

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

February 2016

## Unexpected Bloomers!



Isn't nature wonderful? Owing to warm wet weather until after Christmas, here are plants that shouldn't be flowering in winter.

*Clockwise from the top: daffodils; pelgoniums; fushia; strawberry plants, camellias & azaleas; a daisy thingy; another daisy thingy and rosemary.*

*Continued on page 8*



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

## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Next before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Imposition of Ashes	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		4.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	1.30pm	Dobbin Service	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30pm	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

### *The Vicar's Letter*

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

After only a few weeks Christmas seems a distant memory and here we are days away from the beginning of Lent. With our pancakes at the ready and just like Advent is to Christmas, Lent is also a season of preparation for a great event. Giving things up or doing something positive are regular features of the season of Lent. There is even a book recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury for reading during this particular season. Like so many training programmes other things are parked or put on hold while concentrating on the training programme itself.

In a similar way, whenever a lifeboat came back from refit we would spend several hours training, so that we could familiarise ourselves with the standard equipment and get trained up on the new. The dear old reliable compass in particular was checked for accuracy, even though we were brimming with satellite navigation and direction finding equipment.

Fumbling around in the dark on a storm tossed boat was so much easier as a result of learning where and how equipment was stored.

So for the Christian, Lent is an opportunity to re-engage with the training programme, as demonstrated in the life and the death of Jesus. It's a time for us to reflect on the value of what He did and indeed the cost. Not from a gloomy sense or perspective, much less to build up a misplaced sense of guilt, but to aid our sense of awe, wonder and indeed inspiration. Repentance is a word often bandied around at this time but again often in a very negative and undermining way. It really means a heartfelt sorrow for when we haven't got things right, together with a commitment to doing things differently and for the better in the future.

Repentance is often confused with the term penance, a kind of payment. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus has already paid the price for every misdemeanour, on the cross, on Good Friday. All we are asked is to do is to join in with the programme as demonstrated by Him. Again and again,

throughout history people who have done so have felt so much better as a result and amazing events have often accompanied a commitment to following the life and example of Jesus. Many prophecies or predictions in the Jewish Scriptures, the early part of the Bible, were fulfilled by Jesus as were many of His own promises as shown in the later Christian part of the Bible.

So there is a huge sense of the reliable about the Bible and the promises it contains. As with so much in life there are lots of opportunities for us to get distracted and some of life's more difficult circumstances can have a huge impact on us too. The reliability of Jesus and His teachings, just like the lifeboat compass, can be counted on and trusted in regardless of the storms that life might throw at us. If you would like to know more please do let me know.

With best wishes and prayers

*Bill*

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please telephone 790 088 or email :  
villageprayers@gmail.com



### Christingle

On Christmas Eve excited local children gathered at the Royal Oak to make Christingles for the early evening service. This has become a lovely tradition and Bill, Sara Hall, Liz Warwick, myself and other parents soon had a very effective production line in place. Thank you to the Royal for providing the venue and hospitality.

*Caroline Brandi*

### Thank you.....

.....to all who donated food, clothing and bedding to **Christmas Care** at Queen's Drive this year.

We collected half a van load from the Churches, the volunteers who met us were extremely grateful for our contribution.

Thank you also to all those who attended **Carols and Mincepies** at Hinton Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.



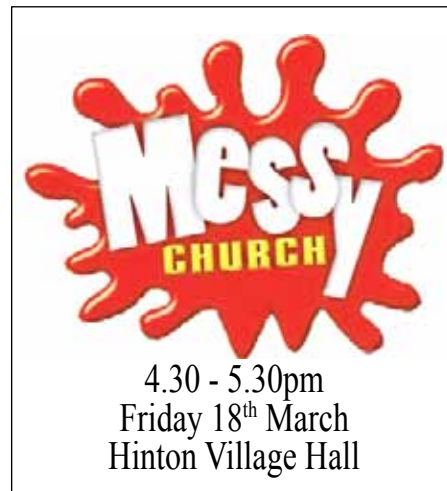
Particular thanks to Hazel for accompanying our carols on her accordion and to Shirley and Joy for the delicious Mincepies.

*Marguerite*

### A Message from Bertie.....

.....to all those who gave us donations at the Donkey Service, a heartfelt thank you for your kindness and caring.

*me and the Flicka Foundation*



### 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

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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

- February - Maggie Gill & Jane Golding
- March - Liz Warrick & Jane Manktelowe
- April - Sarah Best & Jenny Isles
- May - Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett
- June - Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
- July - Fran Shishton & Frances Shone
- 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. Sheila Collins and Doreen Cooper on standby 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 - February

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30-10.30am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Mondays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	4.15 - 5.45pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 10.55am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Wednesdays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 - 4.30pm
Mothers & Toddlers School	Thursdays	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
Parish Council	Thursdays	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
Gardening Club	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 - 9.00pm
WI	Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Skittles Evening	Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 10.00pm
WI Skittles	Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm ish
	Monday	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00 pm

Daily- School Dinners (except half term ) 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 - February

Bridge Club	Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
PCC	Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 - 9.30pm

The Booking Secretary is Karin Thompson - 790 970  
 £6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva  
 £8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties  
 Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available  
 Free Parking

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone

### Frostbite Skittles Challenge Evening

7.00pm ish

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February

A very sociable if slightly chaotic fun evening in the style of the previous event in July.

Teams of 6 or just come along and we will find you/make a team. The first rounds will be on a league basis so don't worry if you are a bit late and according to the time the top 4 teams will play off as a straight knock out.

Ticket £7.50 to include a warming supper dish (let us know if you want a vegetarian option)

Bar and Raffle

To book a team call:  
 791 453 or 790 358

Fundraiser to support the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the fabric of the Hall.



## Wanborough Farmers' Market

We are sorry to tell you that, owing to sickness/absence of key traders, we have cancelled the January and February markets.

The next Farmers Market will be on:

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
 (i.e. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday as usual)

Best wishes for the New Year!

Sue and David.

## Ashbury Market

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

11.00am - 2.00pm

Ashbury Village Hall

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!

Organised by Ashbury Pre-School Committee

Enquiries to: Kate Watkins 01793 710440 [Kate\\_L\\_Watkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kate_L_Watkins@hotmail.co.uk)

Ashbury Pre-School is a registered charity (reg no. 1156122)

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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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1. Holly & Françoise, 2. Lorna & Tim. These two (the three who did the 'I'm a...') had a lovely time great on both fronts, by Rachel, between (shown) 1. Lorna & Françoise (not 'one up' at 'I'm a...') 2. Kaffee & Kaffee (not 'one up' at 'I'm a...') 3. Hannah & Holly, (not 'one up') 4. continue page 3



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## Hinton Parva Annual Supper - January 2016

This annual Hinton Parva tradition was another bumper production. Tuck in your socks and loosen the girth!

The Hall was quickly a hubbub of greetings and music and that was before we even started. What a delightful spectacle the beamed Hall was with; the beautiful subdued lighting, polished cutlery, glasses and napkins on ironed table cloths with tea lights on every table. Balloons and festive lighting adorned the walls as the Chairman called for order and very soon our Vicar, the Revd. Bill O'Connell led us in Grace for the fine fare we were about to receive.

The delightful and colourful menu (produced by the highly artistic Hazel) suggested we sample another first for Hinton, in a gorgeous international tasty Polish Ham Stew with a wonderful aroma. Alternatively, we had the choice of prized roast beef set in a giant Yorkshire pudding with creamy mashed potato, peas and delicious gravy.

The sublime table waitresses swept in with steaming dishes and soon the clatter of cutlery was at work. Sauces of horseradish and mustard were handed around. Second helpings were snapped up which must tell you something. After a suitable period of rest, the sweet and puddings were placed in the reach of the discerning diners. Decisions as to

which sweet was by-passed by many as they dipped into more than one offering. Fifteen choices and all hand crafted in homes around the village. There was pouring cream to add and if that was not enough then help yourself to the cheese board. The adorable Walker twins came round with home made bon-bons just to top it all.

As the gargantuan repast took a rest, the extraordinary quiz sheet was delivered. Current affairs were prominent but who would know what Daniel Craig's (James Bond) middle name could be? The answer was much closer to home than you would think. His middle name is... Wroughton!

The devilish quiz was designed so that everyone ended up with a low score, so it was with some amazement that Ian and Karen won with by a country mile. Well done to them.

The fabulous raffle followed and the organisers once again thank all those who donated such great prizes. It took a while to weed out the surprised and appreciative winners. Stand by your beds for the musical finale. Live from Hinton Parva and in tune with previous events came that moment. Song sheets were distributed and away we went. Hazel led on accordion and Jim was standing to the fore with his remarkable tenor voice. Just as well as we had to keep right on to the end of the road where we belonged

to Glasgow and called for Danny Boy. What glorious fun we had.

The ladies who produced the hot meal came for a well deserved bow and curtsy. Our Chairman roused support for our light footed waitresses and thanked Shirley for the beautiful table flower arrangements and for selling raffle tickets. Where would we be without Brian on the washing up? Thanks again for all those who helped in so many ways. Good Night all round. We certainly added to the glass bottle recycling!

*Howard*

## Mobile Library

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February

**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

### December Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> 100 Liz Warwick
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 17 Les Morris
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 42 Sue Dent

### January Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> 78 Anne and Paul Bailey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 Roz Boot
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 59 Hannah Ford

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 to nail your favourite.

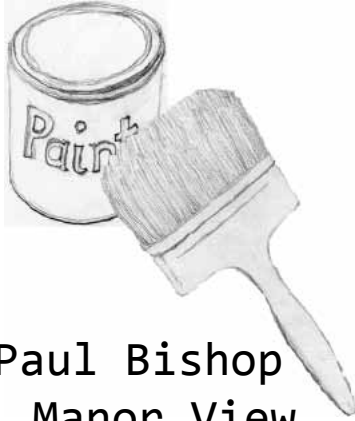
Love

*Jo. X*

It is completely my fault that the December winners were not published last month, owing to editorial confusion. Sorry, sorry, sorry.

*Mogs*

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# TOM'S TEAM

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# Bishopstone Gardening Society

As you'll have seen from photographs here and on the front cover, December's unprecedented balmy weather though wet and dismal, has thrown up some surprises with many flowers making an early appearance. Even some bedding plants are still happily thriving but I don't expect my lobelia will be flowering for much longer due to the predicted cold snap ahead. I do hope there are some cold and frosty days to come but a bit of winter sunshine wouldn't go amiss!

We'll hopefully see some new faces when we resume the B&D Garden Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of February. The ever-fascinating herbalist, Christina Cromer will be here to show us how to make some simple herbal remedies. Graduating from Westminster University in 2003 Christina now practices herbal medicine in London. Being an Urban Herbalist makes harvesting the herbs a bit tricky, but over the years she's built up a network of different locations from where she can harvest. Bishopstone and the surrounding area is one of her favourite places for gathering elderberries, hips and haws, and mugwort. She then takes them back to her Brixton base where she transforms them into medicines. The process of taking the living plant and transforming it into a medicine in a brown bottle that can then be stored indefinitely is a traditional craft that is still protected under UK law.

## Looking ahead:

9<sup>th</sup> March **Andrew Knowler**  
'Roses, roses, roses'!

Just a reminder that £5 annual membership (or £2.00 per evening) is due and can be given to Chris when you next come along. 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

We can be contacted at:

gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk



(Continued from front page)

We got an amazing bunch of flower pictures, thanks to (in no particular

order): Conta; Ali White, Sheila Collins;

Chris Thomas; Marion Peck and Adrian & Gill May, I don't think that I have missed anybody out. *Flowers above, clockwise from far left: bergenia; comfrey; helebre; primroses and lobelia.*

## School Report


We are delighted to start this newsletter with the news that Mr and Mrs Anley welcomed their 3<sup>rd</sup> child on Saturday, all are well and she has been named Beatrice. Congratulations to the family and we are looking forward to Mr Ansley's return after his paternity leave and meeting baby Beatrice.

Our cheerleading squad performed a bouncy routine to parents just before Christmas, along with our piano players performing a wonderful selection of festive music.

We started our year with a whole school trip to Westminster – Houses of Parliament/Westminster Abbey. Last minute security checks with Westminster informed us that we must not bring any machetes or aerosols with us....and because we heeded to their rule we entered through security without a hitch! Not a single child set the alarms off, allowing us to participate in an action packed day which included: a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, viewing amazing rooms which were spilling over with gold and hearing about/seeing the two *voting corridors* that the MPs have to run and vote in (within 8 minutes of the bell go-

ing no less!). Rev'd Bill participated on the trip and led us when visiting Westminster Abbey, a big thank you to him for giving up so much of his busy time, the children thoroughly enjoyed having him along!

The children are busy learning, the Infants are looking at the environment and how we can preserve it, tirelessly learning timetables as always and creating and designing eco bags. KS2 have been investigating Forensic Science, studying timetables in maths and creating stained glass windows. Lots of writing linked to our trip and pictures up on the website of all the things that we get up to under the *gallery* tab.

Finally, upcoming we have a large group of mixed age children who are working hard on producing a dance that will be performed at the Wyvern in February, two year 5 children have just participated in a *mastery maths* workshop at South Marston, all instruments (cello and violin) are at the ready for a performance at the Steam Museum and we are still toying with the idea of a school sleepover (not sure there would be much sleeping going on!) 

Until next time.....

Emma (Head teacher)



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## Dickie's Diary -

Another shooting season is about to end. Hunting will go on until early March. I am not strong on fishing but country sports have played such an important part in my life. Very recently we mourned the loss of my ex neighbour Bob Browning, formerly of Eastbrook Farm, Bishopstone, who managed to pack in a lifetime of hunting, shooting and fishing

as well as running a successful farming business. He had a great friend, Philip Fussell, who has just produced an awfully good book on his exploits, with over 50 biographical images. If anyone is interested, it is called 'The Sportsman. I should have been born under a hedge'. [www.thesportinglibrary.co.uk](http://www.thesportinglibrary.co.uk) (also available from Amazon) ISBN: 9780992831851



off partridge, pheasant and duck that fall to his gun. Woodcock are numerous this year but I have now stopped shooting at them. Some breed here (though I have yet to find a nest) and their large eye, ogling at you can be

disconcerting. A friend owns a section of the river Tweed but I have failed to encourage a number of visible large salmon to take a fly. They were just not interested. More successful has been my experience with crayfish, either the import signal variety (*seen here on left*) in our local tributaries, or collecting and eating delicious sea crayfish off the coast of

Western Australia. I've even been taken Cormorant fishing on Lake Dali, Yunnan Province in China!

Now with grandchildren, I look to the future that they can have the same chance of understanding these rhythms of the countryside. Hunting is ever more popular despite the hunting ban in 2005. Yet it is now threatened, not so much by political views but by busy roads and loss of country. Some of the shooting fraternity as well, failing to see the bigger picture to give some accommodation to hunting's needs of access, something I have always seen fit to do. My own experience has neither been costly nor conflicting to my interests. The Big Farmland Bird Count takes place 6<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February. Thirty minutes to count species. You can Google a form:

**GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count**  
(If you don't have access to a computer and would like to take part, get someone to download a form for you and send it by post.)

Richard Green

## WI

7.30pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

We are all looking forward to being entertained at our February meeting by Halen Sleiman and enjoying some Belly Dancing! I think this may well be a fun evening, we will wait and see whether there will be a rush to participate! After January's Circle Dancing I think there may be less of a crowd on the dance floor.

Our committee have now confirmed a few additional events to start the year which starts off with a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at our Presidents home. At the event we will be busy crafting again, making Green Hearts using various mediums to support the Climate Coalition. We have a relaxed and fun in-house Skittles night on 29<sup>th</sup> February planned with coffee and cake. In March we will be guided around Wroughton on a historical and *Ghost* walk. As a group we have done several guided local walks and we are never disappointed, it is amazing how much you miss or don't notice on a normal visit to a local town or village and one of the key things we have learned is to *look up* when walking around as there is often a lot to see!

We have already reserved our annual evening dinner to the Swindon College Training Restaurant in May – this is another extremely popular event with Members and other halves. The students always provide a superb meal. There are still more events in the pipeline and our new 2016/17 programme is now being finalised. We are a friendly group of ladies who are always happy to welcome new members so do join us

For more information please contact  
Hazel Cooke  
01793 790 621.

Interested in Joining  
a Book Club?

Contact Cheryl

791 849

[cherylkeen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cherylkeen@hotmail.co.uk)



My motivation for writing these notes is to foster a better understanding between rural and urban life in our villages. Our country sports are good for employment and in protecting our environment and natural habitats. If I were a fox I would prefer to be chased with a good chance of escape rather than shot, or something worse. Oscar Wilde called hunting, *the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable*, so foxhunters have to have a good breakfast! It is good that our local pubs such as *the King & Queen*, *the Rose & Crown* and *The Royal Oak* have offered hospitality at hunting meets, *The Woodman* used to. In contrast, a shooting man can live well over the winter months

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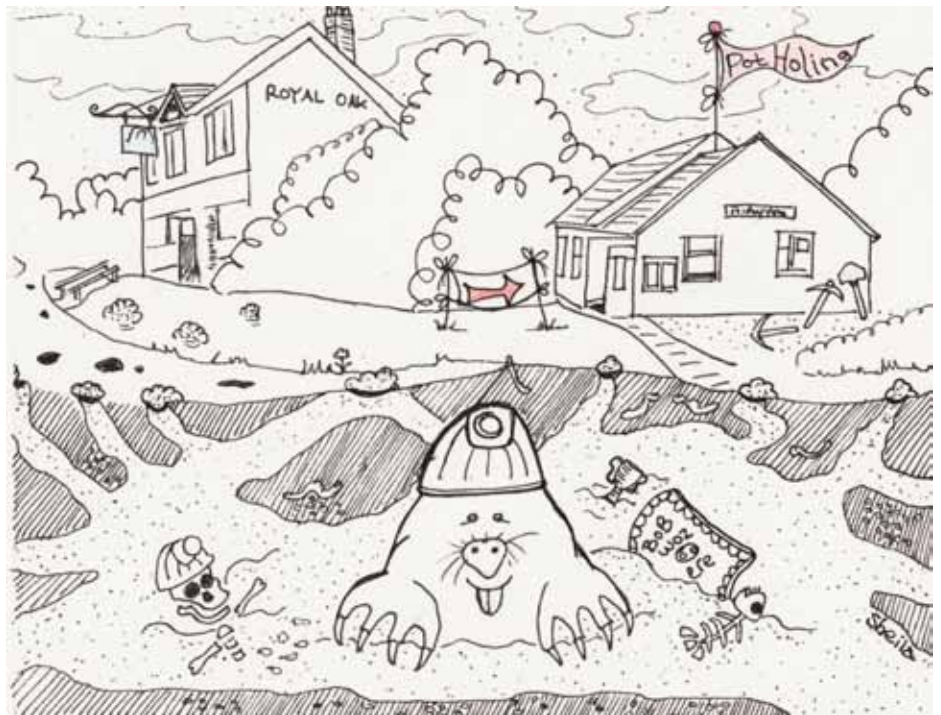
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### The Bishopstone Potholing Club

At its inaugural meeting, founder Member Ms Iva Shoful addressed an almost full car park at the Village Hall. There was an entertaining debate about the different opportunities that have recently *opened up*. **Of note:** Two hypotheses regarding Church walk were presented. Alien intervention, similar to *corn circles*. This was largely discounted. However, the possibility that they may be linked by some subterranean network seemed to gain some consensus. On a more frivolous note, the rumour that English Heritage has refused an application by Tim Finney for grade 2 listed status on the pot holes that continue to manifest themselves at the entrance to the Royal Oak car park, is completely false.

Your roving reporter (unpaid) Bob



Navigation was tricky in his dark subterranean world. Justin feared he would never locate the Bishopstone Potholing Club.

### BADS Delivers the Goods



Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society gave a stonking last-night performance of Derek's Benfield's comedy *Touch and Go*.

Comedy can be dark, deep, bitingly satirical – *Touch and Go* is none of these. It's pure entertainment, with a farcical plot revolving around the infidelities of two married couples who are also friends. But wringing the humour from the comic misunderstandings served up with lashings of innuendo and double entendre, requires a slick production and intelligent performances. Happily BADS was well able to deliver the goods.

It could get complicated. Like the dinner party where Hilary, who's having an affair with Jessica's husband George, who is Hilary's husband Brian's former best man, thinks George is having an affair with Wendy, whom Jessica thinks is Brian's personal nurse but who is actually having an affair with Brian ... well, it all fell neatly into place on the night. We all understood why that dinner party

was never going to turn out well. In a well-balanced cast, no single performer stole the show. Tim Finney as George probably garnered the most laughs with his urbane, almost deadpan, delivery, but he did have the advantage

lary; Louise Sweet as Wendy pulled off the difficult trick of being by turns amorous and aghast; while Val Brodin as the bright and brisk Jessica was an excellent foil to the rest of the devious crew.

Staging the play presented a technical challenge, as the action takes place across two separate living rooms, represented by two sets positioned side by side on the stage. It called for high levels of timing and co-ordination which the production achieved triumphantly. Much credit must go to director Clive Hill, special effects maestro Russell Hatch and the rest of the team for a production which had the audience in stitches throughout the evening.

BADS welcomes new members: those interested contact Tim Finney at The Royal Oak.

Yvonne Cook

*Clockwise from the Top: Clive Hill (director); Belinda Nicholls (Hilary); Tim Finney (George); Louise Sweet & Tom Green (Wendy & Brian) Val Brodin (Jessica)*



of silly clothes. His character was nicely contrasted by Tom Green's convincing performance as the perpetually flustered Brian. Belinda Nicholls, clearly a budding comedienne, made a splendidly funny Hi-



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## The Royal Oak Diary

Bottleman's back. Just for information. Tins and bottles in two plastic bags in the car park cut through off Cues Lane. We're watching you. We think we might move the recycling bins a bit nearer so you can put them in there when you get to the end of the Wyncies footpath. Save you the bother of using your own. Which you've never done. We realise it's a protest about the Oak removing its bottle bank about 8 years ago, when everyone could suddenly re-cycle on their own doorstep. You ought to keep a look out for the yellow lorries on Fridays.

Village play—love it or loathe it, this particular pantomime dame would like to make sure that certain people behind the scenes get a mention; maestro Russell Hatch, for his set, and lights, and occasionally wonky sound effects; Mogs Boon, editrice, for her help with everything, and shutting up at the right times; Carolyn Curtis for managing tickets and sales; Sally Burnett for being a quiet prompt, and an occasionally deaf prompt. We're probably going to suggest that any *profits* from this year's performances might be used to make a contribution to the Hall's new stage curtains. As I write this, just before the last run, there's the ever present danger that the current set (of curtains) will collapse. They appear to be held together with blu-tack. As performances go, the director, Clive Hill, is obviously thinking that next year a pantomime might be a more suitable route to take, judging by the performance of some members of his troupe. We're anxious for more *actors*, so if that appeals, let someone know.

Arkell's are now effectively going to invest more than £1m in the *Royal Oak* and *True Heart* development, the saga that never stops. SBC intransigence over site layout, bats and cave paintings has caused a major re-think; the plans are being amended to allow us to develop the *True Heart* site as a probably 12 bed *hotel*, with a courtyard where the hideous flat roof now sits leaking gently. It will

be a glorious thing, and all we have to do is manage it properly to make sure it attracts customers, and pays the large rent, while remaining an important site for the village to use, enjoy and be proud of. To that end, the occasional quiet squeals as we push past drinkers with another plate of pork belly will be a thing of the past, since loads of downstairs space will be freed up for boozers etc, as more eating customers enjoy the view over the garden and Cues Lane, which you'll get into at back garden level. We expect the alterations to *The Oak* to start in April, and the *True Heart* to be finished by Christmas; but I think I said that in 2014, as well. There will be some disruption, to customers and village people, but we ask for a little patience, praise the lord. There will be some serious jobs created, as well.

And as for the pub itself, some events worth noting, whether it's a *Supercar Lunch* for charity on 16<sup>th</sup> April, or our *Drive it Day* on 24<sup>th</sup> April or *International Pig Racing* on 5<sup>th</sup> June; and *Pigstock*, 20<sup>th</sup> August, with the amazing showgirls Blonde Electra turning up after their sad loss in the X Factor finals... what I like, apart from cricket and football (there'll be some of that over some suppers) is politics, and it's time we hosted a Brexit/EU in or out debate. It's a subject that flares round the bar quite a lot, and I never fail to get engaged and enraged. We'll see when Mr C calls a referendum, and then we'll set up a stage for decent round of political fisticuffs. I don't want to show my true colours yet, so I won't tell you what I think of UKIP, Farage and the like at this stage....



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Tim Finney

## Liddington Bells Project

Last month, John Taylor's, the bell founders, were given the authority to proceed with all of the outstanding work, which includes the casting of the 6 new bells and headstocks. Taylor's have much work to do and they require all of the inscriptions for the new bells and headstocks by the first week of February 2016.

***This is your last chance to donate a bell or a headstock with your inscription on it.***

There are three bells and three headstocks still available to be donated. If you are interested in becoming a donor, please contact Tony straight away. The old bells are being returned on the afternoon of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February after preservation work at Taylor's. If you missed them being taken away, they will be lined up outside church on their return before being taken inside where they will be on display over the weekend. The bell hanger comes on the following Monday to hang the bells back in the tower.

Get the latest news from the Bells Project web site at:

[liddingtonbellsproject.moonfruit.com](http://liddingtonbellsproject.moonfruit.com)

Fiona Nelson, Churchwarden  
790 546, [fiona@tilbrookhouse.co.uk](mailto:fiona@tilbrookhouse.co.uk)

Tony Pullan, Project Manager  
790 904, [nickyandtonyp@gmail.com](mailto:nickyandtonyp@gmail.com)

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## News from Bishopstone Pottery

### Episode 19 Ghostly Apparitions in the Pottery!

The Christmas period was a quiet one for Bishopstone Pottery, when we took time out to wrap presents, visit relatives and generally make merry. We had a good time but by the end of Christmas we were so thoroughly fed up with commercialism, sales before Christmas, sales after Christmas, etc, etc, we decided that we would do our best to make most, if not all, of our Christmas presents next year. I am sure our friends and relatives will nervously wait to see what delightful hand-made item they receive but we will do our best to make something worth having!!

We did not venture far on New Year's Eve but chose to spend a cheerful evening with our neighbours, Russell and Debbie. We thought there could be no better way than seeing in the New Year by helping them learn to throw a pot or two and making our own individual piece to celebrate the start of the New Year, as well as enjoying some good drink and food together. However, Adrian and I were not prepared for Debbie's urge to do a remake of a certain pottery scene from the film *Ghost!!* You know the one I mean and if you don't, try watching the DVD. The sight of Russell and Debbie together on the potter's wheel was something to behold. With the music *Unchained Melody* playing on my iphone it was hard to believe we weren't watching Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore?? I would have included a photograph of this with this article but we are sensitive to the fact that this is a *family* publication. Mind you, if you would like a bootleg copy of their antics we can provide you with one for a substantial sum. This would need to be larger than the sum Debbie and Russell have promised to pay us not to sell it!

Despite the shenanigans in the pottery on New Year's Eve we did manage to make some decent pots between us. We sometimes get the urge to add more colour to our pots and take a break from the black and white raku we love. So our New Year pots are made in a basic pale stoneware clay and we are now in the process of using coloured slips to decorate them before they are glazed with a clear glaze.

A coloured slip can be applied to any leather hard pot. It's actually made from clay itself which has a smooth texture from being mixed with water. The slip can be coloured with stains or oxides and it is great fun experimenting with different colours and shades.

We will let you know how they turn out.

*Picture top right: The plaque on Bishopstone Pottery's door decorated with coloured slip*



*Sue and Adrian Dent*

### And Finally.....

It was brilliant idea from Phil Collins to feature the pictures of flowers, crazily blooming out of season, for this edition, but predicably it put an end to the unseasonally warm weather. Last Wednesday was the nadir as far as this editor was concerned, working in a temperature not high enough above freezing for her liking, as all heat souces had failed, it was plain cruelty organising pages of spring flowers and jolly difficult to type whilst wearing gloves. But do look at the pictures on the website (see bottom of third column) they always look so much better in colour.



Another thing to report is that, my grand daughter and I were watching

a squirrel leap from branch to branch when the incompetent creature missed and plummeted a couple of metres to the ground, never seen that before.

*mogs, editor (also unpaid)*

#### 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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