

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva December 2019

Rescued in Bishopstone

A gentleman associate of the Pendon Museum, who was on a photographic excursion capturing images of St. Mary's Church to add to the museum's records, unfortunately found himself in the ditch. The villagers rallied round. Thankfully ☆☆☆☆☆☆ was home, and not only single handedly got the car out using a long wooden pole as a lever, but replaced the tyre too.

The rescuer said, I quote, *the action was only that which any public spirited person would have taken. If a person or persons have chosen to report me, I categorically deny everything. Under the terms of the general data protection regulations 2018 ratified by the EU 2016 I must request that my personal details are withheld from publication.*

In the spirit of Christmas, and resisting the temptation to upset the PCC, who don't want us to be sued, we are not naming names.

mogs boon (editor)



Coping with the Festive Season

Christmas and New Year can be particularly hard times if you have been bereaved. It seems everyone is settled in behind closed doors playing happy families and nothing will ever feel right again. I was talking to a widow recently who said she just listens inside and if she is with someone or in a situation that is not feeling right for her she simply excuses herself politely and leaves. She has learnt that sometimes feeling her loneliness is preferable to trying to pretend to be jolly and fit in with the crowd. She knows it will ease, so allowing herself just to lie on the sofa and have a really good cry often makes her feel better in the end. Of course, each one of us must

decide which approach is right for us.

If you have been bereaved and want to know what help is available, please check the resources section of our website:

www.woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk or call us on 01367 700 615

Jan

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

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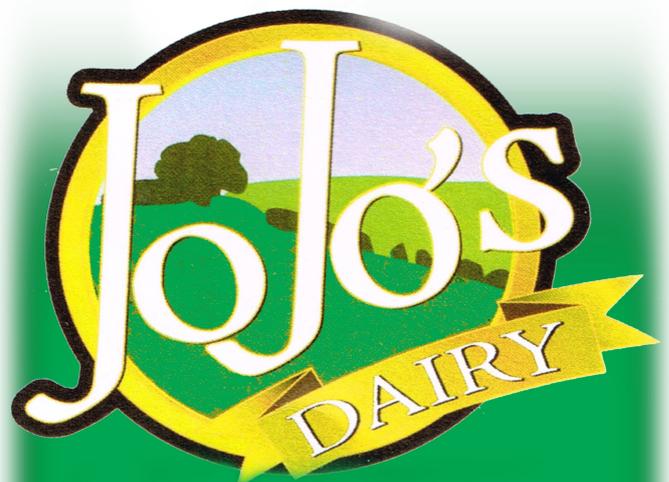
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Farmer Glory by AG Street; his first book, published in 1932, is still a timeless story with much good humanitarian advice to any student of agriculture. Bevis, a classic story of a boy's childhood by our local Victorian author Richard Jefferies, written 1881, ticks the same boxes to parents and those in the teaching profession. Jefferies was an acute observer of nature, informed by his wanderings particularly up to the downs from his farmhouse base beside Coate Water which, incidentally, was created as a lake to drive the local Berks and Wiltshire canal system. Swindon Corporation acquired this lake and his house for posterity in 1914, and today Jefferies's house remains a museum dedicated to his work and memory.

In chapter 2 of another of Jefferies' books, *The Story of My Heart*, he describes a valley with a spring close to the ridgeway as, *deep, narrow and silent, the sky crossed from side to side, like a roof supported on two walls of green*. A resident of Bishopstone, who remembers reading this book in his early days, had hoped that Jefferies might be describing the steep valley behind and above his house. I

could be wrong but believe it more likely that Jefferies had walked up to the lovely valley above Liddington, and after searching, I have recently found a spring rising from the grounds of The Manor there. This was formerly the home of the late Lord Joffe, who notably served as defence council for Nelson Mandela.

These chalk valleys are such a special feature, their steep banks corrugated laterally into ridges by centuries of the feet of sheep and cattle. I once witnessed a flash flood from a thunderstorm on the downs rushing down to a convergence, so violent that the water would have swept a man off his feet. Surely this type of erosion has helped form these landscapes over time.

Hinton Parva has its fine National Trust valley running above the village hall. Bishopstone has its two valleys and lynchet formations with springs at the base, once serving commercial watercress beds, corn mills, and still today, the pond and the church commissioners' private farm water supply piped under the pond from the source. Ashbury and Kingston Winslow have its wide coombe and millpond below, also once feed-

ing watercress and corn mills. These are all upper tributaries of the river Cole and the valleys themselves all enjoy public footpath access. In the Vale, from flatter ground, Longcot and Fernham are able to appreciate the vistas of these downs from afar.

by Richard Green



Green Gym, Community Spirit, A bit of a laugh, Conservation...

...whatever you want to call it, the National Trust working parties are back.

10.00am - 12.30pm.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided, along with all tools, gloves etc. We meet in the car park behind the village hall in Hinton Parva. Volunteers would be helping to directly contribute to the diversity of this wonderful habitat by encouraging an abundance of wildflowers and butterflies over the summer months.

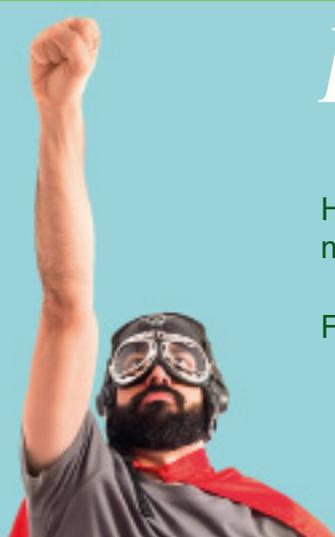
The Dates Are :

Sunday 8th December 2019

Sunday 12th January 2020

Sunday 16th February 2020

For more information contact Lorretta Waters, Area Ranger National Trust, Wiltshire Landscape West Kennett Farm, West Kennett, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1QF 01672 539 920 or 07792 034 532



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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - December

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	2 nd , 9 th & 16 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Yoga	Mondays	9 th & 16 th	7.30 - 8.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	3 rd , 10 th & 17 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	5 th & 19 th	9.30 - 11.00am
Keep Fit	Fridays	6 th & 13 th	9.30 - 10.30am
Parish Council	Monday	2 nd	7.00 - 8.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	7 th	1.00 - 5.00pm
School Play	Wednesday	11 th	1.00 - 3.00pm
Voting	Thursday	12 th	All Day
FOBS Fete/Disco	Friday	13 th	3.30 - 6.00pm
FOBS set up	Sunday	15 th	3.30 - 5.30pm
FOBS FC	Tuesday	17 th	3.30 - 5.30pm
Private Booking	Thursday	26 th	All Day
Film Night	Friday	27 th	7.00 - 10.00pm

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 - December

Evening Bridge	Tuesdays	3 rd , 10 th & 17 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Informal Bridge	Wednesdays	4 th , 11 th & 18 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	6 th , 13 th & 20 th	7.30 - 10.00pm
Private Event	Saturday	21 st	12.00 - 5.00pm
Carols & Mince Pies	Sunday	29 th	4.00pm

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 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
Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available
Free Parking

Hinton Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

5.00pm Friday 29th November
Hinton Parva Village Hall

Village Hall Supper

18th January - Details in next issue

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Annual General Meeting

7.00pm, Wednesday, 4th December
The Village Hall, Bishopstone

All welcome: Please join us and share your ideas for events and ac-

tivities which we can all enjoy in our newly decorated hall. Help us make the most of this great facility!

Chairman's Statement

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank all those involved throughout the year for their support in the running of Bishopstone Village Hall, Charity Reg number 271165. Our team of volunteers give their time to support and maintain this central resource at the heart of the village which touches and benefits many, including the wider community. I particularly thank those who have generously donated their time or money over the year, supporting our fundraising activities. 2019 has been very much business as usual with regular bookings and events, though, sadly, we have lost one of our main income streams from the school since lunch bookings were withdrawn by them due to operational and funding reasons.

During the year, a second pass at clearing the loft made good inroads to decluttering the space above the hall. There are always various jobs and improvements that need attending to and we were delighted when the Nationwide Building Society joined us on two separate occasions, giving up a day of their time to help us with decorating. They did a fantastic job - perhaps lured on the second visit by the promise of a delicious lunch prepared by Roz and Carol. We are now planning to prioritise further project targets for 2020, including a much-needed kitchen update, as well as exterior decoration.

We had planned to take out a rolling entertainment/bar licence earlier this year which will lead to cost savings; this is now firmly on the agenda for the Committee to resolve over coming weeks.

I am pleased to say that the Village Hall continues to operate within budget; its finances kept nicely on track with thanks to our resident bookkeeper Phil Collins. I note from Phil that at around this time last year, our cash in bank was £5,716 and this year our balance sits at £3,624. We remain com-

pliant with all current legislation with many thanks to the team, particularly Russel Hatch, who performs, reports on, and actions, all relevant/regular safety checks, plus audits required to do this. Anything remotely techy to be resolved ends up on his desk too! Our late summer History evening was a WOW, almost a full house, and was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Carol for championing this event, and to the speakers for making this such a success.

2020 will continue with our City Lights Film Nights bringing in visitors from surrounding villages, as well as regular hardcore Bishopstonians who enjoy the fun of the evening, the films and the drinkies during the interval. I would, though, urge locals to support the shows, as we do need bums on seats, (even if you do need to bring your own cushion!). This provides an excellent occasion for the community to get together and optimises the use of the hall for the benefit of all, adding to our village charm. We do need to sell tickets to make the event viable. Roll up. Roll up! Outside, we lost our regular gardener mid-year but, with the gravel

restocked, some overdue topiary from our neighbours – thank you, Christmas tree on order, and the giant Hebe cut back, we should start the New Year in fine fettle. Finally, thanks to for contributors to the Village Recipe Book, now unofficially subtitled *Tales from the Hockerbench*. Some fun reading and stunning recipes too, all proceeds raised to the hall funds - a shameless plug for a last-minute Christmas present, £5.00, usual stockists.



The Village Hall, Bishopstone
Doors 7.00pm

Licensed bar - Ice Creams
Refreshments - Interval

Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word as we looked over the *Empty Garden* with depleted numbers for our *Rocketman* in October. Ticket books remained full, blowing like a *Candle In The Wind*, it appeared to be more *Rotten Peaches* than *Crocodile Rock*, oh well, *I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues*. The bonus of the evening, I'm told by those who enjoyed the show, was

our draft ale which had been further improved by our Secret Cellarman!

Red Joan, directed by Trevor Nunn and starring Dame Judy Dench, will be our next film at the end of November. We'll pin up our spring selection for our audience to choose the next season of films too, so if you'd like to influence the film selections come along on the **Friday 29th November** to vote. For those pre-planning Christmas prezies, we will also have tickets for **Yesterday (Friday 27th December)** on sale for our pre New Year Showing.

Tickets £5 on the door, in advance from: Village Hall Committee or Richard Walker 01793 791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Pre show suppers and tickets from:

Royal Oak : 01793 790 481

www.helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk

Gardener/Handyman ...

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dennis@warrenfarms.net



Bishopstone Pottery Open Day and Christmas Sale

10.00am - 4.00pm Sunday 15th December

We are opening our doors once again to offer you the chance to buy that last minute Christmas present and to visit our working pottery. There will be a variety of our locally made, exclusive, hand-thrown decorative ceramics on show and for sale.

We specialise in raku and slipware pottery.

Sue and Adrian Dent

Bishopstone Pottery, 4 West End Lane, Bishopstone, Swindon, SN6 8PX

01793 790 246 info@bishopstonepottery.co.uk www.bishopstonepottery.co.uk

GREAT GIFTS



Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

9.30 -11.00am every Thursday during term time Bishopstone Village Hall
£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 & singing. A great way to meet new friends

For more info please email rainbowbishopstone@hotmail.com

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Myth Buster

We're keen to explode some myths that might exist about how Samaritans operate. These include:

- *You need to be suicidal to contact Samaritans.* We encourage people to reach out for emotional support as early as possible, when times are tough.

- *It costs money to contact the Samaritans.* Calls are free to 116 123 from both landlines and mobiles – including pay-as-you-go. There's no need to have any credit or call allowance to call 116 123

- *Callers need to be near a branch.* It doesn't matter where you are in the UK, calls to 116 123 will be picked up by a trained volunteer from one of our 201 branches at any time of the day or night every single day of the year.

- *Samaritans talk as much as callers.* When someone rings, a volunteer will answer with something like *Samaritans, can I help you?* and will then listen.

If it's difficult to speak immediately, then we'll wait – we won't hang up.

- *Contact has to be by phone.* Samaritans also provides emotional support by email and text.

Text 07725 909 090 or emails should be sent to jo@samaritans.org

- *Samaritans are anonymous.* We are available to provide face to face support from our branch at 6 Curtis Street in Swindon. Opening hours are on our branch website (www.samaritans.org/branches/swindon)

- *We offer advice.* However we are contacted, we provide emotional support to anyone and never advice, regardless of the circumstances. We offer emotional support without any pressure. We do not judge people and whatever we are told is confidential.

- *Samaritans are not needed in today's world.* Every six seconds, we respond

to a call for help – we're here for anyone who needs someone.

If anyone needs someone to talk to, we listen. We won't judge or make decisions – our opinions or

advice are not important for the call. We focus on thoughts and feelings and may ask questions to explore those feelings further.

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide - that's why we do what we do.

Maggie Gill

Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon

**Saturday 21st December
Wanborough Village Hall,
High Street, SN4 0AD**

Ideal for buying those Christmas sprouts! In the car park you should find *Ken the Fish* with his van. Ken is really keen on sustainable fish, (the fish might not realise it but you know what we mean), so come along and treat yourself to some organic salmon, for example.

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

As well as supporting local producers by buying your meat and veg, milk and eggs for Christmas...and maybe picking up some Christmas cards and gifts too, enjoy a free tea, coffee and piece of homemade cake with friends.

In October, over £280 was raised for *Swindon Night Shelter*, helping the homeless on the streets of Swindon. Thank you to everyone who came to the Coffee Morning and gave so generously.

When a crisis strikes a family with children, its effects can be devastating. Many of us would turn to relatives and friends for support but some families can be really isolated with nobody there to help them. Stabil-

ising families before they reach a breaking point is key to reducing the number of children who need to go into care. An award-winning charity, *Safe Families* has benefitted over 6,000 children since it was launched in the UK, in 2013. It provides Family Friends, Host Families and Resource Friends to help while parents get back on their feet.

So, in December, come along and learn more about this amazing charity which we will be supporting with your help.

Jo Peace



Does Hinton Need its Telephone Box?

In the village telephone box outside the village hall is an official message that the existence of the box is under notice.

The implication is that the box may well be removed in early new year. End of an era.

Howard

School Report

Bishopstone CE Primary



School is looking for Governors.

Please go to the website for more information:

www.bishopstoneschool.org – About tab, Vacancies tab

Emma Linsay

Bishopstone 100 club

November Winners

1st 72 Russell Hatch

2nd 18 Sara Hall

3rd 45 Jim Bone

Jo 790 485



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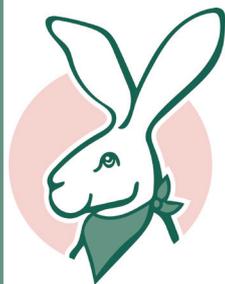
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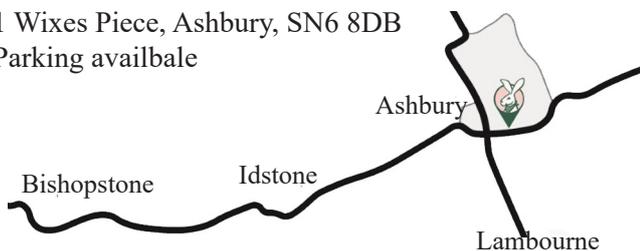
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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	1st December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 st Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	4th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	8th December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	2 nd Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Christingle with Scouts	Wanborough
Wednesday	11th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	15th December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	3 rd Sunday of Advent	4.00pm	Carol Service	Lyddington
Wednesday	18th December	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	22nd December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	4 th Sunday of Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Tuesday	24th December	3.00pm	Crib Service	Lyddington
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Christingle Service	Bishopstone
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Wanborough
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Lyddington
Wednesday	25th December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Christmas Day	11.00am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
Sunday	29th December	4.00pm	Carols & Mince Pies	Hinton Village Hall
Wednesday	1st January		No Service	
Sunday	5th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Epiphany	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

Happy Birthday! I say this as today is the birthday, in other words the first day of the rest of our lives. I make no apology for mentioning the fact that we are fast approaching another birthday, which generated the Season of Christmas, and we approach this with some sense of anticipation. Preparations will be one thing, time with friends and family another and the time leading up to this great festival can all become a bit of a roller coaster. Recently, I was in the company of a girl brought up on a farm, who shared with me her childhood memories of going to school with girls whose parents were in the armed forces.

What always made her giggle was the rivalry that existed between the armed forces concerning the sharing of port. There are those who believe that the decanter should not touch the table

(those who like to keep the sediment in suspension?) and those who keep the decanter in contact with the table (as an initiative test?). However, one thread of custom seems to be consistent: port is always passed to the left, or clockwise round the table. Apparently, there are no good grounds for believing that this has anything to do with the port side of a ship being on the left.

Tradition has a sense of reliability if not dependability about it. Dragging the newly elected speaker toward his chair in the House of Commons is another that was visited recently. This particular tradition was based on the fact that it was the speaker's job to share what the House of Commons had to say with the Monarch. If the Monarch did not like what they heard, the speaker would forfeit their life as a result. Christmas, on the other hand, is a tradition built on the birth of a child to poverty stricken parents. Go to many a maternity unit

and this is still an everyday event.

While the hope that accompanies a child born in the United States is that they have the potential to become the President, the birth that took place on Christmas day, in Bethlehem around two thousand years ago, was none other than the Creator of the universe in the form of a child. Along with Christmas comes Christmas movies, and some TV providers have a complete channel dedicated to these. Of course, the forerunner to this was another great Christmas tradition, that of the pantomime. Pinocchio is a regular and is being shown in Gloucester and Didcot this year.

As we know, Pinocchio was a child much wanted by his maker, who had to learn to be the best that he could be. Jesus was born so that we can re-discover our Maker, and grow into becoming the best that we can be. Our recent Confirmation Classes highlighted the point that we do so

through our relationships. Jesus came to restore our relationship with our Heavenly Father, and it's by knowing and understanding how much we are loved by God that we begin to recognise love increasingly, both within ourselves and others. The thing is, God's love is free and unconditional, in other words, there is no one that Jesus will ever turn away. His mercy is so enormous and unfathomable, we just have to give it a go. Given time it increases into a joy that cannot help but grow our experience of God's love still further. And before we know it we are giving birth to Jesus into the lives of those we meet without even knowing it, and this is our True Life in God. Merry Christmas!!! With best wishes and prayers.

Bill

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

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com

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

Remembrance Sunday

St Swithun's owe Roz Boot a huge debt of gratitude, because she organised a team to thoroughly clean the

church ready for the Remembrance Service on November 10th at 10.30am. Unfortunately, no-one else turned up, and, single handedly, she spent hours making the church look so spick and span, with the Roll of Honour brass shining so you could see your face it. Well done, Roz, you're star, and thank you very much.

Myra

Another star is Myra herself, who organised and took the service, well done, Hinton appreciated it.

Ed

**St Mary's Bishopstone
Cleaning Rota**

December Jill White &

Karen MacGregor

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



Dennis Ford with his father, Toby, and Myra Binks, at the Remembrance Service. Toby, aged 99, read the roll of honour as usual, in St. Swithun's Church. He served in the No 1 Army Commando during World War II.

**The Benefice Carol Service
4.00pm, Sunday 15th December
All Saints' Lyddington**

Come and listen to the story of the birth of Jesus, and sing all your favourite carols between the readings. The church bells will ring out over the village to welcome you in, and the beautiful sound of the hand bells will ring inside the church during the service.

The choir hope the church will be full of people to help them fill the building with the joyous sound of voices raised in song.

**An Informal Carols & Mince Pies Service
4.00pm, Sunday 29th December
Hinton Village Hall**

Hazel Cooke will accompany us on her accordion.



ALL ARE WELCOME



Bishopstone & District Gardening Club
Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Peaceful New Year

A lovely warm atmosphere, jolly people, and plates of tasty food made for a blizzarding marvellous evening during our AGM and supper at The Brewers Arms in Wanborough. Keith, our Chairman, gave a touching tribute to Joan Gibbs, a Bishopstonian, who died recently. Joan was co-founder and secretary of the gardening society which started on 19th September 1977; we'll note the date and plan some thing special to mark our 50th year! Maybe this is a good time to reveal that we're all about enjoying our evening meetings; we only invite speakers who are bursting with humour and positive energy, and, occasionally, at the same time, we'll pick up some great hints and tips for growing things and possibly buy a plant or two. We now take a break until Friday evening **14th February** 2020, when we'll be holding our annual **Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne supper** at Bishopstone village hall. A few of our menfolk, quick to cotton on that the quiz falls on Valentine's day, assumed it would save them having to take us out for a meal - Zut alors! Perhaps we should introduce some romance into the evening, with a wine and chocolate theme - that'd go some way to

taking the edge off of not being formally wined and dined, (especially if there were to be a case of wine and a hamper of chocolate as first and second prizes). While Quizmaster Fiona attempts to see whether we're on the ball or not, you can relax with your own drinks and we'll provide the warming food and yummy desserts. Teams of six, with silly names an absolute must. Details to follow. Join in next year; every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone village hall. £10pp annual membership or £3* pp on the door. *May vary according to speaker. You can contact Sheila Collins (Secretary), or Sarah Bally (Outings Organiser) at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com
 Sheila

**Needle Felting Workshops -
 Painting with Wool**

(1 place available)

Saturday 7th December,
 The Village Hall, Bishopstone
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 to see examples of Ushma's work.



Apologies In Advance

Dear all, the thatched roof on my cottage is going to be re-ridged at the beginning of January. There will be scaffolding on the pathway during this time so apologies in advance for any inconvenience. Charlotte Bentley, Finch Hill Cottage, The City, Bishopstone.



WINTER FAYRE

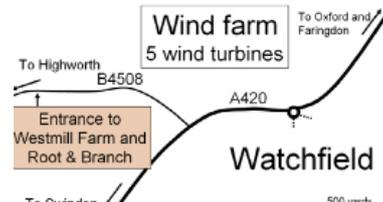
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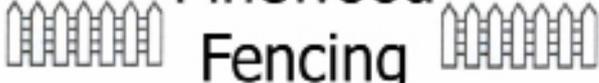


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The Royal Oak Diary

Thanks Millie Green for the lovely photograph

Just home from our sales trip to SE Asia, where we were successful in securing post Brexit free trade organic pork deals with a man in North Korea called Kim Jung Il, a really nice guy with a smart haircut. He bought four frozen legs of organic pork, which he plans to share with one of his concubines on Christmas Day. If by any chance you do not see me again, after I've written this, it's because his agents read the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva newsletter, (they are everywhere, especially Ashbury), and might not be keen on the flippant tone. I will therefore be languishing (I hear you whoop with joy) in a cell somewhere in the bowels of Pyongyang, and likely to be used as a human missile, to be sent into the Sea of Japan at high speed in the next few days. Apart from that hugely successful sales initiative, Japan was extraordinary, although too much buckwheat tofu for my taste, (it'll never catch on here), with a memorable day at the Hiroshima memorial, let us not for-

get; and South Korea utterly charming, albeit rather busy. Every gap in the tree covered mountain terrain had a dozen high rise tower blocks of apartments poking out—a bizarre landscape. Oddly enough, on the plane back from Seoul, we met a customer of Ye Olde Royal Oak—it seems to be the case we meet our jet-set everywhere—I met another one last time I was shuffling thro Bangkok airport trying to get a hair cut with added extras...

Talking of jet set, much to my surprise I've been made an honorary squadron commander of the US fleet of U2 spy planes and their crews at USAF Fairford, on the basis that we feed a lot of them and look after them well, despite being 20 miles away. I queried this offer on the grounds that I'm a greenish-pink war-avoiding liberal wimp, (or a *cheese eating surrender monkey*...as the French were once described by our US friends) but they told me they were peace makers not warmongers. We will invite the real squadron commander to speak to us over supper at HB's Royal Oak in the early part of 2020, and ask him if he's telling the truth. In return we'll take the Flying Pig to his base and feed his 200 colleagues with great organic ribs and burgers from time to time. Oh, the excitement of it all—back to earth with a bump, and I see that December is just around the corner. Catching up on pub plans for the next few weeks, I see that we've got some extraordinary pre-Christmas *workshops* as they tend to be called—27th

November in particular looks good, where we (not me...) will be showing people how to make Christmas cards, if that's your thang, Deborah. Look at our website, and book now before it sells out. I am always surprised at what sells well, but I am not normal. Our low key bonfire night appears to have gone well—no irritated neighbours on the phone for a change, and a bit more child-friendly (and therefore less exciting) than usual. Thanks to all who organised and attended. The pub is hosting a Green Party pre-election meeting on November 27th (check your diaries or their website); we are hoping to host a pre-election hustings here on 2nd Decemeber, a Monday evening, but so far Robert Buckland has not responded to my invitation—he's probably feeling slightly bruised by my polite anti-Brexit notes to him at various times in the past two years. However, we will keep you posted via the Bishopstone and HP newsletter, and of course thro' other social media, as they call it. Christmas food starts here 3rd **December**, running thro' to 23rd **December**; 21st **December** from 8.30 a little village party for those of you who fancy a dance before Christmas—our favourite party band Hooch playing here upstairs. Free admission, of course. See you there. We're **open Christmas Day** for drinks after breakfast; usually a big lunch Boxing Day, and then as normal through to New Year. New Year's Eve will be a our usual local low key affair, we don't want you to get too excited about 2020 after all. Lovely food, cocktails, good company and all in bed by 10.00pm please. And we love hosting your parties here anytime.

TF



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Happy turkeys and the King of Bishopstone

It's that time of year again. I know this because I've just seen a plea for a King's outfit on Facebook. I did fleetingly wonder whether this was part of the whole *Independence for Bishopstone* push, but decided that a) no-one was likely to want to institute a monarchy and b) even assuming they did, no-one would be considering crowning a five year old King.

So - no flies on me - I quickly twigged that the King in question would be making an appearance at a nativity play one day soon (Polling stations willing, of course).

I believe that, this year, we're all being exhorted to have a Woke Christmas. That's right - Woke. It grieves my grammatically-correct heart, but there it is. And, apparently, it doesn't mean getting up at 5.00am with children who are too excited to sleep on Christmas morning. Rather, we're meant to wrap gifts in scarves, bring in potted trees from the garden, and send e mails instead of proper Christmas cards. While that may all be very laudable, it's really just a bit miserable, isn't it? And who has that many scarves? The jury's out on e-cards. While they can be very jolly, and, admittedly, much more animated than the average non-tech posted greeting, seeing something pop up in one's e mail is not really as satisfying as hearing a card dropping onto the doormat. And show me the e mail that can be hung on ribbons from the bannister.

I definitely need proper cards to hang from the bannister. I once tried using baubles instead; threading them on the ribbon was easy, but trying to get the ribbons to stick onto the bannister was a whole different matter. Each evening on the run-up to Christmas, we'd sit watching TV to the gentle thud of another string of baubles detaching itself and bouncing down the hall.

Some years ago, I did make a stand against rampant consumerism, and bought presents for all and sundry from the Good Gifts catalogue. For

those who haven't seen this, it's really a great idea - instead of adding to someone's slipper collection, one can instead donate any manner of things to those who actually need something. After a few years, I started getting feedback that the gifts were causing difficulties for some parents; one child in particular was insistent on going to meet the goat he'd sponsored, and was most upset to be told that it wasn't even in England . . .

The rising number of vegans in the country must be every turkey's best present this year. In fact, so delicious-looking are some of the vegan offerings in the various supermarket catalogues that I suggested a less traditional Christmas meal chez Mantelpiece. Being married to a man who can't even countenance a Christmas card (yes a proper *hold in your hand* sort of card) that doesn't show a snow scene with holly, a snowman and at least one robin, I should have known the suggestion would meet with very little approval. In fact, no approval at all. . . So; whatever your plans for the last week of the month, be they traditional, woke, or even a few days half-asleep under a duvet, best wishes to one and all from the Mantelpieces.

Mrs Mantelpiece

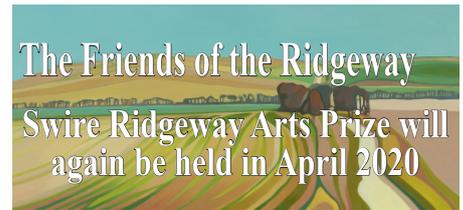


And Almost Finally...

Well chaps usually the front page of December's edition is one of jolly holly and Christmas cheer. I took a unilateral decision not to go with an image of the way Christmas ought to be but often isn't. In a (theoretically) Christian country we are supposed to be celebrating the birth of Christ. If we are to believe what we read in the bible, he wasn't born in December at all, but the Early Church had the cunning idea to place it in mid winter to replace the pagan solstice celebration.

In the long run it hasn't worked, has it? People just party and spend too much, the only nod to Christianity is the nativity play and the odd carol. In spite of all, the editorial team and I wish you all the best for Christmas.

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

mcanespief@gmail.com

1 Little Hinton Farm Cottages, Hinton. Please note that names and contact details must accompany these letters, but, of course, we will not publish your details unless requested to do so.

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