

# Village News

## for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva A Victorian School Report

April 2016



However, the essential part was that the children understood not only how Swindon grew but what life was like in the school over one hundred years ago. We are very lucky to have the perfect, historic setting. T h e

boards and Mrs Morris was closely monitoring our rules for the day! As for myself I got to swish around the school, with my cane at hand, in the most amazing dress (that said, I must have tripped over the hem at least ten times and got the endless skirt fabric stuck up the Hoover when cleaning up .. so not a look that I will be continuing). Admittedly the Head teacher cluster meeting was a little awkward that afternoon with the odd comment on my new wardrobe style but it made for healthy discussion!

The school was delighted to be part of the launch of Swindon 175 – the celebration of Swindon becoming what it is today - <http://www.swindon175.com>.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February the school was transported back in time, the class-

rooms were stripped down, tables moved into rows, advertisements placed on proud display (Pears soap) and stern rules laid.

The children came to school dressed in full Victorian clothing, as did all the staff. They had authentic lessons ranging from peg dolly making through to bread making, Girls were allowed to sew, boys to get technical! Toys on the playground were from the time; hoops, jacks, blow football to name a few. We felt like stars with Points West filming, Wiltshire BBC radio and the Evening Advertiser.



Vicar came in, angry with the amount of coal we had used, Mr Anley was unimpressed with nail cleanliness, Miss Pearson very specific on the cursive style of writing on black-

Importantly it has created a memory with the children that they will always have, learning can always be fun, it should be about the whole immersive experience and that is what both staff, children and support from parents achieved on a very special day!

*Emma (Head teacher)*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

<b>Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
		10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Sunday</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
		10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Sunday</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
		10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		1.30pm	Baptism	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Sunday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Pet Service no communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
		10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

One of the things that have provided a great sense of enjoyment since moving here is the countryside. When you live on the coast, especially if you are surrounded on the other three sides by heath land or pine forest, you have little if any idea of the seasons. Your choices are hot or cold, wet or dry, and that's about it. In this part of the world we are blessed with some amazing vistas and there is little doubt about what season we are in. Fields ploughed, fields sown and fields reaped are an amazing chain of events that I really do enjoy.

It wasn't until my late thirty's that the beauty of nature had any impact on me at all. Truth to tell, if it didn't have petrol or at least batteries in it I wasn't much interested. Then, while staying with friends in Kerry, I saw a seagull behaving like a seagull should; diving for its own food rather than scavenging behind a tractor or a fishing boat. It caused me to ask – if that was what the seagull was truly designed for then what was I truly designed for? A similar thing happened to a friend of mine while flying helicopters, as a member of one of our armed forces, over the rainforests of South America. Interestingly he went on to have

his own flying school but you would never catch him in a skyscraper as he had a fear of heights! We met while training for church ministry.

Each season announces the next and so it is with the Church Calendar. From Easter we move toward Pentecost, the official Birthday of the Church, but this isn't until the middle of next month. In April we celebrate a feast known as the Annunciation. It's when Mary is told that she is going to be the Mother of Jesus. In the Orthodox tradition she is known as the Theotokos or *God Bearer*; which in the West was translated as Mother of God. It's a feast that has been celebrated since the late fourth century, many years before the reformation, and for some time in England it was known as *Lady Day*.

We can all do with a bit of good news and nothing seems to catch a family's imagination as much as news that a new member of the family is on their way. The television series *Spring Watch* brings a sense of excitement to our screens as new families of wildlife make their appearance. It's all good stuff, and with increasingly long working days for just about every profession and place of work I do hope that you get some time to enjoy the variety and the results of the busyness of nature.

If you have anything that you would

like our village prayer group to pray for please:

telephone 790 088

or email [villageprayers@gmail.com](mailto:villageprayers@gmail.com)

With best wishes and prayers

*Bill*

### St. Swithun's Children's Service

The service on 28<sup>th</sup> February was well attended and everyone enjoyed a great selection of hymns, ably led by Richard on the Organ. Angus Buckley read the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand with great projection and clarity.

Marguerite led the first part and the children answered a variety of questions about the feeding of the five thousand, and paused to think about other miracles that Jesus had performed. Monty Marriott drew some excellent loaves and fishes to represent the story.

Bidding prayers were delivered by Monty, Henry and Jerry which were thought provoking and beautifully read. Jamie Buckley and Monty Marriott undertook their normal, highly important duty of the collection.

As always, at the Children's service, it is such a joy to see a mix of ages of parishioners in attendance and to see the children so engaged in the stories and messages of Jesus. We have a good turnout but there is always space for more children and it would

be fantastic to have more involved. As well as enjoying the experience, the children are getting great confidence and experience from standing up and saying prayers or delivering readings. A big thank you as always goes to Marguerite for her unending efforts in co-ordinating the service and therefore ensuring that it is such a success.

Kate



Our messy church on the 11<sup>th</sup> March had an Easter Theme. We welcomed two new children which was great. First we did Easter themed activities and drew pictures of our pets for showing at the Pet Service. Marguerite read us the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and everyone waving palms as he rode by.

We ended with songs and we all chose our favourite. A special treat was Easter Eggs which we ate very quickly.

The next Messy Church will take place in June when we are hoping to walk to Bourton and have a picnic.



Bishopstone with Hinton Parva

Annual General Meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

St Mary's Bishopstone

All Welcome

St. Swithun's  
Family Service Meeting

7.30pm 25<sup>th</sup> April

All welcome

for more details ring:

Marguerite 791 242

**Benefice Choir**

We are looking for new people to join our choir which covers all four churches.

We are a friendly group. You don't

need to be able to read music and it isn't a heavy commitment.

Interested? please contact:

Roz 790508

**Celebration Service for  
HM the Queen's Birthday**

10.30am Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
St Andrew's Church Wanborough

Please join us. There is to be one big family church service for the whole Benefice as part of the local celebrations .

HM Lord - Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Sarah Rose Troughton, who lives locally, will be telling us about her role. Everyone of all ages from all four villages is most welcome.

Please do all come along for this special and historic occasion and feel free to wear a hat!

More details to follow

**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

**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

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

April - Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

May - Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett

June - Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews

July - Fran Shishton & Sheila Collins

August - Caroline Brandi & Gill White

September - Chris Thomas & Gill May

October - Maggie Gill & Jane Golding

November - Liz Warrick & Jane Matthews

December - Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

Many thanks to all those who have helped to keep our church cared for and clean. Karen Stevens 791 107 and Doreen Cooper 792 965 on standby if anyone on the rota is unable to do their slot but always welcome more volunteers on the rota, if you or anyone you know might like to join us.

Sarah Bally 791 121

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - April

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30-10.30am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Mondays	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	4.15 - 5.45pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 10.55am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Wednesdays	13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.30pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
Parish Council	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Ridgeway Link	Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.00pm

Daily School Dinners (not Easter holidays) Subject to bookings 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.

## Hinton Parva Village Hall - April

Bridge Club	Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-10.00pm
Bridge Tea	Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	noon - 6.00pm
Village Hall AGM	Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm
WI	Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 9.30pm
Private Booking	Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	noon - 3.00pm

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                      Catering may be available  
 Meetings etc welcome              Free Parking

## Celebrations of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April from 7.30pm

Come On Down Its open door at:

*Hinton Parva Village Hall*

Join in the Birthday Celebrations, bring your own drinks and raise a toast, We have the glasses, anything suitable to eat also appreciated. Wear what you like. Its just for fun.

## Hinton Parva Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

7.00pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April

All welcome

## Come and support our local businesses!

Stalls will be selling: Meat, Bread, Vegetables, Rapeseed Oil, Jam, Honey, Cakes, Goat's Cheese, Chutneys, Soaps, Jewellery, Cards, Sand Art, Books, Gifts and more!

For more information contact:

Kate Watkins 710 440 (Kate\_L\_Watkins@hotmail.co.uk).

In aid of Ashbury Pre-School (registered charity 1156122)

## The Race Day Tea Rooms



## Pig Racing Day

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

The Village Hall Bishopstone

We need: donations of cakes, somebody to 'tickle the ivories' etc. Expect cajoling, arm twisting, flattery etc.

If you can help, please contact:  
 Tel. 01793 790 358

Fund raising Event in aid of the Village Hall

## Wanborough Farmers' Market

9.00am - noon Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month as usual),

*Wanborough Village Hall*

Parking is available at the Harrow Inn, where the chef's bread can be bought.

For more information, call

01793 790 438

or email sbirley@gn.apc.org

## Ashbury Market

*Ashbury Village Hall*

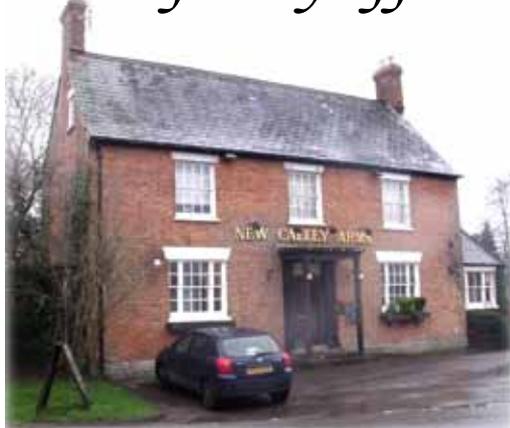
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

11.00am - 2.00pm



# The New Calley Arms

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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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If you would like to place an advert in the newsletter please contact:

angiealcock@hotmail.co.uk  
or mogsboon@hotmail.com  
01793 790 626

1. Holly & Florence, 2. Lotus & Tia. These two (the three also don't seem to mind, a little more great on their terms) by Rachel, between (bottom) 1. Fiona & Tigger (not sure age at about 1.2 - Kaffee & Kaffee (not sure age) 1. Hannah & Holly (not sure age) 1. continue page 3



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## Village Hall, Bishopstone Skittles Frostbite Challenge



*'Hit or Miss' left to right: Phil, Jill, Sheila, Yuet, Fraser & Rachel.*

This was an unexpectedly fun filled evening with supper and traditional skittles held in Bishopstone Village Hall. Teams of 6 bowled, drank, ate, bowled and drank some more. Bowling seemed to peak at the knockout stage with teams including The Flat Earth society, The Wyncies and Hit or Miss. Our team by some fluke reached the final and then bowled our worst round of the night to win by a narrow margin.

A stunning three -balled trophy was provided by Russell and the night compered by Mike with beautifully presented supper organised by Ros, Jenny and Carole. Doug and Karen were running the much appreciated bar which may have been the secret of our success! I can only apologise for those I've not thanked as I'm sure there were others at work behind the scenes as is always the case in these events.

A classic village night out and a definite must for next year - and all in aid of the Village Hall. No experience necessary!

*Rachel (Hit or Miss)*

I feel that I must add as an honorary member of *The Wyncies*, we came second.

*Editor*

## The Wanborough Show Society 85<sup>th</sup> Summer Show

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

### **The Flower and Produce Show**

As we look out at our gardens and start to see them come to life, we begin to ponder what we want to grow this year. So we thought it might be a good idea to help you with your planning and persuade you to begin thinking about what you might like to enter in the *great* Wanborough Flower and Produce Show in August.

**Mobile Garden Competition:** Last year we had a brilliant response to

our new competition to grow a mobile garden on a particular theme. We had some unusual and imaginative gardens on the theme of Wildlife.

Once again this year you can create a living garden in the confines of any wheeled conveyance about the size of a wheelbarrow. It must contain plants and any other added materials to fit the theme. The theme for 2016 is *An Artist's Garden*. This should reflect the work of a named artist.

**Hanging Basket or Planter:** There is also a competition for the best hanging basket or planter in the Parish. So why not have a go at winning the Par-

ish County Trophy with your best creation. You do not even have to bring it to the show, we will judge it in situ.

**Photography Competition:** Why not get out with your camera and take some photos for this year's competition. The themes are as follows:

1. Feed the Birds
2. Food Glorious Food
3. Flower Power
4. Quintessentially English

We hope that helps you get going with your entries for this year's show.

*Sue and Adrian Dent*

## Village Fête

noon - 4.00pm

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Hinton Manor



Come on guys, we need volunteers and fresh ideas to get this show on the road. Any offers of help will be greatly appreciated.

For information contact  
Conta:

790 507

contacriswell@hotmail.com

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# TOM'S TEAM

Hill Manor House, Hinton Parva, Wiltshire. SN4 0DP

Tel: 01793 791 148 Mobile: 07799 360 565 Email: [tomcripwell@gmail.com](mailto:tomcripwell@gmail.com)

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Terracing  
Flooring  
Decorating

# Bishopstone Gardening Society

Many thanks to Andrew Knowler for coming to speak to the B&D Gardening Club on 9<sup>th</sup> March for his summary on the care of roses.



## Coming up:

N.B. There is no speaker for April; however, on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April** we have an afternoon visit planned to **The Old Rectory, Farnborough** (John Betjeman's old family home). The very pretty gardens are open to the public from 2.00 – 5.30pm. Home made teas are on offer and the gardens will be full of spring flowers. It's just 11 miles away from Bishopstone but if you would like a lift please let Sarah Bally know (Tel: 791 121).

Do come along to Bishopstone Village Hall and see **Michelle Whitmore's fine art photography** on **11<sup>th</sup> May**: Michelle will talk us through some hi-tech slides of her superb macro photographs entitled, **A year in the suburban jungle**.

And please support our local:

## Plant Sale.....

.....on **Saturday** morning **14<sup>th</sup> May**. It's when local people kindly donate all sorts of healthy flowering / fruiting / veggy / herby plants they've cared for and encouraged throughout the dark winter months. Definitely get there early....Bumper bargains to be had....Shopping frenzy guaranteed!

We generally meet 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!

Sheila



## The 20<sup>th</sup> year reports on the ruminations of the Bishopstone 125 Committee

This committee was established in 1995 to assess the socio-environmental impact of global warming and sea level rise on the local area.

Using the best modelling techniques available at the time, sea level rise was extrapolated and found to intersect the 125m spring line in about the year 2042. (Unattributed comment: *seemed a long way off in 1996*). The above High tide map shows the impact of such a scenario.

In 1996 a reconnaissance station was setup at an elevation of 125m and observations are made at the notional high tide times each day. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April high tides are at 04.42 and 16.42.

So far there is *nothing to report*.

Bob (your roving reporter, unpaid)

## Bishopstone Allotment Gardens

Subs are now due. Please put in the usual place and write your name on the envelope so that I can tick you off the list.

Many thanks,

Roz 790 508

## Broadband Mast News

Helen Browning has allowed a small parcel of Eastbrook to be taken back in hand by the Church Commissioners, who own the place, and they are close to a deal with a broadband mast supplier behind a barn at the bottom of the farm; I suspect construction work will start this year, and hopefully end this year!

And improve the ability of the village to access the rest of the world, at higher speeds.

Tim Finney

## Council Solar Bonds now available

**SBC make a positive difference to the local community and environment**

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) with their financial partner Abundance Investments, have launched the UK's first *Council Solar Bonds* – offering local people the chance to co-invest with the council in the Swindon Community Solar Farm at Common Farm, Wroughton. The minimum investment is £5 and the bonds have an effective rate of return of 6%.

A Community Interest Company owned by the Council will manage the solar farm, with 65% of the profits going to support community projects, while the remaining 35% goes to pay a return to investors and the council.

The 4.8MW solar farm will be on council-owned land managed to promote biodiversity, supporting wild birds, bees and butterflies, and with sheep grazing between the panels. It will generate enough electricity to supply the equivalent of 1,200 typical homes, saving around 2000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

For more information visit SBC's website or [www.abundanceinvestment.com/swindon](http://www.abundanceinvestment.com/swindon)

Nigel Crisp

# Singing for Everyone



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Very friendly atmosphere and great fun

For further information contact Luiza  
07541 956 179 01793 790 265  
[www.luizastaniec.co.uk](http://www.luizastaniec.co.uk)

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## Who are Saving Needy Dogs?



### Could you be Adrian's New Family?

Adrian is a Jack Russell Terrier X, who will be a very loyal addition to a family. He is good with children and other dogs (but not cats or small furies), settles well at night, loves cuddles, long walks and playing fetch with a ball – the perfect countryside dog!

In 2012, four dog loving young ladies started walking the dogs that were in Swindon's Dog Pound – bonds were formed between the ladies and the dogs as they started to get to know the dogs personalities, which led into them wanting to foster the dogs and finding them *forever homes* ..... SNDogs was formed!

In August 2015 SNDogs (or Saving Needy Dogs) heard the news that they had been granted Charity Status by the Charities Commission. The Charity Status is a big benefit to SNDogs as it is a *stamp of approval* from the Charities Commission which means the public and sponsorship bodies can be confident that the charity is administered correctly and the funds will be used for the purpose for which they are intended and should also make raising funds easier than for non-charitable organisations. Since those early days SNDogs has become Swindon's leading foster-based, Dog Rescue Charity and have the following remit:

- To re-home dogs from Swindon's dog pound and other UK dog pounds;
- To re-home dogs from other dog rescues;
- To re-home dogs whose owners cir-

cumstances change and are no longer able to look after them, ie, go into a care home;

- To help with temporary foster care in emergencies, for example when an owner goes into hospital as well as helping dog owners who find themselves unexpectedly and temporarily unable to care/feed their dog;

SNDogs are also the main point of contact for Swindon's *Lost and Found* dog community.

Based entirely on volunteers SNDogs provide foster homes (the dogs are not kept in kennels!) fundraise, attend events with the dogs looking for homes, walk the dogs under assessment before they go off to foster homes and home-check potential adopters.

Fundraising events take place throughout the year and range from attending local fetes and dog shows to bag packing in Supermarkets and Street Collections.

Opportunities to meet the SNDogs looking for homes can be arranged on a one to one basis and the dogs are also out and about at the fundraising events and at the monthly dog walk which takes place at Coate Water in Swindon.

All the dogs looking for homes can be found on the SNDogs Facebook page – with descriptions of the dogs characters/approx. age etc.

SNDogs runs entirely by donations – if you or your company could fundraise for us please get in contact or you can help us in the following ways: Donate: dog food, dog crates, Jumbones, dental stickets, and leads, harnesses, toys etc. at one of their collection points – Vets Kline (Bridge-mead,) Eastcott Vets (Drove and Old Town) and Drove Vets (Wroughton) or Scruffs Groomers (Penhill)

Donate: via Paypal or bank transfer to (Co-op) SNDogs- Account No. 65622481 sort code: 089299

SNDogs are always on the look out for volunteers - If you have a few hours to spare please contact [sndrescue@gmail.com](mailto:sndrescue@gmail.com) 07940 268 101

### SNDogs Upcoming Events:

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>

April 10.30am – 12.30pm

Dog Walks at Coate Water, Swindon  
Walk your own dog and come and meet some of the dogs looking for homes  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Highworth May Day Festival 10.00am – 4.00pm  
SNDogs will be there with some dogs and a stall

[www.sndogs.uk](http://www.sndogs.uk) email@ [sndrescue@gmail.com](mailto:sndrescue@gmail.com) phone: 07940 268101  
Registered Charity Number 1163257  
[www.sndogs.uk](http://www.sndogs.uk)

## A Sad Fishy Tale

Last week all Denis' fish were stolen from his pond in the garden. He feels heartbroken as some of those fish were over 20 years old and the size of small whales! There were golden carp, ghost coy, fan tailed goldfish and some rudd to mention but a few.

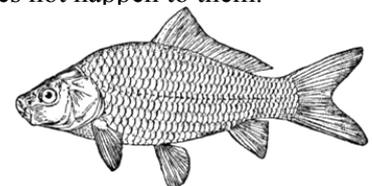
He was so fond of those fish often sitting out in the summer just to watch them swimming about. Seems incredible that anyone would want to do such a thing but it seems there are fish thieves around seeking either to sell large fish or to eat them. We think unfortunately it was the latter in our case as we found fish scales all over the ground.

The method is to put a *stunner* into the pond which paralyses the fish and they all float up to the top, alive but incapable of movement. It is then easy to net them.

When this actually happened we don't know but last Saturday Denis came in saying *Those wretched ducks have been in my pond wrecking the water lilies*. Of course we now know that it was no ducks but the thieves.

The police have been informed and actually have been incredibly helpful sending a couple of police round to interview Denis but of course there is only a very slim chance that the thieves would ever be caught.

However, if anyone has a fish pond and fish in their garden take care it does not happen to them.



*Penny Alston, the Old Mill*

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## Dickie's Diary -

I usually find it hard to resist recording the first signs of spring. The rooks are building and I have spotted the bread basket affair of their cousins the magpie. I expect mallards which are one of the earliest have also prospected their nesting site, partridges have paired off in readiness but they nest later, typically hatching in Ascot week. I have yet to hear a greater spotted woodpecker drumming away; that's a sure sign of spring. Nothing to do with spring but I have just seen a kingfisher by the pond; they will nest in a bank hole.

Our mild winter has really confused our daffodils which are flowering over an extended period but snowdrops behaved more to type and now is the time to split or move them. My aconites did not show for long but as always Pinewood School takes some beating. I do admire each year the grass bank in Cues Lane, Bishopstone outside the Hawthorns for a stunning show of early anemones and primroses. St Marys, Ashbury church yard has a good show of primroses and St Marys, Bishopstone a fine patch of light mauve crocuses. Cowslips on our downland won't be long.

One of the first signs of spring are the yellow catkins hanging down from the hazel which show in February. The soft white gossamer buds we call pussy willow are not yet showing as I write. Look out on a sunny day for the first early butterflies, usually the yellow Brimstone and or the Orange Tip.

Frolicking newly born lambs are a lovely sight. Dan Sharpe is beginning to move his to pasture from their lambing quarters at Ridgeway Farm, Bishopstone, though grass growth is as yet hardly underway. I was rather surprised to see Eastbrook's dairy herd turned out as early as 4<sup>th</sup> March but I expect they are enjoying their freedom outside. The modern approach is to let them out as early as possible even if they have to come back in later.

It's been a mild damp winter with hardly any dry periods but we planted our first two fields of spring barley at the end of February on the light

land and hope to get the remainder in before mid March with ploughing of the over wintered stubbles, which have been left with weeds for the little birds, now underway in readiness. We would like to give our wet fields in the Vale a nitrogen boost but they remain tender and wet. Patience is required before tractors can travel!

*Richard Green*



### Talking of Mallards

This attractive little duck was seen by Bishopstone pond. According to the experts at *Slimbridge* he is a mallard cayuga cross.

*Photographed by Sheila Collins*

## Liddington Bells Project

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Coach Trip to John Taylor's Bell Foundry

A coach has been booked to go to John Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough to witness the casting of the six new bells for All Saints Church, Liddington.

There is a limit as to how many people can be accommodated at John Taylor's so if you are interested in going please let me have your name as soon as possible. There is no charge for the visit to John Taylor's, but the coach will be about £20 per person.

**9.30am** approx. Depart Liddington.

Lunch break, Leicester Forest East services, M1

**1.15pm** Arrive John Taylor's

**1.30pm** Tour of Museum and Works

Casting of 6 new Liddington Bells

Final shop visit / Ring on the Foundry peal of 12 bells

**5.00pm** approx. Depart John Taylor's

**7.30pm** approx. Arrive Liddington

There are toilet facilities at John Taylor's but no food outlets, hence the lunch break on the way to Loughborough. You may want to take a snack for the return journey.

There are extra places available on the coach for anybody who would like to visit the market town of Loughborough only for the same price.

To book your seat on the coach for the visit to John Taylors or to Loughborough only, please contact me. Tony Pullan: -

01793 790 904 / 0774 5011 788 e-mail: nickyandtonyp@gmail.com

## Mobile Library

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April

**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, indulge in a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with all the latest.

Contact: Doreen Cooper 792 965

## Bishopstone 100 club

### March Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> 39 Jim & Sandra Mitchell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 32 Mike Clay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 83 Rachel Blunt

Usual moan, subs please £10 per number per year. Cheques to be made payable to Bishopstone Village Hall. Some people have more than one number! Maximise your chance of winning and help the hall. There are several numbers available, so ring Jo 790 485 to nail your favourite.

*Jo. X*



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## The Royal Oak Diary



Where to start? Possibly an apology to those of you in Cues Lane understandably angry about cretinous HGV drivers who decide their inter-continental ballistic missiles on wheels, ie lorries (not all of them related to Eastbrook) and milk tankers, can sensibly be taken from one end of Cues Lane to the other without spoiling verges, damaging hedges, and endangering any living thing that gets in the way. We do try to tell them, if they're leaving or coming to Eastbrook, that they cannot use Cues Lane except the bottom entry leading to the dairy. This is a cause of genuine embarrassment for us, when it happens. We've asked the organic milk co-op to try to ensure we get the smaller tankers, as well. And drivers to ignore their equally cretinous satnavs.

Biggest lorries using Cues Lane for the pub are the waste/recycling lorries from Wiltshire Waste, and their drivers are penalised if they are scratched by hedges and trees. They seem to drive with more common sense.

### Burgers off

The pub itself is having a sort of baby, like lots of people round here. The Royal Oak gives birth to **Helen Browning's Chop House**, opening 30<sup>th</sup> March in Swindon's uber-trendy, chic and edgy Wood Street. It's all relative. We thought we'd see if the good burghers of Swindon like the good organic burgers of Bishopstone; and we'll offer them a few other choice cuts from Helen's pigs (eg ribs, pulled pork) and Sophie and Dai's lambs (chops, I suppose). Craft beers in tins and bottles; bourbon by the half pint, and milkshakes from our own cows. Our head chef Paul Winch has taken the plunge to come with us to Wood St, where Bistro Les Chats used to be; and our new head chef at t'pub is David Crabtree. A fiery red headed Scot, we know him very well, and he's currently (exactly as I write this) cycling through the snowy Northumberland hills on his epic pedal south. We hope he'll be here before

the end of March. And we hope he's wearing a helmet. He cycled right across America during 2014, cooking as he went, so I suppose he'll make it through very bleak Yorkshire.

One retraction from last month: the ever helpful and charming Dizzy Gillespie, cricket coach to Yorkshire's glorious champions, has had to pull out of his dinner and chat date here in April/May; it clashes too much with *the cricket season* apparently, and he's promised to make it back in late winter next year. I will ensure he does. Otherwise, its **Sports Car and Supercar lunch** here for charity (dialysis) on **16<sup>th</sup> April; Drive it Day on 24<sup>th</sup> April; World Book Day Giveaway 23<sup>rd</sup> April** (16 copies of *The Rotters Club* by Jonathan Coe, we have been promised, as a chosen partner of the organisers, to give away); plus a chance for anyone to give away books they like, but don't want any more, to the pub, and we'll offer it to any and all visitors. I do not wish the place to become a bargain basement crap bookstore, by the way, even though two of the novels I picked up in over hyped airport book stores recently should be burnt, nothing less. *The Girl on The Train* and *The Good Liar*; tripe; I should have had more sense and more time.

Oh yes: **Easter Egg Hunt** on Eastbrook Farm is ... **Easter Sunday**, of course; meet 10.00am at farm offices in Cues Lane, tractor and trailer into the valley. £5/family/car load, all to our tractor driver. Eggs galore. Or go to church? That's a cheaper option, and warmer. Pip pip,

TF

Ps With some lurid allegations of

livestock rustling doing the rounds currently, I would remind people that our menu in early April will of course include the local delicacy fillets of Koi carp on a bed of smoked confit of Aylesbury duck. Enough for one.

## Bishopstone with Hinton Parva



### Next Meeting

**7.30pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
Hinton Parva Village Hall**

Our Guest Speaker this month is Gillian Barber who will be talking to us about the Olive Tree Café and the work of TWIGS. TWIGS and The Olive Tree Café work in partnership offering work and support to people in their recovery from mental illness. Both can be found at Manor Garden Centre. This should be an interesting talk so do come along and join us for the evening.

Our new programme for the year, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> May has now been finalised and we are looking forward to meeting and hearing from a variety of interesting speakers. Additional plans also include our very popular dinner at Swindon College, and a demonstration at Aston Pottery.

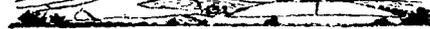
Next month I will be able to update you on our new committee who will by then be in full swing - and hopefully with a few new faces.

We welcome all new faces to our meetings so please do come along and meet us.

For more information please contact Hazel Cooke

01793 790 621.

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## News from Bishopstone Pottery

### Episode 21 Problems with Glazing

This month the pottery has been a little neglected while we have put our efforts into getting our garden tidied up after the winter.

We have, however, found time to glaze our New Year pots with mixed results. Adrian and I both used the same clear glaze but Adrian's was fired at a lower temperature than mine. They both looked good straight from the kiln but Adrian's glaze, annoyingly, developed some irregular cracking.

I must admit that glazing pots is not my favourite part of the process and can be disastrous. I do recall a memorable occasion in the early days of the pottery, when we did not know any better, when we overfired our pots. Upon opening the kiln we found a molten mess on the shelves and the pots firmly attached to the shelves because the glaze had literally run off them. Still it is good to learn from your mistakes. Especially if it requires the purchase of new kiln shelves!! Glazes are essentially a glass coating for a ceramic piece. It is either clear transparent or, with the addition of a metal in any of several forms, comes in a rainbow of colours. They may also be glossy or matt, translucent or opaque, smooth or even textured. It is important to select the glaze carefully because both the glaze and the clay pot expand at, not necessarily, the same rate during heating and cooling. If the glaze does not *fit* the pot or if the pot was not fired to a sufficient heat, then it will crack upon cooling.

Glaze can be applied to the bisque-fired pot in a variety of ways. Dipping, pouring, brushing or spraying. Dipping in a big bucket of glaze is the easiest way to ensure it is evenly applied. Spraying is good too but requires extra safety equipment so it is not inhaled. Pouring requires more practice to get it evenly distributed and brushing is more time consuming and more difficult to apply evenly.

There are an awful lot of things that can go wrong in the glaze firing which is why potters trial and re-trial glazes until they are happy about the ones they want to use.

Finally, the pottery was used for other purposes this month when it played host to a group of children from Bishopstone School who were making some modern sculptures. This required the use of balloons and lots of plaster of Paris! It was incredibly messy and very noisy with excitement and hilarity when balloons filled with wet plaster exploded over the adults. I would love to show you a picture of the results but they will not be revealed until they are exhibited at the village hall shortly.

*Sue and Adrian Dent*



### And Finally.....

I love the pictures of the school children transported back 175 years,



it looked such fun - but those Victorian teachers. Liz appears to be quite kindly, not sure about the vicar but Phil would absolutely terrify me.

Spring, well that's what it feels like today with all the daffs out - I went for a walk and watched two red kites, following the plough with the rooks and gulls, unbothered by either me or the tractor, they wheeled overhead so their their fabulous colouring and feather marking could be seen quite distinctly. Of course, I didn't have a camera with me. Note to self, *when rich and famous get a mobile that takes good photos.*

By the time that you read this it could well be snowing.....and being April, you can't believe everything that you read anyway.

*mogs,*

#### 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

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**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 deliver to:

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

the newsletter appears on the new village website at:

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