

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

June 2018

Country Garden Fête Noon - Saturday 23rd June Church Farm, Hinton Parva

Come and Support this great village event
fundraiser for St. Mary's & St. Swithun's Church

Here are the people you can contact for the various stalls:

(B - Bishopstone, H - Hinton Parva)

Accessories	Val Brodin (H) - 791 949
Books	Andy & Caryn Greenhalgh (B) - 791 469
Bottle Stall	David & Claire Clark (H) - 790 550
Children's Toys	Mandy Ridler (H) - 791 163
Country Larder	Jane Golding (B) - 791 488
Plant Stall	Marion Peck (H) - 791 001 & Sarah Bally (B) - 791 121
White Elephant	Lyn Polatch (H) - 791 722 & Jo Selbourne (B) - 790 485

The Raffle - all for the price of a £1 ticket - Sheila Collins (B) 790 358
Top prize £100 cash: donated by Alfresco Childcare & Bishopstone with Hinton Parva PCC; £50 Boden clothes voucher; 2 packs organic beer donated by Arkells; Kitchenware: Eddingtons Ltd; £50 John Lewis gift from Austin Heating; £50 voucher: Doug Stevens (Mowerfixer) free lawnmower, or garden equipment summer service voucher; Two-course meal for two: The Harrow Inn, Wanborough; Bag of smellies: donated by Emma Cripwell; A day's racing at Sandown Park (by arrangement) One night's B&B at Cheney Thatch, Bishopstone: Roz Boot; Gift from shop: Gluck, Shrivenham.

Entertainment and Attractions

Cream tea or a tasty organic burger from Helen Browning's Flying Pig; bar; live music with Syd & Jo & The Cheese house band; classic cars, bikes & steam engine; the bouncy castle; a coconut shy; ice creams; wood turning; local honey; paintings; stocks; face painting; miniature Shetland ponies and lots of fun & games.

Coordinator Hazel 790 621 07887 943 773

Parking is free, within easy walking distance of the event, whilst parking for disabled is on site.

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org for breaking news

* Look out for small articles from yesteryear, page 9



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www.facebook.com/jojosdairyfarm

Bishopstone & District Gardening Society

Visit to Mottisfont, Tuesday 19th June

Open to all

Join us to see over five hundred varieties of old-fashioned roses at Mottisfont's lovely C18th house set in glorious grounds by the River Test, and visit the craft fair while you're there.

Leave Bishopstone Village Hall at 10.00am. Arrival booked for 11.30am.
£10 per person. Admission free for National Trust members.

We're going to car share, so let us know if you have any space.
Mottisfont, Nr Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 0LP.
(Use Sat Nav SO51 0LN to reach the car park.)

- * Mobility access and facilities
- * Lunches, refreshments, ice cream
- * Free parking

Contact Sarah (Outings Organiser) at: banddgardening soc@gmail.com



School Report

So the second bout of white stuff dispersed and we were left to concentrate on all that April would bring – including the most beautiful flowers. Science week began so lots of strange experiments going on around the school; it culminated with a wonderful trip to the Science Museum in London for the whole school. The younger children spent the day exploring Space to sound, cars to the interactive light zone. So many smiles and giggles, and their behaviour was outstanding! The older children had a brief look in the science museum but their focus was a classical extravaganza at the Royal Albert Hall I was a little envious as they trotted off, I have to admit. The children were completely bowled over, with many never having experienced such a show. Lots of work had led up to this in school, looking at the different pieces of music that were included. Sport Relief was launched, Bishopstone passing the *baton* to Wanborough, and all the Swindon primaries pulled together, finishing with each school taking four children to the County Ground to *run a mile*. A mile suddenly seemed a very long



way when standing at the starting line!! The children also ran endless laps in the village after begging and pleading to be sponsored; we raised a staggering £280, which was a super effort from the children. This was added to sponsorship from all the other schools, giving a total of £20,000. The school fell very quiet before breaking for half term, as two of the year groups departed for their residential trip to Oxenwood. An amazing time was had, from learning how to bake an egg in a scooped out potato on the fire, through to fencing, rock climbing and (most importantly) . . . having to wash the dishes (the children really do have to *muck in* on this residential). We were deeply saddened on return to hear that Wiltshire Council are closing Oxenwood and Braeside. A huge loss, an amazing resource, one that employs specialists that have come out of retirement and who thoroughly enjoy working with the children. It is close enough for a *first step* trip if parents are needed, there are no gimmicks, tv or wifi . . . and surprisingly all the children do survive this!! If you wish to find out more and support the centre to re-

main open you can go to *change.org*, search Oxenwood and you will see that over 15,000 people have already signed to keep the centres open! Next stop sats tests!

Emma Lindsay



Bishopstone Duck Trail

**Raising money for
Bishopstone Primary School**

Adult and Child trail sheets will be available from The School & The Royal Oak

**Trail will run from
26th May - 10th June**

There will be prizes for the winning child and adult trails

If you have any questions or wish to buy a trail in advance

Please contact Belinda:
07956 654 873

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - June

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	4 th , 11 th 18 th & 25 th	5.00 - 7.00pm
Yoga	Mondays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	4.15 - 5.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 21 st & 28 th	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 21 st & 28 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Gardening Society	Wednesday	13 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
WI Show	Thursday	14 th	10.00 am - 9.30pm
WI Cheese & Wine	Friday	29 th	6.00 - 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 - June

Bridge	Friday	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.30 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	23 rd	All Day

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

Man the Life Boats

Hinton Parva Village Hall suffered a water main leak in the kitchen area on the 25th April, while a Bridge session was in progress. Fortunately, it did not affect the Bridge matches!

Finding the leak proved difficult, as it was high up inside the wall. I would like to thank everyone who helped on the night and subsequently, with repairs. The Committee are hopeful that redecoration will be achieved by the time you are reading this report. The Insurance Company arranged for drying machines to be brought in and they were very effective, though a little noisy.

What caused the 1960's plastic water main to spring a leak may well be

to do with the high water pressure. We will endeavour to keep the stop cock turned down. Thanks again.

Flying the Flag

Our flag and flagpole outside Hinton Village Hall gets some weather. The wind whips across the top of the building and tests the strength of the flag fabric to the limit. For a few months, since Christmas, through the worst of winter, we did not fly a flag at all but since April it has been flown and we have experienced gusty winds.

The fact is that our Union flag does need replacing and we appeal for donations towards a new one - these would be very gratefully received.

Hope you can help.

Howard



Due to chaos back *during the snow* our scheduled film booking seemed to get lost by the Movie Moguls in the ether. This resulted in a quick shuffly on the Friday and scrambled screening of the Oscar winning Dunkirk. I think everybody had seen it once already and Roz was almost into double figures! Nonetheless the film was enjoyed and the sound perhaps at it's best; yet, I dodged a few bullets that day. Our next screening, and the last in the trial, will be The Exception with Christopher Plummer and Lily James, a dazzling war drama. 25th May Doors 7.00pm. Please drop an email to:

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

or indicate on Facebook if you are coming so we have an idea of numbers for the bar. City Lights will reconvene in September with a full program, more helpers, and better planning and promotion.

Richard Walker

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

9.00am - Midday

Saturday 16th June

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street

Lower Wanborough

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning

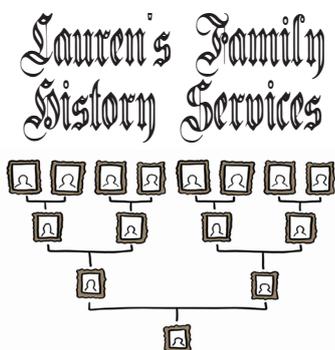
Wanborough Farmers' Market

The Community Connect coffee mornings have now been operating for a year, during which £2,298.43 has been given to local charities. Our thanks to everyone who has donated so generously. In April, £200.47 was given to the *Swindon Samaritans* charity.

A further development has been the start of a ladies walking group. If you would like to join this group, then come along to the Farmers'

Market and discover more. FREE refreshments will be available and our chosen charity for June will be *Swindon's Hydrotherapy Pool*. This local charity provides a safe and therapeutic facility for those who have suffered a serious injury; have recently had life-changing surgery; or who are physically/mentally disabled and need the type of environment that only a specialised pool and its trained staff can provide. We look forward to seeing you on the 16th of June.

Who Do You Think You Are?



Are you interested in your family tree and would like to know more? I am currently studying genealogy at the Institute of Heraldic and

Genealogical Studies and am looking to undertake some family history research to build up experience and build up my portfolio.

For £25.00 I will research your family history and produce a drop-line pedigree chart going back five generations to your great great grandparents, including details of the births, marriages, deaths and occupations of your ancestors. I will also provide a list of the sources used to find this information to give you with a starting point for you to further your research.

If you have already started looking into your own family history and would like some assistance with your research, I would be more than happy to help you continue on your genealogical journey.

If you would like to see some examples of my work, you can follow my own family history research on my blog:

www.agenealogicaljourney.wordpress.com

For all enquires, please contact me:

lauren.alice1997@gmail.com

07847 363 387

A Barn Dance

5.00pm Saturday

16th June

Prebendal Farm,
Bishopstone

A Ceilidh Band & caller
and an excellent choir

Bar + Fish & Chips
Tickets £10,
kids under 12 free

Tickets selling well
Be there or be square

Contact: jo@prebendal.com
or 790 485

In aid of Bishopstone School &
Highworth Choral Society

Bishopstone 100 club

May Winners

- 1st 42 Sue Walton
- 2nd 99 Marie-Noelle Witty
- 3rd 98 Toby Ford

Subs owed

Jo 790 485



Rainbow
Baby and Toddler Group

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

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

For more info. Call Tori
07891 533 654

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

Tae Kwon Do 

The Village Hall,
Bishopstone
Tuesdays 7.00 - 8.00pm

Learn the traditional Korean martial artform including Taeguk Poomsae forms, self defence, sparring, hand & foot techniques, destruction, as well as improving your health and fitness.

The class in Bishopstone has been established for nearly 20 years instruted by
Alex O'Neill (3rd Degree Black Belt)
& supported by Senior Master Richard Williams.

Aged from 5 +
Class fee is just £4.00 for 5 - 17 years
£5.00 for those over 18 years
No subscription needed

Contact Alex for more infomation:
07812 366 480
Gamsahamnida

SAMARITANS

SWINDON & DISTRICT

Could You Volunteer With Us?

A Personal Reflection about being a Listening Volunteer

It's 9.00pm and someone is crying on the 'phone. The person is a complete stranger and it's highly unlikely that I'll ever speak to them again. They want to share what they feel is their hopeless situation with me. They've hinted that they might even want to kill themselves.

So why am I here you ask yourself? Well, I'm a Samaritan Listening Volunteer and I'm on a shift. The same one I do each week. It's a way for me to give back to the community and to develop my own active listening skills. As a Listening Volunteer you're not there to offer practical solutions to their problems and often you're glad because you've never been in their shoes; how would you know what's best for them?

So why is this person calling me, reaching out to another human and being more open than they have ever been with anyone else? What do they expect from me? Well to be honest you don't know, you rarely know. But what you do know is that you will listen patiently, confidentially and without judgement. You will provide them with human contact in a time of crisis. That crisis could be almost anything: mental illness, physical health, divorce, bereavement, loneliness. It really doesn't matter.

And I love it. It's allowed me to be more patient, to focus on the underlying emotional needs of people and to know that I'm helping people. I feel this helps with my own personal wellbeing and resilience and allows me to live a meaningful life.

This is one of our volunteers' personal story, volunteers have different skills, experiences and motivations. If you feel you would like to find out more

about how volunteering at the Samaritans could work for you then please visit:

<https://www.samaritans.org/volunteer-us>
If anyone is interested in finding out more about Swindon

& District Samaritans – without obligation - we host regular Information Events at 6 Curtis Street, Swindon:

Tuesday 12th June 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Saturday 14th July 10:00am – 12.00noon
Tuesday 7th August 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Saturday 25th August 10:00 am – 12:00

To attend please ring
01793 537 373 or email
samsrecruitment@btconnect.com
about when you can attend.

Thank you

Maggie Gill

Dickie's Diary

The May bank holiday was glorious. With sun and little wind the brightness of trees and hedges, newly emerged was striking. Bluebells in the woods, said to be later this year, looked lovely. On the Russley Downs there are plenty of cowslips (but not as profuse as on the A417 to Cirencester) and patches on the steep of the pretty, prostrate, blue of milkwort. Orchids come later and into June.

A song thrush in our garden has been trying to outperform the musical verbosity of the blackbirds but so far I have not discovered a nest. I have



seen a good show of corn buntings on the downs and one passing wheatear recognisable by its white rump. The hot weather has brought out the early butterflies noticeably the yellow brimstones and orange tips, also tortoise-shells. Round the shrubs there have been several sightings of the holly blue with its pale milky blue wings. On the farm our late planted barley and oats have emerged in drill and the maize will soon be in. Most of the cattle are out at grass; my cocker loves to jump into water troughs but this splashing spooked a bunch in the vale and they disastrously jumped through the wire to wreck a fence. I was not popular. Modern international living and cheap air fares have given us two daughter in laws who are not English. Ruth was born in County Wexford, S. Ireland and Emilie in Stockholm, Sweden. We paid a brief visit to Stockholm recently to check out our grandchildren there and see the country emerging this spring from their long winter. The city is built round a series of lakes with granite outcrops, many bridges make the connections with much birch, oak and conifer woodland offering the community space for leisure round the fringes. We walked admiring the carpets of woodland anemones and beautiful patches of blue scillas on the forest floor and had a lunch in a cabin restaurant, emerging to witness something rather remarkable. There to greet us perching on a fence at close quarters was a rather tame hen capercaillie. These large game birds died out in the Caledonian Forest in Scotland but were reintroduced from Scandinavia and they are about half as big again as a pheasant. The cocks I am told are huge and I had never seen one before. Walking back there was another first, seeing the lemon yellow of a siskin flying from a bird table. This is another bunting-like bird that thrives in the North of England and Scandinavia.

Richard Green

Male capercaillie, pictured left



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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	3rd June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 st Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	6th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	10th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	13th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	17th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	20th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	24th June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	4 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	27th June	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
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

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

Sorry, we haven't received a letter

from the vicar - Ed

Womens Institute

- Inspiring Women

Our meeting this month is our much loved annual Flower and Craft show - 14th June at Bishopstone village hall. Our show started in 1956, just two years after our WI was started, and has been sustained with enthusiasm by its members ever since. The 40 entry classes are varied and wide ranging, including preserves, cake baking, flower arranging, sewing & crafts, art and photography, and are open to all members, partners. Some entries by local school children. Our last show

benefitted from over 200 entries.

Entries are staged between 12.00 and 1.30pm, followed by an afternoon of judging, with independent accredited experts invited to adjudicate.

The doors open at 7.00pm for our annual meeting where everyone can spend time admiring the abundance of colourful displays and exchange hints and tips from the judges' remarks. The evening concludes with a presentation of award cups and prizes, a raffle and lively auction of exhibits donated by members - and, as expected, delicious drinks and food. Our show is always well supported with over 200 entries and is a colour-

Cleaning Rota - St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

June

Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews

July

Karen Stevens & Sheila Collins

August

Fran Shishton & Gill White

September

Chris Thomas & Gill May

October

Maggie Gill & Jane Golding

November

Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow

December

Sarah Best & Jenny Isles

Many thanks to all those who have helped to keep our church cared for and clean. We always welcome more volunteers on the rota; if you, or anyone you know, might like to join us

Sarah Best 791 121

ful and friendly event, so please join us in our evening celebration where we reveal the prize and cup winners and hold a lively auction of exhibits to members, partners and friends.

We are holding a cheese and wine evening, talk and demonstration with *The Feather Lady*, Mandi Baykaa-Murray - resident artist at Twigworth Art in Nature Museum, Gloucestershire, who uses feather as her medium to paint. Friday 29th June, 7.00-9.30pm at Bishopstone Village hall. This event is open to non WI members, who are most welcome to join us. Tickets £10 for WI members, £12 for non members.

29th August is booked for the 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. It has a world-class art collection open to the public for only 28 days a year. Visit and guided tour exclusive to our group £14.

Looking ahead to our meeting in July, we have John Reynolds giving a talk on Antarctica; 12th July Bishopstone Village Hall 7.30pm.

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

Foster Care

Becoming a foster carer can be an incredibly rewarding experience which could change the lives of young people, who are often in desperate need of a caring family.

Fostering is a way of providing family-based care for children who, at that time, are unable to live with their parents or other family members. Settling them into a foster home, and helping them to feel safe and cared for, can be comforting in what can be an unsettling time.

Couple Graham and Ruth, of Highworth, have been fostering for 20 years. Here's their story:

It really has been quite a journey, with lots of very positive experiences. At the moment, we have a sibling group of three living with us, two boys and a girl, and they've been with us for six years now.

When we first started thinking about fostering, we were quite nervous because we have two girls of our own who were quite young at the time. But, they were getting older and we'd decided not to have any more children so we thought 'we have the space and, as a family, we could make a difference to a child's life'.

Our girls are now 25 and 27 and our foster children have become part of their extended family as well, so it's really enriched all our lives and made us a better family.

There were some challenges early on when we realised that sometimes children have developed ways of coping in worlds that are actually quite frightening. But we've found support in all sorts of ways: from other foster carers, social workers, other agencies and through schools.

As you spend time with the children, you can see little changes and they make you realise that this is worth it and they're gaining things that will really help them in life. As you build up trust, they might share something with you about their lives, and you might be the first person they've spoken to about that and that's a very, very privileged position.

We're extremely proud of the children we've had with us. We go to parents' evenings and absolutely beam when they've caught up in education, they're doing well, they've got friends and now we have pizza nights on Fridays where they can bring their friends round.

Our advice for anyone considering becoming a foster carer is to have a look because it's really worth exploring and ask lots and lots of questions, no question is too silly.

We really do believe that being foster carers has helped us to develop as people as much as it's helped the children.

Swindon Borough Council is looking for more foster carers to help support children and young people to allow them to continue to develop. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a foster carer, please visit our website:

www.swindon.gov.uk/fostering2

or give us a call, 07917 503 447

*Yesteryear, Village Fête 8th June 1985

The Social Committee agreed that the Country Market will be round the pond and in the Village Hall at Bishopstone. The following people will be manning the stalls and will be very grateful for any items to sell:

Cakes- Mrs M Parons & Miss F Salde

White Elephant - Mrs I Orchard & Mrs Bentley

Craft - Mrs Gill & Mrs James
Bottles - Mrs Burton & Mrs Browning

Raffle Mr & Mrs Parrett

Competitions - Mr Allen

Gardening - Mrs Manktelow & Mr Archer

Good Clothes - Mrs P & Mrs J Selbourne

Books - Mr Burton

Groceries - Mrs Gibbs & Mrs Archer

Toys - Mrs Boon & Mrs Jenkins

Bathroom - Mrs Hill & Mrs Wakefield

Refreshments - Mrs Harding

Bran tub - Mrs Allen

Re Fêtes

The more things change, the more they stay the same - don't forget

Wanborough Show 18th August

Bishopstone Gardening Society

On **Wednesday 13th June**, Lynda Warren will be speaking to us about *A spoonful of herbs*. Lynda's talk will feature the countries and people who introduced us to herbs. From the Ancient Egyptians and Romans, through to the Indians and Chinese, the European physicians of the Middle Ages, and our own British herbalists. Explore herbs as used in flavouring foods, perfumes and beauty products, household applications and medicines. Four plants will be covered in detail: Mint, Green Ginger Rosemary, Bay and Lavender. Free recipe sheet for each member. Products to try on the night, too!

And on **Tuesday 19th June**, Sarah Bally has organised a trip to *Mottisfont* to see their beautiful roses and visit the craft exhibition in the house. This is open to anyone who would like to join us for the day, (see page 3) and for further details, send an email to Sarah. 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 subs now due, 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

Sheila :)

Annual Village Produce Show

Saturday 8th September

Get snapping ... here are 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)

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.

Stop Press - The Plant Sale

Saturday, 12th May was a buying bonanza, within half an hour a huge

Stumperies, Ferns & Shady Friends or The Latest in The Very Varied Talks Organised by The Gardening Society

I think it's fair to say that the majority of those of us who attended the talk on Stumperies in Bishopstone Village Hall weren't sure what they were going to get. As it turned out, we learned a lot. The speaker was Andrew Tolman, and he began by providing a synopsis of his horticultural career, which included working for Swindon Parks Department and Prince Charles. I'll leave it to you to decide which he thought was the highlight of his career.

We learned that a stumpery is made from parts of dead trees. This can take the form of whole stumps, logs, or anything else that looks good, but the best pieces are those that have been weathered for over forty years. (At this point I confess I was thinking, *just like the wife*). The pieces are arranged artistically, mostly upside-down or on their sides (unlike the wife), to show the root structure. Plants - mainly ferns and other large-leaved plants - are arranged around them. They provide an imposing horticultural feature. Think Jurassic Park on steroids and you'll get some idea.

The history of this rather curious feature was interesting. The first stumpery to be built, at Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire, in 1856, was designed by the artist and gardener Edward William Cooke for the owner, James Bateman. The stumpery at Biddulph Grange, which can still be visited today, consists of stumps placed into a wall either side of a garden path and used as a scaffold for the growth of ferns. A famous modern stumpery is Highgrove House, Gloucestershire, the home of Prince Charles, which is considered to be the largest stumpery in Britain.

We also learned about the plants that offset the stumpery, to show it in all its glory. The speaker was clearly a very enthusiastic plantsman, and there is clearly money to be made selling snowdrops, with some single bulbs going on e-bay for £1,500!

I suppose the key question is whether or not I'd be inspired to create one in my own garden (without snowdrops)? They are a bit of a Marmite horticultural feature. To some they are fascinating, to others they are a reminder of elephants' graveyards. Well, I like Marmite, and was very glad to have attended the talk, but ...

If you are inspired though, there is plenty of information about design, management and maintenance on t'internet.

Mr Mantelpiece



quantity of plants had been purchased. See picture of two happy customers on page 12.

Photograph above: My own little stumpery, surprising what I find at the bottom of the garden...ED

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The Royal Oak Diary

A few numbers to get you going:
 * six bags of dog poo left in the car park this past four weeks, plus four nappies (not clean ones).

* Eight pigs selected for *annual pig racing 3rd June*

* 160 classic cars and bikes on *Drive it Day*

* 87 staff sacked, a record, past four weeks

* Only one letter containing hate mail from Ashbury in the past month, a very disappointing haul (signed by Mr and Mrs J Thick!)

* 330 people attend Belinda Carlisle charity concert.

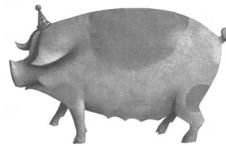
It's been an eventful and busy month, but the letter from Ashbury (I think it was Bishopstone, actually. Quite close to here) was the highlight on a dull Monday. It stems from my comment (as usual not to be taken seriously) in a previous newsletter about looking for staff, and hoping not to have to trawl the Ashbury population, since pickings can be a bit thin over there in Oxfordshire. Well someone has conflated that with my perceived arrogance, I am no better than a poo bag in their eyes, and has thrown in the chance of finding an organic slug in your lettuce if you eat with us. All of which is true, of course. And our fundamental problem here, apparently, is that we just can't attract the locals. It's on the notice boards if you'd like to see it. I am having it checked by local CID for fingerprints. And Nerve Agent.

Other more interesting stuff, briefly. We continue to campaign relentlessly for a non Brexit, and will be hosting the new political party mixes when they get their shows on the road; which will also go down well with the letter writers, who, I think, will do anything to get their blue passports back. And control of their borders.

Pig Racing is fixed for 3rd June; all health and safety done, all risk assessments ticked off, all Council needs now fulfilled. We expect about 500 people milling round, using the car park opposite Prebendal all being well, as usual—every car makes a con-

tribution to village hall funds. We're supporting Swindon and N Wilts Deaf children—the Greens' herculean efforts do not go unnoticed—and some surplus going this year to Bishopstone school. It starts around noon and most people have drifted off, slightly poorer, by about 5. Cues Lane, from telephone box to pub car park, is officially closed from 10.00am till 4.00pm. We will try to minimise your incontinence. Our upstairs bar is now functioning pretty well, for great summer evening gins and the occasional cocktail; our summer simple marquee is now erected in a discrete place behind the playroom in the garden, for you to use as you wish (although it would be nice if you asked us first); and our deck is heavily used by customers as the weather takes a surprising turn for the better. Ridgeway Revenge is 16th June –half marathon and 10k—go onto Jen's website, ridgewayrevenge.co.uk for more details, I think she still has a few spaces left. Start is as usual at the top of Nell Hill (the metallated end). Hope we see you sometime.

TF



Satisfied customers at the Bishopstone Gardening Society plant sale (see page 10)



Lost and Found

Best kept Village 1975 Plaque, the ongoing story...

Roz has been writing in the last two editions of the newsletter of the winning of the Best Kept Village and how the plaque was rediscovered. Now we are happy to report that it is safely attached to The Village Hall, Bishopstone. More remarkable tales in our next month's edition.

Bob (roving reporter, unpaid etc.)



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

A cautionary tale of hunger, mis understandings and aubergines.

Last week, the Mantelpieces had the good fortune to be in the vicinity of a friends' house at around dinner time. This presented a fine excuse to try a new restaurant, just up the road from said friends' house. When they had driven past the premises a few days earlier, it had been an Indian restaurant; by the evening of the following day, it was offering Italian fare. Had we given it much thought, we may have realised that the ink might not yet be dry on the menus. But we were hungry, and curious, so didn't think much at all.

The restaurant had ample parking. By which I don't mean it had a large car park - it didn't - I just mean that ours was the only car parked in there. Did this spark any slight doubts about the venue? No; we were still hungry and curious, and really quite delighted by the overall ease of parking.

We were invited to pick a table. This caused much shuffling and indecision; it's so much better to be ushered to a seat by a decisive waiter, then any deficiencies in the seating are All His Fault.

So, hungry, curious, happy about parking yet worried about our table choice, we perused the ink-damp menu. It looked good. Choices were made and relayed to the waiter not just once, but several times. Moving from our table towards the till seemed to wipe any thoughts from his mind, and writing from his pad; it was as if he entered an unseen alternate universe. On the fourth time of checking, he seemed to have got the hang of three chicken dishes and a melanzane alla parmigiana.

At this stage we were still curious, hungry, happy, yet slightly anxious about the table choice.

We chatted; we noticed that we were in probably the only Italian restaurant to offer Kingfisher beer on tap; we observed that we were the only people in the restaurant. Then we wondered why, when the food arrived, we had four chicken dishes. One of the four

went back to the kitchen. Then it came out again. Then it went back again. Then it came out again, and went back again. Finally, a melanzane alla parmigiana arrived. It was piping hot - but only in some places; in the others it was still cold. Like the chicken, it went back to the kitchen. It returned, some moments later, with the appearance of an angry volcano. At least it was still melanzane, not pollo. Call us cowardly, but we didn't feel brave enough to ask for puddings; after all, the dreaded chicken might still be lurking in the kitchen.

What, you're wondering, was the reason for the boomeranging chicken dish. We wondered that too. According to the waiter, the problem was that the chef in the Italian restaurant, where we'd ordered an Italian dish, in Italian, only spoke Italian. We may go back - but not until the ink has dried on the menus and the chef's learned some Portuguese. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

In January you, my lovely readers, presented me with money to buy myself a gift. I thought long and hard about what I really, really wanted, my brain works very slowly.

Now I feel I should update you 26th April ordered said pressie. Internet retailer (think wet geographical feature) initially said, *Will arrive in 4 - 6 weeks*. Instantly changed their minds, *Ah no, arriving on Wednesday*. Email from manufacturers next day, *Sorry out of stock until June*. IR said, *No, no it is already on the way, it is arriving Wednesday or Thursday at the latest*.

Would you be surprised to learn that it didn't?

IR said, *That's funny it seems to have disappeared, would you like your money back or reorder?*

Sigh, *We'll reorder*.

OK it will take 4 - 6 weeks, right?

Next day email from IR about tracking, *Your parcel will be here on Wednesday*.

Do I believe them? Do I heck-as-like. For the conclusion, sorry you will

have to wait until next month.

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.

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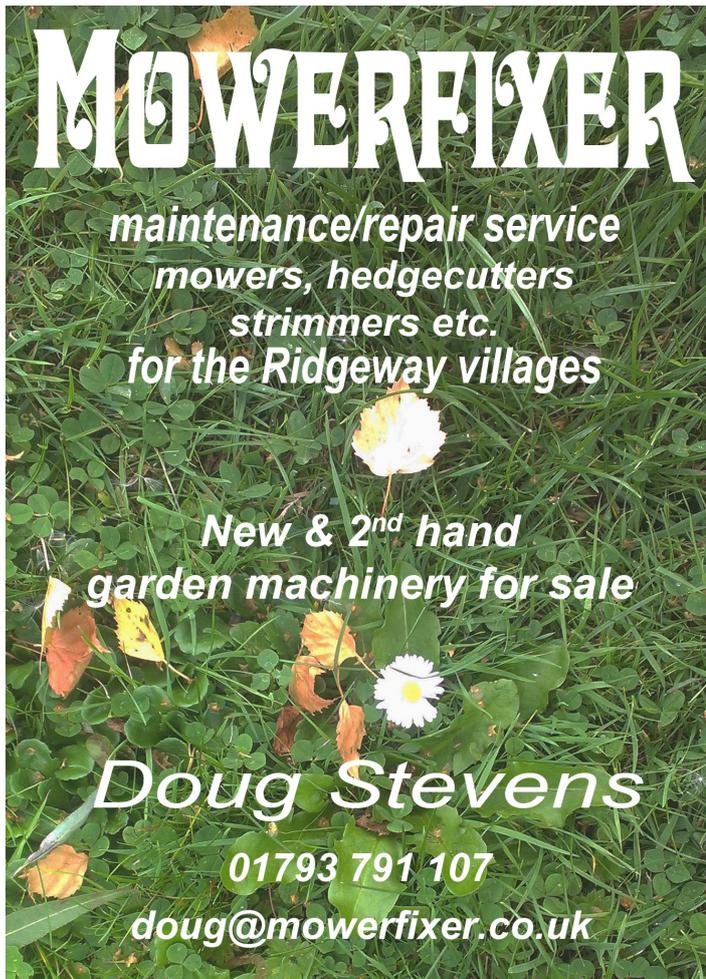
As to advertising on the village website email: Andy Greenhalgh, agreenha@gmail.com or Jonathon Boon, wizeoldboon@hotmail.com

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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