

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

March 2016

The story of a Bygone Age - A Living Hut



The story begins with John Errington who lives in Wanborough, who, among other projects in his life, is a supreme shepherd's hut restorer.

Some months ago, through the grapevine, he heard of a broken-down shepherd's hut in the woods of a large estate, Fracombe near Newbury. By the side of this was another hut which had not only trees growing all around but actually through its sides - in other words derelict, but to John it looked promising, so he negotiated with the owner and it was agreed that John could take van away to rebuild and return to the estate to be used for the duration of the shooting season. This van, known as a living hut, duly arrived at Home Farm and was parked in an open barn where work commenced.

This is what is known of its history: The living hut was part of a steam

ploughing gang purchased by the same estate to work on their farms. This outfit comprised of two steam plough engines; seven furrow two-way ploughs; cultivator; living van; water cart and coal trailer. The staff comprised of two engine drivers and



two or three other men. They all used the van as living quarters. All these items were built by Fowlers of Leeds and sold to the estate in 1918 for £3,000. I think now would be around £185,894.08. Some people may have seen engines ploughing on the open steam fair days, especially the one

near Blandford Forum, Dorset. The ploughing operates thus - one engine is on one side of a large field with the other engine on the opposite side. Under these specially built machines there is a large steel hawser on a drum, when attached to the plough, one of the engines pulls it one way and the other engine brings it back. The two Fracombe steam engines are still used on steam fair days and are based in Warwickshire, according to John.

Anyway back to the living hut. Most of the timber and the windows and doors have been replaced and the wheels and axles shot blasted. It is to be painted exactly as it was when newly made. Now nearly finished it will be returned to its owners very soon. Some people may want to see John's craftsmanship; you'll never see another to match it! An open weekend is planned so anybody who is interested can come to Home Farm, Hinton between 10.00am - 4.00pm on the 12th or 13th March

Contact:

John 792 973 or me 790 264.

Toby Ford



A visit from the mayor of Swindon - see pages 4 & 6

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	6th March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	4 th Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Sunday	13th March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	5 th Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		4.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Sunday	20th March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Thursday	24th March	6.00pm	Fellowship Supper	Hinton Village Hall
	Maundy Thursday			
Friday	25th March	2.00pm	Walk of Witness	Bishopstone
	Good Friday			
Saturday	26th March	8.00pm	Easter Vigil	Hinton Parva
Sunday	27th March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Easter Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		4.00pm	Family Service & Easter Egg Hunt	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Sunday	3rd April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
Ash Wednesday was a little different this year as we were very ably aided by 1st Wanborough Scouts. What an absolute joy to work with them and an absolute credit to their parents and Scout leaders too. We look forward to seeing them again at Easter which is only a few weeks away. They have embarked on a little fundraising venture to benefit the mental health Charity MIND. It works a bit like the china chicken that used to sit on the table in the TV series *Bread*. Christmas and Easter have come together very closely this year and a question that I regularly receive is why does the calendar change? Unlike a lot of Christian feast days, Easter does not have a fixed date. The feast is based on the lunar calendar, so Easter falls on the Sunday that follows the full moon on or after 21st March (Spring Equinox). So in Western Christianity Easter will always fall between 22nd March and 25th April. A council of Christian bishops was called together in AD 325 (the

First Council of Nicea) to make decisions about important Christian topics. It was decided at this council that Easter Day should fall on the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, and that it should always fall on a Sunday to represent the day of Christ's Resurrection. This coincides with the date of Passover on the Jewish calendar. So Easter Sunday is the Sunday following Passover. Historically, Western churches used the Gregorian calendar to calculate the date of Easter and Eastern Orthodox churches used the Julian calendar. This was partly why the dates were rarely the same. Easter and its related holidays do not fall on a fixed date in either the Gregorian or Julian calendars, making them movable holidays. The dates, instead, are based on a lunar calendar very similar to the Hebrew Calendar. In keeping with the rule established by the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea, the Eastern Orthodox Church adhered to the tradition that Easter must always fall after the Jewish Passover, since the resurrection of Christ happened after the celebration of Passover. Eventually the Orthodox Church

came up with an alternative to calculating Easter based on the Gregorian calendar and Passover, and developed a 19-year cycle, as opposed to the Western Church 84-year cycle. Thankfully the Good News of the Gospel is a whole lot simpler. And it just goes to highlight the human knack of making simple things complicated. Quite simply, Jesus died and rose again to pay for our misdemeanours. We think a lot of those in our armed forces that have given their lives for our peace and safety. This is very similar to Jesus' own motivation. He wants us home. Away from the madness and the trials of this life He wants us in His arms free from harm along with those who have died and gone before us. It's known as the gift of eternal life. While we are waiting we have the gift of this life. We have an opportunity to share the gifts that we have been given so that others might stop and think about the source of all gifts, God that three letter spelling of the word love. God gave the life of His own Son not only to die for us but also as an example of a better way to care for each other as

well as ourselves until we do get to our heavenly home. As we say in the Communion Service. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. 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

The January Family Service

The service was about Jesus and the temple. Lots of children came – Charlie, Harry and Monty Marriot, Angus, Jamie and Edward Buckley, Henry and Grace Stuart-Brown, and Arthur Downe. Harry drew an amazing picture of a temple. Marguerite asked us all lots of questions. We found out that Grace age 11 was the closest in age to Jesus when he went to the temple. Charlie read the story very well and I

said some prayers. Jamie and Monty did the collection. We sang a new hymn. Arthur fell over a few times as he had some very nice new orange boots!

Angus Buckley

Women's World Day of Prayers

Local celebrations
6.00pm, Friday 4th March
St. Paul's Covingham

All, including gentlemen, are very welcome to come and join in this unique service, which is compiled this year by the christian women of Cuba.

For further details, please contact:
Angela Manners 536 193

St. Mary's Church Working Party

We are planning to organise a work party to tidy the church, churchyard and the drains at 10am-noon on Saturday 12th March. (Drink afterwards in the Royal Oak). Any kind volunteers phone John Lowry (Church Warden) on Bishopstone 790 271.

Please join us on

Maundy Thursday 24th March 6.00pm in Hinton Village Hall for our Fellowship Supper this is a supper of soup, bread, fruit and the sharing of bread and wine together. We remember the Last Supper that Jesus held with his friends in the upper room on the night before his death. This is a simple but very poignant service.

Easter Vigil Saturday March 26th 8.00pm for the service of light in St Swithun's Church Hinton Parva. After the reading of the scriptures which foretells the death and resurrection of Christ, a small fire is kindled outside the Church door and candles lit inside, gradually filling the darkness with a blaze of light to symbolise the Resurrection.

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva Annual General Meeting
7.00pm Tuesday 26th April
St Mary's Bishopstone

All Welcome

Contacts

Any enquiries:

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

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

OR

The Churchwardens:

Marguerite Seaward
Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,
01793 791 242
colinspeedway@aol.com

John Lowry 01793 790 271
john1000000@live.com

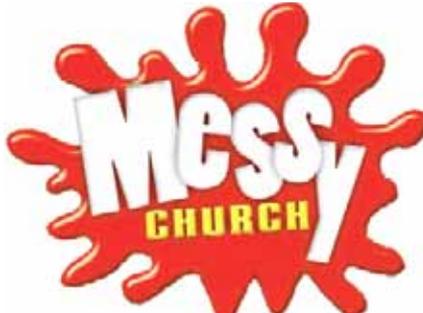
The Secretary: Marguerite Seaward
Hillside, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH,
01793 791 242
colinspeedway@aol.com

The Child Protection Officer:

Jill White 01793 791 102

List of Other PCC Members:

Paul Bailey (Treasurer)
01793 790 103
paulbailey86@btinternet.com
Hilary Newton 01793 791 086
Alan Taylor 07703 162 523
R2attayloralan@aol.com
Doug Stevens 01793 791 107
doug1966@btinternet.com



Messy Church

4.30 - 5.30pm
Friday 11th March
Hinton Village Hall

And don't forget that the children will be making an Easter Garden

Saturday 26th March
all are welcome



Pet Service

10.30am 24th April
St Swithun's Church
Hinton Parva

calling all pets

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

- 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 - March

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30-10.30am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Mondays	7 th , 14 th & 21 st	4.15 - 5.45pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	9 th & 24 rd	10.00 - 10.55am
Tanwood Performing Arts School	Wednesdays	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	2.00 - 4.30pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	3 rd , 10 th & 17 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	3 rd , 10 th & 17 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Gardening Club	Wednesday	9 th	7.00 - 9.00pm

Daily School Dinners (not Easter holidays) Subject to bookings 11.45-1.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin or leave a message on the answerphone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

Hinton Parva Village Hall - March

Bridge Club	Friday	4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	7 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Women's Institute	Thursday	10 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Messy Church	Friday	11 th	4.30 - 5.30pm
Fellowship Supper	Thursday	24 th	6.00 - 7.30pm

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

Hinton Parva Flower Show

Hinton Parva has enjoyed a Flower Show each August since the event was taken over by the Village Hall from the two independent volunteers who ran it until 20 years ago.

The current Show Secretary is retiring and we need replacement volunteers to take over. Full training and past records are all available to ensure a smooth take up of the reins.

It is a great way to meet people and enjoyable.

ALSO

Can I ask for the return of all the Flower Show 2015 trophies for engraving? I am sure that the winners of these Cups and Trophies would like their name engraved and rightly so. The

sooner this is completed the better. Many thanks for your co-operation. Please contact:

Howard, Show Secretary 791 171

Hinton Hall Renovations - The Mayor comes to take a look Report 1

In the depth of winter, the last Saturday in January when, actually, the weather felt more like April, the Mayor of Swindon arrived in his chauffeur driven official car to look at the improvements made to our Village Hall. Our local Councilor Andrew Bennett, stepped into the Hall to find it bustling with folk and to unveil a plaque recording his visit and the fundraising which had enabled the vital renovations to go ahead.

Our Chairman talked us through the



Are you reading this before the end of February? Have you got your team together???

Saturday 27th February
 The Village Hall, Bishopstone
 info. 791 453 or 790 358

Wanborough Farmers' Market

After an unavoidable gap in January and February, Wanborough Farmers' Markets resumes:

Saturday 19th March, 9.00am - noon
 Parking is available at the Harrow Inn opposite, where the chef's bread can also be bought. Markets continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month, except for August (some traders will be found at the village show on Saturday 20th August).

For more information, call

01793 790 438

or email sbirley@gn.apc.org

Future event in Hinton

Thursday 21st April
 Celebrations of
 the Queen's 90th birthday
 Details in April newsletter

life and exciting times of Andrew's life and to the point where community matters took him to stand for Council. At the present time, Andrew is so pleased to see the Radiotherapy unit coming to the GWR Hospital. He said he first wrote a letter as the Chairman of the Health overview Committee seven years ago asking for this important service in order to save very sick Swindon people making the long and exhausting trips to Oxford. The moment arrived to unveil the plaque. The Swindon Advertiser photographer arranged for everyone to be part of the unveiling. The plaque records the years of fundraising and the generosity of local people which provided key money which opened the way to grants

(continued on page 6)

The New Cally Arms

It's a family affair



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Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

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July 2013

Who cares about the weather?



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mogsboon@hotmail.com

01793 790 626

1. Holly & Florence, 2. Lotus & Tim. These two (the three also did) were a treat, a lesson was given on their training, by Rachel, between about 10.15 and 11.15. Kaffee (not sure age) at about 11.30. Kaffee & Holly (not sure age) at about 11.45. Hannah & Holly (not sure age) at about 12.15. Continues page 3



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(continued from page 4)

and tax breaks from both the local Council and the Landfill Trust.

A brief session of toasting the progress ensued. Many thanks again to everyone who has given their time and money in supporting our only Village Hall. And thanks to Ian and Karin for making the afternoon's arrangements. The Mayor concluded by announcing his year of office comes to a close in April. He sadly added that he is also retiring from politics at that time. We shall miss him but wish him well.

Pictured above: Our poor ill-treated chairman of the parish council has the job of polishing the plaque.

Howard

Report 2

The Great and Good and quite a few others, were summoned to appear at the Village Hall by 3.45pm to be ready for the Mayor of Swindon at 4.00pm. So keen were the Villagers and some past Villagers that all were in place well before 3.45 – AND so was the Mayor!

Councilor Andrew Bennett is not only the Mayor of the Borough but also our active Ridgeway Ward Councilor. In his words, *His Ward is only one quarter of Swindon Borough but is the nicest*. He actively supports the Parish Councils in his Ward and is often seen at Parish Meetings.

After all were present and settled with a cup of tea and biscuits, our Village Hall Chairman, Howard Crapper, opened the proceedings. Howard introduced the Mayor by way of a lighthearted (as is Howard's way) catalogue of his long, varied and interesting career paths - including Transatlantic Yacht deliveries - a far cry from Swindon Borough! The Mayor thanked Howard for his kind words and paid tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Village Hall Committee in keeping this Historic Community asset a going concern; highlighting the importance of a focal

point for Community Spirit, absent in many urban areas. He acknowledged the contribution of the Waste Landfill Grant, through Crapper & Sons, the Borough Council, through the Mayor and the generous donations from the Village residents; all listed



on a fine brass plaque inside the Hall.

He particularly praised, as we all do, the months of negotiations and sourcing of funds and contractors by our Hall Treasurer (Chairman of the Parish Council) Ian Thompson. A splash of bubbly all round completed the ceremony and allowed everyone to admire the new floor; custom made, hardwood framed, double glazed windows and redecoration throughout. Good for many years to come.

Roderick Peck

The Hocker and the Bench

Your roving reporter Bob (unpaid) Reports on the activities of BOHGL* on the conclusion of the third season of a programme to revive Hocker cultivation in Bishopstone and its environs. The Hocker (*oxalis tuberosa*) is an Andean root crop (locally known as Oca). It is a tuber grown in almost equal quantity to the potato in its native continent. Tenuous theories have been offered linking the Hocker in Bishopstone and the Spanish sailors of the wrecked Armada in the late 16th Century. (With my archivist's hat on, I have to interject, there is no conclusive evidence that the ill fated Spanish Armada actually menaced Bishopstone Pond. *Ed*)

This year's crop produced a consistent

yield of good sized tubers harvested from a secret location on the Ridgeway (Hockers like high altitudes!) after the first frosts late in November. A recipe for Hocker and Watercress soup follows; it demonstrates the true versatility of this humble tuber. Roast, chipped, raw, steamed, mashed, crushed, crisped..... or even sun-dried.

Watercress Soup (after Delia)

8 oz Bishopstone watercress (chopped)
4 oz butter
14 oz Bishopstone leeks (chopped)
1 lb 8 oz Bishopstone Hockers
3 pints vegetable stock



Salt and freshly milled black pepper.

Melt the butter in a pan and sweat down the Hockers, leeks, and watercress (20 mins). Season, and add the

stock. Simmer for 15 mins. Liquidise, check seasoning, and serve!

(Hocker soup pictured above, which the chairman of the parish council deserves after all that polishing).

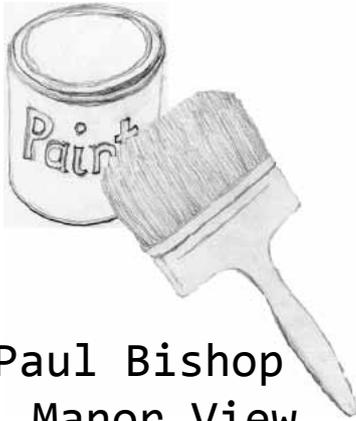
BHOGL 2016 and beyond?

Recent reports in the national press *Is scurvy making a comeback?* (BBC 22/01/2016) has added a further dimension to the Hockers potential, making the Hocker a candidate to supplement our perhaps potato fuelled diets? Compared with the potato the Hocker is notably rich in vitamin C, and has only a third of the calories! Was 16th century Bishopstone man singularly svelte and scurvy free compared to the average Elizabethan sailor?

In addition to the Hockers exceptional culinary versatility we have fortuitously discovered, (due to some areas of poor drainage and waterlogging on parts of the past seasons trial site), that the Hocker may well undergo a beneficial *anaerobic fermentation* process. Vegetarian Organic Hockermilk? Watch this space.

*BHOGL = Bishopstone Hocker Growing League

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Bishopstone Gardening Society



Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, our first gathering of the year suffered from *speaker deficiency*. Nevertheless, as you can see from the picture above, we all managed to enjoy an hour or so, catching up with friends and attempting to solve a niftily organised, garden-themed crossword puzzle, (many thanks Chris). Following a brief update from our Chairman, the 2016 schedule was handed out; I hasten to add, speakers booked for the year ahead are secure and will not let us down. (Do you realise how difficult it is to type with one's fingers crossed?)

Coming up in the next two months: Andrew Knowler will be at Bishopstone village Hall on **9th March**. Last year many Garden Club members requested a talk about roses, so Andrew, (a gardening guru who's recently retired from Dobbies Garden Centre in Cirencester), will enlighten us about them! **Roses** are chosen by many gardeners for their showy, fragrant blooms, however, this versatile plant has uses that extend far beyond its ornamental properties. Cultivated throughout the ages for both its fruit and flowers, roses have a wide variety of uses from perfumes and cosmetics to preserves, confectionary and are extensively used in herbal medicine. No doubt there will be a few products on display for you to buy on the night!

On **Sunday 24th April** we have an afternoon visit planned to **The Old Rectory, Farborough** (John Betjeman's

old family home). The spectacular gardens are open to the public from 2.00 – 5.30pm. Please let Sarah Bally know if you'll need a lift.

Sheila

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!

School Report

Looking out of the window  the sun is shining and the birds singing . . . this to the children is the instant signal that they no longer need to wear a coat at playtime, irrespective of the temperature!

16 children performed at the Wyvern Theatre this week, Dazzling was the word, in eye catching costumes and glitter face paints. They did the school proud dancing to Mama Mia in front of a packed audience!

KS2 performed to other children at the Steam museum, playing a range of pieces on either the Violin or Cello, with a combined performance with Nythe School. This was part of a musical day that was arranged by the Swindon Music Co-Operative and is always interesting as the children get to hear a range of other



instruments being played, as well as participating themselves.

We were delighted to have in the Air Ambulance Service, explaining their role within the communities and then on Monday we had a Community Support Police Officer in school, to help us set the scene of four dramatic crimes that the children had to solve throughout the day. Over one weekend we had managed to have a murder and a stolen painting, both happening within school. They used forensic testing from fingerprints, fibre samples through to chromatography and invisible ink!

The younger children have been celebrating Chinese New Year, followed of course by yummy pancakes. They also got to try a range of musical instruments, from a Euphonium through to a Flute. See some great photos on the website!

We are all very excited at the launch of Swindon175 – this is a group who are organising events throughout the year linked to the 175 year celebration since *Swindon came to be*. In school on Thursday 25th Feb we plan to have a 'Victorian Day' – full dress and activities all linked back to times gone by I promise no canes though!

Emma (Head teacher)

Lent Lunches

Throughout Lent, lunches will be held every Wednesday at the addresses listed below. Everybody is welcome to any of the lunches and we hope you will be able to attend at least one of the venues. The cost is £5 per person with all proceeds going to local charities.

2nd March Gail Kosidowski, The Chestnuts, High Street, Lower Wanborough

9th March Hasmig Topalian, Arax, Rotton Row, Wanborough

16th March Shirley Crapper, The Mount, Icknield Way, Hinton Parva

Please contact Joan Carron with any queries on 01793 790 294

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Wildlife and Our Local Countryside - A Country Persons Alternative View



Having read last month's newsletter - I would like to give an alternative view of a country person. I have lived in the countryside all my life and have relatives farming in Suffolk and Shropshire. My overwhelming interest/hobby has been British natural history and photography. Over the last years I have lived 35 in Hinton Parva and 12 in Bishopstone.

I feel very lucky to have returned to Bishopstone living in an area surrounded by organically farmed land, where the soil is nurtured instead of being swamped by chemicals, the farm animals live as relaxed an outdoor life as possible, without unnecessary use of antibiotics and where there is a respect for wildlife. As a result, our area has a rich flora and fauna – amphibians such as newts, grass snakes, frogs, toads; mammals including hedgehogs, hares, bats, deer, badgers etc.; birds great and small ranging from Britain's second smallest bird the gold crest, the migratory black cap, kingfisher, green and also greater spotted woodpeckers, five types of birds of prey with their aerial antics to owls including little owls, tawny owls and barn owls. The latter have roosted and nested in boxes in my garden for the past 9 years, (watched on cameras), owl boxes have also been erected on local organic farmland. I must not for-

get the invertebrates. Butterflies abound because of the abundance of wild flowers as do moths, often unseen. Using a Robinson's Moth Trap I have trapped, recorded, then released many species – the spectacular lime green and shocking pink elephant hawk moths,



(pictured centre) extraordinary leaf-like poplar hawk moths, iridescent burnished brass moths, colourful tiger moths and so on. This part of Wiltshire is one of the few places where two extremely rare forms of wildlife are found – one a bird and the other an orchid.

I admire local organic farmers who have the resident badgers vaccinated against TB.

We are fortunate living in the United Kingdom; on global terms a small area but with a hugely diverse range of habitats. There are no creatures harmful to man but there is an amazing variety of wildlife, if only more people appreciated and understood it. Wildlife watching can be very rewarding. I've photographed a vixen watching over cubs playing with a pigeon wing near my home. I have seen foxes clearing up/feeding on the afterbirth from cows and last year I watched a stunning red kite (a carrion feeder) drop down in the field adjoining my garden and fly off with some afterbirth – I wish I'd had my camera

then. Yes, I keep chickens and in the past, ducks and geese and have lost some to the fox but it has always been my careless fault. As for fox hunting being necessary to exterminate vermin – in the past when the hunt used to come through the villages (everyone keeping their pets in) and I lived in Hinton Parva, friends who lived on a dead end lane there had seen on more than one occasion a caged (urban?) fox transported on the back of a quad bike down the lane in the early morning before a hunt. What chance did the poor creature have in alien surroundings? Who honestly thinks a fox (urban or local) prefers to be chased and torn to bits by a pack of hounds or that the hounds in full flight can be stopped to allow two dogs to flush the fox out (on occasions a gun is fired into the air to give the idea it has been humanely shot).

Shooting the odd wild pheasant for the pot is one thing but it is quite another for hundreds of pheasants and partridge reared and fed by game keepers, to be suddenly released into wild unfamiliar territory, having little idea of where to take cover or how to survive - then only to be shot at by a group of people who turn up with guns waiting for the birds to be flushed out in front of them. Taking my dog to the White Horse Hill this autumn I came across about 30 or more bewildered immature pheasants wandering cluelessly about the road, oblivious to traffic. I had to slow down and crawl through them. On my return just over an hour later I counted 15 dead, squashed on that section of road.

Unfortunately the greatest threat to wildlife is mankind, with the use of chemicals, massive intensification of farming, ever spreading urbanisation and road/rail building. Wildlife can be incredibly resilient though, if given a chance. I fail to see how hunting and shooting is the way to protect the environment and natural habitats.

(Picture top left: A goldcrest that was stunned after flying into my window - it recovered and was released after a couple of hours)

Jackie Anderson

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The Annual Tidying of Hinton Coomb



Work began in October on the scrub clearance of the flower rich slopes along The Coombe at Hinton Parva. Scrub can be defined as any small woody plant and shrub such as, in this case, rose, bramble, elder and hawthorn. Following a meeting with Natural England at the end of the summer, they advised that this year we should concentrate on the really small emerging saplings along the eastern slope, of which there are many! A group of local villagers have been coming out on the second Sunday of the month over the winter to help with this work and we have also had 4 large corporate groups from companies in Swindon. We have completed the work that Natural England requested, and more besides, thanks to the large number of volunteers we have had this year. The amount of scrub we have cleared has enabled us to have 4 bonfires so far which the volunteers have really enjoyed – nothing like a good

blaze when you're working in the cold! The fires are located in areas which have the least impact on the wildflowers and the ash and embers are cleared up and removed afterwards.

The reason behind the clearance of the young emerging saplings rather than the very large clumps is that left unchecked the small saplings will soon establish into big clumps which then take over and leave no room for the wildflowers. Clearing the existing large clumps completely leaves bare ground behind which is soon colonised by undesirable species such as thistle, ragwort and more bramble. Our main aim with the large clumps is to reduce them in size by scalloping and cutting around the edges and to prevent them from merging to



form even larger clumps.

We had our last local volunteer group of the winter out on Valentine's Day and our last corporate group a few days later. By carrying on with this scrub clearance year on year it will greatly benefit the chalk grassland wildflowers that thrive in The Coombe and the beautiful butterflies that feed on them – something we hope you will all enjoy on walks through The Coombe in the coming months.

If you would like to come out and join us for the next winter season of scrub clearance, which starts on the 9th October 2016, please contact me, Lorretta Waters: lorretta.waters@nationaltrust.org.uk 01672 539 167 or 07792 034 532.

Mobile Library

Wednesday 9th & 23rd March

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
Apologies for the non appearance of the mobile library at the beginning of February, it had to have it's MOT!

Bishopstone 100 club

February Winners

1st 50 Gwen Parker

2nd 53 David Whittaker

3rd 36 Sarah Best

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

Jo. X

Village Fête

Saturday 25th June

Hinton Manor

We need volunteers to help run the raffle, preferably two people, one from each village.

Any offers of help or fresh ideas about the fête and please come to the meeting, all are welcome.

Fête meeting

11.00am,

Thursday 17th March

for more information contact
Conta:

790 507

contacriswell@hotmail.com


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Thursday 3rd March

We are celebrating World Book Day by asking the children to come along dressed as their favourite book Character

Thursday 24th March 10 - 11.30

An Easter Egg hunt Adults and Children can both enter at 50p each.

We will also be doing an Easter Bonnet Parade.
 Refreshments will be available

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter

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The Royal Oak Diary

I've been away for a while getting some sun on my white bits, which, as regular customers and staff at The Royal Oak know, they needed.

While I could rail on about Swindon Borough Council, or the bottleman, or the black poo bags, or any other of my favourite subjects (litter, lorry drivers being unable to read *unsuitable for HGV* signs...), or thank the lord that no one was around the night the olde pubbe signe came tumbling down after 500 years of blowing gracelessly in the wind, instead I'll just deliver a short note about events you might or might not enjoy at Bishopstone's best pub during 2016.

The world's greatest cricket team, Yorkshire, are coached by hairy Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie. He is coming to talk here at the pub in late April/early May, a Friday, over supper, exact date tbc. It will be fun - he nearly got the England coaching job a year ago; what happened then, what's going to happen this summer in the Test series, lots of lovely anecdotes, a change from our normal cricket pre-season chat. And the England team - what's happened to them recently?

Boxing - probably a minority sport round here, but one of our customers is fighting for a WBC crown next month. Kelly Morgan - for it is a she - is having a tilt at her division big prize, with a fight in Swindon on **16th March**. We'll get her in afterwards, assuming she can stand up, to hear all about it. An amazing woman who's been here a lot over the years, but who drinks less and less as time moves on. I wonder why?

Cars - you know I love them. **A super-car/classic fast car lunch** for charity on **Saturday 16th April**, a Saturday. One of our customers has personally benefitted from a kidney transplant so we're trying to raise £1000 for his Oxford dialysis charity. Only one problem - your car's got to be suitable. Modern or old, built for speed not comfort, you know the sort. £50/head lunch, with a

speaker, and an auction, and I'm going to try to get drivers to offer some paid for rides if they turn up in interesting things. Probably ought to book. £10 from every diner goes to charity, as a start point.

Drive it Day, our annual show of all sorts of classic vehicles, is **Sunday 24th April**; from 9.30am usually till about 3.00pm. All welcome, no entry fee, lots of prizes this year for best this and that. Food in the garden, possibly some music too if the weather's OK.

Pig Racing - lots of interest, completely takes me by surprise every year. People queueing up to sponsor a pig even in chilly February. We haven't even chosen our charities yet - any suggestions? Something with local connections please, that's our style. It's 5th June, and an early warning for Cues Lane people - we'll be asking the council if we can close the road, as usual, from about 10am-4.00pm, our normal request. I'm sure you'll let me know if that means you can't have the family to lunch that day, as you have in the past.

When I've warmed up a bit - it was so warm in the Andaman Sea only 24 hours ago - I'll probably have more rubbish to pass on to you, but at the moment my mind is a glorious, complete, blank.

I hope we see you sometime

Tim Finney



Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

7.30pm Thursday 10th March
Hinton Parva Village Hall

Next Meeting

Our Meeting this month is our AGM, as this is mainly a business meeting we do not have a guest speaker but we still have our monthly competitions including Bloom of the Month. We will still enjoy tea and biscuits and have plenty of time to chat! Our competition this month is *Guess the Child* and I am sure this will be amusing trying to guess who we all are - or should it be *were*?

In February a group of us enjoyed a Coffee Morning at Hazel's home. We spent a few hours making Green Hearts to support the Climate Coalition. Thanks to Lesley Wilkinson and Judith McGuigan some of us were shown not only how to crochet but also with a lot of concentration helped us produce a crocheted heart. Coffee, Tea and Cake seemed to help!

We also enjoyed a great evening of Skittles which was fun, with many laughs, groans, tuts and apologies!

There is a lot more planned for 2016 so do come along and meet us,

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

theWI
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News from Bishopstone Pottery

Episode 20

Since the last newsletter we have been pretty busy with projects in and out of the pottery.

The thrown pots we made for the New Year have now been decorated with coloured slip, a smooth, thin clay mixture. Adrian has also been doing his usual experimenting and prepared some test tiles with shades of coloured slip to give us a palette of colours to which we can refer. These items will now be glazed with a clear glaze and have their final firing.

We have become increasingly interested in using coloured slips but need a bit of inspiration from a master craft potter so later in the year we have arranged to spend time learning from Richard Phethean in his lovely studio near the Cornish coast. We have been there before to hone our throwing skills and cannot wait to go again.

There has been a little disharmony in the pottery this month with Adrian choosing to throw black clay while I am trying to make white pots! The golden rule of our pottery has been to only ever have one colour clay on the go at any time. Just one small speck of a coloured clay, be it black or terracotta can contaminate a light coloured clay. So we have to be meticulous with our cleaning up. Still we are having fun playing with different clays so a bit of rigorous cleaning is no hardship really.

I may be turning into a grumpy old woman, I am sure there will be some in the village who say I already have but, like the mystery writer in last month's Parish Mag, I am also frustrated by the potholes in the country lanes



(and don't get me on to road signs). To a potter who has to transport pots around sometimes in the car the potholes are lethal and can lead to break-ages. This led me to wonder if this is why they are called *potholes*!! While I am on this subject does anybody else think the road repairs on New Road are worse than the original damage they were trying to rectify!! Another road to avoid – I DON'T BELIEEEVE IT!!!!

Finally, and no more grumbles, we have had some more guests in our pottery this month doing a clay workshop. Can you guess the identity of one of this month's guests. No prizes for the winner just the honour of being smug and self-satisfied.

Sue and Adrian Dent

And Finally.....

I'm now perfectly sure that we inhabit a universe parallel to the one occupied



by *The Archers* (an every day story of country folk on radio 4, for those not addicted to the wireless).

Both Hinton and Ambridge village halls' are being renovated. The villagers of Bishopstone and Ambridge trying very hard to raise money for stage curtains - yes they cost an awful lot of money in both universes. And now, blow me down, we have John Errington restoring a living van (like a shepard's hut) in Toby's barn, whilst in Archerland Eddie Grundy is building one, I should put him in touch with John, then he wouldn't have to bother.

I'm beginning to worry that I might wake up one morning and find that I have morphed into Linda Snell!

Happy Easter,

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:

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

the newsletter appears on the new village website at:

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org