

# Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva April 2020

## Keeping the Village Tidy

10 year old Hugh was unable to join the village clean-up in Hinton on the appointed day, due to other commitments, so he insisted we go and clean-up our road the day before.

We started at Woodbine Cottage and got as far as the last road sign before the (former) Black Horse Pub, filling two bin bags full of rubbish. Unfortunately, there was still plenty more in the hedgerows and the lay-by but we stopped when we could not carry back home what we had collected.

My son Hugh was constantly asking why there was so



much rubbish, especially takeaway boxes and bags, as he could not believe people were too lazy to take their rubbish home with them. He also found another length of pipe, which astonished him, as, about three years ago he found a massive length of pipe on a village clean-up. Again the question, where does it come from and why didn't someone stop to pick it up before now? Good questions.

*Anna Jefferd*

Well done, Hugh, we wish everybody was as thoughtful as you - Ed

*Photograph by Anna Jefferd*

## It must be Spring, there are Toads Abroad

The Common toad *Bufo bufo*, or could it be the very, very rare Japanese Tapdancing toad (answers on a postcard), is on the move and, no doubt, happy with the present damp conditions. As I write, there is much moaning about the weather. But is it any wetter than usual? We looked at our Bishopstone Tidal Observation Post + Weather.

Highest Rain Rate 75.5 mm/hr at 18:52 on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
Highest Hourly Rainfall 25.5 mm at 07:43 on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
Highest Daily Rainfall 33.6 mm on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Highest Monthly Rainfall 159.6 mm December 2013  
Longest Wet Period 33 days to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014  
Records began properly 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011, so there you go.

*Ed*

## **Coronavirus, or Covid 19 as it seems to be called now**

As of going to print we have numerous events advertised; because of the the present pandemic, the situation is changing from day to day, so it's probably best to check these events nearer the time.

See also page 8

*Ed & team*



*Bufo bufo on the move - photograph by Bobbing About, our valiant roving reporter, (unpaid).*

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



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## Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Wanborough Village Hall,**  
**High Street, SN4 0AD**

Huge thanks to all who came and donated to Melanoma Focus; we raised over £300, meaning that Judith Evans has reached her £1,000 target - as well as having almost reached her 1,000

Mile goal. Brilliant!  
*Hope, Skip & Jump Swindon*, is a fabulous charity offering emergency respite to parents of children with disabilities, learning difficulties and/or complex needs. There's a large indoor soft play area, a fully accessible kitchen, and extensive outdoor space with a castle, race track, and, a wooden cabin that caters for children with particularly acute needs, a light and comfortable space that has sensory facilities and a changing room. So come to do your shopping at

the Farmers' Market on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, enjoy tea, coffee and home baked cakes while supporting this local charity. (We were sorry to have to cancel the Coffee Morning in March.)

*Jo Pearce*

For more information about the farmers' market contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

[sbirley@gn.apc.org](mailto:sbirley@gn.apc.org)

10.00am - 5.00pm **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
**The Village Hall, Bishopstone**

An exciting exhibition and sale of quality artisan goods and art from the people who live or work here, or have a special connection with the village.

Do not miss this unique event when you will be able to.....

.....treat yourself to artisan breads, cakes and sweets and organic meat.

.....admire and buy pottery, glasswork, paintings, fibre art, illustrations, sculpture, textile crafts and bespoke couture.

.....and enjoy a delicious Bishopstone tea.

Find out more over the next few weeks on our facebook page:

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

We still have a couple of spaces for artisan food products (not bakery products) so if, for example, you make honey, jam or have eggs to sell, email Sue Dent:

[susan.walton790@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walton790@gmail.com)  
 or ring 01793 790 246



## Swindon Jazz & Soul Festival

supporting  
**Swindon & District Samaritans**

from 12.00pm  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Advance tickets are £12 (£14 on the door if available) under 16's free entry. Tickets available at <https://www.book-online.co.uk/cccc/tickets/events>, from the venue in person, or at Old Town's The Royal Oak's weekly Tuesday Jazz.

Enjoy a very special Festival, and help Swindon & District Samaritans to always be there for anyone who needs a safe place to talk: 116 123

## Are You Ready for a **Change?**

*Book a **Free EFT** session during March 2020!*

Tapping, or EFT (emotional freedom technique), is a powerful tool for improving our lives on multiple levels; mental, emotional and physical.

Reduce anxiety, chronic pain, addictions, weight issues, fears, stress, sleep problems etc.

We mostly achieve clear noticeable results in one session, and you learn how to use the technique on yourself, by yourself, in your own time.

I work with the Herbalife range of products and/or EFT, along with coaching and food choice awareness to achieve result on: weight control, mental sharpness, emotional wellbeing and amateur sports performance. Face to Face or via skype/zoom.

Peter Svensson - 07832 193 362/01793 710 537



## Hinton Parva Village Hall - April

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

### Booking Rates:

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

Private Parties  
Meetings etc welcome

Catering may be available  
Free Parking

Informal Bridge	Wednesdays	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 10.00pm
Ridgeway Link AGM	Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm

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 Village Hall, Bishopstone - April

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 - 5.30pm
Yoga	Mondays	13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 - 8.30pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.00am
Parish Council	Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 8.00pm
Gardening Club	Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.00pm
WI	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 - 9.30pm
Village Hall AGM	Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm
Film Night	Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> May	6.00 - 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.



Tickets £5.00

### The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Licensed bar - Ice Creams  
Refreshments - Interval

Doors open 7.00pm - Film 7.45pm

Tickets on the door or in advance:

Richard 791 913

[richardw@eddingtons.co.uk](mailto:richardw@eddingtons.co.uk)

for pre show suppers -  
Royal Oak; 790 481

*Knives Out*, our previous City Lights film, was a hit with those who love a good old fashioned whodunnit. The Gold ran out at half time and the peanuts were back, which is great in my book!

Our next showing, on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**, is the acclaimed and now firmly anointed, Oscar winning, *Judy*. The film features a stunning perform-

ance by Renée Zellweger as Judy Garland, in this film dramatization set towards the end of her career.

We have a few reservations in hand already but tickets are a-plentiful and will be available on the door as usual or from the Royal Oak in conjunction with their wonderful pre-theatre suppers. Try and resist the temptation to watch a bootleg copy and come on down to City Lights to boo, hiss, heckle and cheer in the comfort of your own village hall.

### Bishopstone Village Hall AGM Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm

– it's a formality, but open to all for an annual review of our hall finances and activities – you are welcome to come along.

Last call for a volunteer in the role of Secretary at the Village Hall, a small commitment of approximately one hour per month, plus any additional volunteering time to suit.

Call Richard 791 913 for an informal chat or further info:

[richardw@eddingtons.co.uk](mailto:richardw@eddingtons.co.uk)

We are also still light on the committee, so a perfect opportunity to get involved in village life, lots of fun too.

*Richard Walker*

## Jobs! Helen Browning's Royal Oak

Intelligent, honest, reliable, confident part time staff required from now till end of summer...

...and beyond that if you're good at it, and enjoy serving our lovely guests.

Apply

[jo@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk](mailto:jo@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk)

Or 01793 790 481





Nothing in today's modern world is more certain than change, and the ability and willingness to respond to the demands of change will define those who survive. However, in this context it is quite unusual after a century to see two of our local farms facing a new direction. The Ball's have farmed in Idstone for 100 years and, following Bill's death last November, the farm is likely to be sold this summer. Also in Bishopstone, Robbie Selbourne has decided to retire from Prebendal Farm this coming Michaelmas. The Selbournes and, before, Robbie's grandparents' family, the Wilsons, have been tenants of the Church Commissioners there for 120 years. With vacant possession, it will be interesting to see whether the church eventually sells or leases again. Robbie tells me he and Jo would like to like to find a new home with *chalk under their feet*.

After this winter I can well understand this sentiment. Living here on the slope of the downs we are ever grateful to have avoided the agony of those affected elsewhere by floods near rivers. The continuous deluges have filled up the deep chalk aquifers, which is a good thing, but just now water and springs are gushing out everywhere like a leaking colander. With a few exceptions, walking in this downland landscape can still be a pleasure for humankind and their dogs, avoiding the worst of the mud. The Ridgeway and the Ashdown estate give lots of options. Getting there can be the problem. If it's good for the heart to take strong exercise, the tarmac of the hills above Compton, Ashbury and Idstone present good stiff challenges. We find Nell Hill to the downs above Bishopstone less steep. The Ashbury coombes, the two footpaths behind St Mary's church, Ashbury, the Bishopstone valleys and lynchets, and the National Trust valley above Hinton all offer wonderful

walking in a special landscape. Come 1<sup>st</sup> April, because I am an optimist, it just could be drying up which hopefully might not be an April fool. We will then probably be approaching the peak of the coronavirus problem and we may be subject to some forms of isolation where a blast in open air could be therapeutic and surely permitted. If as farmers we are able to get on the land I did once receive advice that the test to know when it was sufficiently dry was to drop one's drawers/strides /knickers, sit down on the soil, feel the warmth, experience a lack of soil particles sticking, and then it was ok to get going! This column hopes we can all stay fit and healthy and there will be someone left to drive the tractors and feed the animals.

### When words fail, music speaks...

Just because the first language of our international music and social activities is actually **MUSIC** *Sounds Like Women* is excited to announce a 6 hour live nonstop **singing fundraising challenge** on **29<sup>th</sup> March!**

The challenge will involve singing and playing music continuously for the 6 hours, featuring original tunes and some covers of well-known songs. We will have special guests, including professional singers as well as non-professional music lovers who want to get involved and simply enjoy music and the moment together with us. We will also hear some tunes and stories from domestic abuse survivors who have collaborated with our project already, as well as inspirational songs from teenage girls and children. The event will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube, 1.00pm-7.00pm from **Sounds Like Women's** HSS music production studio, just outside Swindon, Wiltshire.

**Sounds Like Women** is a music and social project as well as, a non-profit registered Community Interest Company (CIC), that sets to empower women and girls from around the world through music and musical activities. We also release especially written songs to raise aware-

ness of the most pressing issues women face today such as domestic abuse, racial biases or inequality.

For information contact:

Luiza Staniec-Moir,

+44 7541 956 179

info@soundlikewomen.com

www.soundlikewomen.com

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

### The Ridgeway Link

URGENT: Request co-ordinator.

Rachel has told us that unfortunately she is unable to continue in this role after more than five years. We are very grateful for her help over this time. We need someone to take over this role. It entails taking calls from people wanting a lift and phoning around our volunteers to find someone who is available. We provide a dedicated telephone and line.

If you feel you could take on this role, or would like more information, please contact:

Louisa Barnes 7903 72 or

the chairman, Brian Clarke, 790 158

We are holding our **AGM**

**7.00 p.m. Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Hinton Parva Village Hall**

Everyone is welcome to attend and hear about what we do.

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

*Louisa Barnes* (Secretary/Treasurer)

**The Friends of the Ridgeway**

**Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize Exhibition**

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington**

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**St Dunstan's Church Hall, Monks Risborough**

01367 240 713 07841 352 938  
anthony.burdall@burdall.net

### School Report



As always at school we have been busy with lots of thought provoking trips, visits and speakers. The careers week was a huge success, certainly to be repeated.

KS2 were left full of knowledge after a talk about how the Dakota planes were based nearby at Membury in WW2, which tied in nicely with their topic, *being evacuated*. Bishopstone school had 20 evacuees at one point, they were never named however, and just called *the evacuee children* in the school log books. Two of them unhappily clearly, as they ran away after attending for just one day. They all came from the Holloway area of London.

We were delighted to welcome *the-staysafeinitiative* into school for a day, educating the children and working around our lessons planned alongside *Safer Internet Day*. They worked through a range of practical workshops with lots of information on how to stay SMART online, critical in this age. The school also joined a new support system for parents linked to the internet, providing parents at home with a wealth of information.

Year 5/6 children visited Pinewood to make use of their science lab, learning to complete Bunsen burner flame tests, chromatography and creating microscope slides. It was great to see the children so hands on and able to use the correct apparatus with care and appreciation.

*Bishopstone School Bake Off* saw children and parents creating delicious cakes You have truly never seen so much cake! It was a fantastic event that saw the final being judged by the school governors. For pictures of their amazing entries, please look at the school website. The school website is currently having a small *makeover* and in eight weeks' time should be far more user-friendly and easier to navigate. . .it is almost as old as my time at Bishopstone!

We have had our normal cinema night, curling up with two films and then Grandparents joined us for an afternoon of sharing. We had to guess the cost of a house and car in 1912 (could you...?), complete some origami, alongside other-hands on activities, finishing with that old favourite for young and old.....bingo!!

Nothing like, *two little ducks*. KS1 completed the afternoon with a beautiful assembly which focused on our environment, and all the work that they had been learning about the Arctic. World Book Day rolled around again; this year, the children created potato book characters . . they were super, (and included lots of *Super-tato*), and we had great fun guessing which was which, again, pictures on the website. *Dress up* saw characters from Harry Potter and Little Red Riding Hood, through to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! The love of reading is key to childhood and we are continuing with various activities to fuel this passion . . . next up is Teddy Sleepover . . . I wonder what they will get up to when left alone?! KS2 created a dramatic dance which they performed at Swindon Dance Festival. The daunting prospect of being on stage is wearing off now. They were colourful and dynamic and did the school proud! Lots more coming up, and, with the daffodils out in full, we really are now turning that corner into Spring.

*Emma Linsay*

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BISHOPSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

BISHOPSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Places must be booked - please either call Sue at the school on 01793 790 521; or email katew@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk

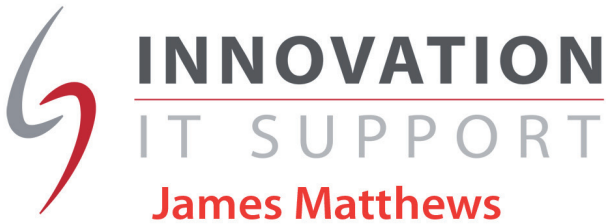
**Rainbow**  
Baby and Toddler Group

Bishopstone Village Hall  
Every Thursday during Term Time  
9.30 - 11.00am  
£2.50 per family, 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Call Tori  
07891 533 654

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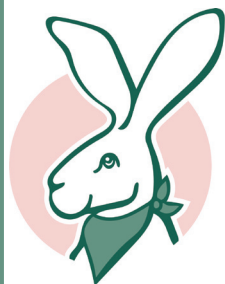
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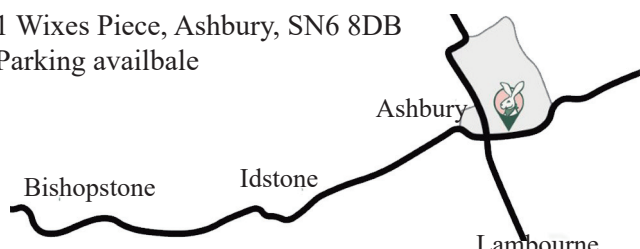
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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b> Palm Sunday	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
<b>Sunday</b> Easter Sunday	<b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
<b>Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>26<sup>th</sup> April</b>		No Service	
<b>Sunday</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington

In light of current advice being provided by the Department of Health and the Church of England, during the outbreak of Coronavirus, I have sought guidance from the Archdeacon and met with our Churchwardens. Together we have decided on the following:

We will continue to hold a 10.30 am sung service of Holy Communion each Sunday. This will rotate around the Benefice as per the dates currently published on the Village websites and in the Parish magazines.

Baptisms, weddings, and funerals will continue as planned.

Other services, including the Alpha course, are postponed at this time.

Please continue to contact me as before.

With best wishes and prayers,

*Bill*

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

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

It has been so encouraging to witness so many Acts of Random Kindness. Within days, villagers have put together plans to care for vulnerable neighbours of ours. These and the traditional British sense of humour have gone a long way to undermine some of the less charitable aspects of human nature. The Department of Health advice is changing increasingly both in severity and frequency, and in all of this we can only do the best that we can. Caring for others is one of the best antidotes to sadness and we don't have to be running around as if our tails are on fire when doing so.

One of the greatest gifts we have is time, so picking up the phone, writing an email or a letter are simple ways to help others to know that we care for them, and helps us to realise that we can add to someone else's day, even if we are unable to leave our homes. Social media has been a huge help in sharing information, making plans for those who may not be in the best place to help themselves, and to help to get things into a better perspective.

As shared on Facebook recently, while a number of us use social media, may I suggest that we keep a weather eye on our neighbours who don't. If you are unsure what to do if their circumstances change, please contact me and together we will try to work something out between us. You will remember that we can only do what we can within the limits of the gifts and talents that we have been given. When we pray, we are able to call on the Author of us all to influence the circumstances surrounding our concerns. While prayer may not be answered in the way we might expect it is always answered nevertheless. It's why answered prayer can look so different from what we have requested.

We have a long history of people that have prayed for us through all sorts of difficulties over the centuries, and as I have said before, I never ever met an atheist on a sinking ship! So whether we are busy at work, or sitting at home, twenty minutes of prayer for others will help them, and often has the impact of providing us with a bit of peace in the midst of the madness in which we find ourselves.

Please be assured of mine for you.

*Bill*

### Prayers

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

**telephone - 790 088**

**villageprayers@gmail.com**

### People Who are Self-isolating

Local volunteers in Bishopstone, Hinton Parva and Wanborough have been working quickly behind the scenes, pulling together a support network of willing helpers. Do look out for the contact slips posted through your letterbox soon.

If you don't receive a slip and need some support, either with picking up shopping, posting mail, urgent supplies or a friendly 'phone call, then contact:

Belinda 07956 654 873

belnicholls@gmail.com or

Valerie Brodin

791 949

Mob: 07983 419 725

The Coombs, Hinton Parva,



## 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 wardens:

**St Mary's**  
Roz Boot 01793 790 508  
John Lowry 01793 790 271

### St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148  
tomcripwell@gmail.com

### PCC members:

Doug Stevens  
01793 791 107  
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk  
Karen Stevens 01793 791 107  
kschurchview@gmail.com  
Penny Green 01793 791 310  
Sara Hall 01793 791 202  
thecourthouse@gmail.com

## St Mary's Bishopstone

### Cleaning Rota

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

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

## Farewell and Thank You

After 21 years of extraordinary service to the parish, Lesley Drewett is retiring from her role as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. On behalf of both villages, I would like to publicly thank Lesley for her dedication and hard work in supporting Councillors, the Parish Council, and the community.

The Parish Council has benefitted immeasurably from Lesley's devotion to duty, her great knowledge of council procedures, and her determination to ensure councillors always abide by the rules! We will miss her cheery and organised presence and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Val Brodin

Chair, Bishopstone Parish Council

## Fête Meeting

**6.30pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Hill Manor House, (next to**  
**Badgerstown) Hinton Parva**

All welcome.

Thank you.

Tom Cripwell

## Church Fête 2020

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July

Assuming we are not all quarantined, ailing badly, rained off, flooded out or whatever, the fête will be held at:

## Hinton Manor, Hinton Parva

Our thanks go to Conta Rowan Hamilton for kindly agreeing to let us use the Manor once again. This is especially generous since Conta cannot be there and we are indebted to her. The house and gardens become more lovely year on year and we hope to see as many of you as possible taking in the classic eccentricities of the English garden fête.

St. Mary's & St. Swithun's depend on the income from the fête but it is, more importantly, an opportunity to come together and get to know each other better. The amazing interests, talents and skills of parishioners exhibited through stalls shows us what a fantastic lot we are.

We hope to include:

classic cars; beer stall; country larder; books; plants; pottery; cream teas; various crafts; a raffle and something to eat.

In hopeful expectation, we welcome all previous stall holders, and any prospective new ones, to take part again. I have been coerced into organising the fete this year and so any questions, ideas or even gripes to me please –

01793 791 148  
tomcripwell@gmail.com

Tom



### **Postponed**

We, lots of us, were looking forward to James Andrews' talk on *Cameras & Jeep Safaris* last month, and to seeing how Prohides has progressed throughout the year. Sadly, it had to be postponed due to ill health. Watch this space for a new date.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April:**

#### **Growing Michaelmas Daisies:**

Talk/demonstration and plants for sale during the evening from Helen Picton, Old Court Nurseries, Malvern.

#### **Annual Plant Sale:**

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Doors open at 10.00am - 11.00am**

I can hardly believe that I'm writing to you already about our Annual Plant Sale. Despite the atrocious storms which have been raging outside for the past few months, our little plantlets are growing well in the cosy greenhouse, nestled on blocks of polystyrene to keep their little feet warm. Many of my colleagues will have been taking cuttings, potting on colourful bedding plants and rooting vegetables just so that you can have some blooming bargains.

So do come along – get there early as we sell out pdq! As above, doors open at 10.00am and we've usually sold out by 11.00.

If you've plants for sale, you can drop them off at the village hall - someone will be there from 9.00am. Annual subs are £10 per person per annum, or just come along and pay £3\* on the door. \*Dates and prices may be subject to change.

Sheila (secretary) 01793 790 358 and Sarah (outings organiser) can be contacted at:

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com  
Friendly bunch of gardeners, always

delighted to welcome newcomers. Tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle.

All events held at Bishopstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

### **Bishopstone Allotment Gardens**

Subs are now due. Please put the money in an envelope with your name on it, in the usual place.

Sheila  
Roz (790 508)

### **Wanborough Community Trust**

Wanborough Community Fund started out several years ago when a small group of people took on the reins of running the May Day Fayre, Scarecrow Trail and Quiz nights. The idea of this new organisation was to run local community fundraising events to raise funds for local projects / activities / groups. The Fund covers Wanborough, Liddington, Hinton Parva & Bishopstone, as many of the supporters for our fundraising events come from all areas of the Benefice. Through a grant application and allocation process Wanborough Community Fund will support local groups / activities as funds are available. The organisation is now registered with the Charity Commission as Wanborough Community Trust and is able to allocate funds through an application process.

With funds in our account now we are keen to start the application and allocation process so groups/projects/events can benefit from the fundraising many of our villagers have been supporting for the last few years.

The types of projects that have already shown an interest whilst we've been waiting to secure Charity status are: Lyddington Bells replacement project; Wanborough local history storyboards project; scout group coach transport to

International Jamboree; annual event for senior members of the community; bi-annual event for junior members of our community. There will be many more... perhaps a feasibility study for the setting up of a community shop/café; other local groups needing funds for equipment / clothing etc.

Once registered, applicants will make a presentation to the Trustees to secure some, or all, of their requested funds for their particular application. Conditions will be attached to completing the projects and spending the funds in a timely way; we will ask for a completion report so we can publicise and promote the projects / activities/events and encourage more members of the community to support our fundraising efforts each year.

So...do you have the start of an idea for a community project / activity? Are you involved with a local group that needs funds for a specific piece of equipment or activity?

Visit [https://www.wanborough.info/wanborough\\_community\\_fund.html](https://www.wanborough.info/wanborough_community_fund.html) for more information including our Grant Awarding Policy:

Email [wanboroughCT@gmail.com](mailto:wanboroughCT@gmail.com) expressing an interest to apply for funds from Wanborough Community Trust and get the ball rolling... an application form will be sent to you. Whilst we are happy to chat with people, as their early thoughts turn into more concrete plans, we will not be able to make application requests on behalf of others; individuals need to be passionate enough about their idea that they can bring it to the decision making table and then execute its delivery.

Thank you

*Wanborough Community Trust*

### **Bishopstone 100 club**

#### **March Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> 68 Tim Finney

2<sup>nd</sup> 11 Mogs Boon

3<sup>rd</sup> 14 Jeremy Harding

Don't forget that subs are owed.

Also if anybody would be interested to take over the running of the 100 Club, Jo would love to hear from you.

*Jo 790 485*

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One of the highlights of Tuesday evenings in the village pub is the informal meeting of the caravan club, where the only rule of membership is that you must not, it appears, own a caravan. I do believe there is one caravan owner among this elite, but since he is away being investigated by police for allegedly doing unmentionable things with an organic sheep (honestly, officer, it was stuck headfirst in the hedge—ha ha, we've heard that one before, sir), nobody is really bothered about his flagrant breaking of the rules. Members are much more interested in his sheep worrying activities, naturally. However, the general view is that it is unlikely to come to court, unlike that long forgotten sad case over the border in Oxfordshire (which is at least 1.5 miles away) where men are men and sheep are now very nervous.

With my clear intent this month being to upset as many neighbours as possible, there are two points I wish to raise about Dickie's Diary in the March edition. First, just how much money does he pay the esteemed editor of this organ? How come Dickie gets page 3 with his agri-politics disguised as local folklore, and the persistently charming, lucid and hilarious Royal Oak Diary gets page 12? What am I not doing? And second, I'm always at a loss to explain farmers' worries about future UK food security. Is it some sort of moral gene they have inherited? The

vast majority of us - coronavirus, global heating or obesity and diabetes notwithstanding - could not care less whether food comes from Wiltshire or New South Wales, Bishopstone or Bolivia. We know, we sell it! Dickie will be one of tens of thousands of farmers in this country who moans, quietly, about how people won't pay the proper price for his farm goods. So why worry if a bit of re-wilding takes up some good agricultural land? It will reduce the supply of UK produce, of course, meaning supplies won't be so plentiful, but it'll be OK because by then we'll be importing even more cheap pork and chicken from the rest of the world, while supply lines are available. The current doubts about, and fragility of, supply lines will be ignored in pursuit of better trade deals and cheaper stuff on shelves. And this will work perfectly well until that fragility becomes acute and supply lines break. In the short term, Dickie, let us have our cake! And let us eat it. In very large amounts. People aren't that bothered about five years down the road, it seems to me. Which reminds me, one of our occasional mean-spirited customers brought a cake into the pub the other day and escaped without the cake tax I have previously applied to people who think we are a glorified picnic zone. I am still losing sleep over her. Our frontline wildlife man, James Andrews, has been taking one or two people on night-time farm safaris, and in early March they spotted polecats at the northern end of the farm. Barn owls are now being sighted in three or four different locations. Otters, as you know, have been seen close to the stream where it crosses the lower road. Only once, but that was good

enough. You ought to take James up on his offers of farm safaris—he is a remarkable well of knowledge, about the farm and the wildlife here; and like me, utterly charming. And his wildlife photo hides are worth spending some time in.

Our **Easter Sunday Easter Egg** hunt will meet at the farm offices at 10.30am, tractor and trailer up to the valley, weather permitting. I expect it will still be raining by then. Combined with Brexit and Priti Patel, it's made a depressing start to the year (careful, TF)...£10 per family/car load. All to the tractor driver. Should be finished and back by just after noon. **Classic cars and Drive it Day** are **26<sup>th</sup> April**, all day; **pig racing 6<sup>th</sup> June**, and the long awaited and inaugural **Bacon and Literary Festival** will be held in early September, when the heatwave has finished.

Young and old staff required—always looking for intelligent people to help us with everything here at the worst pub in the village, as you know. Full and part time, flexible, well rewarded. We are considering carefully the news that a credit card company in the US has just awarded all its staff a full time salary of £54k, while the MD took a pay cut of £1m. Seems a bit extreme, that sort of pay cut.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Pig Racing Day

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**



Road Closure Notice - Cues Lane  
We will apply for the usual short-term road closure according to the Town Police Clause Act 1847. The registered charities to benefit from this year's event include the Swindon North Deaf Children's Society and the Village Hall

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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

I promise not to mention the 'c' word; you know - the one that's not on everyone's lips at the moment - other than to mention that you'd be nuts to think these were anything other than dark times. Right; I won't milk this any further. I must say it. Sorry to those of you who have given it up for Lent. Chocolate. There - I said it. Interestingly, perhaps a lot of people really have given it up for Lent - there was quite a lot of it left on the shelves in Sainsbury's earlier (other large supermarkets are available), though there was precious little else. It was an interesting study in people's mindset and preferences. There were virtually no crisps and the like - but plenty of packs of blue cheese Cheddars: no tins of baked beans, other than the ones with the rather dubious little sausages in them. If I were a supermarket buyer, I'd be in research heaven right now . . . For the past few years, people have been complaining about their deliveries being slung over fences, left in strangers' garden sheds, and generally not arriving at the expected place at the appointed time. There have been worries about drones dropping parcels from the sky, regardless of who might be walking below them, and the likelihood of the parcels' contents being smashed beyond recognition on impact with the ground.

Suddenly, these *remote* delivery methods are looking as if they were ahead of their time. The dog's monthly food delivery has just arrived; it was delivered by a chap who looked delighted to catch my eye through the window, and even more delighted when I indicated he could dump the parcel at the door and race back to his van without having to even so much as speak to me. In the past this *drop and run* methodology was all about saving time; today, I suspect it was more about keeping a safe distance from the 105 customers for whom he had deliveries.

I'm very much hoping that those other drawers-of-frequent-criticism, the ones who keep ringing to politely inform me about the accident I had that was not my fault, will also keep

their distance over the coming weeks and months. Imagine a few weeks of isolation, with them as one's only companions. . . . Having said that, if it's a question of chatting to them or watching the 37<sup>th</sup> repeat of *The Chase*, or a programme involving a couple of D list stars of the '80s trying to do-up a rundown property, flog antiques, or create a garden from a small patch of mud and a concrete path, then maybe I'll find chatting about non-existent accidents a fun activity? I'm anticipating doing a lot of reading over the coming weeks - always a Good Thing, in my book (sorry - that was purely unintentional . . .) Before I do that though, I'm going to be checking down the back of the sofa, and in coat and trouser pockets, to rustle up as much cash as I can. Having talked myself into a frenzy of anticipation of various delightful turnip-based dishes, I now suspect they may be the next item in short supply. I need all the cash I can muster so that I can buy-in The Royal Oak's entire supply of Turnip Surprise. . .

*Mrs Mantelpiece*



## And Almost Finally...

Aren't our policemen/woman wonderful? I've said it before

and I'll say it again. Some of you chaps will recall that last August I had the exceedingly unpleasant experience of being burgled. The (mainly) girls in blue, well actually not in uniform, turned up promptly, did their S O C stuff, asked questions, drank tea, in fact they came a couple of times and 'phoned me as well. I was touched by their concern. A few days ago a young (aren't they all?) policeman turned up to tell me they have caught the fella, it took a while, but they got there.

Now I'm sitting here contemplating our future in this time of plague. Will there be anything to put in the May newsletter when the village has battened the hatches? Perhaps having nothing else to do you'll all write amusing anecdotes to me. The latest

dictat appears to be that us old people have to put ourselves in voluntary isolation, quelle horreur! I'm just going to hide my birth certificate, clamber out of the window and rush off to panic buy cat food and gin.

*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](mailto: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](mailto:admin2.collins@icloud.com)

### Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

[mcanespie@gmail.com](mailto: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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