turkey with our friends. Well, we were only in Turkey for three days when the border to Egypt was closed, so that trip was off. We decided that we would just stay put. The first week was fine and then you could feel a shift in the air. We were following the news on the BBC and all the borders were closing in Europe. Billie and I talked. After only ten days in Turkey, we flew back to the US. We were hoping to return to Nicaragua, but I decided to fly to Oregon, and Billie went back to Nicaragua. I had planned on being in the US in June so I figured that I would stay for six weeks or so and then fly home.

Well, I ended up getting stuck in the US until November! I just kept going from house to house among all of the kids. It was a nightmare getting back to Nicaragua. Had to take a charter out of Miami and jump through a ton of hoops. Spent four nights in Miami so I could get my Covid test and make all of the deadlines work. So I am back home, but have just booked a flight to Oregon in mid-May. I want to get the Covid vaccine and the one that they are giving here is from Russia and hasn't been tested. So, quite an interesting year. The whole world is crazy. The kids and grandchildren are all doing fine. The kids hate the online school but other than that, they are fine. My daughter has a ton of regulations to follow in order to have her salon open but she is doing well. The Nicaraguan government has not really done anything about Covid. The numbers that they give are inaccurate. They say there have been 168 deaths, while the doctors say there have been almost 3,000. The people have put their own rules in place. They take your temperature, have hand sanitizer, and you must wear a mask to enter into any business. The Nicaraguan people have been vigilant about following the rules. The expatriate community has been the least compliant of anyone.

Karen Milne

Breakfast or Lunch or Snack on the Go

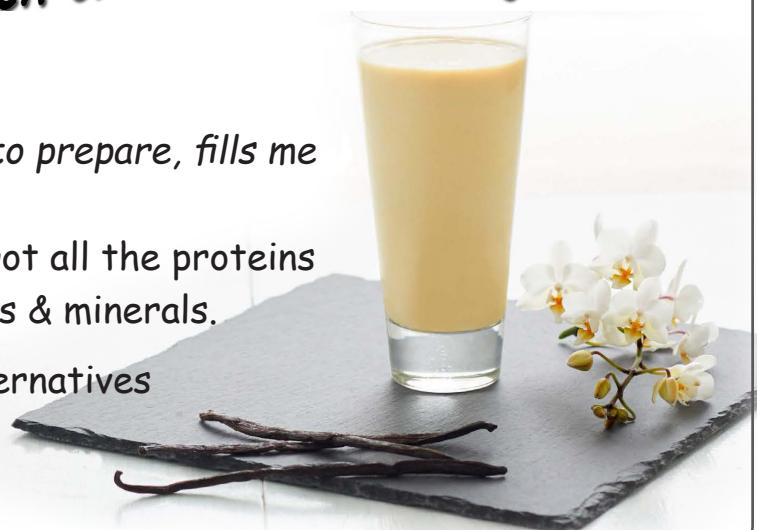
Some say; It's a perfect meal!

I just say; Tastes amazing, 30sec to prepare, fills me up, costs £1:30/meal!

Of course, it's great to know it's got all the proteins & fibres my body needs, 25 vitamins & minerals.

ps; plenty of vegan and non-soy alternatives

**Peter Svensson,
Wellness coach 07832 193 362**



Dickie's Diary

The success of a current best seller *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*, must be down to its simple message of kindness and cheerfulness. With a covid vaccine coming, produced in this country, which is a testament to this nation's abiding creative scientific ingenuity* plus a Brexit deal better than ever looked possible, it is time for our country to unite and look forward. There will be much to be thankful for, once we can get through the next few bleak months. Sure, nothing's perfect, and the Brexit deal will have some unfortunate catches, but most will now be able to plan ahead with more confidence, even perhaps that committed Remainer at The Royal Oak. He will be able to sell pig meat to Germany tariff free, but must be fed up with all the lockdowns.

The first job after school/college/ university can be vital as a stepping stone in a career, and my sympathies are with those chasing those elusive opportunities just now. In my own case after college and through family con-

nnections, I landed a farm job working for a remarkable man on a 400 acre farm he had just bought in North Norfolk. The farm had been purchased on a wing and a prayer and I was to live in, en famille, with Derek and Nancy Pearce, while he left the farm each day earning a decent salary elsewhere. Derek had left school at 14 to help his farming mother, who had an invalid husband, with older brothers away on war service. When they returned, a coin was tossed to see who would get the farm and Derek lost. From that uncertain start, and being completely self educated, he soon became farm manager at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. His next position was estate manager of 8,000 acres in Cambridgeshire, on fenland, with vegetables. Whist there, he was the first farmer to be accepted at Harvard, USA, on their famous Business Course. Later, he was able to buy the Norfolk farm that I was helping on. He went on to be chief executive of the Cooperative Eastern Counties Farmers, was chair of The Farmers Club in Whitehall, which holds seminars, and where you can book a bed and meal if you are in London. He

was also Master of the livery company, The Worshipful Company of Farmers, a prestigious organisation which helps train tomorrow's agricultural leaders. The formula which he designed is still fit for purpose today. He recently died and I was permitted by the family to Zoom his funeral service. In his son's eulogy, he said that the family was aware that his father had left some funeral instructions, but trawling his father's files it took him some time to locate them. Eventually they came to light under the heading *Cheer Up* which is where I started from. It has to get better.

Richard Green

* Of course, several vaccines have been produced collaborative around the world.

The Village Hall Bishopstone

Not too much to write about this month, so have enclosed our current check list. The only other notable fact is that we remain on hand should the hall be required as a Covid vaccination substation. If enlisted ...don't panic Mr Mainwaring!

February Check list

Covid Status -	Closed
Pre Bookings -	2
Car Park Status -	Full
Cleaning Status -	Spick and span
Oil -	6 Coconuts
Windows -	Sparkling
Gardener -	Resting
Heating -	Working (mostly)
Cinema -	Closed
Finances -	Moderate/ low
Planned Committee meetings -	None (pub shut)
Planned Projects -	On Hold
Christmas Tree -	Down
Twinkly Lights -	On
Risk Assessment -	Updated – Covid compliant
Online Booking System -	Under Review
Mood Level -	Low
Optimism -	High
For forward booking please contact:	
	Richard Walker 791 913 richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Sounds Like Women
All at the door of Hi
Take Away open the
Cancelled until further notice
watch this space.
the National Lockdown rules
and all the safety
Homemade cake
natural bee
playlist
Proce
W
be supporting our 'Music for Community
groups coming later this year.
ted by:
London Domestic Abuse Support Services.
Contact: Luiza & Colin Moir
01793 790 265 or 07541 956 179

Hinton Village Hall



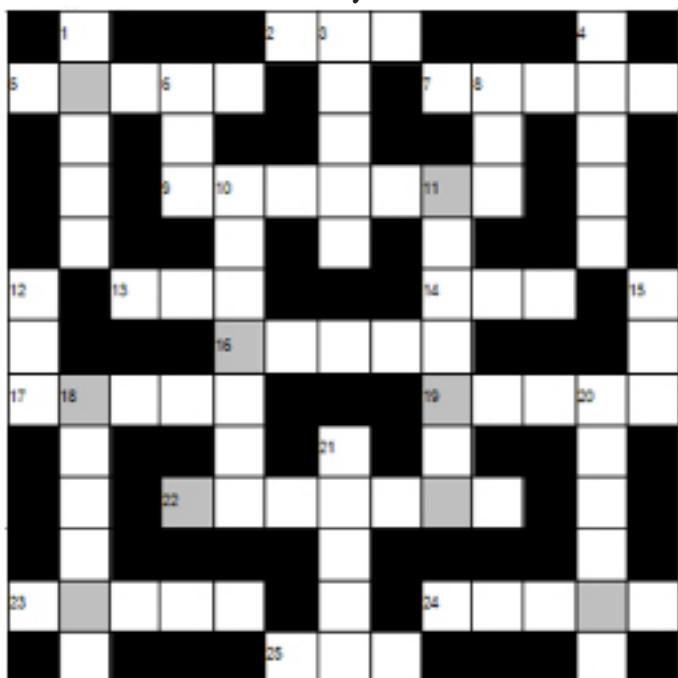
We regret that the Hall will have to remain fully closed for the next few months, but we are still looking forward to organising an event later in the year, similar to the *Carols in the Coombes*, which was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. In fact, we hope that, when we are able to reopen, the whole Village will want to use the Hall, in some way or other, to bring back a sense of community.

Until that nirvana day, unfortunately, we have to report that the new Saturday afternoon café, which was due to open on January 30th, will no longer be able to do so.

Ken and Rod

On behalf of the LHVH Committee

Pete's Prize Puzzle - As easy as ABC?



Across

- 2 Your laundry is this at the end. (3)
- 5 Rover gets out on the edge. (5)
- 7 No need to reinvent this to get somewhere. (5)
- 9 James digs deep to look through this. (7)
- 13 A small place to study? (3)
- 14 You might do this in 25. (3)
- 16 It follows that witch, mine or hobby could be arty. (5)
- 17 Double 12, an Olympic canoe. (5)
- 19 A cold home. (5)
- 22 This could be difficult to work out after a murder. (7)
- 23 You may have to wait here to play billiards. (5)

January winners

We are delighted to announce that there were two winners for the *Makes of cars* crossword. Congratulations Debbie Clark and Paul Bailey.

Answers to December Crossword

Sorry not doing very well I forgot to put the answers to the December *Christmas Carol* crossword in the January newsletter, so here they are:

Across

- 1 blessing; 5 feast; 6 snow; 8 sight; 9 wealth; 12 winter; 13 bless; 14 moon; 16 tread and 17 fountain

Down

- 1 brightly; 2 Stephen; 3 was; 4 frost; 7 blows; 8 shone; 10 mountain; 11 peasant; and 15 now.

These words came from the carol *Good King Wenceslas*



24 Tied up or jumping for joy. (5)

25 Black water fountain. (3)

Down

- 1 Not Clark's planet but still noble. (5)
- 3 This is not left, OK. (5)
- 4 Don't cheat when educating. (5)
- 6 What is the first one? (3)
- 8 Sounds like an aspect of Grant or Laurie. (3)
- 10 Don't get upset with this heat. (7)
- 11 The roof space is getting taller. (7)
- 12 This animal is hidden in 17. (3)
- 15 Gadzooks! The animals are locked up here. (3)
- 18 Eddy thinks this tree-lined road is electric. (6)
- 20 Is Leyton in the east? (6)
- 21 This music could be an Eastern duet. (5)

The shaded squares will provide the letters for a word which is the opposite of all 26 answers. Send the completed crossword and the answer to the anagram to the editor *by the 10th of the month*.

mogsboon@hotmail.com

or deliver to Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva.

Answers to January Crossword

Across: 1 - Jaguar; 4 - BMW; 7 - Ssangyong; 9 - Smart; 10 - MG; 11 Aston; 15 - Hillman; 17 - Kia; 18 - Seat; 19 - McLaren; 20 - Tata; 22 - Audi; 25 - Mitsubishi; 26 - Daewoo; 27 - Ferrari.

Down: 1 - Jensen; 2 - Austin; 3 - Honda; 4 - Bugatti; 5 - Morgan; 6 - Caterham; 8 - Hyundai; 12 - Alfa Romeo; 13 - Maserati; 14 - Skoda; 16 - Lada; 21 - Tesla; 23 - DS; 24 - Mini

Shaded squares: Lamborghini



Bishopstone Stores

**9.00am - 5.00pm Monday - Saturday
10.00am - 2.00pm - Sunday**

So here we are in the middle of lockdown #3! I do hope you are all safe and well and managing to stay sane...

As ever, Bishopstone Stores is here for you, and continues to open 7 days a week. It is worth noting, however, that we have temporarily changed our closing time to 5.00pm. It was so rare that you lovely lot were seen out and about after 6 o'clock, and my feet do start getting rather cold by that time! Once the Oak has reverted to a bit of normality and the evenings become lighter, we will return to our 6.00pm closing time. We do please ask that you have a quick read of our COVID rules, and remember your face mask when you call in.

So, whether you are working from home, furloughed, or trying your best to be a teacher, make us a destination during your daily exercise. We've got snacks galore – the (almost) world famous sausage rolls, a grand choice of cakes and savoury treats, and yummy croissants, along with the perfect solutions to the ever troubling, *What shall we have for dinner tonight?* question! Make it yourself from scratch with our fabulous fresh organic ingredients, or let us do the hard work for you with

our ready meals, or even a Friday night takeaway from the Oak.

Why not make your trip to the shop part of your home-classroom lesson plan and get the little people out into the fresh air? We've got a wonderful village explorers trail and some colouring sheets to give away to keep those mini minds occupied, and I would truly love to see some of the finished work...There must be an up and coming young Picasso in the village somewhere?

Look after yourselves, stay positive and happy....spring is on its way!

Lynne Muir

School Report

Well, I am sure that I am echoing many when I say that it wasn't quite the start to the year that we were hoping for.

School reopened after the holidays, and it is still open, just the number of children who are in daily has changed! the phrase *schools are closed* is not correct and I feel spreads misconceptions.

In Bishopstone CE that means we currently have 50% of our children in daily. Life has changed dramatically for us. In over 20 years of teaching I do not think I have experienced such a whirlwind of change in such a small amount of time. Having listened to Boris at 8.00pm, as a school, we were expected to have in place the following morning: remote learning for those now staying at home, staffing rejigged, and all additional duties covered. We then received a shopping list from the DfE and then told to *shop* to create food parcels. I had visions of me running around Asda with trollies full of cucumbers whilst teaching online . . . there probably is a whole online learning lesson in there though! Challenging to say the least, but it has been so important to keep smiling and find the positive in all that is happening. When writing this we are two weeks in and getting there. The school

has built a remote learning platform for the children at home, doing our very best to provide daily live learning sessions (internet is still the biggest barrier for this) whilst also teaching the children in school.

I now get to wear a cleaner's hat four times a day, MDSA hat to oversee lunches and my teacher's hat, for teaching . . . as do all the staff. Our 😊 CVs are growing by the minute

By the time this is published I expect we will be fully into the swing of things and over the initial hurdles. There is definitely now light at the end of the tunnel.

Sadly for the school, we were told of Revd. Bill retiring. This is a huge loss for us. Bill has been a central part of the school since I joined over 7 years ago and has been coming in weekly, throughout this time, to take Collective Worship (he even developed a talent for doing this via video with Oscar the Owl, since Covid).

He has led the worship group weekly in school, has supported school trips, dedicated time to families and children on an individual need basis, sourced resources that our budget doesn't cover, and boosted morale when things have been tough. Not to mention providing lessons and church services. His upbeat, forward thinking has helped us think outside the box when needed.

Alongside this, very importantly he has played a key role on our school Governing Board. His Governing role was a demanding one, both as a Foundation Governor and the leading of Siams alongside SEND and Safeguarding. Many, many hours of voluntary work, all behind the scenes. Both the children, staff, and I have never had the chance to publicly thank him for all that he has done for the school . . . so here we go *THANK YOU*. The school eagerly waits to hear who will be taking on all these essential roles within our community school. We hope that a new vicar is recruited quickly, to allow a seamless transition into such key functions within the school.

Emma Lindsay 



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Church Services in the Benefice

Due to the pandemic, services have had to be cancelled until further notice

Dear Friends

I wanted to be in touch with you all following the address from the Prime Minister which announced a national lockdown. It is distressing that the number of people infected has risen sharply; so many people have died and the NHS is again stretched. We turned the year in hope and expectation that things might improve and we find ourselves, once again, in lockdown in order to prevent the NHS becoming overwhelmed.

As this news broke, my thoughts were for the wellbeing of each of you, your loved ones, and the communities you serve. I am full of gratitude and admiration for the ways you have adapted, worked, and been faithful amidst the pandemic thus far. Last night I heard from the Bishop of London, who liaises with Government on Covid related questions. Bishop Sarah and the national Church of England have issued a helpful response to the new lockdown restrictions. The government has issued new guidelines.

You will have noticed, unlike the lockdown in March 2020, these guidelines allow places of worship to remain open for services. Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies, and funerals are allowed with strict limits on attendance, and must only take place in COVID-19 secure venues or in public outdoor spaces unless in exceptional circumstances. Government has recognised that places of worship are of incalculable benefit to the whole community as places of refuge, reflection, and support, as well as practical aid. You can find here the latest advice and regulation for churches which are acting as community support hubs, and this advice will continue to be updated. This lockdown we can access our buildings even if we decide not to host collective worship. This allows us to maintain the vital cycle of prayer in our buildings that we and our communities cherish. Please do not be bashful about telling your community that you are praying for them.

The government guidance and Church of England's response means that local churches can make their own decisions on whether to remain open for communal worship, prayer, and other activities. I trust the local leadership – ordained and lay – across this Diocese and I am therefore content for incumbents and PCCs to make their own decisions on arrangements for prayer, worship, and service of the community. If you do stay open for communal worship, given the new, more transmissible form of the virus, each of us needs to be confident that guidelines will be adhered to, and 2 metres distance maintained between individuals/bubbles. Therefore, I encourage you and your PCCs to consider whether it is safe and/or possible for your local churches to remain open for public worship. If you decide it is not safe and/or possible, please let us know. We will support your local decisions. I know that these are not simple decisions and your Area Deans, Christopher, Neil, and the Bishops are on hand to help and advise in your decision making process. If you have questions please don't hesitate to be in touch.

All of us are weary, as are those we serve. Let us support each other, remembering the variety of contexts in which we serve, and a range of circumstances for individuals. Please pray for those making decisions, not least those we might not understand or agree with. Please pray for those with responsibilities for home schooling and care of those who are vulnerable. Please pray for those who live alone and those for whom home is not safe or secure. And let us continue to pray for those in our communities whose work or volunteering puts them at risk.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.

And may each of you know Christ's presence with you day by day.

Yours in Christ's love,

The Bishop of Bristol, Rt Rev'd Vivienne Faull,

Notice from the Diocese

The Rev'd Bill O'Connell has resigned as priest in charge of the Lyddington and Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva Benefice, with effect from 31st December 2020. We would like to thank him for his ministry here over the years, and wish him well.

During the vacancy, the Diocese of Bristol will support the parishes so that services and pastoral care will continue, led by the Reverend Sandy Railton, and we are grateful for the help of so many volunteers

in the communities. A new office email has been set up for all of the parishes:

villagechurches@gmail.com

Please use this for queries about worship or for any pastoral care needs. Sarah Sumner, Gill Brown, Tom Cripwell, John Lowry, and Alan Taylor PCC Vice Chairs and Church Wardens of the Benefice of Lyddington & Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: The Parish is in vacancy.
Parish service cover and pastoral care

is being provided by the Rev Sandy Railton. Please contact her through the new Benefice email

villagechurches@gmail.com

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor
01793 791 666
R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church wardens:

St Mary's John Lowry 01793 790 271

St. Swithun's Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148
tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Doug Stevens 07899 791 833
dougstevens1966@gmail.com

Karen Stevens 01793 791 107
kschurchview@gmail.com

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Tom Sargeant 07517 145 051
tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

Tommy's Titbits

Promises, Promises

Most people make vows when they get married or just want to commit to being together which, religious or otherwise, promise many good things. Things like; remaining faithful for the rest of your lives, cherishing each other, supporting each other in sickness and in health. The Christian vows go further with, ...*all that I am I give to you and all that I have I share with you.* Serious stuff.

That's a huge commitment and one that I found quite daunting when I married Emma, as I was desperate not to let her down. Life can be tricky, but so far, so good.

We are human though and I doubt that many of us fulfil all of these commitments all the time. Hopefully, it's then that we say sorry, ask for forgiveness, and renew our efforts to be better in the future. But if we keep breaking vows, show no remorse, and continually do wrong, it will be hard or impossible to find sympathy or forgiveness.

On the other hand, if we remain true to our vows, cherish our nearest and dearest, stay faithful to them, look after them in bad times, and stick with them our whole lives, this is a wonderful thing. It will touch all those around us, and is crucial to our children who are so precious and easily overlooked. It can even help the next generation. Some of my friends have never married, others remain happily married, some have married twice and are now happy and even one is on her third husband and finally really happy. Some divorced bitterly and others seemed to manage it really well, managing to avoid too much upset. But the ideal has to be to keep our promises and commitments. After all, if we make a promise in front of family and friends, and we break it, we lose

credibility and integrity. This is especially the case if we are in a responsible position or advising others. If we keep our word, we gain respect, set an example to those around us and make a positive impact in the wider world.

Tom Cripwell

St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

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

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

Wanborough Farmers' Market Should be on

9.00am - noon

Saturday 20th February

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

However, we cancelled January and at the time of writing are still under lockdown so don't know about February. Please check the village website:

www.wanborough.info
or contact Sue or David Birley:
01793 790 438
sbirley@gm.apc.org

Germany in Covid Times

(continued from page 3)

Since December we live in a hard lock down again.

We live in Bavaria and had originally planned to celebrate Christmas with our family in the North of Germany. Due to Covid-19 we had to cancel all our plans. It was the first time in over 20 years that we celebrated Christmas in our immediate family (me, my husband and our two children, 18 and 21 years old). It was unusual but also relaxing because we had much less preparation and organization. Instead of personal contact we skyped and 'phoned a lot, but it does not replace hugging and physical closeness.

What we also miss very much is meeting friends, celebrating birthdays and family celebrations. The wedding of my husband's cousin and the 85th birthday of my aunt were cancelled. This is normally a good occasion to see the whole family again, especially as you do not know how long they will live in these Covid times. Fortunately, no one in our family has contracted or died from Covid-9 so far. What does our daily life look like? My husband and me, we are lucky that we can go to work and we still have enough work. Our daughter studies online, which is very tiring. She misses the contact with her fellow students. Our son is doing a voluntary ecological year in Hamburg. Unfortunately, all museums, theatres, and attractions are closed there. Many seminars, workshops, and activities cannot take place, or only take place online in a reduced form. All the evening activities also cannot take place any more. So we spend our time playing games, doing online sports, tidying up, and sorting out things we've been meaning to do for a long time but haven't got round to yet.

I fear that the lockdown will continue until March or April. We can handle it quite well even though it gets on our nerves. But what do those do who live alone, lose their jobs, become ill and have financial worries?

Gundi Pohlmann

Recycling Matters

One of the great things about writing this column is that I feel accountable – honour-bound to be more sustainable in my everyday life. With this in mind, I decided it was about time that I looked at switching to a green energy supplier and tariff (this is often the important bit when it comes to sustainability) for our electricity – and potentially save a little money along the way too. Despite priding myself on being a bit of a *rate tart* when it comes to switching financial products and insurances, it's been a number of years since I've switched energy supplier, so I knew there was potential there – sadly, loyalty in the commercial world seldom seems to pay! Green energy is generated from renewable sources such as hydro, solar, wind, or wave power that doesn't deplete the Earth's resources – it's often referred to as renewable.

I'd forgotten that switching energy supplier and/or tariffs is incredibly easy – the energy flowing into your home doesn't change and there's no change to pipes or meters. This is because electricity is supplied from a nationwide network that's fed from multiple sources – some renewable, as listed above, but also from nuclear energy, and the burning of fossil fuels. By changing to renewable energy, the supplier will buy enough renewable electricity from the network to match your use. Even notifying your existing supplier is taken care of.

In recent years, some smaller energy suppliers have ceased trading but you're never at risk of losing your energy supply as a result. If this happens to your supplier, the regulator, Ofgem, appoints a new supplier to take over your account. However, I



would rather stick to *tried and tested* where possible, so, rather than using one of the many comparison utilities available online, I referred to Which magazine's latest customer satisfaction survey, and decided to get a quote from their highest scoring provider, Octopus Energy. (Octopus have an 83% Which customer score; the next was at 79% and the highest rated of the Big Six had 61%). All of their tariffs use 100% renewable energy, and they don't have any exit fees.

We were on a Standard Variable rate tariff with one of the Big Six and, according to our online account, we used 3,313 kWh last year. Getting the quote probably took me about 5 minutes. Going for the Super Green Octopus tariff, I was pleasantly surprised to find we would save just over £60 per year (just under 9.5%), plus get a further £50 account credit by using a referral code (more about this later!) We'd also 'save' 655kg of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of 327 trees per year. To me it seemed like a no-brainer, and I spent about another 5 minutes making the switch. If you haven't checked or changed your energy supplier recently, I would encourage you to do so for financial and, potentially, environmental savings. I think it's one of the things that Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis recommends you do once a year, or when a deal comes to an end. There's a large number of suppliers out there but if, after consideration, you too decide to try Octopus, please use my referral code – share.octopus.energy/teal-deer-301 You will receive a £50 account credit and I will happily donate the £50 credit that I will receive to the charity of your choice or your village hall. Just contact me (via the Ed) with your details and

which good cause you would like the money to go to. I'm happy to help if you need any further explanation too. Another painless-switch to being more environmentally-friendly!

Karen Walker

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support
Help for domestic abuse victims in Wiltshire is just a phone call away and available 24/7.

Service (SWA) is now providing support to victims of domestic violence across the whole of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire County Council. Whether you're male, female, young or old, you could need their help. Our lives are being affected by Covid restrictions and, for many, it's creating a dangerous and frightening situation. Home should be a place of safety and security, and a relationship should be based on love and mutual respect, but, sadly, for 2.3 million people a year this is not the case, and victims face physical and psychological abuse, coercive control, and rape. Two people a week in the UK lose their lives at the hands of their partner or former partner.

Working alongside Trowbridge based Splitz Support Service who offer support weekdays 9.00am-5.00pm, SWA cover Wiltshire outside these hours, and Bank Holidays. SWA support all victims regardless of age and gender, and run a free, non-judgmental 24hr helpline that's answered day and night by a trained advisor, not a machine. They offer help and support and work with you, at your pace.

We have a purpose-built refuge facility in Swindon and they offer extensive community support. Their advisors are trained in all areas of abuse across all age groups. If you are worried about your situation, you can call them in confidence on:

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It's hard to compete with some fun-loving, and flagrantly law breaking, Hinton Parva residents at the moment, according to local reports. We in impeccably locked down Bishopstone remain open-mouthed and aghast at news that a house in sleepy old Hinton, was raided by Swindon's zealous police service, when it became clear that some sort of illegal gathering was taking place around mid January. What on earth was going on? I hope it was an illegal gambling den, of course, to add colour to this story. And which house was it? And why weren't we invited? I can probably guess (why we weren't invited, and which house it might have been) but the usual voucher is available to spend here in return for more information, unless you culled it from the local daily paper, which I unaccountably forgot to read. Apart from that, not much of a diary, really, currently. I mean, one of the highlights of the past week or two has been writing to our local MP about turning this place, with its clean excess fridge space, car parking, one way system, waiting areas, plenty of retired and active medics and vets around all willing to help, into a local vaccination centre, serving the needs of our local villages in this odd period of our lives. Mr Buckland has responded telling me he's passed the idea on to Swindon BC and one of the national care commissions. We await the response without bated breath. One of my *friends* in the village asked how I would respond if we got the go-ahead and we were told to accept people from Ashbury. No problem I said, I like them all as far as I

can see, but one of them would get a strong dose of horse sedative instead. Without wishing to dwell on the Covid theme too long, one of the reasons we've some activity here is that we have key Covid workers staying from time to time. One of Swindon's multinational employers runs one of two factories in the UK that's licensed to put the bulk Biotech/Pfizer vaccine into its vials (the form it's delivered in to vaccination centres), so various of its technical people are using the Oak as their base while in the UK. I wonder how many of you were aware that this same company has transformed a five storey building somewhere in Swindon into a vast freezer running at minus 80 deg C, to store the stuff that's being made, I think, in Germany. And created 250 extra jobs. A thin silver lining inside a very large cloud. I've checked The Times newspaper interactive *when will you get your vaccination* on line column again and I'm now 80,100th in line—in Swindon. Late April, they say. Just in time to re-open. Another reason the lights are on here during what is for everyone a very dark 3 months (I suspect) is that we are using our downtime to try to improve the place and the people. Tedium in many respects (to have to read about it) but we're replacing lots of IT, hence installation and staff training; everyone on staff is being put through extra food hygiene training, because it can't do us any harm; we're redecorating some of the bedrooms, and one or two external improvements, which we don't have to do since it's an Arkell's property, but they're not

charging any rent so we feel an obligation to look after the place while they're short of cash, and people.

We're also about to put up discrete pig shaped directional signs —look out for them on trees, gate posts etc—to allow more people to enjoy parts of the farm they might otherwise be nervous about exploring. There's a limit to how many times you can walk this way and that, left and right, up and down the Ridgeway, I think. And our Botswicky 'wild' camp site had its first visitors in mid-December. On a wet and windy night, they enjoyed a deep warm (hot, even) bath at 9pm, much to their and our surprise; then slept like piglets on their straw bale beds. Enjoyed the compost toilets once they'd got over the initial complications of where to do what; and couldn't stop talking about it for a week. All after a superb firepit-cooked supper of Eastbrook Farm beef fillets. Which you can, of course, buy in our shop, seven days a week. Rather than asking a nice security guard if you can go into his supermarket.

In the meantime, our *Flying Pig* serving hot and cold organic food and drink to weary refugees and startled stagecoach passengers on ye ancient Ridgeway remains open (subject to sensible behaviour from our customers, eg using hand sanitiser before they touch ANYTHING on the vehicle, and wearing face masks when being served) 7 days a week, from about 10.30 till 3.00pm – although as days get lighter we tend to stay open till 3.30pm at weekends. If we have a day off, it's generally for some essential vehicle maintenance.

And *Bishopstone Stores*, our still fledgling farm shop/village shop is here to serve you 7 days week. Winter opening hours are 9.00 -5.00pm Monday to Saturday, and 10.00 - 2.00pm on Sunday. Come and grind your own flour—we've some of our own milling wheat grown on the farm last year, and a new consumer friendly small flour mill for you to use. It's more fun than buying a bag and a bit noisier.

Chin chin,

TF

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Things Bovinae

I'm delighted to see that last month's concerns about electricity being stuck in containers were much overhyped; our worries should have been directed at fish, it seems. And today's news included the fishiest excuse I've heard in years; well, since last year, anyway. The Minister for Fisheries apparently failed to read the fishing-related parts of the Brexit deal before voting it through because she was busy organising a Nativity trail. Wouldn't we all have made that choice?

This ranks up there with other such inventive excuses as *testing my eyesight* and *the cow was stuck in the tree*. You'll probably all recognise the former - it's unlikely the latter rings a bell. When my father was, as they say in my part of the world, *nobbut a lad*, he was at school with a boy who often arrived after the morning bell had rung. On one occasion, he claimed this was because the family cow had climbed into the tree at the back of their pub and he'd had to climb up to rescue her. This seems unlikely on so many levels... In other bovine news, today I noticed the best job advert I've seen in years, for a Bison Ranger. In fact, it was for not just one, but for two Bison Rangers. I had a brief ruminate (sorry) on the suitability of Dearly Beloved and myself for such roles, but thought that some knowledge of animal husbandry extending beyond dogs and hamsters would probably be required. What a shame...

Speaking of DB, I'm delighted to report that he and the dog haven't had to hide under the dining table this January. That's their usual go-to position while I wrestle with the production of the annual photobook. A while ago, I realised that having a trillion photos stored on a cloud somewhere was all well and good, but that it's sometimes nice to pick up an actual album and reminisce (and generally wonder why you ever thought *that* was a good look). Hence the annual photobook. While the product is generally much admired, the creative process has

been less so. This year, the website I use has upped its game so considerably that I haven't hurled a single missile in frustration. I have made a very interesting discovery, however. We all think that we did nothing last year, don't we? We were Locked Down, Tiered Up, and Generally Restricted; clearly, we did nothing all year. And that's what I firmly believed when I started Creating the Book. Now, I realise that wasn't quite right; we enjoyed several socially-distanted, outdoor gatherings of up to 6 (no matter the weather; I've never before seen so many pictures of people wearing blankets). I looked in amazement at pictures of a trip to London, to the Tutankhamen exhibition, in February; what were we thinking, going on the trains and the tube, wandering about busy galleries? When we were all released into the wild, in the Summer, we even managed a staycation (I know, I know). Anyway - it turns out that 2020 was actually not such a completely written-off year as we'd firmly believed, which has come as quite a surprise. I'm hoping it's a media-message driven thing, rather than an age-related memory thing. But how I wish that when we were Locked Down and Tiered Up we'd been studying Bison Wrangling instead of Practical Hairdressing...

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost
Finally...

The year hasn't been very jolly so far, the wretched weather mostly miserably cold and dreary without any decent snow, and then our being in tier 37 or whatever.

Also I seem to keep making mistakes, what with getting the wrong church services in the January newsletter and forgetting to give the answers to the December crossword - did anybody notice, I wonder?

But when I returned from my daily constitutional this afternoon I spotted some snowdrops flower-

ing under the silver birch tree; what a lovely promise of spring. Remember that I had a random and unexplainable rear view mirror turn up in my porch? Somebody (no I'm not saying who) abandoned it there. Does anybody want it?

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

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.

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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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