

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva December 2016

Calling all photographers!



We're delighted to announce the arrival of our new feature – a monthly photography competition. (Please imagine loud fanfares; sound effects are so hard to achieve in print). Each month we'll nominate a theme, and the editor will choose the best entries for publication the following month. No prizes, well probably not – but imagine the glory. . .

The theme for next month is:

Winter Comforts

Now for the technical bit. . . Please email the pictures at, at least 300dpi jpegs to:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

We can't wait to share your pictures in our January edition, so dust off your lenses and start snapping!

Bob (unpaid etc.) reports on the Imminent Demise of Bishopstone's remaining Telephone Box.

Fortuitously, as a result of an audit of the Village Hall's evacuation procedures, it was discovered: ***in view of the poor or non-existent mobile signal recommends dialling 999 from the adjacent telephone box.*** The notice of removal was spotted, only six days after BT had attached it *Payphone kiosk*. This notice does invite you to make comments to the *Local Authority Planning Department* who have responded:

BT has instigated a consultation on the removal of 44 callboxes across the Borough so, having now notified parish and borough councillors and community groups and residents associations of this consultation, we will record all comments received on each callbox (including yours). The comments will be presented in a report to Swindon Borough Council planning committee (13th December) who will debate the issue and make the initial decisions on each callbox. Thank you for participating in the consultation.

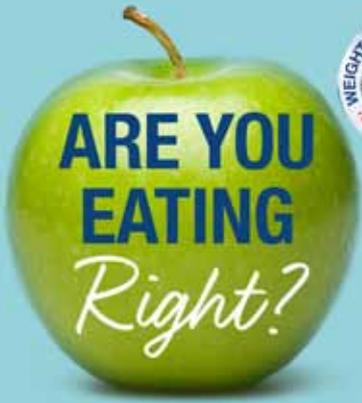
Contact details, should you feel moved:

Karen Phimister (kphimister@swindon.gov.uk), Graduate Planner (Planning Policy), Planning Service, Wat Tyler West, 5th Floor
Swindon Borough Council
Web: www.swindon.gov.uk

For those unfamiliar with the location of the telephone box/payphone kiosk/callbox, it is located in the hedge opposite the school. (red box with windows) next to the Royal mail letter box (also red).



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news



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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - December

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	1 st , 8 th & 15 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	1 st , 8 th & 15 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	6 th & 13 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	14 th	9.55 - 10.25am
WI	Thursday	8 th	4.15 - 9.30pm
Chariety Concert	Sunday	11 th	6.30 - 9.30pm
Daily School Dinners (not 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 December

Band Practise	Thursday	(most)	Evenings
Bridge	Friday	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	7.00 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	7 th , 14 th & 21 st	6.45 - 9.15 pm
Parish Council	Monday	5 th	7.30pm

The Booking Secretary is Howard - 791 171
 £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



Found

One lonely earring lurking on the floor of The Village Hall, Bishopstone. To be reunited with its rightful owner please contact: 790 740

'You're only supposed to blow thedoors off

A report from The Village Hall, Bishopstone

It is reported that in a controlled event, a half full (or half empty) container of full cream milk found in the fridge at the hall was safely disposed of.

I understand that the object was seven weeks past its prime and inflated to the size of a small football!

A representative of the Village Hall committee said: *Fortunately, as it was half term and we didn't have to evacuate the school, We ask all users to take their perishables home.*

Bob

Bishopstone 100 club

October Winners

- 1st 17 Les Morris
- 2nd 9 Cheryl Keen
- 3rd 25 Mike Welsh

Jo 790 485

Hinton Parva
Annual Village Supper
Hinton Parva Village Hall
 7.00 for 7.30 pm Saturday 14th January 2017
 2 course supper £10. BYO drinks
 Contact Howard - 791 171
 Remember seating is limited so book early

Bishopstone Gardening Society wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy new year

Currently in hibernation for the chilly winter months we'll be back again in 2017 with a great new line up of events.

We would like to invite you to join us next year, when we kick off on

**Friday 24th February at Bishopstone Village Hall
with a Quiz Night**

Chile con Carne supper and delicious desserts (bring your own drinks).

Usual mayhem and laughter, good food and hospitable people.

There will be prizes!

Tickets £10 per person from Sheila 790 358 or Chris 790 106



Bloggable, (now there's a new word), events will be split between Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Village Halls.

Amongst our planned trips throughout the year is
a visit to HRH Highgrove Gardens

All too good to miss!

Contact banddgardening soc@gmail.com

and watch for details in the Parish newsletters



Dickie's Diary

All our beef cattle are now housed and comfortable with a big heap of silage to keep them happy over the winter. In the fields it has been a lovely autumn here and the crops sown this autumn are showing nicely, except for some weak areas planted to oil seed rape which have suffered from slugs and flea beetle attack. In some places to the north and east of us germination has been slow in more arid conditions.

All work and no play has never been my idea of fun so now is the time to find time for a hobby or two and mine like countless before me has centred round the country sports of shooting, hunting and sometimes horse racing. The Old Berks Hunt held their opening meet on Baulking Green on 5th November with trails that led them to Wharf Rd, Longcot. I am told that there were five riders in need of medical attention that day as they joined the ranks of the redoubtable *tumblers club*. For trails to be successful hounds need a good scent but this has

always proved so mysterious and impossible to predict. Moist conditions and colder weather certainly help and some hunters have told me that colder weather before snow in late afternoon will give just the right scenting. R.S. Surtees character Mr Jorrocks was always most optimistic... *'unting was all that's worth living for and all time is lost wot is not spent 'unting*. Despite the 2005 ban and by living within the new rules, the sport has never been more popular. One of the regrets of my life is that after an early car accident that made it painful to ride I have never been lucky enough or brave enough to hunt myself. Penny, my wife showed the way. So for camaraderie and new country to explore I have had to go down another route and have indulged myself at this time of the year in the challenge of game shooting with friends. I started with an air gun, then a 12 bore which I wore out and now shoot with a 16 bore. I am still trying to improve! Good scenting is equally im-

portant in the shooting field to help your dog pick up cleanly. It was very frustrating back in October when we could not find a number of partridges that had tucked into long, ungrazed downland pasture even though they were dead and had been quite well marked. I really think my black cocker, now four, would endorse those words of Mr Jorrocks and I feel sorry for her when the season closes for another year on 1st February.

Richard Green

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

**7.30pm Thursday 12th January
Hinton Parva Village Hall**

As you will notice from the date above, our next proper meeting is in January 2017. Our meeting in December is our Annual Christmas Celebration – This is always well attended by our members and their guests. Our Committee provide a wonderful meal, the hall is transformed, tables beautifully laid with candles and flowers and we enjoy being entertained by local visiting musicians. January details will be in that magazine.

Our Art Appreciation Group continues to grow and two dates have been arranged for Art Study Days on Caravaggio & El Greco and Ravilious & The history of colour with more days to follow. In discussion are visits to Nature in Art at Wordsworth Hall, Tigworth, North Gloucestershire. A Georgian mansion, with a museum dedicated to the arts (all mediums) inspired by nature, Kelmscott Manor, the former Cotswold retreat of William Morris, near Lechlade and Hilliers - Art in the Garden Outdoor sculpture exhibition set in 180 world famous gardens in Romsey, Hampshire. In addition to this there will be DVD Exhibition on Screen afternoons to include, Matisse, David Hockney and Rembrandt.

We would love to see new faces at our meetings, come along and have a chat with us, our members come from several different villages and also Old Town and we are a very friendly bunch.

For more information please contact:
Christina Petersen 07854 710 963

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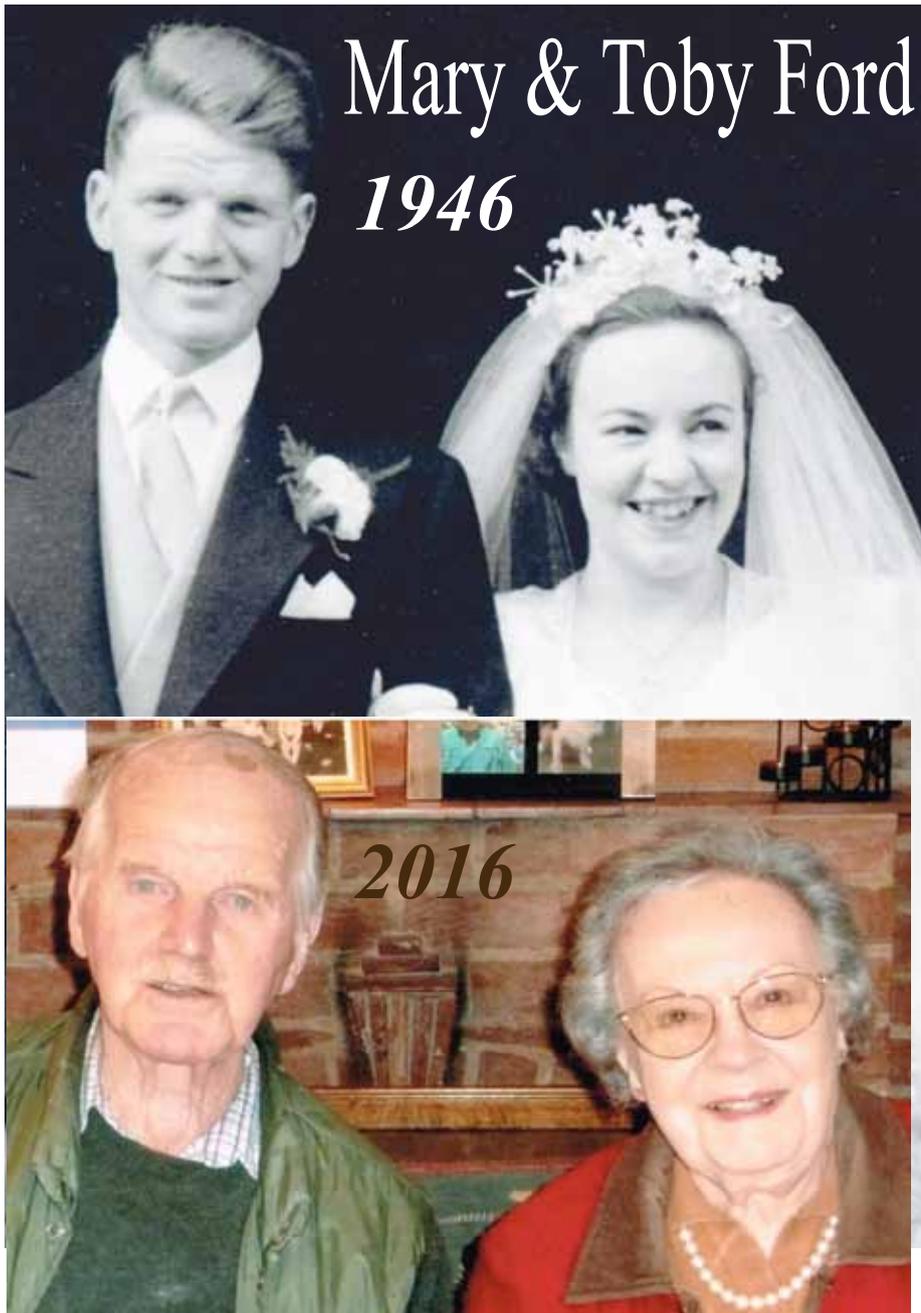
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Mary & Toby Ford

1946

2016

Village legend, Toby Ford and his lovely wife, Mary celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in October. Meeting at a Young Farmers' dance, they were married in St John's Church, Wroughton after harvest in 1946. Living happily ever after, they both think that a lot of love and patience (and a little selective deafness) is the answer!

The occasion was marked by a lunch with family and close friends. The family consists of two children, Dennis & Diana, five grand children and one great grandchild.

A Glimpse into the Building World

The team consists of me, Claude (name changed) who is half French & Jan (Polish). Usually we have more full-time people but it is less busy at this time of year.

Here, I want to tell you about Jan.

He's 53 years old, has seven kids and lost his wife to a heart attack a few years ago. He's the classic Polish

shape; 5'9" tall, big belly, baldish and immensely strong. Almost every day his clothes are wringing wet with sweat as he always gives a solid day's work. He's been with us for nearly ten years and I admire him greatly.

I met him in Cornwall where he was working for my cousin, laying cobles in a yard. From just a few ragged stones, he could (with seemingly no

effort) fit them all into place with ease and make something gorgeous in very little time. Making something out of nothing is always satisfying and he's a master of it. Being so talented and likeable he was simply being passed from family to family by people who wanted some help. He worked for each for a few weeks before going to the next one and was never out of work as he could turn his hand to most things and managed all this, amazingly, without a driving licence. Within a few months Jan had come to stay with us, living in our spare room he was incredibly respectful of family life – we hardly knew he was there. We took him shopping once or twice a week but could not persuade him to eat with us. Although we took to him instantly. Meanwhile, as there was plenty of work for him, sanding and painting, fixing electrics, rebuilding walls, the house steadily improved.

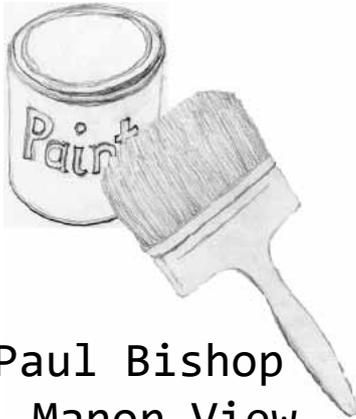
Jan is a devout Catholic and goes to Church every Sunday without fail. Honest, gentle, kind, funny and musical, he's the gentle giant with his physical and mental strength. We tease him about his size, pretend he has to take on ludicrous jobs and suggest various girlfriends, all taken with good grace.

Our first Christmas party was a classic with Jan, Pawel, Martin, Emma and me. Communicating on a building site was one thing but social chit-chat was almost impossible. Vodka and tonic seemed the obvious solution and soon we could barely refill glasses quickly enough. Jan's musical side came out and he danced and sang happily in the kitchen. Within an hour, they were all reeling and so we took them home.

Later, I learned more about the privation Poles had to endure under Soviet rule and realised some of what Jan must have been through. Laying bricks in -20 degrees in Russia while a pair of shoes cost a month's salary, if you could find any, gives us some idea. We have no idea of the hardships endured and so it makes him all the more impressive.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	4th December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	7th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Sunday	11th December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	3 rd Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Christingle with Scouts	Wanborough
Wednesday	14th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Sunday	18th December	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
	4 th Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Benefice Carol Service	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	21st December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Saturday	24th December	3.30pm	Crib Service	Lyddington
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Christingle	Bishopstone
		11.30pm	Midnight Service	Wanborough
		11.30pm	Midnight Service	Lyddington
Sunday	25th December	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
	Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
Wednesday	28th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Holy Innocents			
Sunday	1st January	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	4.00pm	Carols & Mince Pies	Hinton Parva Villagee Hall
Wednesday	4th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

A child was once asked *What is God for?* The child's response? Well, that could be taken in one of two ways as the answer that came back was *God was for giving*, or was it *God was forgiving*? Both hold true. As we approach Christmas, the reason for the season includes both of these answers.

Many say that Jesus was born to pay for those times when we haven't been the best that we can be, and while this is true it is only a part of the story. In the same way as fuel is needed for a car to make its journey, so Jesus paying for our sins was needed for restoring our relationship with God - that three letter spelling of the word Love. God asks us to live in harmony with Him so that we might be better able to live in harmony with those He places in our path each and every day.

So it's true that God is *for giving* us His Son. So alongside all the presents there's always His Presence. A wise old sage shared with me the story of the child that was asked *What is God for?*

He went on to share a lot more of his experience. It was his gift to me and is a gift he has shared with many others over many years. If you like, a gift that keeps on giving. Just like Jesus.

In terms of *forgiving*, God's love is unconditional and very powerful. John Kirkby was a successful business man who through the banking crisis lost the lot, found his faith and built an international network of centres for debt counselling from £10. *Christians Against Poverty* is always being asked for more than it has, last year there was a gap of a third of a million pounds and that gap was met.

John had to go through a process of forgiving those who had hurt him at certain times in his life. His life simply couldn't move forward otherwise. Interestingly a number of medical publications state that 80% of back aches, skin rash, arthritis and migraine could be attributed to resentment. Love and forgiveness are divine gifts and make sense of the statement *to err is human, to forgive is divine*. Forgiving what might at first seem impossible is where another of God's

gifts steps in. Namely, grace.

Like the charity shop manager that is amazed at the fact that the more she gives away for free, the more arrives for her to give away; so God's amazing grace especially when it comes to forgiving has to be experienced to be fully understood. So God is forgiving as well as for giving. Whatever you plan to give this Christmas I hope you have a time filled with love, joy, fun and peace.



Children helping Bill with communion at the St. Swithun's family service

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

telephone - 790 088 or
email - villageprayers@gmail.com
With best wishes and prayers.

Bill

Bishopstone Church Wardens' Activities October/November

This period has seen much planning for Christmas and for the village fête next year! Having entered the period where heat and light are more important, work at both Churches has been focussed on keeping out the damp and drafts.

We are most grateful to all those who once again made the Remembrance Service so truly significant, this year organised by Tom at St Swithun's.

Both churches are now benefitting greatly from the existence of the benefice office. Please if you need to pass any communication or make any request, do call the vicar's number between 10.00am and 12.30pm any Monday to Friday when a volunteer will be pleased to help you, or make the arrangement, or pass a message or enquiry on to the responsible Church Officer or Vicar.

The questions for the working group

to examine the possibility of expanding capacity or consecrating another graveyard, or perhaps graveyards within the Parish have been developed. They are:

- * What is the remaining capacity of the graveyards in Bishopstone and Hinton Parva?

- * At current usage when will the capacity run out?

- * Is there scope for re-use of parts of open graveyards?

- * If further provision is required:

- * Where should it be located; separate facilities in Bishopstone and Hinton or a single combined graveyard?

- * Should there be a separate garden of remembrance for ashes, a designated part of the graveyard for ashes, or should they be mixed?

- * What type of graveyard should it be:

- * CofE?

- * Multi-denominational?

- * Multi-faith?

- * Green?

- * Consecrated/non-consecrated/separate parts or both?

- * What are the funding/control/maintenance implications of the above?

- * What are the procedures for consecrating the ground (if required)?

- * What are the vehicular access requirements?

- * What ground does the Church have access to/be gifted/can purchase/own that would be suitable for the above requirement?

Is there anything else you believe that the group should consider? The Group (Tom Cripwell, Doug Stevens and Alan Taylor) would be very pleased to hear from parishioners before Christmas about any concerns or suggestions that you may have. Our contact details are on the bottom right of this page

John Lowry & Alan Taylor

Contacts

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

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

The Churchwardens: St. Mary's

John Lowry 01793 790 271

john1000000@live.com

Alan Taylor 01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Churchwardens: St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

Emma Cripwell 01793 791 148

emma@angelpublicity.com

The Acting Secretary: Alan Taylor

Charlbury Cottage, Westend,
Bishopstone, SN6 8PX

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Jill White 01793 791 102

List of Other PCC Members:

Paul Bailey (Treasurer)

01793 790 103

paulbailey86@btinternet.com

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107

doug1966@btinternet.com

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com



Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

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

Tower News - Wanborough & Lyddington Lyddington Bells Dedication Service



The Dedication Service of the new peal of church bells took place last month and was conducted by the Bishop of Bristol, with guest organist Peter Eyles, and the choir of Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon. The church was full and had been beautifully decorated with flowers, and looked somewhat different to the building site it resembled back in the summer. During the service, Hugh Evans, Chairman of the Gloucester & Bristol Association of Ringers presented a grant cheque to Marion Warren, deputy chair of the PCC, for £12,732, their largest grant made to date. Ringing took place after the service and nearly 40 ringers were delighted with the superb ring of bells. There are so many people, too many to name, who have given their time and money to the Project, not just recently, but going back to 1948. To all of you I say thank you for your support. The Bells Project is virtually complete, with a superb ring of bells. There are a few minor jobs outstanding in the tower and these will be tackled in due course. There is also the question of a small shortfall of £17,000 approx. Please contact

Fiona Nelson 01793 790 546

fiona@tilbrookhouse.co.uk

if you would like to donate to the Bell Fund.

Wanborough and Lyddington Bell Ringers Wanted For the time being, Lyddington bells will be rung by a joint Wanborough and Lyddington band, with practices alternating between towers on Fridays, 7.30 – 9.00pm, see Lyden cover for details.

Have you ever thought about having

a go at bell ringing?

* Or are you a lapsed ringer who is interested in returning to ringing?

* Do you live in Wanborough, Lyddington, or one of the Benefice villages?

Your help is needed now!

We welcome learners of both sexes and from ages of about 9 or 10 years upwards. Please contact me to

arrange a *have a go* session.

Tony Pullan

Tel: 01793 790 904 / 07745 011 788

E-mail: nickyandtonyp@gmail.com

School report

I am currently sat in a toastie school (this is a more unusual occurrence than you would imagine) having had the two elderly boilers put into retirement and instead, we now have one *super charged* youthful (very shiny with enough buttons to launch us to outer space) boiler. Over half term, floor boards came up (finding much Victorian rubble), pipes went in and now all seems to be running smoothly with gusts of steam puffing past my window as I type.

I would like to apologise for the *not so tuneful* sound of the school alarm that decided to have a mind of its own and went off at various times over the two weeks leading up to half term. It seemed to feel the need to share that someone was entering via the fire exit at the back of the school . . . there was no *someone*, it just got its circuits in a muddle and now has shiny new sensors. Thank you to those also who contacted Sue to alert us to the alarm (although on a calm night I am sure I can hear from my house . . as it only has the one volume option), as someone who lives a good half an hour from the village it is a blessing that she can be at the school so quickly.

The children have had a cinema night full of popcorn and juice, and they are busy gearing up for *Children in Need* day which will see a range of *bear* activities in the afternoon and lots of

spotty dressing up. Year 5 and 6 are off to Ridgeway School this morning for an interview with Stan Cullimore . . renowned author who will give inspiration to their story writing. Mr Anley, Rev'd Bill and myself attended the launch of the new Religious Education syllabus, the first, very welcome changes for many, many years and an exciting plan of work to be implemented . . . look out for the building of lego churches and debates around philosophical questions.

Miss Pearson is already immersed in the most important challenge of this term . . *the Christmas Nativity* with the younger children . . . the only question we are currently pondering is where will the donkey come from!!! Maybe we could substitute donkey for pig Helen do you have a spare one we can borrow? Livestock aside all are welcome on **Friday 9th December** – just please let Sue know prior to this, so that we can put out enough chairs – 790521.

Emma Lindsay



Mobile Library

Wednesday 14th December

Please note that the library will not be here on the 28th 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, indulge in a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with all the latest.

Contact: Doreen Cooper 792 965

Hinton Coomb

Work at The Coombes between now and March. The sessions run on the **second Sunday of the month** from **10.00am - 12.30pm**

The date for this month is:

Sunday 11th December

Lorretta Waters

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The Royal Oak Diary



Thanks be to Arkells', of all people, for the effort and dedication and expense they are ploughing into the olde True Heart; those of you cruising the High Street will have noticed some changes, the neighbours will be seeing some changes, and the ancient flat roof joining the buildings comes

out mid November. The (asbestos) sloping roof was all that held up the rather odd back single storey, where the council found cave paintings and such like, and when that was removed most of the walls came with it. T'would have been cheaper and quicker to have knocked the whole thing down, and started again a few feet back from the road, of course.

Anyway, for those of you who've been asking where to put those relatives you quite like but don't necessarily want to see at your breakfast table, leave them to us: from 6th March, approximately, we'll have 12 rooms for you to use at Trump Towers. The rooms are named and themed after fields on the farm, with one pinched from Prebendal (Smith's Bottom, get it?) and one or two from Lower Farm (eg Botswick). The difference is that the rooms have ceilings, radiators, showers and beds. We hope you will like what you see, and from time to time find an excuse to use them.

Thanks be to the village policeman, also, who keeps kindly removing our *very suitable for The Royal Oak* unofficial signs that I erect below the *unsuitable for HGVs* that no-one ever reads in Cues Lane entrance. I'm not paranoid, but everyone seems out to get me. I quite understand. And the bottleman, who obviously hasn't read that the recycling happens on a Wednesday now, which means

that his *deposit* in our entrance on a Thursday, his normal day, is absolutely no use to us. In fact I've started potting these sacks of empty bottles back into the Wyncies, from where they came, in the hope that his neighbours will shame him into behaving like most of the rest of us. I know a few of you like this pathetic village saga, and enjoy my rantings, but even I, Mr Tolerance, am irritated after ten years of clearing up.



Party at the Oak, on the 23rd? Are we invited? Follow that car

Which reminds me—we've had the pub for ten years on 23rd November, so if you see this before then, pop over and drink something with us. All food that night will be £10, as will every glass of coke! It's been a rollercoaster; probably 100 staff at least during the time, loads of village youngsters been through us and gone onto great things having learnt a thing or two here—and one or two of them will be superstars of the future. Interesting to watch village demographics changing too—this is the sort of pub that for whatever reason does seem to attract new people to the village—Cues Lane (pond end and forty end) has seen a complete change of personnel in our time there, with it now being populated by handsome young men and their model wives and delightful (quite delightful, every one) children, or that's how it seems whenever I look out of the window.

Christmas is next on the list, and just to remind you of our curmudgeonly approach: we serve drinks on Christmas Day from noon-2.00pm ish; we are open and busy on Xmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Day; we are simple folk on New Year's Eve, with

a decent supper menu for those who want a quiet night out, and me and the boys and girls making amazing cocktails for the adventurous among you from 6.00pm, all for a fiver each drink; cash prize for best dressed man or woman, we choose, there are no criteria. Music of sorts from 10.00pm. Go home when we recommend it. Simple village party. Use it.

By the way, we close for four weeks from 2nd Jan to 29th Jan inclusive to allow the upper floors of the Oak building to be strengthened and opened up for seating, eating, meeting and greeting. And full disabled access, etc. Shabby with the chic, as they say.

TF

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9am - Noon

Saturday 17th December

Wanborough Village Hall

Extra parking is available at the Harrow Inn opposite (please park at the rear). As usual there will be meat, vegetables, cakes and pies, honey, rapeseed oil, plants, milk and fairly traded goods.

For more information contact:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apg.org

Ashbury School

Christmas Fayre

Thursday 1st December

5.00 - 7.00pm

Come and join us for a fabulous evening of Christmas cheer, Carols, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Santa's Grotto and Christmas Raffle hampers. There will be many beautiful stalls with gorgeous original goodies for all your Christmas shopping under one warm and welcoming roof!

Prize Bingo

Sunday 4th December - 2pm

Doors Open 2.00pm,

eyes down at 2.30pm

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Christmas is coming. It says so on the TV, and the shops seem to agree, so it must be true. I guess we all feel differently about the Festive season. For some it is a time of great religious importance; for others it's simply a time of family celebrations and jollity. Some indulge in over-spending which makes them dread the arrival of the New Year credit card bill; others indulge in over-eating, which makes them dread the arrival of the New Year diet. For others, sadly, the Christmas season is a truly miserable affair.

Mixed up in all of this are those poor folk on the periphery. The shop workers who have to endure our frenzied searches for the perfect present and most delicious mince pies, while suffering our queue-grumpiness. The public transport operatives who run the gauntlet of crazed travellers who want to be over-familiar with their mistletoe, over-excited children who have just met Santa, and over-tired and over-emotional post-work-party people who are a few hours away from the hangover of a lifetime. And then there are the unfortunate bar staff

who hear all about our present and mince pie searches, and our queue nightmares, and who also endure the mistletoe and weepy drunks. At least they escape the over-excited children. Particularly hard done by hereabouts are the postal workers and delivery drivers who must be feeling a growing sense of dread as they anticipate us all going into Internet-ordering-overdrive. Until I had occasion to do some local delivering myself, I hadn't realised what a confusing place this is. We have The Cottage's aplenty; not all of them have a particular street in their address, and some of them certainly don't fit my definition of *cottage*. How do delivery folk decide which particular cottage is *The* cottage?

I should have realised there was a problem, as we were told about it often enough when we first moved here. Many a driver would tell us how long he'd spent trying to find us. And we've re-directed many a lost driver to other addresses from our own. Sometimes parcels mysteriously arrive on the doorstep, days after they've allegedly been delivered; presumably someone else has just found them in their shed and dropped them round. I've

never before lived in a house with a postal address that differs from the address on the electoral roll. . .

For the postie, the problems have sometimes only just begun once the correct house has been located. You have no idea how many houses around here have no letter box; that's fine, when there's an obvious alternative receptacle for post (we once had to install one ourselves after our retriever retrieved and ate an envelope containing a cheque). Some houses, however, simply have nothing; no receptacle, no letter box, nothing. And although it's fine to leave letters under a doormat on a sunny summers day, who wants to come home to a pile of papier-mâché on the rainy days?

And one house, not too far from here, has both a letter box and a receptacle. The latter only became evident after a tussle with an enraged Yorkshire terrier with very sharp teeth resulted in a holed glove and a telling off for *disturbing the poor dog by using the letter box*. Apparently the postman knows that all post must be put in the recycling box by the front door. Fancy my not realising that. . .

Mrs. Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally.....

It's just occurred to me that we are at the end of another year, that's eight years of my editorship, *Good grief!* is the only uninspired thought that enters my head.



Before I forget, I must thank Penny Alston who diligently proof read for us until she moved to Gloucestershire. Good luck Penny, please come back and visit.

I have been told that some of my comments are a little negative re people writing in, not so, celebration always breaks out when anybody comes forward. *Please* do send in contributions and *please, please* send photographs for the front page.

Where have all these big black pheasants that chase the cats and eat my apples, come from? Are they a new make? Why do I feel somebody may accuse

me of being xenophobic and racist for asking these questions?

It also occurs to me that this December's issue isn't exactly Christmassy, so I must finish by wishing you lot a brilliant Christmas (gosh, I sound like my granddaughter), from our sub-editor Sheila; Mrs. Mantelpiece; Bobbing About; Doreen & co., (who organise the distribution), and myself

mogs XXX

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 website email: [Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com](mailto: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 deliver to:

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Coming Up
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