

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

February 2019



*Top left to right: Kestrel and Common Blue Butterfly.
Bottom: Pheasant; Sparrowhawk and Greater Spotted Woodpecker.
These stunning photographs were taken by James Andrews. See page 10
for details of his talk to Bishopstone & District Gardening Club.*

***Stop press: The Bishoptone & Hinton Village Fête is to be held on 6th July,
at The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone, by kind permission of Molly & Charlie.***

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



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School Report

School is up and running, although nearly not running with some ancient blocked pipe work . . . we shall say no more on that one, other than that the pipes were rather near the toilets!



The Nativity passed without a hitch, beautiful singing and lines remembered by all. Within church, we then looked at the Christmas story through the eyes of a *mouse* and have uploaded to the school website the power point that the children created - speaking the story whilst using illustrations provided to us; feel free to go and have a listen.

The children in KS2 have moved onto learning about lifecycles, starting this off with a trip to Butterfly World and getting to meet *Bob the bearded dragon* and a slightly tubby raccoon, by all accounts. KS1 children are off shortly to Birdland, with their focus being on flight and birds (having already informed me why different birds have different beak shapes).

The school received a letter from Adrian Burt, Superintendent, Swindon Borough Policing Commander, and visit from our lovely PCSOs who are increasing their presence across all schools in Swindon. We mentioned our concerns such as parking (throughout the day), speeding and the cutting of the corner by school, with dark evenings making this even more dangerous in the winter. They will be out and about over the future weeks.

When discussing New Year with the children, we felt that it would be a positive thing to increase their awareness of life opportunities within both the local, but also more far-reaching, community. We are planning a week where we would love adults to come and talk to the children about hobbies or their work role. If you feel that you could talk to the children for 10/15minutes on these subjects, we would be delighted to book you in! The teacher would be there to support you but we just feel passionately that they need to be inspired about life -from bee keeping to life as a ship's captain. Just drop Sue a line in the office and then we can liaise over a time that suits in the future.

Emma Linsay

Women's Institute

- Inspiring Women

Thursday 14th February

7.00 - 9.30pm

Hinton Village Hall

We have an exciting new programme of speakers for our WI meetings this year - so make notes in your diaries!

This month, we welcome a local, John Reynolds, speaking on *Antartica*.

Our meeting on 14th March is our Annual Meeting, where we review the previous year, appoint our officers for 2019, and take a look at plans for the year ahead. Hinton Parva 7.30-9.30pm.

11th April: Alix Booth will be entertaining us with the *History of Punch and Judy*.

14th June: *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 40 varied entry classes including preserves, cake baking, flower arranging, sewing & crafts, art and photography. Can we beat the record of 284 entries of last year?

11th June: *Dragons & rescue dogs*... the inspiration for Debi Evans to write books. Food for thought for a budding writer.

8th August: Jim Bischoff from Kidson Trig joins us for an evening of *Auctions, Antiques & Treen*.

Hunt out your treasures and bring them along for a valuation.

12th September; Adrian West and the *Stories, myths & legends* that bring our sky to life over White Horse Hill. You will leave being able to look out for things in the night sky and identify constellations.

10th October: Angela Panrucker on *Stories of Pub Signs*. Part of our heritage of which we are probably unaware.

14th November: get prepared to try *Tai Chi*. Terry Horton encourages with a talk and demonstration for all to participate.

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



At the end of September, a bunch of Bishopstonians toiled for hours juicing not as many apples as we thought we would! We'll have the finished product ready soon. I've had an early sample at Doug's house, which is where we did most of the work, and am now blind with no enamel left on my teeth.

Tom Sargeant

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - February

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Yoga	Mondays	4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th	7.15 - 8.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Fitness	Wednesdays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.15 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th & 28 th	9.00 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th & 28 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
B&DGC Quiz Night	Friday	8 th	6.45 - 10.30pm
WI	Thursday	14 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Film Night	Friday	22 nd	7.00 - 10.00pm

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

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

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

Hinton Parva Village Hall - February

Bridge	Fridays	1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	7.30 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesdays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Private Booking	Sunday	3 rd	10.00 - 1.00pm
Private Booking	Monday	11 th	9.00 - 5.00pm
Private Booking	Tuesday	12 th	9.00 - 5.00pm
WI	Thursday	14 th	7.00 - 9.30pm

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

From 1st January, due to increasing costs, rates will be:
£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

Saturday 2nd March, Hinton Parva Village Hall 7.00pm

We proudly present Josette Joseph with her amazing talk on the production of milk, right here in our community at Lotmead. You will not believe the skill, courage, innovation and ingenuity that goes into getting milk into the bottle. Listen to how it all began and also the daily struggle to make it all happen. Have you tried the milk sales machine at the farm? All this and more. Josette has wowed audiences far and wide. Suitable for all the family.

£5 on the door or in advance on 791 171. Drink included

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Thanks to the Hall Team who organised the super Christmas Tree; it looked wonderfully festive and perhaps the best yet. We're now just working out how to dismantle it!!

Richard Walker

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

Saturday 16th February

9.00am - Midday

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street, SN4 0AD

3rd Saturday of each month

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning

Will look forward to seeing you again in February, when we will be collecting for **Headway** which is a Charity for people with head injuries.

Thank you for your support over the last year.

Library Corner

11.00am

Monday 18th February

At Liden Library

Meet the Author

Karen Gregory



Covingham Library: St. Paul's Drive,

Covingham SN3 5BY 618 737

Liden Library: Barrington Close,

Liden. SN3 6HF 433 647

[SwindonCommunityLibraryTrust@](mailto:SwindonCommunityLibraryTrust@LibraryTrust)

LibraryTrust

Registered charity number. 1171371

Diane Rendell

Bishopstone 100 club

December Winners

1st 83 Rachel Blunt

2nd 29 Carol Sarchet

3rd 88 Phil Collins

Jo 790 485



CINEMA

A Star is Born
Friday, 22nd February (R)
Doors open 7.00 film starts 7.45pm.
Royal Oak pre-cinema suppers.
Licensed bar and Interval.

By now you have seen *Mama Mia II (Here We Go Again)* and enjoyed the extra room to exhibit some of your best dance moves and your finest singing voices.

The Happy Prince in December provided a melancholic mid-holiday respite for some of our die-hard City Lights cinema goers, and some newbies too. Full credit to our committee members who turned out mid-hols to prep, set up, and man the event. A great film, wonderfully acted and directed by Rupert Everett; possibly a bit too gloomy for some, but thoroughly enjoyed by others.

Further dates for the diary:

Friday 22nd March *Bohemian Rhapsody* (PG)

Friday 26th April *Widows* (15)

Tickets Royal Oak or

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk 01793 791 913



Saturday 12th January at Bishopstone Village Hall saw twenty people from Bishopstone and surrounding areas attend defibrillator training. Paramedic, Rob McGuigan, carefully guided us through the process of using CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) and an AED (automated external defibrillator), which is a device that gives the heart an electric shock when someone's heart has stopped. Picture above right, village hall chairman practices life saving skills.

Photograph by Shelia Collins



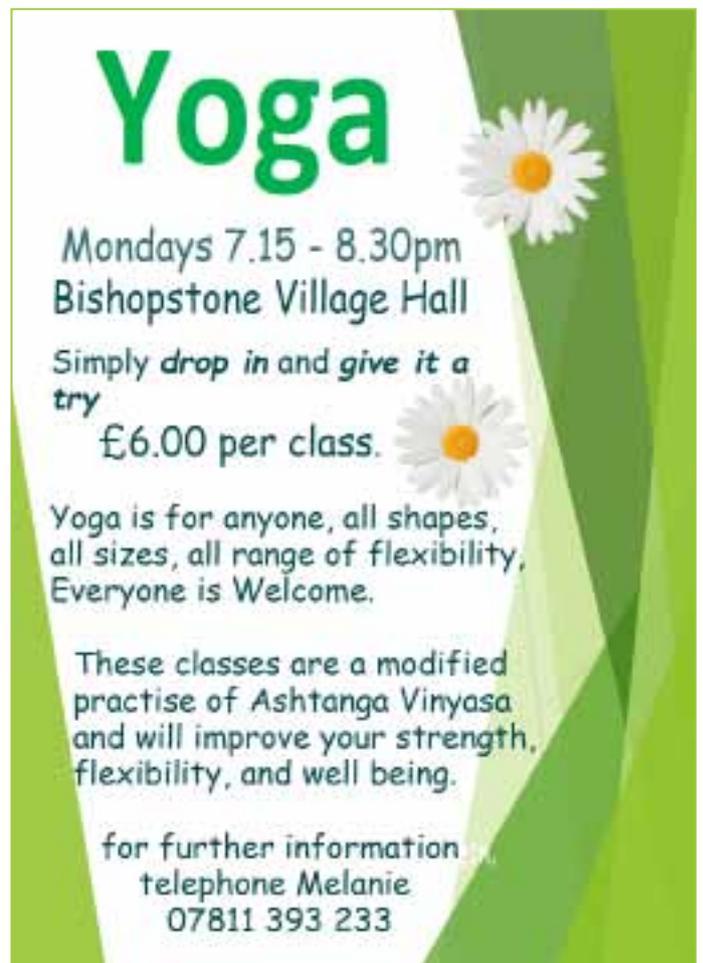
Rainbow
Baby and Toddler Group

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

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For more info. Call Tori
07891 533 654

 Follow us at
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Yoga

Mondays 7.15 - 8.30pm
Bishopstone Village Hall

Simply drop in and give it a try
£6.00 per class.

Yoga is for anyone, all shapes, all sizes, all range of flexibility, Everyone is Welcome.

These classes are a modified practise of Ashtanga Vinyasa and will improve your strength, flexibility, and well being.

for further information
telephone Melanie
07811 393 233

Bishopstone Church Roof

It is never pleasant asking for money. Many of you may have contributed to this appeal already through Raffle, Carol Singing and Christingle, raising just over £1,000 and we are very grateful.

It is proposed to replace the stolen lead with painted steel sections, a repair system by Euroclad Veio Edge. Cost is budgeted at £37,500. After insurance, which is capped, we have to raise a further £21,500 minimum because there are usually unbudgeted elements.

For the church and the community PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING BY SUBMITTING A ONE-OFF DONATION.

If you are a tax payer, complete the Gift Aid form below and copy this sheet or tear it out to include with your donation:

By Bank Transfer to SC 30-98-41 Account 00316122 quoting **Roof Appeal**

By cheque to **Bishopstone and Hinton Parva PCC** and deliver to the treasurer Karen Stevens, Church View, Bishopstone, 01793 791 107, or fundraiser Richard Green, Glebe Cottage, Bishopstone 01793 791 310.

CHARITY GIFT AID DECLARATION

Boost your donation by 25% if a taxpayer, through gift aid.

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Title _____ First name or initials _____

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	3rd February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
Candlemas		10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	6th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	10th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
4 th Sunday before Lent		10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	13th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	17th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
3 rd Sunday before Lent		10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	20th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	24th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
2 nd Sunday before Lent		10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Tuesday	26th February	1.30pm	Dobbin Service	Wanborough
Wednesday	27th February	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	3rd March	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
Sunday before Lent		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

With Jesus' birthday just past, it's timely that we get to February so soon. For a lot of chaps, the 15th of the month is an important date, for no other reason than they forgot that they should have pulled a few rabbits out of hats, flowers out of bags, and perhaps chocolates out of boxes the day before. For many others, the 14th is a day for our minds to wander off on pink fluffy clouds and the like.

St Valentine was a priest, and Bishop of Terni. As with so many saints, he met a martyr's end. But the connection of St Valentine with those in love could be down to the point that this day was a traditional day in medieval belief for birds to be mating. This day has also been linked with the Lupercalia festival. Possibly a pre-Roman pastoral annual festival, it was observed in the city of Rome on 15th February, to avert evil spirits and purify

the city, releasing health and fertility. In the Christian faith, this Saint's day gives us an opportunity to reflect on an All-Loving God, who blesses those who love one another. It can give rise to the thought that the more we bless, the more we are likely to be blessed. A kind of *what goes around comes around* approach to life. It also fits in with that aspect of our belief that makes the point that life is one great game of *pass the parcel*. The sharing of the Good News that Jesus was born, died and rose again so that we can all get to live happily ever after, free from the trials and tribulations of our lives here on earth, along with those we love who have died and gone before us.

St Valentine was also tried and tested, by a judge who required that the saint restore his blind daughter's sight. Placing his hands onto her eyes, St Valentine restored the child's vision. Judge Asterius was humbled by the whole experience and gratefully responded to St Valentine's requests. He broke all the idols around his house, fasted for

three days, and was baptised, along with his family and entire 44 member household. The now-faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates. All of this is a far cry from chocolates, flowers, and romantic dinners, but it highlights a father's love for his daughter, God's love for the two of them, and their love in response. With the head-long rush to performance for as many minutes of as many days as we can muster, it is good to have reasons to stop and reflect on whether we are living to work or working to live. It's kind of obvious which of these those who are dear to us would wish for. And so I continue to pray that you will be both loved and encouraged every step of every day.

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

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com

With best wishes and prayers

Bill

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell
The Vicarage, Church Road,
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

Christmas Church Raffle

1st prize - Rick, Lilac Cottage

2nd prize - Mike Hook

3rd prize - Mrs Mason

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Puffet
for their help.

St. Swithun's Church

As an 89 year old who used to be a regular attendee, and churchwarden for 30 years or so, I find it very sad that we do not have church flowers at the moment.

There has always been a bit of controversy about flowers in many churches; we have one at the moment, I believe. Historically, these matters have been sorted out by the chap in charge. If words were spoken rudely, please acknowledge, apologies cost nothing and we all make mistakes. So please let's find a solution and have church flowers again. We all miss those flower arrangements, which I regard as works of art.

Harvest Festival, which I attended, with a lot of help, because it coincided with the christening of my great-grandson, was decorated for that

event, not for a harvest service. No produce except for the two wheat sheaves which I had cut from our own fields. I used to take five large bagfuls of food to the Salvation Army or the Green Hut the next day.

I did not go to St. Swithun's on Remembrance Sunday as it was Bishopstone's turn to host the event, which was the hundred year anniversary. However, there was no service organised. The church was kindly left open, so my family and a few local people

attended – I believe that the Rev. Sandy Railton would have been available if she had been asked in time. Anyway, I read the roll call of the fallen from the two parishes, which I felt should be called in their own parish church.

When we arrived at the north door, we discovered that it had been painted a hideous blue. It is oak and has creaked and welcomed church goers for 250-300 years. Whoever had the idea of desecrating a lovely door? Did they have a faculty from the Bishop? I cannot understand the thinking behind this foul deed.

One more comment; what a shame that St. Swithun's is not open during the day, even one day a week would be better than nothing for the many people who would visit the church and sign the visitors book with so many different thoughts.

Wishful thinking, Happy New Year,

Toby Ford



Art Competition

The Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize

27th Saturday & 28th Sunday April
Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall,
Uffington

The theme of the competition is:

Spirit of the Ridgeway

There will be separate classes for painting, sculpture (including ceramics and textiles), photography and writing (poetry or prose). Competition is open to all, amateur and professional artists. Art work submitted must be produced in the 24 months prior to closing date.

The closing date for entries shall be one month prior to the Ridgeway Friends Day (i.e. 31st March 2019).

Further information can be obtained from:

Anthony Burdall, 2 Fernham Road,
Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7JY
01367 240 713 07841 352 938
anthony.burdall@burdall.net

Logo background painting by Anna Dillon.

Cleaning Rota St. Mary's Church, Bishopstone

February	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
March	Karen Stevens
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

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club.

Wednesday 13th March

James Andrews, professional photographer and the new curator of Prohides, gives us a talk and slide show about his latest work. Encounter some of the wealth of wildlife on Helen Browning's Eastbrook farm. The stunning flower meadows, fruit-laden hedgerows, flowing stream, and quiet pond provide a wealth of shelter, food sources, and habitats for all kinds of creatures.

James joined Helen Browning's farm to develop their ProHides photography projects. As you are no doubt aware, the area abounds with wildlife and he is hoping to make photographing it all that little bit easier with hides designed for photography use and experienced tuition.

He joined the farm late last year after spending 13 years working at Jessops and up till recently headed up development of their Academy – photography training school. Moving down from Yorkshire to take on this exciting project has been a bit of a dream for him.

Expected to launch soon there will be a range of photographic courses, workshops, and hide hire opportunities. He's shared some of his images of the birdlife of the area with us as a bit of a sneak peek!

Unless otherwise stated, we meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Raffle/Tea/coffee/biscuits. Visitors especially welcome: *£3 per person on the door *Price may vary according to speaker. Annual subscription of £10 per person will be due when we next get together in February.

You can contact Sheila or Sarah at: banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

10th April

Darren Lerigo: What do I do with this space? TV gardener, successful playwright, and ex-stand-up comedian, who became a top topiary clipping gardener and is a champion organic gardening.

Dickie's Diary



Writing in January, as a mostly retired farmer, I am lucky enough to be frequently walking across a great deal of farmland stretching from Cornwall to Yorkshire, carrying a gun. I am struck not only by the increasing number of dry Januarians I meet, but also by how dry it is underfoot. Some racecourses are actually watering, unheard of after Christmas! The little river Lambourn has disappeared. I am afraid we need some rain soon or we will probably be in for a wet late spring like last year. And if we don't, we will be in for echoes of 1975 and the very dry '76. The signs of spring emerging are there, if you have eyes to see, despite

the dry spell. Yellow *lamb's tails* or catkins hang from hazel bushes, snow drops, and now my aconites, are beginning to show their respective white and bright yellow petals. Daffodils are certainly coming, and there are reports of them already in flower in early gardens. We were given an amaryllis plant for Christmas. It is placed before our kitchen window and we marvel at its progress. Its lime green erect sheath grows an inch a day, certainly another portent of spring. Richard Jefferies, our local Victorian countryside author from Coate Water, wrote *Amaryllis* at the Fair, a story of a girl by that name with all the hope and expectations of spring and youth. Perhaps I have more time to listen now but each morning I am struck, as never before, by the wonderful melody of blackbirds singing from

a high perch in our garden and they have been at it vociferously since December. Another certain early sound of spring is woodpeckers drumming as they search for a mate and establish their territory. Crows float around on the downs paired and ready for breeding, not yet nesting but probably not far from their chosen tree site. On a fine day, rooks will begin to get really noisy and start to put a few twigs as the start of their rookery nests. I think magpies have already started on their bread basket constructions. I even saw an egret this December, in the dingle below the Old Mill at Bishopstone. On the farm it's a quiet time. We are fencing, servicing machinery, looking after our cattle and loading out grain. I have been filling in a few gaps in hedges with new saplings.

Richard Green

Winter Warmer QUIZ NIGHT



Friday 8th February

Are you smarter than the average bear?

Bishopstone Village Hall
Doors open from 6.45 for
7.15pm start



- Prizes to be won
- Bring a team of 6 or join a table
- £10 per person
- Price includes Chili con carne and dessert
- Bring your own drinks
- To pre-book: Tel. Sheila 790 358 or Mogs 790 626
- Let us know if you would prefer a vegetarian option

On behalf of and run by Bishopstone & District Gardening Club
Quizmaster: Fiona McAnespie

Stop Press the date for

Pimms on the Lawn

afternoon in Hinton Parva

is

Sunday 4th August

THE BREWERS ARMS
 WANBOROUGH



**PIZZA & PIE
 KITCHEN**

HANDCRAFTED PIZZAS & PIES
 OPENS NOVEMBER 2018

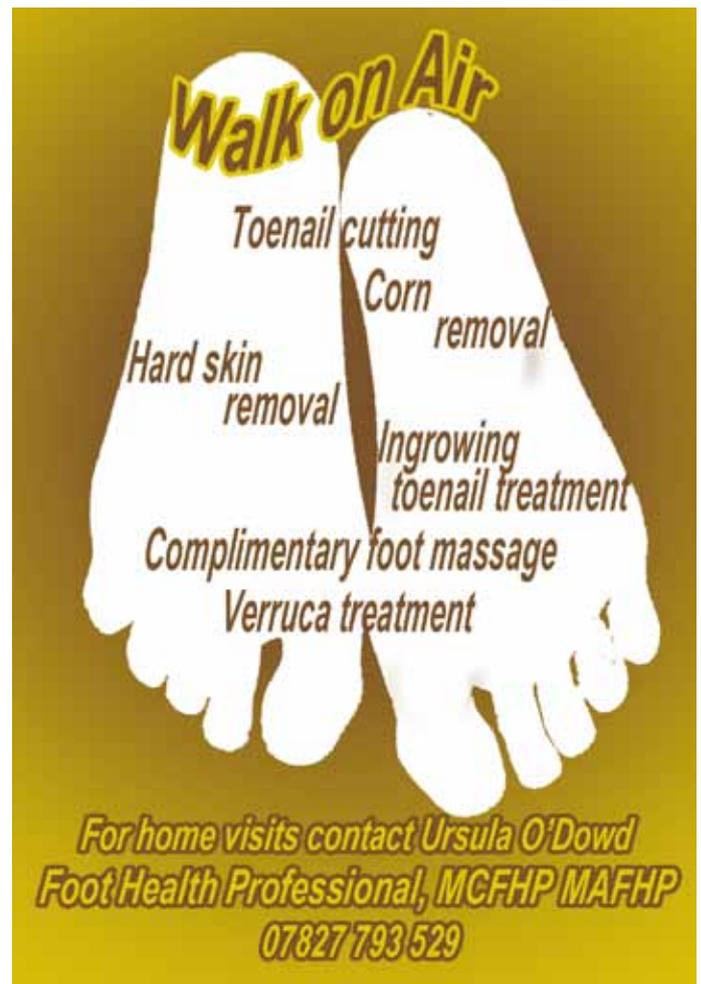
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Fresh from the revelation that HB's Royal Oak has been awarded a £13.8m Government ferry contract by Chris Grayling, the Transport Secretary who manages to re-define incompetence with each passing day (the ferry is to get valuable goods, eg ripe and ready turnips, and fresh tripe, across the village pond, post Brexit, to ensure frictionless trade continues), comes the news that the livestock and machinery barn on the Ridgeway is going to be used by the authorities for storage of valuable medicines, as all known routes to and from the EU cease to exist in their current state. What fun we will have, all of us, as we enter this brave new world. As I have previously said, we are rationalising our summer menu, with the main protein—and entertainment source likely to be turnips on toast, with a side dish of mashed swedes (and finns). However, this esteemed organ is not a political rag (except I see a lot of politics in it, well dressed up), and so I must stop there. In the meantime, while exotic supplies remain available, and assuming we choose to remain open after 29th March, rather than going to live in the land of milk and honey over the water, wearing our now obligatory gilets jaunes, we're re-stocking with Arkell's finest beers, because they're only 7 miles away; revamping our menu to allow our well known standards, organic pies, burgers, ribs, and turnip delights, to be available at any time; and putting together a new pick and mix and sharing menu for lunch and supper. If you want a pork belly, for example, with a turnip stew, fine; if you'd prefer it with 3-cooked chips, fine, and some turnips; and if you just want a herby turnip salad, no problem at all. Let's see if it works. Seasonal, local, timely, fresh, political, turnip-y, organic and entertaining remain our watchwords. Don't forget we also serve a very scrumptious breakfast 7

days a week—from 7-10 Monday to Friday, and 8-10 Saturday and Sunday. Just marvellous, always warm in winter and cool outside in summer. We'd prefer to know if you're likely to be using us, but we'd also encourage spontaneity, and turnips. Thanks to the neighbours somewhere in the village who spend one evening every month knocking over all the garden furniture. The bottle man appears to have stopped drinking, or has worked out when the recycling lorries come past. Dog owners continue to delight with their ornamental bags strung from branches, and not just on our property, either. We're planning a village supper in aid of the church roof—Richard Green, the Vicar and I are forming a liaison group on this, probably, and we'd hope to host it around the mid/end March period, certainly before Easter. It's one of a series of little events being put on, I am told. Birdlife at Eastbrook continues to amaze us—the lapwings have been stunning recently as they turn in the winter sunshine; golden plovers lend a different colour to the landscape, and starlings from Scandinavia form a black carpet over parts of the pig fields by the Ridgeway. Elsewhere in this issue, James Andrews talks about the activities he's organising for photographers and nature lovers generally—I think he's planning some educated starling visits in early February, as we speak. Bird numbers are still building. They seem to love our organic pastures. We had that black throated thrush, of course, in mid December, which brought the twitchers out with their gear. Henry said it was not a surprise to see a black throated thrush—there was so much mud around, everything was sort of that colour.... First other special events are probably Easter Egg hunt, Easter Sunday, as

usual; then classic cars/Drive it Day, 28th April; then Pig Racing, probably 9th June (a week later than usual due to clashing with the Spanish Grand Prix...). Jason Gillespie, an astonishing cricketer, now confirmed late July, pre-Ashes. This will sell well. Pip pip, and we hope to see you and serve you turnips.



TF

Letter to the Editor

Sirs,

As I see that you are now accepting letters to the editor in the vein of other well known and esteemed publications (eg The Times) and having read the letter from my respected friend J Flanagan I thought I would also put finger to Iphone screen.

Speaking for myself - we in Church Lane are not troubled by pyrotechnics as we have progressed from putting dry vegetation on our roofs in the vain belief that it will keep us dry. Should the residents of Cues Lane decide to move with the times I would, however, recommend against using malleable metallic material in favour of a more modern solution such as slate or tile although in some areas I believe stone is also used.

I am an avid reader of this publication, in particular the ROD (Royal Oak Diary).

I am mildly offended that Mr Finney (I presume it is he who writes on behalf of the establishment) thinks that only Brexiteer lunatics would wish to eat turnips on toast as it is one of my personal favourites and I am neither a brexit supporter and as yet I have not been certified.

I am sure that I am not the only individual living in our beautiful village to enjoy a nice juicy turnip on toast and I am also sure that we all have our own favourite recipes.

If Mr Finney's chefs need any tips I have no doubt other enthusiasts would be happy to assist.

Yours faithfully,

Mildly offended from Church Lane
Would it be a good plan to submit some of these delicious turnip recipes to Carol Sarchet for the **Bishopstone Recipe Book?** Ed



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

The people of Wanborough are revolting. No - that's not the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva view of their neighbours, but the state of play regarding the "science park" planning application which will neatly, but not very desirably, link Swindon with Wanborough.

But that's the least of our worries. Beyond that, we're told, just about everyone will soon be revolting. They may already have done it, by the time you read this. It must be true, because I keep seeing it in the Press. Not responsible, local papers for local people like this one, you understand, but the national papers that **Should Know Better**.

Between the Media fomenting trouble and politicians (who also **Should Know Better**) forecasting unrest, there may not be blood on the streets locally, but it's likely there will be turnips. The saving grace of our mammoth potholes is that it would be nigh on impossible to drive the big guns in. Rebellions have a habit of throwing up unforeseen outcomes. When the Tour de France became the Tour de Yorkshire a few years ago, one of the locals rebelled against the Yorkshire way of seeing it as *nowt special*, and decided to stage a triangular rebellion. Word passed amongst the local knitting underground that there were plans afoot to create knitted bunting to be strewn between lampposts in key locations. Needles were sharpened by like minded folk; a cunning pattern was circulated, and all those odds and ends of half-knitted balls of yarn which populate the cupboard of knitters found a purpose. At first, it looked as though a few lengths of twine from which to hang the rebellious-triangles would suffice. But that was before the request for triangles went viral. Knitters around the world rallied to the call. The local Post Office was brought to its knees by the volume of triangles arriving by the sackful on a daily basis. That most frightening of forces known to man, the nannas who knit small square bits of breakfast comestibles, piled in (creating, incidentally,

a cereal shortage that threatened to topple the government. Well, not really, but a small child in Bridlington was in tears because she couldn't have Shreddies for breakfast.)

The lead conspirator (let's call her Dianne. After all, that's her name) misquoted another rebellious Yorkshire group and announced *we're going to need considerably bigger pieces of twine*.

A few days before the Tour turned up, virtually all the area was awash with nattily knitted bunting. Even the most local of the locals were heard to announce things were looking *alreet*, which was high praise indeed.

Unfortunately, the rain started to fall, as it very occasionally does in the north of England. As anyone who has ever worn a knitted swimming costume will attest, water and woolly garments are not a happy combination. My mother once had the embarrassment of emerging from the North Sea in a knitted costume that not only covered her from shoulder to ankle due to the 'sag' factor, but which he dyed blue for several weeks. The accumulated weight of the rain-sodden rebellious-triangles threatened to pull over (oops) assorted telegraph poles and lamp-posts, and there was an emergency operation to remove the bunting before the blokes with bikes and Lycra even arrived.

So we should remember that revolutions do not always end well. Unless we grow a lot of turnips on our allotments, of course, in which case we might be quids in. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...

Turnips seem to be the overriding theme of this newsletter, is zeitgeist the word for which I scabble?

Now for a bit of a moan. It isn't always the advertisers fault, I admit, but please guys, do pay as soon as you receive your invoices. We need that money to pay the printers. No money, no newsletter. Also late copy. Yes, the deadline is the 15th, but please do send in earlier or there may be not room. No Sub, we aren't adding more pages.

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

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

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

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

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

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

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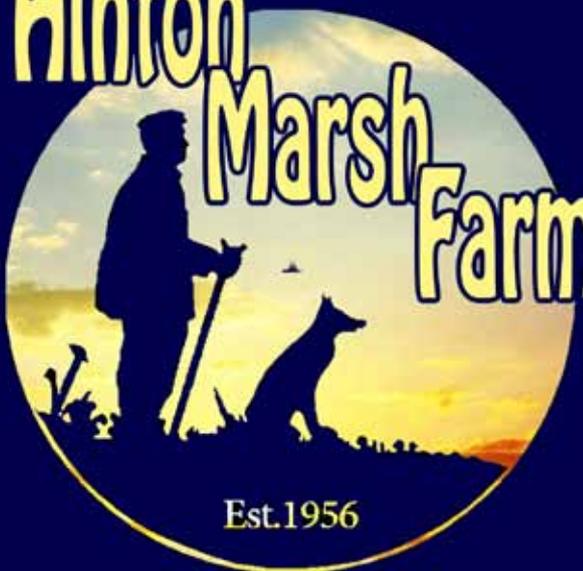
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