

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

May 2019

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, 11th May

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Home grown annuals/perennials/vegetable starts/fruit bushes/herbs.

Summer bedding plants: *Gazania Sunshine*; *Geranium Bright Red*; *Lobelia Trailing mix*; *Antirrhinum mix*; *Bush Fuchsia Heidi Anne*

and so much more

All at bargain prices!

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 8.30am | Please bring labelled, donated plants |
| 9.30am | Hall closed for categorising |
| 10.30am | Open to buyers...be quick to bag a bargain |
| 12 noon | Hall closed. |

BISHOPSTONE DUCK TRAIL

2019 THEME: PUB NAMES

25th May - 9th June

Quiz sheets £4 adult trail
& £1 kid's trail
available from the Royal Oak
or Bishopstone Primary School



Great prizes up for grabs
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Bishopstone Primary School SN6 8PW

*don't forget
pig racing at the Royal Oak 9th June*

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

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We have been operating locally for over 50 years, and are run entirely by local volunteers – all of whom provide the same confidential listening service to our callers – whether it's by phone, email, text or by visiting our branch in Curtis Street, Swindon. There are over 80 listening volunteers who live and work across our area, and who regularly give their time to those needing emotional support, including anyone who is feeling distressed or who may be deciding to take their own life.

Listening to someone who is perhaps distressed, worried, frightened and / or suicidal and who doesn't know where to turn, is perhaps the most valuable thing we can do for a fellow human being

Swindon & District Samaritans need to raise £70,000 a year to run and maintain our local branch and we spend all the money we raise locally, including training local volunteers and raising awareness throughout our community. Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide - that's why we do what we do.

If you're interested in learning more about what it means to be a Samaritan – then why not come along to one of our regular Information Events.

These are held at our training centre at Chiseldon House (not the hotel!) in West Swindon, and there's absolutely no obligation to *sign up* – it's a step to learning more about us.

To find out more – please ring 01793 523 653 or email samsrecruitment@btconnect.com

As a Samaritan caller put it:

Whenever things have got too much, I've always been able to talk to Samaritans – and when I do, I know there'll be someone there to listen. Someone to say: you're doing all right and who won't judge me.

For more information, check out: www.samaritans.org/swindon



News From Bishopstone Pottery

We spent a good deal of our time on our knees in the second week in April. No, not praying, we were either weeding the garden or scrubbing the pottery floor and discovering what colour it was originally. Actually, we were getting a bit spick and span for our pottery open days that weekend.

Our hard work was richly rewarded when we were delighted to welcome a constant stream of people to our studio. There were neighbours we knew and neighbours we got to know for the first time. There were friends and strangers from further afield, including Hong Kong. In fact, some of our small pots made from Bishopstone clay will be winging their way out to the Orient right now. So we have become truly international!

Some people just popped in, and others stayed awhile and had the guided tour of kilns and lingered by the wood burning stove for a chatter. Maybe we should have a coffee shop as well next time we are open.

It was a lovely social event and everybody was very kind and flattering about our ceramics. They bought lots of our work and now we have the job, or should I say pleasure, of making more pots to fill the gaps left on the shelves. So a big thank you to everyone who came. We really loved meeting you.

Although we only open the pottery occasionally to the public, we are always happy to open by appointment. So just give us a ring to agree the best time. Don't forget, by the time you read this

there will only be about 240 days to Christmas. You might be wanting to think about that special gift soon!!

Sue and Adrian Dent
01793 790 246

The Bishopstone & Minton
Village Fête
Saturday, 6th July,
The Old Vicarage,
Bishopstone



by kind permission of Molly &
Charlie.

in aid of the church roof appeal

Ann Clarke

Ann Clarke passed away peacefully on 29th January. She loved living in the area with her husband, Mike. They started their married life in Hinton Parva and lived there for 14 years, moving to Bishopstone in 1975, where her children Sally and Nick grew up. More recently, Ann became a devoted grandmother to her three grandsons, Jonny, Jamie and Mikey. She enjoyed picking them up from Wanborough Primary School and attending school events. She was a lively, friendly lady who will be sadly missed.

Apologies for the late inclusion, my fault. Ed.



The Village Hall, Bishopstone - May

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Daily School Dinners (not holidays)	Subject to bookings		11.45 - 1.00pm
Keep Fit	Wednesdays	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.30 - 8.15pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	9.30 - 11.00am
Keep Fit	Fridays	10 th , 17 th , 24 th & 31 st	9.30 - 10.30am
Legs, Bums n Tums	Mondays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	6.00 - 7.00pm
Yoga	Mondays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	7.15 - 8.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Polling Day	Thursday	2 nd	all day
WI	Thursday	9 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Plant Sale	Saturday	11 th	8.30am - noon
Film Night	Friday	31 st	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 - May

Bridge	Fridays	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th & 31 st	7.30 - 10.00pm
Beginners Bridge	Wednesday	1 st	7.00 - 9.00pm
WI	Thursday	9 th	7.00 - 9.30pm

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

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

Booking Rates:
£7.00 per hour for residents of Bishopstone & Hinton Parva
£9.00 per hour for those living outside the parish

Private Parties Catering may be available
Meetings etc welcome Free Parking

Friday 31st May

Stan and Ollie (Cert PG)

Doors open 7.00

Film starts 7.45pm.

This Bafta nominated Best British Film of the year, with a Best Leading Actor nomination for Steve Coogan, is our final City Lights film until the

Autumn.

Stan & Ollie is a gently elegiac homage to Laurel and Hardy. It's never quite as funny as might have been expected, but it tugs at the emotions throughout. With beautiful performances by Steve Coogan (as Stan Laurel) and John C Reilly (as Oliver Hardy), it is a film about friendship and loyalty as much as a comedy.

The Independent.

These are brilliant impersonations, the kind that can only be achieved by exceptionally intelligent actors; the superb technique of both is matched by their obvious love for the originals. It is sure to be a favourite with our City Lights stalwarts, but, as always, please invite friends from far and wide. Please take advantage of the superb value early-bird pre-cinema suppers at the Royal Oak. Buy your tickets on the door or 'phone

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

01793 791 913

BYO Cushions welcome. Licensed bar

Wanborough's Farmers' Market

Saturday 18th May

9.00am - Midday

Wanborough Village Hall

High Street, SN4 0AD

Where you can buy your local, fresh produce.

3rd Saturday of each month

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Community Connect

Coffee Morning at the

Farmers' Market

This month we're supporting the community run library in *Liden and Covingham*, which aims to provide quality books in a welcoming and accessible local setting, to provide internet access for those without home access or needing assistance with the technology, and to encourage reading for pleasure through reading groups, storytimes, book-related



events, and other outreach events. Huge thanks to all who came in March and donated to Victim Support – their representative left us with a handsome donation!

Library Corner



Do support our local libraries, we don't want to loose them

Thinking about the library, Covingham opening hours have changed recently.

Covingham Opening Times

Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm
 Wednesday 1.00 - 5.00pm
 Thursday 10.00am - 12 noon
 Covingham Library: St. Paul's Drive, Covingham SN3 5BY 618 737
 Liden Library: Barrington Close, Liden. SN3 6HF 433 647
 SwindonCommunityLibraryTrust@LibraryTrust

Registered charity number. 1171371

News from Yesteryear

We found this in an old copy of the newsletter 20/20 Vision

Did you know that Bishopstone Village Hall is 20 years old in 1997? It was first used by the Bishopstone and District Gardening Society in September 1977, and that same society is, of course, still using the Hall today. For 20 years it has provided a home for numerous clubs and societies, hosted countless parties, bazaars, jumble sales, public meetings etc. When it first opened it was new, raw, and very basic. Gradually, through the hard work of a succession of dedicated committees and supporters, it was improved and upgraded. Now, even allowing for this work, it is showing the signs of its service to the community. Now, then, is the time to equip it for the next 20 years, providing a facility for the village that is fit for the twenty-first century. 20/20 Vision is a plan to do just that – a vision for the next 20 years. The Village Hall Committee plan a major series of improvements over the next 2 years – including an improved fire escape route, improvements to the toilets, new lighting, new interior decorations, much general refurbishment, and a major re-fit of the kitchen.

The Village Hall, Bishopstone (2019)

A big thank you to all the contributors to the Bishopstone village recipe book which is currently being compiled into an encyclopaedic tome fit to rival Beeton, Leith and Larouse. We hope to be published over the coming weeks. More details to follow in the next newsletter.



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For more info. Call Tori
07892 533 654



Follow us at

<https://www.facebook.com/rainbowbishopstone>

Dickie's Diary

I heard the first chiffchaff on 20th March, the same day that the Bishopstone dairy cows went out to grass for the first time. I wake every morning hearing woodpeckers and believe we have more about these days, both greater spotted and green. There are two pairs of Canada geese on our pond at Zulu, and walking back, a snipe rose from a meadow. Squirrels are like marmite; they are loved or hated. To foresters they are bad news, and they have done much damage to the silver birch in the Millennium Wood planted by Helen Browning between Bishopstone and Idstone. But they can be fascinating. I once got up very early to discover what culprit was killing young - released pheasants' poults and motionless at vigil, two inquisitive squirrels came very close to me, making a quiet mew-ing sound. As a young teenager, I was always climbing trees on our farm at Shellingford and yes, in those days, collecting birds' eggs was not illegal. One only took one and tried not to disturb the nest. Climbing to a nest I was horrified to find not eggs but a nest of young tree rats with hairless tails. In the 50's, Harold Macmillan was a minister with responsibility for rebuilding the nation's forestry after the war, and inaugurated a scheme paying a shilling (5p) a squirrel tail. With my brother, we saw squirrels

going into a hole in a smallish dead tree. We set fire to the tree and shot six as they emerged, with our .410 gun which father had given me after purchasing it from John Betjeman, no less, who then



Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Green Woodpecker

lived at Uffington. These rather gruesome trophies were then packaged and dispatched to the Ministry of Agriculture at Oxford for our reward! The countryside journalist Robin Page, and Prince Charles, have both campaigned for our native red squirrels, now threatened by greys introduced from North America in the late 19th century, and also by squirrel pox carried by greys but fatal to reds. We have seen them many times in Scotland. Fairly recently, we stayed at a farm B&B near Gretna Green where the farmer had a nature trail and was trapping greys to preserve his red squirrel numbers. He was distraught that he had trapped a red that for some reason had expired despite his frequent daily visits. Reds have been protected from 1981, and also flourish on Anglesey and on the Isle of Wight. We were chuffed to view one this February in a park with splendid conifers, at Tarbes in south west France.

Richard Green

Westmill Woodland Burial Ground

Green burial grounds in Britain have been around since 1993. It has always seemed to me to be an obviously good idea, because once all the plots have been used you have created a woodland and/or wildflower meadow, and

the world can't have enough of them. In addition, they offer families a lot of flexibility at affordable prices and they are more environmentally friendly than the usual way.

Our nearest woodland burial site is on Westmill Farm, near Watchfield, established in 2010. It is a lovely site with views of the Ridgeway and the Uffington White Horse. The site, run by Liz Rothschild (who is herself a funeral Celebrant) and her partner, Adam Twine, who farms Westmill Farm, was voted Woodland Burial site of the year in 2017.

I should declare an interest, in that my wife, Sue, and I are booked into the burial ground and I am a member of the *Friends and Family Group*, and a director of the *Community Interest Company* (CIC) which runs the burial site. People of all faiths, or none, can be buried at Westmill, and some people (or their ashes) are buried after a service elsewhere (eg at a church or crematorium), whilst others are buried after a service (lay or religious) at Westmill Woodland Burial Ground itself. All the local funeral directors are involved with Westmill, together with a local grave-digger. You can be up there for just half an hour or stay all afternoon. You can do practically everything yourself or use a funeral director and a celebrant. It is up to you and no funeral is the same, just as each one of us is different. Families say how much they enjoy coming up to visit and watching the site develop. Children can play and look for wildflowers, birds, and animals. You can bring a picnic and go for a walk, and you can join in with the events that happen around the year. You will see more details on the website:

www.woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk.

You are welcome to visit the site at any time, contact Westmill, or come along to the friendly Open Day on

Saturday 15th June 2.00 - 5.00 pm.

David Birley,

Marsh Cottage, Wanborough

davidbirley2002@yahoo.com



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Church Services in the Benefice

Wednesday	1st May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	5th May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	3 rd Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	8th May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	12th May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	4 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	15th May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	19th May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	5 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	22nd May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	26th May		No Services	
	6 th Sunday of Easter			
Wednesday	29th May	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	2nd June	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	7 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

May is a month full of choice! It's Celiac Awareness Month, International Mediterranean Diet Month, Better Hearing and Speech Month, National Pet Month, and the list goes on. The point is that if we look hard enough we can soon find something to get our minds focused on. And that is the wonder of us. We grow in whatever we turn our minds to. Last month, I listed some of what we had to look forward to in spring and early summer, both locally and around our shores. Looking forward can be a great way of getting through the mundane, as well as the difficult patches in life. I had a friend that, as he stepped off of a plane having finished one holiday, was already thinking about and planning for his next.

Family celebrations are another classic example of something to look forward to. Birthdays can be a mixed bag for some, and weddings can be something that touch a whole community if not a nation. Royal weddings seem

to touch so many of us and it should come as no surprise that we all have a massive wedding to look forward to in the future. The one where Christ meets His bride the Church. The threads of Bridal Gown in this instance, so we are told in the Biblical Book of Revelation, are made from the good works (thoughts, words and actions) that we have engaged in throughout our lives. In the same way as a marathon runner has a choice between sitting in front of a TV or training, so we choose to build up each other and the place in which we live, or not!

The amount of activity that some have put into making amends for the loss of the lead from St Mary's Church roof, and the fundraising activities that have supported both this and the replacement of the heating system at St Andrew's Church, has been astonishing. From people jumping up on the damaged roof as soon as the theft had been realised, to limit the amount of rain coming in to St Mary's, chasing insurance companies, dealing with the legalities surrounding a listed building, getting quotes, and getting

the work underway has been a joy to witness. Part way through April, two significant events took place. An astonishing level of cleaning went into getting St Mary's looking its best, ready for our summer visitors. The smell of damp and the sight of puddles on pews has been replaced by the smell of polish and shiny church furniture. And how splendid it looks. At the same time, a group known as the *Old Boilers* put a lot of effort into the second Wanborough Beer Festival.

Despite the weather being a lot colder than last year, this, too, was wonderfully supported, with some driving back from their holidays to make sure that they were able to attend this fundraising event. It's this kind of community mindedness that is at the heart of who we are all called to be. It's just so wonderful and humbling to witness it. Slogans like *Better Together* have a real resonance on occasions like this, and the reason for this resonance is a simple one. It's part of our DNA. After every Good Friday there is always an Easter Sunday. In the same way, after this life we have eternal life to look

forward to. An uninterrupted time with loved ones past, present and future. It's there because Jesus died, rose again and opened those Gates of Glory. So, putting National Pet Month and the rest to one side, I simply wish you a happy Ascensiontide. A season that celebrates a promise available to us all. 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

St Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

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

Benefice Register

Please can parish births, weddings and deaths be reintroduced as a recorded item in the village newsletter? It used to be a regular feature. It has been missing for many months, possibly years, now and I personally was saddened to hear of the recent passing of two elderly residents of Bishopstone whose funerals I would have liked to attend, to pay my respects, not as a close friend, but as a neighbour and acquaintance. Can anybody explain why this news has not been published in recent history?

Caryn Greenhalgh

I would like to add that the newsletter is very happy to report these events, whether services are to be carried out under the auspices of a religion, or are secular. However, we can only include events if we're told about them, so have to rely on our readers to supply us with the relevant information.

mogs boon (editor)

Bishopstone 100 club

April Winners

1st 90 Doug Stevens

2nd 94 Mary Ford

3rd 7 Ian Thomas

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

Thanks Jo. X 790 485

Women's Institute

Thursday 9th May

7.30 - 9.30pm

Hinton Parva Village Hall

At our May meeting we will be discussing our National Resolutions for 2019/20. Two have been shortlisted:

- A call against the decline in local bus services, particularly in rural and semi-rural areas. The National Federation of WI's (NFWI) calls on Government and local authorities to increase

subsidies and work in partnership with bus companies and community transport operators to enable an adequate provision of services. Bus service operator grants from Government fell by 20% in 2012-13 and has not increased since. The WI on its centenary highlighted that a third of members want Government to make it easier for people to access public transport.

- Don't fear the smear. Cervical screening saves around 5,000 lives a year, yet attendance is currently at its lowest. This resolution seeks to improve awareness and understanding, and overcome barriers to attend routine screening.

Looking ahead at the next few months we have:

- Our Art Lovers Group welcome back Jenny Lyall, NADFAS art historian for two lectures **Early Female Artists** and **Moroni** a brilliant portrait painter 1520-1579. **Tuesday 21st May.** Any art enthusiasts out there, please get in touch if you are interested.

- **Thursday 13th June;** 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. Bishopstone Village hall.

- Our Wiltshire Federation centenary event on **Saturday 15th June**, at Rowdeford School, Rowde near Devizes.

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

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Darren Lerigo - What do I do with this space?

Darren was a laugh a mint – sorry, minute. Although he introduced himself as a topiarist, his talk was much broader than that, and focused on what we can all do with the space that we garden.

He gardens organically, believes in not using chemicals in the garden, helping the honeybee thrive and using simpler ways to garden. By way of early demonstration, he gave each of us a small clay sphere (bit like a small Malteser), containing some 30 wild flower seeds which you simply throw where you want the flowers to grow – easy gardening – but not so great if you eat it by mistake, as one of his audience did a while back.

He urged us to see weeds as flowers, just like bees and other pollinators do, and to *weed like a cow* by ripping leaves off anything you don't want. (Some of us are keen to try this out!). If you think about the way a cow tears at foliage as it browses, you'll get the idea; the aim is to destroy the very thing the weed uses for photosynthesis. It's not a quick fix, and it may take a year or two, but the method works and reduces garden weeds significantly.

Among the smiles and witty comments, he urged us to cram our gardens with tough, bee-friendly perennials such as Marjoram and Aubretia, and the late summer/autumn



ternoon. We could all do with some of that!

He advocated mulching the garden, which will reduce work by up to 70%. Mulch captures carbon and makes the soil richer. Further advice included the use of organic wool compost – which he obtains from a farm in The Lake District. It's mixed with bracken, is peat-free and its other benefits include holding water longer and providing much-needed nitrogen.

Additional advice included planting native plants which are more adaptable to our ever-changing climate. An example Darren gave was the beautiful, sweet-scented, Rosa Canina (Dog Rose), which loves to scramble through hedgerows.

His witty delivery let him sail a bit close to the wind sometimes. For example, he commented on the fact that he's observed a definite male/female divide regarding lawns, with men loving their lawn, but women preferring more flowers and bigger borders. Tongue in cheek, he suggested women could secretly cut around the edges of the lawn on a daily basis, reducing it by an inch each time. The men won't think that it's the lawn reducing in size – they will simply think that they are getting faster, fitter and stronger from all that mowing!



flowering Helianthus (pictured above), which replenishes its nectar in the af-

He did eventually get around to talking about topiary, or his blobs as he

called them – mainly to recommend the use of elephants and giraffes in the garden as perfect high-level pruners; just one of the many light-hearted moments in a very informative talk that went far too quickly and was enjoyed by all that attended.

Ken McAnespie

Below are links recommended by Darren: For Organic Wool Compost - www.dalefootcomposts.co.uk/our-products.aspx

If you would like to see some of Darren's Blobs and the Blobbery he has created, then a visit to NGS Balmoral Cottage, owned and run by Darren's mentor, Charlotte Molesworth, is well worth it. www.ngs.org.uk?bf-garden=34649

Darren's company, Modern Mint, also sells high quality steel gardening tools, such as the secateurs he uses for topiary. Products can be ordered from www.modernmint.co.uk If anyone would like free delivery from Modern Mint, please contact banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com and I will be happy to pass on a code.

***12th June:** Elizabeth Gowing – Bee-friendly gardening. The best birthday present Elizabeth received on her first birthday in Kosovo was a hive full of bees. It was the starting point for a fascinating apprenticeship, and the beginning of her voluntary work in Kosovo as one of the co-founders of *The Ideas Partnership*. Elizabeth has had many successful books published, and regularly contributes to Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*. She is an experienced speaker and her talks are illustrated with her own photographs.

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

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Sheila

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At the risk of enraging a small number of readers, I was heavily involved in conversation with a member of the long established Hinton Parva Progressive Society over the bar this month, and she was pointing out that we do not seem overtly welcoming to members of the LGBTQIAK sector of the population, especially all those currently living in Hinton Parva, apparently. I know that our readers are well versed in this abbreviation, so little further explanation is needed, but I told her I felt her observations were misplaced. As any regular customers know, we are exceedingly popular with the LGBT etc crowd because we simply do not have it in our genes to discriminate against anyone. The very few customers we inherited from the previous landlady, which as I recall was sometime soon after the dinosaurs roamed the earth, were a grossly bigoted bunch, with strong and sometimes noisy opinions about anybody who did not appear to fit into their idealised view of village life; one by one they have either been silenced, or moved to drink elsewhere, or been part of the ongoing indoctrination classes that I run in conjunction with Jeremy Corbyn, of course...
 ...whom I did not see on the People's Vote March. But I can report that contact was made in London that day with seven other villagers including

the outrageous radical Stuart McGuigan, with whom I shared a lovely pint of real ale (at £5 a pint) as we rambled down Piccadilly with 1.3m others in search of a better future for our children. Our MP Robert Buckland has been toeing the May party line 100 per cent, some of you might have noticed, although he did veer away from it during the indicative voting process, late one night, and surreptitiously backed Ken Clarke's customs union motion, from memory. Don't tell anyone, but he doesn't think Brexit is a very good idea, at all. But he knows how people voted and is trying to help the majority get something close to what they asked for. We will invite him to speak at the pub when this mess is over—I think quite a few people might be interested in the machinations inside parties and parliament during this process. Our business, LGBST and Brexit etc to one side, hosts the Church Roof supper and auction as you read this;

and then it's *Drive it Day, 28th April* - yes, you know we'd love to see you; car, or bike, or just for a wander round. Breakfast in the garden from 9.00am. Beer any time of day, lovingly tended by cellar man Russell Hatch, who has once again been awarded 5 Stars by Cask Marque for the way he keeps his real ales. Our Eastbrook colleague James Andrews is hosting a range of farm based experiences this summer—starting in May with Bird Behaviour and Identification workshops on the 2nd and 5th, under the banner of Eastbrook Experiences. The range of birds here is staggering—last year Clive Hill, our bird supremo, spotted no less than 14 birds of prey during the 12 months at Eastbrook, including, believe it or not, an osprey on its way back from Scottish nesting grounds. And the songbirds, and hedgerow birds, are quite startling in their range and numbers. James is also offering photography tuition, one to one if required; his efforts at rebuilding our wildlife photography hides ought to be seen to be believed. I will be spending a week or more down there, much to everyone's relief. Cues Lane will be closed on **9th June for pig racing**, btw. We'll keep it as short and painless as possible for those of you who'd rather go to your grandparents' for lunch.

TF



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

Road Closure Notice - Cues Lane, Bishopstone

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

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

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Thoughts on AAAs

You might think I'm going to be discussing batteries this month, but you'd be wrong. Your conclusion just goes to show how easily communications can go awry, particularly when Acronyms And Abbreviations are involved. . .

As someone who spent her working life surrounded by TLAs (that's Three Letter Abbreviations to the uninitiated), I'm a dab hand at making a reasonably good guess at what people are talking about when they lapse into shorthand-speak. Having watched the Goggleboxers commenting on LoD (that's Line of Duty, of course), I'm clearly in the minority, as there was much amusement caused by all the mentions of OIC, UCO, SCS and the like.

If you don't watch Gogglebox, I can understand why. Dearly Beloved and I resisted it for a long time, as the concept of watching other people watching television seemed bonkers in the extreme. We were persuaded to give it a go by a daughter, and haven't looked back. It makes no sense that a group of random strangers have become so familiar that we were sad for poor June when Leon died, we rather miss the Mof-fatts, and we'd love to know where exactly in Wiltshire Mary and Giles live. But that's a different story.

Back to TLAs. One of my favourite confusions was caused many years ago in the Department of Employment. Two large meetings were being held in London, one looking at how to save money and the other at encouraging people to leave the department. Unfortunately, one initiative was the Fundamental Expenditure Review and the other was Flexible Early Retirement. Apparently, several soon-to-be-retirees spent half an hour at the FER meeting before realising an entirely different FER was under discussion. DB (that's also a TLA, but only a Two Letter Abbreviation, rather than a Three Lettered one) spent many a happy hour in a previous existence meeting other Business Unit Managers to

debate Service Level Agreements. You can imagine the horrified looks he got when he used shorthand-speak to tell people about those meetings.

I confess to having spent the odd idle moment working out names for new initiatives on the basis of the hilarious TLAs they'd produce, rather than on the basis of informing people of their purpose. I suspect I'm not the only one. And I can only think that a new logo we were presented with in one job had been developed by someone who was motivated by hilarity. We hadn't actually realised there was an issue until we started getting 'phone calls from people who were clearly choking back laughter as they complimented us on the design. Only then did we realise that our wonderful new stationery was embellished with an image of two overly (and overtly)-amorous swans. I'd write more, but have to say TTFN; Season 8 of GoT starts next week and I need to binge-watch Season 7. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...



Approximately the middle of each month things tend to get fraught around here. You chaps are generally good in getting newsletter copy in, but there always seems to be a crisis of some kind. I admit this time that it was mainly my fault, as my brain hadn't connected the deadline with Easter holidays, even though I knew beloved granddaughter would be here for a week. So nothing from Bishopstone School and one other piece never arrived (no I'm not telling you who that was). Net result, blank pages and blind panic. So a huge thank you to those who sent in words and ideas, you are so much appreciated. Please, please keep sending us your words.

As always very grateful to my team, always bursting with ideas, lots of practical common sense and a lot of laughs to keep me a calm, sane editor, which in my case is probably an oxymoron.

mogs X

Finally

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

Editor:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

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

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

Sub-Editor:

Sheila Collins

admin2.collins@icloud.com

Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

mcanespie@gmail.com

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

ADVERTISING

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

As to advertising on the village website email: ***admin@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org*** or Jonathon Boon, ***wizeoldboon@hotmail.com***

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

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

The newsletter appears on the village website at:

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

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