

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva September 2017

The Royal Oak Diary

After a less than stellar career at BBC Radio 4 in the late 1950s, the thrill of being offered the chance to write a potential front page piece for Mogs' esteemed organ takes my breath away and invites a more balanced, tolerant, and politically correct approach to village news writing.

So, first of all, a big thank you to the bottle man, since he obviously takes his recycling very seriously, and uses our super efficient service in the way it should be. And to the man who takes down, or asks the council to take down, our *Very suitable for The Royal Oak* signs, since they litter the place up and the village is a lot funnier without them. To the people who never complain when our occasional delivery vehicles run over their suburban crazy paving, and the neighbours who happily, daily, tolerate the milk tanker as it rumbles through to collect organic cows' milk for export to Trump-land in the form of cheese; to the walk-



Delighted to receive these photos bottom left & top right taken locally by Keith Towell, absolutely nothing to do with the Royal Oak.

ers who use our car parks and then demand free coffees for the hassle we have caused them when lunch is about 4 minutes slower than they expect;

to all of you, huge thanks for your support. After all, employing 35 people across different food and farming enterprises isn't a straightforward undertaking, and we're bound to get one or two things wrong.

T'is the season to be...foraging. Rewards are on offer, and, depending on how much you do for us, those rewards will come in the form of cash, beer, food, or accommodation. With the seasons all messed up, as I write this it looks and feels like November; the berries are starting to pop out in full big black gorgeousness, the apples and crab apples are waiting to be picked, and the damsons and plums are fit to eat off the trees and hedgerows. We want some or all this for the Oak kitchen, and therefore we're asking you to get your bags and boots, get picking, and get round to the kitchen asap with your efforts. This is serious. Talk to us if you're interested. Young or old, we don't care.

Village Feast—think a



lightly irreverent Harvest Festival (especially as harvest might not start till October): **Saturday 16th September**, from 7.00pm, at the pub of course. Part of our Organic September offering. Everything on your plates from the farm, or Bishopstone, or Hinton Parva—your gardens, your hedges, your allotments, please. We'll be offering seats at our Feast to anyone, with preferential pricing for village people. Room for about 80 of you. No menu, we just feed you. Bring a gang. Please book.

There's a rumour going round that these pages ought to be devoted more to Church matters. So a couple of things—The Church Commissioners own most of the farmland in Bishopstone, and without them we'd all be a lot worse off; and second, the vicar, Mr Bill. In his own laid back way, a credit to all of us. Interested in almost everything that happens here, conductor of weddings extraordinaire, sampler of fine beers from time to time, outrageous sense of humour. Great haircut too.

Tim Finney

Publican and Irritant



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news



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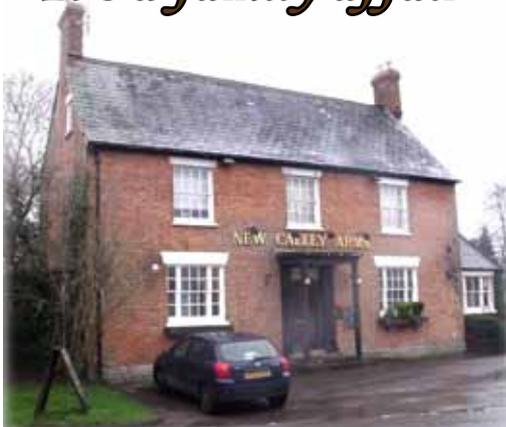
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Dickie's Diary



Duck's, sorry not on Dickie's pond, but Bishopstone village pond. The chap in the middle is a mallard.

Of this year's harvest, never was the line more truly spoken, *don't count your chickens*— Much was promised after a fine June and July. Now we see in early August an early harvest getting later, and showery rain spoiling quality by premature sprouting of the grain in the standing ear. This renders wheats and oats unsuitable for bread making. In marketing terms we will probably lose the valuable premiums for bread making. I suspect that the hot weather on the continent has produced plenty of good wheats there. Losing quality is not uncommon in late August or early September, with harvest by then well progressed, but this year it has happened so early. But of course it has happened before. I remember a harvest in the 70's when we had long sprouts in the ear on Maris Otter at the beginning of August and this crop, usually a top quality malting barley, was consigned to animal feed. Let us hope that by the time this is read we will have had some better weather. The silver lining is that our cattle now have grass when before some pastures were burning up.

By excavation and a small stream diversion, we created a little lake or duck pond in 2012, in a quiet spot in the vale on Zulu Farm below Ashbury. Running water from a spring out of the chalk at Idstone has ensured that this has never dried up. I got busy and transplanted some rush and stinking

iris or gladdon to establish vegetation on the banks but doubt this was necessary. I did ask Danny Finch from Bishopstone whether he would mind if I transplanted some of his king cups growing in the Dingle and he was agreeable but I never did, fearing frost exposure. Visiting wildfowl also bring in seeds and now, after five years, the banks are a mass of rush, pink willow-herb, water cress and some sallow withey. The latter will have to be checked. This year there are a family of coots on the pond and it is a joy to watch dragon and damselflies quartering the water in sunshine. As many as 52 different species have been recorded in the British Isles. We have shot it only once. After feeding regularly an evening flight produced teal and mallard in January but we picked up only three. Wild duck are near the top of my favourite meals.

Richard Green

**WE ARE
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Afternoon Tea

The Village Hall

Bishopstone

Friday 29th September

2.30 - 5.00pm

Womens Institute

- Inspiring Women

Our monthly meeting on Thursday 14th September includes a talk by Mark Ruddall and his lifelong love of *Steam Boating*. There is something arresting about the smell of a steam engine, and Mark started his hobby to combine his love of steam with boating in 1994 when he bought his first steam boat wreck, which he rebuilt and called *Relative Peace*. Join us to hear about his fascinating exploits at 7.30pm in Bishopstone Village Hall.

Our birthday party this year will be held on Thursday afternoon 21st September in the Bowls Club pavilion at Hoopers Field Recreation Ground, Rotten Row, Wanborough. Our thanks to Mary Pribyl, chair of Wanborough Bowls Club and members, who will be kindly hosting roll-up and taster sessions for WI members and their partners as part of our birthday celebration.

Your local WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Lyddington, and we always welcome new members.

Our monthly meeting takes place on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 - 9.30pm in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls, and we have groups which also meet outside of our monthly meeting; e.g. Reading, Art Study, we and organise trips for members and their friends.

Come along to one of our meetings to see if you like it - no obligation to join unless you want to!

Please contact me if you would like any further information.

Patricia Wells 01793 790 054

BBC - Bishopstone Book Club

(With the odd foray to Hinton Parva!)

Still going strong reading and discussing a great range of books. Come join us for the next meeting when we'll be reviewing:

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
28th September at 8.30pm

Ring Cheryl for details of the venue

791 849

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - September

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Produce Show set up	Friday	8 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Produce Show	Saturday	9 th	8.00 - 5.00pm
WI	Thursday	14 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Daily School Dinners (not holidays) Subject to bookings			11.45 - 1.00pm

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

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

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Noon

Saturday 16th September

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street

Lower Wanborough

As well as our normal stalls (meat, vegetables, oil, plants, cakes and pies, honey, milk and Traidcraft products), we are pleased to be joined by the Wanborough Community Cafe.

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apg.org

Bishopstone 100 club

August Winners

1st 43 Cath Harding

2nd 49 Doris Brown

3rd 24 Keith Newton

Jo 790 485

Hinton Parva Village Hall - September

Bridge	Friday	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	4 th	7.30pm
Private Hire	Tuesday	5 th	All day
PCC	Monday	11 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Hire	Saturday	16 th	12.00 - 7.00pm
Harvest Lunch	Sunday	24 th	12.00 noon

The most pretty Hall around, and free parking .

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

£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties

Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available

Free Parking

Hinton Parva Village Hall.....

....is a great place for a party, it is so inviting and cosy. All manner of catering equipment comes with the minimal hire fees. Think about it when you are next celebrating - for whatever reason.

Also we are asking for your help to suggest social events the hall management can run for the benefit of the village. We rack our brains but we would love to hear your suggestions - especially those with broad appeal. We used to have a group who met to play computer games and most events which involve food, drink and music are usually popular.

Howard

Community Connect

9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon Saturday, 16th September

Community Connect will be supporting the Farmers Market stallholders by providing Coffee/Tea and Cake/Biscuits in Wanborough Village Hall. The refreshments will be **free** and any donations received will be given to:

The Swindon Food Bank

If you are able, why not pop in and: 1. Support local businesses. 2. Bring your family and friends. 3. Enjoy some excellent home baking. 4. Support a local charity.

Further information, please telephone: 790 355

Fête Update

Since the Fête, Karen and Chris have been working hard to calculate how much money it actually raised. The figure so far is:

£5,152.10



Hinton Harvest

Produce

The Harvest festival service is at 10.30am on Sunday, 24th September. As usual we would be delighted if anybody could donate flowers, fruit, vegetables or other produce to decorate the church for the service. Could you leave any donations in the church porch on or before the morning of Friday, 22nd.

Decorating the Church

Also it would be jolly nice if anybody were to join us in flower arranging and decorating.

For date & time contact:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

790 626



St. Swithun's Harvest Lunch
12.00 noon Sunday 24th September
The Village Hall, Hinton
 £7.50 - Hot home cooked food
Tickets must be purchased in advance
 from Ros 790 508 or Hazel 790 621

All Saints' Harvest Lunch
12.30pm, Sunday 1st October
The Village Hall, Lyddington
 £7.50 for adults, £3.50 children under 10
Tickets must be purchased in advance
 Contact 790 768

St. Andrew's Harvest Lunch
Sunday 15th October
The Vicarage, Wanborough
Following the Service in Church
 There will be a £5 charge which will be put toward the St Andrew's Boiler Fund. R.S.V.P. by email villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk by post, The Vicarage, 19 Church Road, Wanborough, SN4 0BZ



Rainbow
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Bishopstone Village Hall
Every Thursday during Term Time
9.30 - 11.00am
£2.50 per family, 1st session free

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The Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize

The Ridgeway – the oldest road in Britain – historically was a trackway, providing a reliable trading route from the Dorset coast along the chalk Downs to the Wash in Norfolk. Today it is not only the oldest road but is also a wonderful resource for all the communities that live along its route, not just walkers, where all can enjoy walking, riding or just being there. **The Friends of the Ridgeway**, a voluntary organisation and registered charity, is committed to the preservation in perpetuity of all the natural aspects and features of the ancient Ridgeway. Based on a generous donation, The Friends of The Ridgeway have established an arts competition and prize – the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize. Following the success of this year's competition, it will be held again in 2018. The aim of the competition is to bring The Ridgeway to life, not only as a long distance trail but also as an artistic inspiration, and to show The Ridgeway, its

history and environs, in all their aspects throughout all seasons. The theme of the competition is *Spirit of the Ridgeway*.

The main points of the prize competition are:

There will be separate classes for painting, sculpture (including ceramics), photography and writing (poetry or prose); Competition is open to all amateur and professional artists.

Art work submitted must be produced in the 24 months prior to closing date;

The results of the competition will be announced and prizes awarded at the Ridgeway Friends Day planned for 22nd April 2018;

The closing date for entries shall be one month prior to the Ridgeway Friends Day (i.e. 22nd March 2018).

The full rules of the competition are given in a separate document.

All entrants will receive one year's membership of The Friends of The Ridgeway. Each category winner will receive a keeper prize plus £100. The



overall winner will receive a keeper prize, plus £250 and a trophy.

To enter applicants should contact The Friends of The Ridgeway. Entrants need to complete the Entry Form and submit it with their art work.

Why not seek artistic inspiration from the Ridgeway and then, through the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize, share it with all those that love and value the Ridgeway?

Further information can be obtained from:

Anthony Burdall, 2 Fernham Road, Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7JY:

01367 240 713 07841 352 938

anthony.burdall@burdall.net

Ridgeway picture by Anna Dillon

Bridge for Beginners



Hinton Parva Village Hall
7.00pm - 9.00pm approx

Wednesdays, commencing 6th September

Learn to play Bridge in a fun, friendly environment. A chance for new players to the game to build up basic bridge playing skills and for individuals who have played a bit of bridge to go over their bidding system. Also learn various card play techniques with the emphasis on playing hands, from session one. No previous experience of playing card games is necessary - just a willingness to try something new!

The cost will be a total of £45 for the first 10 weeks tuition

EBU accredited teaching, using EBU recommended materials.

There are a number of players signed up but if you are interested, please email me:

mikebaker753@gmail.com
01793 829 406/07855 345 866.

Mike Baker

Ashbury Market

Ashbury Village Hall

11.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday 10th September

Come and support
our local businesses!

Stalls will be selling:

Meat, Bread, Milk, Soaps,
Rapeseed Oil, Chutneys,
Jewellery, Vegetables,
Jam, Cakes, Cards, Sand
Art, Books, and Gifts



For more information contact:

Kate Watkins

01793 710 440 Kate_L_Watkins@hotmail.co.uk

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	3rd September	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	12 th Sunday after Trinity*	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	6th September	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	10th September	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	13 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	13th September	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	17th September	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	14 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	20th September	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	24th September	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	15 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Harvest festival (followed by lunch)	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	27th September	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	1st October	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	16 th Sunday after Trinity	11.00am	Harvest festival (followed by lunch)	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

Adjustment to the routine pattern of services in the United Benefice of Lyddington, Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva from 3rd September.

As a result of a request from the congregation concerned, from Sunday 3rd September 2017, the 10.30am Family Communion service on the first Sunday of the month will regularly take place in All Saints' Lyddington, rather than at St Mary's Bishopstone, (St Mary's routinely taking the second Sunday slot from that date). There are also a number of consequent adjustments to the 08.30am and 6.00pm service locations to re-balance the services across the Benefice.

As well as allowing a Harvest Festival to take place at All Saints on 1st October, as previously planned, it will, for future years, also allow the 10.30am service to avoid the congestion and road closures caused by the annual Swindon Marathon. We trust that you will support this change. **Harvest lunches**, for more details please see page 5)

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours, September marks the beginning of a new academic year and might be a month where Star Trek fans get even more excitable than usual! The Romans believed that September was a month that was looked after by the god Vulcan. The famous catch phrase *Live Long & Prosper* was the greeting of the fictional Vulcan people and introduced to our screens by Mr Spock. The hand sign and the statement were and indeed are, part of a Jewish blessing. The sign means *Almighty God* and is based on the letter *Shin* which points to the Hebrew translation *Shaddai*. The statement was based on the Jewish *Shalom Aleichem* (peace be upon you) and the

traditional reply of *Aleichem Shalom* (upon you be peace). The two are used together in a service of prayer.

So there is a kind of an appropriateness in as much as I am sure that we will all be praying, if not willing, those involved in our nation's education, students and teachers alike, a peaceful and productive year. Life-long learning has been given a bit more of an airing in recent years but to be truthful, and to share some of the wisdom of Wellington, *Wise people learn when they can; fools learn when they must*. The University of the Third Age started in Toulouse, France, in 1973 and is an international network of groups that meet to provide *life enhancing and life changing opportunities*. Invariably this is

not simply a box ticking exercise. Many that learn new skills are just itching to put them into practice.

Learning from past mistakes is ok up to a point, but learning with enthusiasm adds a significant dimension and a hugely different result. It's no different with our journey in life and in faith. No one benefits from being constantly moaned at, neither the moaner nor the recipient. In recognition of this, and in an effort to counter the damage caused by an increasingly relentless number of measurement systems, that the Department of Education is forcing upon schools, at Bishopstone we begin our Governors Meetings with an item entitled, Celebrating Success. It recognises the point that we are already achieving, and stimulates subsequent

discussion from a basis of attainment. The same is true of the Gospel. We were loved, we are loved and we will be loved. Known before we were formed in the womb there are great plans for us. Knowing this is fundamental to our journey toward eternal life. Like the Hot Chocolate hit from the 1982 album *Mystery*, it starts with something simple. With the band Hot Chocolate, *It started with a kiss*, while many a powerful story of someone finding their faith started with a simple prayer. Assuring you of my prayers, whatever you are doing to learn a new skill, may you and those who benefit from this new skill be blessed beyond your wildest dreams. With best wishes and prayers

Prayers

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com

Church Wardens' Activities

Well, it's holiday time and many of us have been away and, perhaps, in another church somewhere in the UK,

or even abroad in a temple, mosque or synagogue. Consequently there is not much to report, this month, although the Harvest Festival celebration is on 24th September at St. Swithun's and this will be fun. There is lunch in Hinton Village Hall too, to enjoy the fruits of the harvest and to catch up with our friends and neighbours.

The next PCC is in September and there is plenty to get on with. Summer holidays are always busy and it will be good to get back to a working routine, won't it? The work to the vestry at St. Swithun's can continue and we plan to attack the ivy in the cemetery and have a general tidy up. The faculty (permission) for the safe is now in place so we can get on with that.

St. Mary's has big plans to bring the building into the 21st century but this will take some time, planning and money, so please be patient. Or, better still, come and get involved, as this will be much appreciated and you'll be able to say *I did that* every time you are there.

We are hoping that, as you read this, the weather will have improved here in the UK, cooled off a bit in Europe and that you will all have

had some cracking holidays.

Tom & Co.

PCC Meeting

7.00 - 9.30pm

Monday, 11th September
Hinton Parva Village Hall

Harvest Lunches

For details of harvest lunches at Hinton, Lyddington and Wanborough see page 5.

Goddard, Coker and Edmonds Educational Charity

This charity exists to assist people under the age of 25, living in Bishopstone for 12 months or more, with the cost of books and equipment for further education.

Those interested in applying for a grant should contact the clerk to this charity, Alan Taylor:

R2attayloralan@aol.com or 791 666

Parish 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

Charlbury Cottage, Westend,
Bishopstone, SN6 8PX

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

The Parish Safeguarding Officer:

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

From the Benefice Register

Baptisms

St Mary the Virgin, Bishopstone

2nd July Imogen Rose Iona Wilson

Weddings

St Andrew's Wanborough

1st July Geoffrey Burbery & Jessica Drewitt

29th July Gary Wilcox & Gemma Stevens

St Mary the Virgin, Bishopstone

28th July David Wilson & Sophie Stoye

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

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

Bishopstone Gardening Society



**Saturday 9th September
at Bishopstone Village Hall**

B&D Gardening Club Produce Show



Categories include,
Fruit, flowers, vegetables, photography, domestic, arts & crafts

8.00am - 10.45am Hall open to stage entries
3.00pm Hall open for viewing, refreshments, raffle,
awards and auction of exhibits



Entries open to all living within a 10-mile radius of Bishopstone

**Admission 30p
Children and Concessions 20p**

Free Show Schedules & Entry Forms available from:
Doreen Cooper 792965 & Sheila Collins 790358 (Bishopstone),
Mogs Boon 790626 (Hinton Parva) and Ashbury Village Shop



Please Support your local Village Show!

Bring the children to collect their prizes and
see their work on display



See also page 12

Village News
Advertising space
 The Fête Raised £4610.64 and Counting

We have space for a quarter page black & white ad - if you would like to place an advertisement, please contact:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news



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A Day in the Life of a Small Builder - 9

'Ewlf & Safety...is one of our bug-bears but we take a pragmatic approach and so far have suffered only minor accidents. One chap was knocked off his feet by a moving digger bucket when it started getting dark and we were racing to finish pouring foundations, a couple have had things in their eyes (cement burn and a bit of debris), and one stabbed himself in the leg with a Stanley knife. Superglue and a Tetanus jab at the Great Western fixed the last one, although he fainted as they did it.

Nobody has yet fallen from a roof or had anything dropped on them, no road accidents, no other accidents with machines, no drowning, poisoning that we know of, no asbestos inhalation. I hope I am not tempting fate, and long may our clean record last. Of course, as soon as something does go wrong it will be my responsibility – they will love to apportion the blame. The risk assessments will be inspected & found wanting, the 'ewlf will be all over me. But life would be so dull without a bit of danger, and how are we supposed to cope with risk unless we expose ourselves to it? Even at the more-than-middle-age of 52, I still get a kick out of climbing onto a high roof, jumping off a rock into the sea (last week), stretching out of a window or doing whatever to get the old ticker beating a bit faster. One of our lads goes further and loves rid-

ing, diving and climbing – surely the three most dangerous hobbies?

Of course, I accept that taking these risks in one's free time is different from risking life and limb at work on a daily basis. It's vital to minimise risk to employees as far as possible. But some jobs carry risk and sometimes accidents happen.

In the building game, maybe one of the most dangerous jobs is putting in steel beams. Another is working at height and we always take extra care with this. Tree felling and pollarding is perhaps the most dangerous of the lot and I know a Tree Surgeon who very nearly died when the chainsaw caught his neck... but it doesn't stop us.

Felling a tree is satisfying work and the wood is always welcome. I took down a mature beech at home, about 80 ft. high weighing 15 tons plus. It was very near the outbuilding, upsetting the foundations and was rotten. We had to use the beech tree next to it to swing the limbs away from the building and take it down bit by bit. Apart from one major limb landing on the outbuilding when the rope broke, we got it down without too much trouble.

Feeling buoyed, I tackled the beech next to it, the one we had used to help us with the first tree. This was, on the face of it, far simpler as there was space to fell it away from the house. I made the V cut in the trunk on the side that I wanted it to fall. However, having started the job rather late in the day, the light was fading so I decided that it was better to wait until morning.

Wanting to make it safe for the night in case it became windy, I climbed the tree to about 40ft, attached a strong webbing strap to it and descended. I attached the other end of the strap to a little Ferguson tractor I had at the time. This was purely precautionary as I believed the tree to be strong still, in spite of the V cut. All I had to do now was to tighten the strap to ensure that if it did come down, it would land where intended.

Jumping onto the tractor I drove away from the tree to tension the strap. You know what's coming don't you? A deep groan & crack came from the tree as its trunk gave way. Slowly, the journey earthwards gathered momentum as I watched in horror from the tractor. It hit the ground with a massive, ground-shaking thud and embedded itself several feet into the lawn.

Looking at a section of the trunk, it was rotten to the core and this was the reason it came down so unexpectedly. So how did it miss me? Well, the strap is a good 100 ft. long. And I used all of it. All part of the 'Ewlf & Safety policy you see.

Tom Cripwell

Gardening Society

(Continued from page 10)

The next meeting is at Bishopstone Village Hall on **Wednesday 11th October** 7.00 for 7.30pm start.

Tea/coffee/biscuits (cake if we are really lucky and one of us has been baking)/raffle and a talk about tree identification. Visitors always welcome
banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

This has been a very safe summer; I've been sniffed, searched, and closely questioned on the nature of my plates, all in the name of security. Which is, of course, a **Good Thing**. I'm very happy to have my safety assured, and if that necessitates sniffing, searching and questioning, so be it.

The sniffing was carried out by a rather cute spaniel on the approach to a flower show. It seemed to meander through the crowd in a fairly random fashion, apparently more prompted by the remnants of dog treats in tweed-jacket pockets than anything else. Perhaps my lack of a tweed jacket was helpful, but I was waved through the barriers with no further scrutiny.

Long queues at bag inspection tables were an irritant at a country show. I'm minded to write a strongly lettered word to the organisers, suggesting a fast pass for those who don't carry bags of any description. Was it unreasonable to feel that I was being dis-

criminated against just because I was a light packer? Surely those of us who milled around the crowded tents unencumbered by handbags should have been applauded for contributing more to people's enjoyment of the event than those with large rucksacks? Don't get me started on the people who dragged their poor dogs around the crowded tents, causing furry trip hazards.

And who knew that crockery could pose a threat to humanity? Or, more accurately, to a crowd of people standing in a field in Gloucestershire. A few weeks ago we received tickets to attend an outdoor concert. They arrived with a long list of instructions, including a very strict message regarding glass and china. Both were **Strictly Forbidden**. Being a law abiding citizen, I decanted a bottle of wine into my gym bottle (which made for an interesting badminton session the following day), packed the picnic bag and headed out for the evening. I queued for some time as people's bags were searched and a variety of items

confiscated, and, I'm ashamed to say, I smirked smugly as bottles of wine and glassware were set aside.

Then, I endured a long debate with a chap who'd never heard of melamine and was certain that my picnicware was china. Short of throwing it to the floor and hoping that it bounced, it was hard to know what to do to convince him. Luckily, the manufacturers must have anticipated such eventualities, because on close inspection the word 'melamine' could clearly be seen stamped on each plate and mug; I pressed my advantage and charged past him. I suspect he's still googling 'is melamine another word for china?'. . . Meanwhile, Dearly Beloved was waved straight through without comment, carrying the over-sized rifle-shaped bags which house our camping chairs.

Call me cynical, but could the restrictions on glass have had more to do with the profits of the on-site concessions selling wine and beer than our personal safety?

Mrs. Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally.....

I know that I would hate to be a traffic warden or a dentist because, however lovely they are, people don't want to see them.



Not so computer experts; when James Matthews arrived to fix my machine, which had tragically died too young, he was definitely my favourite person. He moved heaven and earth to resurrect it so that this issue wouldn't be too late. You are my hero, James!

Another apology - these are getting boringly regular. If your newsletter was late last month it is probably completely my fault for sending the wrong edition of the Parish Times to the printers. The mistake was speedily rectified, many thanks to those printers, Originzone, who reprinted within hours and to Doreen and her wonderful team, those unsung heroes, who had to redeliver it. And, not least, the Parish Council who were so kind and understanding about my mistake.

Now I am going to rant. I must cor-

rect an assumption that the newsletter is funded by the church and only for people of the Church of England. It is completely paid for by advertising. The fact that it is for the parishes of Hinton and Bishopstone is, to my mind, geographical. As editor, I must make it very clear that it is written for every person who lives within the parish boundaries whether they are Atheist, Zen Buddhist, Roman Catholic or whatever. I would only refuse to include copy that I felt might be offensive. Happily in nine years, I have never had to do this.

Love you all.

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 in-

cluded. 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@greenha@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.

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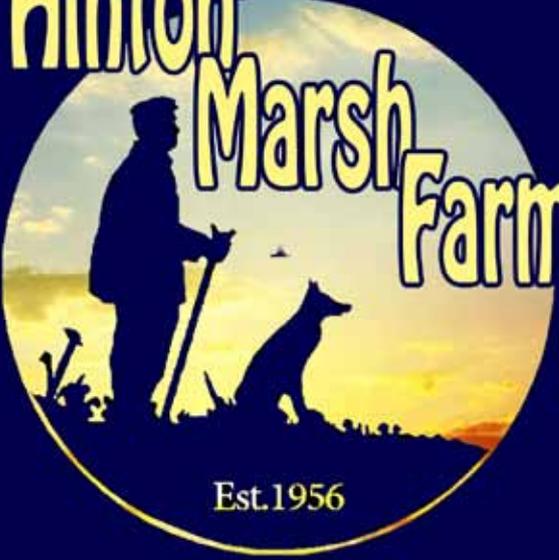
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