

# Village News

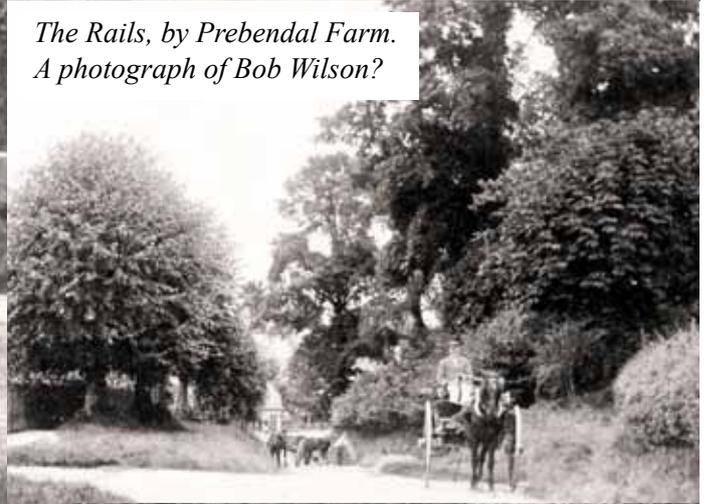
for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva December 2018



William's Well -1903



New Fire Engine 1905



The Rails, by Prebendal Farm.  
A photograph of Bob Wilson?



William's Well -1906

## Website Gallery Update

Andy has published 37 new postcard images of historic Bishopstone on the website

These were kindly donated by a lady called Gwen Bowen whose great uncle and aunt were Ernest and Fanny Hedges of Mount Pleasant Farm. Ernest died in 1952.

These add to Paul's existing fine collection.

To see all these lovely old photographs on the website:

<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/gallery/>

<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org> for breaking news



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[www.facebook.com/jojosdairyfarm](http://www.facebook.com/jojosdairyfarm)

## Dickie's Diary



Which is the grandest house in our village? One to which we are all welcome, one that is valued by the community but one that only a few regularly enter. It is of course our parish church, there for all, loved by the faithful few and, except for recording momentous times along life's journey with the services of hatching, matching and dispatching, irrelevant to so many in a largely secular society.

Yet when thieves come in the night committing dastardly deeds to desecrate and steal lead from the nave roofs of our churches, nearly everyone who has a shred of community spirit feels a sense of violation and loss. I do. It's a sad fact that the damage done and cost of putting back is out of all proportion to the value stolen. Round here, lead theft has reached epidemic proportions. £1,500 worth of lead was stolen at St Mary's Ashbury, about seven years ago. With improvements, it cost £60,000 to replace. Longcot church has had a section of Cotswold slates removed. Last year Sparsholt church lost lead. The most recent theft this October is at St Mary's Bishopstone. £150,000 may be needed to put this right. Churches in Baydon Pewsey, All Cannings and Tidcombe have suffered.

Most churches are insured with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Co, but they have capped their liabilities at under £10,000. The Historic Churches Trust has funds to help, but only up to the same level. Raising over £100,000 at Bishopstone is a formidable challenge; pray for a miracle and have faith to correct this dreadful act.

There are cheaper alternatives available to using lead again. We had a fair battle, but tern metal, (stainless steel), was eventually used on the rear of St Mary's Ashbury, and has

weathered to a similar finish as lead. It is also less attractive to thieves. However, English Heritage have been very slow and reluctant to sanction this, but surely this must change in the future. Legislation terminating cash payments at scrap yards was meant to put a stop to theft, but it is said that lead now finds its way quickly across the channel, bound for Romania. Painting a smartwater finish onto the lead is proving an ineffective deterrent. I have concluded that all churches would be wise to install a modern roof security system.

*Richard Green*

## School Report



So the festivities are about to begin . . . glitter madness will soon descend upon the school, much to the disappointment of the school cleaner; it really does never come back out of the carpets!

Harvest was a wonderful celebration this year with a beautiful loaf provided again by the Ash family. The service focused on many aspects from, *how countries celebrate differently around the world*, through to the *Giant Carrot* story, performed by the youngest children, (you had to be there!). Rev'd Bill had worked with the school worship group to compile a wonderful set of prayers, reflecting on the giving and receiving side of Harvest. Conkers were then firmly grasped with the process of elimination allowing us to have some skilled leaders and winners . . . apparently there is a national conker competition, an aspiration for the future maybe?

Years 5 and 6 paid a visit to Ridgeway Secondary to complete a workshop with the author Mark Lowery, which was full of fun, questions, and looking at the process of story writing (start at the end apparently . . . maybe that is where I am going wrong with my little prose).

The whole of KS2 took a trip to Pine-wood School for a morning of Mayan sacrifices, which completed our topic for the Autumn term (all children did return whole, no need for panic), and

we are now moving onto *child voice* - topic lessons chosen by the children, followed by the *Spirit of Christmas*. Miss Pearson had a delightful visit to Helen's farm with the younger children, they returned with thoughts of how the school should have a pet pig and if a pig's tail is straight it is sad . . . who knew! Miss Pearson has also been busy choosing the Christmas Production and trying to subtly ask, *is there really no way we could use a real donkey?*, I feel that this has become a personal goal for her.

We were proud and delighted when notified last week that Laila is runner up in the Robert Buckland Christmas card competition Her design will be winging its way to many points around the world.

Cinema night was followed by UK Parliament week, and then a firm focus has been on both this term's value *Trust*, alongside Remembrance Day. The children have created the most thoughtful and beautiful poems and prayers which I will be putting up on the school website.

Whilst writing this I am thinking *spots*, of the Pudsey kind, and then the planning of Christmas . . . now where did I put my Christmas hat?!

*Emma Linsay*

## Women's Institute

### - Inspiring Women

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?

Come along to one of our meetings on the second Thursday of each month to see if you like it - no obligation to join unless you want to!

Please contact Patricia Wells if you would like any further information.

*Patricia Wells* 01793 790 054

## Bishopstone 100 club

### November Winners

1<sup>st</sup> 97 Liz Warwick

2<sup>nd</sup> 31 Jill White

3<sup>rd</sup> 44 Jo Selbourne

*Jo* 790 485

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - December

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 - 7.00pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Keep Fit	Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
Village Hall Meeting	Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
WI	Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 - 9.30pm
Film Night	Friday	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm

Daily School Dinners (not holidays) Subject to bookings 11.45 - 1.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin, or leave a message on the 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 - December

Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00 - 4.30pm
Bridge	Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm

Beginners bridge will commence again on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2019  
Bridge will commence again Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

## Village Hall Bishopstone Annual General Meeting

**To be held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
at 7.00pm p.m in the village hall.**

Please come along and join us, and share your ideas and suggestions for maintaining, and managing, the hall, and continuing to provide recreational facilities and social activities for all members of the community.

Carol Sarchet



## The Happy Prince Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> December

Cert 12A

Blow away the Christmas cabin fever, and turf out your overstaying guests and "rellies" bring them on down to the village cinema. City Lights is delighted to bring you our late December film screening of *The Happy Prince*, a biographical drama based upon the last days of Oscar Wilde. Written, directed and starring Rupert Everett, the film hosts a strong supporting cast; including Colin Firth, Colin Morgan, Emily Watson and Edwin Thomas. A perfect way to break up the Christmas holidays. Meanwhile, a **big** thanks to all the **City Lights** team of helpers, advisors, bottle washers, bar persons, chair stackers, ticket sellers, technicians and special effects and safety wallahs and, of course, most importantly, all our supporters and cinema goers. Looking forward to an exciting 2019 programme. Merry Christmas to one and all.

Richard Walker

Richardw@eddingtons.co.uk  
01793 791 913





The Attic of The Village Hall, Bishopstone...  
 ...is now tidy. The Royal Oak bonfire benefitted from some unwanted junk.  
 Thank you so much to those who gave up their Saturdays, and other times to help with the clear out.

## Bishopstone Church & School Christmas Hamper Raffle

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Luxury hamper (including a voucher for a turkey)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £50 voucher  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize a Turkey

Tickets £2 each and limited to 500 in number  
 To be drawn at a service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Available from Mr Bill Puffett,  
 Eastview, Oxon Place, SN4 8PS  
 790 060





# Rainbow

Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall  
 Every Thursday during Term Time  
 9.30 - 11.00am  
 £2.50 per family, 1<sup>st</sup> 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>



## New Year – New You !!! Are you up for a challenge?

It's never too late to make a New Year's resolution.

Could yours be to give time to help your community, learn a new skill, meet new people, answer our telephones?  
 Volunteer for Citizens Advice Swindon and you can do all this!!!

If you are:

- \* an outgoing people person;
- \* a good listener, open minded and non-judgmental;
- \* a team worker able to commit to 10 hours per week;
- \* and are computer literate;

then why not join us as a volunteer?  
 No experience is necessary as full training will be provided.

For an application pack or more information about different roles we can offer please contact us at:

[tds@swindon.cabinet.org.uk](mailto:tds@swindon.cabinet.org.uk), call on 01793 402 106  
 or visit us at:  
 Sanford House, Sanford Street, Swindon, SN1 1HE  
 and ask for Frances or Lucy

## South Swindon Protection Group

By the time you read this, you may well have been made aware of a planning submission made by Wasdell Properties (Wasdell Group) to build 3 industrial units over 3 phases in fields between Wanborough and the North Wessex Downs AONB.

The area seeking development sits within an area of Non-Coalescence (NC3) – an area with designated protection within Swindon's Local Plan 2026.

Along the AONB (Pack Hill), it straddles the fields between The Marsh (just off Commonhead roundabout) up to the village of Wanborough...and at 40 hectares, will be larger than the village itself!

Take a look at this aerial representation to get a sense of the sheer scale of this proposal. Lower and Upper Wanborough are to the right.



The planning proposal is for a *Science Park* which is disingenuous – it's an industrial development with some specialised manufacturing, 24 hour operation and distribution – and opportunity for some lab facilities in the final phase if the demand is there. Turley's land agents and promoters are leading this planning submission to push hard for development in spite of the fact that the SBC local Plan Review proposes no changes to this area of protection under NC3 or its policies map.

The resulting impact on South Swindon area and environment will be significant and detrimental. To highlight a few examples;

\* A 24 hour operating facility with the resulting flood, lighting, air quality, waste and noise pollution.

\* Is there a realistic strategy to protect our roads from heavy vehicles, traffic congestion, and rat running?

\* Is there a realistic strategy agreed with Environmental Agency and Thames Water to manage supply, waste and drainage – all in an area of high risk flooding?

\* Effects on the setting of heritage assets, including long distance views and light spill on the landscapes of AONB, Liddington Castle and the Ridgeway national trail. Key areas of Lower Wanborough Conservation area and Upper Wanborough are street-light free.

\* Wildlife and ecology east of Coate Water and within the impact zone of an area of Specific Scientific Interest. We care passionately about protecting what little rural environment exists around Swindon - and this proposal must be resolutely resisted by as many people and interest groups as possible.

12<sup>th</sup> November saw the launch of the SSPG in Wanborough Village hall to spearhead a campaign with the long-term objective to protect Rural South Swindon – starting with the opposition of this development until the application is withdrawn or declined. Over 120 people attended and were appalled at the scale of the proposal.

Our Group is well structured and organized, led by John Warr, so please;

\* visit our website [www.sspg.org.uk](http://www.sspg.org.uk) which has much more information and advice on how to support us and join in with your objections.

\* Please sign up to be kept informed and alerted to action needed as it unfolds.

\* Join the facebook group; [facebook.com/groups/SSPGaction](https://facebook.com/groups/SSPGaction), like the page and share with friends and contacts. \* Get in touch with John Warr or the team, Mail; [info@sspg.org.uk](mailto:info@sspg.org.uk), Tel; 07956 306940

Be aware, a great deal of money has been spent to get to this stage, and it won't just go away. This is likely to be a long-term dispute, with possible appeals to the Secretary of State. Our ability to come together, object and resist throughout the journey will be vital.

Patricia Wells, PR for SSPG

## Wanborough's Farmers' Market

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am - Midday

Wanborough Village Hall  
High Street, SN4 0AD

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

[sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)

## Community Connect

### Coffee Morning

at

## Wanborough Farmers' Market

The attendance at the October's Farmers' Market and the Community Connect coffee morning was encouraging, and the charity that we supported was **Dressability** – a charity which provides a clothing alteration and dressmaking service for disabled people. Sharon Tombs, who is the Manager for this charity, wrote to us after the event and said: We are delighted to confirm receipt of £227.05 – reflecting the kind generosity of your visitors to the Farmers' Market. Our thanks to all who came and who donated to this local charity.

For December, the charity we will be supporting will be the **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**. Recently, a lady who lives in a village near our four villages, was on holiday in the West Country and became very seriously ill. Fortunately, she was airlifted to hospital and was able to receive life saving care. If it was not for an air ambulance, the outcome would have been much more serious. The truth is, we do not know if, or when, we or a family member, or a friend, will need the service which the Wiltshire Air Ambulance provides.

We invite you to come and meet other local people, and at the same time, support local businesses and enjoy a free cup of coffee/tea and some home baking.

David Hampshire

On behalf of the Farmers 'Market and the Community Connect team



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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Christingle service	Lyddington
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Benefice Carol Service	Bishopstone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Monday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	3.00pm	Crib Service	Lyddington
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Christingle Service	Bishopstone
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Lyddington
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Wanborough
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am	Christmas Family Communion	Wanborough
	Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Family Communion	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> December</b>		No mid-week communion	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>		No mid-week communion	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Epiphany Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

All dates and times printed are as submitted to the Editor.

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

It's that time of year again, the count-down to Christmas. With this year's amazing holidaymaking weather in mind, I do wonder what this holiday season holds for us all. Remembering birthdays can be fun and it is with this hope that I pray you are able to approach this time to get together with family and friends.

At one particular school Harvest Festival earlier this year I was foolish enough to ask where vegetables come from. The instant and unflinching answer was *Sainsbury's!!!* (Other Supermarkets are available). It paints the picture beautifully of just how much our environment and habits colour our attitudes and our beliefs. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Christingle, and is something that I have not

found on a supermarket shelf to date. And long may this be the case. The number of sweets consumed while making these symbols of the Christmas Season, remind me of the harmless fun and the coming together of people that may not spend time in each others' company ordinarily. The fact that a humble orange, a few sweet laden cocktail sticks, a bit of red tape and a candle can bring people together for an innocent bit of fun in this busy age, is a bit of a miracle in and of itself.

The story that accompanies the Christingle is one born out of tough times. The funds raised are for children who find themselves in a similar situation in our world today. Jesus, the innocent baby whose birth we celebrate, came to lift us from the gloom that life can throw at us. In a similar, way the Children's Society tries to lift children, who have little or no family life, out

of their difficulties. Presents and presence sound exactly the same but their impact can be vastly different. A homeless girl I had worked with was offered a place at the Priory Hospital and she invited me to visit her there.

She thrived in the environment. Surrounded by lots of young women from *well-heeled* backgrounds she emerged as a bit of role model and mentor to the other girls. Her presence counted for so much more than the abundance of presents that the other girls had received from their families over the years. Jesus wants to be present in each of our lives and He loves any move on our part that acknowledges that He is always present, wherever we are and whatever we are up to.

So I wish you a great and happy Christmas and pray that you will know His presence too.

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

### Heavy Metal

Hello, and a warm welcome from the PCC to all parishioners.

As most of you will have heard, the lead from the roof of St. Mary's was removed in the dead of night on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October by some desperate souls. It was taken from the south aisle and the main roof over the nave but not from the chancel. Nobody in the vicinity heard or saw them and it is unlikely that the perpetrators will be caught on this occasion.

Soon afterwards, and thanks to Doug and Bishopstone resident, Tom, we were able to sheet the roof in polythene and batten to keep out the rain tem-

porarily but this is a short-term measure which will deteriorate in windy weather.

Speaking to many people, it is heart warming to hear the support and concern expressed by so many of you. St. Mary's is Grade 1 listed and a real asset to the village and community.

The insurance assessor has been to site and has seen the photos we have taken, advising us that the likely cost of reinstating the lead would cost around £100,000 - £120,000. The roof was last replaced in 1989 after the last theft, and had started to deteriorate and crack due to expansion, contraction and age. They also advised us that the current insurance policy will only cover a fraction of the cost of the work required. Typical.

Rather than replace the lead, we are proposing an alternative roof covering that will not line the pockets of the thieves, look attractive and last many years. There are several alternatives and we are getting pricies for the material and the likely cost of fitting it. We will advise of our preferred option once we have all the information and costs.

We are planning to start the work as soon as possible and believe that January 2019 is achievable.

If you would like to make a donation specifically towards the new roof, please get in touch with: Karen Stevens on 01793 791 107 [kschurchview@gmail.com](mailto:kschurchview@gmail.com)

### Come & Join us

1<sup>st</sup> Wanborough Scout Group has places available:

Beavers (6-8 yrs)  
Cubs (8-10½ yrs)  
Scouts (10½ - 14yrs).  
Please get in touch if youngsters would like to come along for a taster session on a weekday

evening:

[tessaannlanstein@gmail.com](mailto:tessaannlanstein@gmail.com);

07795 057 420.

We'd also welcome new adult helpers / leaders to support/run our programme or assist with our Executive committee.

### Tessa Lanstein Group Scout Leader Autumn Adventures

1<sup>st</sup> Wanborough Scouts certainly haven't sat down and had a boring start to the new scouting year. Despite promises of an Indian Summer we seem to have found the wettest weekends.

Our first big adventure was the bi-annual District Scout Camp. This year we moved from Roves Farm to Spinnaker Lake in the Cotswold Water Park so that we could do some water activities too. From our troop went 7 girls and 4 boys to join with 138 other scouts from across Swindon Ridgeway for an activity packed weekend of camping. We were spoilt for choice with activities from kayaking to raft building; from archery to tomahawk throwing and air rifle; from circus skills to drumming; from rock climbing to caving; from orienteering to woggle with paracord band making; from backwoods cooking to problem solving. There was so much to do we couldn't each do every activity. My favourite was making paracord bracelets which I have made loads of since, and taking part in the archery competition to name a couple. I came 6<sup>th</sup> overall of which I was very proud. However, it rained, and it rained, and it rained. It was raining when we arrived to pitch our tents (thank you for the help from parents) to pretty much when we were about to leave. But, we still had fun and laughed. We had good food that we had made during recent troop nights, and extra jumpers and coats came out for some of us as our first batch was completely sodden. What's also great about this event was getting to meet with other scouts that I know from Ridgeway School. I think we should have got together and asked the teachers not to set any homework though!

*Wilfred Whitford*

*1<sup>st</sup> Wanborough Scout Patrol Leader*

### Cleaning Rota

#### St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

**December** Sarah Best & Jenny Isles  
2019

<b>January</b>	Rachel Blunt & Caryn Greenhalgh
<b>February</b>	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
<b>March</b>	Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins
<b>April</b>	Fran Shishton & Jill White
<b>May</b>	Chris Thomas & Gill May
<b>June</b>	Maggie Gill & Jane Golding
<b>July</b>	Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow
<b>August</b>	Sarah Best & Jenny Isles
<b>September</b>	Rachel Blunt & Caryn Greenhalgh
<b>October</b>	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
<b>November</b>	Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins
<b>December</b>	Fran Shishton & Jill White

Mary Darling 790 700 is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc.

Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean.

We always welcome new volunteers on the rota, please join us!

*Sarah Best 791 121*

## Bishopstone Gardening Club



Our short but sweet AGM, held on 14th November, saw everyone in agreement that 2018 had been a particularly good year for top-notch speakers, a rewarding Plant Sale, plus a successful Village Produce Show. The evening just got better and better with the arrival of generous helpings of delicious pie and mash, followed by steaming hot crumble and custard. Many thanks go to the Rose & Crown in Ashbury for letting us take over their breakfast room. What a delightful way to end the Gardening Club's year. We'll probably do it all again in 2019.

Our enthusiastic group is as keen to hear about new agricultural techniques as it is to learn about a variety of topics, from macro photography showing detailed images of insect pollinators, to caring for stranded hedgehogs. We love to welcome new members, so please contact Sheila, or Sarah - Outings Organiser, at:

[banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com)

Unless otherwise stated, we meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Raffle/Tea/Coffee/CAKE.

NB: Annual membership, due at the beginning of 2019, will be at the new price of £10 per person. \*£3 per person will be charged for visitors on the door. \*On the door price may vary, dependent on our speakers. Here's to 2019!

Starting as we mean to go on:

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 is our truly entertaining Quiz Night & Chili con Carne supper

New Quizmaster-on-the-block, Fiona, will be sneaking in upbeat and fun questions, which are definitely not about plants. Our ticket only annual fund-raiser is a great way to shake off the winter blues. Bring friends and meet new neighbours. More info in January's newsletter, (or email Sheila at the below address).

#### *More Diary Dates 2019*

##### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Encounter some of the wealth of wildlife on Helen Browning's Eastbrook Farm with a talk and slide show from James Andrews, the new guardian of *Prohides*. The stunning flower meadows, fruit-laden hedgerows, flowing stream and quiet pond provide a wealth of shelter, food sources and habitats for all kinds of creatures.

##### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Successful playwright and ex-stand-up comedian becomes a topiary clipping gardener.

Darren Lerigo: *What do I do with this space?*

##### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Annual Plant Sale

For the full 2019 line-up, please

email us:

[banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com](mailto:banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com)

*Sheila*

#### Satisfied Customers

Thank you and all the people involved in the well attended do at the Rose and Crown last night. It was a real treat. The meal was delicious and it was lovely to relax and chatter to other gardening club members. You should all have a pat on the back for a well-organised evening and it all bodes well for a successful gardening club next year. We are still recovering from full but comfortable tummies.

*Sue and Adrian*

*Pictures at the top of the page: Club members enjoying the Annual General meeting.*

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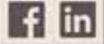
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Historically, in 12 years of hosting Guy Fawkes' night at HB's Royal Oak, we've never had such a volume of feedback on how poorly our rockets were aimed. Chief Safety Office Mr R Hatch took wind speed notes at 4.00pm (2.5mph from the SW) and we duly aimed the projectiles towards the pond. Assistant CSO Mr S Patterson dug the holes in the appropriate places, and we hoped that they would clear the roof of Mill House (Flanagan), Eastbrook Cottage (Manon) and Hergest Ridge (Green). Our main aim, of course, was not to upset Winton Cottage (Bailey) since he needs no excuse whatsoever to stand outside his house on 5<sup>th</sup> November, training his hosepipe on Mrs Bailey's thatch, while trying to remember how to use his Nokia steam powered mobile telephone to make contact with the pub. Normally when he gets through, the 'phone is passed to me for fear of young staff hearing words they'd never previously even dreamt of, and I am the recipient of some completely unnecessary invective.

Mr Bailey remained strangely quiet this year. Possibly now he's been allowed a free pass to HB'S Royal Oak car park when he needs to park one of his classic automobiles there for a day, he's worked out what quid pro quo means. (But he has still recently complained about the muddy patches in the car park, so I've ordered some more gravel for him). Instead, this year it was the Greens' turn to have a gentle, and polite, word. Had I checked my public liability insurance, they asked, when Millie G reported no less than 28 spent rocket stems in her thatch—more precisely, in her garden, tbh. Mr Green is still extracting them, by all accounts. Manon is happy to have passed another year with a full roof; and Flanagans, with the house

on the market, are also reassured by the advice we take most years from Wiltshire's fire safety officers: viz, it probably takes 15 minutes of training a blowtorch on thatch to give it a chance of catching into anything serious. Especially at this time of year. Fireworks are not that big a threat. Good of Guy Fawkes to give us a moist November day every year, when you think about it. The big question that has to be asked is why, oh why, did we run out of sausages! Thanks to everyone who brought their fireworks for us to play with. Much appreciated.

Since we're having a little round up of village personalities, thanks to Doug Stevens for taking on the role of Royal Oak farm tour guide in my occasional family-related absences recently. And to the Sishtons (and the Astors from Ashbury and the Evans from Hinton Parva) for having their important and expensive parties with us in the past three weeks. We are quite good at parties, allowing you your bespoke occasion with very few rules apart from trying not to irritate the neighbours. That's my job.

Next year we are planning a competitive cycling event, Le Tour de Bishopstone. I have mentioned this to a few of the over enthusiastic lycra-clad lunatics that live around here, and they're keen to have an opportunity to get their kit out in a gaggle, rather than in twos and threes, so they can be admired by a larger crowd. Likely to be mid-late June; based at pub but taking in the Ridgeway and off road southwards from there; different routes for different abilities; entries restricted in the first year to villagers, these and neighbouring villages; and friends/fellow lycra wearers of existing village cyclists. Also a children's section. More details in January/February. We will be looking to some

of you to assist with route planning, signage, marshalling, first aid etc. We will have prizes of course, and, most important of all, a prize-giving where there will be long speeches.

Ah yes, Christmas and New Year. Normal rules—we'd love to see you, mulled wine from early December, Christmas menus on request but we need some forewarning; big lunches and suppers around Xmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day. I hope you will find the time to pop in.

More importantly, the IPRF (International Pig Racing Festival, what else?) has now been set for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Pip pip. Enjoy yourselves. *TF*



NB Hopefully, no named individuals were offended by the insults in the above.

*Ed* 😊



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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Today, I'm typing in some degree of discomfort, having made the rash decision to clean the oven yesterday. In the process of said cleaning, I discovered a hitherto un-noticed, but very sharp, piece of metal sticking out of the oven floor. Unfortunately, I discovered it by ramming it into the end of my finger.

Those accomplished touch typists amongst you will know exactly which finger is injured when I tell you that the letters *d* and *c* are avoided. A tricky job, considering they comprise around thirty of the 484 letters I've typed so far. So, bear with me - there may be typos ahead as my finger swells and I have trouble hitting the right keys. I've already made a mental note to either a) resign myself to owning an oven that constitutes a hazard to public health, or b) persuade Dearly Beloved of the therapeutic nature of transforming an oven to shiny gleamingness. I suspect that a) is the likely outcome. I very nearly found myself writing my 600 words for December about a rainbow horse called Snazzy and his underwater adventures in Jurassic times. Then I realised that was the note I'd made of a story request from my grandson, rather than my idea notes for the Village News.

If nothing else, grandchildren (ouch - too many *c* and *d*'s in there) are wonderful for expanding the imagination. A friend was complaining that when she plays with her granddaughter she's only ever allowed to be the dull Prince Eric. Her granddaughter, meanwhile, is always the Princess. To add insult to injury, Prince Eric is always in the wrong room of the castle, delivering the wrong lines, at the wrong time, because the Princess is constantly re-inventing the plot without mentioning this to Prince Eric. It sounded just like most of my working life, so I can see why Liz is getting fed up of it.

Speaking of working life, I understand there's currently a job vacancy in Central London. All that's required is the ability to sell something completely absurd to a large number of people

who really don't want it, either because it doesn't do what they thought it said on the tin, or because they're happy with the tin they already have. It's a bit like a task in *The Apprentice*, but with much broader ramifications, and rather less scope for amusement. The main similarity is that both would stretch even Victor Meldrew's propensity for saying *I don't believe it*. Who knows what the situation will be by the time you read this; Christmas will be a welcome distraction, whether we're ready for it or not. . .

Of course, if anyone would like to hear about Snazzy next month, they can just drop me a note courtesy of Mogs. I'm sure I could knock up a story about his adventures in a Wiltshire village (not quite so exciting as his underwater Jurassic adventures, perhaps, but with an engaging local slant). Then the Village News could achieve its ambition of joining the long list of eminent publications accused of reporting fake news. Unless, of course, one of you does indeed own a rainbow horse named Snazzy, in which case, it'll be back to the drawing board. . . .

*Mrs Mantelpiece*

## And Almost Finally...



For many years I have had this great ambition to tidy my garage; in fact, many times I have started only to give up within the hour. It's ridiculous; I know there is stuff in there that I can't locate. The main problem is all the things that don't belong to me, the drum kits and speakers, children's toys and objects that I don't even recognise. There are lots of ladders, I think they are breeding, and don't get me started on the plant pots. Now I'm determined, tidying for half an hour a day, everything that isn't mine will go. But, oh bother, there's a book that I can't find, it must be in the attic somewhere, which is full of other people's junk too. Also I'm on a mission to make hot pepper jelly, I don't eat much of it but I have so many apples. Anybody want a jar for Christmas?

*Season's greetings, mogs X*

## Finally

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.

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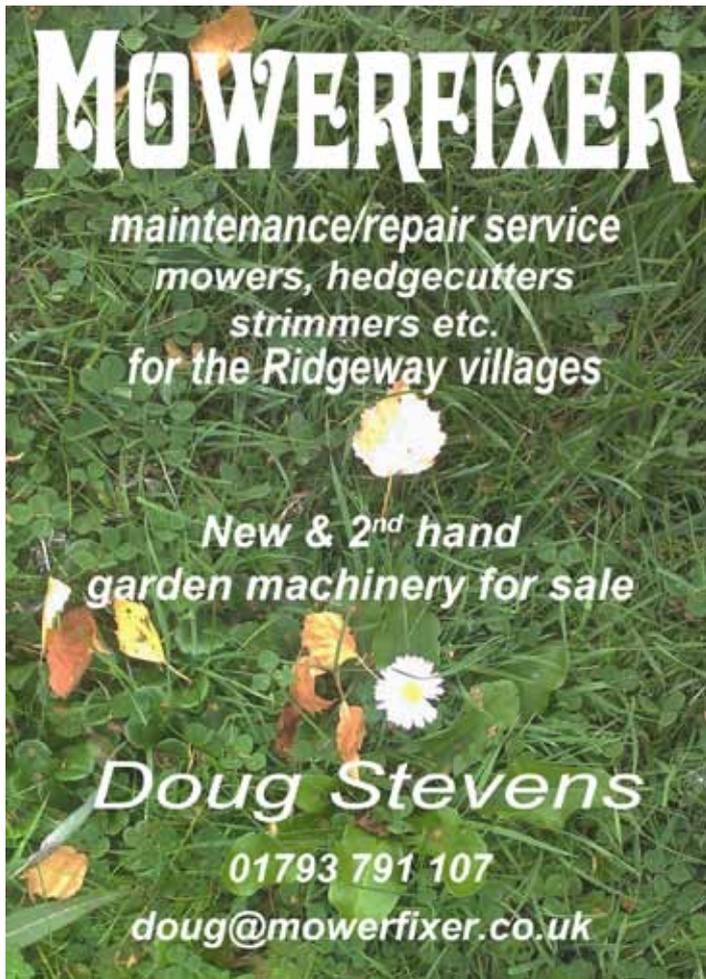
As to advertising on the village website email: Andy Greenhalgh, ***agreenha@gmail.com*** or Jonathon Boon, ***wizeoldboon@hotmail.com***

***The copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 parish. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Doug.

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

[www.bishopstoneandhintonpava.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonpava.org)



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