

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

January 2016



Wild life in the Parish

Clockwise from the top left: green woodpecker (juvenile), Hinton, taken by Ian Thompson; grass snake, rescued by Katherine Buckley, Hinton; ducklings in Bishopstone, Sheila Collins; star picture of house martins, summer tenants at Chestnut Cottage Hinton, taken by Karen Walker; cinnabar moth, photograph taken by Sheila Collins in the protected woodland area beyond New Road, Bishopstone and, from the web, *the cinnabar moth is a brightly coloured arctiid moth, found in Europe and western and central Asia. It has been introduced into New Zealand, Australia and North America to control poisonous ragwort, on which its larvae feed. The moth is named after the red mineral cinnabar because of the red patches on its predominantly black wings;* red legged partridge in Hinton, sent by Janette Cowie; the wild life at Brock Cottage Hinton are busy eating my gorgeous apples, besides the numerous birds and squirrels, a fox and a monk jack or could it be an exceedingly small giraffe?

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	3rd January	8.30am Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	10.30am Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm Carols & Mince Pies	Hinton Parva Village Hall
Sunday	10th January	8.30am Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Baptism of Christ	10.30am Family Communion	Wanborough
		4.00pm Evensong	Lyddington
Sunday	17th January	8.30am Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.30am Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm Evensong	Hinton Parva
Sunday	24th January	10.30pm Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	6.00pm Evensong	Wanborough
		11.30pm Midnight Mass	Wanborough
Sunday	31st January	6.00pm Evensong	Hinton Parva
	4 th Sunday of Epiphany		
Sunday	7th February	8.30am Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Next before Lent	10.30am Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm Evensong	Hinton Parva

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
A television repair man told me that his New Year's resolution is 1080p!!! I didn't bother to ask if that was HD or HD+. So a time for New Year's resolutions or perhaps a personal mini revolution? Every January so many thoughts and aspirations can greet a years beginning. Born out of a need for change, often times built around a desire to improve our health, New Year's resolutions can too easily run out of steam; but as an old sage once remarked *better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all*. Given some of the people that we have said goodbye to along with some of the events of the past twelve months a number of us will be hoping for a better year than last. It is this search for the hope of a brighter future that is an essential part of who we are and why we have evolved. Yes, the good news of the Gospel is that this life isn't it, that there is the promise of eternal life. The good news of the Gospel is also there to enable us to fill the hole in our lives that no amount of

cash, flesh or fame will ever satisfy. It starts from the point that however terrible we feel or have been made to feel, we are loved. More than that, we are extremely precious, known before we were formed in the womb and with a great and mind blowing plan that was in place long before we were a twinkle in anyone's eye. In the same way as I never knew how good a Ferrari was to drive (even with a flappy paddle gear change) until a friend put me behind the wheel of his, we will never know how fulfilling our life might be until we get with the plan that is there waiting for each of us. Just like driving my friend's car couldn't happen without that friendship, that relationship being in place, so our journey toward a fulfilled life (that leads to eternal life) starts with our response to a life-long invitation to spend time with our Source, our Summit. Jesus says, come as you are for I love you anyway. It's one resolution that so many of us can highly recommend. Happy New Year!
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

St. Swithun's Family Service

Our November Family Service at Hinton took the theme of *The Visitation of the Angel to Mary telling her of the Saviour's birth*. Thank you to Angus for his reading, Harry for his prayers and Jamie for taking the collection. As usual the boys helped Rev Bill with Communion.

Also thank you to Myra for playing for us as Richard was attending a conference.

Next FS at St Swithun's will be held on Sunday January 24th 10.30am.

Marguerite

Advent Evensong

Mulled wine was served at the Evensong Service on 6th December at St Swithun's, Hinton so beginning the Christmas Festivities.

Special thanks to Peter Steele, Myra Binks, John Godfree, Richard Gaines, John Price, Jim Ball Brian Clegg and the choir, and the Family Service team. Also Mogs Boon and her

flower girls: Shirley Crapper; Linda Kinder; Lorna Ford; Lesley Coates; Angie Alcock and Conta Criswell for all they do for St Swithun's, it is greatly appreciated.

Marguerite

Family Service Meeting

7.30pm 18th January

The Old Inn

Hinton Parva

No Room at the Inn

On the evening of Wednesday 16th December it finally stopped raining just right for the Hinton Donkey Service.

Many thanks to: Lucy and Harry who played Mary and Joseph; angels Tabby and Olivia; inn keeper Peter; shepherds, Jamie, Monty, Arthur and their sheep, Edward; kings Edward and Stanley also to Angus who was a fantastic narrator.

The service followed the usual, slightly chaotic, format we all gathered in Church to begin the service where the angels tell Joseph that Mary is having a Baby. Mary and Joseph tramp off to Bethlehem with Joseph leading Mary on her pony and sadly no room at the inn. The shepherds are then told this wonderful message that a Saviour will be born in a sta-

ble in Bethlehem and rush off with their sheep to see this miracle for themselves. Approaching the stable at the manor it was quite magical to see Mary Joseph with baby Jesus in the manger with the pony standing by. Next to visit are the wise men bearing their gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh to give to this new saviour. Finally we sang the calypso carol with Hazel accompanying us on her accordion.

Grateful thanks also to both Richard and Hazel for their music, the Family Service team FS team, Conta (for lending her stable) and Mogs.

Finally we all enjoyed Mulled wine and a variety of refreshments in the Church. A £50 donation has been sent to Flicka, a donkey and pony sanctuary.

Marguerite

Contacts

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doug1966@btinternet.com



Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

January - Chris Thomas & Gill May

February - Maggie Gill & Jane Golding

March - Liz Warrick & Jane Manktelow

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 - January

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30-10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
BADS	Tuesdays	5 st	8.00 - 10.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	13 th & 27 th	10.00 - 10.55am
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	9.00 -11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
BADS	Thursdays	7 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	4 th	5.30 - 7.30pm
BADS	Sunday	10 th	All Day
BADS	Monday - Saturday	11 th - 16 th	All evening
Daily- School Dinners	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.

Grand Curtain Draw.....

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

Russell

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Skittles Evening
Saturday 27th February

A very sociable if slightly chaotic event, Bar and Supper..... Teams of six or just come along and we will find you a team. More information next month.

Ring 791 453 to enter your team

Hinton Parva Village HallRefurbishments

Passers-by may have noticed the splendid new windows that have recently been installed. These were all made-to-measure and installed by a specialist joinery contractor based in Plymouth. The windows complement the new floor that was laid a few months ago. The final phase of the works is complete with internal redecoration scheduled to commence on 4th January.

In order to mark what has been a major refurbishment of the hall at a cost in excess of £25k, a commemorative plaque is being commissioned and this will record the names of contributors (where a wish has been expressed). The current Mayor of Swindon, Cllr. Andrew Bennett (who coincidentally is our ward councillor) has kindly agreed to unveil the plaque and effectively *re-open* the hall. This has been scheduled for:

4.00pm Saturday 30th January

and all villagers are invited to attend, indulge in a celebratory glass (or cuppa) and help to mark the occasion. **If you are coming, please arrive no later than 3.45pm.**

See you there

Ian Thompson

Hinton Parva Village Hall - January

Bridge Club	Friday	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Carols & Mincepies	Sunday	3 rd	5.45 - 7.30pm
Closed for Decorating	Monday	4th	am - Friday 8th, 6.00pm
Annual Village Hall			
Supper	Saturday	9 th	7.00 - 11.00pm
Closed for Decorating	Monday	11th	daytime only
WI	Thursday	14 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Provisional date for Formal Re-opening Ceremony (see article for futher details)	Saturday	30 th	4.00 - 5.00pm

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

Private Parties
Meetings etc welcome

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Hinton Parva Annual Supper & Party

Hinton Parva Village Hall

7.00 for 7.30pm, Saturday 9th January

2 course supper £10.00. BYO drinks

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Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

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July 2013

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1. Holly & Florence, 2. Lorna & Tim. These two (the three also did) were a treat, a lesson was given on local history, by Rachel, between photos 1 - 3. Lorna & Tim were the first to be seen at the top of the page. 4. Hannah & Holly, (the first up) 5. Continues page 3



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Life Behind the Scenes at BADS (continued)

We have our mishaps as well, as all shows do. When doing the dress rehearsal for *Habeus Corpus*, Tom came on stage, with a view to dropping his trousers, but wearing the wrong underwear. This gave the unsuspecting Louise, and a teenage assistant sitting in front of the



stage, more than they had bargained for! For the same production, Finney was complaining about the lack of furniture on stage and the Director's implication that furniture became something for the actors to fall over. Finney provided a fine speech explaining that we all manage with furniture in our own homes without falling about all over the place and, having said his bit, walked off triumphantly. Into a chair. Val has been known to have the need to re-direct actors back onto stage during performances... It's all about the blocking, Clive would say! The production is completed by the Maestro, Russell Hatch, who with Mogs' assistance is dealing with staging and lighting. He has the added challenge this year of needing to light two sides of the stage separately. Time will tell as to how successful he is. Getting the phone to ring correctly would be a start.

So, please join us for fun and frivolity this January in the Village Hall. Tickets may be purchased, as ever, from Carolyn at the farm –

01793 790 460

And please find us on Facebook to share the love.

Tom Green

BADS perform:-

Touch & Go

by Derek Benfield

***The Village Hall,
Bishopstone***

7.30pm 13th - 16th January

Dickie's Diary -

Antibiotics in Farming

The headline that caught my attention recently highlighted the dangers of ordering a steak cooked as rare, but it did go on to mention the dangers were less if you knew its provenance. A friend tells me that he enquired where his *local angus* steak came from that he was eating in a restaurant. After pressing them hard they confessed it came from Uruguay! In the first case the surprising concern was over partially cooked meat and its connection with antibiotic resistances and in the second case, I expect beef from Uruguay is excellent but it could have been bush meat from bongo bongo land.

Since Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928 antibiotics have saved millions of lives, but I am sure

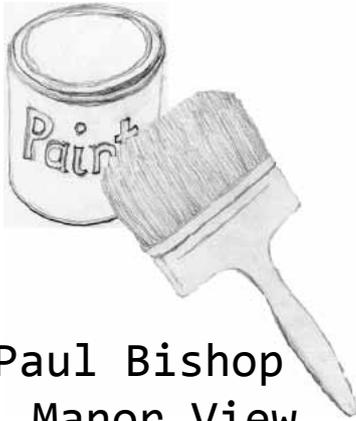
you are aware that today there are real anxieties of antibiotic resistances. 37,000 are said to die of sepsis in the UK now and health and welfare projections see this figure rising dramatically because of growing resistances to our present armoury, while the search for different effective new antibiotics has stalled.

In future we will have to be smarter. We must all embrace hygiene in hospitals, we should use antibiotics sparingly and never for virus type colds and flu problems. We should always complete a prescribed antibiotic course and then we have to reduce the resistance that comes from antibiotics fed to farm animals with residues entering the food chain.

Antibiotics in farming can be added to the feed or water in four ways: therapeutically (to treat sickness), prophylactically (as a preventative), metaphylactically (short term when a % of a group is sick) and sub therapeutically (to improve performance). If an animal is ill, conventional and organic farmers may use a therapeutic antibiotic but organic animals are not fed prophylactically. To reduce mortality, conventional non-organically fed chicks and piglets are usually fed antibiotic prophylactically for a short phase at the start of their growing period and only metaphylactically if absolutely necessary. Today sub therapeutic treatments have been discontinued. All grazing animals, particularly beef, lamb and venison can be eaten in confidence, so this is why I found the headline on eating a rare steak misleading and offensive. Antibiotic would only be given exceptionally if there was an injury or a problem like pneumonia. Milk from dairy will also be equally safe. With intensive animals like pigs or poultry, there are strict industry guidelines to follow to protect the public. Pig and poultry meat and eggs fed organically which are often free range, should have a lower risk of contributing to antibiotic resistances but they are of course dearer, and there would not be sufficient to meet demand if all were fed this way.

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Bishopstone Gardening Society

Quiz Night

Cheryl did another great job at getting our brain cells rattled, from *Seas around Australia* to a section on gardening. Just as well our team, The News Hounds, had the benefit of Mogs' Antipodean visitors who were on the ball!

Huge thanks go to our Quizmaster Cheryl, everyone who donated prizes for the raffle, shopped, prepared the chile and delicious desserts, served, put up the tables, took down the tables and cleaned up afterwards.

It was huge fun and we'll do it again next year but this time on a Saturday night, when hopefully more teams can compete (in a friendly, non rivalry way of course) for a substantial top prize, won this year by Jo Selbourne's team, *Ned's Numpty's*.

Diary Dates for 2016:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. More details nearer the time.

10th February - **Christina Cromer, herbalist:** Simple herbal remedies.

9th March **Andrew Knowler: 'Roses, roses, roses'!**

16th April **Saturday visit.**
(To be arranged)

11th May **Michelle Whitmore, fine art photographer:** 'A year in the suburban jungle'.

14th May Saturday **Plant Sale**

8th June **Jon Mason: 'Gardeners Question Time'.**

Think of some questions!

13th July **Peter Biggs, Wanborough Herb Garden:** 'Late summer garden flowers'.

1st September Thursday

Trip to the White Horse Garden Club, Uffington, where Jenny Steel will be speaking and showing slides: 'Making a Wildlife Garden'

10th September, Saturday

Annual Show

One of the Photographic categories is: 'Two seasons' (two photos of the same spot in two different seasons) Best start snapping now!

15th October Saturday Trip to see **Westonbirt Arboretum's** stunning autumnal colours.

12th November Saturday

Quiz night & Supper

We can be contacted at: gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk

£5 membership for the year, or £2.00 per evening. The Society will next get together on 10th February 2016. 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*

Swindon **Spuds and More** Potato Day

10.30am - 2.00pm Saturday 16th January

Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, Swindon SN2 8DA

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School Report



It seems slightly odd to be wishing the village a Happy New Year, whilst I can hear the children singing downstairs French Christmas Carols.

December passed in a blur, the Rec/Yr1/Yr2 Nativity was delightful, the singing was exceptional and the children performed as though they were pros, we were all super proud of them! Also a mention to the amazing set design by Russell and the hard work put in by all those involved in **BADS** with sponsoring sets, helping set up.

Yr4/5/6 spent two sessions at Ridgeway, creating yummy ginger biscuits and vegetable soup. It was a great experience allowing the children to work at individual stations, taking responsibility for the organisation and just as importantly the clearing up! It was great to work alongside Ridgeway Secondary, with them very kindly providing the mini buses which enabled the activity to go ahead. We look forward to a continued partnership in the future.

The infants visited Oak and Furrows rescue centre . . . with the extra excitement of being filmed for *Country File*, we are not sure yet if they will use any of the footage but hopefully two minutes fame heads this way. Fantastic achievement for three of our children, whose art work was selected to appear on the Christmas cards of Robert Buckland MP. Also a congratulations to Mr Anley who received his certificate which celebrates him becoming a *Master teacher in Computing*.

A very exciting trip to Chippenham with KS2 enabled us to delve into the past life of the school, as we gained access to the four *School Log books* dating from 1894. We chuckled at issues that are exactly the same then as now, but coined in different speech. For example there were notes on *speaking to the boys about chalk marks on the village fences, the girls language around the village was not acceptable*, an argument with the Vicar about *the use of coal*, with the

(continued on page 14)

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Bob Browning

1927 - 2015

As the population and hence demographics of these villages change so quickly, it's all too easy to forget, if you even knew in the first place, the contribution made by some of those that were here before us. The death in early December of Bob Browning (Robert to those who knew him less well) possibly ought not to go unmentioned, since he was one of those post war farmers who changed forever our relationship with food, as farmers were encouraged to do at that time.

Post war, the governments of Europe were desperate for a food and farming economy that provided abundance; the food rationing during and after the war left a huge political scar, and physical malaise, that governments of the supposedly sophisticated Western countries could not afford to endure in the future, in any time of crisis.

So people like Bob Browning stepped in; arriving at Eastbrook Farm in 1950/51 at the age of 22, having blagged his way past the landlords, Church Commissioners, with teams of heavy horses, and a labour force of more than 30 on the land, he probably showed a few other farmers round here how to do it. Buying his very first tractor in the early 50s, adopting the early agri-chemical armoury that post war science was providing, he and others started to produce wheat, barley, peas, milk, and livestock generally in volumes that dwarfed anything that had gone before.

Quite likely farming in ways that many of us nowadays, with our full bellies and occasional over-eating ailments, would not approve of, he made land *very* productive. And in doing so, he and his contemporaries made sure that all of us had to worry less and less where our

next meal was coming from, and how much it would cost; and also in doing so, he and they freed up our earnings to allow us to develop a taste for the non essential things in life. (Immediately post war, possibly 45+% of our income was taken up with household food costs; these days, as an average, it is less than 10%, and for some people much less than that.) All that spare cash sloshing around, relatively speaking, helped us to enjoy ourselves in ways that could never previously have been dreamt of. Holidays all over the world, cars for everyone, computers, £100 to see a football match, tablets, mobile phones, champagne for breakfast, a common Bishopstone habit—a truly extraordinary, mind blowing revolution, if you think about it, brought about because food, the staff of life, is now so relatively cheap thanks to the Bobs of this world. One of his (slightly younger) contemporaries told me that he'd always regarded Bob Browning as a sort of *father figure* for farmers in this part of Wiltshire; and Bob and his contemporaries would meet weekly in the pub at Foxhill to compare notes and tell their stories. And drink a few beers, probably. Apart from Eastbrook where he farmed, he also owned The True Heart at one time; so a sort of circle has been completed, in several ways. The current Eastbrook business has gone against all farming trends, and while others have shed labour, Eastbrook and its marketing and its Royal Oak operation now em-

ploy more than 30 people, as Bob did when he arrived 65 years ago; and before too long, the return of The True Heart into the Eastbrook sphere will add to that figure. We're trying to change the way people look at food, the way we farm here in Bishopstone; but we'll probably never have the same impact on so many peoples' lives as did Bob Browning and his fellow, post war, pioneering farmers. Finally go and look at the beautiful stained glass window in the south aisle of Bishopstone Church, Bob and his family had it place there in memory of his son Philip, who died far too young.

TF

Picture below centre: Bob in about 1944 with his two nieces Molly and Judy

WI

7.30pm Thursday 14th January

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

The Guest Speaker at our November meeting was Shaun McCormack who is a serving member of The Queen's Bodyguard of The Yeoman of the Guard, who brought along his full uniform and gave us the history of The Yeoman with pictures, and plenty of humorous tales. Also in November a group of ladies enjoyed an afternoon making Christmas cards, wreaths and fascinator style hats.

Our December meeting hosted 53 members and guests at our Annual Christmas Celebrations. We were entertained by the Generation of Sound and enjoyed a delicious meal and fabulous desserts all made by our members. This is always a popular event especially with members' husbands!!

The committee has been hard at work discussing new events and outings for 2016 – so watch this space for details or how about joining us at our January meeting – an evening of Circle Dancing with our usual competitions. January is always an interesting month to see who can produce a bloom that has survived winds, rain and frosts!

We are a friendly group of ladies who are always happy to welcome new members.

For more information please contact:

Hazel Cooke 790 621



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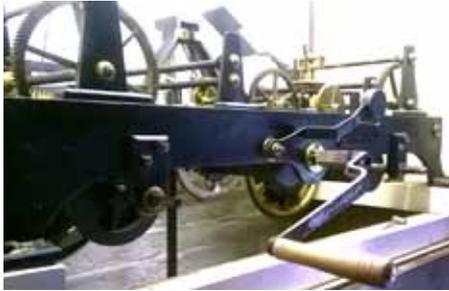
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Bishopstone church clock

Jim Ball has made a new winding handle made for us for St Mary's church clock. The old one had given us 124 years service and was virtually worn out. The wooden grip of the handle was becoming dangerous to use, so we commissioned Jim to turn up a new one out of a lovely piece of oak he had in his collection. Once he had completed all his shaping, fashioning and polishing it was handed over to Scott Stevens to weld up the shaft that carries the wooden handle on the very large winding key. All of this has taken several weeks to



complete and it has amazed me how quickly the Bishopstone residents noticed the clock chimes had stopped. Obviously something that is over 120 years old is still as important as the most up to date must have piece of technology. Thank you to all who have expressed concern as to why the clock had stopped, hopefully now while they lie awake in the

early hours they can hear the chimes to work out how long they have left in bed!

Doug Stevens & Jon Richardson Bishopstone Clock Winders

Liddington Bells Project

Ring Out the Old and Ring In the New - The New Bells *will* Ring Out in 2016. The last couple of months of 2015 were good to us – the VAT Grant Refund Scheme was extended to 2020, grants were received from unexpected sources, and two headstocks were pledged. Four bells and three head stocks are still available to be donated.

Next month, the old 5 bells will be returned to Liddington after preservation work. John Taylor's, the bell founders, have now been given the authority

From garage to new offices and a community development in Shrivenham.



Joint celebrations at Kidson-Trigg Estate Agents, Chartered Surveyors & Auctioneers, as Martin Kidson-Trigg celebrates 50 years of being in business in the local area, as his son Alastair Kidson-Trigg announces the opening of a new property office and community development at 33 High Street, Shrivenham.

Headed up by Alastair Kidson-Trigg, MRICS, the new Kidson-Trigg property office is part of a bigger expansion and will soon offer a Pilates studio, an Osteopath, and Bloomfields Café and deli.

The former property was a vehicle repair garage, the owner of which had been looking for a buyer for the last three years, and Martin saw potential for other services to meet the needs of the local community.

The new venture has been well received by the village.

The front unit is the Kidson-Trigg Estate Agency, which aims to offer an outstanding level of personal service to clients, who will have the benefit of being looked after by professional Chartered Surveyors. As Alastair Kidson-Trigg says, "...we are very aware that in an increasingly busy world, clients need us to be available weekends and evenings to contact us, we are available 24/7 and you can meet us in confidence, whether it be a small bungalow for development or a country house and contents sale.....".



Right: Martin Kidson-Trigg 1980s, auctioneering at the annual Marlborough Sheep Fair

to proceed with all of the outstanding work, which includes the casting of the 6 new bells. This will take place in early May, with the new bells being hung in the tower shortly afterwards. There is a lot of work to do in 2016 and we now only have a small shortfall but with your continued support. Liddington Bells *will* ring out next Christmas. Get the latest news from the Bells Project web site at:

liddingtonbellsproject.moonfruit.com

Fiona Nelson, Churchwarden

telephone 790 546,

fiona@tilbrookhouse.co.uk

Tony Pullan, Project Manager

telephone 790 904,

nickyandtonyp@gmail.com

Mobile Library

Wednesday 13th & 27th January

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.



Rainbow
Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall
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9.30 - 11.00am
£2.50 per family, 1st session free

A stay and play session for families with children under 5. Join us for free play, art activities, snacks and singing. A great way to meet new friends.

For more info. Call Emma
07825 108 081

 Follow us at
<https://www.facebook.com/rainbowbishopstone>



Huge thanks to all the helpers at the craft fair back on a windless November evening. The candles stayed lit and made the village hall look even more special. Inside, the hall was beautifully decorated with Christmas wreaths and garlands of fairy lights intertwined with holly and ivy. Christmas carols played while mince pies warmed in the oven and mingled with the aroma of mulled wine, setting a festive scene and the crowds flocked in. (We really appreciated your support folks.)

A special thanks goes to Angel Publicity Ltd, who covered the costs of Santa's glitzy Grotto. Also many thanks for all the generous donations towards the superb raffle; there were lots of satisfied winners!

Together we raised about £850.00 to be shared between the School and Bristol Children's Hospital. Keep Thursday 24th November 2016 free for the next one.

Chris Thomas

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Happy New Year to all our families and we hope that you had a lovely relaxing Christmas

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The Royal Oak Diary

Just back from another speed awareness course, and completely re-educated in that Soviet-era style that I so miss now Leonid Brezhnev's gone (it's probably 30 years since that po-faced apparatchik departed this earth), I have decided to keep my own list of locals who need a bit of re-education on speeding. Thatcher's View contains two suspects, at least, and over in the dark West End there's another two who might usefully spend half a day in a poorly lit room (cell?) in Cirencester. This note is prompted by one of several conversations with pram pushing mothers in our demographically changing village (I am not the father) who have been forced to manoeuvre at high speed their non-four-wheel-drive buggies into the hopeless verges, hedges and muddy gate ways of this parish to allow the Saab/Volvo/BMW X3/sporty VW/Mercedes/Alpine Renault an unencumbered rapid right of passage without getting their tyres dirty. My book is filling up. As for the appalling parking round the school, and this is serious, it's only a matter of time...does anybody these days have legs they can use for walking more than 20 feet? This is not a dig at our own villagers, by the way, who can, on the whole, walk, and do so.

Not an organic turkey in sight as we career towards Christmas at The Royal Oak, on a tide of smoked mackerel, wild sea bass and gloriously primped up pork bellies. The landlord also managed to buy a Christmas tree this year early in the month rather than waiting for the emergency sales from Lotmead as the big day approaches. You know my approach to Christmas, those of you who are interested: warm, welcoming (usually), generous, then it's time for bed, please. A few drinks at lunchtime on the 25th, then, thanks, goodbye. See you tomorrow. Those of you lounging around at home during the Christmas-New Year week, surveying the mellow mists (fog) and grey skies that we often get at that time of year could do worse than pop in. We offer an alter-

native to turkey sandwiches, based on pork ribs, pork bellies, beef fillets and decent beer and wine. Our first apple juice off the farm is also now on sale in the pub—marvellous it is too. Have it warm with a drop of brandy in it. I ought to mention new year. Playing on my ill-founded curmudgeonly reputation, I thought about cancelling new year's eve, and going to bed instead, probably with Helen, on the basis that lots of you have your own parties; but this brought groans from one or two of you. As they say, a 'phone calls flooded in. So it's business as usual—food, drink, sort of merriment, and anybody caught looking at their watch/iphone to see exactly how long it is till midnight (gawd, still another hour and a half...) will be sent home straightaway. There's a rumour that a customer or two might bring their own music. I hope I like it.

Burns Night: an appeal. We love Burns night, me especially since my real education was in Scotland, and we always do it on the right day, this year Monday 25th January. We have a huge population of Scots for a parish of this size, and I might need some help. Suitable music for example (pipes or accordion); someone with a genuine love of Burns poetry, and a knowledge of the protocols, which I forget from year to year. Call or email me direct, if you can point me in the right direction. Contact details at the bottom. Of course, me and Tony my piper for the past 8 years have cocked it up this time. He thought it was Sunday (again? where's he been living?), and Monday he's got another job. The night itself is always genuine feast of

cockaleekie, haggis (illegally brought over the border), beef ribs, cranachan, whisky, mostly organic; and I think I've priced it at £35/head. We're usually full, and we have loads of fun.

Other dates in 2016 that you might like to plan your holidays around...

24th April, classic cars; 5th June Pig Racing; 20th August Pigstock. We're awash with live bands wanting to play here for some reason, so apart from the regulars, also expect to see Hunter and The Bear (pig racing), currently on tour in Philadelphia, and the Green River Rock Band (Pigstock). I am so easily impressed by their agents, ha ha, despite taking such a cynical view of the rest of life!

Don't ask me any more questions about Swindon planners until I've seen for myself the cave paintings in the True Heart outbuildings. By the way, the beer cellar there would make a great modern dungeon, for those of you with a penchant for that sort of thing. I can make it available by the hour. With all the gear you need.

Contact 01793 790 460 or 790 481
Pip pip

TF

School report

(continued from page 8)



Vicar thinking that far too much was being used (thank goodness I don't have to seek Bill's approval on that one) through to the weak needlepoint completed by the girls. The first log book was very negative, with them becoming progressively more positive. We look forward to using this information in our History lessons.

Happy New Year, Emma

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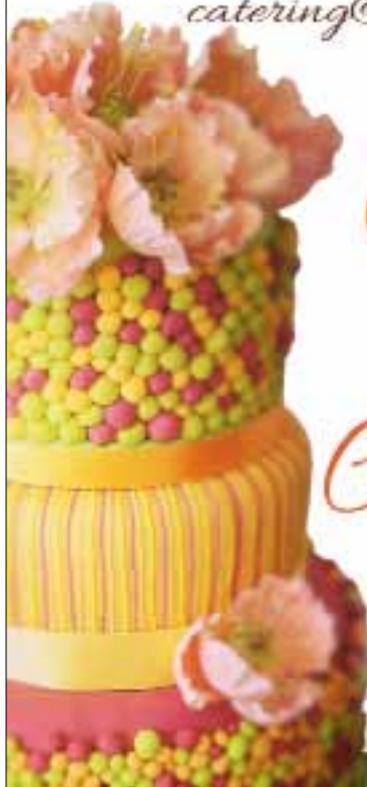
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News from Bishopstone Pottery

Episode 18 Feed the Birds

As mentioned in the last episode in the life of Bishopstone Pottery, we were having fun designing and making birdfeeders. It turned into a bit of a competition between Adrian and I as to who could make the best feeder! Adrian plumped for using terracotta clay and I went with an old favourite of mine, a clay called lavafleck that has speckles of iron filings in it. Both designs turned out really well. They were fired to stoneware temperatures so that they would withstand any frost in the garden. We duly topped them up with bird seed and hung them outside the kitchen window (*see picture right*) so that we could sit and watch with a cup of coffee in the morning. *Hmmm*, I hear you say, *Is that a little sad?* Well maybe but I think it comes to all of us with age. We sat for a few mornings and nothing much happened. Then to Adrian's delight the first blue tit landed on his bird feeder. He was pretty smug I can tell you and I am sure I heard him mutter, *I told you mine was better than yours*. However his smugness was short lived when another blue tit landed less than a minute later and fed from my bird feeder! I think Adrian is still keeping scores as to which feeder gets the most birds but to be honest it is pretty neck and neck!!



We enjoyed selling our wares again at the Bishopstone Craft Fair in December. We had a particularly successful evening and came home with quite a few less items. We even sold one of MY bird feeders. It was a really lovely Christmassy evening and it was good to see so many villagers there. So hats off to Chris Thomas for all her hard work in organising the event and raising money for charity. Thanks Chris and well done.

Occasionally we let a favoured few come and play in our pottery. Recently, two ladies, who had bought a day in the pottery from a fund-raising auction for Bishopstone School, came to try their hand at ceramics. See if you can guess who they are from the photograph (*below*).



They had the chance to take the pinch pot challenge and make something out of a pinched pot, have a go at throwing a pot or two on the potter's wheel and glaze and fire a pot in the Raku kiln. They were great pupils and mostly very well behaved. Adrian and I are a little anxious as they showed some real talent for ceramics so we will have to watch these dark horses or we might have some pottery competition in the village.

We are now looking forward to a new year in the pottery and still have more ideas for things we want to make than we can possibly manage – but we will have a damn good try.

Sue and Adrian Dent

And Finally.....

Goodness, I have had so much copy this month that that it has been a full time job, trying to fit it all in. Not that I'm complaining, you understand. The response to a request for wild life pictures was wonderful, as you can see on the front page. So in future, pictures of extreme weather (oh please let us get a good fall of snow this winter) wild life, your gardens, anything that you want to share with us (good quality 300dpi), I'll endeavour to include, and copy of course, we love random articles. At this point I must apologise for the quality of the donkey Service pictures, taken in bad lighting conditions.



If you are new to the villages (wel-

come), do you know about our village email system? We'll write more about that next month.

Have a truly **Happy New Year**

mogs X

ADVERTISING

The advertising part of the newsletter, which of course, helps to fund the enterprise, is organised by Angie Alcock. For business advertising rates please contact her: email angiealcock@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07976 645 229.

We must warn you that adverts received without payment will not be included. For people with small, one-off advertisements there is a minimum fee of £1.00.

As to advertising on the village website email: Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com or Jonathon

Boon, wizeoldboon@hotmail.com

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month but please send large items as early as possible. Don't forget

copy must include name and contact details for validation purposes.

The newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households in the two villages; donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Angie.

CONTACT

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

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

the newsletter appears on the new village website at:

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org