

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

July 2016

Superfast Swindon Bishopstone Launch



More than 6,000 residents across the borough of Swindon now have access to superfast broadband, courtesy of Superfast Swindon. The

first part of the network is now live and available to residents and businesses in Highworth, Chiseldon, Central Swindon, Old Town, West Swindon and East Swindon.

The network is eagerly anticipated by residents in Bishopstone and is scheduled to go live this month.

Superfast broadband speeds of at least 24Mbps will be available to customers enabling recipients to stream HD movies, download music in seconds, interact with businesses and stay in touch with family and friends via video calls. Businesses will be able to enjoy improved efficiency and better communications with customers.

Residents and businesses can buy the new service through a series of resellers whose packages and pricing are now available from

www.superfastswindon.com

CCE and Prestige Communications (Superfast Swindon resellers) will be joining Bishopstone residents at Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Village Fete, Hinton Manor, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DW on 25th June 2016, so residents can learn more about the different broadband

packages and pricing available.

Details of future events are available www.superfastswindon.com

About Superfast Swindon

Superfast Swindon is an initiative being undertaken by Swindon Borough Council and Broadband Delivery UK – part of the Department of Culture Media and Sport - to provide a superfast broadband service that delivers a minimum of 24Mbps to all Swindon Borough Council residents and businesses who currently cannot receive superfast broadband.

This elegant literary piece was submitted by Swindon Borough Council
Photograph left, The new Superfast Swindon mast at Forty Farm, Bishopstone.

Bishopstone Potholing Club - Update (or Downtdate?)

Iva Shoeful stated that there had been no further progress in explaining these mysterious manifestations, however, the house martins have found some of the puddles an excellent source of nest building mud.

Photograph below, also see page 12
Bob (unpaid etc.)

The Bishops Tone – the search goes on – Hmmmmmmm..... B flat?



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	3rd July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Thomas the Apostle	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
	6 th Sunday After Trinity	2.30pm	Bell Hallowing Service	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Sunday	10th July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	7 th Sunday After Trinity	10.30am	Family communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Friday	15th July	7.00pm	School Leavers Service	Wanborough
Sunday	17th July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	8 th Sunday After Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Patronal Festival	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	20th July	1.30pm	School Leavers Service	Bishopstone
Sunday	24th July	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	9 th Sunday After Trinity	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Sunday	31st July	6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
	10 th Sunday After Trinity			
Sunday	7th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	11 th Sunday After Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

At the time of writing we are close to the feast day of a guy called Barnabas. His real name was Joseph and he came from Cyprus. He was called Barnabas by others because the meaning of the name is *son of encouragement*. The Swindon Hooter used to encourage those working for the Great Western Railway with its famous sound in preparation for a 7.30am start. The working day was finished by 4.30 in the afternoon and Friday was even shorter. A bit like Dolly Parton's *Nine to Five* this all seems a far cry from the way that we are called to live our lives now.

In the 1970's there was a bit of an exodus to South Wales, among other places, to begin hippie communes and Stonehenge was an annual meeting point for so many of those who were not eager to conform to the constraints that society seemed to be imposing. Today, an increasing number of General Practise Doctors, Teachers and many other professionals are working on a locum (or temporary contract)

basis. The value and joy of reconnecting with family life, if you like – working to live rather than living to work, is often an unexpected and much treasured benefit as a result of this move to a shorter working week, as is the time to pause and think. Conversely, I have met a number of people that have retired without much of a plan and their sense of self worth plummeted as a result.

It is this sense of self worth that is the common thread between all of the above and Barnabas was a master of building up others. For the Christian our value becomes plain when we learn that we are called to be reflections of our Maker. Precisely because we are made in God's image. The Bible shows us that we are called to be creative, to bring peace, to provide and to heal. In other words to care and to share, and this is what Barnabas did on a number of occasions. Having worked out that we are blessed, for no other reason than to be a blessing to others, he sold a field and used the money to be a benefit to others. He was known as the guy of the

second chance, even if it dented the relationship that he had with a good friend for a short time. Ironically the friend (St Paul) had himself benefited from Barnabas's belief in second chances. They made up in the end.

Again and again we learn that life is simply too short to bear grudges; a point that we are called to revisit every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. So with a bit more heat and a bit more sunshine on its way I do hope that you get to enjoy the summer with all those God places in your path.

With best wishes and prayers

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

telephone - 790 088 or
email - villageprayers@gmail.com

Bill

News from Hinton

St. Swithun's May Family Service

The theme of the service at Hinton was *Jesus has a picnic on the Beach with his friends*. Harry Marriott read the story beautifully and Gerry, Grace and Henry Stuart-Brown lead us in very thought provoking prayers.

Marguerite asked the Children if they had ever had breakfast in any unusual places; the beach, a plane, a field and outside on the decking were written down, even more unusual food had been eaten for breakfast including chicken and beef.

We then closed our eyes and thought about sights and sounds we would hear at the beach, Arthur Downe drew a splendid dolphin and we talked about Jesus cooking and sharing bread and fish with his friends, early in the morning by the Sea of Galilee. Monty Marriott and Henry Stuart-Brown took the collection.

Thank you to all who made this a very special service.

Marguerite



On Saturday 2nd July we have been invited by Bourton Messy Church to join in with a short service at 10.00am in Bourton Church, which will be very child friendly and afterwards a picnic in the Church garden with games and maybe a craft activity.

Marguerite

St Swithun's Patronal Festival

6.00 pm Sunday 17th July

Refreshments to be served after the service.

PCC Meeting

St Mary's Ringing Gallery

Bishopstone

Monday 4th July 7.30

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

July - Fran Shishton & Sheila Collins

August - Caroline Brandi & Gill White

September - Chris Thomas & Gill May

October - Maggie Gill & Jane Golding

November - Liz Warrick & Jane Matthews

December - Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

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

Sarah Bally 791 121

Lyddington Bells Project



The New Bells are on their way. Since the casting in May, tuning of the new bells is now complete, along with production of all the fittings and bell frame at John Taylor's.

Delivery to Lyddington is on Friday 1st July, with the first load of bell frame metalwork being delivered to church about 9.30am. The second load with the bells onboard will be delivered at about 12.30 pm, and on its way to church will stop off at Wanborough Village Hall at about 11.45am for those at Playgroup to see. If you want to confirm the exact timings on the day, call me:

0774 5011 788.

If you can't make it on Friday, the bells will be on display in Lyddington church from 10.00am until 4.00pm, when the tower will be open to visitors, but please wear stout shoes.

The Hallowing Service for the new bells is at 2.30 pm on **Sunday 3rd July**, and is being taken by Revd Sandy Railton. Everybody is invited to this very special service of celebration and thanksgiving for our new bells, and please join us in the Village Hall for refreshments afterwards. Don't forget to bring your cameras.

John Taylor's bell hanger comes to church on 4th July and is expected to take 3 – 4 weeks to install the new peal of bells. Other jobs will be completed in August and September ready for the Dedication Service on Saturday 29th October at 2.30pm conducted by the Bishop of Bristol.

The latest Bells Project Newsletter is available. If you haven't received one or need an extra one, copies are in Lyddington church.

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

liddingtonbellsproject.moonfruit.com

Fiona Nelson: 01793 790 546

fiona@tilbrookhouse.co.uk

Tony Pullan:

01793 790 904 / 0774 5011 788

nickyandtonyp@gmail.com

Tony Pullan

Contacts

Any enquiries:

The Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell

The Vicarage, Church Road,

Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

The Churchwarden:

John Lowry 01793 790 271

john1000000@live.com

The Secretary: Marguerite Seaward

Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,

01793 791 242

colinspeedway@aol.com

The Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Jill White 01793 791 102

Marguerite Seaward 01793 791 242

List of Other PCC Members:

Paul Bailey (Treasurer)

01793 790 103

paulbailey86@btinternet.com

Alan Taylor 07703 162 523

R2attayloralan@aol.com

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107

doug1966@btinternet.com

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - July

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th & 19 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	13 th & 27 th	10.00 - 10.55am
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th , & 21 st	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th & 21 st	3.15 - 4.15pm
Parsih Council	Monday	4 th	5.00 - 7.00pm
Gardening Society	Wednesday	13 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Village hall Committee	Monday	18 th	6.00 - 8.00pm
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 July

Bridge Club	Friday	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.00-10.00pm
WI	Thursday	6 th	7.00 - 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

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

Saturday 16th July

9.00am - Noon

Wanborough Village Hall

Please note there will be no market on 20th August owing to a clash with the village show (some traders will be found there on Wanborough Church Meadow) but markets resume in September, 3rd Saturday of every month.

For more information contact:

Sue & David Birley 01793 790 438
 sbirley@gn.apc.org

BBC Update

We've now had three meetings of the Bishopstone Book Club, (only so-called because we get BBC from it - people from any surrounding villages are welcome) and are enjoying

vibrant debate and exploration. The best aspect of the group is that you get to read things that you wouldn't normally choose if left to your usual personal preferences. We would love to welcome more participants of any gender, ethnicity, age, sexual preference, religious / political affiliation, dog / cat preferers, shoe size ... you get the idea.

Our choices for the coming months are:

Thursday 7th July

The Shack by William P Young
 September (date to be confirmed)

A Life Discarded: 148 Diaries Found in a Skip by Alexander Masters
 October (date to be confirmed)

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson
 Would love to see you there.

More info contact Cheryl:

791 849 cherylkeen@hotmail.co.uk

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva



7.00pm Thursday 14th July Bishopstone Village Hall

At our May meeting Martin Savage spoke about his work as the Wiltshire Ambassador for the British Trust for Ornithology. His interest in wild birds and all things *outdoors* started at the age of four Martin spoke about his data keeping from the birds he saw in his garden and was clearly passionate about his subject.

Members also discussed and voted this years two resolutions, Avoid food waste, address food poverty and Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia, these will now go forward to the National Federation later in the year.

Our Annual Flower and Handicraft Show in June demonstrated once again all the different and fantastic skills our members have. The hall was full of wonderful aromas from fresh baking to a mixture of floral scents from freshly picked garden flowers.

At our July meeting Rosemary Savage will be our guest speaker and informing us on Nuclear Medicine and scanning. We still have lots of additional events planned and our sub-groups include Walking, Whist and Reading Group. 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

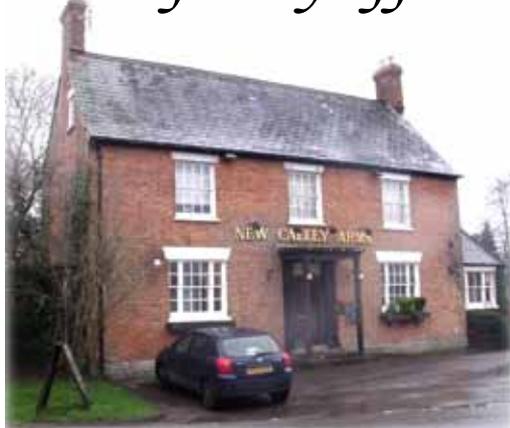
The Wanborough Show Society
 85th Summer Show
 Saturday 20th August

Flower & Produce
Mobile garden competition
Hanging Basket competition
Photography Competition

flowershow@wanboroughshow.org

The New Calley Arms

It's a family affair



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Letter to the Editor

Good evening, I must congratulate you and your colleagues on a very informative and well-presented newsletter. It's good to find out all that is available locally, thank you. I must admit to being rather taken aback, however, by seemingly *throw away* comments at the end of the May edition. I am assuming the comments were yours, but if not, I apologise, and ask that you will forward this email to the person concerned. I refer to the comments re. *The Archers*. Firstly I am surprised that anyone feels they must be *ashamed* because they listen to this excellent soap/drama - widely considered to be the best and most realistic soap on the airwaves - that's radio & T.V. It is widely acknowledged that it deals with life in a most realistic and sympathetic way (allowing for some drama of course).

The story-line with Helen (who, of course, is not accused of murder and could not be hung even if she were convicted of that crime), has particularly resonated with many people, especially women who have suffered abuse, both physical, mental and emotional, from their partners. I am lucky enough not to be among their number, but the harrowing story-line has affected me deeply. As you probably know, thousands of pounds has been raised for a charity (in Helens name), to help those victims of abuse, as a result of that story-line, and awareness has been raised about the problem which exists throughout society - yes,



Luiza Staniec delighted us all with her singing at Hinton Manor at the beginning of June. It was the fete's alternative *Coffee Morning*, the oc-

even in our leafy country villages. Because of all this, I am surprised that, what I would term *flippant and rather ridiculous comments*, were added at the end of the newsletter.

Sorry to ramble on so, but as you may guess, the subject is important to me. Thank you for your patience in reading this, best wishes to you and the rest of the magazine team.

The writer wishes to remain anonymous

I was absolutely delighted to receive this communication and will own up to being the author of the flippant, ridiculous piece (page 16, May edition). Please, please will somebody respond with another letter; all this communication is rather stimulating.

Editor

PS I do seem to recall that murderers are no longer hanged.

Reply from a Nameless Knight in Shining Armour

The *team* as you put it consists of one cat, one 20 year old pc, and one occasional editor, as far as I am aware, who is given licence to be flippant when all around her are failing to deliver anything serious for the 16 pages on the day before the issue is due to go to the printers.

It is at times like this, while listening to *The Archers*, a drama far removed from the life of anyone—and that is not to denigrate in any way the quality of this work—that one is tempted to take a swipe at the nearest object, animate or not.

Wine & Song

cassions deemed no longer to be popular, we opted for a Wine & Song evening instead. This proved wildly successful with a profit of £300.00.

Thanks to: Toby from the Plough, Wanborough and Jon from the New Calley Arms who donated the wine; Conta for allowing us to invade her home; Jane McC and Sheila for selling the idea and tickets but mostly to Luiza for her singing.

mogs

Since a large part of the population appears to be talking about *The Archers* currently, whom I recall from my Pebble Mill days as a tired, smoky bunch of people sitting in a green room, unable to recall why they're doing what they're doing (that was 20 years ago when nobody listened...), rather than worrying about people in their own villages who can't get a bus anywhere, or who have to queue for 30 minutes to get into the pay and display car park at the local hospital to see their aged relatives (if they've got a car), it's not surprising that occasionally a sarcastic or flippant remark might pop out. I would suggest that the views of the editor are not as expressed in the May edition, that she is a deeply sympathetic person, and that her remarks --about a soap opera-- were meant as gentle provocation and entertainment at the end of a day when nobody in the villages appeared to be able to get their words across to her.

I can assure you that this storyline has some way to run, and while there will be twists and turns along the way, and justice might appear to be heading in the wrong direction, in the end there will be national rejoicing that the good woman is exonerated. And that's just the village newsletter. I've no idea what's going to happen in *The Archers*.



Rainbow
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Bishopstone Village Hall
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Bishopstone Gardening Society

Numbers were up when Michelle Whitmore branched out into the world of gardening. It was an evening, as one Garden Club member said, of something completely different. Rather than talking about plants, pests and pollinators, Michelle showed them to us in all their detailed glory with a colourful slideshow. Extreme macro photography gives amazing close-up clarity, and we could see for the first time that many teeny beasties (who do such an excellent job of munching pesky aphids) actually have cute little faces ... really! We were



utterly transfixed by the detailed wonder of a dragonfly's wing and the unabashed hairiness of an insect's leg. Speaking of arachnids, apparently Michelle keeps several tarantulas as pets. She brought in some of their cast-off furry skins which they had shed as they grew. Some of us were brave enough to have a feel.

They were surprisingly soft. Shiver.

Michelle finds all the inspiration she needs in her very own suburban garden jungle, working from home in a dedicated work-

shop. For anyone who'd like to have a go she advised, You don't need a particularly expensive camera to take great macro shots but you do need lots and lots of patience!

Michelle has a great website:

www.michellewhitmore.co.uk

and is on Facebook and Twitter; where you can read her blog and find out about the workshops she runs.

Numbers were down for our Plant Sale on 14th May. Huge thanks to those people who trundled into Bishopstone Village Hall with contributions of plants to sell and grateful thanks go to those who turned out to buy. (Not forgetting members who organised the event, sorted and sold the plants, made tea and cleared up afterwards.) As the annual plant sale brings in revenue which helps keep the Bishopstone & District Garden Club going, I feel we must try harder next year; in addition to our usual selection of donated greenery maybe having lots of colourful bedding plants to sell at ridiculously low prices is the way to go? Another idea is to hold the event at Hinton Parva Village Hall. I would love some feedback ... you can get in touch via:

gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk or write on this page (addressed to the Editor).

Unfortunately, our meeting scheduled for 8th June (Gardener's Question Time) had to be cancelled at short notice due to the speaker's ill health. We wish you a good recovery Jon.

Coming up on **13th July: Peter Biggs**, Wanborough Herb Garden: **Late Summer Garden Flowers**.

Thursday 1st Sept (at The White Horse Garden Club, Uffington), **Jenny Steel: Making a Wildlife Garden**. Jenny has appeared on several TV programmes including BBC *Gardener's World*, *Horizon*, and *Wild*.

Saturday 10th September: The Annual Flower & Produce Show

We generally meet at 7.30pm, second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise stated, at Bishopstone Village Hall. Friendly bunch of people, tea/coffee/biscuits, raffle. Visitors most welcome! Email gardensoc@hotmail.co.uk for more info.

Sheila

Blunsdon Open Gardens Weekend 9th & 10th July

Blunsdon will be opening selected gardens to the public. Free parking will be available at the Blunsdon House Hotel and breakfasts will be sold at the Village hall from 10.00am and refreshments being available all day.

St Leonards Church will host floral displays depicting the life of the Queen. Make your own Miniature garden from recycled materials at a workshop at the Village Hall. Plant Sales and tombola amongst other attractions. Scarecrows and Gardens will be open from 12 Noon until 5.00pm by ticket admission only.

Open Garden Tickets available for sale from the village hall £5.00 per adult including a minibus service to reach the gardens for the less active. Small extra charge for Scarecrow competition. Proceeds to St. Leonard's Church and participating Blunsdon Community Groups.

For further details contact:

Julie Allen 01793 721 429

Wanted - Garden Helper

Someone to help out with hoiking heavy stuff around, weeding, mowing etc. Nothing technical! A few hours per month, mainly weekends.

Unlimited tea, cake and biscuits plus hourly rate. Good for extra pocket money.

Contact: Cheryl 791 849.

Mobile Library

Wednesday 13th & 27th July

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

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Pig Racing for Swindon & North Wiltshire Deaf Children



We are extremely grateful to *the Royal Oak* and *Helen Browning's Organics* for their agreeing to us being their chosen charity once more for their International Pig Racing Festival, which caused great excitement and intrigue down Cues Lane on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon in June. Rough turnstile estimates are that up to 1000 people turned up to watch!

The day involved four pig races, food and alcohol served by the pub, live bands, betting and general frivolity all around! For a small donation, owners were able to select their own pig from nine who had been specially selected at birth, give it a name and enjoy the experience of watching it race. *Piggy MacPigface*, *I've Got The Trots* and *Sayers Boink* were all well backed through the afternoon, but the winner of the first was *Al Fresco* before *Westland Wonder* (owned by Keira Bentley) put in some stellar runs in completing a hat-trick. The local Deaf Children's Society had a stall, including cake, jam and other sundries sales plus face painting, and also manned the Tote. We are immensely grateful to villagers who provided, amongst other things, cakes, jams and piggy backpacks for sale, and also arranged car parking, course construction, photo-finish, pig training and general stewardship. The band *Hangfire* need a special mention as they donated part of their fee to us. We cannot thank you enough!! We got involved in the Society to

help our daughter with social interaction in both the deaf and hearing communities, and to also be able to assist parents who face the same challenges that we face, and to be able to help each other. Overall, we raised £1,500 on the day, which will help in contributing to events organised for deaf children within the area, as well as making donations for equipment to assist the professionals who do a quite fabulous job in providing support to deaf children within the community. A wonderful day and well worth the hard work!

Tom & Millie Green

Swindon & North Wiltshire Deaf Children's Society



School report

As we march onwards towards the summer holidays our children continue to achieve. The talent show featured a diverse range of skills from ice-skating to skateboarding, singing to violin playing. We were in luck with the weather and had a wonderful *Eden Project* picnic on the island with children and parents, scrummy food and lots of running and playing had by all. Our trip to Bristol saw the children complete a range of activities @ *Bristol* from exploding

marshmallows through to watching the night sky in the Planetarium. The younger children explored *under the sea* in the Aquarium going on to the *SS Great Britain* in the afternoon. Tired children dozed contentedly on the coach on the return!

Year 3 children have been continuing to develop their programming skills. A trip to the *Swindon Computer Museum* had them designing an *app* for a Tablet (of the computer variety as opposed to the medicine) and then trying out *old stuff* such as *Atari Games* finishing with the *new stuff* of wearing a Virtual Reality Headset. The children squeaking as they rode a roller coaster was priceless.

Within school there has been a focus on our *Queen*. The children had a day based on learning different elements from curtesy, crowns, castle writing, stamp creation and not of course forgetting learning the Charleston on the playground. It was lovely to take part in the Church Service in Wanborough on Sunday 12th, the community coming together with some bugle playing of which my son was in awe!

We have our *KS2 Summer Play/Music recital* earlier than normal this year, all welcome and it is being held on **Friday 8th July 9.00** for 9.30am start in the Village Hall. Mr Anley has been busy devising a drama based on William Shakespeare . . . so we shall see! Leavers' Service for our Year 6 children will be on Wednesday 20th July, 1.30pm at the Church, again all are warmly welcome.

Emma Lindsay

(more pictures on school website)



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Dickie's Diary

Stockbrokers used to say, *Sell in May and go away*. If haymaking, livestock and a second cut of silage is not important, so, go away in June or early July could be applied to farmers. By this time, we have done our best for our crops. This year a few of them are an awful mess with grass weeds, so a break not looking at them might be a good move. This sad state of affairs affects both organic and conventionally grown crops. For non-organic crops herbicide sprays are losing their efficacy despite their cost. Sometimes it works and at other times it does not, or resistance has built up to give disappointing results. The main offender, black grass, has the ability to shed thousands of seeds before harvest to affect the following crop. Meadow grasses in organic crops of wheat can be just as invasive. There is no easy answer but a return to more spring cropping of non-cereal crops will probably play a part. The mild winter has left some wheat fields with patches of yellowing leaves; this is caused by virus disease carried by aphids in the autumn. A farmer's lot is not always a happy one.

There is another old saying with regard to swarming bees and I saw a swarm at the end of May. It is:

A swarm in May is worth a field of hay

A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon

And a swarm in July isn't worth a fly.

Everywhere there is new life. This last month my cocker spaniel and I have found two pairs of young muntjacs, brown and spotted, about the size of a rabbit lying in grass, also two litters of fox cubs looking out from the edge of undergrowth. Our shelducks that nested far from water amongst tyres on the silage clamp at the ridgeway returned again this year, but we are not certain if the young were fledged or fell victim to cat predation. I am writing this rather early but have not seen any young pheasants yet. I am hoping



that barn owls have nested once more at Zulu Farm but accessing the owl box is difficult without a loader tractor to lift one up to inspect. We have at least two blackbirds nesting in our garden (picture above), one on top of a light in our main porch which would warm her up if we switched it on!

Boding Society Reports

Glorious Mud (See also front page)

Now that the weather has turned warmer and drier the Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) is reminding farmers, gardeners and anybody with a house or garden shed where swallows or house martins nest, to help our much loved summer visitors.

Chairman Robin Page says: *With the land drying out and modern garden-*

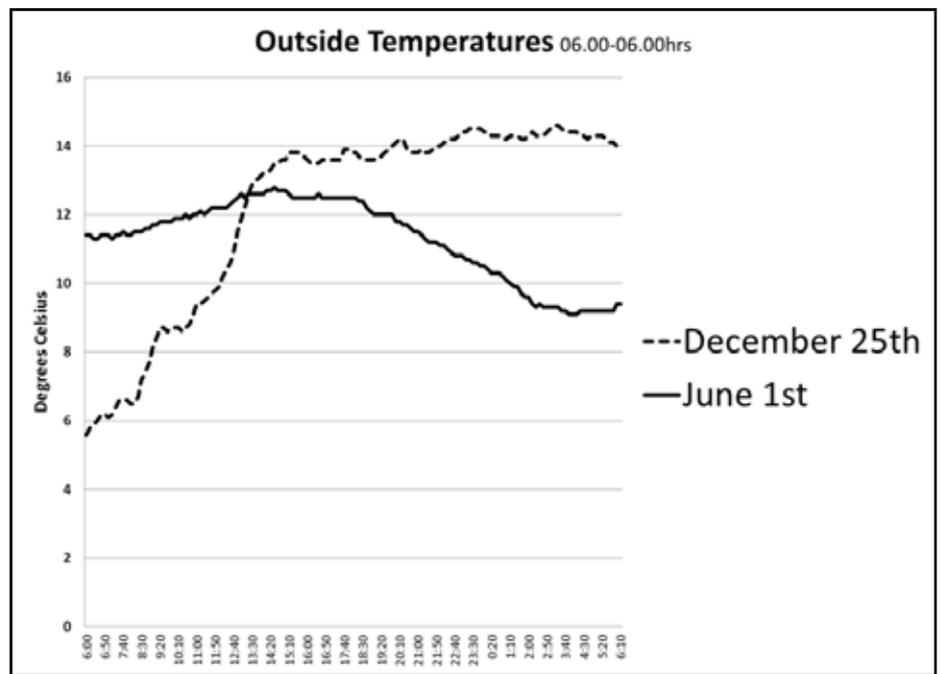
ers and farmers seemingly allergic to mud, please remember our swallows and house martins this summer. Both birds need mud to build new nests and to repair their old nests. Mud is very simple to provide. I have a mud puddle in the middle of my farmyard which is watered once or twice a day, depending on the temperature. The swallows love it and are using it. Although they were a week late arriving, we have at least six pairs nesting already – and this from NO pairs just a few years ago. The reason is simple – MUD. House martins from distant parts of the village also fly in to use it. It is a simple conservation message - MUD is a must for our Swallows.

Martin Carter, Director of the CRT says: *A mud puddle is such a simple solution as the countryside gradually becomes too clean for wildlife. We want farmers and house owners to leave puddles with mud, or even to create artificial mud puddles to keep our summer visitors happy.*

The CRT office is close to the mud puddle at Bird's Farm in Cambridgeshire. It is such a pleasure to be working with swallows flying and chattering around us. It is fascinating too, to watch them collecting mud. It is simple, practical conservation that can make a huge, significant difference.

1st June this year weather colder than last Christmas Day

Thank you Bob for this splendid graph



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The Royal Oak Diary



Hotel Splendide, or some such. The news on the grapevine is that builders move into *The Olde True Heart* in early July, with the plan being to create a 12 bedroom hotel of unimaginable luxury, similar to something I've seen in photos from Dubai, with a landscaped garden reminiscent of all of the hanging gardens of Babylon, plus if Helen has her way, a permanent play space for children, guests or not, constructed of rather simple elements. And of course a magnificent multi-storey showroom for my staggering collection of classic cars (total value £10,000). You might be aware that the council rejected our first plans, which we showed to 100 of you one day a year ago, involving lovely eco lodges round the grounds; and I suppose what they didn't want was housing where *the True Heart* sits. Nor did many of you, I suspect. With all this in mind, I wondered if the village would be interested in helping us to name the place? Should it all be called *The Royal Oak*; could the hotel bit have its own name, eg *The Pigsty (at The Royal Oak)*; or *The Pig's Heart*—Russell's suggestion? And within, how about naming the rooms after Bishopstone landmarks, or people connected with the place, or people we have loved in this village but who've now left us? Or who are still here? The Patterson honeymoon penthouse, for example, or Josie's luxury en suite jacuzzi room? Anyway, this is just an idea, and I promise to take seriously all suggestions, no matter how eccentric, but I will obviously have to discard most/some of them. We expect to be hosting guests in true Fawlty style by January 2017, only 8 years after we first had the idea! Brexit—it's too late, baby, it's too late. I write this pre 23rd June, feeling that the voices of the mad, the cartoon characters, are winning the

debate. I never did get round to organising a Breain/Brexit debate at the pub, a source of regret, but I didn't fancy being a referee because I'd have been very uncomfortable. By the time you read this, Mr Cameron might have gone. He has made a huge



Swindon's Old Town also welcoming you between Wednesday and Sunday. Oh, yes, and the mozzarella factory (*The Cheese Shack*) produced its first sample cheeses mid June, and let's hope we've got some production running by the time you read this. We're not quite over-run with Italians, but we can always send them home when the Brexit results come through. Hope we see you

TF & HB

Picture left: Bishopstone wildlife, Helen & Tim welcoming guests to the *Hotel Splendide*.

nb my mother, not good at remembering names, used to refer to the pub as The

Dear Heart - Ed

political mistake—even if he wins by 2 or 3 per cent, he's blown it, surely. The only consolation, if we vote leave, is that quite a few people whom I regard as sensible seem to think Leave is the way to go, so perhaps I have missed something. Or I was wrong in my original judgement.

Quiet life here at the pub—glorious original food, more and more of it from the farm and the hedgerows in the village, and some from keen village gardeners and allotmenters; splendid wild garden; lovely beers complemented by some terrific craft bottled beers that Arkells are now selling; marquee in the garden available to any or all of you; possibly a track day for Oak guests and friends at Goodwood in late September—watch this space—and *The Chop House* in

Bishopstone 100 club

May Winners

- 1st 33 Mary Darling
- 2nd 29 Carol Sarchet
- 3rd 72 Russell Hatch

June Winners

- 1st 82 Cath Harding
- 2nd 49 Doris Brown
- 3rd 30 Hilary Newton

Jo 790 485

The lynx-eyed among you made have spotted that in the June edition, I repeated the numbers of the month before - I have no idea why I keep making blunders with the 100 Club winners but it is entirely my fault, Jo is splendidly organised and sends me them in good time every month - *sigh, sorry guys. Ed*

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Searching for Medieval Graffiti at All Saints' Church, Lyddington

When you think of graffiti images of vandalism, spray-canned *tags* or even street artists such as Banksy may spring to mind. With these 21st Century ideas, it may seem odd to grapple with the notion that surveying graffiti in churches has historical, artistic, religious and archaeological interest. Individuals have been interacting with these buildings for as long as they have existed and during the medieval period illiterate parishioners expressed themselves and their beliefs through physically marking their presence with signs and symbols. The North Wiltshire Branch of the Young Archaeologist Club (YAC), supporting the Wiltshire Medieval Graffiti Survey, came to Lyddington on a chilly Saturday in March to look, research and record visible graffiti. On visiting church for the first time you truly never know what surprises await and in our time at Lyddington we only recorded a fraction of the marks observed in this beautiful building!



escape. Then there are other forms of graffiti, the meaning of which may be harder to define or is simply lost to us, but which would have been clearly understandable to the medieval parishioner. What is more surprising is how everyday life features; hunting scenes, horses with riders, rabbits and pillow mounds, sheep, gates, ships and human figures. Many of these types of mark were found at Lyddington, the more you look the more you will see! All Saints' clearly has a rich history and it would be wonderful if the work the YAC have started has in some small way added to knowledge of the presence of worship over the centuries. There is still much to record if you would like to continue the search!

(Photographs by Bernard Phillips)

And Finally.....

As I was having a bath the other day, my computer sneakily updated itself to Window 10.



I'm in two minds about it, at first I thought that I would bow to the inevitable, Windows 7 will soon become obsolete, won't it? Now Thing 1 tells me that 10 is the work of the devil, a device of the evil empire to steal information from me.....not that I am concealing anything much. Do I revert back to 7? Answers on a postcard.

And another thing. Why don't people reply to my emails? I feel it is very bad manners to ignore people. I enquired of a lot of our advertisers as to whether they would pay a small amount more for a colour ad so that we could

ing us directly to the individual who made them. These could be those made by a Stonemason during his work on the actual construction of the church in the 12th or 13th Century, marking stones for payment or quality control (many of

you may have heard of the term *mason's marks*), devotional marks made by the pious or Merchants

marking the binding of contracts for example. You also often find marks for protection against evil or to trap malign spirits, pinning them to the wall of the church so they could not

have a coloured front page. I only received six replies, four in favour, we need twelve to make it a viable project. So no colour chaps, sorry.

Grrrrrrrr!!! mogs

ADVERTISING

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

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the newsletter appears on the new village website at:

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