

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

[www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org)

July 2014



dog! (I understand he would rather have won biscuits.)

The Flower arrangement was won by Val Brodin.

Sorry I have no information on dog show winners except a dear little girl won *Best Six Legs* with her dog, Weasel.

Also there was a Cats Protection League carrier bag containing water proofs left in the church porch.

*Pictures by Debbie Willis, Thomas Millyard & Thing 2*

## Fête News

Net takings on the day £4,500. But, of course, there will be a few bills to pay and bits of cash still to come!

The first three raffle prize winners are:  
£100 First prize (donated by Hills Group Ltd.) won by Bernard Phillips.  
B&B plus evening meal for two at the Rose & Crown, Ashbury, won by Jane Manktelow.

2 x packs Arkells beer won by Ben the



## Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society

Catch-up and Scripts Review

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 7.30pm

Eastbrook Farm Office, Cues Lane, Bishopstone SN6 8PL

Following two very successful productions since our re-birth, we are planning to perform another play in Bishopstone Village Hall towards the end of November. Play yet to be decided.

We are always looking for new *talent* and the BADS group is a terrific way to get to know your fellow villagers in ways that you never thought possible. It is hard work but very rewarding; audiences are determined to have a good time regardless of the capabilities on stage!

So, if you have always yearned to be on the stage but never dared, or have perhaps been part of another company and needing to spread your horizons, or simply want to meet new people and help out, this is the place for you.

Those seeking to act will need to be available two weekday evenings a week from early September, some weekends near to the production and the week of the production itself – which will likely be the last week in November. Those seeking to help (costume, stage, front of house etc) – whatever time you can spare.

Auditions likely to be end July / early August. But all welcome to meet up on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, of course, and see what we're like.

Contact:

Tim Finney 01793 792 036 or  
[tim@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk](mailto:tim@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk)  
or Tom Green 01793 790 274 or  
[tgreen@slrconsulting.com](mailto:tgreen@slrconsulting.com)

### CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	*10.30am	Midweek Communion	Lyddington
		7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	7.00pm	Busy Lives Communion.	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion.	Lyddington
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity.	10.30am	Family Communion.	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong.	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	*10.30am	Midweek Communion	Lyddington
		7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP	Bishopstone
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	*9.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
		*10.45am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	*10.30am	Midweek Communion	Lyddington
	Osmund, bishop	7.00pm	Midweek Communion.	Wanborough
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	12.00noon	Wedding	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP	Wanborough
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	*10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Patronal Festival	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	*10.30am	Midweek Communion	Lyddington
	Bridget abbess 1373	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> July</b>	3.00pm	Wedding	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP.	Bishopstone
	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	*10.30am	Family Service.	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong.	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> July</b>	*10.30am	Midweek Communion	Lyddington
	William Wilberforce social Reformer	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity			

\*Refreshments served after the service

### A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul in Greece by *John Godfree*

Part 2. Having visited the royal tombs of Vergina we continue on to the mountains of Kalambaka.

Day 5. The Monasteries of Meteora. From the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, monks and hermits began to retire to the recesses in these immense grey rocks and in the 14<sup>th</sup> century a large monastic state began to develop which, by the 16<sup>th</sup> century numbered 24 monasteries. Only five are still occupied. If you remember the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*, you would have seen the basket used to reach the monastery from the ground. Thankfully there is an alternative way of getting to the top nowadays. Next the long drive to Athens for dinner and where we were to stay for three nights.

Day 6. Drove through the main streets of the city where the most important monuments can be seen: the University; Library; Academy and the Parliament buildings; the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch. We saw the Acropolis and the famous Parthenon. Then the rocky Hill of Mars, the well known Areopagus located on the northwest slope of the Acropolis. This Hill gave its name to a Council of Nobles which became the Senate and the supreme Court of Ancient Athens. In 61 A.D. Paul delivered the Sermon on the unknown God. It was here that Senator Dionysius was converted to Christianity and later became the Patron Saint of Athens. After this we explored the area of Plaka, the old quarter of Ath-

ens, and in the evening to a *Folklore Evening* with traditional food and Greek entertainment.

Day 7. An early start for our excursion to Corinth. The drive offered a variety of landscapes, viewing the Saronic Gulf and its islands, where Paul sailed from Athens. We stopped to see the Corinth Canal which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea. Ancient Corinth is located on the foot of Mt Acrocorinth. The city's *Long Wall* began from the summit of the mountain, and ended at the Port of Lechaio, which was the artificial harbour built on the shore of the Gulf of Corinth. In the area of the city itself, the ruins are those of its Agora (FORUM) as it was in the days of the Romans in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. On the northern side of the Agora seven of the thirty

eight columns of the ancient Temple of Apollo (6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) still stand. To the north-west of the Agora are the remains of the Theatre and the Roman Odeon. Among the ruins of the Roman Forum we can see the BEMA, a single structure from where Paul preached to the Corinthians. There we had an outdoor communion service among the ruins. This was the city that Paul visited twice on his first trip and where he spent 18 months. Here, Paul created one of the biggest communities of Christians in Europe. The museum contains finds from the Agora. Finally we visited the small port of Lechaio. Day 8. People had the choice of revisiting sites with shopping in the 'flea market' the 'spice market' before leaving for the airport of Athens and home.

What a wonderful experience it was. We had wall to wall sunshine all week and really felt the presence of Paul as he struggled to bring Christianity to Europe.

**Wedding & Christening Surgery**  
A Wedding and Christening Surgery will be held in *The Village Inn* Lyddington on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 11.00-12.00 for those wishing to discuss or book their weddings and christenings in the Benefice  
villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk



Toby's farm and through the fields where we sat and shared our picnic. The weather was glorious, as Mogs had ordered.

Then a quick game of hide and seek with the boys and we set off home.

All that attended agreed that we must do it again very soon.

**Report on Rogation Sunday**

A great time was had by all at the recent Rogation Service at St Swithun's. A short service took place in which Harry and Charlie led us in prayer and Angus read the story. We then ventured through Hinton pausing on the way to thank God for the animals and the growing crops in the beautiful countryside.

Passed City Corner, up the road to

**Swithun's Patronal Festival**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 6.00 p.m.

This year it will centre around a wedding theme.

Special wedding hymns and readings will be included in the service chosen by members of the congregation.

Refreshments served after the service.

**August**

There will be only one service each week this month, no weekly services or vigil on Saturday night.



**The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell  
The Vicarage, Church Road,  
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359  
villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

For **St. Swithun's, Hinton, The Churchwarden:** Marguerite Seaward  
Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,

01793 791 242  
colinspeedway@aol.com

For **St. Mary's, Bishopstone, The Churchwarden:** Doug Stevens  
Church View, Bishopstone

01793 791 107  
doug1966@btinternet.com

**The Secretary:** Marguerite Seaward  
Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,

01793 791 242  
colinspeedway@aol.com

**The Child Protection Officer:**

Jill White 01793 791 102

**PCC Representative Bishopstone School Governor:**

Gill Rankin 01793 791 061

**List of Other PCC Members:**

Bill O'Connell (Chairman)  
01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk  
Paul Bailey (Treasurer)

01793 790 103  
paulbailey86@btinternet.com

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*

**Baptism**

**St. Swithun's Hinton Parva**

22<sup>nd</sup> June Edward Harry Buckley

**Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone**

July	Liz Warrick & Jane Manktelow
August	Joanna Jenkins & Sarah Bally
September	Jill Rankin & Hilary Pitts
October	Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett
November	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
December	Ros Boot & Gladys Jones

If these dates are not convenient, please could you arrange to swap with somebody else.

More volunteers are much needed to help look after St Mary's – the cleaning can be done at any time, it doesn't take long, and it's a very rewarding and satisfying to help care for such an ancient building. If you are interested in helping, or know of anyone else who might be, do please contact:

Sarah Bally 791 121 .

## *Bishopstone Village Hall - July*

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.

Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	School 12.00 - 3.45pm	Ballet 3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	School 1.00 - 3.00pm		
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 2.45 - 3.15pm	
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	School 12.00 - 1.00pm		
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>			Parish Council 7.00 - 9.00pm
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	School 12.00 - 3.45pm	Ballet 3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	School 1.00 - 3.00pm		Gardening Society 7.00 - 9.00pm
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 2.45 - 3.15pm	WI 7.00 - 9.00pm
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	School 12.00 - 1.00pm		
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	School 12.00 - 3.45pm	Ballet 3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	School 1.00 - 3.00pm		
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 2.45 - 3.15pm	
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	School 12.00 - 1.00pm		
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	School 12.00 - 3.45pm	Ballet 3.45 - 7.00pm	Tae Quon Do 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	School 1.00 - 3.00pm		
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 2.45 - 3.15pm	
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	WI 2.00 - 6.00pm		

## *Hinton Parva Village Hall - July*

Bridge	Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , & 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Gospel Rally Dr Ken Stallard	Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm
Card Club	Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
St Swithun's T Party	Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 - 5.30pm
Messy Church	Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 - 6.00pm

Private Parties                      Catering may be available  
Meetings etc welcome              Free Parking

The Booking Secretary is Kate Wright - 791 399  
£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva £8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

## *Hinton Parva Flower Show is 24 Carrott Hinton Village Hall Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August*

The revamped schedule is arriving through your letter box very soon. Make sure you return the entry forms as soon as possible.

After all the talk it is now time for action. Look through the list and tick off the class entries which interest you. We have many of the old favourites but quite a few new ones

all suggested by you.

We really want the children involved and we hope the challenges will inspire some spectacular results.

The baking will be fun and not cost much dough! The flowers will be blooming all over - so come on Petal, get those green fingers weaving.

*Howard, Show Secretary*

## *Hinton Parva Village Hall Coffee Morning*

Thank you to all of you who came and supported us. I think that you will



agree that the morning was a great success and the buzz in the room was fun and relaxed. It was really lovely to meet some folk for the first time. The Hall had some tables with gorgeous flower arrangements - just as well for the morning was organised to promote the Flower Show.

Just in case you miss the announcement for the Photography class the subject in the show is:

*Life on Water* and/or *Village Scene*

It is presumed that the water subject will involve Nature or Fun on water and nothing to do with Alcoholics Anonymous!

Look out for those show schedules. The Committee were delighted with the response and hope you enjoyed the fresh coffee and truly delicious cakes.

*Howard*

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### Stanley James Cooper

21<sup>st</sup> August 1930 - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Stan passed away suddenly at the Great Western Hospital. He was my husband and also my best friend. We would have been married 51 years in August.

Thank you to all the people in the village for the lovely cards and flowers that I have received. People have really kind. Stan loved Bishopstone Village and said that he would never move away. He was a real outdoor man, enjoying shooting and fishing, happy driving round the Ridgeway and the downs.

*Doreen Cooper*

### Bishopstone 100 club June Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> 57 Les Morris  
2<sup>nd</sup> 23 Amy Ford  
3<sup>rd</sup> 78 Paul & Anne Bailey

There are 26 spare no.s please ring Jo on 01793 790 485 to sign up  
You can also check if you have won on our website:

[www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org)

## Join Hillsborough Day Nursery for their Summer Fête

26<sup>th</sup> July from 11.00am - 3.00pm

BBQ and refreshments, welly-wanging, bouncy castle, pony rides, Tombola, craft stalls, table top sales, football shoot-out and lots, lots more

### Wanborough Surgery

From week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June Wanborough Surgery will be closed on a Thursday afternoon due to a shortage of GP availability. Normal medical cover and appointments will be provided by Ramsbury Surgery. The surgery telephone line 01793 790 527 will be open as normal and answered at Ramsbury Surgery. As the surgery will be closed on a Thursday afternoon you will be unable to collect prescriptions, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your cooperation. This change to our opening hours will continue throughout the summer months.

### Wanborough Show Society Summer Show

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August

[www.wanboroughshow.org](http://www.wanboroughshow.org)

### Mobile Library

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July

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

## Children's Choral Workshop



Ashbury Village Hall  
Chapel Lane, Ashbury SN6 8PB

18<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> August

Contact [yvette3mc@aol.com](mailto:yvette3mc@aol.com)  
01793 790 387

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## Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

Thursday 10th July 2014

7.30pm at Bishopstone Village Hall

Maura Rossini will give a talk entitled:

## The Essence of Eve

A walk into the ways of Italian Style



Guests and New Members are always most welcome to join our meetings.

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# Bishopstone Gardening Club.....



Keep the wounds to a minimum and as small as possible.

The plant should be left in a natural shape (unless pruning a hedge).

Sometimes the plant will die despite your best efforts.

Timothy's inspirational talk, delivered with such wit kept us enthralled and chuckling throughout the evening. We can't wait to book him again!

Sheila Collins

Timothy Walker pictured left

Welcome to new members and really great to see so many people at the Garden Club for Timothy

Hilarious! Delivered at break-neck speed, Timothy Walker's talk on *Pruning*, at Bishopstone Village Hall 11<sup>th</sup> June, was invigorating and not at all what we expected. We learned that he was not a fan of variegated plants in general and had always thought the variegated laurel looked as if it had been splattered by a pigeon with loose bowels....

Armed with his *never fear pruning again* mantra the following are just some of his basic rules of pruning:

No pruning is best (plants are not pruned in their habitats). Pruning cannot work miracles. Before starting, look it up in: *The Pruning of Trees & Shrubs*, George E Brown.

Pruning is best carried out when the plant is either dormant or growing fast. Use the right tools & keep them sharp. Tree surgery should be left to qualified arborists.



Walker's fun and informative talk.

Re the question on *Choices*: the winner by a mile is: *Winding down for winter*.

Just to recap, the run up for the rest of the Garden Club year is as follows:

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Afternoon visit to Ewelme Watercress beds & Nature Reserve.

Contact Sheila Collins to book.

Picture centre - BBC April 2010: James Wong, botanist, BBC science presenter & obsessive foodie grower talking to Des Dix of Ewelme, working on the Ewelme Watercress beds.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Flower & Produce Show**

Bishopstone Village Hall will be open to receive entries between 8.00am and 10.45am on the morning of the Show. Open to public at 3.00pm for presentation of the awards, auction of exhibits, refreshments and raffle.

The five titles for this year's photographic section are:

- Puddles
- Animals in the garden
- Chimneys
- Birds
- Clouds

**8<sup>th</sup> October**

Alan Christopher will be giving a talk and slideshow entitled: *Winding down for winter*. (As chosen by our Garden Club members.)

**12<sup>th</sup> November**

AGM/Quiz Night

Sheila Collins

**Meetings**

7.00pm second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise stated, at Bishopstone Village Hall. Tea/coffee, biscuits. Come & join us!

For more details contact:

Doreen Cooper 792 965

Chris Thomas 790 106

Sheila Collins 790 358

email [gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk)

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Hillsborough Day Nursery Bishopstone, Wiltshire SN6 8PW Tel: (01793) 790271

[www.hillsboroughdaynursery.co.uk](http://www.hillsboroughdaynursery.co.uk) [admin@hillsboroughdaynursery.co.uk](mailto:admin@hillsboroughdaynursery.co.uk)



## The Royal Oak Diary

It's funny, isn't it, that a mention in these columns causes odd ripples around the place. Dave, one of our regular Sunday lunch drinkers (very modest, of course, one pint of Carling) said to me yesterday, what's happened to Mrs Roussel? In the past, he said, she could barely even wave or acknowledge me; now, I'm finding it hard to stop her talking! I replied that ever since we wrote about her last month, she's started to wave when I drive past her; and I now smile in return. Mrs Roussel herself, who has always opened the conversations with me by saying scarily 'ere Mr Finney I want a word with you...' has approached me with some other news, for the first time: she would like the village to know that since Christmas Day, she has shed nearly 4 stone in weight, 'and that's all without going to the gym', she confirmed, when I considered asking her if she'd taken up jogging (with her dog). By the way that's Christmas Day 2013, not Christmas Day 1993. And if I keep doing Mrs Roussel's PR work for her, as this is meant to be, at some stage in the future she might recommend *The Royal Oak* to her school parents clientele, rather than some crummy place in Shrivenham. As she has been heard to mention. There is a bit of a fetish for losing weight in the village currently—Mrs Keller (just a coke please) keeps hiding behind blades of grass, as well. Remarkable.

And Mr Danny Finch of this parish (modest drinker, half an Arkell's Wiltshire Gold please); bringing his

beautifully ageing doctor mates into the pub after a hard slog up and along the Ridgeway, still keeps asking for locals' discount, and I'm still trying to work out what he means. Tomorrow, I always reply.

Highlights from the pub trade: well, the best pizzas we have ever served were the star of the garden show on one of the early week-

ends in June—this is relatively cheap, good food from the garden, and the garden looks amazing, and the marquee is there for anyone to use, and anyone to hold a party in if they wish, just ask; Helen's daughter Sophie and her partner, the Welsh rugby player Dai (pint of Stowford, please), their new flock of organic sheep (quite apart from causing two hours of Bishopstone traffic chaos—it's all relative-- as they moved slowly from Lower Farm to Eastbrook Valley on the wettest Saturday) has produced some stunning lambs, which we are planning, horror of horrors:

A to eat at the pub;

B to sell to people in the village to eat at home, as  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  butchered lambs. Go and have a live preview—they're in the valley as I write this, and probably further up the farm by the time you read this. And to celebrate the birth of a new business, we'll have a lamb extravaganza supper at The Royal Oak in the very first part of July, where we will give one lamb away (dead) to one or two lucky customers.

Pig Racing: *Pictured on the far left*

Thanks to everyone for bearing with us (and hopefully enjoying themselves, and loads of you for working hard to ensure it went well, not a single high-viz jacket in sight, you realise, and the world did not come to a grinding halt) during this madcap day, which raised £850 for charity and nearly enough to send the landlord on a cheap weekend to Blackpool; Pigstock, or 'don't wake the pigs'—a little party of music, beer, food, bees, birds, last two days of August, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; details to follow; the Village Play, and BADS—meeting at Eastbrook offices July 1<sup>st</sup>, 7.30, just turn up, and Tom Green (I'll try a Carling today, landlord) is becoming the driving force, and will probably suggest we do Hamlet or something to match his burgeoning talent; and wo, what is to become of The True Heart? I walk thro the *garden* almost every day and it is surely the most horrible mess ever created in this village.

We hope you come and see us.

TF

PS. Despite our general contempt for overpaid underperforming footballers, there is some interest locally in something called the world cup; and, therefore, we plan to show the England games live in The Royal Oak—whatever time this is-- (which probably means we will have stopped showing football before you read this, being a sensible pessimist). There might be some other matches we show, depending on interest of course. We are open to sensible offers.

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# TOM'S TEAM

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## News from Bishopstone Potter

### Episode 1: How it all began!

Behind our house in West End Lane is our playroom, better known as Bishopstone Pottery. For over 13 years we have been messing about with clay, fire and water and trying to improve our skills as potters.

So how did it all begin? Well, in the pub of course! A group of friends were enjoying a few pints at the end of 1999 and trying to decide how best to celebrate the new millennium. After much conversation, and a few more pints, the idea of a millennium *pit firing* was suggested. After further pints it was agreed that this was a fantastic idea – beer has a great way of making you enthusiastic for any project! We were all going to make an *item* out of clay that could be fired in a pit and kept as a memento of the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A week before the firing we all gathered around a table to make our pots, helped by a few glasses of wine. We then painted our pots with salt, copper sulphate and iron oxide in the hope they would create some

interesting effects with the fire.

We dug a hole 4 ft deep and 3 ft wide and chopped up the best part of a load of *Axford* logs. We placed the logs in the bottom of the pit, covered them with weld mesh, sat the clay objects on top and added more mesh and logs. At 11.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 we gathered round the pit with champagne and ceremoniously lit the fire, hoping that by 12.01am on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 the fire would reach its maximum firing temperature. The flaming pyre reached almost 10 feet high and kept us extremely warm on a cold winter's night. We partied around the fire until the early hours of the morning and then dragged ourselves off to bed to await the pit opening ceremony after a very late breakfast!

Groggy eyed but with great anticipation, we care-

fully exposed and reclaimed our *works of art*. We all thought our pots were truly amazing- though others may have thought otherwise. Each pot showed the various colours fired into the clay by the oxides. At this time our experience of pottery amounted to a few evening classes between us so the results were, to put it politely, mixed. But we were hooked on pottery and proud of our achievements that night.

That night caused the spark that led to the start of Bishopstone Pottery. More tales from the pottery next month....

*Sue Walton & Adrian Dent*



*'Turn of the century pit fired pots – early days!'*

### And Finally.....

What a month it has been!

Thanks to you all for sending in your copy early, big kisses especially to Tim



(almost PG Wodehouse) Finney. Not only the newsletter and the fête but I, for some inexplicably mad reason, decided that it was the right time to have my dining room decorated. Thomas, my house elf, has done a brilliant job - now I have to retrieve all the bits and bobs to go back in the room. I need new curtains and light fitting, sigh, but that will have to wait until I get back from the Emerald Isle. Any of you who managed to find us in the church at the fête will have seen the amazing information that Karin Thompson and Paul Williams have discovered about the WWI soldiers of our parish. Karin tells me that they

have just updated their website. They would really like you to take part in a survey, so please go to:

[www.spanglefish.com/hintonparva](http://www.spanglefish.com/hintonparva)

There were some excellent fête pictures but couldn't fit them all in the newsletter, so look for them on the village website.

*mogs X*

#### ADVERTISING

The advertising part of the newsletter, which of course, helps to fund the enterprise, is organised by Angie Alcock. For business advertising rates please contact her: email [angiealcock@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angiealcock@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 07976 645 229.

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

As to advertising on the village

website email: Andy Greenhalgh, [agreenha@gmail.com](mailto:agreenha@gmail.com) or Jonathon Boon, [wizeoldboon@hotmail.com](mailto:wizeoldboon@hotmail.com)

The copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month but **please send large items as early as possible**. Don't forget copy must include name and contact details for validation purposes.

The newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households in the two villages; donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Angie.

#### CONTACT

email: [mogsboon@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

the newsletter appears on the new village website at:

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