

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

July 2018



Happenings in Bishopstone

Thank you Graham for giving the railings by the pond a new coat of paint (*Photographed top left by Sheila Collins*), we are sure the moorhen chicks (*pictured by Keith Towell*) will appreciate it. After admiring the railings, we walked up to Eastbrook Farm's valley to see the orchids in bloom and took some more photographs. (*see Royal Oak Diary page 12*)

Editor and Sub Editor

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news



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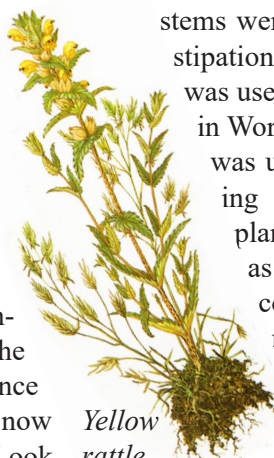
Dickie's Diary

by Richard Green

Silage making was late this year. We missed the early May good weather and then it was delayed by an unsettled spell so crops were eventually heavy. Modern machinery on contract has revolutionised the grass harvest so that what once took us several weeks is now completed in a day or two. Looking back, it was a mistake to have struggled on with our own smaller forage harvester. I counted 9 red kites swooping over one 23 acre field looking for voles and mice, but this is too many, and no wonder leverets and other game struggle to survive.

There was a heron on the pond in the vale I created in 2011, and this year we have a patch of yellow stinking iris, or gladdon, flowering round the borders which was transplanted from Mrs Elmore's Nutfield Lodge pond at Longcot. A lone common spotted orchid has also miraculously appeared. I am also hoping to transplant some wild marsh marigolds or kingcups, with permission from Danny Finch's Bishopstone millstream garden, to further add to the interesting botany there, with numerous dragon and damselflies.

Bishopstone's Royal Oak pub has been a promotor of foraging to add interest to their menu offering. This is a big subject. Earlier on in the year salads, sandwiches, omelettes and soups could be infused with young chopped leaves from cow parsley, wild garlic, even chickweed, the heart shaped leaves of lime, red clover and sorrel. From July, jams, pies, tarts, jellies and yoghurts are a good place for bilberries, crab apples, the wild plums in our hedgerows, blackberries of course, and wines and winter warmers can be very successfully made from sloes, blackberries and elderberries. Elderflowers and meadow sweet make lovely summer cordials, and teas can be flavoured even from young bramble leaves and honeysuckle. Medicinally, mallow leaves and



Yellow
rattle

stems were used to treat both constipation and diarrhoea. Yarrow was used to stem nose bleeds and in World War II field hospitals it was useful in stemming bleeding from wounds. Feverfew plants gained a reputation as a physic and in treating colic and migraines. Young nettles and fat hen (dungle weed) can be steamed to replace spinach, the former losing their sting when cooked. Then

we have the nuts and fungi. Field mushrooms have tremendous flavour but are unpredictable each year; young puff balls are also edible but now seem less common. Ceps (penny bun) and chanterelles growing in woodland are the main fungi sought by foragers but, alas, no one has told me where to look round here! I have seen chanterelles growing in Sweden and once famously enjoyed a risotto cooked with them picked that day, as a guest in the Alps on the Italian slopes of Mont Blanc. In our local streams there is an abundant source of crayfish but now the American signal variety dominates. A friend recently found his pet sheep stuck in his stream and plagued with numerous crays crawling over it, so much that they had begun to eat its ears, which reminds of the time many years ago when I got a newly born calf in from the fields with its ears half nibbled off by a fox the previous night.

School Report

Our return from the Easter holidays means it is officially the *Summer Term*! This is always a frantically busy term with both a mixture of tears and laughter as children think about moving on to Secondary, and we learn how many children will be joining us in Reception.

We held a wonderful book fair, as reading remains core within the school. The great thing about the book fair is that, when books are purchased, the school gets a percentage back, meaning the children then get to choose lovely new books for their library at school, as well as gain-

ing at home. We were very thankful to our parents for supporting this.

The whole school jumped on a *Barnes* and went to watch a wonderful show at the Wyvern theatre that was based around three penguins, celebrating differences. It was a fascinating experience for all, and a lovely way to introduce the children to a type of show that they may not have yet experienced, full of beautiful music but with no spoken words, allowing the children to interpret the story for themselves. All who attended seemed to enjoy it and they returned to school to write some clear and informative accounts about their trip.

All children are participating in the weekly journey to Milton Road Swimming Pool. The children have ten swimming sessions in which to build on their personal skills and develop the requirements set out by the government. They benefit greatly from this experience and the progress is clear to see. However, it is still slightly spooky to walk past the Milton Road *small pool*, which as you know, was drained of water since they closed it over a year ago. Many a ghost story could be written and if only it could speak and tell the tales of all that it has witnessed, such a wonderful building inside!

The highly anticipated *sats* tests have been completed, both in Year 2 and Year 6. The children were remarkable, with a wonderful can-do attitude this year, at this snap-shot testing, which does not always reflect their other wonderful skills and attributes...luckily we are all well aware of all of these and know that they will go far in life. A taster question or two for you, to ponder. Remember these are aimed at 10/11yr olds:

1. Rewrite the verb as a present progressive: I taught my sister to skateboard.
2. What is $9^2 - 36 \div 9$
3. What is $4\frac{2}{3} - 1\frac{6}{7}$
4. The length of a day on Earth is 24hrs. The length of a day on Mercury is $58\frac{2}{3}$ times the length of a day on Earth. What is the length of a day on Mercury in hours?

Emma Linsay



The Village Hall, Bishopstone - July

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	2 nd , 9 th 16 th & 23 rd	5.00 - 7.00pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th & 24 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	5 th , 12 th & 19 th	9.00 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	5 th , 12 th & 19 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Gardening Society	Wednesday	11 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
WI	Thursday	12 th	7.00 - 9.30pm

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

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

Private Booking	Thursday	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	6.00 - 7.30pm
Bridge	Friday	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.30 - 10.00pm

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
Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available
Free Parking



The Exception- 25th May

A less than full house supported by some die-hard film goers. No Technicalities – well done! We managed to reach two nice ladies from Wanborough who made the journey over the big hill to enjoy the film. I wanted to thank all members of the committee who helped pull this series together and, in addition, Caryn and Karen who stocked and operated the bar this evening. We will now have a summer recess, returning end of September, when we

expect to provide a full schedule of films for the winter season. During the break, a new subcommittee will help us all plan, organise and promote – If there are any willing volunteers please let us know; we promise to meet at least once and visit the pub.

Richard Walker

Community Connect

Coffee Morning

Wanborough Farmers' Market

Once again, in May, the Community Connect Tea/Coffee Morning was well attended and a sum of £212.89 was raised for the local branch of *Christians Against Poverty*. Our thanks to all who came and who supported this worthwhile charity.

Free refreshments will be available

and our chosen charity for July will be the *Prospect Hospice*. This much-needed local hospice provides care and compassion, and has helped many to find solace at the end of their lives. If you are able, please pop along with your family and friends, support our local businesses, and enjoy some excellent refreshments. Also, it has been good to see local people get to know other local people, who are part of our wider community.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st July.

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Midday

Saturday 21st July

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street

Lower Wanborough

Please note there will be no market in August.

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

Step into Summer and Volunteer
Do You Enjoy Meeting People?



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

The Citizens Advice Bureau is looking for:

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to start end of August after interviews on

23rd July

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Citizens Advice Swindon
Sanford House (College Street entrance), Swindon SN1 1HE

Wanborough Village & Country Show Saturday 18th August



Church Meadow, Upper Wanborough



contact - lucas90smith@gmail.com

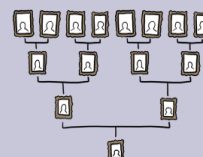
Lauren's Family History Service

Are you interested in your family tree and would like to know more?

If you are new to family history and would like some help getting started, I will create a detailed introduction to your family tree.

I can also provide assistance with any existing research for those who have already begun their genealogical journey.

Examples of my own research can be found on my blog.
www.agenealogicaljourney.wordpress.com



For all enquiries including costs, please contact me
by email or phone
lauren.alice1997@gmail.com
07847 363 387

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.

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07812 366 480

Gamsahamnida

Local Library Service

Some of you may be aware that the library service in Swindon has changed. Swindon Borough Council had to reduce spending and they now manage (pay for!) five libraries; in the town centre, West Swindon, North Swindon (Orbital Shopping Centre), Park (Cavendish Square) and in Highworth.

There are nine more libraries, referred to as Community Libraries, funded and managed by Parish Councils, or the Swindon Community Library Trust (SCLT).

This month I am sharing with you details about two of the Community Libraries run by SCLT because they're where I work and they, are the nearest libraries to visit.

SCLT is a charity established to manage Covingham and Liden Libraries. I am currently the only employee – not for long, as we are recruiting a second librarian to work at Covingham.

Where are these Libraries?

Liden is at Liden Centre, next to the community centre, and near Tesco, the Liden Arms Pub and St Timothy's Church. It is in a building with local radio station Swindon 105.5. Satnav – SN3 6HF

Covingham is in St Paul's Church opposite Patheon (Rousell to many of us!) Satnav - SN3 5BY

Opening hours

Monday Liden 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Tuesday Covingham 1.00 - 5.00pm

Wednesday Liden 10.00 - 2.00pm

Covingham 1.00 - 5.00pm

Thursday Covingham 10.00 - 2.00pm

But I'm at work then? Watch this space, as we have plans to offer *extended access*. Basically, you agree to behave in the library (and a few other t & c's) and your library card will open the doors outside staffed hours. It's magic! Actually it's a PIN number; *abracadabra* is optional.

So how do I join?

I would love to sign up new members – it's free to join. Call in and I can give you a tour. Bring in something with your name and address on (driver's licence/

bill/official letter) and you're in!

As a member, you can use any SBC or Community library to borrow and return books, DVDs, audio books, and use computers or print. There's much more on-line too; more about that another time.

BorrowBox

This is your library in an app, borrow bestselling eBooks and Audiobooks to read or listen to on your smartphone/tablet/PC/MAC or Kindle Fire. There's a great selection on BorrowBox for children too – long car journeys sorted!

How do I get BorrowBox?

You use your library membership number and PIN (it's that PIN again – the one that gets you into the library out of hours) to login to BorrowBox. We're getting ahead of ourselves though, as first you need to install the BorrowBox app on your device. You do this via the iPhone App Store or Google Play Store or on a Kindle Fire. Search by author/title/genre, browse, listen to, or read extracts, and then download the complete eBook or Audiobook and start reading or listening. Emails remind you when your loan is due to expire, but you can't forget, as the title is deleted after 14 days. It's as easy as that, and free for members. What's stopping you?

That all sounds too complicated for me...

Come in to see me and I will try and help you through the process. (I'm not at Covingham on a Wednesday). Central, North Swindon and Highworth libraries have drop in IT help sessions times/days on the website under Adult Learning and Skills for Life.

Detailed instructions are also on www.swindon.gov.uk/libraries – under eBooks.

Diane Rendell

The Traveller on the Ridgeway

I was concerned to see that one of the Parish Council's agendas is the removal of Nigel (yes, he does have a name) aka the Traveller on the Ridgeway.

I am one of the many people who consider his presence to be a positive force and the fact that the PC sees

his removal as a matter of urgency seems petty and unnecessary.

Nigel does no harm, the opposite is true: he provides water for dogs; security for lone women walkers; security for farmers; deters the horrible people who indulge in hare coursing and is a genial fellow.

I suppose some people feel *rules are rules* but some compassion and acceptance would not go amiss.

I am sure one argument would be that others might do the same as Nigel. I think his presence probably prevents such an occurrence.

I am not sure what was achieved by the sarcastic claim that Nigel *overwintered far away near Idstone*. I found that uncomfortable to read as I did the PC's determination to add Nigel's removal to this year's agenda.

Jane Le Coyte



Bishopstone Duck Trail

The duck trail through Bishopstone was a huge success, with lots of entrants from outside the village taking part. We raised just over £200 for the school, which will go towards a shelter for the playground. We got a lot of lovely comments about how enjoyable it was and the high quality of the ducks this year.

Our winners have now been notified. Congratulations to our winner of the *Best Dressed Duck*, which went to the creators of *Crocodile Dundee* on Cues Lane.

Huge thanks also to everyone that visited FOBS facepainting stand at Pig Racing, where a further £135 was raised.

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	1st July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	5 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	4th July	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	8th July	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	6 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	11th July	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	15th July	8.30am	Holy Communion	*Wanborough
	7 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion - Festival of St. Swithun	*Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	18th July	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	22nd July	8.30am	Holy Communion	*Hinton Parva
	8 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	*Wanborough
	St. Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	25th July	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	29th July	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
	9 th Sunday after Trinity			
Wednesday	1st August	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	5th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	10 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

*Change to the normal order to accommodate the festival of St Swithun at Hinton Parva.

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
July is a great month in so many ways, especially if you are involved in education. School holidays, the end of examinations, well for this academic year at least, and thoughts perhaps of new beginnings. It's almost like the start of another new year. Funny how so much change goes on whether we are aware of it or not, sometimes whether we want it to or not. And here is our opportunity, to join in or not. Fresh starts and new beginnings can be exciting and they can cause us to ask questions about things that we have taken for granted. A new groom had cooked his new bride their first Sunday Roast. It was very enjoyable, but the bride wanted to know why the corner had been cut off of the joint before it went into the tin. I *have no idea* the groom replied. *It's something that my mother always does.* That afternoon they went to the groom's mother's for tea and so they asked *why is the corner always cut off the joint before it is put in the oven?*

I don't know, the groom's mother replied, *it's something that your grandmother always did. She's coming round later, we'll ask her.* When asked, the grandmother explained that, when she was first married, she had a very small oven and it was the only way she could get the joint to fit! So just because something has always been done in a certain way, it's often helpful if we understand why. Things may have changed and the need to keep doing the same things in the same way may no longer exist. Just like cutting the corner off the joint. Holidays help us to step away from the everyday routines of the rest of the year and give us the chance to rethink some of the things, if not some of the people, we might take for granted. And that's another reason why July can be a great month. So, whatever you have planned for holidays this year, I hope you return refreshed and renewed. With best wishes and prayers,
Bill
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,
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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

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The Acting Secretary:

Alan Taylor - Charlbury Cottage,
Westend, Bishopstone, SN6 8PT

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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

Shirley

I have been in the depths of despair since I was informed that Shirley did not survive the road traffic accident on the 6th May. You won't believe the dark places that I have been. Shirley was such a star. I knew this from the minute that I met her. Life is very different now but your messages and great acts of kindness have brought me through the beginning of worst. Cards and letters continue to arrive. The funeral on the 7th June was amazing. All I could see was a sea of faces and I missed so many people at the Church. Shirley's friends and relations travelled thousands of miles to be there and those from Australia and St Helena are returning by air as I write.

You may be interested to know that a memorial funeral was held in Jamestown, St Helena Island on the same day as the funeral here in Hinton Parva. It was well attended in St James Church, the oldest Anglican church in the southern hemisphere. The service had the same hymns as those here in Hinton. St Swithun's Church was beautifully decorated with garden flowers. Shirley loved flowers and was a member

of the flower arranging team. Just wonderful. The choir sang the great and poignant Mozart Ave anthem and it was just brilliant. Our Vicar, Bill O'Connell, was superb in his address and eulogy. Thank you again for all those that helped in so many



ways. Parking was so well managed that there was little or no disruption in the village, even though there was this sudden influx of several hundred people. Thank you to all those who came to the wake after and I was able to thank everyone in person. You have helped me and my daughter Carolyn, and I cannot begin to explain what this has meant to us both. I hope to see you soon.

Howard Crapper

PS. The Undertaker was suffering from hay fever - I did feel for him.

We miss you...

...Shirley, you were one of our gang. We were overawed by your skills; you would whisk round quietly doing things when we were still pulling our wits together, and bake several dozen cakes while constructing a couple of perfect flower arrangements, no problem.

More importantly you were lovely, kind and gently modest. Our good friend, we never heard you say a bad word about anybody.

They say that nobody is irreplaceable. In your case this is so not true.

*The St. Swithun's flower arrangers,
Angie, Conta, Lesley, Linda, Lorna
& Mogs*

**Heil Hitler**

This handsome young boy turned up in the garden a few weeks ago, absolutely starving. In spite of all our enquiries, we can't find his owners, or should that be the family that he owned?

My cats have christened him, not only for his moustache, but because he invaded their territory, albeit without a panzer division; next he plans to annex Sudetenland. Despite all his efforts to ingratiate himself, they do not want to share me. He is a friendly little feline, does anybody know of a **good** home?

*Mogs - 790 626***Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone**

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



Lynda Warren, A Spoonful of Herbs,
13th June, at Bishopstone Village Hall

Rattling off the centuries, from ancient Mesopotamia, through to today's more familiar homeopathic remedies, Lynda Warren told us some practical (and some of the more unusual) uses of herbs. How they can be utilised for flavouring foods, perfumes and beauty products, household applications and medicines. There were tales from Babylon, ancient Egypt, and India, right up to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) where pharmacies stock in excess of 450 herbs.

As the wonderful aromas of Rosemary, Bay, Lavender and Mint wafted through the village hall, I'm sure we were a more relaxed audience than usual. The most enjoyable part of the evening was when we were able to try out some of the products and Lynda kindly let us snip off bits of her plants to take home to root in water or some gritty soil.

Medicinal and culinary tips worth passing on: Rosemary helps you concentrate and improves memory - try putting a pot by your office desk. (I'm going to wear some round my neck); Eat a few leaves of either Feverfew or Lettuce to ease a headache; Lavender oil soothes burns; No more tiresome chopping and dicing mint, simply pinch off a few leaves, pop into small plastic bags, then freeze. When frozen, scrunch up to sprinkle in with cooking. Very easy and tastes the same! Lastly, *micro salad*, use any leftover herb seeds, sow

thickly on wet kitchen towel within a container. They will sprout up in a matter of days. Snip with scissors and pop on top of salads. Tastes lovely and they're packed full of nutrients.

Sheila :)

Coming up:

Hints and Tips from a Floral Judge
Wednesday 11th July, Pete Biggs, who runs Wanborough's Herb Nursery with his family, knows a thing or two about how plants should be presented. For anyone looking to exhibit at the annual Produce Show in September, this is an evening not to miss. Pete will bring some beautiful perennials to sell on the night, too.

(Due to school holidays there is no speaker booking for August.)

Tuesday 14th August is a trip to **The Laskett Gardens, Hereford**. Contact Sarah to book and to find out more.

Saturday 8th September is **the Village Produce Show** at Bishopstone Village Hall. Schedules will soon be available from Mogs Boon, Sarah Bally, Sheila Collins and Chris Thomas, or via the email below.

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 see new people, so please do come. You can contact Sheila or Sarah (Outings Organiser) at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Annual Village Produce Show

The themes for the **Photography Category** (Section Seven):

- 1) My local countryside
 - 2) 2018 Spring Snow
 - 3) All rural creatures great and small
 - 4) My pet
 - 5) Pareidolia (Faces in everyday objects, see picture below)
- Photographs should be unmounted and should not exceed 5" x 7" (12.7 x 17.78cms.)
Subjects can be of a singular or plural theme.



Prevarication

Oh! Why don't I clean the en-suite?
Just why am I dragging my feet?
Is it because the plug hole's all hairy,
the screen is so smeary and the
shower head's plain scary?
Once I start, it'll be alright.
I'll scrub the shower with a
bit of All-Bright.
The sink will sparkle and the tiles
will gleam,
The floor will turn from mottled to
cream.
Leave that chocolate! Put down that
coffee!
The loo brush awaits its moment of
frothy.
But wait... a cat is beckoning,
it must be lap time, by my reckoning.
Ahh, feet up, cat on lap.
Now, how about... a little nap?

SIP

Bishopstone 100 club

May Winners

- 1st 78 Paul & Anne Bailey
2nd 53 David Whittaker
3rd 4 Rob Selbourne

Subs owed

Jo 790 485

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The racing pigs have been put safely out to stud (or similar, whatever it is with pigs), with Perky, the surprise winner of two races, from Wanborough of all places, clearly being rewarded with the majority of the organic bananas that I offer them every day.

It's what my pet pigs were raised on, as you will be able to read if you order a copy of the book Helen (with some input from me) has written. It's called **Pig: Tales from an Organic Farm**, published on 20th September by Wildfire. Available now on pre-order through Amazon, Waterstones, Foyles and others. It follows the fortunes of some of our glorious saddleback females from the week they produced their litters—that week with the shortest day, 21st December—through one of the hardest winters we can recall, and into what's been a late but glorious spring. What's happened, how they got through—if they did—and find out why, for the first time, we adopted three pathetic piglets at the house and reared them on bananas and eggs, and turned two of them into fantastic specimens. Go and look at them in the paddock near The Forty. Marvel at the wondrous hussy-like behaviour of Mrs Messy Bed, as Helen uses the story of our pigs to spread a wider net over the lunacies and difficulties of working within a food industry dominated by international mega business and food over-production, in a world where many are still starving. The book launch will be celebrated with a mini festival, called probably, **Pigtails**, at the pub and on the farm on 22nd September. We're asking several authors from the fields of food, environment, natural history and the like; several local music acts, an in-

ternational DJ, and offering food, farm tours, and probably a gin tasting party as part of the deal. It will be a ticket only event. Watch this space.

Staying with the farm, some of you will have taken a walk through the Eastbrook Valley* this spring and early summer. Those of you in there this past fortnight may have noticed the profusion of orchids now blooming, on both banks—three or four types—from the bottom to the top. I've only been here 23 years, and their spread has been remarkable—testimony to the way the place is grazed, sympathetically, with encouragement from EU funds directed through UK agencies. If the orchids disappear one day, it's because we have left the EU, I presume. It's not just the orchids, but probably 50-100 types of other wild flowers and grasses that now dominate the valley at this time of year. Take a walk—it's a free natural phenomenon on your doorstep. Just like the murmurations some of us enjoyed, looking across from Eastbrook to Lammy Down between January and March. Did we have 50,000 Scandinavian starlings living with our pigs, or was it 100,000? Their performances each night before sunset were remarkable. Catch them next year.

Fresh from my controversial comments about looking for staff two months ago, I can report that we are fully equipped currently, so I'm sorry that those talented boys and girls from our villages have to wait their turn for work; but we do need a cleaner for our offices in Cues Lane, out of hours (evenings or weekends, two-three hours each week); and it's possible this job could be combined with being our part time hotel house-

keeper, one day each week and holiday cover. Applications or interest to Carolyn Curtis or Lisa Jones, please, info@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk.

On this occasion, any applicants from Ashbury would be most welcome, of course!

(*see pix left & page 1)



TF

Womens Institute

- Inspiring Women

Our meeting this month is with John Reynolds who is giving a talk on **Antartica**; 12th July Bishopstone Village Hall at 7.30pm.

29th August is booked for a rare opportunity for a **private tour of Longford Castle, near Salisbury**. This is the private home of the Earl of Radnor and is a beautiful castle, with the river Avon running through the grounds. A world-class art collection open to the public for only 28 days a year. We have a visit and guided tour exclusive to our group; £14 pp.

Looking ahead to our meeting in August, we have Dorothy Cook who has worked as a midwife, lecturer and consultant for over 35 years - her talk will certainly have **Never a Dull Moment**; 9th August Hinton Parva Village Hall 7.30pm.

Our National WI has once again partnered with The National Gallery in London for another art study day **Face Value - The Power of Portraits** on 30th November. Details to come so Art Lovers to watch this space!

Your local WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Lyddington, 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

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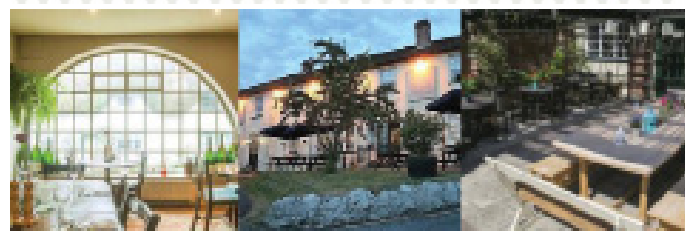
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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

It appears that the Mantelpieces are the only people in the universe who eat Sunday lunch at home. I've come to this conclusion having tried and failed to book tables for said meal in sundry hostelrys on a variety of weekends. I suspect that this underlies national concerns about the obesity epidemic; it must be due to all the roast potatoes and apple crumbles being hoovered up across the land each Sunday. By my logic, if there was a curfew from Saturday evening to Monday morning, we could all be sylph-like by Christmas. Surely, it's not that simple? Might we just start eating roasts at home? Oh; wait; isn't that what we all used to do? Back to the drawing board.

The last time we did manage to wangle a table at a not-entirely local hostelry for Sunday lunch, one among our party had chosen beef. When asked what sauces we would like, she asked for horseradish. The waitress looked at her in puzzled horror. *Horse?*, she exclaimed; *We don't serve horse*. Such a relief. . .

The universal shove in a healthier direction seems to have been embraced by the local schools. While PE lessons may be lighter on the ground (or heavier, since we're told that children are getting larger), the amount of time set aside for school sports days seems to have increased from a couple of hours to an entire day. Call me a cynic, but is this just to allow more time to make adults run about a bit in the *parents' races* part of the event? And is this for the benefit of the participants' overall health, or for the general amusement of the teaching staff? Whichever it is, I can report that Dearly Beloved has been drafted in to uphold the family honour this afternoon. We didn't initially realise this and thought that we'd been honoured with an invitation to a pleasant afternoon on a school sports field. Then Daughter No. 1 announced that she'd be wearing flip flops, and realisation dawned that we were expected to turn up in trainers...

I have terrifying memories of the

competitive nature of some parents at school sports days. One of our daughters' friends was in possession of such a scarily-determined mother that no-one would have dreamt of trying to beat her in the mothers' race. Those of us with any sense hid behind a bush to avoid the risk of being flung aside or trampled in her rampage to the tape. Only a new parent, with no knowledge of the injuries she'd inflicted the previous year, would have lined up next to her. Amid all the talk of weight loss and exercise, there is good news for our weightier feathered friends, though - the arrival of *skinny chicken soup* on supermarket shelves must have made plumper fowls positively giddy with happiness to have a higher than recommended bird-BMI. More worms, anyone?

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

I know you have all been dying to receive this copy of the newsletter, in suspenders as to whether my pressie from you guys ever arrived. Well this is what happened:

There was a promise of a delivery on Wednesday 16th May, however, on the Monday I had a text message, *we will be here in about 15 minutes*. I waited full of joy. Eventually there was a 'phone call, *we can't find you*, after careful directions a van arrived but the driver announced, *we have come to collect a mattress* - honestly I could have wept. So, I rang the manufacturers who laughed, *don't listen to the internet retailer, we send direct. We'll get in touch on the 21st to arrange a date*. On Friday 18th I received text stating that they would deliver Thursday 24th May. That day a delivery did arrive, but not for me, they had the wrong house. Again I telephoned the manufacturers. *Sorry we didn't deliver due to driver issues*. The next day, Yay, unbelievably, IT ARRIVED.

I swear every word of the above is true and the pressie will be unveiled in the next issue.

mogs XXX

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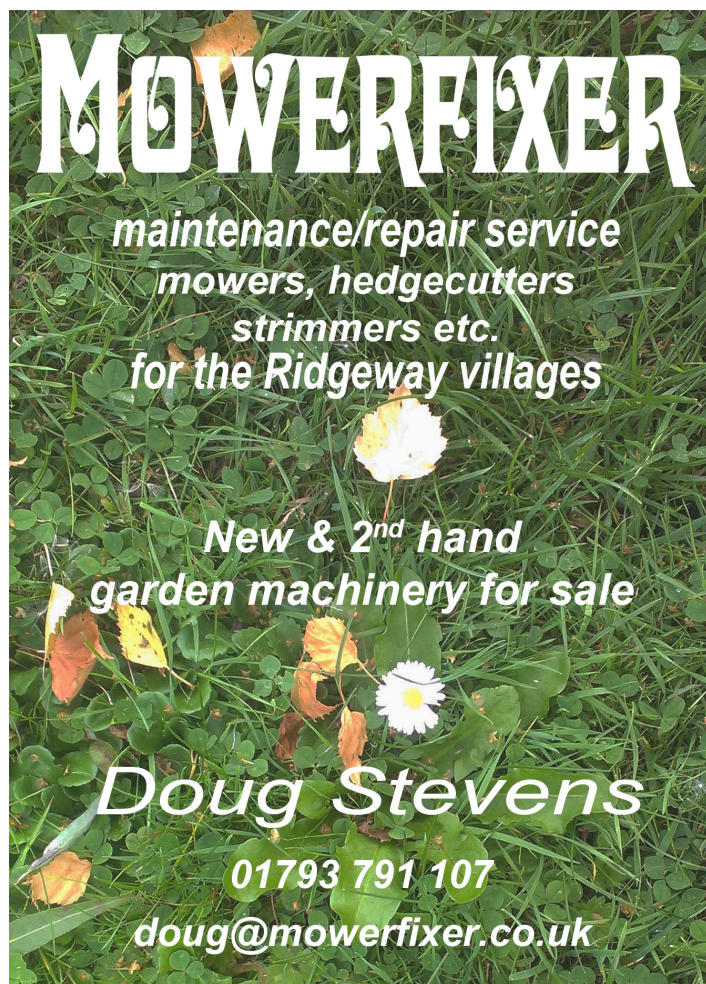
As to advertising on the village website email: Andy Greenhalgh, ***agreenha@gmail.com*** or Jonathon Boon, ***wizeoldboon@hotmail.com***

The copy deadline is the 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 parish donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Doug.

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

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