

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

February 2013

Bishopstone CE Primary School News

The Bishopstone School children ended last term on a high note with their Christmas play and Christmas party. They and the staff spent many hours rehearsing their singing and acting, making colourful costumes, and painting scenery to bring to life the musical *Peace Child*. It is an ambitious musical set in Africa in the land of *Mambica* and is the story of two opposing tribes, with different lifestyles and traditions. The Spongi and Wannapeepee tribes are separated by a river and generations of animosity. However, when a Western TV crew decide to build a bridge between the two communities, the threat of war



becomes a grave reality. So the gift of a newborn son from one tribe to the other brings peace and hope to the land. The play really encouraged the children to think about the true meaning of Christmas

They chanted and sang their hearts out to the African style music, the actors really got into role and every child in the school had an important part to play. Even the teachers took part as rapping bears – but the least said about that the better!

Despite the horrible wet weather, the hall was packed with relatives and friends and, judging by their reaction at the end, they really enjoyed it.

A week later it was time for the Christmas party. This kicked off with a delicious turkey dinner cooked by Debbie Sherwood and Sue Tremplin with a little help from some of our parents. This was followed by traditional party games and ended with a fantastic disco run by our dance teacher, Glen. The children went home well fed, danced out and tired but happy.

Just before the Christmas holidays the whole junior class had a trip to the large Tesco in Swindon to pack bags at the checkout to raise money for tablet computers for our classrooms. They expertly packed bags for two hours. They were complimented on their good behaviour and rewarded with over £200 for the

school fund.

We were delighted to take part in the Backpack Project for Africa. Children filled backpacks with items such as crayons, writing books, soap, toothbrushes and clothes. They were then collected by the charity, Mary's Meals, and are now winging their way to children who have suffered war, famine, poverty or natural disaster to provide them with the basic educational materials they need to attend school and hopefully escape poverty. The project also gives our children an opportunity to reflect on how fortunate they are and the value of education.

The new 2013 year has just begun at Bishopstone School and we are about to embark on an Indian Arts Week with dance, art, music and food.... Yum, I can't wait. Watch this space to find out how it went in the next edition of the Parish Mag.



Sue Walton

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd February	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
Second Sunday before Lent	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Sunday 10th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
Sunday next before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
Wednesday 13th February		Ash Wednesday	
Sunday 17th February	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
1 st Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Saturday 23rd February	12.00 noon	Christening	Wanborough
Sunday 24th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
2 nd Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
Sunday 3rd March	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
3 rd Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

I write this after a sleepless night of being the duty Chaplain on-call for Great Western Hospital. This morning was bitterly cold and involved scraping the frost off the car before setting forth for the 8.30am service of Holy Communion and then on to the 10.30am Family Communion service. It was cold and fairly dark as I left a warm cosy home and I thought of the coming season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 13th. Lent – conjuring up thoughts of struggle, of *hanging in there*, of *giving things up*. And the greyness of the day matched my thoughts of Lent and its 40 days.

So often we get caught up in negative thoughts and we can get stuck in a rut, our vision is limited. We can look upon Lent as a negative time, a period of days to be got through without chocolate, without wine or some other treat. But having a sense of discipline in our lives can help us put things back in perspective.

What do we learn from giving up chocolate, or whatever our Lenten resolution is? Do we learn that our bodies benefit from this abstinence? Do we catch a glimpse of what it feels like to have no choice but to go without every day of our life? Do we think of fair-

trade for those involved in the early stage of gathering the raw material for our bar of chocolate? Do we resolve to donate money we have saved to help such people? Do we thank God for the many blessings he gives us that we so often take for granted? If we can answer *yes* to these questions then Lent will be a positive time and we shall be changed for the better.

And remember, Lent is not just a time to give something up. We can use the 40 days to create some extra space to do something positive – to explore some of the big questions of life and faith, to spend time with a lonely neighbour; to appreciate God's world and see the beauty he has created, to discover that God is there – around us and with us.

And as I continued my journey to Bishopstone there amidst the discarded branches and leaves, in the bitter cold, on the side of a road, I saw an early clump of snowdrops. They have struggled with the winter, with the frost and rain and wind, and they have triumphed. And they changed my life today for the better, they lifted my spirit.

And I know God is with us in the struggle, in the dark and the cold – and will help us overcome. Spring is sprung – thank God for snowdrops! with love,

Sandy

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva PCC

Tuesday 12th February

7.30pm

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone

Ash Wednesday Services

13th February

10.00am St John's Parks and Walcot

7.30pm St Margaret's Stratton

Dobbin Service

Thursday 21st Feb

2.00pm

St Andrew's Wanborough

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March

7.00pm

Church of The Holy Family

Marlowe Avenue, Swindon

All (including gentlemen) are very welcome to join this worldwide service, compiled this year by the Christian Women of France, and are invited to stay afterwards for light refreshments. For further details contact Angela Manner 536 193.

The Benefice Carol Service

It was the turn of St Swithun's to host The Benefice Carol Service this year. The church was decorated exclusively by Mogs's flower girls (she was sick and skiving). It was held in candlelight and was truly magical in the flickering flames.

Thanks must go to Rev S Railton, Brian Clegg, Peter Steele and all

members of the choir who sang several rousing carols throughout the service, also Tony Pullen and his hand bell ringers from Wanborough, who welcomed all into the church with their playing, also all those who kindly read the lesson's. The service was very well attended and on leaving the church everyone felt that Christmas had begun.

Marguerite Seaward

Crib Service

The Crib Service held on 19th December was very well received with Rev Sandy Railton taking a lovely service. Members of the congregation made up the crib scene with the various figures of Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, angel's and wise men.

Next year we are hoping to resume the traditional Donkey Service at Hinton, if anyone would be willing to co-ordinate this, there will be several willing helpers.

The Christingle Service

Held on Christmas Eve at St. Mary's was a lovely occasion and a cheque for £207.44 has been sent to The Children's Society.

Many thanks to all those who generously contributed in many ways towards this beautiful Service.

Joanna Jenkins

Carols & Mincepies...

.....in Hinton Hall was due to be taken by Richard Gaines but unfortunately he developed 'flu so Paul Williams stepped in, many thanks Paul. Thanks also to Hazel who provided the music. The hall was filled with the sound of singing as favourite carols were and delicious mincepies provided by Joy and Shirley.

A total of £37 was collected and donated to the Food Bank in Swindon.

Thank You

Myra and Mike would like to thank

all those friends, who, through their prayers, supported us during the year long debilitating illness of Myra's son Michael. Your support gave us courage to carry on caring for him until he passed peacefully on 23rd November 2012.

We really appreciated your cards and letters of sympathy and condolences. Special thanks to Sandy who has been *my rock* throughout.

If You Need to Get in Touch with the Church....

With the Vicar's retirement, he won't be at The Vicarage to be contacted with enquiries.

But church life will continue as normally as possible.

If you have an enquiry, please contact one of the following:

For **St. Swithun's, Hinton – the Churchwarden**, Toby Ford
Home Farm, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH
01793 790 264

For **St. Mary's, Bishopstone – the Churchwarden**, Doug Stevens
Church View, Bishopstone
01793 791 107
doug1996@btinternet.com

For enquiries about **Weddings or Baptisms –**
Marguerite Seaward (Secretary)
01793 791 242
colinspeedway@aol.com

The Child Protection Officer
Jill White 01793 791 102
PCC Representative School Governor at Bishopstone School
Gill Rankin 01793 791 061

List of Other PCC Members
Alan Taylor (Chairman)
07703 162 523
r2attaylor@aol.com
Joanna Jenkins (Vice Chairman)
01793 790 545
joannajenkins@hotmail.co.uk
Mr Paul Bailey (Treasurer)
paulbailey@dial.pipex.com
01793 790 103
Joy Ball 01793 790 293
Liz Warrick 01793 790 865
Tom Cripwell 01783 791 148
Hilary Newton 01793 791 086
John Lowry 01793 790 271
john1000000@live.com

From the Benefice Register

Funerals

St. Andrew's Wanborough

30th November Shirley Howick aged 82
Committal at Kingsdown Crematorium

St. Mary's Bishopstone

4th January George Pierrepont aged 86
17th January Edith Alice Hatherall (known as Sally) aged 91
Committal at Kingsdown Crematorium

Interment of Ashes

St. Andrew's Wanborough

10th November Alice Keene aged 91
Shirley Howick aged 82

Cleaning Rota St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone, 2013

Month	Cleaning
February	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
March	John & Ros Boot
April	Fran Siston & Frances Shone
May	Caroline Brandi & Jill White
June	Chris Thomas & Gill May
July	Maggie Gill & Jane Golding
August	Liz Warrick & Jane Manktelow
September	Joanna Jenkins & Sarah Bally
October	Joan Morris & Jill Rankin
November	Jill King & Doris Brown
December	Ray & Mary Darling

If these dates don't suit you, please could you arrange to swap with somebody. We always welcome more volunteers and if you would like to help (it doesn't take long and it's a rewarding and satisfying task), please contact Joanna Jenkins on 790 545. Thank you.

Bishopstone Village Hall - February

All bookings for the village hall will be taken through Bishopstone CE Primary School. If you would like to make a booking please contact Sue Tremlin on **01793 790 521** or visit the village hall website **villagehall.co.nr** to send us an email. You can still contact us outside school hours and leave a message on the answerphone. We will get back to you quickly. If you ring the number during any school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to getting your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent village hall.

Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

Saturday	2 nd	All Day Gardening		
Monday	4 th	School	1.00 - 3.00pm	
Tuesday	5 th	Ballet	3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	6 th	School	1.00 - 3.00pm	School Club 3.20 - 4.15pm
Thursday	7 th	Mothers & Toddlers	9.30 - 11.00am	
Tuesday	12 th	Ballet	3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Thursday	14 th	Mothers & Toddlers	9.30 - 11.00am	WI 7.00 - 9.30pm
Monday	18 th	School	1.00 - 3.00pm	
Tuesday	19 th	Ballet	3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	20 th		9.00am - 4.00pm	Private booking
Thursday	21 st	Mothers & Toddlers	9.30 - 11.00am	
Monday	25 th	School	1.00 - 3.00pm	
Tuesday	26 th	Ballet	3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	27 th	School	1.00 - 3.00pm	School Club 3.20 - 4.15pm
Thursday	28 th	Mothers & Toddlers	9.30 - 11.00am	

Hinton Parva Village Hall Bookings - February

Bridge	Friday	1 st , 8 th , 15 th . & 22 th	7.30pm
Village Hall Committee	Monday	4 th	10.00am
Parish Council	Monday	4 th	7.00pm
Private bookings (Always welcome)	Saturday	23 rd	lunchtime

Private Parties, Meetings etc welcome. Catering may be available. Free Parking

For bookings: Please telephone 791 171

£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva £8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Hinton Parva - Annual Supper Saturday 12th January

The Hall was illuminated both inside and out setting the theme for a brilliant evening. Wonderful aromas thrilled the senses. The tables were set with linen and delightful flower arrangements. Corks popped and bottle tops flew.

Grace was offered by Peter Cooke and we were off. Light footed maidens flooded from the servery laden with steaming plates. Local Steak & Ale or Fish & Prawn Pie. The choice proved a short distraction. Soon the chatter

subsided as cutlery was taken up for action. Second helpings were snapped up which must tell you something. After a suitable period of rest the sweet and puddings were unveiled. The department of oh's and ah's! From fresh Tropical Fruit Salad to Sherry Trifle and Yule log to Apple Crumble. Fifteen choices and all hand-made in homes around the village. There was chocolate and cream and if that was not enough then help yourself to the cheese board.

There is every chance that slumber may have taken over but a Great

British Quiz sheet appeared. Twenty teasing questions. Have you heard of *Fotheringhay Castle*? Nor me.

Someone knew and won the prized bottled wine.

We were later asked if we knew of any connection between Peter Sellers and Hinton Parva. Apparently Peter Sellers frequently visited King Edward Place and also included the words *I was sent to the wrong Hinton Parva* in one of his films. If you know any more then please get in touch.

The well supported raffle was drawn and grateful thanks are extended to all those who took part and donated prizes.

The evening conclude with what one can only describe as rather special. You can't beat a good sing song. The words came on another printed sheet and Hazel Cooke (assisted by Peter) led off with her gleaming accordion. It may have began quietly but believe me by the time we reached *Danny Boy*, I was fearful for the roof. Glorious singing and a wonderful ending to a community gourmet evening.

Well done to the team.

Howard Crapper

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Making Your House a Home

Bath Christmas Market Trip - Sunday 2nd December.

Towards the end of last year a notice appeared in the Newsletter advertising a coach trip to the market. It was a biting frosty, cold morning and looking at the vehicle I have to say it was vintage - definitely, coach was possibly a stretch too far, more 'bus at best, although to me it was a charabanc! The sort of thing you see at Stonehenge with the new age travellers attending the summer solstice, with big daisies painted on the side. It was an unfortunate colour; it reminded me of dog sick (careful with the spelling here Mogs). We set off at 9.30, all excited, a happy mixed bunch of mums, dads, and children, and headed for the motorway, the driver stoically graunching his way through the gears. Arriving Lakeside Coach Park at 11.00, any man walking his dog could have overtaken us at any time, but thankfully at junction 18 it is all down hill to Bath. The men in their dayglo jackets and clipboards who were directing the coaches roared with laughter when they saw us. We were surrounded by all singing, all dancing intercontinental this and that, single and double deckers from as far away as North Wales, County Durham and Manchester, with their TVs, air con, heaters etc. all decked out with tinsel, streamers, and Christmas lights - then there was us - the windows dripping in condensation as the frost had melted on the windows after such a long journey. I quickly reminded the coach men that *we* in fact were the quality end of coach travel. Anyone could hire one of these huge monstrosities. Ours was very special, and in any case didn't they realize that we were from Bishopstone!! How dare they laugh.

We all toddled off to the market, while our wonderful driver took our vehicle back to Brinkworth for a valium and lie down to get here strength up to come back to Bath to pick us up at 4.30. A lovely day was had shopping and browsing, Gladys and I starting off with a very large bacon bagette, followed by free fudge, various tastings, - just an eating frenzy frankly, and all down hill from then on, as if we needed it (Me looking more like the co-op horse, rather than a racing snake). We did buy quite a few things though and had a thoroughly enjoyable day, and wandered back to the coach park at the appointed time. We all walked proudly out to our little *chara* - squeezed between two huge double decker monsters, with their wheels half way up our windows and we crawled out with several other coaches to join the tea time traffic. Now as we all know, it's a long steep climb up to the motorway and it did cross my mind that at some point 30 of us could be doing a bit of pushing, but as we started the climb, painfully slowly, the driver made the decision to turn off right and make for junction 17 as 18 was completely clogged with traffic. Once we had left the lights of Bath, it was very dark on the bus (which had no internal lighting), so in our situation we had two options - sleep - or sing, so we sang. We started off with a good mixture of carols, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and on to *Feed the World*, followed by a good rendition of *Abba* etc. I did just wonder at one point why other motorists were beeping at us, but I naively thought it was out of respect for this little old lady of the road, and dismissed it. We suddenly stopped, we thought it was to release the huge backlog of traffic behind us, but it was more to do with our vehicle lights getting ever dimmer. The driver made a couple of 'phone calls, some people got off the 'bus to tiddle, not easy with oncoming traffic, and a big deep ditch full of water behind the bus stop - the rest of us sat it out. Then set off slowly towards civilisation and street lighting. At a huge car park the driver announced that a relief coach was coming to pick us up. The bad news was that it had started to rain, the good news was that there was a kebab stall with an awning. The poor kebab man almost had a seizure as 30 odd of us rounded his van, frightening him to death as he didn't see us coming, all squeezing under the awning to keep out of the rain. His Christmas had come early. We all asked for chips, and he filled 3 deep fat fryers, while we waited patiently. He turned the radio up, and we all sang along to Skyfall and gave that Adelle a run for her money. Two men arrived and ordered large Donner Kebabs, now I can eat for England, but I have to say there is a limit surely. I watched these being assembled and couldn't believe the amount of food being crammed into the dishes. One has to say it would have kept India going for a week!

The heated continental coach arrived, we all got on with our containers of chips with ketchup/mayo, or for total decadance - cheesy chips. I don't think the driver had the heart to tell us that hot food was not allowed on the coach. But the best thing of all - the coach had a loo - Ta -dah!! Off we set for junction 17 and home - leaving our driver with the dear old lady sitting on the side of the road. We arrived at Bishopstone and came down the bank, hissing and spitting, not us - the air brakes on the coach, and were dropped off at the school at 8.15pm.

A happy fun day enjoyed by all of us, and the children were brilliant.

I found the experience a complete breath of fresh air, that in this stifling nanny state we are all forced to live in, where *'elf and safety* rule the world, we were able to travel on this small 'bus decades old, with no seat belts, heating, or any of the modern day trappings which are now a *must*. So, a big thank you to Amanda for the fantastic organisation of it all, and giving us all a bit of pre Christmas magic, also both the Sues at the school, for their input, help and support and please can we do it all again next Christmas, in that same little old dinosaur lady of the road? I don't feel she needs any tweaking, although efficient working lights could be useful!

Very British. Very village. Very Bishopstone.

love Roz

Why wasn't Amada mentioned in the New Year's Honours List?

THE HARROW INN at Wanborough

Along with 3 wood burning fires, which on cold days are regularly topped up and give a nice warm welcome, there is a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Whether you choose to eat in the bar or the restaurant, there is something for everybody's taste. All our food is sourced locally where possible and everything is cooked fresh on the premises (even our delicious puddings)

9.00am - 11.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.00am - Midnight Friday and Saturday

10.00am - 10.30pm Sunday



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Empty Hangers at Oxfam

We really need your donations. If you have any unwanted, *good quality* clothes, bric-à-brac, books or Christmas gifts please bring them us at 45 Regent Street (opposite the Savoy) - there is parking at the back of the shop - or telephone 01793 511 138. Otherwise get in touch with:

Mogs Boon 790 626
mogsboon@hotmail.com

Mobile Library

Wednesday 13th & 27th February
Bishopstone 10.00 - 10.55am
Hinton Church 11.00am
West Hinton Farm 11.20am

The Mobile Library will next be in the villages on the above dates. Wide range of books available, including large print and children's.

Coffee Morning

Whilst the mobile library is outside Bishopstone Village Hall a coffee morning is held in the Hall. Contact: Doreen Cooper 792 965

Bishopstone 100 club

December Winners

- 1st 53 David Whitaker
- 2nd 2 Chris Thomas
- 3rd 99 Marie-Noëlle Witty

The club is to support Bishopstone Village Hall and you have a chance to win £20, £10 or £5 each month.

The Village Hall Committee wish everybody a *Happy New Year* and remind them that **Subs for 2013 are now due**

Contact: Jo Selbourne 790 485

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theWI **BISHOPSTONE WITH HINTON PARVA WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

14th February 2013
7.30pm at Bishopstone Village Hall

We have an exciting double bill:

Jane Clements will give a talk on:
Roses & Castles
(traditional painting on canal ware)

and

Chris Coyle will provide a display about:
The Wilts & Berks Canal
(history and restoration work)

Guests and New Members are always most welcome
Find out more about us on our web page:
www.ashbury.org.uk/womeninst.php

Bishopstone Gardening Society

The Gardening Club is open for anyone to attend. Membership is £5.00 per year or £2.00 on the night at every meeting. If you are interested in finding out more about the Gardening Club schedule of events please email us on: gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk.

QUALITY 2ND'S SALE
Bishopstone Village Hall

Saturday 9th March
10am - Midday

WANTED

- ◆ Clothing
- ◆ Bedding/sheets/curtains (no quilts/pillows)
- ◆ Handbags/belts/shoes (paired)
- ◆ Bric-a-brac
- ◆ Children's toys/soft toys
- ◆ Books/DVDs/CDs

*All reasonable condition please
No electrical items*

If possible deliver items to Village Hall on Friday 8th March from 9am

Bishopstone C of E Primary School

if unable to deliver that day please drop off w/c 4 March to Emma Wise, Ye Olde Forge 791537

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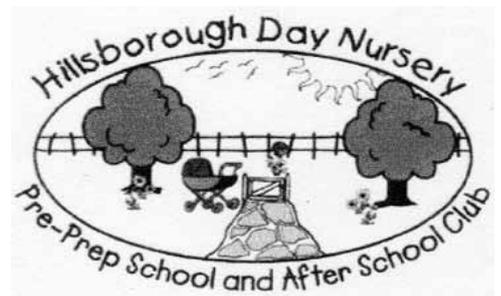
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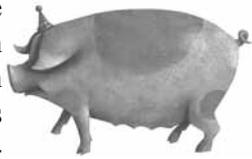
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The Royal Oak Diary

Some village people have been seen with high value vouchers for this nationally acclaimed place in your midst, and threatening to use them; others will be found within the pages of this esteemed and much loved organ. Please use them if you can. Some people say we're expensive—we've done our own informal survey of local places to eat, in Shrivenham, Woolstone, Ashbury, Swindon, Sparsholt. We're not more expensive than similar places—and you can spend more on less at *The Burj*, which always makes me laugh, and *The Gulshan*-- and we use produce that's possibly better, and grown by people in this area—which is useful for jobs—and *The Royal Oak* tends to employ only very local people which is also very good for jobs. Oh dear, I'm coming over all pious again, give me a clap around the head. As some of you would like.

The man from the Wyncies has been bringing his empty bottles again to the pub car park. Thanks.

For fun, we suggest *Burns Night* (about six spaces left) on **25th January**, after this newsletter is published, of course; possibly you'll enjoy a retro Valentine evening at the pub on 14th February, taking you back to the 70s when prawn cocktail was a real



treat; ex racing driver and now buffalo farmer *Jody Scheckter sings for his supper* here on **20th March**, after *The Royal Oak track day at Castle Coombe* that same day (five spaces left).

Later in the year, our *Classic Car Day* is **21st April**, and *Pig Racing*—again—is **2nd June**.

In the meantime, we continue to make the place warm, welcoming and occasionally irreverent. If you want a warm night out, or a quiet lunch midweek, we think *The Royal Oak* remains a better bet than *the True Heart* (a village disgrace), but only just.

Tim Finney (specialist in fencing)

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Is the new village website but as the February newsletter goes to press it can still be found at **www.villagenewsletter.org**, and will be transferred to the new website as soon as possible.

http://www.spanglefish.com/hintonparva

Has been set up to keep people informed of the progress of the research by Paul Williams and Karin Thompson on the soldiers of our villages who died during World War 1.

**George Pierrepont
1926 – 2012**

George who was well known to Bishopstone residents sadly passed away on 16th December in the Great Western Hospital and was buried at

St Mary's on 4th January alongside his beloved wife Joyce who died six years ago.

George was born in Essex and it was his time in the army that bought him to Swindon where he met and married Joyce and although they moved away for a while they came back to Swindon later in life.

They came to the village about 20 years ago when they retired, moving into the Wyncies, and both in their own way played an active role in village life. George in particular was a hit with the kids in his role as Father Christmas over the years (including this year at the Xmas Craft Fayre), and until recent years he was the village fete parking supervisor.

He was also very friendly with many families in the village and entertained numerous children with his magic tricks and a chance to wear his collection of army hats acquired in the Second World War when he served in India and Burma.

He was also very keen to entertain parents by offering them a glass of Kir or Cotes du Rhone and accompanying jokes. Dave (our village postman) and others will also attest to the quality of his French coffee. He was always willing to have a cheery chat with people if he was passing and many a time I wondered where he had got to when I was waiting for him at our house, a quick look up the High Street would find him talking to somebody and in particular new arrivals to the village were made to feel welcome.

He did many favours for people over the years including repair jobs at the church, where he also helped fund the flag and flagpole and for individuals as well. If you ever did anything for him you would guarantee that he would find a way of thanking you through some hand picked flowers or in another way.

Reflected in the numbers attending his funeral he made a big impression in his time here and as I said at the time *the village will be a sadder place without him*.

David Wray

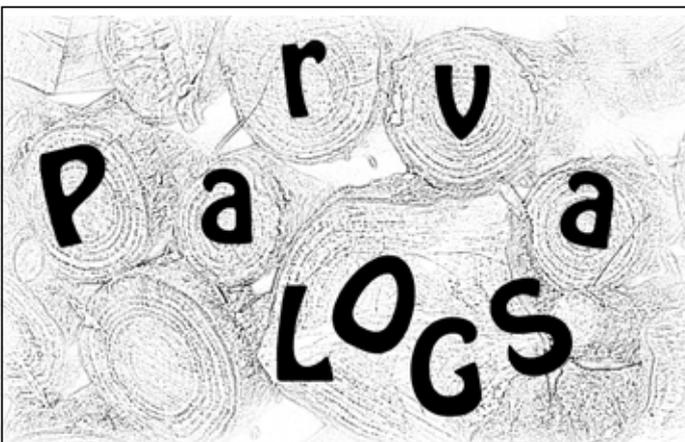
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SNIPPETS OF DOWN UNDER

OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

I am writing this month's article in Paris while *apartment sitting* for friends who have returned to England to spend some



time with family. I am sipping Kir and silently sending my thanks to Marie-Noëlle for the introduction to this fabulous French Aperitif. There is a Coq Au Vin slow-cooking in the oven and Jon is preparing the vegetables. Life is good! This opening paragraph probably answers the question we are most often asked. *What are you doing living in England?* For me it is new opportunities, experiences and meeting some wonderful people. Jon's answer is usually *For the weather, of course!* In a sense this is true as neither of us enjoy the heat. We love living on the doorstep of Europe and enjoy having short *holidays* across The Channel rather than the usual approach by Australians, who have spent quite a bit of money and 24 hours in a plane to get

there, so it is rush, rush, rush, go, go, go! in order to justify this expense and time. Last but not least, we both adore the UK and have done so since living and working here in the 1980's.

For us one of the highlights of travelling is the chance to enjoy the cuisine of different countries. When visiting Australia one food that you may like to try is kangaroo. It is available in restaurants, especially in tourist areas, most commonly in sausages and burgers. As a meat it was only made legal for human consumption in most states in 1993 and can be purchased in larger supermarkets and specialty butchers. It is becoming more popular but it would still be considered an exotic meat. There are some people who really struggle with the thought of eating kangaroo. The first time I purchased a fillet of 'roo the checkout girl could hardly bring herself to touch the sealed plastic package to drag it across the scanner.

Kangaroo has been exported since 2010 and if you wanted to try it without travelling to Australia it is available at Griffins butcher's (Newbury) or you can order from Sumbler Bros (Marlborough) or if you are in the mood to visit Kate Middleton's territory, go and see Martin Fidler at Bladebone Butchers, Buckleberry. It is considered to be a very healthy meat as it low in fat (2%) and it is mainly unsaturated but this does mean it requires careful cooking to prevent it drying out, so I would recommend quick pan frying or a moist cooking method like pot roasting.

Regards, *Helen Evans* (aussiehelen59@gmail.com)

And Finally.....

It's illogical, isn't ? As I write, I'm excitedly watching the falling snow. Why is something so cold, wet and disruptive, so captivating? You can see the elation in the weather fore-caster's eyes. Penny has already rung to say that she can't get here to proofread, the prediction is that it is going to get worse throughout the day and hang around all weekend . Now we are wondering that even if we manage to get to the printers- will anybody be there? Oh well, if the newsletter arrives late you will all know why.

It will be St. Valentine's Day in a couple of weeks, just after the start of Lent, be careful what you give up -

no I meant chocolate.

mogs X

ADVERTISING

The advertising part of the news- letter, which of course, helps to fund the enterprise, is organised by Angie Alcock. For business ad- vertising rates please contact her: email angiealcock@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07976 645 229.

We must warn you that adverts re- ceived without payment will not be in- cluded. For people with small, one-off advertisements there is a minimum fee of £1.00.

As to advertising on the village web- site: millie@tomandmillie.com.

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month but **please send large items**

as early as possible. Don't forget copy must include name and con- tact details for validation purposes. The newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households in the two villages; donations to- wards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Angie.

CONTACT

email: mogsboon@hotmail.com
subject newsletter (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or delivered to: Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626. Thanks to Millie Green, admin@vil- lagenewsletter.org the newsletter ap- pears on the new village website at: www.villagenewsletter.org.