

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

April 2018

March Came in Like a Lion



...An Extremely Cold Lion

Photographs from top left clockwise: blizzard at the top of White Hill; Cues Lane looking north; sledging down to Bishopstone; rescue; dad's pinched my sledge, going down White Hill; Cues Lane by the Oak and Fieldfare enjoying Phil's lunch (centre). Thanks for all the great pictures, these were taken by, Keith Towell; Tom Sargeant; the editor; Mille Green; and Phil Collins. Thank you to Tom and James for taking me sledging. Ed

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news



Ethical Utilities

Save up to 40% on business energy rates.
Let me help you save!
Big or small business', including
farming, butchers, hairdressers
pubs and factories

Please call Richard Whelan
on 07803 559 838
for a free quotation

PEARCE FUNERAL SERVICES



Independent
and Family Owned

John Pearce Dip FD MBIE

92 Ermin Street
Stratton St. Margaret
Swindon

01793 832 072

24 hour service

The Harrow Inn Wanborough



Under New Management

Serving freshly prepared
home-made food
children & dogs welcome

Contact Michele Rostami 01793 791 792



Milk straight from the farm



Unique 24/7 milk vending machine

Lower Wanborough SN4 0SN
Contact: 07958 042 016

www.facebook.com/jojosdairyfarm

Memories of Bishopstone

In February, whilst paying a visit to the grave of my parents, Frederick and Brenda Wilson, in St. Mary's church yard, I came across the newsletter's sub-editor. She has been a resident in the village for a number of years and was very interested in my fond memories.

My great aunt and uncle, Lily and Jack Dowling, had lived in Bishopstone for many years - also my great grandmother and her partner *Bogey* Coles. *Bogey* was the local watercress man who sold the product in surrounding villages from a handcart. They lived at *Little Thatches* (opposite the allotments). My aunt and uncle's bungalow was named *Eastview* and was next door to a small cottage named *The Hovel* owned by a lady called Jean Bone.

As a child, in the late fifties, I spent many happy hours around the village, roaming the hills with my Uncle Jack who was a shepherd, always accompanied by his companion, a dog called Rex. My aunt would prepare a hearty lunch of cottage loaf and cheese, tied in a red spotted hanky, which enabled Uncle Jack to get through the long day, especially during the lambing season. My aunt was employed as a childminder/general help at the local farm owned by Nancy Harding. Her charges, and my playmates, were Lorna and Jeremy, Nancy's children. My father was Jack Dowling's nephew. Jack's sister Kate left Bishopstone to work in service in Chorltoncum-Hardy, Manchester, in the early 1920's. It was here that she met her husband, Stanley Wilson. They went on to have a son, Frederick, my father. Due to poor health, my father was sent to live with his grandmother in Bishopstone, where he stayed until he joined the Royal Navy at the age of 17. He served some of his time on the *Duke of York*. On leaving the Royal Navy, three years later, he married Brenda Marks, a local girl from Shrivenham. They lived at Kingstone Winslow, near Ashbury, for the next 30+ years, where they ran a small confectionary and tobacconist shop.

It was always my late father's wish that his final resting place should be in Bishopstone. I still visit regularly, now with my two granddaughters, and we still play dropping Pooh Sticks into the water from the bridge opposite the bungalow where I spent so many happy hours. I now reside with my husband in Melksham.

Lynn Barrett née Wilson

Dickie's Diary

March certainly came in like a lion. With difficulty, I prized a solid 5-6 inches of ice out of a wheel barrow in order to clear a snowdrift from an entrance door. Temperatures were down to -11C. The quantity of snow was not great, but the drifts were. You have to go back to 1981 for the coldest night in my memory, which was officially recorded as -26C at Brize Norton. As a result, evergreen holm oaks then lost all their leaves the next summer and took 2-3 years to properly recover. Writing now, in the second week of March, it is wet and spring planting is going to be late. Some drying March winds would be welcome.

We have a big acreage of spring malting barley planned, also 100 acres of naked oats to plant. Naked because, when thrashed, the husk or hull surrounding the kernel comes away to leave a smooth slippery grain. These spring oats are lower yielding than barley or conventional oats but are in demand for bird seed, pet and specialist animal feed, and as a nutritious high fibre, gluten free, high protein, low starch breakfast cereal. There is also some use in cosmetics. I have only grown oats a few times. Winter oats either grew so tall they went flat, or suffered severely from frost damage, but that was over thirty years ago. I grew spring naked oats once 20 years ago but their slipperiness caused problems for us in the Blanch drier. Now we have a tower vertical cascade Svegma drier and hope there will be no problem.

There is no better sight than the flash of electric blue, as a kingfisher flies across water. Before the snow, I saw one down in the Vale for the first time on the pond I created at the bottom

of Featherbed Lane, below Idstone. It then perched facing me to exhibit its striking orange breast.

Previously there have been sightings near Bishopstone pond and I once viewed a kingfisher nest created in a bank opposite the Lower Mill at Kingston Winslow.

Richard Green



Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Noon

Saturday 21st April

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street

Lower Wanborough

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning

Wanborough Farmers' Market

Attendance at the *Community Connect* coffee at the farmers' Market continues to show an increase, and support for the local charity, the *Swindon Night Shelter*, was also very encouraging. At the end of the coffee morning, we were able to give £240.00 to local staff members. If you have not yet visited us, why not come along – and enjoy tea/coffee and delicious home made refreshments, all of which are FREE! Together with the warm welcome and the refreshments – plus the stall-holders' produce which is always excellent value – we also want to encourage support for another local charity. This month we will be supporting the Swindon branch of *the Samaritans*. This organisation does much to help vulnerable people, and we trust that, with your support, we will be able to help those for whom a telephone call may mean the difference between life and death.

On behalf of the Community Connect team, *Thank You* to all who have been coming and have made new friends, and, at the same time, have assisted in the needs of others.

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - April

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	5.00 - 7.00pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	17 th & 24 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	19 th , & 26 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	19 th , & 26 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Gardening Society	Wednesday	11 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
WI	Thursday	12 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Film Club	Friday	27 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Party	Saturday	28 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 answer phone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

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

Hinton Parva Village Hall - April

Beginners' Bridge	Wednesday	4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Friday	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Fête Meeting	Monday	16 th	7.00pm

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

Raise the Roof

(Which we have but only by a small amount)

The roofing slates were in a poor state and retiling was required, but the current regulations required more/some roof insulation to be installed. The solution, suggested by Neil Ashman of Swindon Building Control, was to apply external insulation under the new slates, to retain the open vaulted ceiling.

Thanks to a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund, organised through that well known land fill operator near Royal Wootton Bassett, we were able to have the roof brought up to date. Whilst the scaffolding was up, we had the exterior painted (required periodically by the terms of our lease), some rotten wood work replaced, and new guttering and fall pipes installed. The whole job fell just within the LCF grant to prolong the life of our Village Hall, enabling its continued use by our community. Many thanks go to our Chairman, Howard and his team, and to our landlords, the Little Hinton Education Foundation, for their support.

Rod



Review Victoria & Abdul
Unscheduled Lip Reading Exercises
Lights, camera, action.....sound
errrrrrr yes of course sound! After listening to audience feedback following the Premier launch night, the second City Lights performance was set to military readiness. Victoria and Abdul cued to play with a new seating plan, mid performance comfort break, Royal Oak suppers and even more house seats sold! The smell of the crowd and roar of the greasepainta technical issue; the silent rendition, no subtitles just a few horses hooves and chuckles from the hugely patient audience. A British film in a British village, with great British humour and spirit - Thank you!

City Lights Project - A Trilogy in Four Parts – Run extended

Murder on the Orient Express, in March, was the third film of our very well supported project. Thank you to all cinema goers, helpers and behind the scenes supporters.

We hope to show a fourth film, ***The Exception*** on 27th April.

Is City Lights here to stay? From the very positive feedback we have received – yes! We just need to *analyse the data* and decide how to proceed.

Bob - roving reporter, unpaid



The Ridgeway Link AGM

7.00pm Monday, 9th April
Wanborough Village Hall

The meeting is open to everyone and we would welcome any comments on our service. The meeting is only short, and is followed by a friendly chat, with a drink and biscuits.

Louisa (Barnes)

Bishopstone Duck Trail

Raising money for
Bishopstone Primary School

Adult and Child trail sheets
will be available from:



the school & The Royal Oak from 25th May

Trail will run from the 26th May to 8th June

There will be prizes for the winning child and adult trails as well as for the best dressed duck.

Please contact Belinda:

07956 654 873

if you have an questions or wish to buy a trail
in advance.




Open Studio

An exhibition of colourful and textured pictures inspired by the local landscape made using hand-dyed fibres including wool, silk, and plant.

'Woolly Landscapes'

11am to 6pm
19/20th May and 24th to 28th May



Ye Olde Forge
Hockerbench
Bishopstone
SN6 8PW

Ushma Sargeant



Rainbow

Baby and Toddler Group

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

A stay and play session for families with children under 5. Join us for free play, art activities, snacks and singing. A great way to meet new friends.

For more info. Call Tori
07891 533 654



Follow us at
<https://www.facebook.com/rainbowbishopstone>



INNOVATION

IT SUPPORT

James Matthews

Home and Business Onsite IT Support

- Computer Repairs
- Networking
- Data Recovery
- CCTV Installations




01793 541320

www.innovationitsupport.com

Village Clean-up day, Sunday 4th February

I was one of about twenty-five people, consisting of mums, dads, children, (and dogs), who assembled at



the Village Hall at 10am as requested. We all set off in different directions with our plastic bags and pickup sticks. I teamed up with Liz (Warwick) and Millie, and off we went. It occurred to me afterwards, that not one of



those volunteers would be aware of Bishopstone's accolade when, in the 1970's, we won *Wiltshire's prettiest well-kept village!* It was a tremendous achievement at the time, as Castle Combe had won it year on year. It came about when a group of us were Spring-Cleaning the church, namely, Pat Selbourne, Nancy Harding, Mary Lee and me, and the conversation moved to whether we would stand a chance of beating Castle Combe – they were a hard act to follow, but we determined there and then to give it our best shot and involve all the village – yes, all the village, and give it 110%. We were a very small commu-

nity back then, so it wasn't difficult to spread the idea via the two shops, school, WI, both pubs, and the church. In those days there were very few of us under the age of 35 living in a predominantly older community, but they had a wealth of experience, dignity and strength, which we struggled to match, and we had deep admiration for their expertise and ability of *getting on with it*, however difficult.

It was a time when age and experience demanded huge respect. And so, we started. It wasn't just a case of picking up *litter*



– that was the easy bit, we were having to dig and pull metal headboards, springs, mattresses, car exhausts, tyres, fridges, freezers and washing machines etc. It was difficult to get rid of large items then (legally), there was no Barnfield Road, or local authority to help, and long before skips. These things had been sticking out of the ground for years! Headboards and springs were incorporated into boundary fences, with nature eventually covering them.

The day the committee arrived to inspect, Mary Lee and I went up to Manor Farm to sit and worry with Nancy and Frank, and late afternoon we had a call to say we had won! The following day, the Press from all over Wiltshire descended on us, wanting to interview people and take photographs, but we were just happy to have won. It was a Herculean effort by all the villagers.

The plaque commemorating the occasion was fitted on the front of the mill by Fred Razezy, the builder in the village, long before it became a dwelling. It isn't there any more, goodness knows what happened to it, so I suggest we apply for a replica from the local authority, who will have all the details of the occasion, and have it displayed on the village hall wall for everyone to enjoy. To this day, there are still relics of beds to be seen in the village, which were just too embedded to be moved, so we left them, and even I have one in my boundary fence bordering the allotments, which has been there so long, a fully mature tree has grown right through it, with both ends sticking out.

So, ladies and gentlemen, as my personal salute to the year Bishy kicked Castle Combe into touch, we will clean the rust off and paint it – no, not red, white and blue, and who knows, I might just put some bunting around it, and lights at Christmas. A little bit of Bishopstone history. The party we had in The Oak afterwards is the stuff of legends, in the days when we used to drink. Pub closing time didn't apply that night, we all staggered home in the early hours. Happy days.

Roz

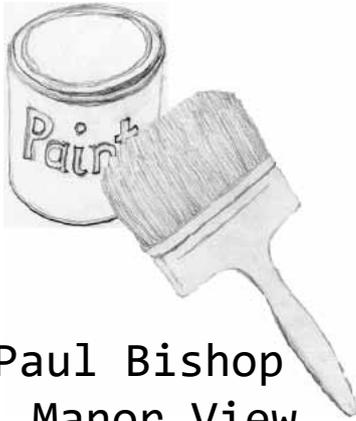
Pictures: top left, rubbish collected at Hinton and centre, Bishopstone, (both taken by Jan Brodin); relics of a bed (taken by sub editor); bottom left Mary Lee at the Royal Oak, (photograph provided by Roz).

for your diary

A Barn Dance

Saturday 16th June
Prebendal Farm,
Bishopstone

Painter & Decorator *Interior/Exterior*



Paul Bishop
1 Manor View
Lyddington

Free estimates, No VAT
Telephone 01793 790 768
07770 751 275

est. since 1991



Private client work Specialist

MANDY CASAVANT
CONSULTANT SOLICITOR



Call 01793 684 006

mcasavant@setfords.co.uk

www.setfords.co.uk

TOM'S TEAM

Hill Manor House, Hinton Parva, Wiltshire. SN4 0DP

Tel: 01793 791 148 Mobile: 07799 360 565 Email: tomcripwell@gmail.com

Extensions
Landscaping
Roofing
Kitchens

Plastering
Tiling
Carpentry
Bathrooms

Plumbing
Terracing
Flooring
Decorating

Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	1st April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
Easter Day		11.00am	Family Service & Easter Egg Hunt	Lyddington
Wednesday	4th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	8th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
2 nd Sunday of Easter		10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	11th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	15th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
3 rd Sunday of Easter		10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	18th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	22nd April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
4 th Sunday of Easter		10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	25th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	29th April	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
5 th Sunday of Easter				
Wednesday	2nd May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	6th May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
6 th Sunday of Easter		10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
Happy Easter! As we are getting into spring, at the other end of the world Autumn is well underway. Two colourful seasons for very different reasons. Both have their beauty, but it is unique to each. The other week we had a classroom link between Bishopstone School and a school in a slum area of Nairobi that is the size of Swindon. Whole families living in a room ten feet wide by ten feet long, fifteen of these families sharing one toilet. Their poverty is such that they have little else other than each other and yet many visitors say that they are some of the happiest people on earth. Ursula Martin was diagnosed with cancer and after her surgery this, in her own words, is what happened next: *Still sore from surgery, I just about managed a slow shuffle but set myself the challenge of walking four miles into town and back every day. By 6.00pm I'd crawl into bed, exhausted, yet refreshed in body and mind. I'd discovered the therapeutic power of walking. Six months after my operation, I was due to return to the Bristol Royal Infirmary for a check-*

up. Glancing at a map, my eyes followed the River Severn all the way to Bristol and it dawned on me that I could walk to hospital – and come back along the River Wye. I thought – 'Yes, I'll do that!' Everything had changed since I had cancer. I wanted to see if I was still capable of this.

So I packed my rucksack, pulled on some walking boots and set off. Six weeks later, in September 2012, I arrived in Bristol for my hospital appointment. When I told the doctor I'd walked over 200 miles, he just raised an eyebrow and asked how I felt. Back at home, with another 186 miles under my belt, I felt fabulous. Yes, cancer had weakened me, but I was still the same person. I looked at my map again and wondered, 'what if I carried on walking?' That's when I hatched my plan for an epic tour of Wales, taking in river walks, coastal and mountain paths, as well as two hospital appointments. My wriggly route came to 3,718 miles."

Ursula says that walking is a basic human function, and the children, the parents, and the staff of Desai Memorial School in Kawangware,

Nairobi would say that community is a basic human function too.

This month (13th & 14th April) we have our community Beer Festival, something that we hope will blossom into a regular fund-raising event for our community. Jesus was born, died and, very importantly, rose again for the community that includes each and everyone of us, and He wasn't simply paying a utility bill so that we could keep using the utility. Like so many who have done extraordinary things for ordinary people, He did it so that we might have a better life in the future, and He did it to help us to focus on what we have, rather than what we haven't. Like the families in Nairobi, when the Easter Eggs have all been eaten, we have each other. Not only this, we have His promise of eternal life after this. Now that's got to be a reason for a Happy Easter. If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com
With best wishes and prayers

Bill

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

Doug Stevens 01793 791 107
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

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 8PT
01793 791 666
R2attayloralan@aol.com

List of Other PCC Members:

Karen Stevens (Treasurer)
01793 791 107
kschurchview@gmail.com

Roz Boot 01793 790 508
Sara Hall 01793 791 202
thecourthouse@gmail.com

Womens Institute

- Inspiring Women

Our meeting this month welcomes Shirley Dalton-Morris, demonstrating and encouraging our own flower arrangement creations to inspire ideas for entering our annual Flower and Craft show in June. **7.30pm 12th April** at Bishopstone village hall.



Upcoming trips include;

- Visit to the lovely art gallery and Capability Brown gardens of Compton Verney, Warwick, to see *Ravillious & Company - A Pattern of Friendship* exhibition including a talk by Andy Fried, Co-curator and author of his book by the same name. 3rd May;
- Tour for our WI of The Merchants House, Marlborough on 18th April;
- *Have a Go Bowls* session at Hoopers Field with the Wanborough Bowls club, 3st May.

Looking ahead to our May meeting we will be discussing our Resolution for 2018/19 *Mental Health Matters*. Mental health matters as much as physical health. The National Federation of WIs urges all WI members to recognise the importance of parity between mental health and physical health, and take action to make it as

acceptable to talk about mental health issues as much as physical health issues, and to lobby government for better support for mental illness.

The WI has a long history of campaigning on a wide range of issues that matter to women and their communities. Over the past 100 years, WI members have campaigned to empower and support women within society, exerting their individual and collective influence; brought a series of controversial issues into the public domain; and brought about many changes in legislation and government policy.

If the importance of mental health is something you care about, why not join us for the discussion and campaign ideas on Thursday 10th May, 7.30 at Hinton Parva village hall.

Your local WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Liddington, and we always welcome new members. We provide support for new interest groups to be developed - with the power of the WI behind them. Any ideas you would like to explore with us?

Our monthly meeting takes place on the 2nd Thursday of the month in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls.

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

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

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

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



We enjoyed John Farrow's talk on 14th March about the W&B Canal Trust Restoration. The change of subject was refreshing, and knowing we are a gardening group, John thoughtfully included some wild flower and water vole pictures which drew a collective, *ahh*, from the

audience. We're now all a little bit wiser about canal restoration and the W&B Canal Trust's exciting future plans. You can become a member by: email: info@wbct.org.uk / Tel: 0845 226 8567 / Website: www.wbct.org.uk Phil and I joined. He's often thought about helping, so you may see him at some stage, hopefully sporting a nifty pair of wellies, getting stuck into some real work!

Next up: **Wednesday 11th April**, we look forward to meeting Jamie, from Bampton Garden Plants. He's going to demonstrate some plant pruning techniques and will tell us what needs pruning at this time of year. I'm sure he'd like your questions at the end of his talk. There will be plants to buy on the night.

I was just taking a look at their website and found this little gem of the day:

Worms are most active at this time of year, which is why you will see a lot of worm casts. Simply brush these casts away or collect the soil up as it makes great potting compost. [Amateur Gardening]. Molehills make wonderful compost too. Next time you go out for a picnic in the park with the family, take a bucket!

We meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Raffle/Tea/coffee/biscuits. £5 annual membership, or £2 per person on the door. We love to meet new people, so please do come. You can contact Sheila or Sarah (Outings Organiser) at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Sheila :)

Welford Snowdrops

It was a beautiful spring day for the Garden Society outing to Welford Park in February, and the snowdrop display was a pure delight, carpeting the woodlands and park. It has become very popular, judging by the enormous numbers of visitors that day, but there were plenty of acres for us to quietly enjoy.

Sarah



School Report

Well apart from the *white stuff* causing so much disruption (we were only shut for an afternoon and the following day . . . so not tooooo bad) we have settled back into school routines since half term. Numbers are creeping up again; we had a space in Year 2, which we are delighted to have filled with a new Bishopstone resident joining us shortly. The only year group with spaces now is Year 5 . . . we really are full to bursting!

Our football team has been busy with training sessions offsite in Swindon. The *team* asked the staff for an opportunity to play another school, and we felt that after such a brave request they require all the support we could give

them, so coaching offsite is the beginning of the process. This way they can experience a full sized pitch, and learn how to use attacking and defending to their advantage by passing to each other. In the school playground one kick and it is a goal!!!!!!!

We had a wonderful opportunity to speak *live* via Skype to children in Kenya, all thanks to Mr Welsh who travelled out there. The children were able to ask questions and see in *real time* the children's school, what they were having for lunch, games being played and then we saw around one of the children's homes. It certainly gave us plenty to think about and discuss.

World Book Day (well half a day due to floating snowflakes) was lovely. The children made a lot of effort (with two thirds still making it into school along with teachers . . . although, to be honest, I think I slid down the hill in my car and stopping at the bottom was down to a swiftly sent prayer, my *rainbow fish* costume not aiding this process). We had a quiz, toast and hot chocolate buddy reading time and lots of laughs.

A florist completed workshops with the children this week, looking at the names of flowers, how to cut them, how to create a small bouquet in a jam jar (can you believe that buying 18 jam jars full of jam was cheaper than buying empty ones!?!?! Anyone for tea and toast??) It was nice to hear the children studying the flowers that they can see in the wild, a skill that seems to be disappearing.

With Science Week, a trip to London, Sport Relief (our Baton having to reach Wanborough Primary!!) and the KS2 music festival all approaching, the time continues to pass quickly.

Emma Linsay

Bishopstone 100 club

March Winners

- 1st 88 Phil Collins
- 2nd 33 Mary Darling
- 3rd 15 Dennis Ford

Subs for 2018, many of them still owed for 2017!

Jo 790 485

Barefoot Photography

Weddings - Children - Pets



Mother's Day
11th March
Gift vouchers
available

Please contact Clare for all your
photography needs
clare@barefootphoto.co.uk
Tel ◦ 07712 191779

www.Barefootphoto.co.uk

CHARLOTTE BENTLEY

HAIR / LASHES BISHOPSTONE

A professional, experienced Ladies & Gents Hair Stylist & Colour Technician, based in a private salon in Bishopstone. Also offering Semi Permanent Eyelash Extensions for thicker, longer lashes.

Please see website for more information



07786 992 598

info@charlottebentley.co.uk
www.charlottebentley.co.uk



SWINDON SKI & SNOWBOARD SERVICING

WWW.SWINDONSKI.CO.UK
enquiries@swindonski.co.uk

Ian Thomas 07778 807873

Pinewood Fencing



Fencing and Gate Specialists

A complete range of fencing, gates & decking solutions to suit every garden and environment

For a free quotation, please call

Telephone: 01793 523719

Mobile: 07763 399 515 or

e-mail:

ian@pinewoodfencing.com

visit us at www.pinewoodfencing.com

Not The Royal Oak Diary



Wanted

Tim Finney aged about 103
This person is a pain in the neck and
should be shot on sight

mogs

royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk

That swine Finney has gone off on holiday without leaving any copy for the April newsletter. We are so sorry to disappoint his fan (there must be somebody out there who actually reads this column).



Our spies tell us that: Easter—**Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be Sunday **1st April**, that's no joke either. Usually 10.30, farm office car park, then a tractor and trailer ride. £10/car/family. A lot of exercise is promised. Room for 50 people. An early Easter means it will probably snow that day.

Sunday 3rd June 7th Annual International Pig Racing Day

Please send all complaints to:
The Royal Oak
Cues Lane
Bishopstone SN6
790 481
You can follow them on Facebook, if your life is really boring.

Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize



Exhibition

10.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday, Sunday 21st & 22nd April
Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall,
Broad Street,
Uffington, SN7 7RA

The Ridgeway – the oldest road in Britain – with its wonderful views and its powerful atmosphere has always appealed to the creative spark in artists and in all of us.

The Friends of The Ridgeway have established an annual arts competition and prize – the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize. The aim of the competition is to bring The Ridgeway to life not only as a long distance trail but as an artistic inspiration. The competition is open to works of painting, sculpture, photography and writing (poetry or prose), that show aspects of The Ridgeway, its history and environs, in any season.

Entries for the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize will be exhibited at a public exhibition. It will be open to the public in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, located in the centre of this beautiful and historic rural village in the Vale of the White Horse.

The results of the competition will be announced and prizes awarded at the Ridgeway Friends Day to be held in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on Sunday 22nd April at 4.00pm.

Entry to the exhibition is free. Refreshments will be available over both days. Please come along to view the exhibition.

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

...And Now for the Weather Forecast

I put that because I thought it sounded like a good title, actually what we are talking about is recording weather. What with the cold conditions that have been dished out recently I wondered how many of you are aware of:

Bishopstone Tidal Observation Post with Weather

Run by our lovely roving reporter Bob (unpaid), it is the first thing that I check obsessively every morning. The introduction reads, *Welcome to Bishopstone, we enjoy a northerly aspect overlooking the Thames Estuary, this station also reports many of the allied physical attributes of the local weather (or you could just look out of the window).*

Started on the 22nd December 2011, it uploads to Met Office Weather Observation Website at 15 minute intervals. This year BTOP achieved its fifth gold medal from the Met Office for weather observations (despite Windows 10).

We thought that you may be interest in these statistics since BTOP records began:

Lowest Temperature	-9.2 °C	11 th February 2012
Highest Heat Index	39.9 °C	1 st July 2015
Lowest Wind Chill	- 12.7 °C	28 th February 2018
Highest Apparent Temp	39.4 °C	1 st July 2015

The Bishopstone 125 Committee who study the socioeconomic impact of sea level rise associated with climate change believe that our villages will soon become coastal. They watch this website like a bunch of hawks, however (happily) their tidal observation's latest comment is – nothing to report.

If you all want to become obsessive with weather statistics, like me, BTOP can be found at:

<http://www.ebamooba.com>

editor

WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

Award winning
**DELICATESSEN
COFFEE SHOP
& FOOD TO GO**

*Best in Local, Regional
and International Food*

**OPEN ALL DAY FOR
FRESH & HOMEMADE
SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES
AND OTHER LOCALLY
SOURCED HOT & COLD
SEASONAL FOOD**

*Hamper
Making
Service*

**BUY OUR
HAMPER
ONLINE**
WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

*Outside Catering
FOR ANY OCCASION*

ARTISAN CHEESES · OLIVES
FRESH BREAD · PRESERVES
COFFEES & TEAS · LOCAL ALE
HOMEMADE CAKES · FRUIT
& VEG · CIDER & WINE

*And lots
more...*

NEW
Deli &
Coffee
Shop in
Shrivenham
open now!

SHOPS 8 HIGH STREET, HIGHWORTH T: 766399
33 HIGH STREET, SHRIVENHAM T: 783999
DELI CAFE - SHRIVENHAM 100 BUSINESS PARK
01793 784502 OPEN MON-FRI, 7.30AM - 3.30PM

FOOD TO GO PRICELIST ONLINE AT WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

**Kidson
Trigg**
Estate Agents, Chartered Surveyors & Auctioneers

Do you have any hidden
Treasures?



Antiques Valuations
*with our professional
specialist valuers*

Pippa Kidson-Trigg 01793 861 000
Auction rooms midway
Highworth & Shrivenham
www.Kidsontrigg.co.uk




BRING THIS ADVERT WITH YOU & RECEIVE
10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR MEALS

**ROSE &
CROWN
INN**
ARKELL'S ALES

16th Century Coaching Inn
Traditional bars offering relaxed
dining
Family friendly and dogs welcome
Gardens and covered heated
terrace
Open fires for the chillier evenings
8 Cozy bedrooms
Sunday Lunch served 12-3
bookings advisable

Tel: 01793 710222

 New Rose and Crown Ashbury
Email: bookings@roseandcrowninn.co.uk

Rose & Crown Inn
3 High Street
Ashbury
Oxfordshire
SN6 8NA
Tel: 01793 710222
www.roseandcrowninn.co.uk



 **Lynn's Happy Dogs**

 **Dog Walking
& Sitting** 

 **call 07813 465 844**
Insured & police checked

James's Landscaping & Gardening Service

*Grass cutting, Hedge Trimming, Small
trees, Clearances, Garden Maintenance
Hard Landscaping, Fencing, Gates, Paths
& Paving*

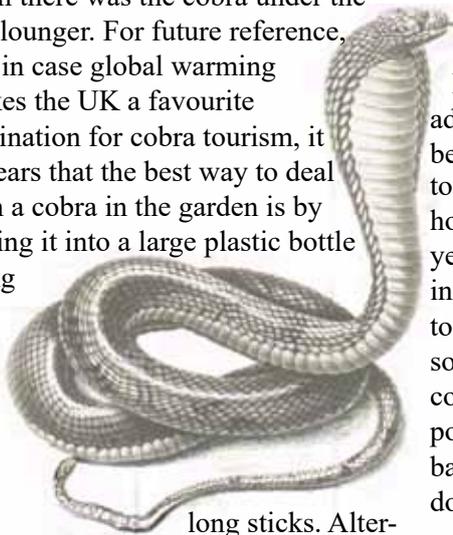
*For quotations, bookings or information
Please telephone
James Robb 07863 599 991*

Exhausted of Hinton Parva

On holiday last month, life in foreign climes appeared to be much more dangerous than life in Wiltshire.

First, there was the unhappy group of elephants who looked, for an hour-long minute, intent on charging us, and not in the relatively benign *that'll be £3.50* way.

Then there was the cobra under the sun lounger. For future reference, just in case global warming makes the UK a favourite destination for cobra tourism, it appears that the best way to deal with a cobra in the garden is by poking it into a large plastic bottle using



long sticks. Alternatively, should the idea of annoying a poisonous snake feel unappealing, get the RSPCA involved. They once came to remove a pair of grass snakes from our pond area, but that's a different story.

Our near-kidnapping by a pair of tuk tuk drivers was a particularly worrying development. A ride in a tuk tuk is alarming in itself, (think Wacky Races in dodgem cars), but being in a tuk tuk that is heading in the wrong direction at a rate of knots, with no idea whatsoever of the ultimate destination, is on an altogether different level of alarming. My best advice is not to go anywhere in a tuk tuk procured for you by a man who claims to be a security guard at your hotel, but who you don't actually know from Adam. Yes - I know - what were we thinking. . .

The final straw in the *perhaps a holiday in Bognor would have been safer* debate, was the announcement of a national state of emergency. Thankfully, we saw no signs of violence, but the loss of Facebook and WhatsApp, when social media sites were closed down, was a salutary reminder that instantaneous communication isn't a guaranteed norm.

Speaking of communication, it wasn't all terror: we were hard pressed not to laugh one evening when a request for lemonade resulted in the arrival of a cute little pot of marmalade.

Just as we were packing our cases (checking them carefully for hitchhiking snakes, of course), the news came through that Wiltshire wasn't necessarily quite such a safe place after all.

I'm now firmly convinced that Daughter #1 is working as a special advisor to the government; she's been telling us to use baby wipes to clean up a whole raft of household spills and stains for the past six years, but I can't recall her mentioning that they are an effective antidote to nerve gas. I suppose that's not something that generally comes up in conversation. Goodness knows how potentially dangerous the average baby must be, that it has to be wiped down with something so potent. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

Such Sorrow in the Valley has made kindness grow like grass wrote William

Henry Davies. Now I know that a couple of days of snow no way equates to a mining disaster, but it is heartwarming to see how people stepped forward to rescue those stuck in snow drifts or helped with shopping etc. when the sudden arctic weather struck at the beginning of March. It proves my theory that most people are decent and kind, but they aren't the ones you get to hear about. Also, we were sent some great, and dramatic, snow photographs. Sorry we couldn't fit them all in, please do send them to the village website.

Unfortunately, the team and I haven't visited the reference library this month to research interesting articles from yesteryear, I am going to blame the features editor for skiving off and living dangerously in foreign parts. By happy coincidence, Roz and Lynn Barrett both supplied articles about their memories of Bishopstone; thank you chaps. Remember if anybody else wants to contribute anything we will be overjoyed.

Happy Easter

mogs X

The views of individual writers expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the parish council, or the church. If you have any feedback, questions or would like to submit a story for inclusion in the Village News, please contact one of the editorial staff listed below:

Editor:

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.

Sub-Editor:

Sheila Collins

admin2.collins@icloud.com

Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

mcanespief@gmail.com

1 Little Hinton Farm Cottages, Hinton. Please note that names and contact details must accompany these letters, but, of course, we will not publish your details unless requested to do so.

ADVERTISING

This is what pays for the newsletter to be printed and now Doug Stevens doug@mowerfixer.co.uk has kindly volunteered to take over the paper work. 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.

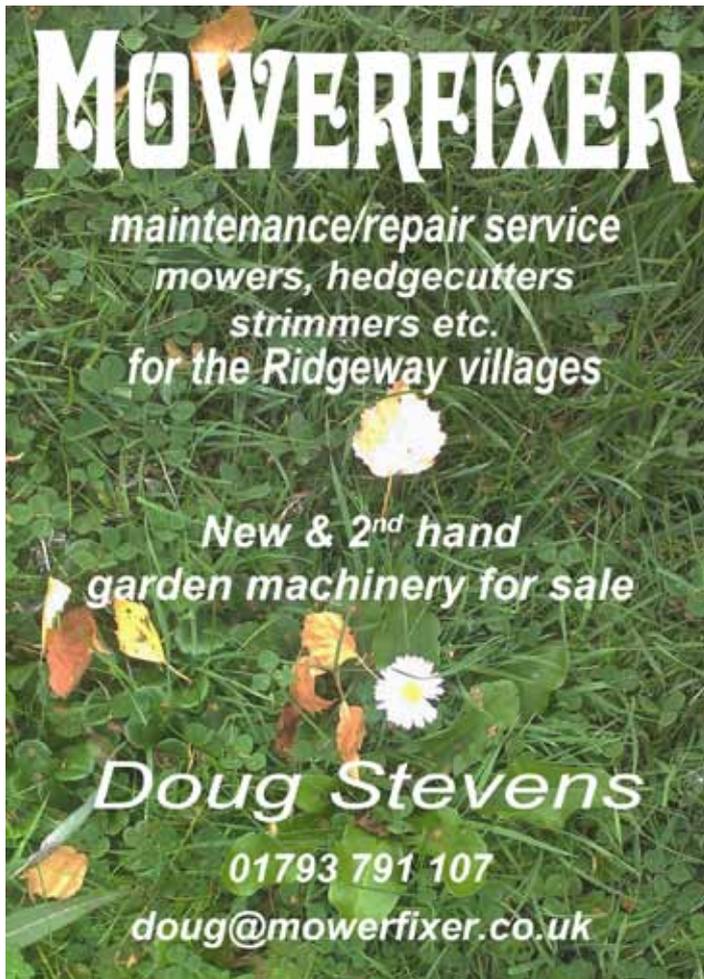
As to advertising on the village website email: Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com or Jonathon Boon, wizeoldboon@hotmail.com

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 Doug.

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

www.bishopstoneandhintonpava.org



MOWERFIXER

*maintenance/repair service
mowers, hedgecutters
strimmers etc.
for the Ridgeway villages*

*New & 2nd hand
garden machinery for sale*

Doug Stevens

01793 791 107
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk



HERITAGE TREE CARE

Professional Tree Surgeons

Comprehensive Service
Qualified Staff
Fully Insured

- ✓ Pruning & Shaping
- ✓ Felling & Removal
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Strump Grinding
- ✓ Tree Planting

Free quotations and advice
Call Ian Walding (N.C.Hort/N.D.Arb)

01793 790 210

Email: ian@heritage-treecare.co.uk
www.heritage-treecare.co.uk



Austin

(Heating & Air Conditioning) Ltd

EXPERTS IN OIL, GAS, LPG
& WARM AIR HEATING SYSTEMS

Servicing & repairs
Installation
OFTEC/Gas Safe Certification

SPECIALISTS IN
BUILDINGS OF A HISTORIC NATURE,
INCLUDING CHURCHES

Tel: (01793) 536871
Email: general@austinheat.com
Website: www.austinheat.com

Trading since 1972

CONTRACTORS FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST



Primary Colours

Painting & Decorating

- * High Quality Internal Decoration
- * Commercial & Domestic Premises
- * City & Guilds Qualified
- * Portfolio & References available
- * FREE, NO OBLIGATION estimates
- * All work guaranteed
- * Competitive Rates



Paul Booth fsb^{cs}

Tel: 01793 828547
Mob: 07736 847597

www.primary-colours.co.uk

Southern Voice & Data
Telecom & IT Solutions
for Business



Keeping Your Business
Connected...

VoIP Solutions
IP
Hosted Telephony
SIP
Lines & Calls
Lease Lines
Business Mobiles
Telephone Systems

Wi-Fi Networks
Managed IT Solutions
Disaster Recovery
Cloud Solutions
Virtualisations

9 High Street, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7AG
T: 01793 863 450
E: sales@southernvoiceanddata.co.uk
W: www.southernvoiceanddata.co.uk

Hinton Marsh Farm



Catering at your party
hog roast served with
homemade apple sauce,
stuffing
spit roast lamb served
with all of the trimmings
or spit roast machine
available to hire

07968 866323
info@hintonmarshfarm.co.uk



The Alfresco Ethos!
We provide caring childcare from 6 weeks to 12 years with a large connection to the outside, nature and our designated forest area. Flexible session times, funding and home cooked healthy foods!

**Parent Toddler Group
Coffee Morning**
Every Friday
10am to 12
Everybody
welcome
£1 entrance and
refreshments



Pre-School
For parents who want their children to start attending pre-school this year, contact us to book in a visit. This is a relaxed appointment for you to see our fantastic facilities.



www.alfrescochildcare.com
enquiries@alfrescochildcare.co.uk
01793 790263

Bishopstone
SN6 8PW
Latest Ofsted Rating "Good"

