

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva December 2015

Life Behind the Scenes at BADS After a year off last year, *BADS* is now back with a production of *Touch & Go* by Derek Benfield, to be performed 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> January

at *The Village Hall*, Bishopstone



This will be our third production since re-forming from the previous company some years ago. In the current cast, Mogs Boon and Tim Finney, lover of empty bottles and poo bags, are the only remaining members of the original team, something he reminds us of from time to time. This production's cast is Tim, Val Brodin, Louise Sweet, Belinda Nicholls and me.

So what inspires a villager, who usually has something far more important to do, to present themselves at the mercy of baying audiences, often in limited attire? We thought you might appreciate a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in a BADS production.

We start with appointing a Director – this year we retain the services of Clive Hill who manages a brilliant combination of keeping the divas happy whilst ensuring we are where we are supposed to be, when we are supposed to be there, whilst remembering our lines. Whilst they'd love to, most Directors say they can't be in the cast and direct at the same time, and if you pop in on any of our rehearsals you can see why. Clive spends a great deal of time in the early rehearsals *blocking* us so that we get our entrances and exits correct and ensuring our dialogue is delivered with the timing and stage positions so as to make us look natu-

ral. We are not professionals (well, not quite – I'll come to that) and when you are reading lines written by someone else and relying on interaction with other actors also reading lines written by someone else, it is a lot harder than it looks!

Rehearsals for



January's production started in mid October and are twice weekly, with the two weekends before production week becoming very intense. Rehearsals are a combination of some seriousness with plenty of laughter: we rehearse in the village hall as the stage

and props slowly assemble around us. If you can remember that scene in *Dads' Army*, where they are marching firstly in underwear and then get progressively dressed as they get their army issue: well it's nothing like that but you get the point.

Our amateur actors are like amateur footballers. We have seen it done professionally enough, know the right words to use, and what we'd like to look like. But we are, in the end, just amateurs. However, our ranks are greatly enhanced this year by the introduction of Belinda – who considered becoming a professional actress before deciding that two professionals in the family (her husband is a professional actor) would have too much of an impact on family cashflow. She brings an added level of experience to BADS this year, and it is showing in rehearsals. Overall, however, I don't think we make too bad a show of it and the audiences in recent years have been very appreciative,

assisted perhaps by the oiling they get in the Royal Oak pre-theatre suppers, particularly on the Friday.

*Next month mishaps & scandle backstage, revelations by Tom Green*

*Pictures: Tom, Alex, Louise and Tim in questionable situations.*

[www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org) for breaking news

### CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6.00pm	Donkey Service	Hinton Parva
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am	Carol Service Wanborough School	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>			
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Benefice Carol Service	Lyddington
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	3.30pm	Crib Service	Lyddington
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Christingle	Bishopstone
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Wanborough
<b>Friday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.00am	Christmas Day Mass	Wanborough
	Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Family Service	Hinton Parva
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Carols & Mince Pies	Hinton Parva Village Hall

## The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,  
Well here we are, at the beginning of the festive season. Hopefully, a time for family to be together to spend time in each other's company and to enjoy some time away from the pressures of work. Apparently Scrooge was given an alarm clock one Christmas and Scrooge being Scrooge; put it straight into the bank. Apparently he was trying to save time! Cracker jokes are also to be looked forward to in one of two ways. This season is also a time of mystery, especially for children. Children have always been an important part of Church history because they have always been a part of God's, a part of Love's plan. Moses was circumcising every male regardless of age, a thought that brings tears to many an eye, and is a rite of access that the Jewish faithful continue today. It was a sign of the covenant, the promise. This covenant is very different to a contract in that with a contract goods are exchanged and with a covenant persons are exchanged. In marriage an individual is called to

donate their entire selves to another and the other is called to respond in kind. When children are born within the Jewish community they are offered back to their Source and their Source responds in kind, they come into covenant with God. God (that three letter spelling of the word Love) becomes their Father and they become His children. And so it is with Christian Baptism, a rite that replaces circumcision that has been shared with children even before the New Testament was written, where God comes to dwell within them and they become members of God's family. We read in our Bibles that we are called to *Repent (be sorry for and turn away from our sins) and be Baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children...* (Acts 2:38-39). Indeed Jesus goes on to say *Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven* Matthew 19:14. So the notion of waiting until a child is of a certain age before they

are Christened only started to take place many hundreds of years later.

This letter is all about gift; it's the reason for the Season. God gave His Son for us so that we in turn can be a gift to others. It's as simple and as uncomplicated as that. Hanging on to what we have and to the detriment of others has never been at the core of our nation despite what our politicians might have us believe. We have only to look at the Foodbank's being filled to overflowing at Harvest to see this. A more appropriate nod to the Spirit of Santa Clause there cannot be.

The way our nation keeps on confounding our political elite is a heart warming mystery to me. God's love of each and every one of you need not be. Merry Christmas!

With best wishes and prayers

Bill

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please telephone:

01793 790 088

or email :

villageprayers@gmail.com



The next meeting will be held in  
 St. Swithun's Church  
 4.30 - 5.30pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.  
 It will be a rehearsal for the Donkey  
 Service.

**St. Swithun's Evensong**  
 6.00pm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
 Hinton Parva  
 Mulled wine and nibbles will be  
 served after the service

**PCC meeting**  
 7.30pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
 Hinton Hall

**The Donkey Service**  
 6.00pm  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
 St Swithun's Church  
 Hinton Parva



It will follow the tradi-  
 tional theme and accompanied by  
 a donkey, commences in the  
 Church and ends in the stable at  
 Hinton Manor.  
 Mulled wine and nibbles will be  
 served after the service.  
*Marguerite*

*From the Benefice Register*  
**Funeral**  
**St. Swithun's Hinton Parva**  
 28<sup>th</sup> October                      David Poynter                      aged 77

**Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone**  
 December                      Caroline Brandi & Jill White

If these dates are not convenient, please could you arrange to swap with  
 somebody else.  
 Sarah Bally 791 121

**St. Swithun's October Family Service**

The family service was really good.  
 Bill talked about miracles in Wales.  
 It was the last Sunday he was wearing  
 the green scarf.

Charlie Marriott (*right*) read from the  
 Bible and I (*below*) read some prayers.  
 Lots of the children helped with the



**Family Service meeting**  
 7.30pm Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December  
 The Old Inn  
 Hinton Parva

**Good News for Bishopstone**

We welcomed John Lowry as the  
 new Church Warden of St Mary's  
 Bishopstone at the Vestry meet-  
 ing held in Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>  
 November

**Christmas Care**

As in previous years we will be sup-  
 porting Christmas Care at Queen's  
 Drive Swindon. If you have any  
 items to donate please take them to  
 one of the Churches in the Benefice  
 and we will collect them on Saturday  
 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

They are particularly asking for:  
 Eggs, cheese, soup, beans, tinned  
 meat, vegetables, warm clothes, any  
 footwear, bedding, towels, toiletries.

*Marguerite 791 242*



bell ringing and helped Bill during the  
 service. Jamie Buckley and Monty  
 Marriott did the collection.

*Angus Buckley*

*For more pictures see page 10*

**Carols and Mincepies**  
 Hinton Hall on  
 6.00pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Contacts**

Any enquiries:  
**The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell  
 The Vicarage, Church Road,  
 Wanborough, SN4 0BZ  
 01793 791 359  
 villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

OR  
**The Churchwardens:**  
 Marguerite Seaward  
 Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,  
 01793 791 242  
 colinspeedway@aol.com  
 John Lowry                      01793 790 271  
 john1000000@live.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:**  
 Paul Bailey (Treasurer)  
 01793 790 103  
 paulbailey86@btinternet.com  
 Hilary Newton                      01793 791 086  
 Alan Taylor                      07703 162 523  
 R2attayloralan@aol.com  
 Doug Stevens                      01793 791 107  
 doug1966@btinternet.com

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - December

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30-10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
BADS	Tuesdays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 - 10.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 10.55am
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 -11.00am
School	Thursdays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 17 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
BADS	Thursdays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
Parish Council	Mondayday	7 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 - 7.30pm
WI Xmas Party	Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup>	4.15 - 10.00pm
School Play	Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 - 2.00pm
School Piano Concert	Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 - 9.30am
Daily- School Dinners	Subject to bookings (until 18 <sup>th</sup> )		11.45-1.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin or leave a message on the answerphone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving 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.

## Table Sale

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

10-30 - 12.00 noon

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Why not clear out those unwanted items and clothes and make some extra cash for Christmas?

Refreshments available

Tables: £7 each - to reserve call:  
Carol 791 453

proceeds to village hall improvements

## The Village Hall Bishopstone Annual General Meeting

6.00pm

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

in the Village Hall

All welcome

## Grand Curtain Draw.....

.....Will be held for the duration of the BADS production in January to raise money for new curtains. It is our intention to gracefully retire all the curtains in the village hall. They were originally *run up* by Margaret Woodward and Joanna Jenkins in the mid 80'S and have completed many years of sterling service. Just for the stage we have been quoted up to £2000 for wing and main curtains, new tracks etc. These will all meet the current requirements of fire safety etc. Tickets to be for sale at each performance.

Russell

The autumn session of

## Beginners' Bridge

have now commenced

Hinton Village Hall

Thursday afternoons

2.00 -4.00pm

For more information contact  
Conta 790 507

The continuation of village hall news is in the report of the Hinton Halloween quiz and pictures on page 6

## For your diary

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone Skittles Evening

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Hinton Parva Village Hall - December

Beginners Bridge	Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm
Bridge Club	Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , & 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
PCC	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.20 - 9.30pm
Private Booking	Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am - 5.00pm
Messy Church	Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 - 6.00pm

The Booking Secretary is Karin Thompson - 790 970

£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties  
Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available  
Free Parking

## Hinton Village Hall Annual Supper & Party

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Bring your own drinks.

£10 per adult

For more information on these village hall events contact:

Howard 791 171

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## Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

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

July 2013

### Who cares about the weather?



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01793 790 626

1. Holly & Flissano, 2. Lotus & Tia. These two (the three also did 'I love a walk, a lesson was great on last morning, by Rachel, between about 10.15 - 11.30am) had been out for a year or so. 3. Kaffee & Kaffee (the 'one up') 4. Hattie & Hattie. (the 'one up') 5. continue page 3



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## Hinton Parva Quiz Night – 31<sup>st</sup> October

All Hallows' Eve in Hinton Parva village hall saw a merry meeting of witches, quizzards and country pumpkins who battled tricky questions to be rewarded with sweet treats.

Participants from our local villages, and as far afield as Marlborough, gathered to be tested by new quiz master Peter Walker who set questions which were more world-wide than nation-wide. Peter included a timely section on Halloween and challenged our general knowledge and our recognition of cartoon characters, films and music.

The evening was a great success thanks to those who generously prepared the food which included appetising fillings for the baked potatoes and delicious desserts; contributed raffle prizes; committee members and helpers who willingly gave their time to co-ordinate the evening; and especially the participants who tackled the quiz with such enthusiasm, fun and laughter.

--- from your quizzical correspondent

*Pictures: (Above right)- quiz master Pete asked fiendishly difficult questions....; which (right) had us all guessing; hurrah for the victorious team The LCDs (below); two hurrahs for the kitchen staff (below right)*



*Huge apologies to Ian Thompson who was also on the winning team but wasn't included in the picture.*

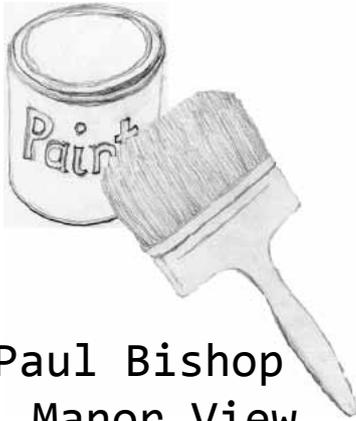
*Ed*

## GoRide 90 Bus Service Subsidy Removal

Oxfordshire County Council has decided to withdraw all bus subsidies, including our service 90 between Lambourn and Swindon, effective in April or June 2016 (subject to full council ratification in February 2016). At the same time, West Berkshire Council has also launched a consultation into the future of bus subsidies in their area. This is a threat to the viability and continuation of our bus service. To find out what your Parish Council and each of you can do to address this threat please read the full article in the attached Parish Times.

*Andy Greenhalgh*

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# TOM'S TEAM

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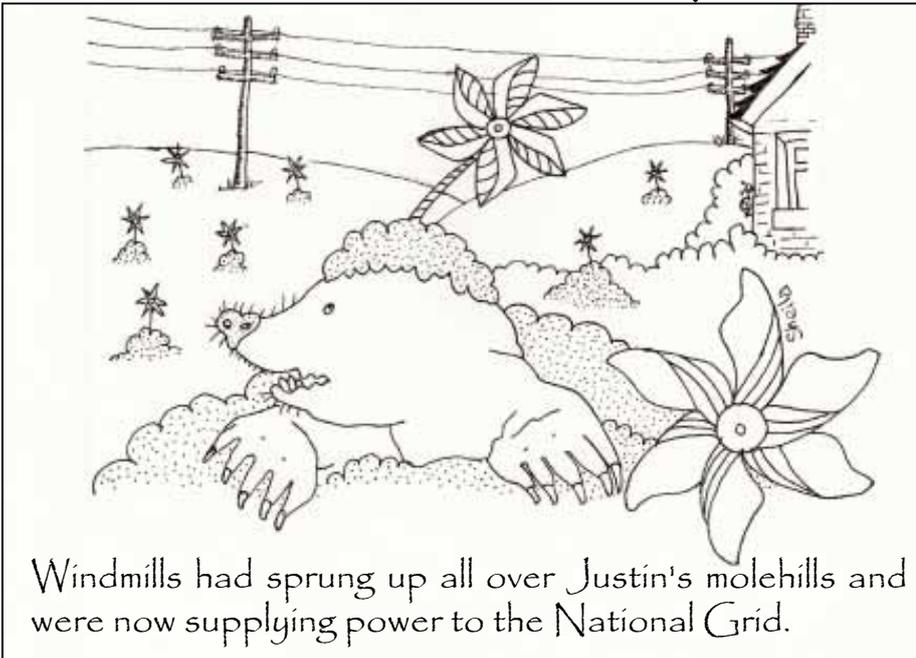
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# Bishopstone Gardening Society



## Lovely Lawns

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October a very cheery Jon Mason from Highfield Garden World Whitminster, arrived to tell us about caring for our lawns, be they a velvet snooker table green or more of a wild garden meadow, (as Mogs prefers). He took us through many stages of preparation and had a table full of various products suitable for creating a new lawn or rejuvenating an old one.

Then we got on to the subject of how to get rid of garden moles, (those lovely cute furry creatures, or pesky darned nuisances, depending on your mind-set). He had products for that too and had exhausted just about everything on the market. Jim Ball from Hinton Parva shared Jon's well-informed conclusion; if you're not quick enough to catch the little beauts, stick windmills on top of their molehills because they don't like the vibrations. Apparently Jim has done that for years and makes his own wooden windmills. Discussion followed about the tiny turbines being a useful addition to supplying power ... hence the cartoon.

Jon had brought along a variety of cut-price healthy plants to sell from Highfield nurseries and many of us staggered home happily carrying tubs of large perennials to plant in our mole free gardens.

Sheila

## Looking to the Future

The Garden Club now go into a form of hibernation through those chilly winter months but we'll be back on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**.

Watch out for a full write up about November 2015's Quiz Night and details of the year ahead, which will be in January's edition of the Parish Newsletter. If you'd like to join us or want more info, please contact:

gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk

## After Hibernation

The Society generally meets at 7.30pm on the Second Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise stated, at Bishopstone Village Hall. Tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle. Relaxed friendly atmosphere, visitors most welcome!

Bishopstone & District Garden Society would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

## School Report -

Hello everyone

The leaves are now falling fast and the children are busy collecting to collage with them.

Pressing of the apples was huge fun and we now have apple juice on sale, in school, £5 for two bottles! Bargain as it is *super yummy* as the children said.

Our school council has now started up with a passion and have organised lots to do on *Children in Need* day from 'dressing a teddy' through to cupcakes (of course). I am sure lots of money will be raised.

In school a *potion shop* has been created with the younger children creating all sorts of *wonderful smells* and cooking over their *fire*. Further up the school we have been busy creating stories about aliens and learning about Children's Rights.

After Harvest Festival our KS2 children enjoyed being out and about in the village, delivering boxes of food whilst taking in the beautiful trees around the village.

Year 6 completed their road safety – cycling proficiency tests successfully and are now allowed out on their bikes! Well done to Joshua and Daisy.

Exciting visits coming up including one to *Oak and Furrows* – a rescue centre near Cricklade and Christmas food making at Ridgeway School.

We have had a letter from the Queen's Lady in Waiting, thanking us for the work that we sent the Queen for her birthday, which caused much excitement in school, almost as much as our newly formed Cheerleading squad at their first session.

Christmas will be upon us shortly, our KS1 children will be doing a more traditional Christmas play:

**The Vilage Hall, Bishopstone  
1.30pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

all are welcome, if you just let school know if you wish to attend, so that we can place enough chairs out: 790 521

Emma Lindsay



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### St. Swithun's Family Service (Continued from page 3)

At Hinton the forth Sunday of the month is the popular family service where young members of the congregation take a very active part in running things, reading lessons and prayers, exhibiting their art work from *Messy Church*, taking the collection, and, as we see from the photographs (below) ringing the bells more loudly and joyfully than



we have heard before. As Bill, our vicar, will confirm they are all on hand to help him at the communion table (picture above). It's all so much more interesting than when my boys were small and were just expected to sit still and keep quiet. Would any other children of the parish like to come and help run a service? If you want to find out more, ring Marguerite: 791 242 and come and join us.

Ed



### Not such Numpty's now!

Jo Selbourne and her seriously misnamed team of *the Numpty's* won the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Garden Club Quiz Night which rather unfairly, included questions on gardening. More on this subject in the new year's edition.

Sheila

### Farewell to Penny and nis Alston

It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to Penny and Den, who I have considered good pals for a great number of years. They have been kind enough to allow us to dig large holes in their garden to excavate the mill site. Den has been the good sport that re-enacted the muster roll of sixteenth century Bishopstone for the amazing *Son et Lumière* production of a potted history of the village in St. Mary's Church in 2008 and has brought his medieval bowmen to village fêtes. Penny has been kind enough to proof-read this newsletter.

They bought the delapidated Bishopstone watermill in 1991 and Denis, an architect, transformed it into a delightful family home. Now they are moving on to Herefordshire.

Ed

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## Dickie's Diary -

I was walking my black cocker, Flo off the B4000 Lambourn road west towards Botley copse in late October. We have had some splendid weather and this was such a day. Flo spotted it first or probably more accurate, she smelt it first. There was a young fallow doe caught in the top two strands of a wire fence, a hind leg trapped fast in the barbed wire. It was dead but by the way it's head was resting on a sarsen stone with another close by it looked to me that a walker may have tried to end this poor beast's misery. I walked on and in less than a mile spotted a light brown blob near another wire fence. A magpie and red kite hovered overhead. Here was a second young fallow that had suffered the same fare, a hind leg again trapped in the top strands of the fence.

I have probably told you before that the last few years have seen an explosion of the fallow herds between Ashdown Park and Membury, particularly in the area known as Bailey's Hill owned by Andrew Geary. They have no natural predators and their breeding success enlarges their number each year. I have seen a photograph of over 400 in one herd. I do not own a rifle but several stalkers have the various landowners' permission to cull some of these deer which are now doing significant damage to our crops. Two landowners have erected deer fences in the area to protect their crops but rights of way complicate this security for some of us. Deer are wary beasts and stalking is not that easy. Stalkers have to be careful to shoot safely into dead rather than open background even in this remote area, and often an early morning or dusk stalk is unsuccessful. With Christmas coming and the season of hearty meat stews in the frost and cold, do give a thought to trying venison as a cheaper alternative to beef. The only stalking that I have personally done is in Scotland with red deer the quarry. Like my dog there was one occasion, when unseen over a brow and down wind which is so

important, I too had advance warning when I could smell the hidden deer not far away. My other memorable privilege was watching a pair of dark sika bucks for some twenty minutes rotating and clashing round a tree, the spectacle accompanied by almost an unearthly mewing noise.

*Richard Green*

## Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

Our friendly group meets on the second Thursday every month at 7.30pm alternating between Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Village Halls.

On those evenings we have a varied and interesting range of *Speakers*. Our current programme started in May and runs until April 2016. At meetings we have been entertained by The Wanborough Handbell Ringers, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, and a Member of The Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard to name a few. Our well supported Handicraft and Flower Show is scheduled at our June meeting. Early 2016 has us looking forward to some Line Dancing and Belly Dancing!

We have enjoyed various additional events and theatre trips, including a visit to Quenington Fresh Air Sculptures, a Cream Tea, an afternoon Garden Party, taken part in a Skittles and Whist competition and are now looking forward to an afternoon making Christmas Wreaths and Cards and Fascinators, plus our Christmas Party with the meal being provided and hosted by the Committee - this is always popular with our members' partners! Also we have a Trading Stall at every meeting for members to sell anything they may have made, have surplus of or no longer require - 80% of the sale goes to the seller and 20% to our WI.

**The next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> January** at Hinton Parva Village Hall with some lively Circle Dancing. We hope to see you there.



For more information please contact:  
Hazel Cooke 790 621

## Bishopstone 100 club

### November Winners

1<sup>st</sup> 98 Toby Ford

2<sup>nd</sup> 48 Pam Deal

3<sup>rd</sup> 26 Laurie Manktelow

Toby Ford came first last November too!

You can also check if you have won on our website:

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

The money raised is for Bishopstone Village Hall.

*Jo. X*

## Mobile Library

**Please note the time changes. There will be NO mobile library on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Bishopstone 9.55 - 10.25am**

**Hinton Church 10.35am**

**West Hinton Farm 10.50 - 11.00am**

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

## Help Needed for the Annual Tidying of Hinton Coomb

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

With a possible extra date on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March if we should need it.

The more people we can get to come along the better as we have a lot to do this year. We will be cutting all of the small scrub, below about 5ft in height, from the eastern side of the coombe so the work won't be too physically demanding other than bending and working on the steep slopes.

Meeting at the village hall car park to start at

10.00am (prompt) - 12.30pm

with hot drink and biscuits provided.

contact:

01672 539 167 or 07792 034 532

[Lorretta.Waters@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Lorretta.Waters@nationaltrust.org.uk)



**Rainbow**  
Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall  
Every Thursday during Term Time  
9.30 - 11.00am  
£2.50 per family, 1<sup>st</sup> session free

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For more info. Call Emma  
07825 108 081

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## Alfresco Childcare and Forest Preschool

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm

We are holding a Wreath Workshop at the nursery anyone can come along and make a Christmas wreath.

Interested? please contact Sara Dibley 01793 790 263

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 11 - 1.00pm

Fancy Dress Children's Christmas Theme party. All children from Alfresco are welcome. There will be a Christmas lunch, games and a visit from Santa!

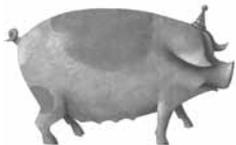
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 - 11.00am

We are holding a coffee morning, come along and celebrate Christmas with a coffee and a mince pie. There will be stalls for you to do your Christmas shopping.

*Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas*

Bishopstone, Wiltshire SN6 8PW 01793 790 263  
near to Shrivenham, Ashbury, Wanborough & Bourton  
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[enquiries@alfrescochildcare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alfrescochildcare.co.uk)

## The Royal Oak Diary



Morning, workers Welcome to The Royal Oak Christmas catalogue. As with so many marketing-on-the-button businesses, our thoughts turn to Christmas as soon as Guy Fawkes' night is behind us, and we can offer a splendid selection of new and used pig mugs, as our primary offer. Most of the used ones will have had the tannin stains removed by the time you buy them, of course. Unbelievably good taste for a mere £12; collectors' items of the future—I doubt it.

Then there's our iconic cow photo/print/canvas, as displayed somewhere on the page near here - *slightly unmissable to your right* - (a quick i-phone photo, not the actual print...); I have 4 large immaculate prints being mounted and framed, to sell at £125; or the prints on their own at £70. For someone you really love, I would suggest. The pub (and I) have a huge archive of beautiful photography from the farm at Bishopstone, and

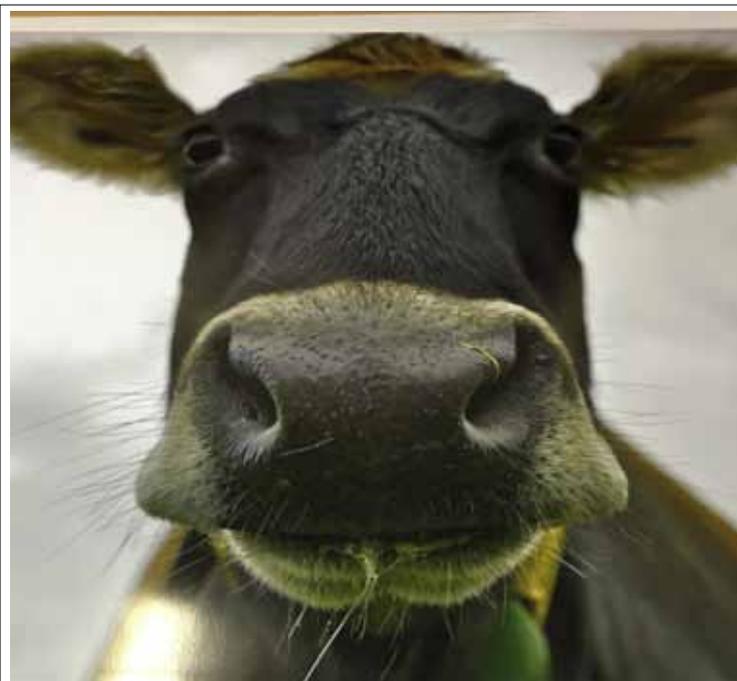
we can offer prints, canvases, jpegs. This is a serious—poster-size stuff you will not be able to find anywhere else. And those pigs in snow will look great on the loo wall. Priced from £20 to £100, depending on how you want it.

Or buy someone a real pig, with a view to eating it later. Buy it young, watch us feed it; then we'll slaughter it and cut it up into possibly the nicest pork in the world. All these options, and I suspect you will ignore them all and go to Harrods. We know where you shop.

Thanks to the 75 or so villagers who came along to Bonfire Night—a day of appalling, monsoon type weather;

and some lovely comments about how the pub does try to do things for the village, from time to time. I said, with me it's all about giving; someone replied, with you it's all about takings...

New idea for True Heart and surrounding space while the borough council continues to look for evidence of caveman drawings and dinosaur bones in order to allow everyone on the High Street to be forced to keep looking at the currently close to disgusting sight it has become—in Holland, they're designing multi-storey... pig buildings! They're so short of space there, and demand for welfare



unfriendly pork is so vast worldwide, for some reason, that the ground floor is kept clear for space for sorting muck and other lovely stuff that drops down from the pigs on the first, sec-

ond, third and even fourth floors. In Bishopstone, we could possibly add a fifth floor. So that could be an option, to be managed by Royal Oak staff; and we'd try to keep the smell to a minimum, of course. And in that way, all the caveman drawings apparently under the render would not be damaged. We love the way the borough council has handled this—the village backs the plan; the local ward councillor backs the plan, the borough council itself wants this nuisance off its books. But someone in the planning department doesn't!

We're filling up in December in case any of you fancy a Christmas lunch of quality without any driving; and Xmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Day are already half full. New Year's eve—I think I've said this before—normal service, with added grumpiness if I can muster it.

TF

PS: The village play put on by BADS threatens to be entertaining. Starring one half decent actress and a few farm staff, *Touch and Go* runs 13<sup>th</sup> January thro' to 16<sup>th</sup> January; village hall, 7.30 type starts; bar in the hall; pre-theatre suppers in the pub; whingeing pensioners—you know

who you are in Mount Pleasant—will be charged a lot more, the rest of us £6, with discounts on Weds 13. This is an astonishing bargain, and one you will talk about for years to come.

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## News from Bishopstone Pottery

### Episode 17 Ready, Steady, Pot!

Several months ago we heard there was to be a new tv reality show similar to Bake Off. We both groaned but our ears pricked up when we heard it was to be all about making pottery. A friend even asked if we fancied taking part. After about a seconds thought, the answer to that was a resounding *NO*. We love making pottery in our little shed but the thought of nervously potting in front of cameras, to be judged by the general public, sounds like a recipe for destroying ones enjoyment forever. Besides there are some much better potters out there than us!!

However, we did think it was great that pottery was getting a high profile airing on the television for the first time since Georges Aubertin's hands were seen daily and repeatedly throwing the same pot in the 1950's to the music of *The Young Ballerina* by Charles Williams for the interlude. Of course, I was just a twinkle in my Dad's eye then! Also I am guessing anyone under 40 hasn't got a clue what I am talking about. So just Google it to find out and I will move on.

*The Potter's Wheel Interlude 1953*



We have just watched the first of this new series, *The Great British Throw Down*, (very original title!) and found it both interesting and

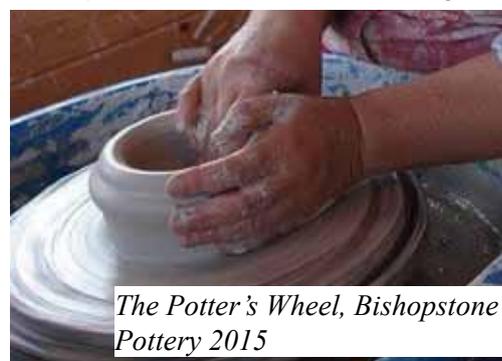
entertaining. I do wonder if it will appeal to as wide an audience as *the Bake Off* or if it will be one pot too far. Time will tell but it might just spark a bit of a resurgence of this great age-old craft.

In our own pottery we have completed the next batch of pots made from Bishopstone clay. We have deliberately kept them simple with little decoration to let the sparkling clay speak for itself. So now we are past 1<sup>st</sup> November and the garden centres are full of Christmas tat, oops I mean quality products, we are happy to suggest that they will make great, original Christmas presents. So get your order in early. Only a few (or more) left. We are also having a bit of fun trying to make some ceramic bird feeders. They are in the planning and trial stage (in collaboration with our bird visitors) and we will see how they turn out. They are a bit of a diversion from our usual decorative but less functional items.

Well I guess that is all we have to say for 2015 and we would like to wish you.....

.....*A very Merry Christmas from Bishopstone Pottery.*

*Sue and Adrian Dent*



*The Potter's Wheel, Bishopstone Pottery 2015*

### And Finally.....

These last few weeks have been hectic. I've had visitors from the other side of the planet, so have been entertaining and rushing about with them. Such fun, but thank you a million times to pretty much all of you for sending copy in early, without which there would have been no newsletter. Am happy to report I beat the Aussies at scrabble, am I now genuine contender for our cricket team?

On a more serious note, I'm sorry that Bishopstone Remembrance Service was not included last month but I did not have the correct information. Also I hope that you have noted the change of mobile library times (see page 12) There is something lurking behind



my bathroom skirting board, the cats both spend inordinant amounts of time studing the spot intensely.....a mouse you say? Or, could it be an exceedingly small giraffe?

*Have a brilliant Christmas*

*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.

#### CONTACT

email: [mogsboon@hotmail.com](mailto:mogsboon@hotmail.com) subject newsletter (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or deliver to:

Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626.

the newsletter appears on the new vil lage website at:

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