

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

June 2017

Bishopstone & Hinton Fête Prebendal Farm,
Saturday 10th June Noon - 4.00pm

Grand Opening by *Tara Fitzgerald, Actress in Game of Thrones & Waking the Dead*

Raffle Prizes

First prize £100 cash (donated by The Hills Group Ltd & Alfresco Childcare)
Eddingtons Ltd Cool Box Trolley Set (worth £80)
Goody bag from Emma Cripwell
Arkells pack of 6 x organic beers
Hairdressing voucher from Charlotte Bentley
£50 Boden clothing voucher
Various items of kitchenalia (donated by Eddingtons Ltd)
And many more prizes
Buy your tickets from
Sheila 790 358 or Jo 790 485

Attractions

The music: Bishopstone's own **Cheesehouse Band** celebrate their 10th Anniversary at the Fete. It is composed of an eclectic mix

of wandering minstrels with an equally eclectic mix of musical styles ranging from traditional R & B, blues, ska, reggae, folk rock, acid jazz, indie, and recent explorations of Cuban jazz, and world music. **Redwing** is a lively 5 piece band, based in Gloucestershire, and last, but definitely not least, **Luiza**, the singer songwriter of whom Hinton is so proud will sing for us. The Tree Man will be showing us how to climb; vintage cars, bikes & steam engines will be on display; our parish archaeologists demonstrate their website; **Also** the usual varied and delicious food & drink; a bouncy slide and so much more.

Lyddington Fête, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, Saturday 10th June

Our 2017 fete will take place in the village hall, the playing field and the church

Opened by Mrs Sarah Troughton, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire

Stalls and activities include homemade cakes, toiletries, lardy cakes, jewellery, crafts, tombola, barbecue, beer tent, coconut shy and teas which will be served throughout the afternoon.

The Highworth Warneford Band will play for us and **the Grand Draw** will take place towards the end of the fête.

Additional attractions include a **Circus Slide & Bouncy Castle, Pony and Trap rides** and an opportunity to **visit the Church Tower** to see the old and new bells.

Come and have an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon!

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

Stalls

Accessories	Eilja Brant 790 257
Books	Andy & Caryn Greenhalgh 791 469
Bottle stall	Linda & David Wade 790 803
Children's toys	Karen Walker 790 363, Mandy Ridler 791 163
Country larder	Jane Golding 791 488
Plant stall	Marion Peck - Hinton 791 001, Sarah Best - Bishopstone 791121
White elephant	Leslie Coates 790 520 - Hinton & Jo Selbourne - Bishopstone

All contributions for the stalls will be gratefully received by the people listed above: Please note, can all second-hand books for the fête be delivered to Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone, SN6 8PX, before the day. No books will be accepted on the day. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to sort books to display if they are left at the stall. Sadly, many bags are also left with rubbish and non-book items for us to sort. If you would like us to collect books from you prior to the fête if you are unable to deliver them yourselves, we are very happy to do so. Just call Caryn or Andy on 01793 791 469. Please bring White Elephant things and bottles for the stalls to Prebendal Farm; please ring Jo first 790 485. Hands to help are always needed; enthusiastic volunteers to keep the village tradition going would be great. Please ring Rob or Jo 790 485. Many thanks



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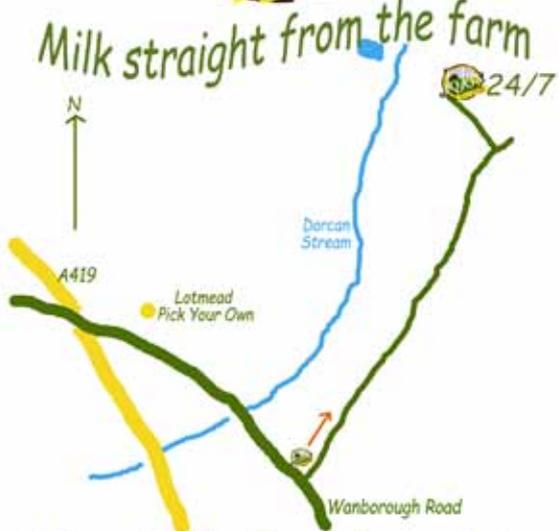


Family run Country pub, serving freshly cooked home-made food. With a number of local ales. Children and dogs all welcome.

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Re-opened path from Featherbed Lane, Idstone to Fern Farm, Bourton

After many years of dis-use the path from Featherbed Lane, Idstone, to Fern Farm, Bourton has been fully cleared by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and is now available for walking again. This work was completed after the local Ramblers organisation tried to maintain it but found it impassible and escalated the issue to OCC.

The path starts at a stile at the end of the Idstone Green Lane, Featherbed Lane, and runs between hedges for approx 1km to meet paths at a T junction that lead left to Fern Farm, Bourton and right to Zulu Buildings on the Ashbury/Shrivenham Road. It enables some fine new local walks - a short 3 mile loop from Ashbury; one way walks from Bishopstone to Bourton (3.5m) or Shrivenham (5m) or a longer loop from Bishopstone to Bourton and return via Hinton Marsh and Hinton Parva (7m).

Despite its recent clearance this winter, nettles are, of course making a swift return and only through regular use will this fine, dog-frendly, path remain open and usable. I would encourage all you walkers out there to enjoy the peace and tranquility of this lovely path and in turn help to keep it open for others to enjoy too.

Andy Greenhalgh

Dickie's Diary

On the farm we are praying for rain. Since 10th March, there has been very little, and the cold drying winds from the east don't help either, so I am writing this to tempt a change. In our gardens and on the farm, a lot of spring crops are yet to emerge properly and cracks are appearing far too early in the year. I read that after a dry winter the average rainfall in April in the south is 7.6mm, compared with 66.8mm a year ago. I also fear for the hedging and wood planting that I wrote about two months ago. I am going to water some of them a second time, with a big bowser and pipe.

Worrying though it is, we tend to forget we have been here before. I have always maintained the briefest of weather notes. Those of my age recall the droughts of 1975 and 1976, but the crops then looked super until late May in '76, after which it stayed dry until 12th September. I wrote in 1995 that it was very dry through April, May, June and July, with a very easy harvest. In 2007 I wrote *almost* a drought in April and May but then a terrible June and early July, cows kept in for several days at the end of June and early July and again on 20th July. We don't want a repeat of that year when 7.5 inches of rain fell in 24 hours to swamp particularly Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, with the image of the Abbey at Tewkesbury marooned in high summer, and many flooded houses. As recently as 2011, I wrote *very dry April and May to be compared with 1911 and 1921 but with crops thin and short, harvest surprised us with excellent quality*. Some rain arrived that year in June. I am going back a bit, I know, but I have a photograph probably taken by my father aged 16, from 1921, with several men, horses and small carts clearing mud from a dried-up pond that was usually an important water source on my grandfather's farm at Shellingford.

The old doggerel *oak before the ash, we are in for a splash/ ash before the oak, we are in for a soak* is being trotted out in the press. Someone replied that with ash die back disease this was no longer to be trusted. On my own observations round here, I see on balance neither one strongly in front of the other this year.

The footpath down Featherbed Lane, used to be the shortest way to Shrivenham Station where milk was put on the train for the London market.

Richard Green



7th July 2007: Outside Hinton Village Hall, that is when the floods had subsided sufficiently for me to be able to walk there. Ed

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - June

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	6 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday	7 th	10.00 - 11.00am
Polling Day	Thursday	8 th	All day
Eastbrook Farm	Tuesday	13 th	1.15 - midnight
Gardening Club	Wednesday	14 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Private Party	Saturday	17 th	
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 June

Bridge	Friday	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Village Hall AGM	Monday	5 th	7.30 - 9.00pm

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 AGM

Monday 5th June

7.30 p.m. (Doors open 7.15pm)

Come and see what goes on.

Make your views known.

Suggest Direction?

Lend support ?

Query Expense ?

Light refreshments served at conclusion

Charity Number 277564

Bishopstone 100 club

May Winners

1st 50 Gwen Parker, 2nd 39 J & S Mitchell, 3rd 20 Rev. Bill

Jo 790 485

The Village Hall Bishopstone Regrettably Mislays Christmas Tree

Several kind offers have been made to *chip-in* for a new tree. Particularly as it looked so splendid with the new lights last year.

We are looking for a volunteer to project manage the job for us, find a tree, hole etc.

As soon as the costs have been established there may be an excuse for fund raising bash or an appeal might be in order?

The Village Hall is fund raising on Pig Racing Day. As last year, Jo and Rob at Prebendal Farm have kindly given us permission to use their field opposite the farm for car parking. We collected about £250 from a voluntary £1 charge. (That's at least 200 cars not parked in the village). The Village Hall car park will be reserved for *Blue Badge* parking only

Monthly Coffee Mornings

10.00 - 11.00am

Wednesday 7th June

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Contact: Doreen Cooper 792 965

Jane Manktelow 790 503

10.00am - noon

Saturday 3rd June

Wanborough Village Hall

Community Connect

Enjoy home baking & make new friends. Free refreshments. All donations will be given to Swindon Women's Aid.

Contact 790 355 or 791 140

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Noon

Saturday 17th June

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street

Lower Wanborough

The hall is in the High Street opposite the Harrow Inn where extra parking is available.

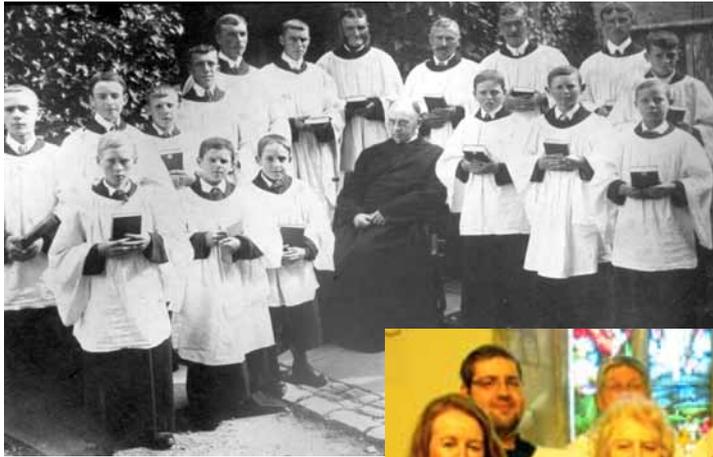
For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley: 01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apg.org

The Benefice Choir

For some time our numbers have been very low, but, in the months prior to Christmas, we were able to recruit some new members to add to the faithful few: Roz; David; Jean; Peter and myself, not forgetting Peter Steele, who we couldn't do without. I



I take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support. Our new members are Jim Ball, Tom Cripwell, Tom Mullins and Silvis Cipi. We also welcomed back Liz Warrick, Sarah Sumner and Gill Brown. With the help of Sarah and Rosie Tuck, who help out when they can, we were able to perform an anthem at the Queen's 90th (guest conductor Brian Clegg), also four extra carols at the Hinton Parva Benefice carol service and a rousing anthem at the Easter morning service at Wanborough. All were much appreciated by the congregation. Tom Mullins agreed to conduct us, thank goodness, because I'm a rubbish conductor.

Roz kindly negotiated some funds for some new men's cassocks and surplices, because those that hang in the vestry for goodness knows how many

years were beyond repair. In fact, I tried to gently wash one and it fell to bits! We are truly grateful for the money to purchase the gowns just in time for Christmas.

The choir are now able to offer a good number for weddings and special services.

We are all pleased that Jean Kent* can come and sit in the choir stalls, though she is unable to process and recess with the rest of us.

With regret we have had to say goodbye to Marguerite Seaward, who has moved to Burbage, and thank her for

faithful service in our choir. We wish her well as she enters her new church activities. We would like to thank Bill for his encouragement and support of the choir, especially when we were so few in number.

Myra Binks.

*Sadly, Jean has now died - Ed



Choirs Then and Now

Centre top - St. Swithun's choir in 1910. The vicar is Charles Perkins and behind him to the right is, I think, John Johnson, the village blacksmith.

Above: the benefice choir in 2016.

Left to right Back row: Tom Mullins; David Lomax; Peter Kent; Peter Steele and Jim Ball.

Front Row: Sarah Sumner; Roz Boot; Liz Warrick; Jill Brown and Myra Binks

Great Live Theatre and Supper in Bishopstone

Former scriptwriter for The Archers, Graham Harvey's one act, one actor play *No Finer Life* comes to Bishopstone village hall on Tuesday 13th June, in association with your enterprising village pub!

It's the story of Somerset landgirl Elizabeth and her life with George Henderson, a Cotswold farming pioneer, straight after WW2. As Mrs May and Boris Bonkers and the rest of them ramp up the current rhetoric on free trade deals with Outer Mongolian yaks' yoghurt producers, 70 years ago George and his brother Frank were showing how to produce great food from British farms for British people—something that appears to have been long forgotten, swept away on a tide of chemicals and

satellite technology producing bland, watery and nutrition-free gruel. Sounds pious and nostalgic, huh? Well, it's not. A week's playing in Islington, and seventeen village halls later, it's finally got to Bishopstone at short notice. Come and see it—and have supper at HB's Royal Oak afterwards with the cast and crew, and ask Graham Harvey as many questions as you can about The Archers, Brexit, farm and countryside politics, and anything else you want to know.

Graham wrote 600 episodes of the Archers from about 1990-2010, and has been Agricultural Story Editor for long periods before and after this. He has also written several books on the countryside, and some episodes of The Bill! Remember that?

Tickets are £25 to include supper at the pub, or £10 if you just want the play on its own. Available from the pub, the farm office in Cues Lane, and probably elsewhere! More details to follow.

**7.00pm, Tuesday 13th June,
The Village Hall, Bishopstone
Supper approx. 8.30pm.**

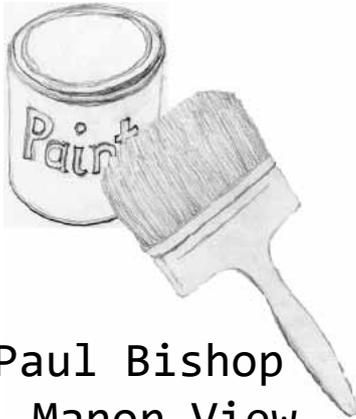
Space for 60 people

HB Royal Oak is hosting another of its general election hustings.....

for all our prospective members of parliament in Swindon South (that's where we are) on **Friday 2nd June at 7.00pm.** All main ones likely to be there, but no response so far from UKIP! Hurrah!

Free food as before; panel session, opening remarks from everyone and then Tim chairing it.

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look at our village website
www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

TOM'S TEAM

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	4th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Pentecost, Whit Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	7th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	11th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Trinity Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	14th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	18th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	1 st Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	21st June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	25th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	28th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
	Ember Day			
Sunday	2nd July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough

Church Wardens' Activities

All Church Wardens (Alan Taylor, John Lowry, Emma & Tom Cripwell) agreed to stay in post at the AGM which was recently held at St. Swit-hun's. The swearing-in service will have happened by the time you read this, so it's too late to stop us now.

This will, hopefully, bring some continuity, as well as the responsibility of carrying out the maintenance and improvement of the buildings, attending all the services we can, and encouraging more people to get involved.

We are blessed with the many public-spirited people who set up services, clean the churches, play the organ, sing in the choir, raise funds, run events, join in with the annual fete, get through the red tape, and Bill; let's not forget him. All these efforts are to encourage us to be at the services, because that's what it's all about. Church means people, not buildings or organisations – it's for all of us.

If you have ideas, criticisms or suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

Here are some of the topics covered in PCC meetings:

- * Reviewing the format for where and when services are held
- * Finding new ways to encourage the young to come to church
- * Pastoral care for those having difficult times
- * Links to Bishopstone School
- * Things going on in the benefice and diocese

* Funding & events

Tom's father was a PCC member for many years and told him that meetings usually *start with a prayer and end with a dog fight*. I assure you this is not the case in our meetings, quite the opposite in fact. That has to be due partly to Bill, whom we support wholeheartedly, for his humour, patience and positive approach. We are lucky to have such a great Rev. and we hope you will show him your support too.

Emma, Tom, Alan and John

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

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

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

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

All Saints, Lyddington Bells Project

We are delighted to let everyone know that Bristol Diocese recently made an award in recognition of the Lyddington Bells Project. We were told:

Perseverance over many years has produced a bold and imaginative solution to achieve a new ring of bells, while preserving the historical bells and frame. A good team effort which will mean the bells will ring for services for years to come

A reception and presentation ceremony took place on 4th May at All Saints, Sutton Benger, and was attended by representatives of the Diocese and the 4 award Recipients.

A large contingent of supporters and the Project team travelled to the presentation, and our thanks go to the Vicar and Church Council of Sutton Benger



All Saints Church, Sutton Benger is well worth a visit – it possesses a Norman Font, complete with the original plug, and an embroidered panel worked some 500 – 600 years ago.

Lyddington Bells Project Team.

Prayers

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:
telephone - 790 088 or email - villageprayers@gmail.com

Bill

More Wanborough News

FitSteps

Classes are now taking place every Wednesday at 5.45pm at the Wanborough Village Hall – note the change of venue. FitSteps has been devised by some of the Strictly Come Dancing people, and is a dance-inspired fitness class suitable for all ages – so far our youngest participant has been 10 and our oldest in her seventies! Vikki, our professional instructor, leads us through the dance routines to great music. It's great fun, with no experience or partner necessary.

You can pay on the day - £4 per adult, £3 per child, and a percentage of the proceeds comes back to Wanborough Primary School.

If you've no idea what FitSteps is, you can see a 45 second taster video on the Wanborough Primary School website. For more information:
contactpta@wanboroughprimary.org.

The Circus....

...is coming to **Wanborough 18th June.**
650 seats to fill - prices low, as is non-profit.

Contact: Dan 07887 704 580

Ian 07973 788 298

Tessa 07795 057 420

**The Wanborough Show Society
86th Summer Show
Saturday 19th August**



For more information see July issue
Sue & Adrian Dent

Wrist Watch in Hinton Coomb
j.l.winterburn@googlemail.com

Bishopstone Gardening Society



Annual Plant Sale Saturday 6th May

A huge triumph! A great number and variety of plants were donated for the plant sale, which got off to brisk start with plants selling fast and furiously. We made a whopping £450 + for the Gardening Club! Very many thanks to everyone involved in making this event such a success.

Wednesday 10th May. Plant Propagation: Victoria Logue from Whitehall Farmhouse Plants

There was a good turnout for this engaging and humorous talk on plant propagation. We were given top tips on when and how to sow seeds, take successful cuttings, and divide plants. What could be more satisfying - a cheap and easy way to fill our gardens (and donate to village plant sales!)

Diary dates

Wednesday 14th June: *Elliott Neep: Award-winning wildlife photographer, writer and guide and founder of ProHides (www.prohides.com) is coming to entertain us with his superb wildlife photographs. Elliott has a strong connection to Bishopstone and Helen Browning's Organic Eastbrook Farm, where he uses his hides to photograph the stunning wildlife. An evening which should appeal to many people interested in nature, gardeners and photographers alike.

Tuesday 29th August: Two-hour guided tour of **Highgrove Royal Gardens, Tetbury**. Places are now taken but if you would like to be put on our reserve list, please do email Sarah and let her know.

A coach has been booked to take those going on the Highgrove trip. It will be leaving Bishopstone at 10.30am and Wanborough at 10.45am. We will stop for a picnic lunch en route, and arrive in good time for our 1.20pm tour. I will email those on the list nearer the time with more details. The cost will be £15 per person.

*All the above speaker bookings are at Bishopstone Village Hall, for 7.00pm start.

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

A Day in the Life of a Small Builder - 6 - Tom Cripwell

For something a bit different, I thought I would share some top tips with you, not from the point of view of the Builder, but tips that might be of some use to you, our esteemed clients:

1. Don't skimp on the plans if you are gearing up for a larger project. It will pay for itself because; the end result should be better, you can go out to tender more easily, there is less room for disagreement as to the work to be carried out. A specification to accompany the plans is also a good idea as it will help to achieve the finish you want.
2. When your quotes arrive, don't just go straight to the number in the bot-

tom, right hand corner. Read them carefully to see what is included.

3. Particularly if you have an indoor job, try to have it done between November and February. Builders have less work, so you should get lower quotes and more competition for the job.

4. Make sure that, with larger jobs, the payment and the progress of the work are in step. A deposit is often paid and then payments every fortnight or once a month – or you could use a JCT contract.

5. Choose a firm / builder you like, who is keen to do the job, and then trust them to get on with it.

6. Make sure you pay the builder on time and raise any issues as soon as they arise, not at the end. This gives them a better chance of getting it right, and of understanding your needs.

7. Give them the space to do the work, clear any furniture, fittings, etc. before they arrive. If it's a big contract, moving out is recommended even if it seems more expensive. Consider the dust, access to bathrooms, kitchen, water, electricity, gas, etc. This is especially true with young children as it can get dangerous, and it allows the work to be done more quickly.

8. Making the builder responsible for the whole job will help you. Some clients will go out and buy baths, taps, kitchens, showers, etc. online or from DIY stores. If they are the wrong type, faulty or simply poor quality things can quickly become complicated and you might be charged for the delays. The Builder can probably get a lower trade price anyway.

9. The more time you spend researching, planning, detailing your requirements, the more pleasing the result will be.

10. A hot drink once a day offered to the men on site will help oil the wheels.

In summary, if you don't have trust between client and builder on a job, it is unlikely to end well. So choose someone you like and trust, let them get on with it, treat them well and you should benefit with a good result and a less stressful build.

Good luck!

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The Royal Oak Diary



Bottle man continues to defy me, it's almost time to name and shame him; irritating, despicable villager gets council workers and a large lorry to trundle into the village and remove small signs saying *very suitable for Royal Oak* at the top and bottom of Cues Lane, on the same poles that say *unsuitable for HGVs* which nobody ever reads especially if they're driving an HGV...apart from these entertaining irritations, it's all systems go as we continue to try to create a business that most people in the community can be proud of and want to use.

- So our *political hustings* on **2nd June** (all serious candidates, including UKIP, now confirmed, 7.00pm for 2 hours, free food, expensive beer), and our all night *Election special* on **8th June**, bigger TV on order;
- full coverage of *The British Lions in New Zealand* via an official link with Sky for one month, starting on **3rd June**—that's 10 breakfast sessions in 30 days, at £15 each, please, for a bountiful feast—test matches and club games, plus England vs Argentina, two *rugby union Tests* **10th and 17th June**;
- Pig Racing on **4th June**, when we close the top part of Cues Lane, with the full backing of SBC and the police, between 11.00am and 4.00pm.
- A new event is *No Finer Life*, **13th June**, a one act 75 minute play organ-

ised with The Archers' writer and agric editor Graham Harvey. About a unique Cotswold farming life post war, producing amazing food while all around were being bewitched by science and chemistry; in Bishy Village Hall, 7.00pm, tickets £25 to include play, supper at t'pub approx. 8.30pm and then questions to the Archers' man and his crew, on anything you like.

- *International Cricket supper* — Ashley Giles and Pat Murphy, fillet steaks all round, much laughter and horror stories from great times gone by, and some thoughts on the current state of the game, **28th June**, 7.00pm onwards. £50 each, room for 50 of you.

Then it's July and we can concentrate on going to bed early, all being well. In the meantime, these snazzy rooms we've opened in the High Street continue, as I write this, to attract favourable comments and plenty of customers. The Sunday Telegraph rated us at 8 out of 10, on their visit when the builders were still here and we were far from in full swing. The builders have nearly gone. Our garden room, about to be finished, is available for private hire or public use. Come and have a look round early next month. Thanks again for the patience shown by our neighbours. Hope we see you sometime. Catering for plenty of different interests.

Pip,pip,

Tim Finney, Helen Browning and Valerio Reale (dishy)

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Wiltshire Air Ambulance has been saving lives for over 27 years and work has begun on our new air base at Semington, near Melksham.

The new airbase will bring together our helicopter, aircrew and charity team onto one site for the first time.

The central location of our new airbase will mean our helicopter will be able to reach all parts of Wiltshire within 11 minutes, as it currently does now from its base in Devizes.

Our fundraising appeal for the new airbase has got off to a flying start, but we still need to raise just under £1 million to complete the building and equipping of it.

Can you help us raise the vital funds for our Airbase Appeal? There are lots of different ways you can get involved, such as holding a cake sale, organising a challenge event or uploading a photo for our helicopter mosaic.

We also have fun ways for schools and businesses to get onboard and support our appeal. Find out more by visiting our special website:

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Just as last month was full of Spring, May has been full of Trail. When I was young, my mother would describe herself as having trailed round town in search of a variety of articles ranging from vegetables to school socks. Trailing seemed a fairly joyless bi-weekly chore which blighted her life. Maybe she was simply not a keen shopper, but I suppose that we all spend less time trailing in these days of Amazon and next-day delivery. Perhaps that's why the word *trail* has been allowed to reinvent itself. These days, every town and village seems to have one.

My favourite so far this year has been the Wanborough Scarecrow Trail. Last year, we were dragged around the Trail by a four year old, who was more interested in following the arrows than in working out the clues. This year, he insisted that the whole family do the Trail, and he took it Very Seriously Indeed. For two or three hours, we puzzled over cryptic scarecrows (and the odd unicorn and Loch Ness Monster). It was just as well that he drafted in reinforcements, since his Dad's knowledge of comic book heroes was jolly handy; in fact, after he spotted the Em-

pire State Building in King Kong's hand, I decided that I'd have to offer him a small share of the winnings, should we be lucky in the draw.

It's wonderful, and astonishing, that so many people are willing to make scarecrows, and that they're happy to invite complete strangers to stand in their front gardens looking bemused. I'm looking forward to next year's Trail already.

More of an eye opener was the Henley Art Trail. There was some stunningly good work on display. Equally, there was some stunningly mediocre stuff to look at. Curiously, most things cost several hundred pounds, whether they be stunning, mediocre, or downright hideous. There was a large sculpture of a horse on offer for a snip at £89,000. It wouldn't have done for our garden, but I dare say someone offered it a good home.

After several conversations with a variety of artists, it became obvious that avoiding eye contact was the order of the day. The Finnish lady who drew fabulous paintings of the moment the sun returned after the winter was really interesting. The lady who made boiled-felt figures with exaggerated anatomical features was worrying in the extreme. And the man who was a *painter really, but I'm experimenting*

with bird sculptures really should have stuck with his paintbrush. Or is there a market for brightly coloured cones with human legs, even as conversation pieces? On the basis that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and art's a very subjective thing, perhaps his birds will be turning up on the Antiques Roadshow next century, being described as delightfully collectable.

I should say at this point that I'm no expert – my school art teacher told me to forget even bothering to do homework as there was no hope for me. My art book was the subject of much hilarity at dinner parties many years ago, until I found a cunning hiding place for it. When the film *Ice Age* came out, there was no end of laughter in the Mantelpiece household when someone spotted that Sid the Sloth was a dead ringer for my *boy climbing a tree*.

I feel inspired, however, by the fact that no-one in Henley seemed to care two figs for whether their work was conventionally *good*. When Dearly Beloved returns from his current Trail (music, in Dartmouth), he will find that I've dug out some of the five year old's crayons and an old roll of wallpaper, and am busy creating a masterpiece in the shed.

Mrs. Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally.....

As a gardener, thank heavens it is raining again, but with that comes the tyranny of lawnmowers. Now that makes me recall that as a small child, Thing One's ambition was to invent a remote controlled lawn mower, he pictured it as the mowing person ensconced in a deck chair, glass of lemonade (other beverages are available) at elbow and controls in hand.....my cartoon was of said controller asleep while a vicious machine demolished next door's prize herbaceous border....so I tried to encourage him to invent grass that only grows to the height of about 1.25 inches. Then I had nightmares about being chased by hit men, employed



by enraged lawn mower moguls. Sorry, but the vicar's letter did not make the deadline, you will be able to read it on the village website

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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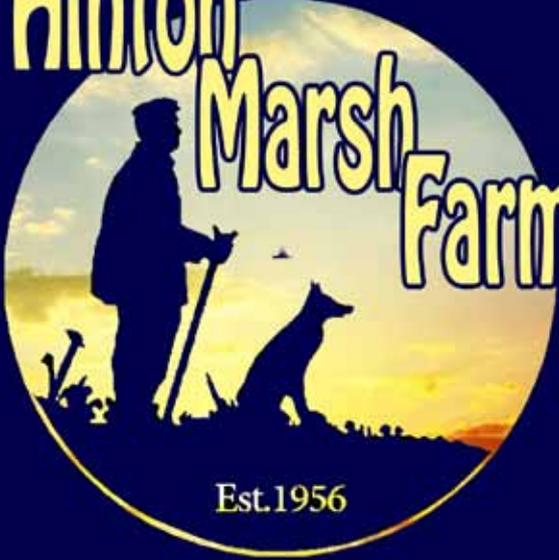
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