

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva November 2019



Hinton Coombes Working Parties - Volunteers Needed

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

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

10.00am - 12.30pm.

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

The Dates Are :

Sunday 10th November 2019

Sunday 8th December 2019

Sunday 12th January 2020

Sunday 16th February 2020

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

Needle Felting Workshops - Painting with Wool

Saturday 16th November, (2 places available)

Hinton Parva Village Hall, 1.00 - 5.00pm

Saturday 7th December, (3 places available)

The Village Hall, Bishopstone 1.00 - 5.00pm

Needle felting is a relatively new art form developed in the 1980s by David and Eleanor Stanwood and Ayala Talpai. They had bought a small industrial sampling machine for needle punching and discovered they could use individual needles from it to make shapes with wool fibres. The technique has developed from there and is still growing in popularity.

In this 4 hour class you will learn the basics of needle felting onto a flat surface, using a variety of fibres and silks. You will be making your own 2D fibre piece (up to 20cm) to take home. Information on framing methods will be provided. The theme for this workshop will be open, so bring your own photo or choose from a handful that will be provided for inspiration. You will be guided through the techniques and process of building your picture, and will have the opportunity to add your own details and embellishments using the wide selection of fibres on offer. All materials are provided. No experience necessary.

Come and join a friendly group for a creative afternoon. Class sizes are limited to six to ensure everyone gets plenty of help. £75 (Age 15+ £45) (Accompanied Child Age 8+)

Contact Ushma:

07866 806 289,

ushma@fifteen2.co.uk

to book your place.



Visit www.fifteen2.co.uk to see examples of Ushma's work.

The banner head line and footer pictures are in memory of warmer weather; thank you Danny Finch and Sheila Collins for the photographs of the gorgeous sunflowers and phacelia at Eastbrook Farm.

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



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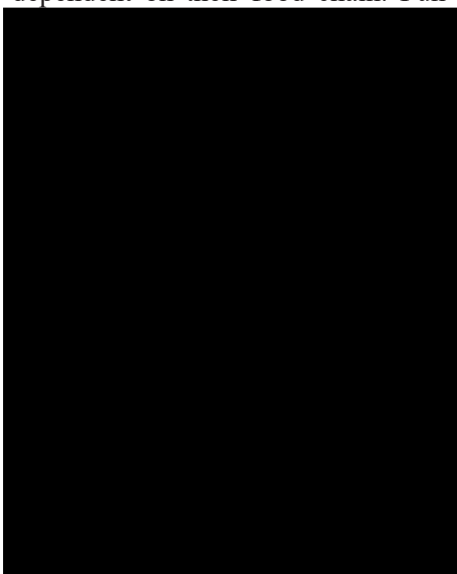
Contact us on 07958 042 016



Rewilding is currently a hot topic, and the Burrells' historic Knapp estate in Sussex is an interesting example. They formerly farmed cows and arable conventionally on difficult Weald clay, with disappointing result. Sir Charles Burrell was brought up in Africa, and has now replicated his early experience there with a landscape returning to the middle ages. It was a radical plan, controversially assisted by government financial support. Predominately unfarmed grazing deer, longhorn cattle and semi wild pigs ensure scrub and open glades rather than forest, with the bonus of a harvest of organic meat sales to maintain sustainable numbers. I expect they have fun catching them! Nightingales, turtle doves and purple emperor butterflies, all *red alert* species are flourishing.

If the editor will indulge a public reply to Clive Hill's comments in the October Village News, I think we are all on the same side of the fence in promoting wildlife. Where we might diverge is in the need for man/woman to sometimes exercise control. It is accepted that predators' success is

dependent on their food chain. Fun-



In common with other farmers, rain in the last month approaching half the annual precipitation means that the autumn cereal seed is still in the barn, and maize is deteriorating unharvested in the wet fields. The last wet autumn was in 2000, when 18 inches of rain was recorded in September, October and November but that year we had started planting earlier, we had harvested the maize, and went on to get 500 acres sown. It looks grim. We will need a really good November

this year to get us out of trouble. A final comment on harvest festivals. They were, with Christmas, Easter and Whitsun, the churches' foremost celebrations. I was away for the Ashbury service, but in Bishopstone, out of a congregation of nine, only four from Bishopstone attended their harvest festival including Penny and me living in the village. It is so sad that with our villages still agricultural, and with active gardening societies, that harvest festivals in our churches are seen as so irrelevant and lacking in support. I am bound to say, use them or lose them before it's too late.

by Richard Green

Gardener/Handyman ...

...required to help 99 year old man in his garden and with small jobs around the house. No heavy lifting. Hours to suit.

Please contact D Ford:

07831 383 831

dennis@warrenfarms.net

Bishopstone 100 club

October Winners

1st 30 Hilary Newton

2nd 22 Jane Lomax

3rd 13 Fraser Blunt

I have been doing this draw now for 20 years, if anyone would like to take it over (don't all rush at once) then please ring:

Jo 790 485



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The Village Hall, Bishopstone - November

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th	3.15 - 4.15pm
Yoga	Mondays	14 th & 21 st	7.15 - 8.15pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	5 th , 12 th , 19 th , & 26 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th & 21 st	9.30 - 11.00am
School	Thursdays	7 th , 14 th & 21 st	3.15 - 4.15pm
Keep Fit	Fridays	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	9.30 - 10.30am
WI	Thursday	14 th	7.00 - 9.30pm
Private Party	Saturday	16 th	3.00 - 7.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	23 rd	1.00 - 5.00pm
Craft Fair	Thursday	28 th	All Day
Film Night	Friday	29 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Private Booking	Saturday	30 th	1.00 - 5.00pm

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 - November

Evening Bridge	Tuesdays	5 th & 12 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Informal Bridge	Wednesdays	6 th & 13 th	7.00 - 10.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.30 - 10.00pm
Private Event	Saturday	2 nd	10.00 - 3.00pm
PC Meeting	Monday	4 th	7.00pm
Private Event	Sunday	10 th	2.30 - 5.30pm
Private Event	Saturday	16 th	1.00 - 5.00pm

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

The prettiest Hall around, with free parking
Bookings Secretary Janet 791 391 - Please leave a message if required.

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

Private Parties Catering may be available
Meetings etc welcome Free Parking

Hinton Parva Village Hall needs Help

You may already know but -

After 25 years of toil and inspiration our Chairman Howard has decided to hang up his hat and relinquish the post.

He would like to remain on the committee, contributing more in an advisory role but expects to be away more often.

Over the years, Howard and Shirley have been synonymous with village life and the Hall; his resignation leaves a big hole in our organisation: We need

a new Chairman/Lady and volunteers to serve on the committee, including a secretary.

Any suggestions / volunteers please contact:

Rod Peck (Hon Treas and General Dogsbody).

01793 791 001; 07784 183 239

peck34@john-lewis.com

Thank you.

Notes from the Village Hall - A Tale of Two Villages.

This was a wonderful evening initiated by Carol Sarchet on behalf of the village hall, to help with our ongoing fundraising efforts. Carol had reportedly spent four days baking cheese sticks and homemade nibbles for this much anticipated history evening. Jo and Rob Selbourne stocked the bar, which oiled proceedings nicely, and later generously donated all the takings to the cause - fantastic. Thank you!

Paul Williams was our first speaker on this wet and blustery night, when 50 + (that's number of not age) villagers congregated to learn, reminisce and gather new information about the two villages. Paul's family originated from Hinton Parva, his ancestry traced back to the 1700s through his research, and he has rather impressively built up a vast knowledge of the personalities and historic buildings that make up the area. His slide show captured many of the personalities of yesteryear. As each slide came up on the hall's swanky projector screen our audience cooed and craned with exclamations and murmurs of approval and delight. I've never heard so many people talk over a slide presentation (apart from Tom S whose team are usually asleep), but that was a good thing.

Participants were able to add anecdotes and embellishment throughout. A short break for sustenance, then Jane Golding, a long standing Bishopstone villager with a true appetite for historical fact, took to the stage with an overview of her specialist topic, centred around the Enclosure Acts, addressing their direct impact on the landscape around Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. Debate and inter-

est flourished as we were enthralled with tales of the past. We also had a chance to learn about the Roman Villa at Starveall Farm, thanks to some maps and research compiled by Mogs. An evening packed with interesting stuff for a 5 year village newcomer! Well done to all speakers and contributors – we should repeat.

Richard Walker (or was that Robinson?)



CINEMA

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Doors 7.00pm

Licensed bar - Ice Creams

Refreshments - Interval

Autumn Programme

Friday 29th November

Red Joan - 12

Joan Stanley is a widow living out a quiet retirement in the suburbs when, shockingly, the British Secret Service place her under arrest. The charge: providing classified scientific information to the Soviet government for decades, including plans for the building of the atomic bomb.

Friday 27th December

Yesterday - 12

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

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Pre show suppers and tickets from:

Royal Oak : 01793 790 481

www.helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk

Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon

Saturday 16th November

Wanborough Village Hall,

High Street, SN4 0AD

We have a new stall - Michelle from Brinkworth will be selling Scotch eggs, sausage rolls, quiches and cakes using her own free range stock. Come and try!

For more information contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

I recently read an article about how to support local communities – and thought it was a good advert for our very own Farmer's market.

It mentioned the health benefits of

eating locally grown produce, the positive effect on the economy of supporting local growers and producers, the advantages of knowing the people behind the products, personalised customer serviceand even mentioned the benefits of eating raw local honeys, which are thought to help battle allergies. Wanborough Farmer's Market has all of that!

In addition, you can catch up with friends and enjoy free tea, coffee and home-made cakes at the Community Café.

Each month there's an opportunity to donate to a local charity. In November it will be Prospect Hospice. Prospect offer unparalleled end-of-life care services for people in Swindon, Marlborough and north east Wiltshire. Their vision is for excellent, personalised and compassionate care for every one affected by a life-limiting illness.

In September, we were able to donate almost £300 to Pennyhooks Farm, a centre which wonderfully supports adults with autism. They were overwhelmed by your generosity. So come on 16th November – we'd love to see you there!

Jo Peace

BISHOPSTONE CRAFT FAIR

...is on

Thursday, 28th November

6.00 pm to 8.00 pm

The Village Hall, Bishopstone



As well as the usual favourites there will be some new and different stalls ranging from original crafts to home/locally made produce.

A great opportunity for Christmas Shopping and there could be a special visitor!

For more information please call:

Chris Thomas on 01793 790 106 - Or email littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

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

A stay and play session for families with Children under 5. Join us for free play, art activities, snacks & singing. A great way to meet new friends

For more info please email rainbowbishopstone@hotmail.com

Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowbishopstone>



Batman, Godzilla & UFOs

Award-winning Wildlife Photography with a difference, by Paul Colley CB OBE ARPS.
Friday, 7.00pm 22nd November, Shrivenham Memorial Hall

A large screen presentation of stunning new wildlife images and the fascinating stories behind them. From footage of giant Manta Ray encounters in Indonesia to beautiful pictures of rare bats taken while working with bat conservation groups in Wiltshire, West Sussex and Gloucestershire. Paul is Chairman of the British Society of Underwater Photographers, and was British Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 2018.



His talk is not-for-profit; all proceeds will support local wildlife conservation projects. Tickets £8 in advance available now on line at:

<https://paulcolley.photium.com/wildlife-talks>

or from 22nd October at:

Shrivenham Post Office. £10 at the door. £5 for under-16s. Cash bar.

The Bobby Van

For over 20 years we have been securing the homes of elderly and vulnerable people living in Wiltshire and Swindon, and have talked to over a 1,200 community groups.

The Trust's original aim was to secure the homes of elderly and disabled people who had become, or were at risk of becoming, victims of house crime. They offered practical help and advice on how to remain safe at home by undertaking a full home security assessment before fitting appropriate security hardware. Since then, the Trust has increased its remit to meet the changing needs of our community; where appropriate, they conduct a full fire risk assessment as well – installing smoke detectors and CO monitors where necessary, and securing the homes of people experiencing domestic abuse. But it is probably their latest initiative, Stay Safe Online, that

meets the current challenges of modern day life. Cyber-crime is the Nation's fastest growing crime – with around one third of fraud occurring online. The Trust now has a team of 7 volunteers who carry out home visits, improving awareness through education and, therefore, helping to prevent computer-enabled fraud.

The Trust has a dedicated and superbly efficient team that deserves praise and recognition for the vital service it provides. It is responsive, dynamic and versatile. It continues to work very closely with the Police to make Wiltshire a safer place to live. The Charity does not work in isolation, but cooperates efficiently with a wide variety of other organisations, such as Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Victim Support, Swindon Women's Aid, and many others.

In addition to securing reductions in the number of domestic burglaries, additional benefits have included

the reduced fear of crime and social withdrawal generated by burglaries, restoring the confidence of victims and securing their increased participation in the day-to-day activities of our communities.

This amazing service is free to all over 60s or 18+ with a registered disability; how lucky are we in Wiltshire and Swindon to have such a team keeping us safe. If you meet the criteria and would like a home visit or group talk please call:

Home Security Service:

01380 861 155

Stay Safe Online: 01380 861 191 or visit: www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

Emma Cann



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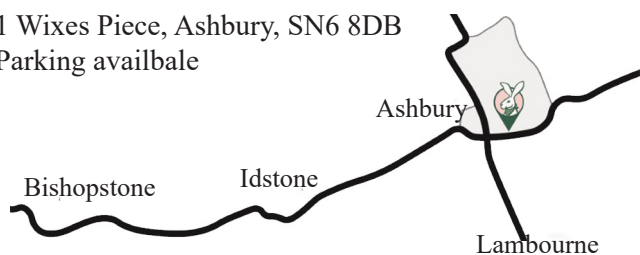


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Tuesday: 10.30 - 4.30
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Sunday-Monday: Closed

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	3rd November	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	4 th Sunday before Advent	10.30am	All Saints' Patronal Festival	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	6th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	10th November	10.30am	Remembrance Service	Lyddington
	Remembrance Sunday	10.30am	Remembrance Service	Bishopstone
		10.30am	Remembrance Service	Wanborough
		10.30am	Remembrance Service	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	13th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	17th November	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	2 nd Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	20th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	24th November	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	Christ the King	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	27th November	7.00pm	St Andrew's Patronal Festival	Wanborough
Sunday	1st December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 st Sunday before Advent	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

A 1024MB Memory Card walks into a bar. The Memory Card spots a piano, sits down at it and starts playing some incredible music. After a number of songs, the Memory Card gets up and the bar goes wild with cheers and applause. The bar owner was incredibly impressed and runs up to the Memory Card and says, *Buddy, you were INCREDIBLE! If you come back tomorrow, I'll split the night's takings with you! No can do...* says the Memory Card. *I'm limited to one gig!!!* A man and his family walk into the same bar. The man's youngest child sees a Native American sitting under a sign stating *World's longest memory*. The child walks up to the man and decides to see if what the sign says is true. The child asks, *What did you have for breakfast 30 years ago?* The Native American states, *eggs*. The child states that the man could have just made that up, and then leaves. Years later, when the child returns with his own family, he sees

the same man at the bar. Walking up to him, and using the Native American word for hello, he says *how?!* The Native America replies, *scrambled!!!* Remembering is something that easily escapes so many of us when we are in front of an examination paper, and is all too present when we have done something wrong. While people with good memories are not well liked in casinos, the stories of our past can help to stop us from repeating some of its mistakes in the future.

The son of a train driver that died as his train was derailed was eventually healed of the trauma of losing his father. By sitting in his father's drivers seat, and holding the levers that his father would have held when the accident took place. Self talk is a technique used across the sporting spectrum, and is based on the knowledge that we become what we spend our time thinking about. Getting painful memories into a better place can help us all. Bearing a grudge, being a racist or discrimination of any kind only serves to diminish both ourselves as

well as the person we are either targeting or ignoring. Many of us have been encouraged to remember a line or two from our Bibles, both to help us through a difficult patch, and to help us as we give thanks when things have gone well. It's the same Good Book that provides us with the memory of God's promises for our ultimate destiny. People may have laughed as they gathered around the graves of Micah and Isaiah, saying *So, where is your Messiah now!* But an old couple called Simeon and Anna remembered God's promises and stuck with them. They were rewarded not only with meeting Jesus, but by holding in their arms the Creator of the Universe in the form of a child. Precisely because His much promised first arrival came true, we can also rely on the promises that His second coming will happen too. Like those who have prepared for anything, from war to the birth of a child, we too are called to get ready. We do so by care and hospitality, kindness and encouragement. The season of Re-

membrance is an opportunity to give thanks for the sacrifice made by others for the peace and the stability that we enjoy today. Helping those who have survived conflict also honours the memories of those who didn't. We always feel better when we are met with appreciation, if not thanks, and in the same way, God wants us to be as welcoming and hospitable, especially with those we disagree with, as we would wish Him to be with us when He comes again. It's then that we discover our True Life in God. 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

November Fran Shishton &

Karen Stevens

December Jill White &

Karen MacGregor

Mary Darling 790 700 is volunteering to stand in for anyone needing cover for holidays/illness etc.

Many thanks to you all for your hard work keeping the church clean.

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

Sarah Best 791 121

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

telephone - 790 088 email - villageprayers@gmail.com

Services of Remembrance

10.30am, Sunday 10th November

St. Andrew's, All Saints, St. Mary's
& St. Swithun's

To all the villagers of Wanborough Lyddington, Bishopstone and Hinton, old and young, church goers and non church goers: you are invited to simple services of remembrance. Come and pay tribute to the brave men and women who gave their lives in the many conflicts around the world, especially those whose names are on the rolls of honour inside the churches.

If you wish, bring photographs of your loved ones, not only those who have died but those who have fought and survived, all experiencing the horrors of war, many returning with terrible injuries, their lives changed forever. We shall also remember present day forces who face dangers with peace keeping units abroad.

All are welcome

School Report

The space rock appeared in school under huge amounts of security . . . it almost needed its own limousine and certainly required space in the school safe! The children were delighted when we had an astronomer in, who then bought the whole thing to life . . . space certainly was explored!

KS2 took part in an Ancient Greek day where we travelled back in time, starting from boarding our *classroom flight*, checking in and then embarking on a range of activities from creating art vases, Greek temples from white straws and then the highlight . . . the whole school dancing to *The Zorba* on the school playground. It was a sight that made us all feel full of joy . . . pictures on the website if you wished to see in more detail.

Teachers have also been busy learning; there is always so much to learn in our ever changing environment,

we've attended various courses including *barefoot computer training*. This did not, as you may imagine, involve working on a desktop computer with no shoes on, but how to bring the whole range of computing skills to everyday life in school. It was a revelation, and super fun!

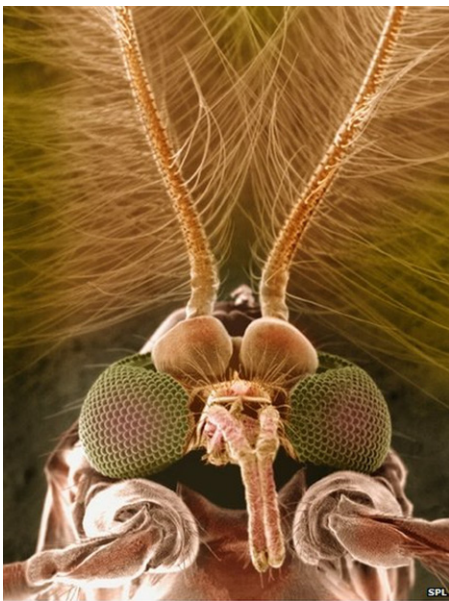
Harvest was a beautiful service, the children sharing their thoughts, and singing that raised the roof. Beautiful bread baked by one of our school families added the *icing on the cake*.

Next week will see the highly anticipated conker competition, and the sharing of work due to a new system of homework. This involves children receiving a range of activities that they can choose from across a six week term. We are looking forward to all sorts, including *working burglar traps* that the children have invented . . . it will certainly keep people out of the school as some involve some rather unpleasant concoctions!

Emma Lindsay

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Where have all the gardeners gone? The more stoic eleven members who braved torrential downpours were rewarded by the brilliant horticultural lecturer, Aldetha Raymond, who gave her talk and slide show about *Insects that make Christmas*. We do hope that



this picture of the terrifying, large toothed, biting midge, a male *Forcipomyia* doesn't give you nightmares. Both sexes of this tiny insect feed on the pollen of the cacao flower, but four times more males visit the flowers than do females and they are a key pollinator of the *Theobroma cacao* plant, from which we get our chocolate.

Continuing the theme of all foodie things we associate with Christmas; another astonishing fact is how Cranberries are grown and harvested. Did you know they are mostly imported from America, and grown on trailing vines in sandy soil which is then flooded twice a year? Cranberries are a group of evergreen dwarf shrubs on trailing vines, and, during October, the pickers wade thigh deep into the water with huge rakes to corral the berries into the middle of the field. The berries are shaken, (not stirred), dislodging them from the vine. Having four hollow air chambers, they bounce and

float, enabling them to be sucked up and harvested by a giant vacuum. One of the worlds healthiest fruits, I found it interesting to note that they are added with other fruits to make pink gin.

Other facts from Aldetha and recommended by Sarah Raven: Let sage and salvia go to flower and you'll attract bees, butterflies and the beautiful hummingbird moth. Parsnips have lovely flowers(!) and single dahlias are favoured by bees, rather than the double or frilly type. The brilliant, rich-coloured Dahlia *Bishop's Children* has the most stunning colours against a dark crimson foliage and is a great companion for the veg garden, increasing lots of pollinators as well as looking stunning in your garden. Please don't *winter tidy* sedum until spring, as our native ladybirds just love to snuggle in the hollow sedum stalks over winter.

Brazil nuts and almonds need bees to pollinate them, insects pollinate carrot seeds, and a tiny nocturnal beetle pollinates nutmeg; from cinnamon bark and cloves grown in Sri Lanka, insects are needed for pollination. Without them life, and indeed Christmas, just wouldn't be the same. You can catch Aldetha soon on BBC's Countryfile.

Wednesday 13th November

We look forward to seeing the many more than eleven of our gardening group who have already booked for the combined AGM and evening meal at The Brewers Arms, Wanborough, in the front bar (AKA the waffle room). This event is for our members and those who have helped us throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the gardeners are now digging up their Dahlia bulbs, and hanging up their wellies until next year, resuming on **Friday evening 12th February 2020**, when we'll be holding our annual extravaganza, **Quiz**

Night & Chilli con Carne supper. Our very own Quizmaster Fiona will *tek 'er usual reet cosy spot in t'armchair on t'stage*. Booking necessary through the gardening club – more details will follow. Bring your own preferred tipple, we'll provide the food. Teams of six with silly names an absolute must. Usually 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).

New people are very welcome.

You can contact Sheila or Sarah (Outings Organiser) at: banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Sheila



Name this Plant

OK, it's some kind of Fungi, but which particular one?

Do let us know.

Thanks to Bobbing About for the pix

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Time to trot out the usual rubbish here at the worst pub in the village, and I am happy to accept those plaudits. What I do find about this village news organ is that it enlightens me on several fronts. I take my hat off, and various other things as well given 'arf a chance, to the women who do the cleaning and flowers in the church—bloody marvellous unsung heroes (or heroines, in old speak, before we were told not to differentiate between actors and actresses...). I must go and have a look around one day. Remarkable that villages of this size support a thriving gardening club, playgroups, a whole school—in the late 90s when I was a real newcomer, it very nearly closed as the school roll fell to about 23. Can you believe it, I was the boss of FOBS, and was relieved of my duties by Mrs Walton—oh yes, it was you—for uttering a profanity in front of small children when being questioned about alleged fraud from an event I'd organised. I was guilty of profanity but not guilty of fraud, you'll be amazed to learn. I love reading this organ, patiently waiting for Rev Bill's latest attempt at a joke, and we've long forgotten the month when he wrote the pub news piece, and I wrote the Vicar's letter. You'd never have known, would you? How many village newsletters would allow my jokes about Brexit, and my slavish devotion to organic farming and environmental affairs on the page next to curmudgeonly Dickie's Diary, writing about the good old days when farmers enjoyed spraying agent

orange over schoolchildren. Dickie, it's a joke! Geddit? Probably not. Anyway, enough of that self-reverential nonsense. The real action in the next few weeks at the pub is whether or not to have a bonfire—I said no, I'm too sensitive towards the needs and worries of my neighbours, I'm a caring sort. One or two other responsible staff (eg Russell, Anna, Jim) said yes, if we keep it lower key and stop that nuclear warhead from hitting Tom Green's thatched roof and Millie's bush. OK, it's up to senior staff since I'm away at the Rugby World Cup final (or inspecting an organic meadow outside Yokohama, which I suspect is the real reason for the trip, she won't tell me) and when I left them three hours ago, on 16th October, they still had not decided. We'll let some smoke out of the chimney when a decision is reached, and I am sure we will broadcast a *yes* a bit louder than a *no*, *we're not*. If it happens, 5th November is always the date here.

You'll have missed our cheap bus to London for the anti-Brexit march by the time you read this—*Royal Oak against everything* is our new slogan, much to many's irritation, according to Trip Advisor, and our track day at Castle Combe will probably have passed by also. But there's rugby on the tv, a fire in the fireplace, Christmas menus to peruse and vicariously enjoy, some lovely food off the farm, and intensely intelligent staff to serve you.

Speaking of which, we wave goodbye to Emily Pugh this month—what a star she has been over the past 5 years—as she heads off to be a hostess at Nationwide. What's a hostess, I asked? She's going to find out, she says. I'll do some research in Japan, I say, I hear the hostesses there are really good. Thanks also for the many letters of condolence (total, none) following the robbery at Eastbrook farmhouse—I have been offered victim support but, on this occasion, the fact that we think the burglars changed the duvet cover while they were inside has made our lives much easier and saved us at least 30 minutes and lots of swearing. Pip pip

TF



Apple Pressing

The Hinton Honey & Apple club swing into action. Next year we hope to be buzzing.

Ed

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

Trains, bikes and banana skins

I love train travel. Have I mentioned that before? Maybe it's memories of setting off on childhood holidays, aboard trains with corridors (for our younger readers, that's the sort of train they have in Harry Potter). Maybe it's the wonderful films and TV programmes in which trains and railway stations had starring roles - *Brief Encounter*, *The Lady Vanishes*, *The 39 Steps*, *Casey Jones*, *Alias Smith and Jones*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Railway Children* to name but a few. If you remember all of those, you clearly fit into my age bracket, and, if you don't, stick with Harry Potter. Whatever your era, clearly, the most exciting (if not always law abiding) people travel by train. And they let the rest of us on board, too.

I met a lovely chap the other week, travelling on a train from Exeter. He was toggled up in cycling Lycra, and had a collapsible bike, so I asked if he was off to enter a race, or just on a trip for fun. Neither, he said, I'm off to Moorfields eye hospital. He was clearly a man with nerves of steel, as he was off for his third corneal transplant. He'd given up driving, he said, because of his sight, so now cycled everywhere. I was a bit confused about that. As you may recall, I've never got the hang of cycling, but have always assumed the ability to see where you're going is a prerequisite. Clearly - nerves of steel.

I noticed in the news today that someone near York had similarly had an encounter on a train. Not an enjoyable encounter, however, as she'd allegedly been grabbed and kissed by a drunken Paul Gascoigne. In his defence, Gazza claimed that he'd done it because she was a fat lass and he wanted to give her a bit of confidence. Sounds as if he misjudged the confidence bit, as she's taken him to Court over it.

On the last leg of my journey home, having changed again at Westbury (where the selection of sandwiches was disappointingly poor), I met a woman travelling to Birmingham air-

port with her mother. They had some of the biggest suitcases I've ever seen, and had allowed about ten hours for the journey from the South West. That was probably a good move, as train travel on Sunday can be rather unpredictable. They ended up embroiled in a debate with the conductor regarding the best way to get to their destination. They seemed less than impressed at the suggestion they change in Swindon and go to Reading; apparently they had been on the Reading train but had been told to get off that and go to London. I commiserated with them, and they said they were starting to think fate was trying to tell them something about the holiday - they'd originally been booked to travel three weeks previously with Thomas Cook. I hope they made it in time for their plane, and were able to get their humongous cases on board without paying too much excess baggage fee. If they'd been in a train-based film, there would obviously have been bodies in those suitcases.

The most puzzling bit of the journey was my discovery on Swindon station of a pair of blue shoes topped by a banana skin. It looked as though someone had just disappeared (or disappeared if you're one of the Harry Potter brigade) mid-snack, leaving behind only their footwear. I mentioned it to the ladies in the buffet (whose selection of sandwiches was far superior to those on offer in Westbury); they were most intrigued, and very practical - were they *good* shoes, they asked?

Mrs Mantelpiece

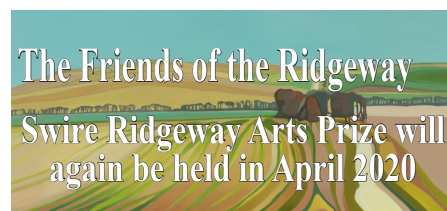


And Almost Finally...

Welcome back aboard Mrs M. How do you know there were no bodies in the suitcases; did you check?

I was impressed by how many of you chaps turned up for the History evening. Perhaps we should serve up historical anecdotes in our newsletter? We try to keep it interesting and informative, this is mainly due to all the copy and pictures that you send, please keep them coming.

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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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.

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Features Editor:

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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.

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