

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

March 2019



It was Friday night and the lights were low; we were looking out for a place to go. *Mama Mia II at City Lights* was the obvious choice. They sang; they danced. And that was just the audience. . . It was all great fun, although the really *big* songs had been used up in the first film, so there was perhaps less singing-along than there could have been. But we gave our all when Dancing Queen came on; perhaps a little too exuberantly. . . The casting was fabulous, and the young versions of the characters were spot on. Omid Djalili was great value, voicing the thoughts that most border control officers must have when presented with passports (*your hair looked better shorter or the years have not been kind to you.* . .) And Pierce Brosnan's singing was kept to a bare minimum, which was such a relief. For me, Mrs Weasley (aka Julie Walters) stole the show. Clearly someone else was a fan, as there was a distinct cry of *two soups* at one stage. A brilliant way to start the weekend. And there's more to come next month. Thanks must go to David Wray who thought of bringing the cinema to

Bishopstone, and thanks all those who assist month on month to make the magic happen.

Features Editor

**Dates for the diary:**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Bohemian Rhapsody (PG)**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Widows (15)**

Doors open 7.00 film starts 7.45pm.

Royal Oak pre-cinema suppers.

Licensed bar and Interval.

Tickets Royal Oak or  
richardw@eddingtons.co.uk  
01793 791 913



**March brings breezes loud and shrill, to stir the dancing daffodil.**

Sarah Coleridge

Bob reports from the Bishopstone Tidal Observation Post, which collects vital tidal data as part of monitoring the climatic effects on sea level and, since the 2011 launch

of the Met Office WOW website, all other data, temperature, wind speed, rainfall etc are automatically uploaded at 15-minute intervals.

He has been having trouble with the wind. When it blew it blew! The 18<sup>th</sup> January saw the highest wind gust of 41.9 mph; a 'stiff westerly' breeze., Beaufort force 8.

Oops, and then we had trouble with the instruments !!!! 741mm (29 inches) of rain recorded on Boxing Day... resulted in some emergency maintenance. This included the anemometer, (wind speed) which had completed an estimated 700 million revolutions. A deserved retirement. Not bad from something that costs less than £5.

(See picture in the centre).

Remember the snow last March? The beast from the East. Roz and Glad stranded on Body Horse Hill rescued by Claudio who was serendipitously passing in his 4x4. (he has been recently made an honorary member of the Bishopstone Mountain & Cave Rescue team.) The 'Beast' was ushered in by the coldest night of the year, minus 7C on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

*Bobbing About, roving reporter unpaid*

Apology

So sorry, Toby, I got your age wrong, (see page 9 of the February edition). I know that you are 98 years old; putting 89 was a typo. Completely my fault.



Ed

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

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### School Report

We entered January with an awe inspiring trip to Young Voices – a concert made up of a choir of 6,659 children, in Birmingham. This event is something that the school participates in every two years, and it certainly has the wow factor, from the dance troupe *Urban Striders* through to this year's 'pop stars' which included Tony Hadley. All of KS2 participated, and we joined forces with South Marston CE Primary, which was really nice, and enabled the children to mix with others. The sound was fantastic, with the children belting out ballads to chart hits. Our youngest children visited Birdland; this was to add an additional layer of knowledge within their current topic which is based around birds. We saw many an interesting sight, including several of the larger birds holding their lunch (small cute mice and fluffy chicks) . . . which you can imagine had quite a reaction, and then some rapid teaching about the food chain! The penguins were hilarious and, after us all holding our breath, decided not to enter the water and show off their swimming skills . . .the children didn't mind, they just enjoyed shouting a countdown to the poor penguins 5,4,3,2,1 . . . no splash! KS2 then performed at the Wyvern Theatre, again the whole class took part, and this meant a really unique dance where the boys and girls developed 'sections' and then merged together. The music was a range over a period of time including *We'll meet again* through to some that unfortunately ... I do not know the name of (sign of my age I feel). Very proud with them finishing holding the Union Jack.



Ending our *broad and balanced curriculum* events for this term, was a visit from Wiltshire Air Ambulance. A morning full of information, not only about the service that they provide, but also teaching the children basic lifesaving skills such as what information they need to make a 999 call, through to CPR.

As we break for half term tomorrow, we are looking forward to celebrating grandparents with a special grandparent afternoon which will be full of quizzes both old and new.

*Emma Linsay*



are struggling to keep on top of the problem. Meanwhile, the roadside litter mounts up and the sight of it attracts yet more litter as people see it as evidence that littering is acceptable.

I want to do something about this, starting with local litter picks along the roads beyond our villages as part of the Great British Spring Clean that runs for five weeks from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year. I am provisionally looking at the following dates and locations but will go wherever there is interest and support:

March 24<sup>th</sup> - Foxhill

March 30<sup>th</sup> - Wanborough

April 6<sup>th</sup> - Baydon

April 13<sup>th</sup> - Ashbury

April 20<sup>th</sup> - Kingston Lisle

But I would also like to think far beyond this. Perhaps commission an arts prize among local schools to come up with the Ridgeway's answer to Gobby, this brilliant fish sculpture meets litter bin? Make a more sustained effort to get the relevant councils and the fast-food outlets

who cause most of the problems to do more? Perhaps funds for regular local litter picking and a roadside campaign to change behaviour?

If there are any like-minded people as depressed about litter as I am, please contact me:

[molly@mollywatson.com](mailto:molly@mollywatson.com)

***Meanwhile people do help with litter clearing in the villages***

Chris Thomas organised a litter pick at the plantation in Bishopstone during January. Sarah, Emma, Rachel, Gill and Yuet did a grand job of collecting lots of spent brittle tree guard plastic, (used to protect sapling trees).

Any future collection will have to wait until the birds have finished nesting; we wouldn't want to disturb the wildlife.

*(picture: middle colum Gobby; below Bishopstone litter pickers)*

### Littery Matters

There hasn't been a national anti-littering campaign in Britain for a generation, and it shows.

There is now 500% more rubbish being thrown on our roads and surrounding countryside than in the 1960s. Most of it is food and drinks containers chucked from passing cars, and a good proportion of that plastic debris will take several hundred years to degrade.

Even though litter is the most complained about issue among taxpayers, and over £1 billion is spent nationally clearing it up, local councils



## The Village Hall, Bishopstone - March

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Daily School Dinners (not holidays)	Subject to bookings		11.45 - 1.00pm
Keep Fit	Fridays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 10.30am
Legs, Bums n Tums	Mondays	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 - 7.00pm
Yoga	Mondays	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 - 8.30pm
School	Tuesdays	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	3.15 - 4.15pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Fitness	Wednesdays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 8.15pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 - 11.00am
Private Booking	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.00 - 5.00pm
Parish Council	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Gardening Club	Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Film Night	Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	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 - March

Bridge	Fridays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Tuesdays	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Parent & Child			
Fitness class	Wednesdays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 - 2.30pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesdays	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Dairy Farming - Josette Sette	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 - 9.00pm
Card Making			
Workshop	Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 1.00pm
WI Craft	Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 - 4.00pm
WI	Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	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 these classes.

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Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391 - Please leave a message if required.

From 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Hinton Parva Village Hall 7.00pm

We proudly present Josette Sette, 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.

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791 171.

## HP Village Hall Supper

Not quite late December back in 63, but – Oh what a night!

Quizzes hard enough to baffle contestants on Only Connect, stunning organisation, great food, and songs to commemorate 100 years of the RAF - all to the wonderful sound of the accordion. Yes, it could only be the Village Hall Supper.

Around 40 of us braved the winter chill to be thoroughly entertained by Mine Hosts, Howard, Rod and Marion. Howard opened proceedings with jokes to make your toes curl, but they are so wonderfully delivered that you can't help but laugh and admire the timing. Grace gave a short appearance and then we were into the main event. If, like Mrs M, you were also unable to make it, you missed a treat. The level of quizzing was stunningly good. The prime minister anagrams were fascinating – Ted Heath was most unfortunate to be *The Hated*, and Marion couldn't believe it when everyone asked for more time to finish. There were also picture-rounds and very, very frustrating riddles. No prize for guessing who put those together, eh Howard?

Catering was once again excellent, and thanks go to Val, Lesley, Hazel and Conta (with apologies if I've missed anyone) for the time devoted to preparing such a large feast, and for the varied selection of food on offer. And let's not forget the young and old volunteers who served it, washed up, and cleaned and cleared the hall.

It may seem like a simple sort of affair, but the amount of hard work and organisation that goes into getting it right on the night, so that we can all have a great time, is considerable –



Val & Conta, part of the excellent catering team.

Thanks to Jan Brodin & Sheila Collins for pix

### The Village Hall, Bishopstone

After 11 years as secretary of the village hall committee, I would like to hand over this role.

I will remain a member of this enthusiastic and friendly committee, which is dedicated to raising funds to continue to update and provide a well-equipped hall which people can use for local societies and events. The committee also puts on its own events, such as the monthly film night, which it hopes will encourage village participation and become a regular feature of Bishopstone life.

Meetings are approximately every two months and, whilst the role of secretary does require a minimal amount of admin and pc work, I have found that the main enjoyment has come from being actively involved in village activities.

We are also looking for another member to bolster our numbers and help with Committee activities.

If you are interested in taking on either of these roles, please contact: Carol 791 453 or Richard 791 913

something which I have only learned quite recently myself. Jan snapped up photographer of the year but Laugh of the Evening goes to Rod for dropping the box of raffle tickets all over the floor – don't give up the day job to become a juggler, Rod!

Hazel Cooke, ably assisted by her husband, Peter, led the traditional sing-song. It's amazing how you think that you know the words until you have to sing along to them – but if you could bottle the enthusiasm and community spirit from that sing-song on that particular night, and share it around the parish, then we might just all forget about Brexit for a short while. What a relief that would be.

Thanks again to one and all for a wonderful evening – and, if you didn't get there, leave a space in your diary for next year.

*Mr Mantelpiece*

*Howard, wonderfully on form, opened proceedings with jokes to make your toes curl.*



\*\*\*\*\*



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tds@swindon.cabinet.org.uk  
call on 01793 402 106

or visit us at Sanford House, Sanford Street, Swindon, SN1 1HE

Ask for Frances or Lucy

## Women's Institute

- Inspiring Women

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

7.30 - 9.30pm

Hinton Parva Village Hall

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. We also welcome local, Byron Carron, for a **light-hearted talk on 54 years in the law** We have a **craft afternoon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**, from 2.00 till 4.00pm, in Hinton Parva Hall. We will be making dream catchers and origami (paper folding) items – both of which are craft

items for our June Flower Show. Cost £5.00, with all materials supplied, as well as tea and cake, so come along, enjoy a relaxing afternoon, and make a couple of entries for the flower show. Non-members are welcome.

Wiltshire Federation are holding a **Centenary Celebration Lunch** with Anita Harris on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, at Wellington Barn, Manor Farm, Calne - a two course lunch with a glass of wine or soft drink and coffee, followed by Anita Harris (entertainer) as our after-lunch speaker. Members £42.50, Non-members £51.

Looking ahead at the next few months we have;

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April**; Alix Booth will be entertaining us with the **History of Punch and Judy**.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June**; is our annual **Flower & Craft Show**, which has been running for over 60 years. Our show provides a wealth of opportunities for members to try new skills and demonstrate their expertise with over 40 varied entry classes including preserves, cake baking, flower arranging, sewing & crafts, art and photography. Can we beat the record of 284 entries last year?

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

## Nigel of the Ridgeway

The proverbial sledgehammer to crack a nut has been used and the hounding of Nigel, the *bête noir* of a small minority of Bishopstone residents, has reached a successful conclusion, with Nigel imminently being forced to move.

Why such an agreeable eccentric could not have been left alone is beyond me.

Do his detractors even walk on the Ridgeway, and, if so, what promotes such animosity when they catch sight of Nigel?

Where he is at the moment has no impact upon anyone and I really do not understand why he cannot be left in peace.

Let's hope these people attach as much rigour to all aspects of their own lives as they do that of Nigel's, ensuring that every rule and regulation is followed to the letter, with no exceptions.

*Jane Le Coyte*

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month**

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning

Enjoy free homemade cakes, tea and coffee. Each month the Coffee Morning supports a local charity and this month it's **Wiltshire Victim Support**.

No one wants to think that they'll ever be affected by the impact of crime. But crime happens, and can leave people traumatised, nervous, and even depressed. Thankfully, there's Wiltshire Victim Support, who last year helped more than 1,200 people find the respect they deserve and the strength and encouragement to move beyond crime. It's an independent charity doing an amazing job.



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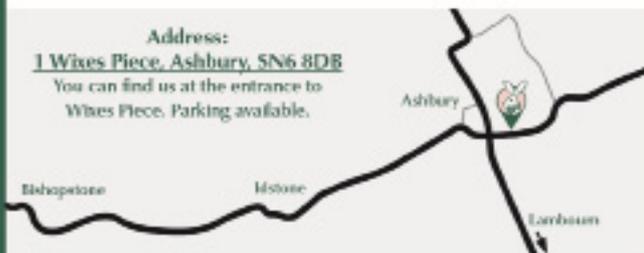
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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Sunday before Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Ash Wednesday			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
	Mothering Sunday	6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>		No Service	
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent			

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

## The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

March is a peculiar month in a number of ways. We have the beginning of Lent, the build up to Jesus' Passion and Cross, and in the same month we have Annunciation of Jesus' birth, the build up to Christmas. In Lent we try to have a look at being a bit more careful with how we indulge ourselves in an effort to see if we can be more generous, with our time, if not our possessions. And in the midst of all of this, we have great celebrations like St Patrick's day and St David's day too. But then life is full of similar conundrums, and I guess that's what makes it fun.

One of the lovely things about the month, in this the most wonderful part of God's creation, is the beginning of Spring. Officially beginning on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, we pray that the weather joins in. One of the things

that my younger colleagues at *God College* had to get their heads around is the fact that the Vicar has to remain apolitical. They cannot take sides. Irritatingly, I was called to jury service which, while a privilege in so many respects, provided me with the following conundrum. The people in the dock were also likely to be patients of mine at the local hospital. How would any of us like to be cared for by someone that has just judged us?

It gets to the heart of the Lord's Prayer too. Forgive us O Lord, just as we have forgiven everyone that has ever upset us in life! On occasions this can seem an impossible task, and on our own, it may well be. But we don't have to look too far to find examples of extreme forgiveness. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is one that readily springs to mind. A victim of the notorious Angel of Death at Auschwitz Concentration Camp declared that she had discovered that

she had the power to forgive. No one could give her that power and no one could take it away. It was all hers, to use in any way she wished. Amazing. There has been a lot said, and a lot of that with great passion, on Brexit. We have prayed about this for some time at Church each week, and we have simply prayed that God's will be done. That prayer isn't limited to the position that we find ourselves in as a nation today, it is also a prayer for what follows. In other words the result of the decisions that have been made concerning Brexit. It accompanies another prayer that is said whenever we take the offering. Lord, we thank you for these gifts and we pray that You will bless them, and us, exceedingly abundantly, that we may learn to be just as generous. The subtext to this prayer is that we will always have enough to live and enough to give, not only in terms of material wealth but in our love, our hospitality and in our

forgiveness of others. 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:**

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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

### St Mary's Bishopstone Spring Clean

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April - 10.00am

Several people have suggested we have a good, thorough spring clean to get the church in a good polished state, to make it much easier to maintain on a weekly basis. Everyone welcome to come and help - even if you are not on the cleaning rota. Come armed with dusters, and polish - though I will have supplies too.

*Sarah*

### Bishopstone 100 club

#### January Winners

1<sup>st</sup> 33 Mary Darling

2<sup>nd</sup> 59 Hannah Ford

3<sup>rd</sup> 19 Jackie Wray

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

*Jo 790 485*

### Bishopstone Duck Trail

25<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June  
(finishing after pig racing)

Adult and Child trail sheets will be available from the school and The Royal Oak from 25<sup>th</sup> May

There will be prizes for the winning child and adult trails as well as for the best dressed duck.

Theme to follow, (but voting via the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva community page suggests pub names are preferred!)

Please contact Belinda  
07956 654 873

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

Raising money for Bishopstone Primary School

### The Bishopstone & Hinton Village Fête

#### Fête Committee Meeting

7.00pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Royal Oak meeting room

Everybody welcome

**Village Fête** 6<sup>th</sup> July, at The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone  
by kind permission of Molly & Charlie,  
in aid of the church roof appeal



### St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

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

Mary Darling 790 700 is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc. Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean.

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

*Sarah Best 791 121*

Highworth Choral Society presents

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

with orchestra

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

7.30pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April

St Michael's Church, Highworth

Conductor - Jacki Pattenden

Karli Hardwick - Soprano

Sarah Champion - Mezzosoprano

Guy Withers - Tenor

Christopher Webb - Bass

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## Bishopstone & District Gardening Club Thoughts on the Quiz



Get in! Thanks for a fab night. Two on the trot. Pressure's on for next year 🤔 *Tom Sargeant*

Thanks for organising!

A great night and delicious food as always.

*Heneñcina De Malpica*

What a great fun night and well done to all who organised and provided the fabulous food.

*Rachel Blunt*

Great night - appreciate all the hard work the organisers put in - good community get together.

*Fraser Blunt*

Thank you for organising a fab night.

*Oscar Matalobos*

Well, that was fun! As you'll see from the comments and photos, our annual quiz Night was a successful brain-teasing event, fuelled by generous portions of warming chilli and tempting puddings. Huge thanks to our talented cooks; kitchen preppers; raffle sponsors; the putter outers and the cleaner uppers; Russell, for his ingenious electronic scoreboard; everyone who supported us by being there, and of course, our brilliantly comedic Quizmaster, Fiona. (picture above left)

James Andrews, the new curator of Prohides, will be here on **13<sup>th</sup> March** to tell us about his wildlife photography hides and workshops. James, who only arrived here last October, has been very busy mending and relocating the hides and has already amassed some wonderful photographs.

**10<sup>th</sup> April.** Darren Lerigo: What do I do with this space? TV gardener, playwright, and ex-stand-up comedian, and, now a top topiary clipping organic gardener.

**Subs are due at the next meeting.** 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](mailto:banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com)

*Sheila*

*Louisa Barnes*

### Dickie's Diary



Searching the Bishopstone website, I came across this hunting report from 1895, which may be of interest if only from an historical perspective. The Old Berkshire Hunt dates from 1760, with the first Master, the Revd John Loder of Hinton Waldrist, serving 1760-1805. I have George Wilson's copy of the book covering the early history to 1904. He was the elder brother of Bob Wilson, formerly of Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, who was Robbie Selbourne's grandfather. I have a few copies left of

the more recent hunt history, my book covering the years 1904-2012.

Looking at the names mentioned at this 1895 meet, Evelyn, Countess Craven, and her second son from Ashdown Park, were great supporters. Major Hippisley lived at Sparsholt Manor, now the home and estate of the Swire family. Mr Eddie Dunn, of Childrey Manor, was an amateur steeplechaser. He became a popular master, 1898-1901, and future chairman. He had a beautifully burnished plaque erected in his church at Childrey to all the hunt members who were later killed in the Great War. The master in charge

at the Bishopstone meet was Frederick Swindell, who did four years. He was succeeded by Dunn, and then Mr Wright, and some wag was reported as saying that the hunt had first been Swindelled, then Dunn, and was about to be put to Wright! Mr F Martin-Atkins, a former master, lived at Kingston Lisle Park, and his descendant, now deceased, used to be chairman of Morlands brewery, Abingdon, before amalgamation with Greene King. Mr Baring lived at Ardington house. Captain and Miss Theobold were formerly of Sutton Courteney Abbey. The Butlers lived at Carswell, Faringdon, now St Hugh's prep school, and Mr Robson was a strong rider across country, from Stockholm, Uffington.

The first draw, Hinton Copse, which is still there today, usually held a fox and was, controversially, also claimed by the neighbouring VWH hunt, until, with the expansion of Swindon, the VWH fully ceded that corner of country to the Old Berks in 1989.

*Richard Green*

### The Ridgeway Link AGM

7.00p.m. Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April

Bishopstone Village Hall.

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

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

Hope to see you there.



*I used to be a black labrador. Lovely picture of a snowy walk on Charlborough Tump.*

*Thank you, David Wade*

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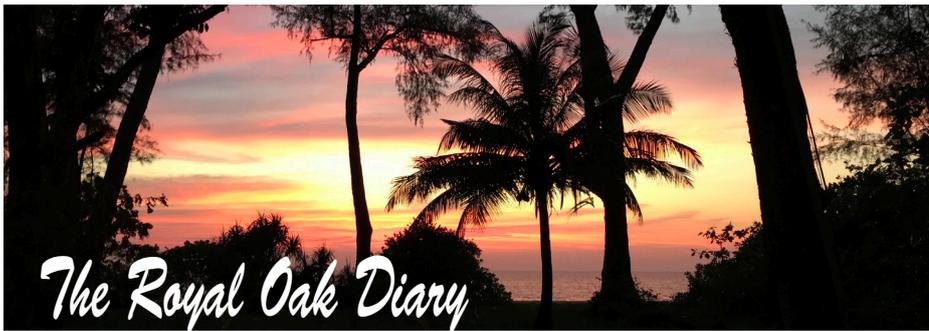
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As those of you who know me and give me even an occasional passing thought will recognise...I've always thought of myself as a sort of feminist, seriously; but having just devoured Caitlin Moran's tome *How to be a woman*, along with several other notable volumes while on holiday, and reflecting a bit, I realise again that I'm not a feminist after all. I'm just a fairly predictable bloke with a twinkle in his eye, and a big streak of idleness, who makes a lot of noise! I look around me in this odd, principled business built by Helen Browning and sometimes enjoy all the opportunities I think I've helped to create for talented women, wherever I look. But it's a load of tosh, when I consider it. These women—I could name them but this column is not nearly long enough—have created their own opportunities because they're actually better than me (a lot better) at doing the important jobs that need doing. They organise their working and domestic lives in ways that I can only dream of. While I fanny around arguing about brexit and looking at the latest cricket score, or wondering how to make the pub TV work, they're making sure the pub is open and there are staff to run it; they're making sure the organic pork is safely on its way to Germany (with or without a no deal, I'm sure we'll be hearing more about that later) and that Ocado has a supply of the new HB branded pork products, even if their robot-run depot has been reduced to a pile of ashes. Anyway, enough of the self-immolation, which you're not really used to, and which we can expand on in later columns, ho ho, if you ask nicely. (I recently wrote to one of my female colleagues and told

her if I was good at anything, it was initiating interesting business activities, but then I had to find talented women to come and rescue them...). What started me off on this track was the news that the other main bloke here at the pub, the good looking one, who probably also thinks he's a proto-feminist, name of Valerio, very good noisy front man and setter of high standards, he's off back to Italy and taking our glorious kitchen woman, Serena, with him. (I think she wants to go...they're getting married after all.) And for those of you who know him and her, and like what they've done, and want truly to say goodbye and good luck, we're throwing a small party for them on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00 - 9.00pm**, upstairs at the pub. You're welcome, but I'll be on the door and I will require proof of your devotion to this pair before I let you in! Live music, food and drink. That's one party dealt with—the next weekend or two should see some good **6 Nations rugby** parties at the pub. **The Easter Egg Hunt** is always memorable, if only for the weather, on Easter Sunday. Normally we meet at 10.30am at farm offices for a tractor and trailer trip to somewhere bleak...£10 per family, all to our farm driver. By the way, the other books I enjoyed on our small trip to a hot beach were *Paris Echo*, by Sebastian Faulks; *Istanbul Passage* by Joseph Kanon; *Bridges of Madison County*, much to my surprise, by Robert Fuller; *Conversations with Friends*, by Sally Rooney; and *A Short History of Europe* by Simon Jenkins. Enough in all that to keep you occupied when the ferries stop working and you're arguing about the preferred size of



TF Foreign correspondent

## Another Letter to the Editor

Sirs,

I was pleased to read Mr Finney's contribution, his latest menu suggestions look delicious, although I would not personally choose the turnip salad.

Unfortunately, I must raise objection to his comments regarding our potential impending separation from our continental neighbours.

I do not feel that suggesting that those living on one side of the pond or the other should be labelled as being on one side or the other post Brexit.

Surely, the community is not so divided that we would need to transport goods from one side of the pond to the other without passing through each other's community.

If this *is* potentially an issue, my suggestion would be to implement the Bishopstone Backstop.

This could be in the form of a treaty, signed by all parties prior to 29<sup>th</sup> March allowing freedom of movement of people and goods along the City and Oxon place, using a predefined route passing the vacant Hovel site, to the side of Ithaca, past Finch Hill and out by the village hall.

This would obviate the need to fritter away £13.8m from the contract let by the upstanding member for Epsom and Ewell, which could instead be used on far more worthy projects.

Please also could he refer to our Northern European neighbours in a more friendly vein, as I do not feel that offering to mash Swedes and Finns will engender a firm basis for a future trade relationship.

Yours faithfully,

*Mildly offended from Church Lane*

### Swindon Symphony Orchestra

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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Words are amazing, aren't they? They're far and away our greatest invention. If we hadn't had words, how would we have said *hey, that hot thing you've made there is really useful, but it does hurt if you put your hand in it, or that round thing could revolutionise transport?* Without words, all the great works of literature would just be blank pages. And how would the Eurovision Song Contest work? Or karaoke? Without words, what would Oprah and Jeremy Kyle do for a living? How would the bits between the pictures in tabloid newspapers look? Ok - maybe words aren't always that helpful. . .

I'm a great fan of words, and think we all should learn a lot more of them. Absquatulate, for example, which means to leave somewhere abruptly, or doryphore - a pedantic and annoyingly persistent critic of others. We all know a few of the latter, and they frequently make us want to do the former. *I absquatulated due to an excess of doryphores* is a marvellous sentence. Much better than *I went home quick-smart because someone was mean to me*.

Being a bit of a doryphore myself when it comes to words, I do sometimes wish that people would be a bit more careful with them. The use of *pa-cific* instead of *specific* is like nails on a blackboard. And, lovely as my old colleague Gordon was (it's OK - I'm absolutely certain that he doesn't read this newsletter but, if he does, perhaps he's about to learn something to his advantage), his use of the phrase *as useful as a damp squid* was particularly irritating. Actually, thinking about it, while squid are generally damp, I suppose they're not all that useful unless one is making a squid-based dish (sorry, all you vegetarians out there). Perhaps he had a point, and I'm at fault for thinking *as useful as a damp squid* is a more appropriate phrase. . .

Paying attention to words is important. Several years ago, we moved to a village where I found it hilarious that, according to the notice outside the church, the Right Reverend Nor-

man Doorways presided. At least, that was what I understood the notice to mean, until someone pointed out that I should have read it more thoroughly. The vicar was not named Norman, but the church did indeed have doorways that were. . . And imagine the disappointment of the person who booked a weekend away in Alton Priors, mistaking it for Alton Towers.

I used to be a huge fan of Tolkien, not just for his imagination, but because he went to the trouble of creating an Elvish language that was etymologically correct. I know, I know - that makes me unutterably sad, and I really should get out more. Then I read a book of his letters to his publisher and realised that he was a misogynistic doryphore. Such a disappointment. Words can so easily shatter our illusions.

Now is probably the right time to announce that fluffy bunnies are to be given to all newsletter readers, along with winning lottery tickets, and free passes to all future City Lights events. That's what's known as a eucastrophe. But don't get too excited; I'm afraid I'm a bit of a fabulist. . . For translation, see next article.

Mrs Mantelpiece

## And Almost Finally...



The most terrifying thing happened as I was slaving over this newsletter. The assistant editor cat, who was sitting on my knee, gave my keyboard an experimental tap and the computer screen turned upside down. The *yikes* that Thing 2 exclaimed nowhere near covered my horror and panic. After several deep breaths I phoned my trusty Sub, my hero, who, after brief research, guided me through recovery. For future reference chaps, if a passing cat inverts your screen, the magic remedy is to press control, alt and up arrow. Mrs Mantelpiece tells me that a eucastrophe (coined by Tolkien) is a happy ending, and a fabulist is a liar. I must endeavour to learn to spell them.

Thanks people for great photographs. Look for more on the village website. Hope your March isn't too windy.

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.

## ADVERTISING

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

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

**The copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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