

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva February 2020



out, but I think we can all take a share of this... More in the Royal Oak Report.

Bobbing About

(Photograph of the culprits by James Andrews)

What is it with cows and the Christmas season? A couple of years ago come cattle were reported attempting to scale the walls of St. Swithun's churchyard intent on visiting church.

Ed

Eastbrook Experiences?

It is rumoured that 120 *well fed, luxury cows* attempt to gate-crash City Lights, (Yesterday, day after Boxing Day), bravely fended off by a sprightly member of the team with a folding chair. A picture of the folding chair is currently being sought as our hero prefers to remain incognito...

Said *luxury cows* escaped from the milking parlour at about 2030 hours, and apparently skilfully separated themselves into well organised scouting parties. Sightings so far include: The Ridgeway, Cues lane, High Street, Oxon place, and the Mill Pond. There were also numerous reports of gardens being trampled, leaving tell-tale hoof-prints in the ensuing mud.

Cinema goers were blissfully unaware of the goings-on outside. (It appears that City Lights was third port of call for this party after a moonlight dip in the pond and foraging for turnips along Oxon place). Obviously traumatised by the sight of the folding chair, (or possibly, mistaking the folding chair for a four horned beast), the cows' digestive processes accelerated somewhat, leaving splattered evidence decorating the streets.

Finally rounded up, an observer commented, *One of the rare joys of living in a rural community.*

Approached for comment, Tim Finney said, *It's usually Helen bailing me*



Gardening Club
Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne Supper
Friday 14th February
For Details see page 10

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



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Writing at the start of a New Year and decade, it's good to look forward, but first, back. Eastbrook dairy cows went walkabout on Boxing Day, exploring village footpaths and some gardens. It's mischievous to suggest they may have enjoyed a festive tipple too much, as they left their mark. From my own experience, when I was milking cows in my youth, I know it's very easy to leave a gate open when you have had a jar! Of all our villages, Bishopstone is the last to still have a dairy farm amongst houses, so very different from 50 years ago. Even Tony Juniper of Natural England concedes that grazing animals are not bad for the environment.

Looking forward, most farms will have plenty of muddles to rectify when the really dry weather arrives. Lots of fields have been only partly planted as it became impossibly wet. Tender soil structures have been trashed, requiring patience and time, even until next autumn in places. Our livestock sales are already affected by the vegan crusade, though I read that this fad is difficult to sustain over time with some health risks. Its not for me! Lamb exports to France post Brexit are threatened by tariffs when we leave the EU. Some of

our chemical aides that formerly protected our crops are being removed from the market to pose further challenges. Minimal cultivation, building earthworm activity near the surface relies on glyphosate (roundup) for weed control. If this product became off label here, as may be likely in Germany, under pressure from the Green Party ploughing would feature a comeback, but ironically this would be a backward step in terms of extra energy costs with more carbon being released. The effect would be nothing short of momentous to arable farming. Our new environment minister, Theresa Villiers, is speaking at the Oxford Farming Conference this January and is expected to chart the way ahead for this parliament. We look forward to the support of government in the Brexit trade talks that will maintain our points of difference, protecting our environment and welfare standards here against lower quality imports. If we suffer export tarrifs we cannot take imports tarrif free. Fingers crossed. But we will have to tick more boxes to earn our future production support. In preparation we are engaging FWAG (Farm, Wildlife and Advisory Group) to produce a report on our

natural farm capital that will identify these *public goods* on our farm. These will be trees, nectar and wild bird cover, hedges, walls, flowers, butterflies, birds, ponds, water courses, landscape features, historical remains, rights of way, permitted access, perhaps others. It's sure to be a brave new world with plenty of new challenges.



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 Date is:

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

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Hinton Parva Village Hall - February

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 | 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th | 7.00 - 9.00pm |
| Bridge | Fridays | 7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 st | 7.00 - 10.00pm |
| Private Booking | Tuesday | 11 th | 9.00 - 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 Village Hall, Bishopstone - February

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|----------------|
| The hall is cleaned | Mondays | | 8.30 - 10.30am |
| Martial Arts | Mondays | 3 rd , 10 th & 24 th | 3.15 - 4.15pm |
| Yoga | Mondays | 10 th , 17 th & 24 th | 7.00 - 8.30pm |
| Taekwondo | Tuesdays | 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th | 7.00 - 8.00pm |
| Mothers & Toddlers | Thursdays | 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th | 9.30 - 11.00am |
| Keep Fit | Fridays | 7 th , 14 th & 28 th | 9.30 - 10.30am |
| PC | Monday | 3 rd | 7.00 - 8.00pm |
| WI | Thursday | 13 th | 6.30 - 9.00pm |
| Gardening Club Quiz | Friday | 14 th | 6.00 - 10.00pm |
| Film Night | Friday | 28 th | 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.

The Village Hall, Bishopstone, Fund Raising

In terms of Fundraising, we have a number of potential projects and we are in the process of prioritising these. Look out for our popular Skittles Evening in the spring.

Vacancy

Over to Village Hall Committee, we have a Vacancy for Secretary to record minutes and coordinate meetings.

There would be plenty of opportunity for a handover, as Carol is staying on the Committee but would like to pass on the secretarial duties associated. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested.

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk or
tel.791 913.

Cinema

I was going to write about *Yesterday* tomorrow but decided to do it today

– can you imagine the conversations we had trying to organise our post Christmas City Lights screening of *Yesterday*, hilarious to start with but as the day approached, things got ever more *unfunny*! Nonetheless, we had a great turnout in the end for what proved to be a wonderful film, perfect for the time of year.

At time of press we are gearing up for *Downton Abbey* on **31st January**. Those regulars will know we have an intermission, and we have been fortunate to be able to run a draw for a Free Pre Theatre Supper at the Royal Oak – We thank their generosity and support in this area making it a *joined up* experience for those wishing to dine ahead of the Film.

Richard

Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon

Saturday 15th February
Wanborough Village Hall,
High Street, SN4 0AD

To talk to Ken, of Ken's Fish, who will be outside the hall on market day, phone 07590 979 194. Ken is also to be found outside the village hall on Thursdays, 3.00 - 5.00pm. Plenty of brain food to be had!

For more information about the market contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

The Community Connect Coffee Morning Team

If you see someone walking or cycling in Wanborough every day, whatever the weather – it may well be Judith Evans. She's taken up the Melanoma 1,000 challenge to walk/cycle/run/crawl 1,000 miles in 8 months (that's about 4 miles every day). At the time of writing she's clocked up a very healthy 580 miles! She's doing this in memory of her late husband Huw, who died of skin cancer a few years ago, to raise money for the charity Melanoma Focus, which funds melanoma research

and provides support for patients, carers and healthcare professionals.

Sadly the incidence of skin cancer seems to be on the increase. Melanoma Focus is quite a small charity compared to many others, but the research and support it gives to patients and their families is immense. So come to the Community Connect Coffee Morning, for tea, coffee and a home made cake – and you'll have the opportunity to make a donation to this incredibly valuable charity, and support Judith.

The Farmers Market has a widening array of goods and produce for sale as well as Ken's fresh fish, Hinton Marsh Farm meats, as well as fantastic veg, jams, honey and fair trade goods ...

Do come!

Jo Pearce

Tickets £5.00



CINEMA

2020 SPRING PROGRAMME

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Community Cinema

KNIVES OUT - Friday 28th February

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thromby (Christopher Plummer) is found dead just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is enlisted to investigate...



JUDY - Friday 27th March

1968, Showbiz legend Judy Garland (Rene Zellweger) arrives in swinging London to perform a 5 week sell out run 30 years after she shot to stardom in The Wizard of Oz. Her voice weakened, her dramatic ability grown - enthralling.



OFFICIAL SECRETS - Friday 1st May

Based on world shaking events. The gripping story of Katharine Gun (Keira Knightly) a British intelligence specialist who is unable to stand by and watch the world be rushed into an illegal war. Gun makes the gut wrenching decision to leak a classified memo to the press...



Tickets on the door or in advance: Richard 791 913 richardw@eddingtons.co.uk or Royal Oak; 790 481 for pre show suppers.

DOORS OPEN 7.00pm - FILM 7.45pm

Licensed bar Ice creams Refreshments Interval

School Report



So I'm taking a moment to pause and reflect, always such a positive thing to do at the start of a year. . .and in this case the start of a new decade! Wow what a busy time we had in December. The EYFS/KS1 Christmas production of *A little bird told me* was wonderful. The singing rang out around the Village Hall, a packed audience, and, the normal amount of straw bale was dropped on the stage for poor Russell to bundle back out again to the field from which it came! A week of fun activities saw a range of new customs being cemented in, from Christmas Jumper day to Yr6 creating *marshmallow snowmen* and *gingerbread people*, then selling these alongside hot chocolate in the playground, after school. We had the music roadshow, loudly, (very), playing and showcasing all kinds of percussion instruments, and a school Christmas dinner and party that was full of fun and laughter. The children took part in a day long *Victorian Christmas*, learning facts about the school from the magical log books, which were written in daily by the Head teachers from 1873 to 1970. They tell tales of children and families, events that happened locally, to even moaning about the lack of coal (that was delivered by the vicar no less . . . Bill are you reading this?). Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate not only about every child within our amazing school, but also the building, the community, the history that it holds. I have been known to say *goodnight* to the school on a regular basis (I spend many hours there . . . even my son calls it his second home). Maybe sometime I will tell

you a tale or two about the mischief that the children got up to back in the 1800's, or the impact that the harvest had on attendance, causing the school to shut completely . . .and not forgetting the holidays that the HT could sanction to shut the entire school, (two days, apparently, if you were a HT off to Torquay to get married!). The children also created beautiful art work using print techniques; then a carousel of fun activities from creating Rudolph, to Christmas people *pegs*. We completed our week of celebration with the Christmas service in church. The children told a story, which explained the different types of Christmas decorations we have now-a-days, and how these link back to Jesus. You can also never beat the sound of children singing at Christmas time. FOBS were amazing and created a magical Father Christmas event, alongside providing a Christmas fete and disco where all the children went a little bonkers. . . I mean were a little excited, as the evening wore on. Although it was huge amounts of work, December is a lovely month within a school. We are now in our first week back (we write these early!) and everything has slotted back as normal. Children bounced in full of excitement to share what they did over Christmas, and we began to look at our school value this term which is *Courage*. Revd. Bill has been in this week as normal, and talked with the children about links to *Courage* within the Bible. We are all eager for next week, a special Careers Week has been organised by staff. . . the children will be talking to lots of different people about their occupations, having a go at all manner of things from stone sculpture, build-

ing a brick wall (minus the cement thank goodness) and even looking at a car engine. . . how does a classic car compare with a modern car? The idea is to allow the children to see that there are many different careers, many different ways to get to their dreams, that these paths can change and to inspire them to look around for new challenges. We are also sneaking in some life skills . . .they will be learning to clean shoes (the old way with a brush!), change a duvet, recycle waste, wash up, iron a shirt and sort the washing . . . it will be an interesting week. . . I will let you know how it goes. Happy New Year (although a little late I know) and wishing you a wonderful 2020.

Emma Linsay



Made in Bishopstone

By popular demand is returning after five years to present an exciting exhibition and sale of quality artisan goods and art produced by our very own local talent.

Saturday 20th June

in and around The Village Hall,
Bishopstone

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If you would like to know more about this event email Sue Dent:

susan.walton790@gmail.com

or ring 01793 790 246

and watch this space

Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

9.30 -11.00am every Thursday during term time Bishopstone Village Hall

£2.50 per family, 1st session free

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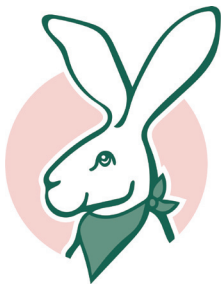
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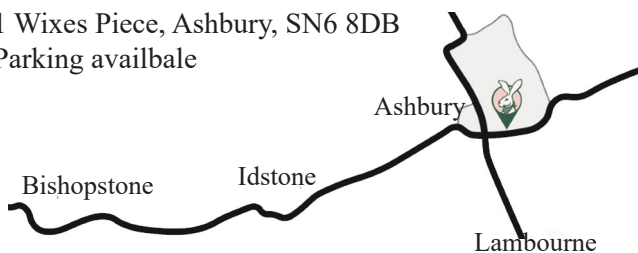
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Church Services in the Benefice

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday | 2nd February | 8.30am | Holy Communion | Bishopstone |
| | The presentation of Christ | 10.30am | Family Communion | Lyddington |
| | in the Temple | 6.00pm | Evensong | Hinton Parva |
| Wednesday | 5th February | 7.00pm | Vigil of the Martyrs of Japan | Wanborough |
| Sunday | 9th February | | No Service | |
| | 3 rd Sunday before Lent | | | |
| Wednesday | 12th February | 7.00pm | Midweek Communion | Wanborough |
| Sunday | 16th February | 8.30am | Holy Communion | Hinton Parva |
| | 2 nd Sunday before Lent | 10.30pm | Family Communion | Wanborough |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong | Bishopstone |
| Wednesday | 19th February | 7.00pm | St Joseph of Nazareth | Wanborough |
| Sunday | 23rd February | 8.30am | Holy Communion | Wanborough |
| | Sunday next before Lent | 10.30am | Family Communion | Hinton Parva |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong | Lyddinton |
| Wednesday | 26th February | 7.00pm | Ash Wednesday | Wanborough |
| Sunday | 1st March | 8.30am | Holy Communion | Bishopstone |
| | 1 st Sunday of Lent | 10.30am | Family Communion | Wanborough |
| | St David's Day | 6.00pm | Evensong | Hinton Parva |

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

As well as remembering the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple, Candlemas was also a celebration of the point that there were enough candles for all of the worship for the next twelve months. Often times, the whole years supply of candles was gathered in the Church and a Service of Thanksgiving was held. It was yet another opportunity for the community to gather. The opportunity for our community to gather continues to happen each and every Sunday, and on Wednesday evenings too. Our services are just that, opportunities to gather that are there for us all.

The primary focus of our Services is to give thanks and praise. They are also an opportunity to stop and appreciate what we have in life, who we are in life and to begin to understand just how loved we are. It's why Weddings, Christenings and the sharing of a simple meal are key moments, both in our lives and in the life of the Church. Occasionally God shows us His love directly in a Service. I have a friend who has what she describes

as *White Light Moments* when she is at a service in Church, but more often God will show God's love through the care, the warmth and the hospitality of those who have gathered with us. So an attitude of gratitude is key.

Like the gathering of any fishing fleet, there is also an opportunity to combine our strength in our prayers; both for our world and for ourselves. While working in our own strength, we will only ever influence those areas of life that we have a direct hand in. When we go to God in prayer, the Creator of the Universe has the power to influence the circumstances surrounding the situation that we are concerned about. It's why *answered prayer* looks so different from the answer we may have had in mind when we first *got on our knees* as it were. The peace that comes with prayer is well known and candles are often used as a point of focus in prayers, and the use of candles and their position in church has evolved over the years.

They were there primarily so that those who had to read could do so. The candles on the altar were there for exactly this reason, and so they would have

been stood either side of the book or book stand, rather than symmetrically at each end of the altar. In the pews, there would have been what looked like tridents, bolted to a number of pews, with a candle on each prong, to help the parishioners to see. The lighting of a candle for individual prayer is often accompanied by some silence; if not in the mind, certainly around the action of doing so. It was in the silence of people coming down, from whatever they had self medicated on the night before, in which the greatest work was done while working with homeless drug dependants.

So, we can see that in many ways we are linked, even when we are not in the same room. So, it comes as a huge sadness whenever I hear or experience people being interested in themselves or their own family members ahead of everyone else. It's as if they have forgotten that it is everyone around them that helps the place that we live in to be the amazing place that it is. Doing our bit for those around us is a lovely way of thanking them. Perhaps this is why voluntary work can be so rewarding. It is also another aspect of our

True Life in God. So, whatever you are up to this month, may you know God's peace and His love for you.

Bill

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

telephone - 790 088

email - villageprayers@gmail.com

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:

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

John Lowry 01793 790 271

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

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Sara Hall 01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com

St Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

February Jane Golding

March Liz Warwick &

Jane Manktelow

April Sarah Best &

Jenny Isles

May Rachel Blunt &

Caryn Greenhalgh

June Lorna Ford &

Linda Matthews

July Fran Shishton &

Karen Stevens

August Jill White &

Karen MacGregor

gor

September Chris Thomas &

Gill May

October Jane Golding

November Liz Warwick &
Jane Manktelow

December 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



Celebration at St. Swithun's

10.30am 22nd December 2019

Some time ago a regular church goer, Dick (Mattick), approached me and said he would like to give St. Swithun's an early Christmas present and pay for carpeting to be fitted. I was delighted of course, I told Bill and Tom, and Bill left it to me to organise. (Long story – short because of space.) The carpets were fitted on 12th December, (voting day), by Gilberts of Old Town. Any potential customer trying to get into the shop that day found the door locked because Graham, the manager, was in church with me and the fitters, to make sure all went well. In the meantime, Christopher, the Archdeacon, chose that particular service to travel from Bristol and swear in the four church wardens in the benefice – namely, John Lowry, Myra Binks, Jill Brown and me. (Tom Cripwell was away.) Christopher knew nothing about celebrating the carpets until he walked through the door and the buzz and excitement hit him!

After the service, the photograph should have been with all of us, Bill and the Archdeacon, but I was so busy with Dick, Andrew and David, pouring out Buck's Fizz and handing round food, that the moment was missed. The church looked magnificent – decorated beautifully, plus the added advantage of a donated £50 six-foot Christmas tree, which we placed to the left of the altar. It was quickly covered with twinkling lights, baubles and tinsel and lit up the area beautifully. Thirty-two churchgoers

attended the service from all the four churches – plus the volunteers who give up their time to clean, and do the flower arranging, all busy working people, to support Bill and the churches – it really is humbling. It is an absolute privilege to have him as our Vicar – we are so, so, lucky. The biggest thank-you on the day went to Dick of course, because

without his enormous generosity to the church and total support of Bill, none of this would have happened!

The image that makes me smile and will live with me for a very long time, was the neat row of children's shoes in the porchway, plus Tom Sargent's – because they didn't want to *dirty* the carpet – that was a first for me! I suppose it saved me barking, *Wipe your feet!*

Happy New Year to you all.

Roz

Bishopstone 100 club

January Winners

1st 55 Sue Bone

2nd 29 Carol Sarchet

3rd 16 Cath Harding

Jo 790 485

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Friday evening 14th February: Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne Supper.

Quiz, Quiz, QUIZ Night ... we're raising money for our gardening club; without fundraising, we wouldn't be able to pay for our gardening club speakers and to keep the club going. In turn, any remuneration over and above the running costs helps us to support other charities, such as Perennial, (originally the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society), who are the UK's only charity dedicated to helping people who work in horticulture, offering advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages working in, or retired from horticulture. And every other year, we hold our very popular summer event, 'Pimms on the Lawn'. During our AGM, members choose a charity to sponsor. Over the last few years we have raised in excess of £500 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust and, last year, over £600 for Root & Branch in Watchfield. Root & Branch help people experiencing mental health difficulties such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, by offering their wide range of interesting activities such as gardening, blacksmithing, woodworking, craft, artwork, pottery, ceramics and cookery. Many of us from the gardening club visited when they held their open day just before Christmas...the coffee shop was especially busy that day with the most delicious cakes to sample. Spread the word - the more the merrier. Quiz night is always fun and entertaining, and, remember, – the Quizmaster is always right!

Wednesday 11th March 7.00 – 9.00pm: Cameras & Jeep Safaris; When we'll catch up with James Andrews to see how Prohides has progressed throughout the year. Bring your cameras and learn some new wildlife photography techniques. Talk/slideshow/demonstration.

Sheila (secretary) 01793 790 358 and Sarah (outings organiser) can be contacted at: banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com
Newcomers very welcome.

All events held at Bishopstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Sheila

Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne Supper

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Friday 14th February

Doors open from 6.30 for 7.00pm start

£12 per person

Brrrr . . . bit chilly? Warm up with a steaming jacket potato covered in Chilli con Carne, followed by a choice of delicious desserts

New!!! Trophy for the winning team

Mega prizes to be won. Groups of six if possible, or we can slot you in with another team. Don't forget to bring your own favourite tittle..

For info and to book, contact Sheila 790 358, Chris 07789 414 147, or Mogs 790 626

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The shock news this month, for those of you looking hard behind the gruesome fiery headlines, is that the world's obsession with veganism has caused the mass planting of 10 turnips and 4 swedes in the field just above the Ridgeway. As you would expect from this author, busy planning his summer fruit salads. The fact that California's massive almond industry, also fuelled by veganism (a word my iPad still does not recognise oddly, and offers various fruity alternatives...), for the production of *milk*, has singlehandedly managed to kill off an estimated 50 billion bees in the past decade, helped by the use of 5m tonnes of pesticides, and guzzled an estimated 2 trillion litres of water, is of relatively little consequence, one might suppose, in this idyllic series of villages 6000 miles away. Well, I say, even in this respectful newsletter that is the Vicar's personal missive to his loyal parishioners, we're on our way to hell in a handcart. You might say that we've always been on that track—some of us anyway, me certainly—but I would counter that the cart is accelerating. I marvel at the naivety of some of the vegans, thinking they're doing us all some good; the

example above is just one I could launch at you. The considerable movement of normally sentient human beings away from farting and burping beef cattle fed on grass, to cheap intensive factory farmed chicken and pigs in order to save on methane emissions, is another illogical development, partly because the only comparisons done so far are those misleading ones between those intensive birds and the US style feedlot reared beef. Never mind the muck, the pollution of air and water, the appalling welfare, the appalling jobs done by cheap imported labour.... oh oh, this sounds too much like The Royal Oak, so I'd better stop. Anyway, my sense of humour will return, since it's a constant need in the face of the current journey to hell. So we return to those cows, the Eastbrook organic variety, who led the village on a merry dance on the Friday after Christmas. I think we have apologised to all who were disturbed, and whose lawns changed in nature; if we have missed anyone, or been a little too flip-pant (me) please make contact, and we'll see what we can do. Reports this week (10th January) suggest

that the Dingle is now relatively free of cow poo, although there was other distressing stuff down there when I last looked.

And finally, after not a single mention of the pub in this Royal Oak diary, just a note of apology to Oscar Matatatatoloboulos, of the The Wyncies executive housing development. Mr M is clearly disappointed not to have been mentioned in the Royal Oak Hall of Fame, see last month's edition; so Oscar, a huge apology and a promise to mention you at least once in every edition in the next 11 months, Brexit notwithstanding.



TF

Hockers, an Alternative to Turnips

Hockers (*Oxalis tuberosa*) Update. For those trialling plants, this is the yield from one, not very luxurious, planted up black bucket. Just over 750g harvested on New Year's day. The bucket was taken into the cold greenhouse on the first threat of frosts which allowed the tubers to continue to develop.

The Bishopstone Hocker Growing League (BHoGL - pronounced Boggle)



Hockers photographed by Bobbing About

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

No Croissants for the Mantelpieces

Well, here we are in February (I hope; it's all looking a bit dodgy in the Middle East again, thanks to America's Incredible Orange Tweeting Man. Who knows what might have happened between the time of writing and the time of reading this.)

January proved a difficult month chez Mantelpiece. The French transport strikes put paid to a trip to the Louvre to see a special exhibition commemorating the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death. I'd have thought a celebration of his birth would have been more appropriate, but perhaps pulling together all his greatest work took longer than anticipated?

The exhibition was a sell-out, and I only got tickets after about eight hours of doggedly attempting to navigate my way through the Louvre's highly temperamental on-line booking system. It supposedly had an English option, but once selected this inevitably reverted to French a couple of pages in, which was rather a challenge. At around 1.00 am, the day after I started trying to book, I finally believed I'd done it; I received an email explaining that my tickets would follow. A week later, I was still waiting. Three emails enquiring about the whereabouts of my tickets later, I was still waiting. At this point, I realised that I was going to have to compose an email in French if I was to get anywhere. Luckily, my French teacher terrified us all so much that I still remembered enough vocabulary to write a passable note, saying that I'd really appreciate it if they could send the tickets tout suite, given they'd taken my money even tout suiter. All I can say is that either Mrs Verlander is to be congratulated for her excellent (if barbaric) teaching efforts, or my mangling of the French language had been so execrable that the Louvre's booking folk couldn't bear the thought of receiving a second email from me, in case it made their eyes bleed. Whatever the reason, the tickets arrived. Such a shame we couldn't get to France to use them. . .

Leonardo was clearly a man who was well ahead of his time, drawing plans for tanks and helicopters centuries before they could ever be built. Perhaps he would have been able to advise on my second Trial of January, the new-found propensity of my washing machine to improve sweaters by reducing them to a size best suited to a Cabbage Patch doll. For those readers who are mercifully too young to remember these, think yourselves lucky. They were hideous objects, best designed to give young children nightmares, but they were about the right size for my altered woollens.

I'm left with a few options. I could, sensibly, hand wash all woollens in future; I could continue to use the machine, and risk creating a full winter wardrobe for a fortunate doll; or I could stop washing my woollens altogether. I leave it to you to decide which option I've chosen next time you see me. Clue: check whether I am wearing a sweater, then check for food-stains on my front . . .

More fortunate in January was the extreme vegan who succeeded in persuading an employment tribunal in Norwich that ethical veganism is a *philosophical belief* and therefore protected by law. I say *extreme* vegan because he won't even use busses in case they inadvertently bump into insects. While this care for his fellow creatures is, I'm sure, laudable, it seems a bit impractical. The tribunal outcome could be handy, however, if we're all going to be adopting a turnip based diet over the coming few years. I'll let Mrs Verlander have the last word: au revoirs, mes amis, jusqu'à Mars.

Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...

As always, thank you everybody who sends such marvellous and disparate copy to the newsletter, which obviously wouldn't exist without it. Please remember that once we have all your words, we have to stick them on the page and proof read, which my team skilfully fit into their busy lives.



I visited the reference library the other day, to be greeted with; *we have now bound your 2019 news letters and they are on the shelf.* Fame at last, so proud.

Have you harvested your hockers yet?
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.

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mcanespief@gmail.com

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

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