

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

February 2017



February Brings the Rain, Sometimes

Picture above: Alice Brown took this at the top of Idstone Hill and Efe Lindsay, aged seven, took the great picture (right) of a confused duck on ice. Send in pics for March. Theme: Spring Forward. High resolution JPEGs please.



@ The Royal Oak

In the absence of a full blown play this year, some select members of the BADS group will be performing a series of short sketches at the Royal Oak, on the evenings of 17th & 18th February.

The sketches will be short and regular throughout the evenings, allowing you to enjoy a meal and a drink or two at the refurbished pub and hopefully having the odd laugh along the way. Pieces will include a couple of delicious monologues, some hilarious doctor scenes, a struggling playwright with the next big thing one idea away

and a coffee ordering experience that you will all understand. Content is probably about PG rated (mild nudity optional).

The fun will start at about 7.30pm each night, with the pub open its normal time (6.00pm on the 17th and all afternoon on the 18th). Suppers from £20.00 for 2 courses

Please reserve your table by calling Carolyn on 01793 790 460 or carolyn@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk. There is a minor cost associated with putting on these skits for your entertainment. A collection bucket will be circulating throughout the evening. Immediately after productions, BADS

gets a lot of interest from locals who would like to join our company, however the initial enthusiasm seems to wain when we try to gather a cast list for the next production. So, over the course of the next few months, we will be collating a list of names and look to have some gatherings over the early summer, including some readings, to establish a bigger cast for a production in winter 17/18. Please speak with Tom on 790 274 or 07341 566 800 to get your name down!

Tom Green

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

TIME FOR A NEW YOU?



The body needs **carbs** for fuel, **protein** to rebuild, **Fats** to function, **vitamins & minerals** to make it all tick, **fibres** to make the smooth move, **water** to live. If our body was a car, what if you put in the wrong oil or fuel? Think about it when you next make a shopping list!

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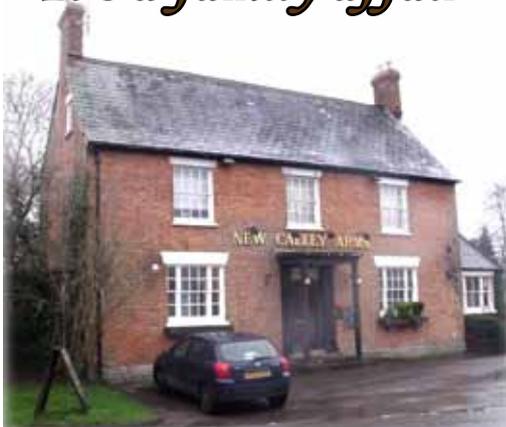
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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - February

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	7 th , 21 st & 28 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	2 nd , 9 th & 23 rd	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	2 nd , 9 th & 23 rd	3.15 - 4.15pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays	8 th & 22 nd	9.55 - 10.25am
Quiz Night	Friday	24 th	5.00 - 10.00pm
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 February

Band Practise	Thursday (most)	Evenings
Beginners' Bridge	Wednesday 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	6.45 - 9.15 pm
Bridge	Friday 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th & 24 th	7.00 - 10.00pm

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 Catering may be available
 Meetings etc welcome Free Parking

Hinton Parva Village Hall Supper
 39 punters seated for supper & light entertainment: Their gamble paid off: the hall was decked with flower arrangements by Shirley, balloons, fairy lights and tables brightly laid. Howard kicked off the proceedings with his usual wit and repartee – some quips receiving appreciative *groans* – not as bad as Christmas crackers though! Supper followed, promptly served by the *wenches* and a co-opted guest who had to work for her supper. Reverend Bill said grace and we were off: A choice of a wonderful Pheasant casserole (many thanks to the Cooke Shoots for supplying the carcasses and to Sue for *converting* them into the succulent dish), Beef Lasagne and a Vegetarian Hot Pot. Queuing into the servery revealed a vast array of puds, all donated by

villagers; hot, cold, healthy and best of all, *naughty* - the puds not the villagers: All topped off with lashings of double cream – p'raps not so healthy but nice!
 A platter of cheese for those who had not overdone the puds (I noticed one or two with extra plates, not mentioning any names Marie – Noëlle) but plenty to go round. BYO drinks flowed well to lead



Wanborough's Farmers' Market
9.00am - Noon
Saturday 18th February

Wanborough Village Hall
Hight Street
Lower Wanborough

Extra parking is available at the Harrow Inn opposite (please park at the rear of the carpark).

For more information contact:
 01793 790 438
 sbirley@gn.apg.org

us into Howard's topical (or is that Tropical) and light hearted brain taxing quiz – well, taxing for my meagre brain but that's not difficult.

The musical trio: Hazel on her accordion, not actually on it but behind it, Jim's dulcet tones and Peter ably acting as page turner, led us into a fun sing song: thoughtfully, Hazel had produced an appropriate song sheet and pitched her play to match the amateur voices, so there was no excuse for not joining in!

The response was enthusiastic with actions to Rod Stewarts's *Sailing and Bobbing up and Down Like This* providing an excuse for the young and not so young to behave like children again – the wine helped!

All in all a very sociable affair, excellent value @ £10 /hd and good support for our *New Roof Fund* raising in the order of £400, including the raffle. Thanks to your generosity and all the workers.

Roll on The Next One!

Rod Peck

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

7.30pm Thursday 9th February
The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Following on from a fantastic musical evening in January we continue our theme at this month's meeting with Scottish Dancing, led by Lyn-da Hughes. Our last evening of dance, back in early 2016, had a great response from members and this will be another evening where everyone will be up on the floor.

In early February, we are once again *doing our bit* to support *the Climate Coalition* by getting together to make Green Hearts to wear on Valentine's day. Later this month we are looking forward to enjoying visiting Wellford Woodlands to enjoy the snowdrops.

Future events are still being planned so watch this space...

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

A Day in the Life of a Small Builder. 3

Learning, sometimes by painful experience, requires a sense of humour as this tale shows. Long ago, before Tom's Team, I lived in Oxford. To make ends meet, painting and decorating was a useful additional income to the classic car business I was running, as it is such a seasonal business.

I landed some work with Tim and Marion in a huge house on the Woodstock Road, in a prime part of the city. It had an in-out drive, enormous rear garden and about 6 or 8 bedrooms. The hall, landing and staircase were to be redecorated, including ceilings and all the woodwork.

The painting went well and the job was nearly done but the last part was to paint the walls and ceiling in the huge stairwell. To get up there, I rigged up some scaffold boards across the balusters, on which I could stand to reach the ceiling and the top of the walls. The system worked well

and I was almost finished. However, I needed to break into a fresh 5 litre pot of matt emulsion paint to finish the second coat, which I placed on the boards. Something (maybe a 'phone call or a knock on the door) meant that I got down and went down stairs.

Returning to finish up, I skipped up the stairs and banged my head hard on the boards near the top. To my horror, the paint wobbled and then fell off the boards. It bounced down the carpeted stairs, the lid came flying off and then exploded on the wooden floor in the hall as it landed. Paint was everywhere – on the stair carpet, the hall floor and even the walls.

I decided to save the hall floor and began scooping, mopping and scrubbing the paint from the boards and the gaps between them. This was not easy; it was a gorgeous, hot, sunny day and the paint was drying as I scrubbed. Eventually the floor was recovered; I cleaned and tidied all my kit away and everything was beautifully decorated. Sadly, this included the stair carpet which was a complete write-off.

The thought of explaining this to Marion filled me with dread but I resigned myself to the fact that I would have to face her, pay for a new carpet and that all my hard work was in vain. Waiting for her to return, the dread grew and I realised that I would not be returning to this lovely house.

Marion came home. I confessed everything, apologised as best I knew how, and insisted on arranging and paying for a new carpet of her choice to be fitted. She gave me a long look as I squirmed.

Tom Cripwell Marion said.

Yes, I know, I'm so sorry. I replied.

You are the luckiest man I know.

How do you mean? I feel awful! I winced.

The new stair carpet arrives in two days.

What? Are you serious?

Deadly serious.

My relief was palpable and I think we both descended into laughter of mixed nerves and relief. I worked there many more times and bumped into them years later on holiday in Cornwall. Some-

times we all need a bit of luck but that was the last time I spilled paint.

Tom Cripwell

Bishopstone 100 club

January Winners

1st 31 Jill White

2nd 45 Jim Bone

3rd 3 Joanna Jenkins

Jo 790 485

Ridgeway Report

They're a strange lot these human servants. They insisted on cutting my coat off this weekend. I was trying to tell them that I've been growing



this for a reason, don't you check the weather forecast etc etc, but no they ploughed on regardless. I hope they got my *told you so* shiver when we went out into the frost the following morning.

Whilst on the subject of my haircut, the male human thought it would be funny to suggest over social media that I had lost an ear. Due to friends' outrage he then had to post a picture of me with two ears. I was trending on Facebook for a while... well, 7 likes. Deano says that cute kittens get thousands of likes, but that must be from superior dogs who *like* to eat them.

Christmas has been and gone since we last spoke. We had a great time but weren't as spoilt as the small human who lives in the house. Apparently an American Girl Doll is the best thing a 7 year old girl can have, ever. Half a Christmas Cake has been sitting on the side for two weeks... until tonight that is. Both Deano and I are currently sleeping off something called brandy. I did over-eat a little on Boxing Day... broke wind all the way to the vet.

Ridgway Green

Missed out on Bakeoff? Dreaming of MasterChef?

Let's make a Bishopstone Recipe Book!

Calling on all chefs, bakers, cooks and foodies!



We would love to receive tried and tested recipes using ingredients made from locally grown, sourced or foraged produce. Perhaps a family favourite or local recipe with a story to tell about the village? All recipes will be painstakingly considered by our panel of exacting celebs and gourmards for possible inclusion in this fundraising booklet.

Hurry ... Deadline 1st March

Please email Carol a scanned pdf or Word doc, in doc or docx format

carolsarchet@hotmail.com

01793 791 453





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Bishopstone Gardening Society

Dates for your 2017 diaries:

Friday 24th February, at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne supper. If you're reading this and you haven't booked yet (why not?) We're having a social get-together to kick off 2017's B&D Gardening Club year. Our main fundraising event offers jollification, merry-making and a welcome diversion from the winter blues. Come and join in and bring your own beverages, (Chilli con Carne and yummy desserts provided). Teams of 6 if poss ... **Please book by Friday 17th February** ...

Tickets £10 each ... Tel: Sheila 790 358 or Chris 790 106.

Thursday 16th March, Hinton Parva Village Hall, for 7.30pm start

Gardener's Question Time: Prepare to interrogate Pete Biggs from Wanborough Nursery who will endeavour to answer your horticultural questions, off the cuff. Pete, (a local gardening guru), will do his best to untangle your garden's thorniest problems. He will also bring perennial plants to sell.

Sunday 9th April, sees a change to our Schedule and is now an outing to **Whichford Pottery**, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5PG. On the edge of the Cotswolds is a bustling pottery, courtyard garden, Octagon Gallery and a café. Other attractions, include some wonderful gardens to visit nearby and I am sure we will have a lovely day out.

Sarah Bally is arranging this event.

Saturday 6th May, Bishopstone Village Hall, Annual Plant Sale: Doors open at 10.00am. This year we will have colourful bedding plants and lots of unusual perennials at knockdown 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.

***Saturday or Sunday in June or July: Highgrove Royal Gardens.** Highgrove will release their summer tour dates during mid-February and Sarah Bally will book as soon as possible. Currently 25 of you (the maximum number for a small group) have provisionally booked. However, there is a reserve list, so if anyone is still interested, please do let us know as I'm sure there will be some folks who'll have to drop out for one reason or another. .

*Date and details to be confirmed by Sarah Bally, our outing organiser.

Membership subscriptions are due beginning of 2017: £5 per annum (or £2 on the door per speaker evening.) Tea/coffee/raffle.

Newcomers most welcome!

Contact: banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Sheila & Sarah



Hinton Coomb

Work has continued apace this year at The Coombs as we have carried on with scrub clearance along the eastern slope; from the small side coomb where we finished last year, to the very far end of the main coomb where it joins the motocross track.

By the time we finish, at the end of March, seven corporate groups (ranging from 7 to 27 people) and six groups of local volunteers from Hinton Parva and the surrounding area will have helped us to remove small hawthorn, rose, bramble and elder from the flower rich slopes. 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. 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.

The first part of the eastern slope, which we cleared last winter, has done remarkably well. All cut stumps are treated with herbicide just after they are cut which prevents regrowth and, whilst this is never 100% successful due to factors like weather, temperature and timing of application, there has been very little regrowth in last year's area. This means that, whilst the task of scrub clearance will be an ongoing one year on year, it should become much more manageable as there is less and less to cut in the future.

The amount of scrub we have cleared has enabled us to have quite a few bonfires which the volunteers have really enjoyed! The fires are built on corrugated metal platforms, located in areas which have the least impact on the wildflowers, and the ash and embers are cleared up and removed in the spring when we can drive back onto The Coombs in a vehicle.

By carrying on with this scrub clearance year on year it will greatly benefit the chalk grassland wildflowers that thrive in The Coombs and the beautiful butterflies that feed on them – something we hope you will all enjoy on walks there in the coming months. If you would like to come out and join us on one of monthly work parties there are still opportunities for you to give us a hand.

10.00am to 12.30pm.

Sunday 12th February

Sunday 12th March

Please contact me, Lorretta Waters, National Trust Area Ranger

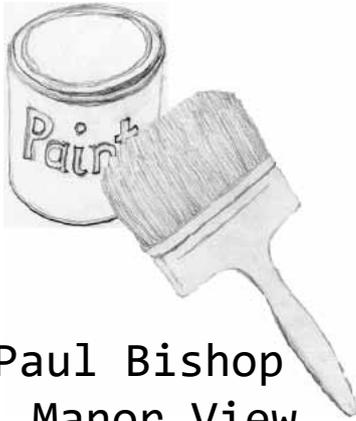
lorretta.waters@nationaltrust.org.uk
01672 539 167 or 07792 034 532.

Village Fête

Saturday 10th June
Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone

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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Wednesday	1st February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	5th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	4 th Sunday before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	8th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	12th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	3 th Sunday before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	15th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	19th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	22nd February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	26th February	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	Sunday next before Lent	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	1st March	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Sunday	5th March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	1 st Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
Welcome to February's issue of our Magazine. February like Frankincense (the Hebrew for white) points to purification and comes from the old Roman calendar. Heat is often used to clean and purify and steam cleaners are an increasing part of the domestic tool kit. The heat from the flame of candles were often seen in old movies being used to clean instruments where a medical operation had to take place miles away from civilisation. So, tenuous as it is, there is a link (if only in the vicars mind!) between the month and the feast within the month called **Candlemas**. Forty days after Christmas Day it was a time when the stock of candles for the coming year was brought to church, to give thanks and praise to God that we had enough candles to get us through the year. Bringing the gas, oil and electric bills doesn't have the same ring about it, but this festival was kicking around long before the invention of Crittall (steel framed) windows, let alone heated churches. Candles always

seem to add a little something to an occasion, be that romance or an atmosphere for prayer. Though they do have their detractors. The comedian Jasper Carrot stated that he and his wife had been married that long that they had got to the stage that they were buying candles for each other! Putting Jasper to one side for a moment, candles have always had a role to play in all kinds of celebration.

The Easter Candle, the Wedding Candle, the Baptismal Candle and, for reasons of health and safety, up to a certain age (and at my age in particular) few birthday cakes are complete without candles marking just how young we are. The Easter Candle marks Jesus' victory over death and sin with the offer to lead us toward a kinder more caring future, not only for ourselves but for those around us too. It is kindness and care that are the antidote to self-obsession and greed and it's this kind of purity as much as *Holy-Joe-ness* that Jesus calls us to.

Candlemas also marks the time when Jesus' Mother and indeed all women of that time were deemed cleansed following the birth of her child. Mary went with her husband Joseph

to present Jesus to God at the temple. This moment was greeted with great joy by a guy called Simeon and a prophet named Anna. Just as a candle gets rid of darkness in a room so Jesus was called *the light to enlighten the nations*. This is why the Easter Candle has such prominence in our Easter celebrations.

With Easter and spring just around the corner and so much natural beauty to look forward to, have a great month.

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

Womens World Day of Prayer
(WWDP)

Friday 3th March at 10.15am

This year's service hosted by
St Andrew's Church,
Raleigh Avenue, Walcot

From the Benefice Register 2016

Baptisms

St. Mary's Bishopstone

1 st May	Rory Thomas
7 th August	William Andrew David Clark
4 th September	Josephine Smith
4 th December	Arthur Peter Sherwood Rose Callie Sherwood

Weddings

St. Mary's Bishopstone

9 th July	Kaylea Christine Tomlin & Richard Justin Elton Martin
16 th July	Hannah Marie Puffett & Ashley Rhys Blackler
26 th August	Louise Marie McArdle & Marcus Anthony Francis Clements

Funerals

St. Mary's Bishopstone

8 th June	Patrick Monaghan
25 th August	David Knight
13 th October	Lillian Mitchell

St. Swithun's Hinton Parva

22 nd August	Stuart Ward
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18 years of impeccable service, Paul Bailey has handed over as treasurer to Karen Stevens. Paul has been a stalwart member of the PCC, exercising his fiduciary duty with skill and humour and keeping us all in line as a result! It has been a remarkable achievement, thank you Paul. For those of you who wish to hear a final cameo performance, Paul will be presenting his final set of accounts for the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 8th May in St Swithun's. Finally, the records from the Benefice Registers have been rather absent from the newsletter recently, so to catch up here is the record (left) for the second part of last year.

Alan Taylor & Ed

PCC Meeting

7.30pm Monday, 13th March
Hinton Manor House

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

John Lowry 01793 790 271
john1000000@live.com

Alan Taylor 01793 791 666
R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Churchwardens: St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148
tomcripwell@gmail.com

Emma Cripwell 01793 791 148
emma@angelpublicity.com

The Acting Secretary: Alan Taylor
Charlbury Cottage, Westend,
Bishopstone, SN6 8PX

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Jill White 01793 791 102

List of Other PCC Members:

Karen Stevens (Treasurer)
01793 791 107

fluffychick@btinternet.com

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107

doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com

Church Wardens' Activities for Christmas and the New Year

As is usual, this period has seen much activity. In the run up to Christmas our services were very well supported. A big thank you to all who came to a packed Carol Service at St Swithun's with a congregation of 73 squeezing into the church together with the accompanying organist and Choir, a remarkable sight; 256 at Christingle at St Mary's on Christmas eve and a further 64 on Christmas day (and some distinctive music and singing!) Once again this festival was a memorable one.

The turn of the year marks a significant change on your PCC and after some

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

February	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
March	Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins
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



School report

And here we are . . . 2017, Happy New Year to all. The pitter patter stampede of feet are back in school and with the current mild weather not a welly boot in sight!

We had a fantastic end to our Autumn Term, with the children raising a staggering £70 through organising and selling toys/books/cakes to each other (I am not sure that parents were so happy about receiving home as many *goodies* as they sent in though). This was a huge achievement by year 1-3! All related to the Skillforce project that they are completing and this element was focused on organisational skills.

Back at school we are starting to gear up to take part in some exciting events. KS2 have a very busy month, they will be performing with 3,000 other children in Birmingham, singing hits to ballads. It is a breath taking experience both for children and parents, with sections of the concert completed in dimmed lights and torches through to sections in disco lights and dancing!! We are joining forces with South Marston for the singing but also for a trip to Bristol Cathedral where Year 4 and 5 will be taking part in a *Festival of Light* which is run by the Bristol Diocese.

It has got a tad cold for much movement on the stonework front, apparently the cold overnight weather can lead to some catastrophic stone cracking . . . and we wouldn't want that!!! Once the weather has warmed then the tapping (and singing along to

the radio!) will commence and the final section across the front, and the small side area above the porch will be completed. This is as far as we can currently go, having spent all allocated pennies but the difference is amazing and allows the beautiful

building to remain strongly standing (at least at the front!).

Younger children are focusing on birds through to dinosaurs! A trip to Oxford has been planned to explore the museum and when I walked into the classroom today they were all busy deciding *which beak was best for which food*. Having a range of worms (spaghetti), grains and different beak styles (pipettes for the humming bird, tongs for your more *regular* beak) and the children having a go at using all. They had to come up with which beak was best for picking up the different foods by process of deduction and observations. So if you see any stray children wondering the village with a *pretend* beak you now know why!

Finally it is always good to stop and take a moment away from such busy days. We were asked to send in a picture of the school and the sun rising, this will be joined with others from schools all around the world to create a small film clip. The picture we took this morning (*above left*) was stunning, the colours, the water, something to look at when it is dark on arriving at school and dark when leaving!

Dickie's Diary

Emma Lindsay

A welcome Christmas present this year was a book entitled the *Times Britain's Best Walks*, all 200 of them. There have been some lovely bright days over the holiday period with many walkers out in the

countryside. Walking it is said, is as beneficial as going to the gym.

Near here it lists a walk starting at Woolstone, along to Compton Beauchamp and Odstone Farm then up to the Ridgeway past Waylands Smithy and back down over the White Horse manger. Ardington up to the ridgeway in a circular route is another listed, of eight miles. It takes in the Robert Loyd –Lindsay, Lord Wantage memorial. He won the VC at Alma in the Crimea, was the founder of the British Red Cross and an enlightened landowner on a grand scale. In Wiltshire it lists a walk at North Meadow, Cerney Wick and also another of twelve miles on the high downs south of Avebury passing Silbury Hill and reaching up to the Wansdyke.

We are so fortunate here to have such impressive landscapes so close at hand, just the ticket to temper any excesses of the holiday period. Three quick local walks are outstanding. To the west the valley rising south from the village hall in Hinton Parva is a joy and only a quick half an hour burst up to the border with the motor cross circuit and back down the floor of the valley. Then in the next village above the Bishopstone lynchets at the head of the valley there is a style a short distance from the Ridgeway. Tarry here a while and admire the ancient field system and view over the vale including the windmills! Nearby several trees have been planted to remember Tony Gill, who worked Prebendal Farm for most of his life. Thirdly, and beginning at the Ashbury allotments, there are two options. To the left another quick burst takes you on rising ground up the Odstone Coombes with various options when you reach the Odstone track. But here at the start beware the boundary double fencing with the need to hug the hill on the left with access over a style. Or with the second option head up to the right of the allotments heading for the Ridgeway and the former Kingstone barn, now demolished. And if you are out in June look out for orchids on all these sites.

Richard Green



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The Royal Oak Diary



I think we have to start with an apology, since there have been a few extra large trucks, noisy sandblasters and mechanised saws making a bit of a mess, and some noise, in the Royal Oak and True Heart environs these past three weeks. I am sorry if they have caused you any inconvenience in any way, at any time. The pub will reopen on Tuesday 31st January, all being well, the ground floor and kitchen only; work on the upper floor (garden level, including disabled access) will continue through February, and hopefully open when the hotel rooms open in wb 6th March. At which point several lucky guinea pigs will pass through the place and help us to assess whether the showers are warm enough, the heating works, the beds are comfortable, and the pictures of cows and pigs don't overly keep you awake at night. And that I remember to turn up and offer breakfast. The whole place is being called Helen Browning's Royal Oak, and I'd be delighted to see any of you taking a stroll round once the place is no longer an official, controlled building site with all the HSE restrictions safely removed. Arkells do I think deserve a big pat on the back—they're investing about £1.5m into this project which shows they have some faith in our customers. By the way, their beer is better every year. The rooms themselves are fairly unique, reflecting the fact this place is in the middle of a beautiful village and farm. Send your relatives and friends round if you don't want to see them at breakfast.

Those in charge are me, Valerio Reale, our intelligent and entertaining Italian import who's been here since June; Tom Sishton of this manor, and Paul Winch, approaching his third year as head chef, having taken time off in 2016 to get our Chop House launched in Swindon's Old Town—which continues to serve lots of people with lovely food off this farm. We have asked Fran Sishton to walk the

floor with us again, but she says she's too old and creaky, which we do not accept; the lovely Pugh girls we look forward to seeing again along with their glorious mother (and father); and various others of you who've spent some time here, I hope we'll be seeing you again soon. We have part time work available in the kitchen, and helping us to clean the rooms; and some gardening work, although I expect Paul Miller will come out of hibernation at some point. And of course we look forward to seeing our great customers again—those of you who know us, welcome back; those of you less sure of our whereabouts, we're in Cues Lane (and the High St) in Bishopstone in case your geography isn't too good. We generally extend a warm, if waspish, welcome, to all. There are only two people in the whole village who aren't welcome! Answers on a postcard please. I prefer dogs, children and muddy boots.

We've sorted one or two events for the first month of new operations; 17th and 18th February, evenings, Bishopstone Am Dram society (BADs) are putting on a dozen live mini dramas and sketches in the place; one ticket price guarantees you supper and entertainment. Please book for this. And as a passionate rugby union fan, the best match in the upcoming 6 nations is England vs Ireland; pre that match, on Wednesday 15th March, we're hosting a supper with ex Ireland and Lions international Rob Henderson, a huge story teller, and ex-England and Bath captain Phil de Glanville; telling stories, being indiscreet, mixing with guests, guessing the outcome of the match, and speculating on the summer Lions tour to New Zealand. Supper and entertainment wrapped up in one big evening, £60 a head, room for 50 people only. I think we might be busy. Fancy staying over?

After that it's Easter, then Drive it Day, then Pig Racing—and I think we ought to create one other event that day, encourage some competition between the families and children of the village down our improvised race track in Cues Lane. Again, let me have

Village News February
your suggestions for some extra spice when the road is closed for a few hours, and a huge crowd watching. That's it. Hope we see you. Thank you.

TF & HB

Walking Netball

(Yes walking and it takes a bit of getting used to.) The aim is to have fun, exercise but without the jumping or running so not putting strain on our sour bits!

All of the sessions are open to adult females. There isn't an upper age limit or lower age limit on these sessions because, for instance, they are suitable for people returning to sport after maternity leave and those trying to lose weight.

Here's where they take place etc.

Sessions for all levels of fitness

4th January Haydon resumes

2.30 - 3.45pm

6th January Grange resumes

11.00 - 12.00noon

23rd January 10 week pilot starts at Bradon Forest 6.30 - 7.30pm

26th January 8 week pilot starts at

Croft 11.00 - 12.00noon

You can find the audio transmission here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b086ly6q> ; It starts 45min 55sec in and lasts for about 4 minutes!

Mo

Maureen.Squires@GLL.ORG

Mobile Library

Wednesday 8th February

Wednesday 22nd February

Bishopstone 9.55 - 10.25am

Hinton Church 10.35am

West Hinton Farm 10.50 - 11.00am

The Mobile Library will next be in the villages on the above dates. Wide range of books available, including large print and children's.

Coffee Morning

Whilst the mobile library is outside Bishopstone Village Hall, indulge in a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with all the latest.

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