

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

April 2017



Oldest Student in Bishopstone School?

For full story see School report page 6

Contactless offertory system to be trialed at St Mary's Bishopstone beginning the 1st of this month

Every church is to a great extent financially dependent on the giving of the laity. Traditionally, this giving was made every week in cash that was collected by means of a plate or bag passed round the congregation during the singing of the last hymn. With the increasing use of bank accounts on the one hand, and of regular committed giving on the other, the collection has seemed less and less relevant today. In addition, there has long been a feeling of embarrassment at the passing of a

collection plate to casual visitors to a church. Some churches, therefore, no longer make a collection and, instead, have a plate or other suitable receptacle near the entrance door into which regular worshippers can place their gift as they arrive. However, the sound of people absent-mindedly jingling their loose change is quite distracting.

The Rev. Bill commented; *The Contactless payment system takes us a step further into the 21st Century. The device will be positioned adjacent to the South Door. They have even given me a knob to adjust the sensitivity. If I turn it to No.11 you won't even need to remove your card from your wallet,*

although I am slightly concerned that we might surprise a few unsuspecting passers-by. This thing is just so smart, the level of giving is automatically calculated and directly proportional to the size of the congregation. Should you want to make your offering in the traditional way, just make sure you wrap any contactless cards in kitchen foil, that should do the trick. I do prefer the sound of rustling to chinkling.

Ref.<http://www.churchofengland-glossary.co.uk/dictionary/definition/collection>

Bob

(your roving reporter, unpaid etc.)

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - April

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	4 th & 25 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	6 th & 27 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	6 th & 27 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday	8 th	10.00 - 11.00am
WI	Thursday	13 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Daily School Dinners (not holidays) Subject to bookings			11.45 - 1.00pm

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

At <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/bishopstonevillagehall/> you can find a link to more helpful information about the Hall and the terms and conditions of hire.

Hinton Parva Village Hall April

Beginners' Bridge	Wednesday	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	6.45 - 9.15 pm
Bridge	Friday	7 th , 21 st & 28 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	1 st	9.00am - 1.00pm
Private Booking	Sunday	2 nd	2.00 - 5.00pm
Private Booking	Tuesday	4 th	8.00am - 5.30pm
Fellowship Supper	Thursday	13 th	6.00pm

The most pretty Hall around, and free parking .

Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391- Please leave a message if required

£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

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

7.30pm Thursday 13th April
The Village Hall, Bishopstone

At the AGM in March, our new committee was elected for the year April 2017 to March 2018. Maggie Simons remains as our President. There were a few changes, with 3 committee members standing down due to various family commitments.

The new Programme for the year starts in May, it has now been finalised and includes a Pottery workshop, Flower Arranging Workshop, talks on Steam boating and Art, plus more. We have our Annual Dinner

at Swindon College in May, and the Handicraft and Flower Show in June, to which we look forward.

The Art Appreciation Group continues to thrive with the following programme already planned:

Art Study day with Jenny Lyall, NADFAS art historian. **Caravaggio & El Greco.**

Nature in Art at Wordsworth Hall, Tigworth, North Gloucestershire.

Visit to the Georgian mansion with a museum dedicated to the arts in all mediums inspired by nature. Features some 600 artists including Lique, Picasso, Sir Jacob Epstein, Michael Porter & Charles Tunnicliffe. Private talk and presentation by

Michael Iremonger, enthusiast and guide at Kelmscott, on **William Morris and the Arts & Crafts movement.**

To be followed a week later by a trip to Kelmscott Manor, with guided tour **Visit to Hilliers** - Art in the garden. Outdoor sculpture exhibition set in 180 acre world famous garden in Romsey, Hampshire.

Art Study Day with Jenny Lyall **Ravilious & the history of colour** Exhibition on Screen film afternoon **Rembrandt.** A film from the National Gallery London & Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, including footage of exhibitions at these galleries interwoven with biography & behind the scenes material.

Robin Silman will be our guest speaker on 7th April. Robin will be giving an account on the work of the RNLI.

We always look forward to welcoming new faces to our meetings, so please do come along and join us, our members come from several different villages and Old Town and we are a very friendly bunch.

For more information please contact:

Christina Petersen 07854 710 963

Monthly Coffee Morning

10.00 - 11.00am

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

The 1st Wednesday in the month commencing 5th April

contact: Doreen Cooper 792 965

Jane Manktelow 790 503

Wanborough Farmers' Market

There will be no farmers' market in April, as it falls on the Easter weekend and key traders are away. For more information about the markets, contact Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

The next market will be on 20th May

Swindon Symphony Orchestra

A reminder that Swindon Symphony Orchestra's spring concert (Liszt, Dohnanyi and Tchaikovsky)

Sunday 2nd April, 7.30pm

St. Joseph's College, Ocotal Way
Tickets are available from orchestra members, Central Library, or online www.swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk

Loss of Bishopstone Cottages

Forty-four years ago, my family came to Bishopstone and bought Finch Hill Cottage in The City. We sold a comfortable, warm, centrally heated modern house and bought a cottage with no electricity whatsoever upstairs, and minimum electricity downstairs, consisting of three light bulbs to provide light to three rooms. The coal was kept under the stairs, with a pantry next to it. Our friends and family thought we were completely mad, but we loved it. We were a family of four, and a dog and a cat. The boys were young, (Nigel not yet school age) and we were keen to move into a small community in the country.

The village had excellent amenities, two pubs, two shops, a school, church and a decent bus service. Newspapers delivered to the door daily, wet fish every week, milk delivered daily by Grace and Pete. (Now retired and living in Wanborough.) Mark and Mary (Lee) ran the Royal Oak, Dick Mitchell ran the True Heart together with Jim and Joy Ball. Joan and Les (Morris) bought and ran the shop and Mrs Smith in her 90s ran her shop next to The Royal Oak. Halcyon days. The village was made up of mainly thatched cottages, and a few modern(ish) buildings. This was long before the extension of private houses in the Wyncies, Whatleys Orchard, properties built in Striblings' garden, Poveys Place and every free plot down the High Street, and even to the triangle to the top of the village!

Most of you reading this will almost certainly not remember Miss Little's Cottage (down by the big chestnut tree, up the incline on the left.) It was like walking into a Hovis advert two hundred years ago. A total time-warp, and a huge step back in time. The cot-

tage had never been altered since her grandparents' time! I visited every Saturday for a chat, and to deliver groceries. She had a huge black - leaded grate which she cooked on, many designs back from an Aga, a massive kettle, which she filled with a tin jug, and was operated by a pulley and chain. She had a

ket was built on the A420. Then the authorities tried to close the school, and the village can be grateful to wonderful people like Margaret Woodward, Robyn Britton and others no longer with us, who fought a fierce campaign to save the school – and won! It's all thanks to their hard work and determination that we still have the school, otherwise it would have gone the same way as the shops!

I write this, not in anger - more from overwhelming sadness that these cottages, with their unique historical value in the village, are one by one being

demolished to make way for yet another new build. Of course, these villages must evolve and move with the times to guarantee their survival – I totally get that – but these developers never know when to stop! And now it's Jean's turn ... a solid, freestanding stone cottage, warm and dry, (which you would know if you were in there as often as I was), has gone. A cottage which has stood for hundreds of years and stood the test of time has been obliterated, as if Jean and her cottage had never existed! Does it always have to be at the expense of these unique

dwelling? What a price to pay! Tragic doesn't cover it! Who will be the next for the bulldozer?

Sometimes, ladies and gentlemen, the word *progress* has a lot to answer for.

Roz



home-made rag rug in the hearth, and her cat, Minnie, was always curled up asleep on it. She had a very big, loud-ticking grandfather clock. Oil cloth cut out like teeth on her mantelpiece, sticky with age. Feather mattresses on her beds, and fat, heavy eiderdowns. Elsie Little was firmly in the camp of, 'don't mend it if it ain't broke.' It would have been the ideal museum for the village. How wonderful that would have been, and how all of us, especially the children, would have benefited from it.

We lost the shops when Mrs Smith died, and Joan and Les fell victim to John Sainsbury when the supermar-

Community Connect
To be opened by Robert Buckland
10.00am - noon
Saturday 6th May
Wanborough Village Hall
Enjoy home baking & make new friends
Free refreshments. All donations will be given to Prospect Hospice
Contact 790 355 or 791 140

Dickie's Diary

Here I am, writing on 12th March, and already some harbingers of spring are passing. Aconites are over, snowdrops in decline, but spring has hardly begun and we hope there is much to look forward to. Planting our spring barley has begun, but slowly so far, as we wait for drier weather.

During the cold spell in January, and later into March, I was planting two hedges on the high downs at 800 ft. My next job is to erect some electric fencing on either side to deter brows-



ing by the increasing deer numbers. Way up above Bishopstone you might expect this to be solitary experience but not so. I had my dog for company, who busied herself sniffing and digging,

and getting in an awful mess as the sticky frost came out. The odd walker came over the top sometimes stopping for a chat. When the wind dropped I would hear the continuous crescendo song of larks ascending. The rising notes of a chaffinch are heard in a nearby copse, and the call of a cock pheasant marking his patch, now that shooting is over. Way over head most days, if you spend hours on the high downs, you will hear the unmistakable croak of a passing raven. Last year I counted seven on one occasion, but so high they were only specks in the sky where this sighting here would have been most rare twenty years ago. And then I was treated to another quite unusual sight on a lovely clear day. A large flock came in from the east, flying skein fashion in a ragged v formation, and again their call gave them away. This was the largest flock of golden plover I have ever seen. There could have been over 500 together. Google tells me that the collective noun for plovers is a congregation or a wing in flight. Sometimes



we see them in the autumn in much smaller numbers, particularly if we are working with lights, and a small group settle ahead on the worked ground, or at dusk a group will fly round and round low over a hill almost so low that we say *they might knock your hat off*. Another visitor on the downs at this time is the little stonechat, smaller than a robin and with a colourful chestnut breast, they hop along a fence line keeping in front of one's vehicle. So far this year I have not yet spotted a wheatear, which can also be an autumn and spring visitor, but they behave in the same way but displaying their distinctive white rump as they move ahead.

Richard Green

(Pictures: bottom left a raven; top right golden plovers)



Rainbow
Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall
Every Thursday during Term Time
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.

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School report

The school, like the flowers, is currently blooming. We have been involved in events both big and small. From a child receiving first place in the Rotary Photography Competition and meeting the Mayor, through to our exciting Royal Visit!!

The school building is ready to be unwrapped; we are waiting as I type this for the scaffolding company to appear and remove all metal poles, now that the final lime scale washes are complete. A small block of scaffolding will move around the corner for the next corner section to be cleaned and stones replaced. Was that a scaffolding lorry fly past nope, flying pig from the pub, nope . . . just my wishful thinking regarding the scaffolding lorry grrrrrr!

World Book Day saw a whole range of interesting characters appear in the school from Little Red Riding Hood through to Pokemon! Pictures as always on the school website. We are also hard at work finding family recipes for the community recipe booklet.

So now we get to the exciting bit . . . how did a tiny, village school get to meet such an important man, the future King!? Last year we ran an award with our KS2 children that was led by Skillforce ex-army personnel who utilise their skills on leaving the forces to work with children, covering areas such as leadership, motivation, first aid, team building etc. All are essential skills with regards to character building and creating well rounded *children who will thrive in the future*. From September we signed an agreement to run a one year pilot for Skillforce but this time working with our younger children – Year 1/2/3. Our children are fantastic (I know I am a little biased) but this was showcased when our school was chosen from 40 others to perform set tasks in front of and then alongside, Prince William – as he had agreed to become the patron of the award.

So a bleak weather Wednesday saw us piling on to a coach at 07.30, arriving in Wales to be sniffer dogged, security checked and groomed until we shone! Prince William arrived with

style – first flying over the top of us in his helicopter, then drawing up in the procession of cars. Having greeted him with our flags waving, the children had a chat (with quite a few giggles, myself remembering to curtsy, smile and not go into *rabbit in headlights mode*), he then worked with the children on the task of *marshmallow tower building* – how high can you go with straws, marshmallows and patience. The children got to talk with him and show just how sticky *one can get* before he then moved on to the next group. The school also received a trophy from Prince William which we proudly carried back to school on the coach! The school was incredibly honoured to have been invited. It was a once in a lifetime experience for the children and one that they certainly won't forget in a hurry.



For a little school we will continue to strive for the very best and to provide unique experiences for unique children!

Emma Linsay

(See picture front page)



Bits 'n' BADS

Somebody or other had the odd notion that it might be fun to let Bishopstone & Hinton Am drams loose in the Royal Oak. Their techie, Russell built a stage and arranged some lighting and, I think, Clive Hill sort of tried to direct the renegades, Belinda Nicholls, Louis Wilson and Tom Green. Tickets were sold and delicious food organised.

Off we went, twelve hysterical sketches on random topics. Difficult to single out the ones for special praise, but

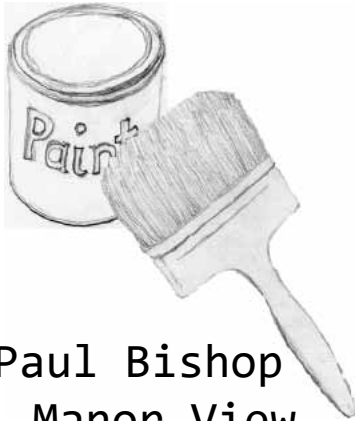
Belinda gave a lovely performance as a pushy amateur actress. Clive was a most convincing angry doctor, delightfully called Fin Timmey. What bizarre brain conceived the idea of medieval peasants travelling by catapult? The final offering Skinny Cap to go ensured that never again will I be able to order a cup of coffee without giggling.

It was a great evening chaps, what is going to be your next venture? Sorry the photographs aren't brilliant, stage lighting, I think. How does Tom Green manage to be in every shot? Pictures, clockwise from top left: Tom and Clive; Tom the frustrated poet; Tom with Louise; the whole cast with Belinda, sadly no others of her.

Ed



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	2nd April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	5 th Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	5th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	9th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	12th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Thursday	13th April			
	Maundy Thursday	6.00pm	Fellowship Supper	Hinton Village Hall
Friday	14th April	2.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Bishopstone
	Good Friday			
Saturday	15th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil	Hinton Parva
	Easter Eve			
Sunday	16th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Easter Day	10.30am	Family Service & Easter egg hunt	Wanborough
		4.00pm	Children's Service	Lyddington
Wednesday	19th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	23rd April	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	2 nd Sunday of Easter	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	26th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	30th April	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
	3 rd Sunday of Easter			

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
Welcome to the season of Passiontide. This begins on the Sunday before Palm Sunday and finishes on the day before Easter Sunday, known as Holy Saturday. In some traditions, statues and crucifixes are covered during this time, and an awful lot of music has been written for this season too. *Stainer's Crucifixion* is one particular piece that has been sung by our Church Choir in the not so distant past, and, with steadily increasing numbers, may be something that is given an airing in the future. Jools Holland attributes our nation's musical heritage to church music and has written some himself by way of a thank you. His shows are more accurately described as community singing events rather than shows. While attending one of these, he had us all singing or at least trying to, within the first three or four songs, of a very enjoyable evening. Jools has a significant, if not

largely hidden, charitable bent to his nature too. Having written a piece of music to support the fundraising efforts of one particular cathedral, it went on to be performed at Canterbury Cathedral, again to raise funds. Jools has often supported musicians that are down on their luck too, and is a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent. *Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.* said Martin Luther. According to Plato *Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue*, and St Augustine said *Who sings prays twice*. Little wonder then that Church growth within the United Kingdom today is taking place either in Charismatic Churches or Churches where good quality music can be enjoyed. Hosts of Angels sang at the birth of Jesus, and, as such, point to the notion that music is the food of Love, that four letter spelling of the word God. Stripped of the stuff of life, Jesus died and rose again for each and everyone

of us, regardless of how we or others judge ourselves. We are all precious in God's eyes. Worth dying for, even. And that is exactly what happened more than two thousand years ago. So while Jesus is the reason for the season of Christmas, His death and resurrection are the point and purpose of it all. All free, and unconditional. So in the same way as we are drawn to respond to Jools' encouragement for us to be active participants at his shows, Jesus is waiting with arms outstretched for us to respond to His constant invitation to find out and enjoy just how loved we are. Happy Easter.

Church Wardens' Activities

Bill

As the days draw out and it is starting to get a little warmer, the work in and around your churches is increasing. For anyone free there will be a tidy up of outstanding jobs from the winter between 10.00am and 12.00pm on Saturday 22nd April, at St Mary's and St Swithun's – please do come and join us at either church. There are

lots of things to do to bring both areas and buildings back to health after the long nights. If you could bring garden tools (hoes, weeders, rakes, edging tools, secateurs, stiff brushes, steps etc) that would be a real help.

Some of you may have noticed that at St Mary's there is a lock on a chain around the graveyard gate on Church Walk. We are sorry to have had to do this, but there have been a few incidences of vehicles being driven across the grass and the edges of graves, plus some evidence of attempts to drive towards the steps in front of the north door (by the old vicarage) down both the gravel track and down the stone path! If anyone needs vehicular access, the lock is a combination one and either John or Alan can arrange to let you in. Just call us. Planning continues for the summer fete – more to follow, and for the an-

nual church meeting for both villages which will take place at St Swithun's this year on Monday 8th May commencing at 7.30 pm. Please do put the date in your diaries and come and contribute to our future.

Again, a plea to use the **Benefice Office** as a means to contact Bill or any of the Church officials, please telephone 01793 791 359 10.00 - 12.30pm Monday through to Friday and your call should be answered by someone who is able to take a booking, pass on an enquiry, or generally help.

Alan and John

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



Happy Easter

from Hinton flower arrangers
If you would like to join us
contact:
mogsboon@hotmail.com
790 626



We are decorating

St. Mary's Church for Easter

Saturday 15th April 10.00am

Everyone is welcome to come and have a go, no experience necessary, or just come in for a chat

for more information please call:
Chris Thomas 790 106 littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

- April** Caroline Brandi & Gill White
- May** Chris Thomas & Gill May
- June** Maggie Gill & Jane Golding
- July** Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow
- August** Sarah Best & Jenny Isles
- September** Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett
- October** Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
- November** Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins
- December** Caroline Brandi & Gill White

Many thanks to all those who have helped to keep our church cared for and clean. We always welcome more volunteers on the rota, if you or anyone you know might like to join us

Sarah Best 791 121

Contacts

- The Vicar:** the Rev Bill O'Connell
The Vicarage, Church Road,
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ
01793 791 359
villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk
- The Churchwardens: St. Mary's**
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- The Churchwardens: St. Swithun's**
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- The Acting Secretary:** Alan Taylor
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R2attayloralan@aol.com
- The Parish Safeguarding Officers:**
Jill White 01793 791 102
- List of Other PCC Members:**
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01793 791 107
kschurchview@gmail.com
Doug Stevens 01793 791 107
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk
Roz Boot 01793 790 508
Sara Hall 01793 791 202
thecourthouse@gmail.com

Bishopstone Gardening Society

The annual B&D Gardening Society Quiz night and Chilli con Carne supper was a brilliant success! Adding to the many familiar faces from Bishopstone and Hinton Parva, some enthusiastic quizzers came from nearby villages; how good it was to have their extra support. The committee worked very hard and I would especially like to thank those who sold tickets, shopped, prepared enormous portions of Chilli and jacket potatoes, rustled up delicious puds, and Doreen and Mary who patiently served the food on the night.



Thanks also go to Rod, our raffle entrepreneur and, of course, the evening wouldn't have been such a success without our Quizmaster, Cheryl, who managed the evening with humour and professionalism, making herself heard over the crowd, whilst complying with requests to *repeat the question please*. We all hope Cheryl's voice hasn't suffered too much! And hearty congratulations to the winning team of six who won the star prize. Our Treasurer tells me that we made around £600, which is a tremendous feat.

Quiz Night is our main fundraiser for the year, which helps to keep the B&D Garden Society afloat, and enables us to enjoy the occasional trip out, such as the much-anticipated visit to **Highgrove Royal Gardens** this summer. The moment the dates were released we tried some serious juggling, simultaneously attempting to book online whilst being endlessly *on hold* listening to repeated messages that Highgrove were very busy. Therefore, with apologies for not being quick enough to snap up one of the June dates, we are now booked for a two-hour guided tour commencing at **1.20pm on Tuesday 29th August**. It is likely that we will travel by coach, and Sarah will have more details for you later.

Meanwhile, up next on our schedule:

Saturday 8th April, a superb day out to **Whichford Pottery**, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5PG. A secret walled garden, unusual plants, large vegetable garden and rambling cottage garden adjoin the pottery and shop. There's also a gallery and a café where we can have lunchtime refreshments. As an extra, we'll also visit a nearby NGS garden, The Court House, Stretton on Fosse, where a cream tea will be on offer. Whilst we can all make our own way there, anyone requiring a lift or offering a lift please let Sarah know. It's a good idea to car share. The journey should take about 1¼ hours. We can meet up at 10.45am in the Whichford Pottery car park. Contact Sarah Bally by email if you would like to be included on this trip.

Saturday 6th May, Bishopstone Village Hall, is our **Annual Plant Sale**: Bring your donated plants to the hall from 8.30 – 9.30am for setting out. Doors open to buyers at 10.00am (and shut again pretty quickly), so get there early if you want a bargain. This year the hall will be resplendent with colourful bedding plants and unusual perennials, all at unbeatably low prices!

Wednesday 10th May, Bishopstone Village Hall, for 7:30 start. Plant Propagation: Victoria Logue from Whitehall Farmhouse Plants, Cheltenham is going to talk to us about how to get the best from plants by using different methods of propagation

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2017: £5 per person per annum (or £2 on the door per person at speaker evenings.) Tea/coffee/raffle. Newcomers most welcome!

Sheila & Sarah can both be contacted at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Country Garden Fête

Saturday 10th June

Prebendal Farm Bishopstone



Grand Opening by Tara Fitzgerald Actress in Game of Thrones and Waking the Dead

A wonderful day of fun and laughter for big and little kids alike, lots of sunshine already ordered.

Featured will be classic and vintage cars, bikes, an armoured car and a steam engine. Showcasing the archaeology of the parish. Come to see this display and inspect Phillips & Boon's digital interactive map showing every known find.

After the old fashioned sack races, pelting people in the stocks and china smashing, you will be in need of the bar, some B.B.Q, ice creams, or a delicious cream tea.

If you enjoy a bit of folk and rock, this year we have two bands. *Pageants * Plants * Pottery * Paintings Raffle with a top prize of £100 cash * Chocolate tombola * Tattoos * Nails * Face painting, plus all the traditional stalls and so much more. Don't miss it!

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The Royal Oak Diary



Well, the forces of the Free French have been kept at bay once again; this is an obtuse reference to various attempts to get this column banned from the village newsletter, and has reached me via influential members of the PCC who occasionally sample the non alcoholic drinks in HB's Royal Oak. This column is deemed too seditious, too irrelevant, to important village affairs, for obvious reasons. We live to fight another day. (But I am quite happy to devote my declining energies to other more pressing matters if that's what people want...such as bed making—hospital corners all round, I'm good at them now).

A little note about the tremendous assistance and tolerance I/we have received from our neighbours and friends in the villages since we embarked on this HB Royal Oak multi phase extension. It wasn't meant to be multi phase of course—but that's the way it is with builders! To our immediate neighbours the Greens, the Bradleys, the Bests and all of those dwelling in Thatchers' View; the Hales, the new people in Curtis House; Graham and Co by the entrance to the pub car park; the residents at each end of Cues Lane, to all of them, thanks; and, last of all, the Winterbottoms at Cobwebs, who have suffered the added ignominy of having their garden and car assaulted by my own new driverless car. Actually, it's not a driverless car, but I was not in it at the time, as it ploughed backwards out of the pub car park at 4mph, while I was checking something in the pub itself. The only reason I found out was that it had left itself at such an angle that Russell, our cellar man, was unable to exit the car park because of where my car had parked itself. This driverless thing has a lot of improving to do, and I feel myself probably making an important contribution to a debate on The Today programme at some point, about such hopeless technology. Thanks, and apologies where due, to all. All being well, the heavy traffic

will have stopped by the time you read this. Various skilled tradesmen will, I suspect, be around the enlarged Royal Oak site for a few weeks, as we finally sort the proper power supply (anyone else had dealings with EON recently?), and finish off about 100 *snags* as they're called. It seems a polite term.

Activities at the pub with rooms—come and have a look at them sometime, if you're curious, and want somewhere lovely to park your visiting relatives—in April centre round Easter, with our **Annual Easter Egg** hunt on **Easter Sunday**. Unusually, Helen and I go for a walk at the same time on that day, about 8.00am, and liberally drop wrapped organic eggs all round Eastbrook valley. The Dog is always keen on this venture, ever since we discovered that he was eating every egg that we'd dropped, a couple of years ago. We charge families /car loads £5 each, the cash goes to our tractor driver that day; and we generally exhaust about 40 children and 20 parents, as they scour 2 square miles for small treasures. Details in the pub.

Later in **April, Sunday 23rd**, we celebrate our tenth gathering of **Drive it Day**. Usually about 120 vehicles—old, semi-old, very interesting, or not quite as interesting as the driver thinks—romp gently through the village and gather for an hour or two in our new, mud-free car park. Food in the garden. I'll probably be showing off my new driverless technology that day, as a contrast.

TF

PS Some of us from the pub are attending the **Anti-Brexit March** in London on **25th March**; if anyone cares to join us, we can sort a simpler cost effective transport solution. On the other hand, you might not wish to be seen with us!

The village anti-Trump march was cancelled because it clashed with International rugby, of course.

6th International Pig Racing Day

Cues lane, Bishopstone

Sunday 4th June

Notice of our application for Short

term Road closure under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. (Any reference in *the Act 1847* to any carpet, rug or mat, including door mats, beaten or shaken before the hour of eight in the morning are probably inapplicable in this instance.)

The registered Charities that will benefit from this year's event include the Swindon and North Wiltshire Deaf Children's Society, Prospect Hospice and The Village Hall. Thank you for your continued support and indulgence.

Bob, roving reporter (unpaid etc.)

Wine & Song Evening



7.30pm.

Thursday 25th May

Hinton Parva Village Hall

Following the huge success of last year's Wine & Song Evening, we are delighted to say that Luiza Staniec has agreed to entertain us once more, this time with some of her friends.

Come and sip a glass of wine or two and try some tasty nibbles on a lovely summer evening, relax and listen to the music and possibly join in.

The tickets are still £10.00, please book in advance, so that we will know that you are coming.

Contact Jo Selbourne: 790 485

Mogs Boon 790 626

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

The Garden Club quiz last month set me thinking about previous quizzes, and quizzers, I've known and loved.

My most unusual quiz experience was many years ago, when my Dearly Beloved and I popped into our then local for a drink. The prize of beer tokens enticed us to join the Friday evening quiz; we don't take much enticing when beer tokens are involved. Sitting at the next table was a young couple; they were struggling, so we helped them out with a few answers. They were good company, and when the quiz finished and we shared our beer tokens with them, they asked if we'd like to go clubbing with them.

This was unexpected; they were in their twenties and dressed for an evening out. We were around double their age and dressed for an evening in with cocoa. It seemed there was something curious afoot so we tried to decline, politely. We would have to go and change, we said. No problem they said, we'll wait. We had no money, we said. No problem, they said, we have money and will buy your drinks. Despite the fact that this all

And Almost Final

Here I am again gazing at a blank column and wondering what I can write to entertain you. Oh yes, it was sad that nobody sent front page pictures, except Helen Browning's Organic, who are always helpful and do have some great pix (which I am putting on file). But then fate took a hand and the school gave me the lovely photograph of the children with a certain prince and together with that slightly questionable money raising scam, sorry, scheme by the church, reported by Bob, front page, sorted. In the March issue, with the aid of tea and cake we constructed a crossword. Did anybody attempt it? Did anybody understand or finish it? Does anybody want us to try our hand at another one? We are always looking for an excuse to lounge around eating cake.



seemed more suspicious than a suspicious thing trying to be suspicious, we opted for clubbing over cocoa.

We fully expected them to run off while we changed. We were a tad dismayed that they waited for us.

We got to the club, and my DB and our new friend headed to the bar. All still seemed likely to end in sinister fashion. I chatted with our new friend's girlfriend. 'How long have you known each other?', I asked. Now things got really strange . . . *This is our first date*, she said.

And will there be another?, I asked. *Maybe*, she said, *He's different*. She was right – he'd opted for the risky strategy of a first date quiz, had maintained a sense of humour in the face of failing to answer any questions, had been open and welcoming to a couple of older and – er – wiser strangers, and was clearly generous, as his return with drinks all round demonstrated.

Not all quiz experiences have been so positive. . .

A very dear friend, was nearly banned from our (different) local. While generally entertaining and thoughtful, she was impossible to quiz with. She insisted on holding the pen through-

out. With the pen, she controlled every answer – which didn't make her popular with those who preferred correct answers only to be overruled by The Pen. She wasn't much more popular with the quizmasters, as she couldn't resist heckling. A lot. Loudly. And, often, Very Annoyingly. She was a quizzing nightmare.

Last year, we teamed up with an unknown couple in a quiz. It was akin to spending an evening in a war zone. The husband gave a lot of very clearly incorrect answers; the rest of us overruled him. The wife shot him poisonous glances and sighed heavily whenever he spoke. By the fourth round, it was apparent that he had no clue about anything whatsoever. Until one of his ludicrous answers was correct. For the rest of the evening, as each question was asked, he venomously repeated his one, over-ruled, correct answer. It was a very long and uncomfortable evening, and we felt desperately sorry for his wife, as they left the bar, with him still hissing the answer at her.

The penny has finally dropped: there's a market for a dating agency organised around first date quizzes. I'll be a millionaire by Christmas. . .

Mrs. Mantelpiece

Month after month we churn out this newsletter. I know that some people read and enjoy it, because they are kind enough to say so, others are too polite or afraid to comment. If any issues affect or interest you, as the BBC says, please let us know and we'll blame somebody else.

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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