

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

February 2015

Cars parked by Hocker Bench



Has anyone else noticed the danger that ensues when cars are parked the length of Hocker Bench allowing only single file traffic to pass? Here we have a situation whereby a serious accident is just waiting to happen. When the school mothers arrive to drop off and collect their children from Bishopstone Primary School, they park all along the left hand side of the road by Hocker Bench which is situated opposite the village hall.

As the road is quite narrow at this point, it forces any car passing up the hill to drive on the wrong side of the road. There is a serious bend at the top round which one cannot see and oncoming cars do not heed the 30 mph limit. A head-on collision will be the fate of some unlucky driver if steps are not taken to stop this parking. I have had a near miss in my car and so have several other people to whom I have spoken.

I suggest that double yellow lines should be painted along the strip of road by Hocker Bench and up to the left turn into the High Street to prevent parking there.

I have written to the Bishopstone Parish Council (Leslie Drewett) about this matter and hope they will communicate this dangerous situation to the Highways Committee.

Penny Alston

Bishopstone Gardening Society

And we're back!

Here are a couple of dates to mark in your new 2015 calendars:

11th February at 7:00pm

Pete Richardson from Westmill Organics will be at the Bishopstone Village Hall to talk to us about his organically grown award winning produce. I'm reliably informed he will bring bags of organic veg to sell.

11th March (please note later start time of 7:30pm)

We welcome back the ever-popular Alan Christopher, who will give us lots of tips and short cuts in the garden. I rather like the title: *Gardening Made Easy*.

As from **11th March** the meetings will change to a later start time of 7.30pm. Held on the second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise stated at Bishopstone Village Hall.



Membership renewal for the whole year will be due in February @ £5.00 Visitors always welcome @ £2.00 per evening.

Tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle...It's always good fun...Bring your friends and neighbours.

...**Stop Press**... We are currently arranging several outings, the first one in June to the lovely gardens of Eastleach House in Cirencester. More details for the gardening year ahead as soon as we have them.

Sheila Collins



Messy Church will begin again on 13th March 4.30 - 5.30pm in Hinton Hall, our planned activities include Making an Easter Garden for the Church, plans for a Rogation Walk and a visit to Pennyhook Farm.

We would love new children and parents to join us from across the Benefice and have a very messy time.

Contact Marguerite 791 242

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	1st February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Candlemas	10.30am 1.30pm 6.00pm	Family Communion Baptism Evensong	Bishopstone Wanborough Hinton Parva
Sunday	8th February	8.30am *10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Family Communion Evensong	Bishopstone Wanborough Lyddington
Sunday	15 th February	8.30am *10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Family Communion Baptism Evensong	Wanborough Lyddington Wanborough Hinton Parva
Sunday	22nd February	* 10.30am 6.00pm	Family Communion Evensong	Hinton Parva Wanborough
Thursday	26th February	1.30pm	Dobbin Day Service	Wanborough
Sunday	1st March	8.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Evensong	Lyddington Bishopstone Hinton Parva

*Refreshments served after the service

Note Lyddington Evensong 4.00pm in the Winter months

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

As we look towards the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday 18th February I want to encourage you to prayerfully look deeply into the Bible verse which is the Christ Church Swindon, where I am the vicar, Bible verse for 2015

Isaiah 40 verse 31

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount up with wings like eagles

They shall run and not be weary.

They shall walk and not faint.

Being a human being is not easy, there are many challenges which we all face. I don't talk about being grown up rather I believe we are all growing up learning each day from all that comes our way. Being a Christian is equally not easy. We are encouraged by Baptism, our membership in the worldwide community of faith to see the world through God's perspective. God's passion is for love, justice and mercy and for the Kingdom of God to be completely

realised when Jesus comes again to renew the whole of creation. Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Each of us as ambassadors of Jesus needs to consider how we live believing that Jesus is Lord. Quite simply this will affect our priorities, our use of time, how we share our money and how we cast our vote when the election comes round on 7th May. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows and understands the challenges we all face trying to follow him. This is why he sent his Son Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit to help us to follow him. Sadly, for whatever reason it often appears that we are living life in our own strength rather than rely upon the strength God wants to give us through his Son Jesus Christ and his life-giving Holy Spirit. The prophet Isaiah wanted to raise people's perspective. Up to this point he has been largely taken up with the threat from Assyria. Now that particular crisis is behind him he is given a new vision for a new situation. There is comfort for God's people, he is coming as he promised.

Israel's God is God the Creator, incomparable, eternal; he never stops caring for his people.

What does it mean for us in our locality and villages across the benefice in 2015? At times it appears that we live as practical atheists, by which I mean not really believing that what God says is true. Paul McKenna once said *you become what you practise*. The great South African golfer Gary Player put it *the more I practise, the luckier I get*. We can practise this Lent being more confident in who we are in Jesus. You are my Beloved child, I am with you, I want to help you each step of the way.

You might like to consider the question I was asked by a Sixth former recently at a local school *why do you need God?* I believe it is true that the more we have in ourselves the harder it is for God to bless us. In other words if we rely upon status, money, material comforts we can be less aware of the power of God's strength. *When I am weak, I am strong* St Paul said, Jesus made is clear to his disciples then *my grace is sufficient for you*. I have no doubt each

of our Christian lives today would be greatly strengthened if we simply counted our blessings one by one each day and realised, in our humanity, living in Swindon how much we have been given.

As we approach Lent consider how you might become more grown up in the way you handle your human challenges and problems through God's perspective. What might it really mean to trust God when times are hard? What might it really mean to live in expectation of God's coming and presence? What might it really mean to have our strength renewed each day especially this Lent?

May I suggest there will be a release of joy, grace and mercy into our lives as we are refreshed through God's Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches the more open to God, the more we will become full of him, the more we ask God to help us, the more we will receive his strength. Isaiah's picture of mounting up with wings like eagles encourages us to look up and to soar through life as eagles soar through the sky. I am excited by all that God is going to teach me this Lent and all that God will teach us together in preparation for Easter.

May God in his goodness re-energise us helping us to be effective in his service. We are encouraged by di-

eticians and health experts to be less sedentary and to get out and about. Isaiah understood that. He believed passionately in spiritual fitness. As our strength is renewed, by God's grace, we shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint. In the busyness of life when you feel weary and faint and there are tasks that need to be done and choices that need to be made and challenges faced up to this Lent; may it be evident in the way we live our lives that we really do believe what God says: *Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.*

God bless you richly this Lent as you develop your spiritual fitness in the midst of your life challenges as a human being and ambassador for Jesus. Let me know how you get on!! I look forward to hearing many inspiring testimonies of how Isaiah 40 v 31 has come alive for you day by day.

With my love and prayers

Sidney

The Revd Canon Sidney Stevenette

Hinton Village Hall Carol Service

On Sunday the 28th December the Annual Service of Carols and Mince pies took place in Hinton Hall. Richard Gaines who kindly took our informal service reminded us that it started in the early nineties and has

become a tradition in Hinton.

After the short service we sang a selection of well known carols chosen by the congregation and then enjoyed refreshments and a chat about all our Christmas festivities.

Thank you to: Richard, Hazel for giving us excellent musical accompaniment on her accordion, Myra and Paul for reading the lesson's. To Shirley and Joy for the delicious Mince pies.

Marguerite

Please note that the date has been changed for the:

PCC Meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday, 3rd February
Hinton Village Hall

Dobbin Day

1.30pm, Thursday 26th February
St. Andrew's Church
Wanborough

Contacts

Any enquiries:

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 Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell

The Secretary: Marguerite Seaward Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,
01793 791 242
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

Liz Warrick 01793 790 865

Tom Cripwell 01783 791 148

Hilary Newton 01793 791 086

John Lowry 01793 790 271
john1000000@live.com

Alan Taylor 07703 162 523
R2attayloralan@aol.com

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

February	Caroline Brandi & Gill White
March	Chris Thomas & Gill May
April	Maggie Gill & Jane Golding
May	Liz Warrick & Jane Manktelow
June	Jenny Isles & Sarah Best
July	Jill Rankin & Hilary Pitts
August	Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett
September	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
October	Ros Boot & Gladys Jones
November	Fran Shishton & Frances Shone
December	Caroline Brandi & Gill May

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 - 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.

Monday	2 nd	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 4.15 - 7.00pm	WI 7.00 - 9.30pm
Tuesday	3 rd	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 3.50 - 6.40pm	TQD 7.00 - 800pm
Wednesday	4 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	School 3.15 - 4.00pm	
Thursday	5 th	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Health Club 7.30pm
Friday	6 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm		
Monday	9 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 4.15 - 7.00pm	
Tuesday	10 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 3.50 - 6.40pm	TQD 7.00 - 800pm
Wednesday	11 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	School 3.15 - 4.00pm	Gardening Society 6.30 - 9.00pm
Thursday	12 th	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	WI 7.00 - 9.30pm
Friday	13 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm		
Monday	16 th			WI 7.00 - 9.30pm
Thursday	19 th			Health Club 7.30pm
Monday	23 rd	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 4.15 - 7.00pm	
Tuesday	24 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Ballet 3.50 - 6.40pm	TQD 7.00 - 800pm
Wednesday	25 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	School 3.15 - 4.00pm	
Thursday	26 th	Mothers & Toddlers 9.00 - 11.00am	School 11.45 - 1.00pm	Health Club 7.30pm
Friday	27 th	School 11.45 - 1.00pm		

Hinton Parva Village Hall - February

Parish Council	Monday	2 nd	7.30 - 10.00pm
PCC	Tuesday	3 rd	7.00 - 9.30pm
Card Club	Wednesday	4 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge for Beginners	Thursday	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	2.00 - 4.00pm
Bridge	Friday	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Health Club	Thursday	12 th	7.30pm
Private Parties			Catering may be available
Meetings etc welcome			Free Parking
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			

House Full At The Village Hall



Well maybe not quite --but Oh what a night,
with quizzes and sing songs and cryptics to fight.

Under Howard's good Stewardship,
with always a witty quip.
To hell with the expenses and thanks

to the *Wenches*,
a fine meal was served to the folks
on the benches.

The Committee and helpers cajoled
and persuaded,
new faces and old to cook and
prepare.

No Turkey, no Cranberry,
nor Sausage nor pressies,
but Pheasant and Beef and Veggies
a plenty,
puds from all over, there must have
been twenty!

Just a good honest social and won-
derful fare,
in support of the *Aim* which was why

we were there.

Jim, led by Hazel, turned to the tables
and sang rousing songs from the
fields of the Somme.

Recalling our debt to the men in the
wet,
who laid down their lives for us to
survive.

The Raffle and Fee, for more than
just tea,
was a good deal for all - including
the Hall.

The Mission accomplished, the mon-
ies all counted.

The tables all cleared, chairs stacked
by the wall.

The Chairman announced that the
Tally was needed,
to keep our fine House in good state
and weeded.

Everyone thanked him for his
inspiration.

They clapped and they cheered to the
end of the evening.

So thanks to you all for a really
good day,
a Happy New Year - and back to the
fray.

Rod Peck

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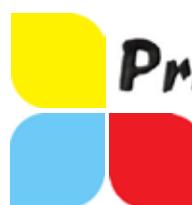
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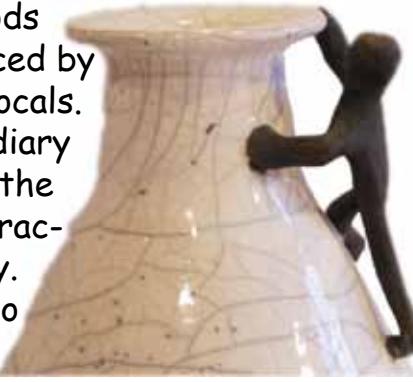
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Contact: Sue Walton 01793 790 246

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The Heart Defibrillator

In December villagers were invited to a demonstration. The machine is kept in its cabinet, outside Bishopstone village hall, by the door. The cabinet is not locked, so anyone can use the equipment, which 'talks to you' and tells you what to do. In an emergency, send someone to fetch the defibrillator, open the lid and follow the instructions until the ambulance arrives. It is very easy to use and saves lives.

Bishopstone Craft Fair

will be back this year! The village hall is booked for.....

Thursday 26th November

which may seem like ages away now but it will be here quicker than we all want or believe!

I will start taking bookings from Bishopstone and Hinton Parva stall holders at the beginning of September and from the surrounding villages from October. Please ensure that you book early to avoid disappointment as I try to allocate just one table per product-type as this ensures that the fair is more interesting for its (and your) customers.

So start getting crafty and creative!

Best wishes,
Chris Thomas 790 106

Mobile Library

Wednesday 11th & 25th 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

Wanborough School

Saturday 7th February

Quiz Night including supper teams of 4-6 are invited to take part Tickets to be purchased from the School Office although sometimes we can cater for people on the day – email us before-hand to make sure: contactpta@wanboroughprimary.org

Log cutting

Anybody want to earn a few bob or need free graphic design work?

I have some logs that need sawing up and I don't have a chainsaw.

Mogs Boon 790 626

Country Garden Fête

Saturday 13th June

Prebendal Farm

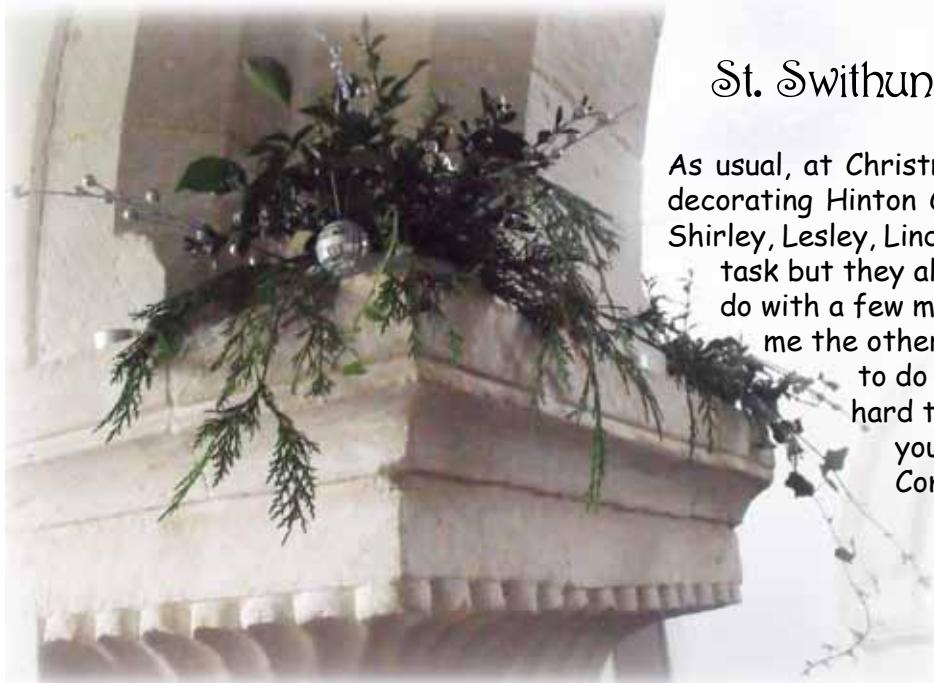
Bishopstone

St. Swithun's Flower Arrangers

As usual, at Christmas our team did a great job of decorating Hinton Church. Thank you, Lorna, Conta, Shirley, Lesley, Linda and Angie. It isn't an unpleasant task but they all lead very busy lives and we could do with a few more volunteers. Somebody said to me the other day that you have to be an artist to do flower arranging, not true, it's not hard to learn and we are happy to teach you.

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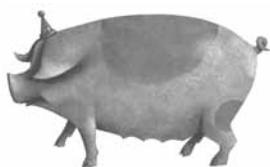
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The Royal Oak Diary

I need a bit of help. Some of you would agree.



First, the rag-ing success of UKIP (so I am told, although, like me, they may have peaked) is hard to pin down when you actually try to contact them. You all know I want a UKIP person in the pub for our full-on political hustings on 17th April, but when you want a UKIPPER thingy, can you find one? I've tried what seems to be their national headquarters; their regional hq, and someone on google who appears to be a local chairman, in Swindon South (our constituency), all to no avail. Either they can't write (or can't read) or they're far too busy on internal affairs, and painkillers, to be able to contact us. And while we're about it, someone tell the Liberals there's an election this year—they have (officially) no candidate currently for this constituency, and they're not sure when they'll have one. All very promising. Don't forget, 17th April, 3 weeks before the election, come and find out what the Tories, and Mr Miliband's gang, and the Greenies, at least, might have in store for you in these parishes. 6.00pm. Much fun. And free organic hot dogs probably. And a bit more help please; the bottle man is back, with a huge load. Imagine my delight when I walked in at dawn to the Royal Oak car park to find four (4) carrier bags of empty alcohol bottles and tins, in the usual place at the end of the narrow path from The Wyncies, dateline 11th or 12th January, overnight. Someone tell him to stop, please. Or possibly go a further 25 yards and put them in or close to our bottle recycling bins. And the same to those people who drop their Costa coffee cups in the car park before driving off, and their plastic bags of dog mess and their dirty nappy pouches. None of them are improved when a car tyre drives over them, I have discovered.

Most surprising citation for the pub so far: a global bible published October 2014 called '1001 places to eat before you die' lists (and describes) The Royal Oak—yes, the one in Bishopstone, near Swindon-- as one of the best places in the world to eat for some reason. They must have popped in while I was outside clearing the car park or checking toilet paper supplies in the BnB rooms. We have been quite good recently, I've noticed; I am very happy with my customers on the whole, and have said so on Trip Advisor, even though it's meant to be a website where customers make comments about us, not the other way round.

With the help of the glorious and talented Sue Mason, we are about to start writing down some of the better anecdotes that have emerged from this eccentric place over the past 8 years, one month and 16 days that Helen's had the tenancy and I've been allowed to weave my misery all over it. Possibly the one that brings most laughter is the time I decided on Christmas Eve, a couple of years ago, to remove every item of clothing (and toiletries) from a guests' room because I was convinced that the clothes belonged to a useless pig farm worker who had outstayed his welcome in the room. In my haste and determination to get rid of him, it never occurred to me that he was not likely to be wearing red stiletto shoes, or indeed wearing such alluring underwear and sexy perfume. I am only just still here to tell the tale. As far as the diary's concerned, make

a note: *Valentine's Day* is only celebrated here if you bring someone else's wife (or boyfriend), and then we make a song and dance about it; *Classic Car Day* is 26th April, I think, and *International Pig Racing Day (with compulsory betting for under-5s)* is 31st May Two pigs have been bought so far—one is named The Carlinger for some reason. I'm trying to get a decent cricket supper together with Pat Murphy and Jason Gillespie (the Aussie fast bowler now coaching world champions Yorkshire) but it's proving as tricky as finding a UKIPPER when you need one. It's the Ashes, apparently, this summer.

True Heart—no news, although it's clear from my recent visits that the squatters lived upstairs and the rats lived downstairs. I do think a small multi storey car park would help the village a lot.

TF

Bishopstone 100 club

January Winners

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 st | 45 Jim Bone |
| 2 nd | 71 Ray Darling |
| 3 rd | 9 Cheryl Keen |

The annual reminder, that some of you did not heed in 2014, subs please. £10 per number per year, it may be a footling amount, but it helps keep our great village hall going. You know who you are! Happy New Year and I'll get you at the village fete on 13th June.

Jo (scary) Selbourne. X

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

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org



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News from Bishopstone Pottery

Episode 8: The New Year

In accordance with our annual tradition, we both threw a pot to celebrate the New Year on 1st January. Despite a late party the night before, they turned out pretty well. They are still drying in the pottery and awaiting firing. Unfortunately, the cold, damp winter months mean that drying our pots ready for firing takes a lot longer than in the summer when we can sit them outside in the sunshine. Perhaps we should move to the Mediterranean for the winter?!

The clay we dug out of the new building site in Church Lane is also still trying to dry out in the pottery, despite the heat from the log burner.

Before we can use this clay it has to be completely dry. It is then broken into small pieces and put into water to dissolve into a slurry. This is called *slaking*. At this stage the slurry will still be full of unwanted material such as stones, twigs and roots so it has to be sieved through quite small mesh sieves. When the sieved slurry settles in the container the heavier clay particles sink to the bottom and any excess water can be poured off. The wet clay is then spread smoothly on to a porous surface. We use a special board made of plaster. When it is dry enough it is then wedged up. Wedging is a procedure for preparing clay or a clay body by hand. The lump of clay is repeatedly thrown down on a work bench and between each operation the lump is turned and sometimes cut through and rejoined in a different orientation. The object is to disperse the water more uniformly and remove air. The clay is then ready to use or can be stored indefinitely wrapped in plastic. We are really hoping that the clay will throw well and our first truly Bishopstone pots will be lovely. That may, perhaps, partly make up for the loss of our beautiful view of the Church, which is now obscured by two new, large, probably unnecessary, houses, on the aforementioned building site - but I doubt it.

The pottery has now had a bit of a Spring clean for the New Year and is looking a little bit too tidy for our liking. So it is time to set to and start working through our long list of pottery projects for this year.

Breaking news

* We will be showing our latest work at 'Made in Bishopstone' in Bishopstone Village Hall on Sunday 31st May.

* Pigeons have been seen lurking around the entrance to the pottery again. Are they looking for a nesting site already?

Sue Walton and Adrian Dent

And Finally.....

In last month's newsletter I put in an apology because I mistakenly thought that the mobile library would be in the village on New Year's Eve, but it wasn't. Last month I made an even more spectacular mistake, I got the mobile library visits completely on the wrong weeks. Sorry, sorry, sorry, if anybody turned up on the wrong day, I can quite see why you would be annoyed with me. Will try to do better in future. What about this 6 week body transformation challenge? I bet half the parish will be queuing up for it and guess who will be first in line? I'm already trying to learn bridge to improve my brain, as you'll have noticed without any positive results so far. Hopefully, soon there will be a brand new and



better version, Mogs mark II. No more mistakes in the newsletter and even my own children won't recognise me. Also please stop asking me where our vicar, Bill has vanished to and when he is returning to his flock, I don't have the faintest idea, nor it appears does anybody else.

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 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



Bishopstone clay slowly drying out!

website email: Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com or Jonathon Boon, wizeoldboon@hotmail.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 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 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:

www.bishopstoneandhintonpava.org