

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

January 2017



Big Black Pheasants

Further to my queries about this new and very attractive make of pheasant, here is a photograph, courtesy of *Bernard Phillips*.

This Melanistic Bazanty Pheasant is a pure breed. These large, beautiful birds feature an iridescent, greenish-black plumage. A favourite variety for release, they display a remarkable ability to survive and reproduce in the wild. Seeing so many of them around locally prompted a look on the RSPB website. Apparently they do occur quite frequently. Also, a white variety which are not albinos but possibly hybrids were seen scampering about the undergrowth in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone during last year's winter months

Ed & Sub Ed

Nativity 2016

The nativity at Bishopstone School was as brilliant as ever. It is difficult to single out one performance, but I think we were all captivated by a tiny Joseph. I award best, out of all the lovely costumes, to the cockerel and am sorry we don't have any pictures of good enough quality to print. Therefore, instead we have the nativity play at Roves Farm.

(picture courtesy of Laura Gibling)

Winter warmer Pictures?

Sadly nobody submitted a single photograph for this edition. **But**, we do not give up easily, remember we are still hoping to make a calendar at the end of the year....so what about a **February brings the rain** or some relevant image for the next edition?

Ed



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

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New year



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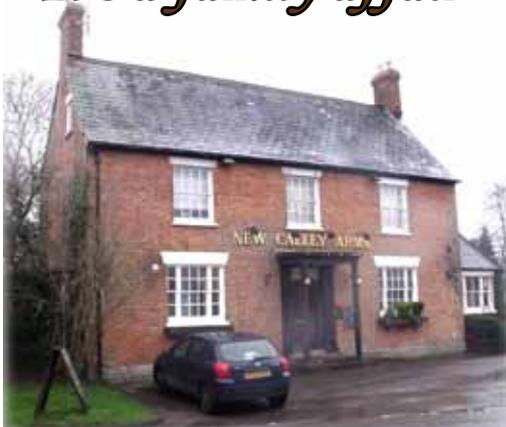
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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - January

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th & 31 st	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers School	Thursdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th 26 th	9.30 - 11.00am
Mobile Library	Thursdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th 26 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Parish Council	Wednesdays	11 th & 25 th	9.55 - 10.25am
Private Event	Monday	9 th	7.30 - 9.00pm
Daily School Dinners (not holidays)	Friday	27 th	All Day
			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.

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Noon
Saturday 21st January

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

Hinton Parva Village Hall January

Band Practise	Thursday	(most)	Evenings
Bridge	Friday	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	11 th , 18 th & 25 th	6.45 - 9.15 pm
Carols & Mince Pies	Sunday	1 st	6.00 pm
Village Hall Management Committee	Monday	9 th	11.00 am

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

Hinton Parva Village Hall

Important information

1. Vacancy exists for a Booking Secretary at Hinton Parva Village Hall.

This essential role is not arduous and is often quite interesting.

If you can offer your services on a very short time basis, then please contact Howard on 791 171 today.

It will be a great help to our small community.

2. For matters relating to Accounts please call Rod on 791 001.

Thank you

Howard



Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

7.30pm Thursday 12th January
Hinton Parva Village Hall

To get us off to a good start for 2017 we are looking forward to enjoying a musical evening with the guitarist Andy Smith. Andy is a song-writing multi instrumentalist (guitar, mandolin, ukulele, banjo, tenor, guitar, sitar and piano and singer!) It should be a great evening of toe-tapping!

Two of our members have been busy planning our Speakers' Programme for 2017/18 which starts in May. A lot of time and consideration is put into this to find a good mix of entertainment for our meetings. Although the full programme is still to be confirmed some of the themes being considered are a practical session on flower arranging, a hands on pottery session, talks on art, steamboating and the Titanic.

Our first additional event will be in February to see the snowdrops in Wellford woodlands.

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

Hinton Parva Quiz Night with Supper & Pudding

Six competitive teams digested seven rounds of diverse questions. I say diverse as some competitors had a different name for some of the more tricky questions. Round one were questions

relating to *birds of the feathered variety*. This went some way to establishing a pecking order and definitely ruffled a few feathers. Two more rounds followed before we signed a peace treaty and enjoyed Supper.

A veritable feast of baked potatoes with delicious fillings and an array of side orders and sauces. Unbelievably sumptuous sweets followed. Chocolate, meringue, passion fruit and mango to name just a few. No wonder we overran the time out allowed.

Back to the Quiz and the next round was *all about chocolate* - we certainly had our fill but who would know which country consumes the most chocolate per head? For your information the answer given was Switzerland. How can they make clocks while munching on chocolate? *Sport* is always a great favourite unless the sport you are interested in does not feature. It always amazes me the information people do know - no matter how obscure.

The teams had very odd names which and makes me fear for their safety. Names included *Clueless, Pond Life, the Fourth Estate* and *Ken Dodd's something or other* - sounded rude to me.

Eventually a winner was declared in a close three way finish. The placement of the Joker can sometimes be decisive. Anyway, well done to *the Five Go Quizzing team* who took home gift vouchers for a well known High Street stationers.

A raffle concluded the evening's proceedings and the Village Hall would like to thank all those who contributed to a memorable evening.

There was a considerable clinking of empty wine bottles and clatter of drink cans. No wonder we had such unusual answers!

Howard
(picture left the happy *Five Go Quizzing*)

A Year in the Life of Four Legged Friends

We've lived in this village for two and a half years now. We were born here, our birth mother, grandmother, brother, uncle and aunt also live here, although we don't see much



of them. We rarely leave the village - when we do it is on holiday, of which there are two types. One is great, full of long walks, seaside (we even learnt to swim this year) and barbeques. The other is less great and involves a short trip to see a lady with a sharp pointy thing. Odd choices in holidays these humans.

Bishopstone is just a great place to live! Each day our male human takes us out on a long walk into the hills, where we get to eat plenty of muck, birds, rabbits, silage etc. Sometimes the male human can't get out of bed in the mornings and a lady human from elsewhere in the village takes us, where we have fun running away (Deano wrote this bit). It's odd, because whilst the male human has got thinner and faster through the year, the lady human has got fatter and slower. The lady human's dog said it is because she is expecting a new puppy - great, more friends to play with!

And just an observation about house life, in that they seem to have two dishwashers, but keep them in the same place. One provides a lovely lickable food supplement, whilst the other is drab and clean and smells of detergent. And apparently the sofa is just for humans and cats. Yeah, right....



Also, what's a hernia? We like them and the human cries out in joy when we find it.

Deano &
Ridgway Green



Welcome to



I was thrilled to discover that we can now buy milk from a local farm. Josette and Jonathan have a herd of dairy cows who graze in the fields in Wanborough from March until October and the produced milk is pasteurised and bottled in only two hours. The whole milk gets a layer of cream on the top just as I remember from my childhood (centuries ago). You can go to the farm and pick up the milk through the fabulous milk vending machine when you are passing. If you can spare the time, stop to watch the cows being milked from the viewing gallery, which is open every day from 3.30 - 5.00pm. Milk is a very nutritious part of our diet, composed of the major nutri-

ents needed by our bodies for good health. Whole milk is comprises 87% water, 4% fats, 3% protein, 5% lactose, also carborbohydrates, minerals and vitamins. So no more of that awful skimmed stuff; drink real milk again, remember that fat is good for your brain.

JoJo's Dairy is at:
**Lotmead Farm,
 Lotmead Business Village,
 Lower Wanborough
 07958 042 016**

<https://www.facebook.com/jojosdairyfarm>

Ed





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

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Bishopstone Gardening Society.....
wishes everybody a Happy New Year

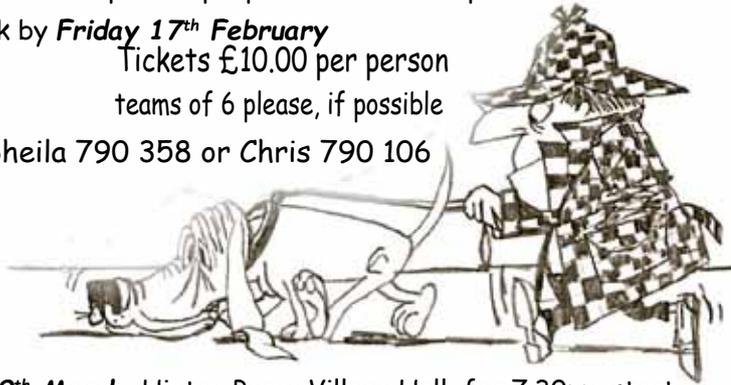
We'll be huntin' for clues & prizes at B&D's Gardening Society
Quiz Night & Chilli Con Carne Supper

7.00 for 7.30pm Friday 24th February
 The Village Hall, Bishopstone

A social get-together with good food (bring your own drink)
 and hospitable people. There will be prizes!

Please book by **Friday 17th February**
 Tickets £10.00 per person
 teams of 6 please, if possible

Contact Sheila 790 358 or Chris 790 106



Thursday 9th March, Hinton Parva Village Hall, for 7.30pm start
Gardener's Question Time: Pete Biggs from Wanborough Nursery
 will be taking your horticultural questions. Pete is a gardening guru,
 who will be able to advise (or possibly sympathise) on a myriad of
 your gardening dilemmas.

Saturday 8th April,* Outing to Waterperry Gardens, Oxford
 OX33.

*Date and details to be confirmed.

Saturday 6th May, Bishopstone Village Hall, **Annual Plant Sale:**
 Doors open at 10.00am.

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 due beginning of 2017: £5 per annum
 (or £2 on the door per speaker evening.) Tea/coffee/raffle. New
 comers most welcome!

Contact: banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com



Sheila

A Day in the Life of a Small Builder. 2 Golden Rule

Over the years, a few *golden rules* have emerged at Tom's Team. A hard-
 earned rule for plumbing was a direct result of one small job and it is: **Have a**
Plumber's mate.

The job was for Angie Alcock at Orchard House in Hinton Parva, now *The Old*
Rectory, involving the replacement of bath taps in the family bathroom. So it hap-
 pened that one Friday afternoon I presented myself, alone, as my lads were else-
 where. I turned off the stopcock (usually the rising main is under the kitchen sink)
 and diligently checked that the hot and cold water taps were now off. Crucially,
 I assumed that the bath taps were also isolated but did not check them.

On cutting the 22mm cold pipe with my head stuck under the bath, a deluge
 of icy water erupted into my face, down my neck, up my arms and turned the
 void under the bath into torrential chaos. Struggling to see anything, I man-
 aged to jam my thumb over the end of the cut pipe and halt the fierce pressure.
 My options were now limited since my head had to stay under the bath, my

thumb over the offending pipe, and
 all tools and fittings were out of
 reach. There was nothing for it.
Help! I cried, gingerly at first and
 then increasingly loudly, *HELP!*
HELP! trying to cover my embar-
 rassment and with all traces of
 professionalism in ruins.

Fortunately, Angie and a somewhat
 bewildered friend returned to the
 house, saw my predicament and of-
 fered help. However, I was not out
 of the woods yet. I realised now that
 the bath taps were fed directly from
 the mains and could only be shut off
 in the road. Nobody knew where the
 mains stopcock in the road was, or
 whether it would work if we could
 find it. Mains water normally only
 supplies the kitchen sink – not in this
 instance. The pipe was now cutting
 into my thumb painfully and the wa-
 ter was cold so I had to act. Since I
 could not ask Angie to turn off the
 water, all I could ask her to do was
 to pass me an isolator valve, which
 would have to be fitted *live* i.e. under
 full mains pressure. Taking my thumb
 off the pipe, water again exploded
 into my eyes and face and I jammed
 the valve over the pipe, tightened it
 and breathed a sigh of relief. All that
 remained was to apologise profusely
 to Angie, change the hot tap, clear up,
 dry out the void and then return at a
 later date to rectify the resulting wa-
 ter damage in the hall below. To her
 eternal credit, Angie was very under-
 standing, forgave me and employed
 us many more times. But I can't
 help remembering that afternoon;
 it always prompts a wry grin.

Tom Cripwell

Mobile Library

Wednesday 11th January

Wednesday 25th January

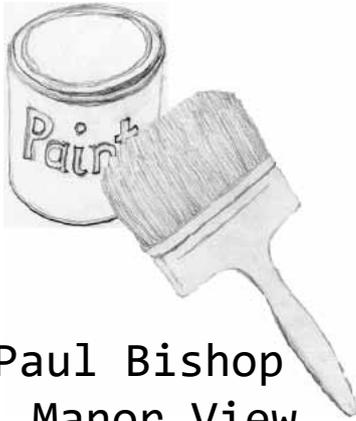
Bishopstone 9.55 - 10.25am

Hinton Church 10.35am

**West Hinton Farm 10.50 -
 11.00am**

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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday	1st January	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	4.00pm	Carols & Mince Pies	Hinton Parva Village Hall
Wednesday	4th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	8th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 st Sunday of Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	11th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	15th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	18th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	22nd January	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	25th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	29th January	10.30am	Benefice Family Communion	Bishopstone
	4 th Sunday of Epiphany			
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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
Happy New Year! Many of us love a bargain and with the January sales well underway many will take the opportunity to try and find something new, for a little less than we would normally pay. There will be great throngs of people engaged in this pastime and there will be a number of others trying to run with the infamous *New Year's Resolution*. Both concern the individual, and yet that period of time that we work most of the year for is our time with family and friends. Food is, dare I say it, *a key ingredient*, when it comes to getting together with friends and family.

It is a regular topic for New Year's Resolutions too. Will we be *Fit in Fifteen*? And if so is that days, weeks, months or years? Other diet plans are available! It was interesting to see a number of couples eating at a restaurant recently. While some looked like they had their heads bowed in prayer, a closer look revealed that they were in fact immersed in their 'phones and

phablets. Perhaps their conversation was so top secret that texting was the only way that they could make sure that they weren't being overheard!

The digital age has brought many blessings and some unexpected difficulties too. One company has recently shut down its internal email system because it found that its employees were spending Fridays catching up on the week's emails. A whole day of productivity in each week completely lost, and forever. Spending time with others in a fun environment is the thing most yearned for outside of the working day, as well as a need of the lonely. Sharing time, stories and experience is best done with others, and different groups bring different stories and experiences to share.

Part of the magic of the *Military Wives Choir* was the friendship and mutual support that grew out of discovering with others a talent that they didn't know of which they were capable. School Nativity Plays and Carol concerts only serve to underline this same point, with parents and guardians often as pleasantly surprised

as some of the children themselves. After school clubs have a similar impact and one of the longest serving of these is perhaps the Scouting Association. Care for others as well as ourselves is an additional skill that the Scouts point us toward and is very much a part of the British DNA, as is our Christian heritage.

We are the most generous nation in Europe and the sixth most generous internationally, behind Burma, the United States, New Zealand, Canada and Australia, all of whom have had some influence from these shores at some time in their history. So in business and at leisure we all benefit from being in the company of others, and they benefit from our membership too. Hidden in the word community is the word unity and is something that these villages demonstrate well during the fetes, shows and other activities that take place in our various village halls, fields and greens throughout the year.

So if you have recently moved in or you are simply looking for something different to try this year, please flick

though the pages of this magazine or its website and pay a visit to one of the many groups listed. Our wonderful Akela would love to hear from younger villagers and the bowling club is a very encouraging place to spend time. For those who would be willing to drive someone to a doctor's appointment or perhaps to help them get a bit of shopping please contact *The Ridgeway Link*. Whatever your New Year's Resolution, may they be of benefit to you and those around you.

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

Church Wardens' Activities December

Since the last Newsletter the churches have been busy. John was lecturing in China leaving Alan to hold the fort at St Mary's and Tom and Emma are continuing to enjoy being the new church wardens at St Swithun's.

Although at the time of writing we are not quite into Christmas week, December has already been busy in both the churches. Two christening services at St Mary's attracted more than 60 in

the congregation on the first Sunday of the month and St Swithun's continues to be equally busy. Alfresco Day Nursery held its annual nativity play at St Mary's church for the first time. After the opening by the Reverend Bill O'Connell the nativity play was very well attended. In addition to children, nursery staff, and Sheba the Labrador (who played the donkey) almost 60 parents attended. Bishopstone school holds its nativity play at the church tomorrow which we are sure will be equally successful and well attended, and all this before we have held any carol services. Both St Mary's and St Swithun's churches have successfully completed their triennial inspections, which are required by law, on 5th December.

The benefice office pilot scheme has completed its trial period and we will be reassessing the way we will operate in the future over the Christmas break, and at the 9th January PCC. We will report the results next month.



Village Fête
Saturday 10th June
Prebendal Farm
Bishopstone

Picture top right - Christmas decorations at St. Swithun's

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

- January** Mary Darling & Lisa Fitchett
- 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

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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R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Churchwardens: St. Swithun's
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emma@angelpublicity.com

The Acting Secretary: Alan Taylor
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Bishopstone, SN6 8PX
01793 791 666
R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Parish Safeguarding Officers:
Jill White 01793 791 102

List of Other PCC Members:
Paul Bailey (Treasurer)
01793 790 103
paulbailey86@btinternet.com
Doug Stevens 01793 791 107
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk
Roz Boot 01793 790 508
Sara Hall 01793 791 202
thecourthouse@gmail.com

Dickie's Diary

Walk up a wooded downland track at this time of year and literally hundreds of northern continental thrushes rise in waves, advancing ahead of you; They are of course fieldfares and redwings, the fieldfares showing their white underwings as they fly before you. Some years ago, a redwing flew into my car windscreen as I drove past Compton Beauchamp. I stopped and examined its pretty red plumage. These flocks arrive here in October to savour our rich harvest of berries before returning north to Scandinavia to breed in the spring.

Writing in mid-December, many berries remain and I wish I had the knowledge to know which birds (including resident birds) have preference for which favourite food stuff to take them



ing to me to be able to recently harvest good berried sprigs from my own land and planting. Some blackberries from dog wood and privet remain. Berries from white beam and rowan trees are another food source. One of my favourites is the colourful berries of the spindle berry or wayfaring tree which is really a bush. I have successfully grown some on from berries saved from Helen Browning's Jubilee Copse and will plant these out



Rather smug looking fieldfare



Redwing

through the winter. In October they have a great choice. Some sloes remain on the blackthorn. Crab apple bushes are laden with fruit and now most have fallen to lie as a sound carpet on the ground beneath. Holly bush berries are in decline now from Christmas harvesting and the attention of hungry birds. It was satisfy-

our yew tree. But fieldfares, and redwings, I think, are mostly after the red hips and haws of thorn, may, and rose and as I write there are still plenty left for them. After the cold snap we had at the end of November we are now back in a really mild spell. I am reminded of the saying, *frost in November to hold a duck, leads to slush and*

muck for the rest of the winter. Time will tell us if that is true this time!

Richard Green

School report

I am writing this as I hear children running round the playground, super excited about the Christmas festivities to come. Over the last month we have successfully worn spots for Pudsey, made cakes for bake sales, played games at the Christmas Party and eaten a yummy Christmas dinner. The highlight of this term was our Christmas Nativity. Miss Pearson did her usual amazing job and the children performed as though they were all born to be on the stage. With no real livestock, we avoided any embarrassing incidents but the thought of a real donkey next year remains the challenge!!

We are looking forward to our return in January, which is most certainly not the *quiet month* after Christmas. We have KS2 going to the Wyvern to perform in a dance festival, they are then going up to Birmingham to sing with 3000 children in a Young Voices concert! Adding into that a trip to Bristol Cathedral and it is most certainly going to be a busy month. The school has been focusing on our maths progress, staff having attended courses, learning and trialling new ways of teaching. The first term has passed and the positive impact on the children's progress can clearly be seen, we are delighted and looking forward to this continuing into the New Year.

Our numbers continue to rise and although we are sad to be saying goodbye to a lovely family moving out of the area, we in turn look forward to welcoming several new children in January.

By the time you read this festivities will be coming to an end, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all.

Emma Lindsay

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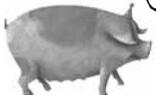
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The Royal Oak Diary



Please remain seated. Plans for New Year revellers are still low key in The Royal Oak book. Under-promising and occasionally over-delivering is still our mantra. So many people find New Year's Eve a bit of an anti climax that we're of the view that we are open, we are warm, we are welcoming and deliberately grumpy; we feed you, we provide some interesting drinks and cheapish exotic cocktails; a couple of old JJ Cale and Crusaders and possibly Roxy Music albums will be on the turntable for later on (including scratches and hisses); and if any of you are still there at midnight despite our best efforts to send you home, we'll continue to serve you. In a novel twist, the landlord will as ever remain completely sober—awkward so and so—and is offering land rover lifts home, within reasonable distances but unlikely to include Bishopstone itself. Make your needs clear early on, please, if you choose to come and revel with us.

The pub itself closes for four weeks from 2nd January to 29th January inclusive. This is for a good wash and brush, and staff training of course. Kate Keller's going to be passing on tips about how to get a deep shine into that parquet floor; and explaining why a few older spiders living behind the toilet are the sign of a good, well run pub. As well as all that, of course, Arkells are spending a further £200k to make the pub fit for purpose. This increasingly demanding set of villages has an aspirational population that demands better lights, cleaner toilets, shiny floors, East European pole dancers etc, so we're sparing nothing to drag ourselves into the 20th century. It might be quite nice when we've finished, and we'd welcome your comments, rude or otherwise. What we'd really like is your custom, of course.

Ye Olde True Heart (the whole set up is being called Helen Browning's Royal Oak) is due for opening as a dozen sassy hotel rooms around

10th March. The demise of the old kitchen and store rooms under that flat roof where the rats used to live has changed the perspective of the place so much that it's hard to recognise where you are while standing in the midst of what's going to be a lovely courtyard between two buildings.

We'll need people to help us run this expanded pub with rooms—if you know anyone with intelligence and a bent for hospitality looking for a new challenge, let me or someone know. From bar to kitchen to chambermaiding and cleaning, there are spaces everywhere we look. Maturity, flexibility, intelligence, and an instinct to make people happy would be the watchwords to describe any future members of staff, as opposed to the existing members of staff, eg me. 2017 promises all sorts of activity round Bishopstone's best public house. Starting with a mini series of skits and sketches on a new stage in the pub from the Bishopstone Amateur Dramatic Society (BADs) on Friday and Saturday, comedy of course, on Friday and Saturday 17th and 18th February. There will be pre- and during- theatre suppers for these short performances.

Classic cars –Drive it Day—looks like Sunday 23rd April; and International Pig Racing Fiesta probably Sunday 4th June. Now I have recovered my mojo, we will also be re-introducing our sporting suppers, probably cricket and rugby; and we are always being asked to provide stages for interesting up and coming bands, so we might let some of them loose on sunny Sunday afternoons in the garden. Seems a long way off, but it will be here sooner than you know it. Happy new year, readers

TF and HB

Bishopstone 100 club

Get your numbers before they go.... Join Bishopstone 100 Club..... and help us raise money for further improvements to the village hall.

For just £10 each a year you have a chance of winning three cash prizes a month. The more numbers you have the greater chance

there is of winning a prize.

Payment can be made by standing order or by paying cash/cheque to Jo Selbourne at Prebendal Farm. If you are interested in taking part please contact one of the people listed below:

Jo Selbourne 790 485
Phil Collins 790 358
David Wray 791 125
Carol Sarchet 791 453

December Winners

1st 72 Russell Hatch
2nd 24 Keith Newton
3rd 40 Caroline Brandi

Hinton Coomb

Work at The Coombs continues until March. The sessions run on the **second Sunday of the month** from **10.00am to 12.30pm**.

The dates for this year are:

Sunday 8th January
Sunday 12th February
Sunday 12th March

Lorretta

Lorretta Waters
Area Ranger
National Trust
Wiltshire Landscape
West Kennett Farm, West Kennett,
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1QF
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07792 034 532
<http://wiltstrangersnt.wix.com/home>

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Well; we've decked the halls with boughs of holly (not just the halls, either – most rooms are stuffed full of evergreens that failed to hide as I roamed the garden armed with a sturdy pair of loppers). The tree is covered in baubles and lights, and will soon be surrounded by presents of varying shapes and sizes. Food has been ordered in sufficient quantities to feed a large village for at least a month. The sprouts are on. . .

However, whilst I'm looking forward to Christmas, I confess that I've been looking forward even more to a post-festivities event. Could it be a New Year's Eve party, I hear you ask? The January sales (if they still exist, in these times of Black Fridays, Cyber Mondays and Overdrawn Wednesdays)? Starting a new fitness regime for the New Year?

No – the thing which has set my pulse racing is the prospect of a visit to Swindon's amazing household waste recycling plant. To a relatively-recently-retired person, the excitement of firing up the iPad and checking out the queue on the webcam is the greatest of thrills. Last time we were

And Almost Finally.....

I'm sitting here pondering the randomness of fate. I've just had an accident involving an apple, more of the Isaac Newton kind than the Adam and Eve.....the



story is this: I was attempting to remove the last few delicious William Crumps before the pesky squirrels plucked them from the tree, when my efforts to dislodge one apple caused another to smack me in the eye. First thought was, *Oh bother; a black eye and all the teasing of the 'what happened to the other bloke variety'.* Happily I didn't get a black eye, but lots of weird flashing lights, resulting in trips to doctors and hospitals and fretting that I just didn't have time for this....if only I hadn't gone to pick that apple, come to think of it that is probably what Eve thought.

there, we even saw ourselves arrive to take our place in The Stack. How astonishing is that? I do believe that anyone who has missed out on the delights of watching themselves stacking at the tip has never lived. Swindon's other delights – the Outlets, the Magics, the road named after Billie Piper – fade into insignificance.

I'm worried that my Dearly Beloved doesn't share my enthusiasm. He recently invested in a green bin; between that and the council's very helpful Christmas tree collection service, our usual trip to Darby Close to dispose of the remnants of Christmas may not be needed. This grieves me sorely. It will, however, please my DB, not just because he fails to understand my enthusiasm for the webcam (he prefers to watch Only Connect) but because he worries about the environmental impact of all our recycling efforts.

Those of you who have spent inordinate amounts of time stacking at the tip will know just how many vehicles pass through it; many appear to be carrying a couple of old lamp shades, or the odd bag of cement. As my DB says whenever we happen to be stacking *surely the environmental*

While thinking about her getting the blame, why do girls always do the rubbish jobs? Why is it them who cook for village events? Clean the church? Do the flower arranging? - altho' the latter is actually fun. Please don't tell me it is because we have more time to spare.

Anyway everybody have a wonderful New Year, from myself and the team

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.

impact of all these cars, travelling to and fro to dispose of very little, outweighs the benefits of our recycling efforts (or words to that effect; stacking makes him grumpy, so his words tend to be a little less measured . . .). He may be right; to compound the problem, many of the cars will have diesel engines, which we now understand to be the work of the devil. To those of us who invested in diesel in an effort to improve the environment, this revelation has been a disappointment, to say the least.

To please all parties I've devised a cunning plan which will have the benefit of reducing the environmental impact of injudicious visits to the tip, while allowing me the excitement of surveying the Stack. I'll route the iPad through the TV and spend a few happy hours, mulled wine and mince pies to hand, watching the Stack from the comfort of my own sofa. What joy. Anyone care to join me?

(Which reminds me; this month, I intended to write about my difficulty in finding Joy at Christmas. Surely there are thousands of Joys in the country; however does one locate The one? Maybe next month . . .)

Mrs. Mantelpiece

As to advertising on the village website email: [Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com](mailto: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:

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Coming Up
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