

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

January 2018

The Villages Prepare for Christmas...



...in surprisingly different ways

In Bishopstone there is the traditional round of erecting Christmas trees (the Steam engineers\* from Lotmead fabricated a steel mounting device at *the drop of a hat*) and visiting Santa Claus at the Christmas Craft Fair.

No so in Little Hinton, there is a very different picture. Apparently, these black and white cows are Church of England. Here the devout animals scramble over St. Swit-hun's Church wall in their haste to get a seat at the Christmas service. Or could it be they are auditioning for a nativity scene?

*Thanks to Dave Clarke and Sheila Collins for the photographs*

\* [hatchsteamengineers.co.uk/index.html](http://hatchsteamengineers.co.uk/index.html)



[www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](http://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org) for breaking news



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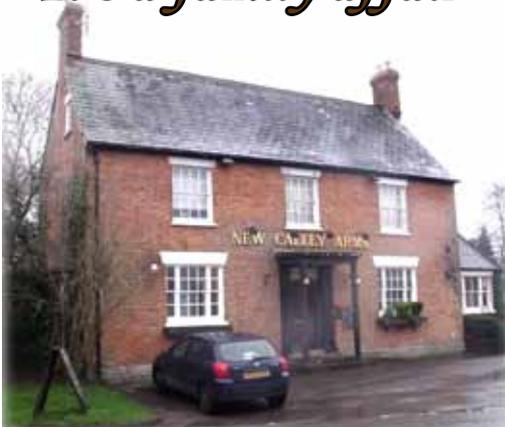
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## Christmas Craft Fair

Bishopstone Village Hall was transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland during November. Twinkling lights in jam jars, a splendidly tall Christmas tree and the aroma of mulled wine and hot mince pies welcomed people to the Christmas Craft Fair. The elves had been busy making an enchanted grotto, ready for a special visitor who arrived, as if by magic, to hand out presents to excited children.

I would like to say a big thank you to people and local businesses for all their generous donations to the raffle, bottle stall, delicious homemade mince pies, and cakes etc. Also for the time that people willingly gave to help out on the night, and to the jolly stall holders with such novel gift ideas, not seen on the High Street. I couldn't manage without you all. Looking forward to the next one already!

*Chris Thomas*

## Could you be a Community Speed Watch volunteer?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) gives local people the chance to be more actively involved in making our village roads safer for everyone. Residents who volunteer are trained by Wiltshire Police and spend a small amount of time each month to help monitor speeds in their own community.

The Bishopstone and Hinton Parva CSW team was set up in response to residents' complaints about excessive traffic speeds through our villages, out of concern for the safety of the adults, children, dog walkers and horse riders who also share our narrow and winding lanes.

CSW is not Speed Enforcement (this can only be conducted by trained and qualified Police staff), but it is the next best thing.

CSW Volunteers record the registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit. This information is passed to the CSW Coordinator and

a letter is sent from the Police warning the registered keeper of the vehicle. If certain vehicles are found to be persistently offending, the owner may receive a visit from the local police to remind them of the reasons why there are speed limits in our villages.

CSW schemes can only be set up when police monitoring has identified a serious danger from excessive speeding. The objective is to educate and remind drivers, to make our roads safer for all users.

When recorded results show a persistent speed issue, the data collected may trigger additional investigations and temporary speed indicator devices or similar variable message signs may be deployed. Where a significant ongoing problem is identified, the Council's Highways department may get involved to assess whether further engineering or traffic management measures may be appropriate. If you would like to volunteer for the Bishopstone and Hin-

ton Parva Community Speedwatch, please contact Mrs Lesley Drewett, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Email [Lesley@tynash.com](mailto:Lesley@tynash.com)

## Involve Swindon

is a successful network of businesses that encourage their employees to volunteer in the community, whether this be on traditional team volunteering days, or offering their skills to support a local charity with a short piece of skilled work. Involve operates in Swindon and the surrounding area, but is happy to consider projects from other areas.

We are always looking for new projects that employee volunteers can get involved in such as:

- Team challenges include: One-off practical tasks, like nature conservation, gardening or decorating, to improve parks or outdoors areas, community centres, village halls, scout or guide huts or schools; or organising trips or parties for a charity's users, or undertaking one-off fund-raising challenges, or cleaning, clearing, sorting stock, and anything in between.

- Providing business expertise: Completing a short project for a charity, such as providing support with Excel, designing new fundraising projects, mentoring charity staff, or supporting beneficiaries.

To help Involve to help you, please contact us with your ideas for how employee volunteers, could support your organisation or community during 2018. If you wish to discuss any project prior to submission, please ring Jo Banks at Volunteer Centre Swindon

**01793 420 557** or e-mail

[involve@swindonvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:involve@swindonvolunteers.org.uk)

*Jo Banks*

## Bishopstone & Hinton on Facebook

If you live in our villages and would like to join our Facebook group then find us by searching for:

***Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Community***

It is a closed group to try to ensure we don't end up with spammers on the page, so if you think we might not know you, ask a member to vouch for you.

*Belinda*

## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - January

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 - 7.00pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
BADS	Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Evenings
BADS	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evenings
BADS	Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	All Day
BADS Production	Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
BADS Production	Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
BADS Production	Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
BADS Production	Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Evenings
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 - January

Beginners' Bridge	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 10.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
WI	Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.30pm
Private Booking	Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 - 5.30pm
Private Booking	Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 - 5.00pm
Village Hall Supper	Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	All Day
Private Booking	Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 - 5.00pm

The most pretty Hall around, and free parking .

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

£6.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£8.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties

Catering may be available

Meetings etc welcome

Free Parking

## Hinton Parva Village Hall

# ANNUAL VILLAGE SUPPER

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Raise the Roof**

Tickets £12 in advance Book by 'phone on 791 171

## Hinton Parva Village Hall

Happy New Year to all those who use the hall. The Committee are working hard to secure funding to re-roof the entire hall. In addition to the roof slates, we hope to include an element of roof insulation. Heat loss from expensive electric heaters is of concern, and the recent cold weather saw us make sure the incoming water-main is protected from frost. I remember two water-main leaks at the hall, and we certainly do not want another.

We are a small Committee team, and we would like to make it a big team! Make your New Year resolution to lend your support to the Village Hall. It is only a few hours from time to time, but it would make all the difference to our only Community Hall. You will be amazed at how busy the hall is with bookings. From small clubs and associations, to some of the largest employers around. Good Luck.

*Howard Crapper (Chairman)*

## Bishopstone News



I am delighted to announce the launch of

**the city lights**

The Village Hall,  
Bishopstone

Our very own community cinema project has the aim of bringing together villagers and people from the surrounding area to socialise, and most importantly get access to some world class films, all in the heart of Bishopstone!

Thanks to the hall recently being awarded two funding grants, we have been able to upgrade our seating, storage facilities, stage curtains, and install new black-out blinds. As a result of this transformation, the hall is now better equipped to host exciting new events such as this.

We will launch with a trial of three films in the New Year with one per month over January, February and March.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**The Limehouse Golem**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Victoria and Abdul**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Murder On The Orient Express**

We hope to welcome you to this exciting series of events!

Our premier screening in January features Bill Nighy, in **The Limehouse Golem**, a 2016 Horror/Thriller film of 109 minutes, adapted from the Peter Ackroyd novel. The plot is set in high Victorian London, a newly promoted police inspector, John Kildare, (played by Bill Nighy), is charged with investigating a gruesome series of Ripper-type killings in the East End, attributed to a terrifying *golem*, a monster from Judaic mythology.

Doors open: 7.00pm with a licensed bar. Curtain: 7.45pm

Tickets £5.00 per person sold in advance. See Village Notice board and website for further details on tickets. There may be seats available on the door, but we hope to presell the majority. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

For further details contact:

Richard Walker 01793 791 913  
email richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

**More Bishopstone News**

It is reported, (probably unfairly), that the much maligned (and fictitious?) *Bottle-man* now has a dog. This is evidenced by the continual appearance of other bagged deposits cast around the village.

When interviewed, a representative of the Parish council did not say, *We did consider a voluntary DNA registration scheme but that was completely poo poo'd.*

*Bob etc...*



So glad I left this plant out. This bee is feeding on here on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. My plant might not survive the winter but hopefully the bee will.

*Chris Thomas*

**Community Connect**

**Coffee Morning**

**Wanborough Farmers' Market**

Ø Enjoy free tea, coffee and home baking.

Ø Donate to Brighter Futures so that Swindon can have its own Radiotherapy Unit at the Great Western Hospital.

Help us raise £2.9 million for a radiotherapy service in Swindon; refreshments, stay for a chat, and support our charities.

For further information:

Telephone: 790 355 or 791 140.

**Wanborough's Farmers' Market**

**9.00am - Noon**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Wanborough Village Hall**

**High Street**

**Lower Wanborough**

Refreshments courtesy of the **Wanborough Community Cafe**

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

\*\*\*\*\*



**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.

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07891 533 654



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## Dickie's Diary

Talk of snow seemed unlikely to me so early. I cannot remember a fall here in the second week of December before. We had charge of our grandchildren from London, and on Sunday morning Barnaby aged three, and Matilda aged one, were looking out to a white scene. It was just right for snowballs and the making of a snowman. So the lawn now sports a substantial snowman. His eyes are tomatoes which were still lingering in the greenhouse, and his nose is carrot. Rather strangely he was given a Mohican look with cloths pegs on top! The dog loved it, biting at lumps and dashing about. Barnaby wanted to know where the snow came from, in the same manner as he might ask later, why is the sky blue? Snow can be a mixed blessing on a farm with work to do, but on this occasion it was all good fun.

But in January 1881 heavy snow caused a tragedy, a tale which is a cruel reminder of our fickle climate. A Mr Thatcher from Longcot had sent four carts to deliver coal to the gas house at Lambourn. The carts were in charge of an experienced man called Patient, who was accompanied by Mr Thatcher's son Robert aged 11, a man called Goddard, and a lad of 17 called Daniels. The coal was delivered and the party started back at 1pm taking the track over the downs, past Knighton Bushes, heading for Compton Beauchamp as the shortest route home. It soon began to snow heavily with the party losing their way. By 4.30pm the blizzard had exhausted the horses and they could go no further near Honey Bush Corner. Patient left Goddard and Daniels with the horses and carts and struggled on with young Thatcher on his shoulders. At last he found shelter, reaching the house of Lord Craven's keeper, Jesse Jones, at about 1.00 o'clock at night. But unfortunately his burden had by then become a corpse, and he had to leave the dead boy behind in the snow. Jones organised relief, and they found Goddard frozen to death but Daniels had just survived, crouching against the horses. Two of the horses had also perished.



Tom Brown's School Museum

Many of the residents of villages close to Uffington will be aware of the building known as, Tom Brown's School Museum. It stands at the junction of Broad Street, the Woolstone Road and the Fernham Road, close to the churchyard in Uffington. It is a Listed Grade 2 building. It was founded by Thomas Saunders in 1617 as a *school for twelve worthy boys*, and is this year celebrating 400 years of education in Uffington. It is the schoolroom that featured in Thomas Hughes' book, *Tom Brown's School Days*. The building is the property of Uffington Parish Council, and regrettably is in need of major repairs – principally to the four external chalk walls. As you may have seen, the south facing wall has been sheeted up for the winter, to prevent further deterioration.

Uffington Parish Council is seeking to raise £40,000 to cover the costs and would be extremely grateful to all local residents able to assist with the repairs to this historic building. Cheques payable to Uffington Parish Council may be sent to Simon Jenkins at South Paddock House, Uffington, Oxon SN7 7RE, or you can donate on line, on our: JustGiving page at:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tombrownsschoolmuseum?utm\\_id=2&utm\\_term=nmrdVJVV5](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tombrownsschoolmuseum?utm_id=2&utm_term=nmrdVJVV5)

Simon

## Womens Institute

- Inspiring Women

If you are interested in the history of Swindon, please join us for our monthly meeting on

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** when Andy

Binks will be our guest speaker featuring *Swindon History in Photos*. A showcase of images from the 1860's through to present day from the archive of Swindon's Photography Society and telling tales about the town's history, including changes that are going on now. Our meeting is at Hinton Parva village hall starting at 7.00pm, and this will be an opportunity to meet with fellow members and may spark an interest in our WI!

Looking ahead, our next monthly meeting will be held on: **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, 7.00pm at Hinton Parva Hall, and includes speaker Nicola Cornick on *The Craven Family and Ashdown Hall...* a National trust property in Lambourn... is there truth behind the family curse that no heir to the Craven family would outlive their mother?!

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

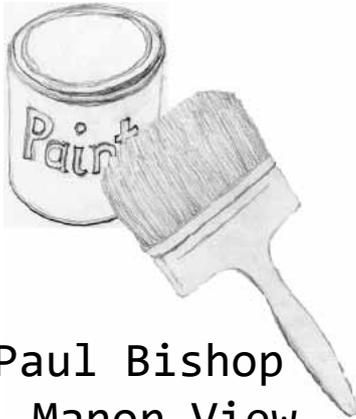
Our monthly meeting takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls, and we have several activities outside of our monthly get together; e.g. Reading group, a popular Art Study group, and organised trips for members and their friends throughout the year.

Come along to one of our meetings 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

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# TOM'S TEAM

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

Tel: 01793 791 148 Mobile: 07799 360 565 Email: [tomcripwell@gmail.com](mailto:tomcripwell@gmail.com)

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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		4.00pm	Carols and Mince Pies	Hinton Village Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,  
Happy New Year! New homes, new cars and new careers invariably bring a feel good factor with them. In fact, back in the 1990's, it was thought that upgrading an employee's company car was the equivalent of giving them a £5k pay rise, in terms how good they felt about themselves, and very importantly, the company they worked for. With new things come new experiences, and an amount of time is spent getting used to them. So what of the famous New Year's Resolution? It's a fantastic opportunity to make a difference. It's where the difference is going to be felt that will help the resolution, either to continue, or to simply fade away. An elderly parishioner in a previous parish was careful in all sorts of areas of her life. A one time teacher, she was of the school (not such a great choice of words!) where you were left in no doubt where you stood. When she died, she had left a seven figure sum to various charities. Amazing in some respects but a few of us were left wondering at what cost, both to her and

her relationships with other people. Friends of mine began a new life in the Kingdom of Kerry. A local family helped them out enormously in terms of how they went about certain things, where to get information about schools, healthcare etc. After a time of settling down these friends of mine suggested to their new-found friends that by way of a thank you they'd like to take them out for a meal. This was very well received. My friends then enquired about babysitters, and this was met with stunned silence. After a pause that seemed to go on for ages, the local couple asked *Where are you thinking of taking us where we can't take the children?* Attitude and culture can make a huge difference in helping us to be the best that we can be, not only for ourselves but also for those amongst whom we live. The huge amount of kindness and support that has come together to get the heating systems at St Mary's, Bishopstone, and St Andrew's, Wanborough has been wonderful, and I cannot thank those involved enough. The lovely thing is that we have tried to have a bit of fun along the way. The Christmas fayre was amazingly well

supported and we have a Beer Festival to look forward to in the New Year too. So if you are looking for a New Year's Resolution with a difference, and one that might stay the course, please do look at the various groups and charities listed in our magazine. You might find that you have skills and talents that you weren't even aware of. With best wishes and prayers

*Bill*

### 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](mailto:villageprayers@gmail.com)

*Bill*

### Church Wardens' Activities

St. Mary's now has a smart, new approach via Church walk and there are a number of people to thank for this. I believe it was instigated by Alan Taylor and probably Doug Stevens. And perhaps encouraged by the inhabitants of Church Walk! The existing fine flint gravel was scraped off and laid around the paths within the graveyard. The cobbles to the side were recovered and put aside for safe-keeping, the track was levelled

and then about 23 tonnes of stone gravel imported, spread and rolled in.

Andy Stone and Mark Haddrell carried out the bulk of this work with a digger, powered barrow, rakes, shovels and sweat, and we could not have done it without them. Our thanks also to those who put up with the noise, the disruption (being got out of bed to move a car in one case) and for their tolerance.

The work and material costs were offered voluntarily by just a few volunteers and it has transformed Church Walk. Sincere thanks to all involved.

Momentum is building for change and new projects, and there are some genuinely exciting ideas for Bishopstone, Hinton Parva and beyond. There also seems to be a real desire to implement these ideas and this is for three main reasons:

- to build more of a sense of community within the villages;
  - to raise money for the Church and for the public areas / buildings
  - to help people in our community
- This can, and hopefully will, enrich all our lives.

*Tom*  
**Christmas 1967 - St Swithun's**  
*(picture middle top)*

You will notice that there are real candles on the tree. The lady in the check coat got too close and her hat caught fire, I'm sure I can still smell it now... but I can't remember her name..



The rector was the Rev. Reed but can anybody out there identify others? Sorry if the photograph doesn't print well.

By 2007, the Christmas tree with its dangerous candles had been replaced by decorations on the font (*top right*). For comparison (*pictured above*) here are some renegades in approximately the same spot 49 years later decorating the church for Christmas.

*Editor & Bob (roving, unpaid etc.)*

**PCC Meeting**  
 7.30pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
 Hill Manor House  
 Hinton Parva

**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

**Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone**

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



## ? Our Winter Warmer Quiz Night & Chili Con Carne Supper



? Bishopstone Village Hall  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
7.00pm for 7.15pm start

? Prizes/good food/good company/hilarity guaranteed

? Teams of 6 if poss, alternatively we can team you up with a really brainy group.

? Ticket only, £8.00 per person  
Price includes meal - please bring your own drinks.

? To pre-book places telephone:  
Sheila 790 358, Doreen 792 965 or Mogs 790 626  
(Let us know if you would prefer a veggie option.)



Happy New Year from the B&D Gardening Soc!

**Some dates for your new diaries:**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** To get the season started, Quizmaster Cheryl has agreed to host our popular Quiz Night & Chili con Carne Supper.

(NB: This is not a Quiz about plants.) Ticket only: For the price of £8.00 per head, a warming supper is included. Please bring your own favourite drinks. Teams of 6 if poss, otherwise we'll fit you in with another group to make up numbers.

This event was sold out last year, so if you want to put names down, please phone Sheila 790358, Doreen 792965 or Mogs 790626 to pre-book.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Slide show & talk by John Farrow:**

The Wilts & Berks Canal restoration

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**Jamie, Bampton Garden Plants**

What to prune in April. (Pruning demo and plants to sell)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May Andrew Tolman**

presents a slide show and talk on: Stumperies, Ferns & Shady Friends.

(Plants and tools to sell)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** 8:00am – midday.

**Annual Plant Sale** - Bargains galore!

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Lynda Warren**

A Spoonful of Herbs. (Free recipe sheet and products to try on the night)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Peter Biggs:** Hints & tips from a flower show judge. He will have perennials to sell.

**No booking for August**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**8.00am – 5.00pm**

**Annual Village Produce Show**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Oxford ecologist, author, photographer and public speaker Hugh Warwick: Eleven Things you can do to help hedgehogs

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

7.00pm **AGM,**

**7.30pm American Supper** & a garden-related brain teaser!

**No booking for December**

Unless otherwise stated, we

meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Raffle/Tea/coffee/biscuits.

Visitors always welcome: £2 per person on the door.

Annual subscription of £5 per person will be due when we next get together in February 2018. You can contact Sheila or Sarah at:

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

Sheila

## ? The Ridgeway Link Needs Drivers

The Ridgeway Link is a voluntary organisation which provides transport for residents of the four villages in the Benefice to hospital, doctors, dentists and for other purposes. With the poor provision of public transport in the villages, the service is being used increasingly. At the same time a number of our existing volunteers are, for very good reasons, giving up driving, putting pressure on our ability to meet all requests for lifts.

If you are a car owner/driver and are able to offer a few hours a month on an ad-hoc basis we would love to hear from you.

For more information please telephone Louisa

(Treasurer & Volunteer Coordinator)

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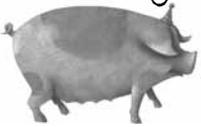
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## The Royal Oak Diary



Remain seated. No sign of legal threats. No demonstration in Hinton Parva, and no sign of the bottle man either! All is well in the world (this small part of it) and the future of this parish newsletter and its contents is secure. The only censorship this year is within HB's Royal Oak itself. As I celebrate, as I write this, the tiny, but symbolic, victory for Parliamentary remainers, one or two newspapers are calling the few brave souls *mutineers*. Hence, we re-instate our lifelong ban on the following newspapers: Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph. They are not fit to light the fire with. And all the other tripe we refuse to allow over the threshold, eg Hello, and celeb trash of all sorts. To be honest, even I, an ardent newspaper fan from the age of about 5, (my track record is Yorkshire Post, Daily Telegraph (father bought it), Aberdeen Press and Journal, The Independent, The Grauniad, and latterly the Socialist Worker of course), have come to realise that people, except those above a certain age, don't read newspapers any more! It's one of the reasons why Mrs May, with all her friends at The Daily Mail, was so hapless the last time we were asked to vote for her. Nobody reads it! And the last time

### Tales from the Green Room

Rehearsals were interrupted this week by the sound and lighting man, the Maestro that is Russell Hatch, falling off his chair. Apparently he was so engrossed in the comedy of the action that he lost his balance. This is the level of performance that you are likely to see at our next production, *Murder in Play* by **Simon Brett**, which runs at Bishopstone Village Hall **10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January**. Aside from the odd chair imbalance, rehearsals are now moving apace and we think we have a good show – provided the cast can remember their lines, know which side to exit and keep to their allotted accents. We have two new-to-BADS cast members this year: Millie Green wanted to see what her husband gets up to on winter Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Tom Sishton who brings a degree qualification no less to the stage. They join stalwarts Tim Finney, Belinda Nichols, Louise Wilson, Tom Green and the returning Fiona Alston, with Clive Hill directing.

We can't give too much away about the play so as not to spoil the surprise(s), however just be aware that all may not be as it seems.... And there is a murder or two. Some of the cast members get closer to the audience than you may expect. Please come and join us for what is always a great evening!

Tom Green

anyone brought the Mail into the pub, it was the proprietor's wife, Viscountess R, and we were so bowled over by her beauty, grace, and her cash, that we decided not to comment on the hogwash her husband oversees. Fickle and mercenary, those are my middle names, as you know.

Talking of celebs, *Heaven is a place in Bishopstone* is the new track being recorded by superstar **Belinda Carlisle** in readiness for her surprising live appearance at HB's Royal Oak in **May 2018, 19<sup>th</sup>** to be precise, in case any of you want to get in before the rush. Which I am told there will be. Better known for her chart topping (not a phrase I use regularly in this column) hit *Heaven is a place on Earth*, she's decided to sing for her supper in aid of an animal welfare charity that we're hosting. Tickets will be £50 (all to charity I'm told) and we've decided to host an all day vegetarian feast and garden street market in solidarity, ie not eating any animals on this occasion. More details from our website, [www.helenbrowningorganics.co.uk](http://www.helenbrowningorganics.co.uk). We'll run a competition for a few tickets as well, so keep an eye out, or ask to join our mailing list.

Of more note, it's my duty to remind you all that the **International Pig Racing Festival** will be held on **3<sup>rd</sup> June**, and **Drive it Day** on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**, when interesting old bangers will clog the village streets (cars, not pigs).

Somewhat closer, a poll of staff at HB's RO has clearly demonstrated a loathing for Valentine's Night, so we are declining offers of bookings for tables of two people. No noise, no atmosphere, worrying about the children etc etc. We are however happy to look after hotel guests who wish to stay with us as couples (or threes or fours...), and in the privacy of your own room you will be delivered champagne, or prosecco, and a suitably lascivious supper in bed. We are happy to clean up the mess.

It's that time of year when all that remains is for my staff and I (regally) to wish you all a lovely Christmas/time off work/happy new year, via this marvellous organ. Our New Year's Eve at HB's RO will be the usual low key, grumpy affair, with no contrived entertainment. We are open for the vast majority of the time you're off work, so please pop in and get warm.

Helen herself has asked that I make clear that any comments you might have read in the past few years in this Diary about Mrs May, Brexit, Socialist Worker, Mr Corbyn, any members of the royal family, dukes and duchesses and viscountesses, Mr Trump, celebs, or the burial of several chefs under the rosebeds, are my work alone, and have no relation whatsoever to her view of the world.

Pip pip

TF



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Play ticket sales on line

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or call Carolyn 01793 790 460

### Bishopstone 100 club

#### December Winners

1<sup>st</sup> 95 Doreen Cooper

2<sup>nd</sup> 57 Les Morris

3<sup>rd</sup> 84 Bill Woodward

New Year subs due **please!!!!**

Jo 790 485

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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

The Christmas card induced dusting-amnesty is coming to a close. Soon we shall all have to find the polish and remove from our lives the accumulated dust of the past month. Or am I the only person to put away the dusters once the Christmas cards start arriving through the door? I'm hoping that I'm not alone in deserving to be labelled *sluppy* (a fabulous Yorkshire word which my mother used to denote the sort of person who leaves their washing on the line overnight - and, yes, I've occasionally done that, too). I'm glad I was born in a generation that benefited from this cleaning hiatus. In the interests of science, and because my hairdresser was horrified when I told him with glee that I'd weeded down my *posting cards* list to 35 from nearly 100, I've done a straw poll of three people under thirty and established that none of them send more than four cards each year. One has never sent a Christmas card in his life. Imagine that . . .

I assumed this was due to the ease of sending one greeting to myriad friends and acquaintances by e mail, and was horrified to learn that it's more of a tree-loving, environmental thing. It turns out that I'm a Tree Killer, and an enemy of sustainable living. Me. The woman who once rationed the family's holidays to *overseas only on alternate years* to reduce our carbon footprint. I'm hoping that my use of leftover cards from last year means that I can be forgiven.

It was at this time last year that I was



pondering not dust, but revolutions, and advocating the invention of some new promise of improvement, rather than just a recycling of old ideas. And around the same time, I definitely claimed that we have the bigliest, most amazing villages in the world. Add to this the news that in Aldbourn they have an award winning brass band that tours the village on Christmas morning and the idea of a Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Brass Ensemble, (we may lack numbers for a full band), was born. Apparently, the Aldbourn crew patrol at 4.00am on Christmas morning. I think we could do better than that; who's up for a rousing chorus of *O Come All Ye Faithful* at 3.00am? Perhaps we could start in Bishopstone next year, and see how it goes. And if you pass me in the supermarket, please don't point, and shout *Murderer* at me . . .

*Mrs Mantelpiece*

## And Almost Finally...

And here we are at the start of another year, with snow before Christmas, that doesn't happen very often. Millie Green sent me a picture taken on 10<sup>th</sup> December, the one (bottom left) in Cues Lane. There were quite a few others on the new village Facebook page (see page 3), but not everybody looks at Facebook, so we would love you to send them to the newsletter as well.

To celebrate my 10<sup>th</sup> year as editor, our Features Editor (she has just been promoted, but no extra pay), came up with the idea of trawling through the archives and re-running some stories of days gone by. The reference library holds copies of the newsletter back to 1984, but does anybody know of any earlier ones? Or does anybody have any interesting memoirs and tales of the villages in the past to entertain us? We're dying to hear them. Finally, thank you to my family and all my friends who support me, even when I'm being a pain, and a huge thank you to all who write for us.

Happy New Year from the team,

and especially from me.

*mogs XXX*

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](mailto: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@jcloud.com](mailto:admin2.collins@jcloud.com)

### Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

[mcanespie@gmail.com](mailto:mcanespie@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](mailto: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](mailto:agreenha@gmail.com) or Jonathon Boon, [wizeoldboon@hotmail.com](mailto: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 two villages; donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Doug.

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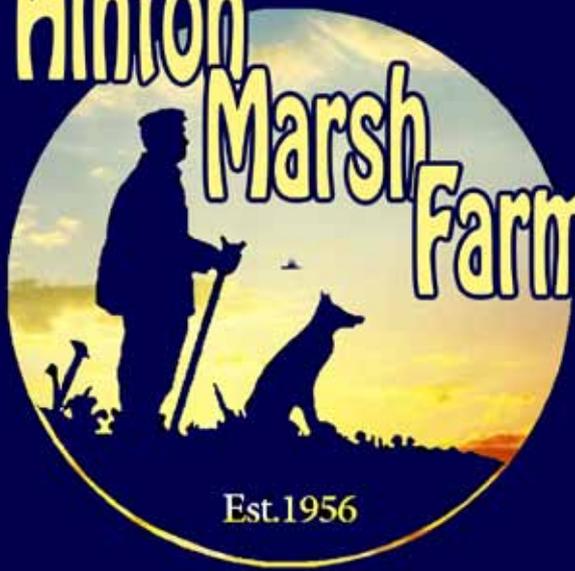
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