



for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

August 2019

**Fête 2019, a Brilliant Success -
the Children had a Ball...
...and so did the grown ups (see page 3)**



*Pimms
on the
Lawn*
see page 10

*Thanks to Steve Bell, Ann Brown, Sheila Collins and Chris Pocock we have these great photographs of the fête. (see also page 3)
Please remember that the newsletter is always delighted to receive village pictures and will print them whenever possible. Ed*



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

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Fête Report

Friday morning 5th July, a slow buzz of willing workers began beavering away to set up marquees, gazebos and sound systems, to mow lawns and put up signs. The idyllic backdrop of the Old Vicarage morphed from its slumber into a hive of activity. By the end of the day, the gardens and adjoining paddock were beginning to lift into life from the discussions, meetings, plans and sketches that had been deliberated over for the past months. Meticulous, military-precision planning was well and truly coming together with, at exactly 16:47, a Scorpion tank and Hong Kong Police armoured personnel carrier arriving down Church Lane. Were these to keep the anticipated crowds under control?!

Just as the sun was setting, another two large vehicles invaded the solitude of Church Lane. Not so eye catching this time, but the bouncy castle men and the portable loos!

As the sun rose on the Saturday morning, stallholders and volunteers began setting up their stalls and displays, with the church car park and drive in front of the Vicarage resembling a scene reminiscent of a week day M25 traffic jam! Wonderful smells wafted from Church View Cottage's kitchen, as 200 scones were baked in readiness for cream teas. By midday, all stalls and activities were ready for action, and the tidal wave of visitors began pouring down the Church steps and up from the Dingle. By all accounts, the gatekeepers took entrance fees from over 300 visitors.

By 1.00pm, all activities were in full swing. So much so that the Flying Pig ran out of their super tasty fresh rolls – service had to be put on hold whilst reinforcement supplies could be procured. Normal service was resumed within 20 minutes. Cream teas were being served right from when the first visitors came through the gates until the last and the bar saw a constant draw of customers for real ale, Pimm's and soft drinks.

Stallholders on the lawn were rushed off their feet all afternoon with a



pictures; the tanks rolled in to where they are loved; the beautifully decorated raffle stall; Hazel opens the fête and a hippy announcer.

busy flow of willing customers parting with their money after strong haggling; the paddock area also saw constant activities - smashing plates, bouncing in the inflatable castles, and ducks were hooked, whilst the well-stocked plant stalls and book tables groaning with their wares.

By the end of the afternoon, exhausted stallholders and volunteers began the mammoth clear up and, within an hour or so, tranquility had resumed, with just an empty marquee and handful of straw bales left to deal with the following day. Tables and chairs were repatriated to their respective village halls, and the very few leftover plants snaffled up to become permanent fixtures in the Royal Oak gardens.

The bean counters worked tirelessly into the night to see how much had been raised and, just like election ballot papers, an early result was announced on Sunday morning, indicating a preliminary result in the region of £5,000 – a superb result by all accounts!

So where does all this money end up?



Well in a nutshell, this year the PCC has directed some of the fete income towards the replacement roof at St Mary's. The remainder going towards the annual running costs of our two churches, namely for the electricity, insurance and routine maintenance.

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has helped make this year's fete a tremendous success. Apart from the weather playing a major part, we would like to pay special thanks to Molly & Charlie for kindly letting the fete happen within their gardens and paddock and to Hazel for opening it. Without naming individuals, as there isn't enough space for Mogs to fit them into this piece(!), our thanks go out to the army of volunteers, donators and visitors for making it such a wonderful day.

Doug & Alan

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - August

The hall is cleaned	Mondays	8.30 - 10.30am
Parish Council	Monday 5 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
WI	Thursday 8 th	7.00 - 9.30pm

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 - August

Bridge	Fridays	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	7.30 - 10.00pm
WI	Thursday	8 th	7.00 - 9.30pm

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 bridge classes.

The prettiest Hall around, with 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 Catering may be available
Meetings etc welcome Free Parking

Flagged Up

Hinton Parva Village Hall has a flag pole from which the Union Jack flag is flown most of the time. Our problem in this Ridgeway Village is the wind! The flag is often taken down in gale force weather but, very often, too late to avoid whipping damage to the material. The flag was replaced seven years ago but it has already been kindly repaired and repaired again. It would be wonderful if there was a device which lowered the flag when the wind speed exceeds 10 miles per hour!

It is time to replace the flag, but they do not come cheap. If you enjoy seeing the flag flying, then please send me

a donation. It will be acknowledged and very much appreciated.

Upfront at the Village Hall

The roof on the Hall has now been completely replaced. Not just the main hall, but also the flat roof annex which contains the toilet block, cleaning equipment cupboard, table and chair storage, etc. The Committee are now looking at improving the area at the front of the hall. This area is bounded by the front door, telephone box, flag pole and main road. Most of this frontage is surfaced in dilapidated and uneven tarmac. And then there is the chain link fencing, erected in the eighties to

prevent parking against the building. The plan is to resurface the frontage with new tarmac. If you have views on this proposal, then please let the committee and myself know them. How much of this area should be for dropping off guests at the hall and how many spaces reserved for disabled parking? At present, there is freedom for all on vehicle movements. It works pretty well but can it be improved? Let us know .

Howard Crapper

The Mount, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH

Sprucing up the Village Hall, Bishopstone – *Hedgehogs, Vipers and Mutant Hebes*



Footpath 14 - no vipers here!

We are pleased to report that the Team from Nationwide have volunteered to return. Influenced without doubt by Roz's banqueting skills.

Tuesday 20th of August is the date. If you are inclined to join us on that day, *many paint brushes make light work*; we would be very pleased to see you. Let us know (catering).

There will be a full programme that day, (subject to the vagaries of our *summer* weather).

Outside walls: Washing down, filling

cracks, making good, removing ivy etc. in preparation for a fresh coat of pink (or similar).

Inside: A second coat of satin (Heritage Elephant shade of grey) to the wooden panelling.

In addition, the large Hebes which are now taking up half of the width of *Footpath 14* (between the hall and the school) will be cut back to almost nothing. The Parish Council has been having problems with the drains at The City, Nell Hill and this footpath; a lot of the problems are caused by the excess vegetation on surrounding verges.

The garden on this bank was planted in the year 2000, in memory of Frank and Nancy Harding.

James Andrews, our handy local wildlife expert, has made a preliminary inspection to ensure we won't be disturbing any nesting birds, hedgehogs, vipers etc.

And, finally, we need a volunteer gardener/s. to trim the hedges, cut the grass, snip back any overhanging vegetation. Not too arduous, and will make such a difference.

Bobbing About roving reporter etc. PS and by the way, anybody seen the Christmas tree?

The Village Hall, Bishopstone is a registered charity, no. 271165.

Jojo's Dairy

I was delighted when I discovered that I could purchase local milk instead of buying it from the supermarket, and at a dispensing machine that one can visit at any time. I took the Rabble (if you don't know them, better not to ask) and they were thrilled and amazed to watch the cows being milked, and, better still, had a go on a tractor.

Now, even better, there are glass bottles. But here is my dilemma. Not having a family, I don't use that much milk. I can tootle down to Lower Wanborough and buy about 5 plastic bottles and keep them in the freezer. I don't think that you can do that with the glass ones. So that would mean lots of driving to collect them, which would cancel out the environmentally friendly use of glass. The only solution that I can think of is for us to organise collections, say twice

a week, for us in the parish that use Jojo's milk and cut down on all that fossil fuel.

Any thoughts anybody?

Mogs Boon (Ed)

Bishopstone 100 club

July Winners

1st 50 Gwen Parker

2nd 5 Roz Boot

3rd 22 Jane Lomax

It's £10 a year and I have a number of numbers left, so get in touch and support your village hall. Bishopstone that is.

Thanks Jo. 790 485

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

There will be no Wanborough Farmers' Market in August.

However, some traders will be found that day at Wanborough Show, Church Meadow.

Markets resume on 21st September.

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Bishopstone Crafters, YOU CAN BOOK A TABLE for the

BISHOPSTONE CRAFT FAIR



FROM 1st SEPTEMBER...

It will be held on Thursday 28th November from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. £10.00 per table. Please ensure that you book early to avoid disappointment. I try to allocate just one table per product-type; this ensures that the fair is more interesting for its (and your) customers.

For more information and to reserve your space, please contact:

Chris Thomas on 01793 790 106.

Or email littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

9.30 -11.00am every Thursday during term time Bishopstone Village Hall
£2.50 per family, 1st session free

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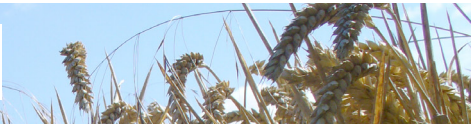
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Dickie's Diary

by Richard Green



Boring to many, but gardeners and farmers cannot just ignore weeds. A weed has been defined as a plant out of place. I quite like looking at pretty Himalayan Balsam but, in the wrong place, it has a terrible reputation. In garden, the Black Bindweed (*Convolvulus*), Ground Elder, and Marestail in sandy areas, can be a real nuisance.

I am just old enough to remember the start of herbicide spraying of arable crops on the farm; the red blush of a field poppies above the crop, the vibrant yellow of invasive weeds such as charlock and corn marigold, the problems with the three polygamums, black bindweed, redshank and knotgrass. Recently, on a wildlife holiday centred on the Cevennes plateau north of the Mediterranean in France, I saw three more old arable weeds grown in organic cereals that I had only read of, but had never seen before. These were pretty corn cockles and pheasant eye, also the lovely blue of corn flower. They were weeds, but I enjoyed seeing them and they were not doing much harm.

When I took over Rectory farm in 1973, our main arable weeds were couch grass, onion couch and wild oats. Before that, couch was weakened, (killed is too definite a claim) by a summer fallow or by raking up into heaps and burning. Onion couch has bulbs instead of rhizomes and my college lecturer advised seven spring crops and November ploughing. Glyphosate (Roundup) came to the rescue and has allowed control since. I have always had a crusade against wild oats. We are still roguing them out by hand onto a bonfire. Our fields are fairly clean, but reinfection from fields around us is still a problem, so you have to be vigilant because the seeds are carried by birds and wind.

In late May and early June crops can look immaculate on a *drive by* and then the weeds start to spoil the party by getting above the crop for all to see. Today our problem weeds are black-grass which we can only try to reduce

to manageable levels by rotation and by later autumn planting. We badly need a more effective herbicide. Cleavers or Goose grass can still be a problem. Cranesbill, a prostrate plant of the geranium species, can be difficult. Very recently, Fools Parsley is proving our latest difficult arable weed. We can control it in cereals but this year it is out of control above our oil seed rape crops in a significant area, and the yield of rape will be minimal. By the time this appears, the combine will hopefully be busy, so a few more weeks of sunshine please.

School Report

Unbelievably it is the end of the school year . . . where did it go? We are very proud of our Year 5 and Year 6 children, who won *Junior Good Citizen 2019* this year. This event takes place over a morning and the children rotate round a carousel of activities that look at their understanding and knowledge for general *citizen* type occurrences. This included how to act when near a train line, fire hazards in the home, strangers that you must not approach/go with, talks from the police, behaviour around dogs, impact of alcohol on behaviour, knife crime, online safety . . . and, clearly, we have very clued up children who shone with their knowledge to beat all the other Swindon schools that took part (there were many!).

We have had our new Reception children visit us. We have a full cohort again and are very much looking forward to welcoming the children and their families into our school community.

As we gather speed now to term's end we had a wonderful family BBQ, organised by FOBS at Alfresco. Games, sunshine and a super raffle followed by yummy food and drink . . . what more could we wish for?

We will be saying bye-bye on Tuesday to our superstar Year 6 children. We will miss them hugely as they all add such valuable dimensions to



the school. I am very lucky, in that I get to see the Ridgeway bus pull in daily, so at least I will get to *check in* still, us teachers just can't help it, even once they have moved on! A huge good luck to Amelie, Crystal, Frank, Laila and Liam. Within school, thankfully, we have no staffing changes this year. We will all be back and ready to go in September!!

Emma Linsay

Women's Institute Inspiring Women

7.30pm Thursday 8th August
Bishopstone Village Hall

At our August meeting we will be welcoming Jim Bischoff from Kidson Trigg Auction House, giving insight on *Auctions, Antiques and Treen*.

Search the cupboards and bring along an item for valuation!

We are delighted to be attending the Wanborough Summer Show on Saturday 17th August. Seek us out in the traders and craft tent, where we will have delicious homemade cakes available to buy from our WI stall.

Looking ahead at our meetings in the next few months we have;

- 12th September, 7.30pm at Hinton Parva Hall - Adrian West with stories, myths and legends on *White Horse Hill Landscape with the Sky*.

- 10th October, 7.30pm Hinton Parva Hall - Angela Punruker on *The Story of Pub Signs*

- 7th November, 7.30pm Bishopstone Village Hall - Terry Horton with a talk and demo of Tai Chi. Come and give it a try!

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



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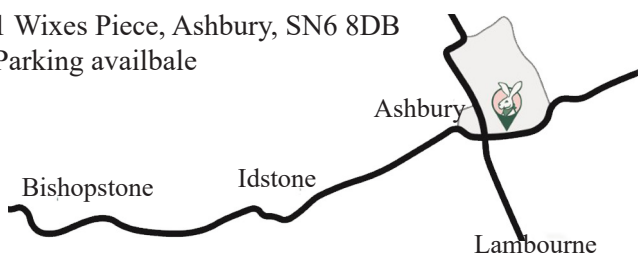


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Saturday: 10.30 - 4.30
Sunday-Monday: Closed

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	4th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	7 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	7th August	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	11th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	St Mary's patronal festival	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
	8 th Sunday after Trinity	6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	14th August	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	18th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	9 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	21st August	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	25th August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	10 th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	28th August	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	1st September	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	11 th Sunday after Trinity	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

So, the end of another academic year has been reached. And with good weather to boot. Hopefully, we will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy the company of family, friends and neighbours; either at home or perhaps away. As well as individual academic achievement, as a nation we haven't done too badly from a sporting perspective either. It's a tradition that after Evensong at St Andrew's we re-lubricate our vocal cords. The venue for this was brimming with anticipation; there was both excitement and a request for prayer. Lewis Hamilton had won the British Grand Prix earlier in the day and the Men's finals at Wimbledon had just finished after a very long tiebreak. With the birth of cricket taking place in a village not far from Portsmouth, it was lovely to witness the national team win the world cup and bring it home as it were. Our emotions were given a lot of opportunity to be exercised as a result, and what fun it was. Our vocal cords needed

a bit more lubrication after that too! While Sir Edmund Hillary undoubtedly had a sense of achievement once he'd conquered Everest, the enormity of it wouldn't necessarily have been as powerful as when he got to share that success with so many others. Sir Alec Rose and Sir Robin Knox Johnson were greeted at the end of their circumnavigation of our planet by large crowds, and to go from immense isolation to enjoying the warmth and adulation of the nation must have been both powerful and dramatic. At the bedside of someone who has just died, as well as the tears, there are often moments when fond memories give way to funny stories of a life well lived. It's a privilege whenever people feel able to share these tales of someone so loved. Sir Jackie Stewart and others are hanging onto memories of someone they love deeply. The difference being that their loved one is still with them. Dementia is a cruel illness that seems to be affecting more and more of us. All of this speaks to me very powerfully. In the first instance we'd be mad

not to grab every opportunity that life brings along. And sharing these events can bring so much joy to friends and to family. They can also keep us going when times are tough. Sharing doesn't do us any harm either, especially those moments when things don't quite go to plan. An ability not to take ourselves too seriously, and perhaps the ability to laugh at ourselves, are a huge clue that we recognise that mercy and compassion are a lot better for us, and those we live with, than any amount of criticism and argument. Our sports stars have excelled as a result of understanding and believing that they can do something, rather than focusing on what they can't. They have excited so many of us as a result, and for this we give thanks. The second thing, for me at least, is that Jesus has paved the way for us to believe that we too have been created for great things. Both in this life and in the next. For this too we give thanks. So, during this season of sunshine I offer you the following adjusted blessing; may the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your

back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we write again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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 Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

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

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell

The Vicarage, Church Road,
Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

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John Lowry 01793 790 271

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com



Benefice Harvest Supper

Saturday 21st September
Wanborough Village Hall

doors open 6.30pm food served 7.00pm

£10 per head to include - pie & vegetables, a selection of sweets and a glass of wine, cider or fruit juice - additional to purchase if required.

There will be a quiz entry £1 per person paid on the night and entertainment throughout the evening.

If you would like to join us please complete the form below; also enclose your £10 per head and your pie requirement by Saturday 7th September to:- Sue Gorelle
18 Church Road, Wanborough SN4 0BZ tel: 01793 790 786
or Judy Winter 01793 5371 23

Name(s)

Tel

Chicken & Mushroom Pie.....

Steak & Ale Pie

Spinach & Goats Cheese Pie

Fake News

or was it?

Do you remember that April fool report in 2017 on contactless collections? Basically a gismo was being installed in the church porch that would automatically remove money from people's cash card without them knowing. Ashionishingly, some people actually believed it. Well some things come true, almost. Our vicar was running a Vestry bar at the fête where there was a gismo enabling folks to pay for their drinks *contactlessly* and get *cash back*. Never say never.



Bill the Barman

Bursaries for Educational Expenses

Little Hinton Educational Foundation offers bursaries to help young people in our parish with expenses related to their education.

If you are under 25, live in Hinton Parva or Bishopstone, and need help with the cost of books, travel, materials, equipment or other learning resources required for your academic, social or physical education, please get in touch. We need to know your name, age, address, where and what you are studying, and what costs you could use some help with. Please ensure your application is received before the end of August.

Write to:
Mrs Valerie Brodin
The Coombs, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

We've done remarkably well this year for gardening club speakers; however, sudden illness can scupper the best laid plans. It was such a shame that our speaker couldn't make it on 10th July, but a croaky-voice-giving virus put paid to her talk about Michaelmas Daisies. We will invite her back next year.

4th July, and eighteen of our members set off at Ooo-too-early-o'clock in the morning for the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival. It was a fabulous day and mighty hot, as we discovered, once we disembarked from the air-conditioned coach. Lots of walking, huge crowds, and so much to see. We were all very sensible, having slathered ourselves in high factor sunscreen and, we did manage to stay hydrated with a Pimms or three. Favourite Show Gardens: The gold medal winning, *Thames Water Flourishing Future Garden*, designed by Tony Woods, featuring a long tunnel, billed as a *fun walk-through experience for children* but which worked equally well for a spot of shade; A silver medal went to, *A Place to Meet*, designed by Cherry Carmen, an urban garden on several levels, combining wildlife-friendly planting with moving water and featuring a plunge pool to soak away the stresses of hot sum-



Michaelmas daisies

mer days. (I have to tell you, only a sense of decorum prevented me from hurling myself over that fence straight into the inviting water.) Many of the gardens featured themes like global impact and drought resistant planting. Appropriately for our ecologically-minded villages, the BBC Springwatch garden was all about re-wilding the garden, opening up boundaries, conversing with our neighbours, and caring for wildlife. Says it all really.

Saturday 14th September is the Vil-

Pimms on the Lawn
2.00 - 5.00pm - 4th August
Hanger Park House,
Hinton Parva

Don't forget our Sunday afternoon charitable event. This year, we're supporting *Westmill's Root and Branch*. Come along for a lazy Sunday afternoon wandering amongst the beautiful gardens. Bubbly company, wonderful views, a cunning quiz, things to buy, yummy cream teas, and, of course, Marion and Rod's famous Pimms.

lage Produce Show, which is open to all who live within a 10-mile radius of Bishopstone. A traditional village produce show, with classes for fruit, veg, flowers, plants and pro-

duce, arts, crafts, photography, cakes, jams and chutneys, and so much more. James Andrews (Prohides) has agreed to be our photographic judge this year. Children of all ages are encouraged to get involved and come along on the day - trophies and prizes to be won! Please help us to keep this quintessential tradition alive.

Show Schedules are now available from:

Sheila Collins, 2 Poveys Place and Chris Thomas, Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone;

Mogs Boon, Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva;

The Ashbury Village Shop;

or you can contact us via the email address below for an e-copy.

NB: Now is the time to return last year's winning cups and trophies to:

Keith Gibbison, 6 High Street, Bishopstone.

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:

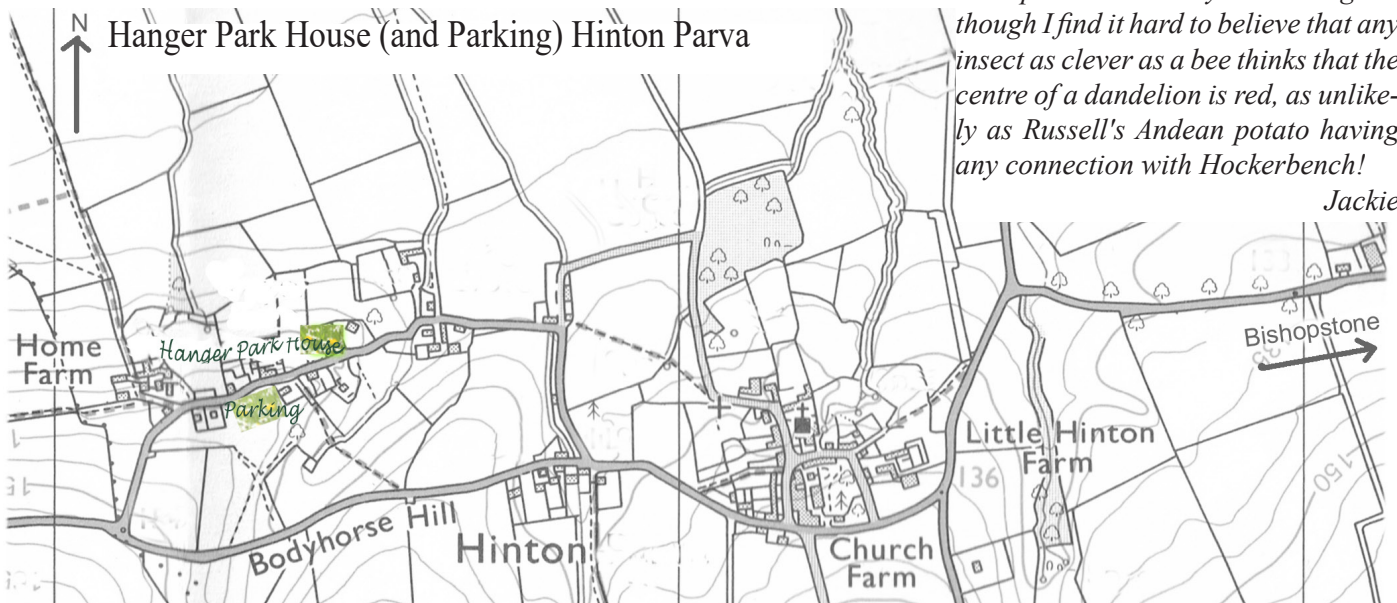
banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Sheila

Just to say that the four of us from Ashbury really enjoyed the talk on bee keeping.

The speaker was very interesting although I find it hard to believe that any insect as clever as a bee thinks that the centre of a dandelion is red, as unlikely as Russell's Andean potato having any connection with Hockerbench!

Jackie



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Our eccentric, and occasionally odd, little pub and mini hotel is the immediately obvious public face of the organic farm all round you, and, possibly slightly less well known, the organic meat trading and HB branded goods marketing and selling business. The business that created the orange pig logo that you can find in retailers from Truro to Inverness, if you look hard enough, and everywhere on the interweb if that's your thang. What it allows us to gain is an insight into how bigger businesses operate in this global world of food, and an hour or two spent watching the way huge food factories operate is a shocking, and at the same time amazing, experience. In mid-July, two of us spent some time in a bacon factory in Suffolk, where weekly, even at this quiet time of year, they are *making* 700 tonnes a week of every bacon type you can imagine (our business produces just less than one tonne a week...). Making it in ways you can't begin to imagine. When bacon was first discovered, almost certainly by chance, it was the interaction between salt and raw meat—the flavour is obviously from salt, but there was something else at work, giving the distinctive pink colour, and a way of keeping meat fit to eat through long periods without it rotting. It seems the chemicals at work were nitrates, turning

into nitrites, as chemists later discovered. The *salting* process could take weeks, and longer if you wanted it to, or were not hungry yet! So you could kill a pig in December, say, and start eating the bacon (or the hams) in January, or anytime as winter progressed, without fear of food poisoning. Now, the great food industry enlightenment means you can kill a pig today and start eating the bacon in two or three days' time, if you want. Time is expensive in any industry, so the quicker the better, and cheaper of course. You can buy bacon for giveaway money, and with it you can buy effectively handfuls of water, or a dilute phosphate solution. Wonder why your bacon cooks with a white froth? It's the phosphate they add to the salts and the nitrites, with the phosphate being added (injected) so that the meat retains the water. If you look at the back of the pack, and understand it, you'll see that the end product is heavier than the amount of meat that went into it in the first place. Cheap bacon is cheap because...well, you've probably got it by now! Another reason why organic seems more expensive—we're not selling you water! But it's not all negative—we watched as 60 women (and one man) stood at stainless steel tables in a working temperature of 5-7deg for 8 hours at a time, with two or three 15 minute

breaks, for £8-10/hour, making that old Xmas favourite pigs in blankets. That's a little chipolata wrapped in a slice of streaky bacon, favoured for generations as the luxury accompaniment to the roast turkey. Being the society we are, we now apparently want pigs in blankets all year round, so what you want you shall have. This is a wholly manual operation, and these Portuguese, Lithuanian and Polish women (and one Romanian man) now each make a pack of pigs in blankets every single minute. 10 pigs per pack. This year, in this factory, they will make 60 million individual items, 6 million packs. 60 million sausages (enough to stretch twice round the equator), all handled by these 60 people. What I find amazing is the ability of the human race to cooperate and come up with these sorts of solutions, and that people are prepared to come to work in a cold factory at 6.00am, dress themselves up in hairnets, rubber boots, and plastic gloves, roll a piece of bacon round a sausage, all for less money than most of us expect to earn. Out of the 550 people on the factory floor, about 30 of them are UK-born citizens. Oh dear, I've got all political again. Anyway, bacon and politics to one side, keep an eye out for **Luiza Staniec**, Polish pop superstar and women's rights campaigner (I've been told), and her new work coming out of Hinton Parva—and an appearance at Ye Olde Royal Oak this autumn; and, as you read this, **Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie** speaks at the pub, **29th July**, on why the Aussies are suddenly so useless at cricket. It won't last....

Pip pip



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Who stole the pavements?

Many years ago, when the Mantelpieces were young and shiny, they went on a holiday in the countryside. Readers, we were city dwellers, who had never experienced life in the sort of place that is devoid of street lamps and pavements. As we drove around narrow lanes, with high hedges and no stepping-off points, we were shocked to find there were those who put their lives in danger by walking down the road. *How, we said, can people be so reckless; if there is no pavement, they clearly shouldn't be walking here.* I know, I know - but his childhood in London hadn't prepared my Dearly Beloved for life in the countryside. And, even growing up in the wilds of Yorkshire, we had street lamps and pavements, onto which the horse-drawn carriages never strayed. Urchins could play safely when they'd finished their sixteen hour shifts in the dark satanic mills. The countryside seemed very dangerous to us.

These days, we appreciate that life in a village would be a very isolated affair if one only walked on roads with pavements. In fact, we'd never leave the house at all, except by car - which is, clearly, no good for either our health or the environment. Now I must issue a grumble alert - some people have not come to this conclusion, and they drive on a daily basis through our villages with no thought for potential pedestrians. Some drive with no thought for other cars, either; a straw poll of the Mantelpiece family has turned up two damaged wing mirrors in the space of a few months, caused by people who either didn't know the width of their cars, or who were allergic to hedges, so had adopted a very central position on the road, so as to be as far away from them as possible.

When we're out walking we make every effort to assist passing traffic and avoid death. At those points where visibility is poor and overtaking is a hazardous operation, DB and I always stop and direct traffic accordingly. Clearly, it's not only damage to ourselves that we avert, but also poten-

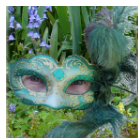
tial bending of car bumpers, or worse. You'd think drivers would be grateful for our concern; some are, but, a few days ago, a woman in a nifty little sports car gave me a glare that would have put Medusa to shame. And our own venerable Sub Editor was given a two fingered salute when she prevented a motorist from driving around her into the path of an oncoming car. Perhaps these are people who live in the centre of Swindon, and who are innocent of the ways of village living. Let's be generous, and assume they're not our near neighbours. . .

In a previous life, in a village somewhat north of here, we had similar issues. On one occasion, a driver actually stopped after she had remodelled my wing mirror. *It's impossible to drive round here without that happening, isn't it?*, she said, *It's always happening to me.*

Funny, I replied, *This is the first time that it's happened to me.* Perhaps she's followed me here. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...



Oh Mrs M, the countryside is indeed a deeply dangerous place, but it is also wonderful.

Boon breaks out into bucolic mode.

Opening my back door the other morning to let Fox out, I was surprised to see a young hare grazing under the apple tree; Fox was so stunned at first he just gaped at it. I walked towards it, hoping it would flee before he could catch it, but hare just shrugged and carried on feeding. Then I came to my wits and grabbed Fox, who had just gone into hunting mode. The hare lolloped nonchalantly off and a nasty accident was averted.

The interaction between animals is very interesting. The muntjacs that sometimes inhabit my garden (yes they can eat my flowers, I've got plenty) simply hate the cats. The buck has staring competitions with Fox and the doe stamps her pretty little feet at Frank, to no avail, but yey! our hedgehog is back and spends time with them in happy commune.

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:

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mogsboon@hotmail.com

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

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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: ***admin@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org*** 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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