

Challenge News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

April 2019

Challenge Yourself for Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Bishopstone Pottery



OPEN DAYS:
SATURDAY 13TH &
SUNDAY 14TH APRIL
10.30AM - 4.30PM

A chance to see your local working craft pottery specialising in slipware and raku pottery.

After a quiet time at Bishopstone Pottery in 2018, this New Year has seen a resurgence of activity. For the last few months we have been indulging our love of colour, texture and design on our ceramic pieces.

Adrian is enjoying recreating Victorian Art Nouveau tiles while I am busy making and decorating wheel-thrown pots covered in designs influenced by the garden, textiles, and anything else that pops into my head. We both use the same technique of building up layers of coloured slip on our pieces. Slip is a suspension of clay particles in water which form a creamy consistency that can be painted onto the clay pot or tile. We colour our slip

If you, or someone you know, would like to take on new or exciting challenges in 2019, then Wiltshire Air Ambulance has a choice of events.

Our bumper events calendar includes a Snowdon challenge and a skydive. As well as a personal challenge, by taking part you will be helping us to keep saving lives.

You can explore the stunning landscape of Snowdonia National Park by tackling our triple challenge of *cycling, climbing and kayaking* on **Saturday 8th June**.

If you want to see Wiltshire from a great height, take part in our *skydive* at Old Sarum Airfield, near Salisbury, on **Sunday 2nd June**. Jumping in tandem with a professional instructor from either 10,000 or 15,000 feet, you can see the sights of Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge.

We are a charity and rely on donations to keep saving lives. It costs £3.75 million a year to keep the air ambulance flying and we are not funded directly by the Government and receive no National Lottery grants.

For more information about our events go to our website:

<https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events/>
or call the charity team on 01225 300 536

Registered charity number: 1144097



Continued page 3

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

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Continued from front page

Bishopstone Pottery

with stains and oxides and we have, so far, developed a palette of over 200 different shades. There are so many shades that can be made from mixing different coloured slip that it is still a work in progress and we are still looking for the perfect purple! Part of the joy of what we make is that each product is a one-off, totally handcrafted piece of ceramic art. We make what we love making and leave mass production to the likes of Cath Kidston. Our ceramics depend upon our own creativity, ability and how we feel that day! Try throwing a pot on the wheel when you are in a bad mood – it doesn't work. We love sharing our pottery with others so we are opening the pottery for two days in April. All the work is for sale.

Bishopstone Pottery,
4 West End Lane,
Bishopstone, SN6 8PX
01793 790 246
info@bishopstonepottery.co.uk
www.bishopstonepottery.co.uk

Sue & Adrian Dent



School Report

We finished our first spring term on a wonderful activity. The village hall was packed with both children and grandparents for our celebration afternoon. Children and adults were tasked with identifying items from years past, close up pics of every day items and then hands on activities such as the fastest paper aeroplane (there was a definite taking over by grandfathers at this point) followed by the designing of a catapult. The afternoon was rounded off (no, not with the many cups of tea and cake) but a presentation from KS2 about the success of their hand-made greenhouses, and KS1 sharing artwork of their favourite birds.

Since our return we were super-proud of our Year 6 children who successfully completed their Bikeability award. They spent the day out on the safer roads around Bishopstone,



and worked really hard alongside this learning the relevant theory. We are fortunate that this is still funded, as it is such a crucial part of growing up. The police have continued with their presence, supporting the school around parking sensibly but also focusing on commuters passing through the village, returning with the speed gun last week to try and slow the traffic as it comes around the bend by school. World Book day saw a wealth of characters arrive in school, from Mary Poppins through to Harry Potter, books from across all ages, with the staff entering into the spirit (we all love a bit of dressing up really!). Alongside this, KS2 were welcomed to the Wyvern where they were entertained by six different authors. The authors took the opportunity to share with the children how they faced many challenges when growing up; their

determination saw them achieve . . . Friday saw KS2 travel to Cheddar Gorge. This term they are studying rocks, minerals, and the land around them. An introduction to the gorge created many a *wow* from exploring the awe-inspiring caves through to racing 274 steps up Jacobs Ladder . . . when I say racing . . . my legs were going as fast as they could!! Maybe a few more reps of the stairs in the school before I attempt again with 28 children . . . Finally we would like to invite anyone who is passing to a bake sale. This is being led by Carol on our final day of school this term, Friday 5th April. Cakes will be on sale in the Village Hall 10.30-11.00am. The children and parents have been set the challenge of a bit of a **Bishopstone Bake Off** and all the money raised is going towards the new church roof. We look forward to seeing those that can make it.

Emma Linsay

BISHOPSTONE
**DUCK
TRAIL**
2019 THEME: PUB NAMES

QUIZ SHEETS
£4 ADULT TRAIL
& £1 KID'S TRAIL
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THE ROYAL OAK OR
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**GREAT PRIZES
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25TH MAY- 9TH JUNE
DON'T FORGET PIG RACING AT THE ROYAL OAK ON 9TH JUNE

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - April

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Daily School Dinners (not holidays)	Subject to bookings		11.45 - 1.00pm
Legs, Bums n Tums	Mondays	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	6.00 - 7.00pm
Yoga	Mondays	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.15 - 8.30pm
School	Tuesdays	2 nd , 23 rd & 30 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Keep Fit	Wednesdays	3 rd , 17 th & 24 th	7.30 - 8.15pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	4 th , & 25 th	9.30 - 11.00am
Keep Fit	Fridays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	9.30 - 10.30am
Ridgeway Link	Thursday	4 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Cake Sale	Friday	5 th	9.30am
Gardening Club	Wednesday	10 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
WI	Thursday	11 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Film Night	Friday	26 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Sunday	28 th	

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin, or leave a message on the answer phone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

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

Hinton Parva Village Hall - April

Beginners Bridge	Wednesdays	3 rd & 10 th ,	7.00 - 9.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	5 th , 12 th & 26 th	7.30 - 10.00pm
Maunder Supper	Thursday	18 th	6.00pm

Please do come along and join in any of the classes/groups listed above, you can make new friends, enjoy yourself and most of all you will be made very welcome. Please note there is a charge payable for these classes.

The most pretty Hall around, and free parking
Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391 - Please leave a message if required.

Booking Rates:

£7.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

£9.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties

Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available

Free Parking

awards. Nominated in 8 Categories, *A Star is Born* justly scooped the Best Song award for Lady Ga Ga but perhaps missed out on other accolades, since remakes don't often surpass the merit of the original films from the Academy. City Lights was probably the fullest it has been for the screening in February, which, serendipitously, fell just ahead of the awards. It was a wonderful film, not many dry eyes in the house (that was just the blokes). It was edgy, gripping, beautiful, and wonderful to watch on the big screen. The surround sound was great, the hard wiring installed by our "super techie" doing the trick. Oscar Fever continues, as we move from Lady Ga Ga to Radio Ga Ga; The Show Must Go On etc...watch out for our review next month on *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Our next Film is:

Friday 26th April - Widows (15)

Oscar nominated Director Steve McQueen triumphs in this classic heist film set in Chicago, following a group of women who seek to repay a debt left by their husbands following a botched robbery - gripping stuff, and a wonderful way to start a weekend.

Doors open 7.00 film starts 7.45pm.

Royal Oak pre-cinema suppers.

Licensed bar and Interval.

Tickets Royal Oak or

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

01793 791 913

The Bishopstone Bake-off!



10.30 - 11.00am, Friday 5th April

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

A home-made baking sale will take place following the children's Easter service.

Please come along and support them in their quest to raise funds for the Church roof and enjoy some delicious cakes, and a cuppa.

A prize will be awarded for the most impressive looking cake.

Baking contributions would be welcomed (by 9.30am please Carol can collect if needed).



For further details call
791 453.



CINEMA

Oscar fever grips Bishopstone, thanks in part to the guidance and wisdom of Mr Nicholls who knows a lot about these things, but also to the regular City Lights supporters who played a strong hand in determining our Spring Programme which now seems perfectly in tune with the Hollywood

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

Saturday 20th April

9.00am - Midday

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street, SN4 0AD

Where you can buy your local, fresh produce.

3rd Saturday of each month

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning at the

Farmers' Market

Come down to the Village Hall to buy your fresh, local produce and enjoy free tea, coffee and homemade cakes.

This month we're supporting the **Barnabas Fund**, an international charity, based in Pewsey, Wiltshire providing hope, aid and support to those who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith, worldwide.

Huge thanks to all who came in February and donated to **Headway Swindon**, the head injury charity. We were able to give them just over £310!!



Art Competition The Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize
27th Saturday & 28th Sunday April
 Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington

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**Church Roof Appeal Supper
 The Royal Oak
 Thursday 18th April**



To include Auction of Promises

1. A ride on the wild side. Mountain biking
2. Shooting 1 gun end of Oct/ early Nov 100 bird day over the famous Bishopstone valleys.
3. Something that comes to all. Your own bespoke Will.
4. Several sessions of tuition with or without your own horse by maestro eventer.
5. Sweet runner. Garden machinery service.
6. Orchids on the downs. We might spot 5 varieties on a fine June evening with supper to follow at Glebe Cottage 2/4 people.
7. Sandown Races as an owner. Badges and lunch for two by arrangement.

For more information see *The Royal Oak Diary*, page 12 column 3
tim@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk,
 Richard Green, Doug Stevens, Allan Taylor or Bill the vicar



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

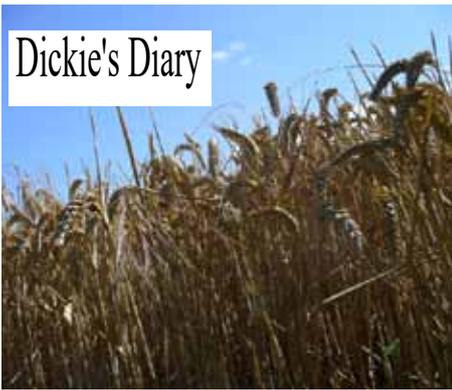
A stay and play session for families with children under 5. Join us for free play, art activities, snacks and singing. A great way to meet new friends.

For more info. Call Tori
 07891 533 654



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

Dickie's Diary



A folder has arrived from DEFRA (Dept. of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Animal Health Agency listing at farm level a bovine TB report. It lists all the cattle (35) that have had to be taken for slaughter as reactors off our farm over the last 10 years. A farm near Faringdon has had a devastating 300 reactors over the last few years.

You will probably know that this whole TB business is a fraught issue. Last year, there were 40,000 cattle slaughtered as reactors and doubtfuls, up by a third from only a few years ago. TB in cattle has spread remorselessly in a NE direction from the SW. In this area, we fall into an edge area with frequent testing required, aimed at limiting the spread. With rigid testing before any movements, cattle to cattle infection - once the guilty party; has been overtaken as the main source of infection by carrier wildlife. Badgers seem to excrete more infectious bacteria than deer, and, this year, we have found diseased lungs in both badgers and deer on our farm. Bovine TB is a fraught issue for the activists and campaigners like Brian May, who deplore the government's culling policy aimed at beating this disease. It's a fraught issue for most farmers; a very serious issue for some on several counts. Milk producers might lose so many cattle they cannot fulfil their contracts, or, with only a few reactors, sometimes the farm is prevented from selling calves, which means they get overstocked with nowhere to house them. It can be a disaster for pedigree breeders who may lose some of their favoured blood lines, built up over a generation. And, lastly, it's a fraught issue for the wildlife themselves who

need our help to beat this horrible disease. Vaccination to protect cattle seems years away and trapping badgers to protect them with a vaccination is pointless if they are already carriers. The licensed cull areas are showing evidence that the policy is working with breakdowns much reduced.

This new report highlights the extent of the disease in our area, publishing a map of local breakdowns covering the area from Shrivenham in the north to Baydon in the south, and from Swindon to Lambourn in the east. It lists 37 breakdowns on farms in this area, with nearly every cattle farm affected at some stage.

This report, also for the first time, has identified by post mortem analysis the special genotype of *M. bovis*, responsible for the breakdown on each farm. On a 5 km square this can be useful in identifying different infectious hot spots in wildlife, or understanding whether instead the bacterium was imported through cattle movements from outside the area.

Richard Green

Women's Institute

- Inspiring Women

Thursday 11th April

7.30 - 9.30pm

Bishopstone Village Hall

We welcome Alix Booth, entertaining us with *the History of Punch & Judy*. Twentytwo of us are looking forward to our trip to New Theatre Oxford on **18th April** to see *The Calendar Girls*, Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's award winning musical comedy.

Looking ahead at the next few months: **Thursday 13th June** is our annual *Flower & Craft Show*, which has been running for over 60 years. Our show provides a wealth of opportunities for members to try new skills and demonstrate their expertise, with over forty varied entry classes including preserves, cake baking, flower arranging, sewing & crafts, art and photography. Bishopstone Village Hall.

Our Art Lovers Group welcome back Jenny Lyall, NADFAS art historian for two lectures *Early Female Artists*

and *Moroni* a brilliant portrait painter 1520-1579. **Tuesday 21st May**. Any art enthusiasts out there, please get in touch if you are interested.

Our Book Club members are currently reading *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, widely regarded as one of his best works.

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?

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

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

Patricia Wells 01793 790 054

The Ridgeway Link AGM

7.00p.m. Thursday, 4th April

Bishopstone Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome - why not come and hear more about what we do.

The meeting is usually quite short with a chance for an informal chat afterwards over a drink and biscuit.

Hope to see you there.

Louisa Barnes

Bishopstone 100 club

January Winners

1st 76 Keith &

Julie Gibbison

2nd 2 Chris Thomas

3rd 68 Tim Finney

Subs of £10 per year due for all you folk who haven't paid me for a couple of years!

Jo 790 485

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Church Services in the Benefice

Wednesday	3rd April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Sunday	7th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	5 th Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	10th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Ash Wednesday			
Sunday	14th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	17th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Thursday	18th April	6.00pm	Village Supper	Hinton Village Hall
	Maundy Thursday			
Friday	19th April	2.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Bishopstone
	Good Friday			
Saturday	20th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil	Hinton Parva
	Easter Saturday			
Sunday	21st April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	Easter Sunday	10.30am	Family Communion + Easter Egg hunt	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	24th April	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	28th April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	1st May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	5th May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	3 rd Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

Welcome to April, a month of two halves. The first half brings Lent to its end, while the second marks Easter and the beginning of its season. Spring begins too. For farmers, the main priority over Easter, and through April, will still be calving, which happens until the middle of May. All calves have their ears tagged for identity purposes, and each one will need a passport. Lambing is mostly finished by the end of April, but the lambs are very vulnerable to foxes and crows so the farmer must try and prevent their stock being killed. Female sheep that have finished weaning will be dosed against worms and dipped in a chemical mix to stop the spread of disease

and illness. April sees fertiliser being spread on grazing fields to aid spring growth, which will be cut for hay and silage later in the year. Potato crops are planted, and drilling starts on oil seed rape and vining peas, while cereal crops will be top-dressed and sprayed, usually with fertilisers or pesticides. Depending if the weather is good, azaleas and cherry trees can blossom in April. Spring, especially early spring, can be a quiet time around some parts of the UK for sea fishing, as many of the winter species will have moved away and the summer species have yet to arrive.

Later spring can be seen as a transitional time, as many of the species which have migrated away from the UK for the winter will begin to come back. Plaice arrive in many parts of

the UK in later spring, and mackerel, sprats, sand eels and garfish may start arriving. Other species, such as pollock and wrasse, are present throughout the year but spend the colder months in deeper, offshore waters where they are mostly out of range of the shore angler. Once the seas start warming up they will begin to come back into shallower waters and can be targeted by anglers. However, the sea temperature lags behind the air temperature and it can take a sustained period of warm weather to get the sea to heat up. Silver eels can also be caught around estuaries and rivers during this time, due to their migration patterns. Some parts of the UK see an upturn in cod fishing as the cod feed to fatten themselves up before setting off for their migration to colder Scandi-

navian and Nordic waters. So there's a lot of new life beginning to show itself at this time of year. It's what Jesus is all about. And in certain areas there seems to be a coming together of old time religions with new ones.

The common ground is around the point that we are all connected, to each other, and to the planet on which we live. Illness is directly linked to stress and so an increased level of kindness will have a far greater impact on an overstretched NHS budget than anything else. Kindness, along with charity and every other aspect of being fully human begins at home. Not the four walls and the roof. No, the one that is deep within us. Spiteful people are hurt people and for these we pray, turn the other cheek and so on. Massive improvements in health outcomes and, indeed, radical remission can indeed be achieved by attitude; an attitude of gratitude, voluntary work and, very importantly, quiet meditation. It's in these moments of calm and thankfulness that our own healing can really take off. Drug companies test some people with their new drug and other people with something that only looks like the real thing; nearly as many people taking the dummy drug can improve. So a lot of good health outcomes are a matter of belief. Jesus came to tell the world that we are all loved, each and everyone of us. Once

we realise how much, great things can and do happen.

Happy Easter.

If you have anything that you would like our village prayer group to pray for please contact:

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com

With best wishes and prayers

Bill

St Swithun's Church

Please note that the church is being opened regularly in the week and weekends.

Also if anyone is interested in helping out on the cleaning rota we have started and have a few volunteers so far.

We are trying as a group of flower arrangers for the church; we have been doing little bunches over the last month and re hoping to have a bash at doing a display for Easter after Lent, we are hoping to do a few fund raising events in the church over the next coming month, when weather gets better.

Claire Clark

St Mary's Bishopstone

Spring Clean

Saturday 13th April - 10.00am

Several people have suggested we have a good, thorough spring clean to get the church in a good polished state, to make it much easier to maintain on a weekly basis. Everyone welcome to come and help - even if you

are not on the cleaning rota. Come armed with dusters, and polish - though I will have supplies too.

Sarah

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell
The Vicarage, Church Road,
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church Contacts:

Tom Cripwell – St. Swithun's

01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

Doug Stevens – St. Mary's

01793 791 107

doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

PCC members:

Karen Stevens 01793 791 107

kschurchview@gmail.com

Roz Boot 01793 790508

John Lowry 01793 790 271

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com

Lent Lunch Wednesdays

27th March 12.30 Tinkers Lodge,
Orchard close, Wanborough.

3rd April 12.30 Chestnuts, Wanborough

10th April 12.30 Lyddington Warren Farm.

St Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

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

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

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

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

Sarah Best 791 121

Highworth Choral Society presents

40th Anniversary Concert

with orchestra

Mozart's Requiem, Mozart's Te Deum
& Ave Verum Corpus

7.30pm Saturday 13th April

St Michael's Church, Highworth

Conductor - Jacki Pattenden

Karli Hardwick - Soprano

Sarah Champion - Mezzosoprano

Guy Withers - Tenor

Christopher Webb - Bass

Tickets £15 under 16s free; includes glass of wine or soft drink and a celebratory cupcake

Available from Lighthouse Bookshop,
40 High St., Highworth or
secretaryhighworthcs@gmail.com

www.highworthchoral.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1036246



Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Re James Andrews

Please convey my thanks to the Committee for organising a fantastic evening on 13th March. I feel so privileged to be living in this conservation area with such a great diversity of wildlife. Good engaging speaker too. Hope we can have an update some time from him.

Hazel Cooke

10th April: What do I do with this space? Have topiary shears, will travel anywhere in the UK. Darren Lerigo has promised us good value, adding that, he thinks, to continue to come together as a gardening community in our villages every month and talk gardening is important - community, a love for plants, sharing knowledge. Well, we really look forward to meeting Darren. As a successful playwright and an ex-stand-up comedian who became a top topiary clipping gardener, he should prove to be a high-quality speaker.

We meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Raffle/Tea/coffee/biscuits. £10 per person annual membership or £3* pp on the door, (*door price may vary according to speaker costs). We love to see new people, so please do come. You can contact Sheila or Sarah (Outings Organiser) at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Bishopstone Allotment Gardens

Subs are now due. Please put money in an envelope, with your name on it, in the usual place, so I can tick you off my list.

All enquiries for plots please call my number. Many thanks,

Roz 790 508

Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 11th May

Bargains galore at our Annual Plant Sale, where you can buy perfect bedding plants, perennials, fruit, and glorious vegetable plants. All lovingly cultivated by our own fair, green fingers. A morning-only event that gets sold out pdq.

Remember

8.30am - Bishopstone Village Hall open to take your donated labelled plants.

9.30am - Hall closed for categorisation.

10.30am - Open to buyers. 12 midday - Hall is closed.

13th March: Gardening club resumed on a high note, with a bumper crowd turning up to hear an excellent talk and slide show given by James Andrews, professional photographer, and curator of Helen Browning's Eastbrook Farm's, Prohides. Fascinating to see how this lively young man is progressively turning the neglected wildlife hides and woodland into a natural habitat, encouraging flora and fauna. Having sourced several sites, the work starts from the ground up, clearing, planting and digging a wildlife pond to attract insects, that in turn will provide a good habitat for wild birds and encourage wildlife in abundance. Then, you take magnificent photographs and start planning workshops and courses for groups and schoolchildren. We wish James every success with his Prohides venture - let's face it, anyone with half his enthusiasm has just got to succeed! We look forward to booking James again for a catch-up.

PS: I hear he's looking for volunteers. You can get in touch with him at:

www.prohides.com

Raptors Seen in the Parish

Montagu's harrier, a summer visitor

The dashing goshawk is an efficient killer

Birds that James has seen, include:

tawny owl; barn owl; little owl; kestrel; merlin; peregrine; red kite; buzzard; hobby and sparrow-hawk

The beautiful barn owl flies silently

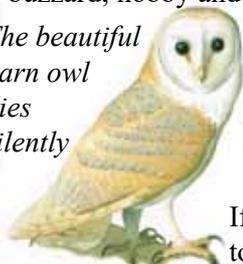
Birds reported to James:

short-eared owl; hen harrier; marsh harrier; montagu's harrier and osprey.

Birds heard but not seen: goshawk.

If you seen any unusual birds James would love to hear about them.

The hobby is a quick and dynamic flier



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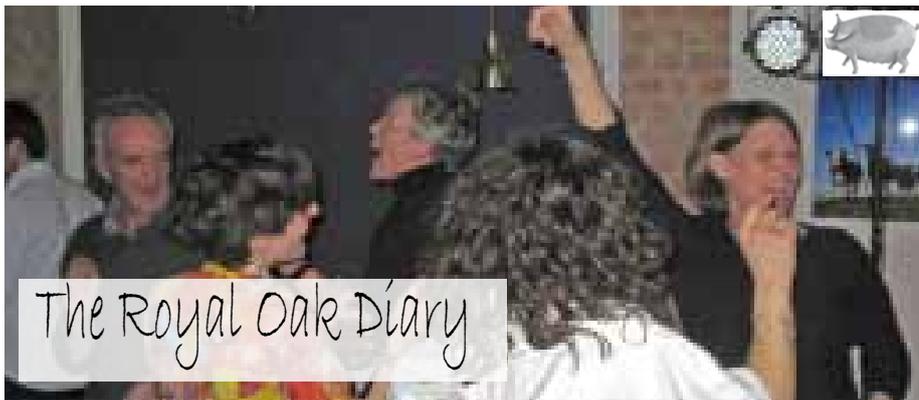
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We finally deported our illegal Italian aliens Valerio and Serena at the beginning of March, but not before 80 raucous villagers and colleagues had provided a memorable goodbye party. I genuinely think that if this had been a deportation, several women, and a few men (myself included) might have lain on the runway to prevent take off. As I said in my very short and unemotional speech, they brought panache, diligence and intelligence to our business, as we have found unfailingly from 99% of our staff from other EU countries. They give a lot more than they take. Our EU workforce across the whole business currently comprises Portugal, Germany and Romania, as well as Bishopstone, which I am told plans to remain a part....



Anyway, onwards and sideways as they say. And every silver lining has a cloud....The bad news for customers and colleagues is that I'll be behind the bar more, for a change, serving my usual tripe, being spurred on by the fragrant Lisa Jones, promoted within the business to tidy up all the loose ends I've created over 12 years. We welcome back Tom Shishton, to bring brawn and brains to the place for a while, and mention must be made of our other young Bishopstone stalwarts Harry McBlunt, Emily Pugh and the remarkable Anna Bareham, holding the place together as grown men weep.

That Bishopstone church roof—what a mess, not just visually, but the fact

that these things are never properly insured. It's not as if the church is peniless...anyway, like lots of you, as churchgoers or not, it's time to do our duty and keep one of the other village assets in good condition, so HB's Royal Oak's little effort will be a supper for anyone interested on **18th April**, the day before Good Friday, which we think He would have approved of. It's a sort of village supper, three courses, choosing between meaty or veggie if

that's your thing, generous, hearty and sociable we think. Probably two or three very large tables, mixing you up, downstairs, room for 50 of you, and we're charging £15/person for food, and asking for an additional £15 from each of you direct into roof funds. All diets, faiths, tendencies and sexualities catered for, in this confusing age of choice and individuality.

We want to put some cream on this small cake, so we'd like to be able to sell things back to you after you've supped. We need some promises—fixing something, teaching someone something, providing a novel or exciting experience, or suppers, or accommodation, or houses in the Alps—you know the sort of thing. All correspondence to me:

tim@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk, or talk to the other lions behind this wheeze, Richard Green, Doug Stevens, Allan Taylor or Bill the vicar.

Other community activities in April include our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 10.30 am, please book and wear suitable clothes, £10 per family/car; and Drive it Day, 28th April, from 10.00am. I want all those Ferraris and Bond Bugs on display at the pub, the ones you hide in your sheds and lock ups. Don't be shy about your incredible wealth or appalling taste!!

I am thrilled that these occasional polemics in Mogs's organ have started drawing some correspondence from one or two people. If there's any way I can stir you to continue, please advise me.

TF

So many wonderful pictures of a brilliant event. Only room for a few photographers Dennis Cooper, Fiona Scarlett and Tim Finney.

8th Annual International Pig Racing Day
(Formerly Pig Racing for the Queen)
Sunday, 9th June

Road Closure Notice - Cues Lane, Bishopstone

An application has been made for the usual short-term road closure according to the Town Police Clauses Act 1844.

The registered Charities to benefit from this year's event include the Swindon & North Wiltshire Deaf Children's Society, Prospect Hospice and The Village Hall, Bishopstone



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Weather 'tis nobler in the mind. . .

In a nation obsessed by the weather, Household Mantelpiece is taking the obsession to whole new levels. It's not entirely our fault, but that of the small hole which lurks somewhere around our bedroom window. The hole doesn't present a problem most of the year, but, when the wind blows from a certain direction, you could be forgiven for believing that the World Kazoo Championships were being hosted on our lawn. Although, surely, players in such a prestigious competition could knock out a recognisable tune?

The precise location of the hole continues to mystify those who have confidently climbed ladders with pots of sealant and cement. The first time the kazoo band struck up a lively tune in the early hours, not long after we moved into Chez Mantelpiece, my Dearly Beloved made a spirited attempt to block out the noise with a roll of sellotape, applied lavishly around the window. While his pyjama-ed antics may have made the basis for a comedy turn at the Fringe, they did not result in the Sound of Silence. Now, we are reduced to leaving the bedroom window open on windy nights; the resulting cacophony tends to be less disruptive than sporadic kazoo-ing. While lying awake last night, I got to pondering the amount of weather-related phrases we use. I was particularly puzzled by *a face like thunder*. Thunder is a noise, not a look. How can a face look like a noise? Shouldn't we say *a face like a storm cloud*? Then I got to thinking about all the wind-related disaster movies. There's Twister, I suppose, but no-one seems to have produced a film about a world where a tiny handful of ridiculously attractive survivors are subsisting underground because ferocious winds have blown away all structures, and scoured the land above. I'll just throw that idea out there, and await a call from Hollywood.

My mother had a keen interest in the weather. Her clothing choices were guided by an elderly chap named William Foggett, who practised the

arcane art of seaweed-feeling. Each day, William would examine the seaweed hanging up outside his door and write his forecast for the local paper. William and his seaweed were invariably wrong, so my mother was generally poorly dressed for whatever weather the day had in store. Yet still she had faith in William.

These days, we rely less on old blokes with seaweed, and more on weather apps on our phones. They also seem quite unreliable. I often find myself shouting to the sky *haven't you looked at the app? You're not meant to be raining for another hour*. Perhaps behind every weather app is an elderly gent named Foggett, checking the state of his seaweed?

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...



I find 3.20 on a Sunday afternoon is the worst time of the week. Why?

I haven't a clue. Staring at the computer my head is full of random questions such as; it's Lent, also oddly depressing, why do people give things up? Giving up the booze will certainly not help swell the Royal Oak's coffers. Fasting, well it will make one slimmer, a benefit to some, but only of help to others if one rushes out and presents some conveniently starving person with one's neglected lunch.

Outside my office window, it's drizzling, the most uninspiring of weathers. Oh Mrs Mantelpiece, I so agree, I am often to be found standing in the garden shouting at the weather, *don't you ever check with the BBC?*

Next it will be Easter, why is it called Easter? Yes I know it is after Eostre, Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring, but shouldn't it be called Christ's Death? Though I can see why that name wouldn't catch on.

Sadly, Mildly Offended of Church Lane seems to have given up letter writing. Hope that is only for Lent.

To look on the bright side, however, I am quite proud that we got a rather appropriate front page in March, do hope it doesn't rain all April.

Happy Easter, *Mogs X*

Finally

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

Editor:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

Subject: newsletter (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or deliver to:

Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626.

Sub-Editor:

Sheila Collins

admin2.collins@icloud.com

Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

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, Doug Stevens ***doug@mowerfixer.co.uk*** is in charge of the accounts. We must warn you that adverts received without payment will not be included. For people with small, one-off advertisements there is a minimum fee of £1.00.

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

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month but please send large items as early as possible. Don't forget copy must include name and contact details for validation purposes.

The newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households in the parish. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received by Doug.

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

www.bishopstoneandhintonpava.org

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