

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

April 2021

# Village News



Outraged, the Parish Council asked ward councillor Gary Sumner for help. With strong support from SBC, and even a little pressure from a national newspaper, BT was persuaded to return the kiosk so that the Parish Council could adopt it for the community. Under BT's *Adopt a Kiosk* scheme, the Parish Council paid just £1. Jan said the kiosk will be lovingly refurbished and given a new lease of life despite no longer containing a 'phone, or even a power supply. Earlier this month, Hinton residents Mandy Ridler, Helen Walding, and Lesley Coates approach the Parish Council offering to run a community book swap from the 'phone box once it is restored, and councillors gladly agreed to their creative proposal. So in a month or two, Hinton Parva residents can look forward to enjoying their very own tiny library!

*Sheila Collins (AKA, Sub)*



## The Restoration of a Telephone Box in Hinton

Jan Brodin starts the mammoth task of cleaning, painting, and refurbishing Hinton Parva's telephone kiosk which was recently returned by BT and adopted by Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Parish Council. Sadly, the K6 Heritage kiosk is now in a much worse condition than before, with panes of glass missing and major repairs to the door required. Despite the Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council going through the due diligence consultation process with BT in 2016, 2019, and February 2020, (each time recommending that the 'phone should remain for emergency use), the kiosk was removed by BT in December.

Bishopstone School Welcomes the Children Back  
See page 3

*Photographs by Sub Editor*

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



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Wiltshire,  
SN6 8QB

### School Report



When you work in a school it is certainly true that your passion for the children is the most important element. Wanting the very best for them both academically and, just as importantly, socially/emotionally. Their whole wellbeing is at the forefront of your mind daily (if it isn't, then I would say you are in the wrong profession!). That is why we were so excited and relieved to have all our children return to school on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. Balloons were out and the school was filled with laughter, chatter, and sharing throughout the day. I would like to say that this is the way it has always been, but, having read the log books from 1890, I don't think chatter or laughter were encouraged. Needlework and silence seemed more likely, alongside worrying whether there was someone to teach while the headmaster went to get married; this takes several pages in the log! You can always turn to the back of the log to see any corporal punishment that was delivered!! How times have changed.

Teaching remotely has been a fantastic learning curve for staff. We have had to learn to deal with a whole variety of new situations, from pets joining the call, eyes flicking towards something that is more interesting

just off the edge of the screen, being shown random toys (which is really important to the child at home, but tends to then take the lesson off on a tangent), through to having to guess every other word due to poor internet, or keeping children entertained while you deal with a frozen computer screen or vanishing sound. I was told on more than one occasion that I *sounded like a robot* and am thinking that probably wasn't a compliment.

The biggest issue we found was the impact it had on our teaching methods, trying to include both the children at home and the children in class fairly. We found that the natural flow of dialogue that happens when you teach was very hard to replicate, leading to a lot more teacher talk and less direction and interaction from the children – not the way that we believe the lessons should work. Constant two-way discussion is crucial for assessing their understanding, developing their thoughts, and promoting self-esteem. So, as wonderful as online learning is, enabling that daily contact and children's learning to continue in unprecedented times, it is not, in my opinion, a substitute for having the children with you in the classroom.

Teachers have been busy adapting curriculums, prioritising learning, and being mindful of keeping the joy in school. We have World

Book Day and Red Nose Day allowing celebration and normality (very important at the moment, is normality for our children). We have created Easter art to be posted out to the elderly, who may be alone for the Easter time, and have just completed a reading challenge and smoothie competition. Let us hope, fingers crossed, that we can now continue smoothly until the end of July.

*Emma Lindsay*

See photograph front page, bottom right.

**Wanborough Farmers' Market**  
**Should be on**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
**9.00am - noon**  
**Wanborough Village Hall,**  
**High Street, SN4 0AD**

We weren't able to put on the market in March but are ever hopeful, so the next market should be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

To confirm, look at  
[www.wanborough.info](http://www.wanborough.info)  
 or contact Sue or David Birley:  
 01793 790 438  
[sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)

Kirsten's story continues. She is still changing shape, as her body builds muscle and loses fat. Total weight loss 44lbs. Jeans size from 18 down to an 8! (It started with a decision, then swapping breakfast for a yummy shake!)

Are you (or someone you know) interested in shaping up for summer? Or having more energy? Or just feeling better? Then why not give me a call, maybe just to see if we can figure out the best solution for you? Alternatively, find me on Facebook, free challenges, coaching etc (no obligation or strings attached).

*Peter*

07832 193 362  
[peter@swepan.com](mailto:peter@swepan.com)

**2 March 2021**

**19th July 2020**





## Bishopstone Stores

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

So Easter is pretty much upon us... If you are not already stocked up on chocolate goodies pop in and see us for the finest Organic Easter treats including the exceptional Cocoa Loco solid chocolate marbled bunnies - cute and delicious! Don't forget to collect your answer sheet and mini eggs for the village Easter Trail from us too. It's only £1 to take part and everyone who completes it will be entered into our fabulous prize draw! Easter got me thinking – why is the Easter Bunny a bunny? The chicks make sense, new life, springtime, etc etc...and the eggs go hand in hand with this, although we still don't know which came first!?! But why the bunny?? A short bit of research and it all became clear (ish!). It seems we have our German friends to thank for the bunny, which was in fact, originally an Easter Hare. Legend has it that the hare would decide whether children had been well behaved or naughty; those who had been well behaved were worthy of one of the painted eggs from the hare's basket. I'm seeing similarities to Father Christmas? Or perhaps another way to encourage good behaviour from the children? Chocolate has always been a good bribing tool in my book! Exciting times lay ahead for us this

month with the *roadmap* allowing us more freedom, and the pub garden soon to be the perfect place to finally see people who we don't live with! So, while you are relaxing and trying your hardest to remember how to be sociable, don't forget to call into the shop for all your groceries and treats! The range continues to steadily grow and I'm always open to suggestions if you think we are lacking anything. Thank you again for your continued support, and please do keep shopping local.

Lynne Muir

## Bishopstone Village Hall 100 & 500 Club.

### Notice of Change

The 100 and 500 clubs are being merged, to form the Bishopstone Village Hall Club, which will hold just one **Bumper** draw each year, in December. There will be a first, second and third prize. Current and new payments are by bank transfer only. Please note, all **cash** payments to the 100 Club have expired. If you are already a subscribed member of the 100 or 500 club, paying by direct debit, no action is needed. For each £10 paid into the Club, one ticket will be allocated and go into the draw, so a payment of £20 would generate two tickets, £30 would generate three tickets etc. Prize monies will be advertised closer to the draw date, and will be dependent

on the overall value of subscriptions to the Club at time of draw.

Contact Richard Walker: 791 913,  
or Phil Collins: 790 358,  
for more info and to sign up.

## Hinton Village Hall



The Village Hall is in fine fettle, and ready to operate very soon.

Luiza and Colin are hoping to open their Community Café outdoors on 24<sup>th</sup> April, on behalf of the **Sounds Like Women Charity**, so please wish for good weather for them.

Of course, as we are all used to hearing these days, it depends on the Covid regulations as much as the weather, and the organisers will be completing a risk assessment to ensure that all aspects are considered, including the installation of barriers to ensure the safety of those sitting outside.

So, with a fair wind, we look forward to the hall being used for its first function in over a year. We will post any changes via the Village website, on the Hall Noticeboard, and in subsequent Village News' entries.

In the meantime, please keep yourself and others safe and well.

Rod and Ken

On behalf of the Committee



### Exhibition online

<https://ridgewayfriends.org.uk/swire-ridgeway-arts-prize/>

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April** with the prize giving via Zoom on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

For more information:

Anthony Burdall 07841 352 938  
[anthony.burdall@burdall.net](mailto:anthony.burdall@burdall.net)

### Just for Fun

People seem to enjoy the crossword, so, when you have finished it, to keep you out of mischief, how about trying this?

#### Anagrams of Pub Names

1. Koala Theory
2. A Fowl Cheese Print
3. A Crab Shrieks Termly
4. Hid Ninth Beard
5. Wept in Headlights
6. The Nettle Heap Scandal
7. My Owl Feather
8. Healthy Bra Fees
9. Thin Phone
10. Cat Dodged Hunk
11. Mega Hen Rent
12. How Gentlefolk United

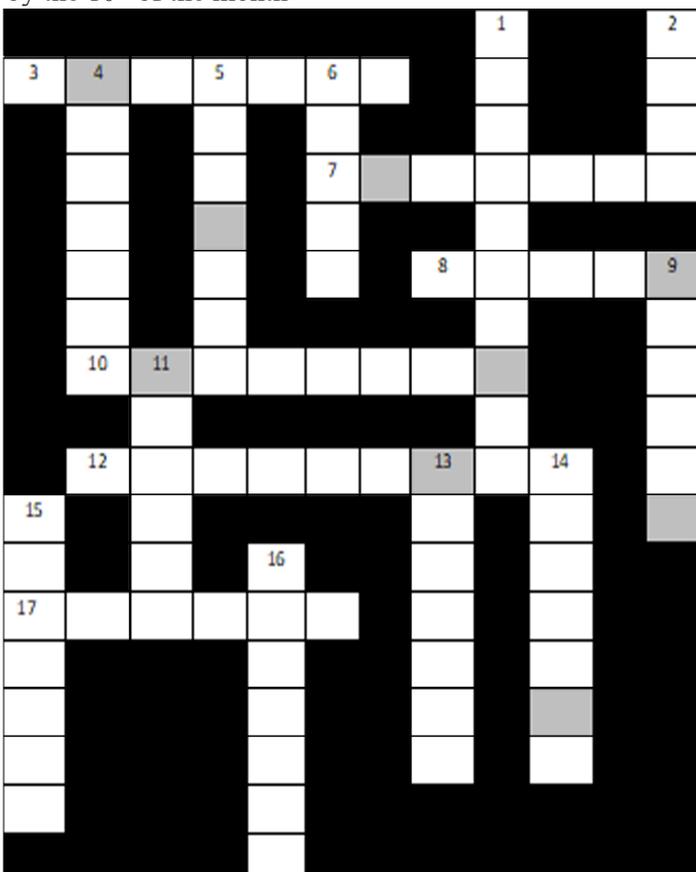
We aren't offering a prize. To start you off, here is a clue. The first pub may be your local. Answers will be in the May edition.

*Thanks, Lesley for these, Ed*

### Pete's Puzzle - County Towns

Biscuits are obviously something about which you have a great deal of knowledge, judging by the response to the March crosswords. So how is your geography?

Please submit your completed crosswords to the Editor: mogsboon@hotmail.com or 790 626 or stick the answers through my letterbox Brock Cottage, Hinton. by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month



#### Across

3. Green zeppelin colonel inside north. (7)
7. Fight at candle's end. (7)
8. Our art less a mix. (5)
10. On this spot by the car. (8)
12. Erect lies around this Midlands city. (9)
17. Had rum hereabouts. (6)

#### Down

1. Row about Bridget. (10)
2. This city is part of the rainbow. (4)
4. I wish PC found in Suffolk. (7)
5. Sounds like Charlie could be furniture with drawers. (7)
6. Does this belong to Lou? (5)
9. Tree meat. (6)
11. Extreme east without me round. (6)
13. Gibe not off. (7)
14. You do this with books. (7)
15. Sleep in this flooded road. (7)
16. US TV lawyer Matthew by a Scottish lake. (7)

The shaded squares could be a servant weight.

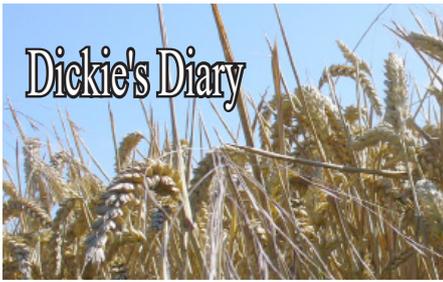
#### March winners

Carolyn Horwood, David Whitaker and Elizabeth Cooke.

#### Answers to March Crossword

Across: (1) Garibaldi; (7) ginger; (9) snap; (10) coconut; (12) tea; (13) cream; (16) Viennese; (17) jammie; (18) dodger.  
 Down: (2) ring; (3) bourbon; (4) digestive; (5) fig; (6) Anzac; (8) Nice; (11) oaty; (13) custard; (14) malted; (15) rich.





The dawn chorus heralds the morn and, to me, it's stronger at 6.00 than at 7.00am. As spring rushes forward, already our aconites have just finished flowering after showing a vibrant yellow for only 7 weeks and snowdrops are passing their best.

The story of the spring as it affects the farm was one of unrelenting rainfall again this winter, then came the good frosty period, finishing with some biting winds which started the drying process. Now as I write, a clear dry week has given us the chance to get on with the spring planting. My cousin, Bob Green, farming at Fairford, records rainfall. He tells me that his normal average is 26 inches/annum. With the July floods of 2007, he recorded 40 inches, which was repeated in the past year, 2020. And he had measured 9 inches in the first two months of 2021.

I enjoyed seeing the Eastbrook farm dairy cows prancing out to enjoying a bite of grass in early March. After such a wet winter we have actually already finished our spring planting campaign, except for the shooting patches and forage maize we grow for a neighbour. They come later. We have sown 230 acres spring barley, 54 acres of spring planted winter wheat, and 90 acres of spring beans all in a week. This progress has been possible because none has had to be pre-ploughed, all was direct drilled and has gone in well. I am told this is called *regenerative farming*, reducing emissions to counter climate change. The key is that nearly all the ground was sown in the autumn into a loose surface, with an over wintered mix of phacelia and vetch to give a friable undisturbed seedbed for the spring. Soil structure is key and this year's frosty spell has also helped condition the soil. I know this in my vegetable garden

because it was a joy to plant the broad bean bed at the beginning of March. A dopey pigeon was caught by the dog in the garden. I tied it up, wings outstretched, in a laburnum tree. We love this tree when it flowers, and this was done to frighten and deter the pigeons that roost there and pollute the patio beneath with their droppings. Within a day it was stripped to the bones by crows.



On a walk near some oaks, on the downs, I detected a faint tapping, almost metallic and so much quieter than the drumming of a woodpecker. Then we saw a little bird climbing vertically up the trunk. It's good to know that nuthatches are about here.

Dickie Green



HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire becomes a Patron of Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services. Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, is giving her support to Swindon and Wiltshire's domestic abuse charity by becoming a Patron. Mrs Troughton, who is the official representative of Her Majesty the Queen, has been Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire since February 2012, and was the first woman in the county to hold the position since its creation in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Mrs Troughton said: *I've been aware of the terrific work of Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service for many years, and I am delighted and honoured to become a Patron. During the pandemic, domestic abuse support services have been needed more than ever. I'm especially keen to lend my support in rais-*

*ing awareness, and helping male as well as female victims of domestic abuse, and this is an area in which I know SDASS are working hard.*

Nicky Alberry, Chair of the Board of Trustees of SDASS said: *We are all so pleased that Sarah Troughton has agreed to become one of our Patrons. She has always taken a keen interest in our work and her passion and determination will be a great help for us going forward.*

*Her appointment is reflective of the work we are now doing across Wiltshire in supporting all victims of domestic abuse, and we look forward to working with her in what will be a very busy time as COVID restrictions are lifted.*

The appointment of Mrs Troughton follows on from the recent appointment of Dame Esther Rantzen OBE as a Patron, earlier this year.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service is free and confidential, serving Swindon and the surrounding area. Our service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, supporting both female and male victims of domestic violence, those in lesbian, gay, heterosexual relationships, those who are in fear of being forced into marriage and those who fall victim to honour-based violence. We also work with young people aged 16-25 years who may be experiencing domestic violence or abuse as part of an intimate relationship.

SDASS operates a refuge which has been purpose-built and specially designed. With 22 individual flats, it can accommodate lone females or families with children up to 18 years old, and has a dedicated team of trained staff. In the community, SWA has a network of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) who work with victims, based within the Great Western Hospital, Doctors' Surgeries and Health Centres across the town.

Our dedicated helpline

01793 610 610

is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year covering Swindon and extending to the county of Wiltshire, every day 5.00pm – 9.00am, every weekend and bank holidays.



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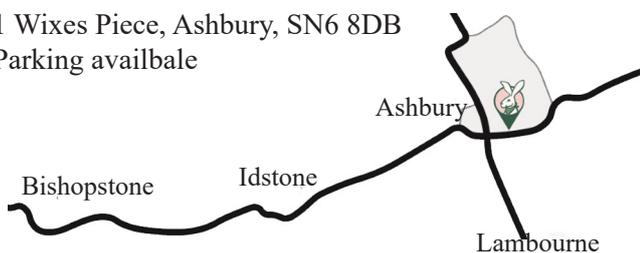


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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Palm Sunday			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	7.30pm		St. Swithun's
	Maundy Thursday			
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	2.00pm		Bishopstone
	Good Friday		Please note that there will be no Stations of the Cross - Covid restrictions	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough*
	Easter Day			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington*
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent			

\* Note change of venue - due to 4 yearly rota of special services Easter Day is at St. Andrew's  
We are hoping to keep the churches open after Easter BUT masks have to be worn and social distancing observed as before, during the pandemic.

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

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

At last there is good news – each of the four Churches of the Benefice will have a service, in church, through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Please see the service rota, above.

Due to Covid regulations masks will have to be worn. There will be music played but no singing, in accordance with Government Regulations. Please come and join us as our churches open up again for worship – you will be very welcome, especially at this important time of the year.

The story of the events of Holy Week and Easter move along very quickly, but they are days full of meaning. From Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem to cries of *Hosanna!*, to a few short days later when we remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples, and his betrayal by one of his followers.

His trial follows and then the long walk carrying his cross to the place of execution on Good Friday. It is hard for us to walk with Jesus through these days, to enter into the pain of betrayal, the injustice of his trial and the

agony of his cross and death; but if we can undertake the journey we will come to share more fully in the joy of the resurrection on Easter morning.

And if we walk with the women to the tomb on that first Easter Day we too will look with astonishment at the stone rolled away and the empty tomb. Where is Jesus? And then we look around and he is with us. What wonder and joy fill our hearts.

And that is the good news of Easter – that Jesus has overcome death and he is with us. With us through all the ups and downs of life. With us in our brokenness and despair, with us in our joys and happiness. There is nothing we have to face in life on our own, we only have to ask Jesus to be alongside us, strengthening and guiding us.

May the Church resound with joy this Easter and spread throughout the Benefice as we make new beginnings in many different ways. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A very Happy Easter to you all.

*Sandy*

Revd Sandy Railton:

01793 814 162 or 07867 525 641

Email: sandyrailton@icloud.com

Revd Phil Ashby:

01793 978 528 07807 789 649

Email: revphilashby@gmail.com

### St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

**April** Fran Shishton &  
Karen Stevens

**May** Chris Thomas & Gill May

**June** Jane Golding

**July** Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

**August** Liz Warwick &

Jane Manktelow

**September** Rachel Blunt &

Caryn Greenhalgh

**October** Lorna Ford &

Linda Matthews

**November** Jill White

& Karen MacGregor

**December** 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*

### 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**  
Doug Stevens  
07899 791 833  
dougstevens1966@gmail.com

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

**PCC members:**  
Roz Boot 01793 790 508  
Karen Stevens 01793 791 107  
kschurchview@gmail.com

### Letter to the Editor

We'd like to thank Bill for his ministry over the years, on our own behalf and that of various friends, and wish him well for the future. It must be hard to be expected to be all things to all people and there can't be many jobs where you are expected to be very good in such diverse skills – pastoral, management, leadership, humility, practical, organisational, patience, innovation, tradition – but overwhelmingly, to be kind to people whether they are kind in return. Not many of us could say that. Bill has always been kind to us and those we know who had need of him, and he combines that with being good company. Thank you, Bill. Good luck wherever life may take you.

Susan & John

### More Church Bloopers

Once again stolen from the Parish of Harnam magazine:

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is welcome on our new lay ministry pro-

gramme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish.

Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale

### A Rather Blustery Day

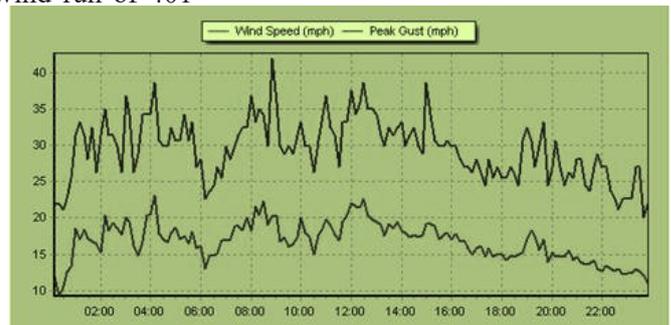
Bob reports from the Bishopstone Tidal Observation Post Since 1995 the 125 committee have been monitoring sea level changes. Currently there is, *Nothing to report*. However, on 14<sup>th</sup> February there was a different record (since records began); the *windiest day*. A wind run of 401 miles in 24 hours, an average speed of almost 17mph! A South Easterly, 401 miles would take you from Bishopstone to the Isle of Skye (should you be wind powered).

This record reflects the fact that the wind just kept blowing and blowing with no respite! Gusts to 42mph were also enjoyed on that day. On the whole, 2021 seems to be turning out to be quite a blustery year, and gusts of over 40mph have been recorded in January, February and March. We are very fortunate not to be overly exposed to the winter storms currently rolling in from The Atlantic.

And, finally, if you thought January was damp at 86mm, it wasn't a patch on 2014, at 145mm.s Find all you need to about the current local weather conditions at [www.ebamooba.com](http://www.ebamooba.com) or <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>.

Bob. Unpaid etc.

Valentine's day wind speed data:



## Grand Plant Sale

The Bishopstone and District Gardening Society is once again joining forces with the Royal Oak to bring you a plant sale in the grounds of the pub. The sale will be in May with the actual dates to be decided.

So, we are asking you to sow some extra seeds, pot up lots of cuttings and split some of your herbaceous plants ready to sell. If you are not into propagating then just put the event in your diary for



May and save up your pennies to buy lots of garden goodies when the time comes. All the proceeds will be going to charity. For more information, contact:

Chris Thomas

07789 414 147

littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

## Recycling Matters



This month, a review of the Olio app mentioned in last month's article. To recap, Olio connects neighbours with each other, and with local shops, so that surplus food and other items can be shared and not thrown away. With shops, they're often those yellow stickered items that haven't sold, and which a charity hasn't been able to use. *Food Waste Heroes* pick up these items, list them on the app (you can see their distance from you) to collect free. Today, for example, it has included takeaway meals, meat, fruit and vegetables, and various breads and pastries. There's also a non-food section – in recent days this included supermarket plants and flowers which were past their best. Individuals can also list items they can't make use of. If interested, you message the lister and, if successful (ie. you get in first!), you arrange collection. I tested it by listing some mirrors and corner cabinets which we no longer needed. Too bulky for a charity shop and not keen to start a haggling battle by trying to sell them, I just wanted to be put in touch with someone who could make use of them and avoid them going into landfill. Listing was simple – I took a photo, added the details, the app already knew my location and specified when they could be collected. They were all snapped up within an hour or so of posting. We arranged collection (one even stayed in the village) and were picked up from our car port – all very Covid-secure. The app itself feels a bit clunky (I'm an app novice!) but useable and I love the idea behind it. I'm keen to use it again – next curtain poles and outgrown kids paraphernalia! I haven't been able to verify this yet (still shielded!) but the Terra-

cycle website says that any empty medicine blister packs can be recycled at the Morrison's pharmacy in Haydon Wick. Watch this space!

*Karen Walker*

## Covid News from Around the World - part 3

### The West Coast of Canada What Happened Next

In B.C. our beloved Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, guided us in safe practises and all things Covid. Our walking paths were divided with arrows and one-way systems. Grocery stores opened an hour early in the morning for seniors and front-line workers. Dr. Henry acted quickly and decisively and so prevented our province from suffering the devastation that hit Ontario and Quebec. All borders between Canada and the US were quickly closed to all but essential supplies and travel. The airports were closed with only Vancouver International open for returning Canadians caught outside the country. (That could have been us but for 5 days, we thought). All non-essential stores except for groceries, gas (sorry petrol) stations and pharmacies were closed. We learned not to hug but to use long-handled butterfly nets to pass stuff to our grand children. Mid March, we were told to stay home except for necessities. Doctors appointments became telephone chats. No coffee with friends, and Zumba became Zoomba. Our micro breweries, wineries and distilleries started making hand sanitizer. A black market for masks and toilet paper quickly formed, and equally quickly failed, as those responsible were charged. With shops and malls closed, our streets were deserted. With so few cars on the road there was no air pollution, and the local mountains were clear and

beautiful. No haircuts or spa days, we all got shaggier and more unkempt. No dining out meant we had to reach for recipe books, and either surprise or disgust. We walked our river walk daily, did 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles for the first time in 65 years, read books and binge watched *Outlander* and *Midsomer Murders*. My husband and I learned how much we enjoyed each other's company. Without our busy lives we laughed and had fun. We gave thanks that we were retired, had a small but cozy apartment, and could afford our simpler needs. The Federal Government brought in subsidies for rent and unemployment as many families were suffering with lost jobs and no daycare. Those who could were working from home. We were blessed with children in essential jobs, and those who were not could manage with the government subsidies. We kept in touch with family and friends by email, text, and WhatsApp. By June we had flattened our Covid curve (despite the efforts of our invincible 18–20-year-old *party animals*) and things started to ease up. Oh joy! We had haircuts and nails done, saw friends for distanced walks and coffee ...and waited for the dreaded Second Wave. In October, the infection and death rates increased day by day and, by Christmas, we were back in semi-lockdown, keeping to ourselves and apart from friends and family. Now we were masked unless in our apartment. Christmas Day was a six-way visit on Zoom, with everyone wanting to talk at once as it had been so long since we had all been together. We all looked forward to 2021, the Year of the Vaccine. That, however, is another story.

*Hazel, New Westminster,  
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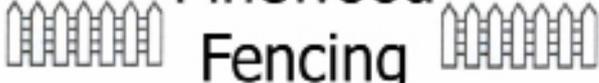
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We ought to start this week with some MAJOR acting news, but, unfortunately, I'm sworn to secrecy regarding names. Nevertheless, I will press on regardless, as usual, and disclose that two very senior members of the world famous troupe, the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Amateur Dramatic Society (colloquially known as BADS, and suitably also...) were seen conversing in an animated fashion at the top of the Eastbrook Valley track. And the subject—whether it was time to revive BADS's hard earned reputation as suppliers of appalling and farcical drama on the village hall stage. It's four years since various deserved rifts between cast members (actors, darling) meant that enthusiasm for 3 months' rehearsals and four nights' performance waned to a degree, but with large swathes of new people in the villages, and possibly a taste for local entertainment(!) on the up, the conversation between these two Olivier lookalikes was of a positive nature. So, I have been asked to make gentle enquiries with my vast readership to unearth either existing talent or prospective talent, either/or acting/directing/producing, or just behind the scenes helping. I have been asked to remind people that, in many cases, talent is the same as enthusiasm. It has proved quite a commitment in the past, even though the end productions have often belied this!

For those of you new to the villages, BADS has been in existence for about 40 years, and there have been two clear breaks in that run—in the early 2000s there was a six or seven year break after the original troupe achieved an average age in excess of 80, and decided enough was enough in almost every sense; and then there was a revival from 2013 to 2017, I think, fuelled by the enthusiasm of the 40-50 year

old generation, most of whom are still here, as the Census will surely prove. If you're interested, let me know, and I will add you to my enormous spreadsheet. Just to whet your appetite, or put you off, this troupe has specialised to best effect in the production and, er, acting of basically what are known as politically incorrect bedroom farces. Being caught in the wrong bed at the wrong time in the wrong leopardskin jumpsuit (usually with the wrong person, sometimes by mistake) always seems to make people laugh. More ambitiously, the cast pulled off a spectacular Noises Off about 25 years ago. Some of those cast members are still around and are still living off it. The only horror/thriller attempted wasn't quite as successful, because the audience wanted more bed hopping apparently, and fewer ghost trains...With the right approach and diligence, this event can make a major contribution to village life. Consider it? There's no current timetable even being discussed, but it's normally a winter thing.

Let's finish today with a note of thanks to various people for enabling this little village pub and hotel enterprise to survive despite being closed for 7 months out of the last 12. Arkells the landlords have been astonishingly generous; the government support in terms of part-time furlough payments, grant aid (being spent on developing a new kitchen in the garden, and more boring behind the scenes stuff) and freedom from business rates has allowed us all here to re-think the way we do everything, and develop new enterprises, such as a village shop. Staff have also been magnificent—flexible, patient, understanding, while we have tried to keep almost everyone at least part-working and engaged.

We re-open at noon on 12<sup>th</sup> April, run-

ning food and drinks in the garden, in the marquee, on the decks, all afternoon until 7.30ish. We anticipate the weather will be dreadful of course.

We might host Drive it Day here on 25<sup>th</sup> April, so all you interesting car/bike people out there, take note. It depends on what the national organisers decide. They're still thinking about it...I think the rules are clear enough, tbh.

Pip pip, TF

## Letters to the Editor

With reference to Mr Finny's column in your recent edition of the Village News, it saddens me to read of the difficulties faced by just one small local business as a direct result of the desire of 51.5 per cent of the population to *take back control* and protect our sovereignty.

There are many businesses in the same position, including the fishermen and the fish exporters who, we were led to believe, were at the heart of the sovereignty issue.

I doubt many of them feel that they are particularly close to the heart of the current government now.

What amazes me is that so many swallowed the lies purveyed by Messrs Gove and Johnson in order to persuade the voters that *getting it done* would be good for us.

I'm sure that some of their hedge funding and short selling pals have done extremely well out of the mess but they are probably the only ones.

In a previous edition of the news another columnist referred to hypocrisy and the Brexit vote. It certainly would be a hypocritical decision to have taken the EU shillings in farm subsidies over the years, and then vote to leave to preserve sovereignty and take back control.

Regards, Jon Richardson

Jon has missed one important point - it wasn't the wish of 51.5% of the population, just of those who voted. A lot of people either didn't know or didn't care two hoots, so didn't vote at all. And, of course, a lot of people weren't actually seen as eligible to vote (funnily enough, they mainly fell in the *remain* camp).

Mrs McNasty



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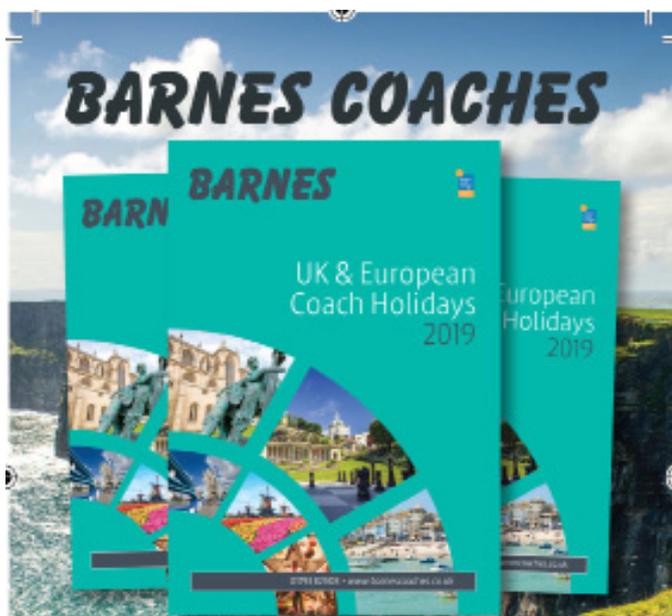
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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

### Ask Mrs Mantelpiece, your post-lockdown Agony Aunt

As we approach the longed-for days of lockdown easement, I'm aware that we all have many questions. I shall try to address just a few of these in order to smooth the transition from *see no-one*, through *see one or two people*, right the way to *see anyone you like, wherever you like, for as long as you like*. What a joyous day that last one will be, provided we are all armed with the correct post-lockdown etiquette.

#### *How shall I be able to talk to people?*

The thing that seems to be worrying most people is how they will adjust to face-to-face conversations. I know it's worrying to think we'll all sit staring at one another in an unnerving fashion, trying to think of something interesting to say when we've all done absolutely nothing worth talking about for so long.

Perhaps you could arm yourself with a few questions; *Have you taken up any new hobbies?*, or *How many hours of daytime television/seasons of Breaking Bad have you watched?* for instance. Or perhaps you could prepare a statement to prompt conversation, such as, *Did you know that for every long-tailed tit that uses our bird-feeder we see 17.3 great tits, 12.5*



### And Almost Finally...

Good old, oops, I mean young, Mrs Mantelpiece who has written a goodly few words, so, I don't have

to think of much to say.

Recently I have been dragged into the 21<sup>st</sup> century having participated in a Zoom call with Things 1 & 2, subjecting myself to the horrendous experience of seeing myself on camera. Memo to self, wear a bag over your head in future.

Happy Easter,

*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, ques-

*goldfinches, and 1.9 robins?* The latter question also offers an opening to your companion, who can now ask 'Were you this boring before lockdown?' It's important to remember that if this happens it will not be possible to channel your inner Jackie Weaver and simply mute the other person, or eject them from your meeting by pressing a key on your laptop.

#### *What should I wear?*

Since so many of us have worn nothing but pyjamas for so long, proper clothes may come as a shock to the system. The other, possibly larger, shock to the system might come when we try to put on our *proper* clothes. Do not panic it appears that they have mysteriously shrunk in the wardrobe. You'll be rushing about so much to solo meetings with friends that your hibernation-weight will soon fall away and your clothes will fit once more.

And for those of you who've been working from home and have got used to only dressing the top half of your body prior to Zoom meetings - do remember to clothe the other half before you go out. . .

#### *Where can I go for a picnic?*

Clearly, we all need to know the location of our nearest park bench, for the purpose of meeting up with one friend for a picnic. Unfortu-

tions, or would like to submit a story for inclusion in the Village News, please contact one of the editorial staff listed below:

#### **Editor:**

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

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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

nately, I think the rules mean that those of us who live in Hinton Parva are out of luck on the park-bench-picnic front, as we aren't supposed to travel, and have no bench at all.

Access to the bench by the pond in Bishopstone will be decided by a virtual lockdown quiz. Anyone showing encyclopaedic knowledge of the roadmaps of the four nations will receive a golden face mask, entitling them to priority bench-access. If you feel your knowledge of the roadmaps leaves a lot to be desired, just dig out a sou'wester and woollies, and resign yourself to soggy scotch eggs, as you'll be stuck with picnicking in poor weather.

#### *What do I need to remember about hugging?*

Once the heady days of hugging loved ones are back, some caution must be employed. Just like a handshake, a hug should be firm, but not bone-crackingly strong. And it shouldn't go on for so long that one's grandchildren beg for grandma to be physically removed from them as they're getting frightened.

So - with careful preparation, good-sense, and a close eye on the road map, we should all be able to safely negotiate the post-lockdown world. Channel your inner Braveheart, and enjoy your Freeeedommmmm.

*Mrs Mantelpiece*

details unless requested to do so.

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