

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

January 2020

Your Pond need you

In the 1920s the villagers of Bishopstone got together to help dig out the mill pond which was getting silted up. This must have happened many times over the years. We don't actually know how long there has been a mill and a pond, but it may even have been established in Saxon times.

The silt that was dug out was piled up in one corner, which became the island...



...at present, volunteers aren't required to dig out the pond, but to tidy up the island.

Island Tidy-Up

Sunday 26th January at 10.00am

Please bring garden gloves, loppers, forks, spades and rakes.

People willing to do heavy lifting especially welcome!

Don't Forget to Feed the Birds

Weather forecasts say that we are in for a cold snap (what a surprise). It seems that not only the birds are hungry.

Thanks to Lorna Ford for the great pic

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



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Farmers have a reputation for having a good grumble. Proponents would argue that they have much to grumble about! *Get orf my land* in gruff tones is a common one. It can be trying, when coursers invade and drive through fences, showing a total lack of respect. More recently, farmers are fighting back with ditches dug to prevent trespass and it can be amusing to see 4x4s stranded in a ditch trap you have expressly created. Recently, the police took an interest when a 4x4 was left abandoned in the middle of an arable field with the engine blown. Over forty years ago, and new to the farm, I spotted a parked vehicle on the farm then someone with a gun walking down one of our hedgerows. With youthful eagerness, I let the vehicle's tyres down and called the police. The police arrived, claimed that I was out of order, and persuaded me to get a pump and blow them back up. I did not get too upset. I had made my point. It keeps raining to test the patience of Job. The weather is always too hot, or too dry, or too wet. More farmers go bust in a wet time than in a dry time so there will be some legitimate grumbles from the heavy badlands this autumn. Those on the lighter *boyslands*,

who have fared better, might even enjoy better prices as a consequence! Another grumble is about trading with competition on a level playing field. Like others many fields we planted with oil seeds this August and September have been eaten by flea beetle, and will have to be replanted at some cost with another crop in the spring. The shortfall in home production will be filled by imports, where those countries outside Europe, such as the Ukraine, can protect their planted rapeseed with a seed dressing, now banned here. We are also worried that imminent trade talks with the USA will allow imports of chlorinated chicken and also cheaper beef, raised with growth promoting implants that could be harmful here to our children and pregnant women. In farming, I find it helps to be an optimist, with your glass half full, rather than half empty. I have always tried not to grumble too much but some people are never happier when they can have a good grumble. I had a friend once who exhibited a pretty stern exterior. Some were even a little frightened of him but, behind the mask, he could be kind and generous. It was just that he was afraid to show it.

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

Rescued in Bishopstone

Madam,

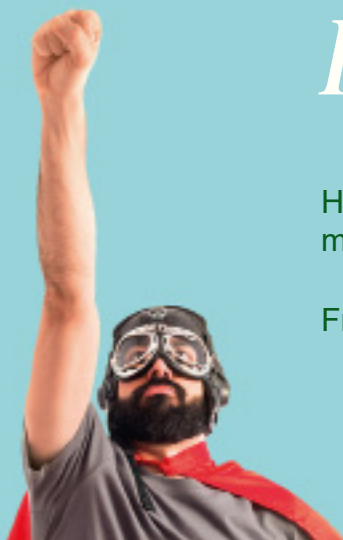
Unfortunately I must take issue with your lead article in the local publication due to the factual inaccuracies contained within.

Firstly your article avers that the gentlemen *unfortunately found himself in the ditch*.

Had this been the case I imagine he would have simply climbed out, however it was the car that had become immobilised and therefore, needed to be released.

The so called ditch is in fact a spring fed stream which runs through a culvert under the lane, a ditch is a totally different entity and defined as *A long narrow trench or furrow dug in the ground, as for irrigation, drainage, or a boundary line*.

It should also be pointed out that the removal of the car would have required required two hands and could not have been achieved single handedly due to the weight of the vehicle. Name and address withheld due to GDPR.



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07832 193 362 or 01793 710 537 - Peter Svensson

* Herbalife has 35% of the market, with over 5 million shakes consumed daily, world wide

Hinton Parva Village Hall - January

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	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd & 29 th	7.00 - 9.00pm
Bridge	Fridays	10 th , 17 th , 24 th & 31 st	7.00 - 10.00pm
PC	Monday	6 th	7.00pm
WI	Thursday	9 th	6.30 - 9.00pm
PCC	Monday	13 th	7.30pm
Village Supper	Saturday	18 th	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.



Hinton Village Hall Needs You

Hinton Parva village hall needs some TLC. The building has been refurbished over the last few years and now we should use it. It has historically been a focal point of the village, but habits have changed. Children's parties and flower shows have not been supported over recent years and the trustees would like to know what everyone would like to see organised in our only communal meeting place.

We would also like to hear from people who are willing to give some time to help run the few activities that we do organise. The village hall New Year dinner is on the 18th January and we would welcome anybody who would like to get involved in this annual dinner, or any other activity, to let Conta know on 790 507.

Village Hall Email

The committee would like to create an email list of people who would like to contribute their time occasionally. Please let us know by sending an email to:

contarowanhamilton@gmail.com.

We promise that we will not use the addresses for anything else!

The Village Hall, Bishopstone - January

The hall is cleaned	Mondays		8.30 - 10.30am
Martial Arts	Mondays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 16 th	4.15 - 5.15pm
Yoga	Mondays	6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 16 th	7.15 - 8.15pm
Taekwondo	Tuesdays	7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	7.00 - 8.00pm
Mothers & Toddlers	Thursdays	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	9.30 - 11.00am
Keep Fit	Fridays	10 th , 17 th , 24 th & 31 st	9.30 - 10.30am
Film Night	Friday	31 st	7.00 - 10.00pm

All bookings for the Village Hall Bishopstone will be taken via Bishopstone CE Primary School. In term time, call 01793 790 521 and speak to Sue Tremlin, or leave a message on the answer phone. During school holidays there will be a message giving an alternative number to contact. We look forward to receiving your bookings for Bishopstone's excellent Village Hall. Cost for hiring the hall: £7.50 per hour for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva residents. £11 per hour for all other bookings. Cost for hiring the hall for a full day is £55.

At <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/bishopstonevillagehall/> you can find a link to more helpful information about the Hall and the terms and conditions of hire.

NEW YEAR SUPPER

Come and join the fun at - Hinton Village Hall

7.00pm Saturday, 18th January

£12.50 per head

Tickets from Rod 791 001 & Hazel 790 621



Tickets £5.00

Community Cinema



CINEMA

2020 SPRING PROGRAMME

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

DOWNTON ABBEY - Friday 31st January

The Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important event of their lives. A royal visit from the King and Queen of England will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.



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



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 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

Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon

Saturday 18th January

Wanborough Village Hall,

High Street, SN4 0AD

Following his highly successful debut at the market last month, Ken of Ken's Fish, would like you to contact him on 07590 979 194 if you would

like to order fish or, just talk to him about what is available.

For more information about the market contact:

Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

The Community Connect Coffee Morning Team will be at the farmers' market offering free refreshments (teas, coffees and home-made cakes).

Buy from local producers and growers and at the same time help raise money for the local branch of Headway, the brain injury association. The Swindon branch which has a strong connection with Wanborough, is an amazing charity helping people cope with the devastating consequences of a brain injury.

It provides support, services and information to brain injury survivors, their families and carers, as well as to professionals in the health and legal fields.

Many thanks to those who came in November; we raised a fabulous £224 for Prospect Hospice!

Jo Peace

The Ridgeway Link

Happy New Year to everyone. We started in March 1996 and hopefully we have provided a useful service over the years.

Many new people have come into the area since then and may not know what we do.

Essentially, we provide a transport service for residents of the four villages in the Benefice who need it. Usually this is for visits to the doctors, dentists, opticians and hospital, although we do sometimes include shopping and we can collect prescriptions. If you have a need to go

somewhere else, please ask we will help if we can. We provide the service free of charge using volunteer drivers, although we do appreciate donations. If you, or someone you know, need a lift, please contact our dedicated telephone and leave a message. Rachel, our co-ordinator, will get back to you as soon as possible. The number is 791 192

We always welcome new volunteer drivers, there is no minimum commitment, and, if you have a car and feel you can sometimes help out, we would be pleased to hear from you. Louisa Barnes is the volunteer co-ordinator and can be contacted on 790 372.

Best wishes from the Committee –

Brian, Louisa, Jan and Rachel

Bishopstone Craft Fair...

...had a jolly atmosphere and beautiful, cleverly crafted stalls. I'd like to thank all the helpers, it wouldn't happen without you, and thank you for all the generously donated bottles and mince pies. We have raised around £750 for charity.

Chirs Thomas



Annie Harvey and tiara'd friend.

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>





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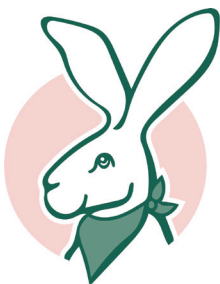
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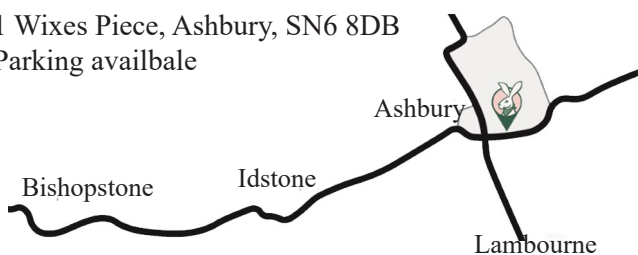
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Church Services in the Benefice

Wednesday	1st January		No Service	
Sunday	5th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Lyddington
		6.00pm	Evensong	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	8th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	12th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	Baptism of Christ	10.30pm	Family Communion	Bishopstone
		6.00pm	Evensong	Wanborough
Wednesday	15th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	19th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Wanborough
		6.00pm	Evensong	Bishopstone
Wednesday	22nd January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
Sunday	26th January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	10.30am	Family Communion	Hinton Parva
		6.00pm	Evensong	Lyddington
Wednesday	29th January	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough Vicarage
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

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours

Happy New Year! I say this as I write before Christmas, the General Election, and who knows what else. Editors need to have time with their families over Christmas too. So all of the preparations for the January edition of the magazine take place well in advance. With a mind to the future, and with our last twelve months as its backdrop, the line between speculation and hope has the potential to get a little thin. Of course, getting thin is another topic that pops up at this time of year. The Church began its New Year at the beginning of Advent. For all those who have received the good news that there will be an additional member of the family, the season of preparing for their appearance gives way to the reality of their arrival. This is often filled with a combination of hope for the future, and a lot of effort, if only to ensure that all concerned have the best chance to succeed. A Senior Sister visited me

after giving birth to her first child, having recently returned to work.

She was astonished at just how much her self confidence had diminished as a result of her little human's arrival. With all of the gifts that babies bring, especially those that need a lot of clearing up afterwards, coupled with a very different body clock, if not time zone, hanging on to anything of her former self confidence had become a major challenge. We spent time developing a system of noticing every achievement, however small, and then had a think about what she might do that would give her a sense of achievement with no reference to her past.

Her epiphany was as different as it was *off the wall*. At our next meeting I was met by a very excited individual, and what fell out of her mouth was a surprise to say the least. *Belly Dancing!* she said with as straight a face as she could muster. The look on my face must have been a picture, the subse-

quent grin on her face soon broke into hysterical laughter. It was a real tonic, both at the time of her announcement, (we'd had a tough shift), and subsequently. Convinced that if she could carry this off, she could cope with anything, it certainly worked for her.

It's amazing how the *left of field* can make a dramatic difference. Jesus, God made flesh and the Creator of the Universe, was born without fanfare, astonished the wise and the doubters, and went on to conquer death without an army. Many difficult situations have been overcome by simple, if not radical, ideas. Spending time with those who love us, just like our editors try to do at Christmas, is an opportunity both to enjoy love and learn how to love even more. And it can be catching! So if there is any New Year's resolution worth having at all, it has to be spending more time like this. Knowing love and sharing it is our True Life in God. Enjoy!

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

St Mary's Bishopstone
 Cleaning Rota

January	Chris Thomas & Gill May
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
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

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

School Governors

Bishopstone CE provides a primary education for children, both in the local community and further afield from Swindon. We believe our unique school community inspires confidence, curiosity and tolerance in an environment that encourages intellectual, moral, and spiritual inquisitiveness. Governors have a core set of legal duties which cover:

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy.
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
- Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.
- Ensure the Board is consistently people with the right skills, experiences, qualities and capacity.
- Review the Board structure, showing clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Are you a strategic thinker with excellent communication skills?
 Are you a critical listener with the ability to ask effective questions?
 Can you effectively analyse data and problem solve?

Do you have experience in HR, finance, accounting or the legal world?
 Do your skills include leadership, management, marketing or communications?

Do you have the time and enthusiasm to join our team?

We believe in learning together, diving deep into knowledge, supported by community, faith and family. If you would like the opportunity to use your skills and knowledge to support the continued growth and development of Bishopstone CE please contact the Clerk to the Governors

to arrange a time to visit our school and meet with the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors. We are currently looking for a co-opted and a LA Governor. For more in-depth information around the role and the time required, please look at the Governance handbook, which can be found on the NGA website – nga.org.uk

Clerk – Mrs Dent –
clerk@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk
 Or www.bishopstoneschool.org –
 About tab, Vacancies tab



Emma Lindsay

Helping Children to Read

Could you volunteer to listen to children read in school? Schoolreaders improve literacy, increasing life chances.

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www.schoolreaders.org

To become a volunteer you will need a good command of English, and a bit of spare time each week of the school year, (we ask that you commit for a minimum of a year). Schoolreaders will match you to an appropriate local school. Our volunteers really enjoy being Schoolreaders; 99% say they would recommend the scheme to someone considering volunteering. We provide volunteers to give free one-to-one reading practice to children in their primary schools.

Registered Charity: 1159157 P0006
 Telephone 01234 924 111

Bishopstone 100 club

December Winners

- 1st 31 Jill White
 - 2nd 98 Toby Ford (although he is 99!)
 - 3rd 87 Sheila Collins
- Jo 790 485*

The Friends of the Ridgeway





*Wishing everyone a Happy New Year from
Bishopstone & District Gardening Club*

All events held at Bishopstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated. Here's the 2020 Schedule:

Friday evening 14th February

. Thrills, spills and shenanigans with Quizmaster Fiona.

Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne Supper

Wednesday 11th March 7.00 – 9.00pm

A chance to catch up with James Andrews and see how Prohides has progressed throughout the year. Bring your camera to learn some new techniques. Talk/slideshow/demonstration.

Cameras and Jeep Safaris

Wednesday 8th April 7.00 – 9.00pm

Talk/demonstration. Plants for sale from Helen Picton (BSc Reading), Old Court Nurseries, Malvern, Worcester.

Growing Michaelmas Daisies

Saturday 16th May 8.00– 12.00 noon

Annual Plant Sale

May Outing:

During the Spring, we will be visiting The Special Plants Nursery, Chippenham. TBA by Sarah.

Wednesday 10th June 7.00 – 9.00pm

Victoria Logue, from Whitehall Farmhouse, will be demonstrating propagation techniques.

Practical propagation - Seeds, cuttings and beyond

Wednesday 8th July 7.00 – 9.00pm

Our very own B&DG Club local gardens tour followed by tea/coffee & cake at Sarah's house. (Tell Sheila if you'd like your garden included.)

Saturday 5th September 8.00am - 5.00pm

Village Produce Show

Wednesday 23rd September 7.00 – 9.00pm

Popular speaker. Demonstration and lots of plants for sale on the night.

Paul Green of Green's Leaves Nursery, Gloucester

October Outing:

During the Autumn there will be an outing to see the beautiful gardens at Batsford Arboretum, Moreton in Marsh. TBA by Sarah.

Wednesday 11th November 7.00 - 9.00pm

AGM & supper TBA

(No bookings during August and December)

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

banddgardeningsoc@gmail.com

Newcomers very welcome.

Quiz Night & Chilli con Carne Supper

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Saturday Friday 14th February

Doors open from 6.45 for 7.15pm start

£12 per person

Brrrrr . . . bit chilly? Warm up with a steaming jacket potato slathered with Chilli con Carne, followed by a choice of delicious desserts. Prizes to be won. Groups of six if possible, or we can slot you in with another team. Bring your own favourite tipple.

Contact us to find out more - Sheila

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The time for resolutions is almost upon us, possibly, and, with the general election result now behind us, and the once-resurgent Bishopstone Peoples' Party (anti-Brexit wing) having failed miserably to influence the outcome, it's time for the pub to put to bed all its political views, to the surprise of many and the delight of many more. Our coach trips to London, our peaceful protest marches through the village looking for Brexit supporters, our racy blackboards, and our naughty village newsletter copy all are sadly ending. We will have to find another cause close to (some of) our hearts. Possibly the Turnip Reclamation Society will be one such, and our plans for introducing the humble root to our daily lives continue apace. The Turnip Celebration Supper, planned for mid January, has been put back till late February, since it will only be at that stage that we can assess continued availability of normal winter greens and anything more exotic that's being imported. Of course, in the end, no matter how much you start to enjoy, indeed look forward to, your turnip fruit salads and deep fried turnip surprises, the final deal with the EU will be very similar to the deal we currently enjoy, although it might take 5 years to agree not to change anything. T'was all for nothing, I hear

you mumble. Almost certainly correct. Russell Hatch brought in the first turnips of the season this morning, by the way, and when I asked if they were to hang off the Christmas tree at Sea View in the west end of the village, or as decoration above the pub fireplace, he replied that he was trialling various recipes with a view to winning our 2020 recipe competition. Such enthusiasm from the man that makes sure our beers are in the best condition; very likely the best kept cellar in the county.

Talking of people, this pub in this village is the sort of place that relies on its neighbours for lots of things—and we say thank you to the Greens for their unstinting support of Carling and Sipsmith and pig racing; the Manons for their devotion to Guinness and cider and pig racing; Rachel for her love of takeaway food and the occasional glass of wine; Dennis and Eileen for their love of Gold and vodka (cheap version please); Clive and co for the Tuesday night caravan club; the Blunts for their all round support and occasional family suppers; Syd for his devotion to entertainment, beer and Mr Corbyn; Richard Walker and crew for their persistence with the village film nights, eventually, slowly, working out what people want to watch (nothing too arthouse, it seems); Flanagan for his now occasional guest appearances; the Baileys for their politically charged nights out; and lots of others; and staff wise, the local villages continue to provide remarkable talent in the shape of Anne, Emily, Paul, Mika,

Kelly, to name a few. Then Nick Sturme who has continued to wash dishes and peel potatoes for 12 years, hardly a day off; gardener Rebecca, who leaves for Devon in February; our driver/firelighter/fixer Jim, a recent wonderful import; housekeeper Michelle, who leaves no dust unturned—all make a great contribution to the running of this place, celebrating 13 years of mostly getting better, 10 years in the Good Food Guide, and two years in the Good Hotel Guide. Thanks to Helen as well who puts up with it all and occasionally bails us out, in the face of incompetence and some political incorrectness... there are lots of others too, but I know you'd be embarrassed to be mentioned here! Arkells are also remarkable landlords, in case you want to spread the word—they don't always get the praise and recognition they deserve. Briefly, next year (or whenever you read this)—one or two diary dates. **International Pig Racing** will be on **Saturday, 6th June**, culminating in live music in the garden (all being well), and combined with some Carry on Camping on the farm. We are happy to work with the Greens and their Deaf Children charity—please let me know if there is another very local charity you would like us to assist, and we'll consider all responses carefully. My own passion for interesting cars and bikes will be celebrated on **Sunday 26th April, Drive it Day**. All of us here hope you enjoy the festive few days, come and see us, and if you want a cocktail on New Year's Eve, we're probably the best pub in town. I apologise now for the relative lack of facetious humour in this article.

TF

(Photograph the Royal Oak - 1910)

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva National Trust

Spoiler alert - I'm in reflective mood, so this is light on humour, and long on observation. If you're in the mood for a good laugh, move on; nothing to see here. . .

As I write this, people are queuing at polling stations. I know - I didn't believe it either, until I saw the pictures; people are queuing in the pouring rain to vote. When the Christmas election was first mooted, who would have thought that would happen? We've heard a lot about the lack of trust that people have in politicians, and that this lack of trust will put people off voting. At the moment, that looks like a bad assessment. Perhaps the lack of trust is in one particular Party (the one whose Facebook posts were found in 88% of cases to be misleading)? If that proves to be the case, and politicians realise we're fed up of the lies and want the truth, and they clean up their act, won't that be a wonderful unintended consequence? The news this week has been full of trust issues. Apparently, hotel guests are now stealing not just tiny shampoo bottles from their rooms, but also TVs and mattresses. Why would you ever think that renting a room for the night gave you the rights over the room's contents? More to the point, how would you even get a mattress out of a hotel room without anyone noticing? The news that thieves had stolen, from a charity, large numbers of presents destined for children in a deprived area marked a particularly low point. And the news item regarding those sub-postmasters who were erroneously prosecuted for theft because the PO's computer system contained a flaw, showed just how easily the wrong conclusion can be reached. And how hard it is to overcome a lack of trust; instead of putting two and two together when more and more cases came to light, all centering on individuals who protested their innocence, the PO just kept bringing more and more prosecutions. People's lives were ruined, all because an organisation was more

willing to believe it had employed a load of thieves than to step back and say *this makes no sense*.

It's very easy to leap to the wrong conclusion, often on a second's observation. *Hoodies are worn by untrustworthy types who are up to no good*; the media is quite clear on this, to the extent that they've just been banned in one school. I remember seeing a chap with a Mohican emptying a post box on the King's Road in London, many (very, very many) years ago. My first thought was of alarm; my second was that I should give myself a good telling off for leaping to ridiculous conclusions on the basis of a haircut. And I've just heard a chap on the radio saying that people with tattoos are untrustworthy - must be true, then.

Set against this gloom on the trust front is the honesty box for eggs that I pass whenever I drive past the Water Garden. I don't think that would be there if people were stealing eggs (or the honesty box, for that matter). And I read a wonderful story earlier about a company that offers hangover days for employees; they're trusted not to abuse the privilege, and the owner of the business believes that by showing that trust, they have a much better, productive, relationship with their staff. Win:win. So there we are. If you've read this far thinking I was joking at the start about my serious frame of mind, all I can say is that you really do need to trust me a little bit more . . .

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

The newsletter is almost complete. All copy in, all pages filled except for this editorial. Next it will be proof read then corrected, believe me there will be quite a few, the team are eagle-eyed and my features editor extremely keen on commas. Finally it will go to the printers. But now disaster strikes, I switch my computer on...all that happens is a blank screen and when I move the mouse, a white arrow darts around it. I click the mouse furiously, nothing. Panic! Calm down...what do you do? Switch the darn thing off and

then on again, the computer sweetly comes to life, sniggering to itself.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2020, and that goes for your computers too, if you are unfortunate enough to have one.

Finally

mogs X

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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