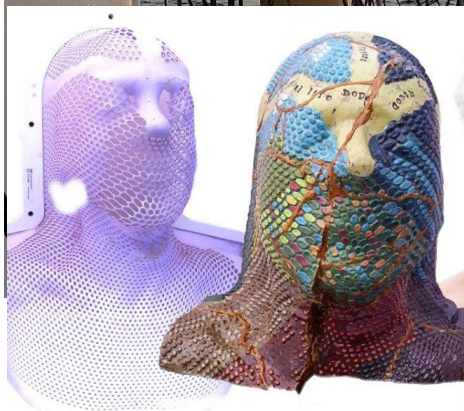


Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

July 2020



Above: Sail Training in the Time of Corona, chapter 2, see page 9, and Pete's Prize Puzzle, win a Royal Oak Voucher, page 5. Left: A story from Bishopstone Pottery, page 10.

Thank you Rupert Upson, for the lovely banner photographs.

Top: fallow deer on Wellbottom Down. Below: Looking north from Knighton Down towards Compton Bottom

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

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Bishopstone Village Hall - Fund Raising

<p>NEW</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">£500 PRIZE</p> <p>NEW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bishopstone Village Hall 500 Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">· Special £500 Christmas Jackpot Draw Prize</p> <p>4 other draws over the year: 1st £75 / 2nd £35 (same as 100 club)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To join - set-up your annual bank standing order (details below)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£50 Ticket / year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All prizes will be paid by bank transfer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please provide details on request to receive prize money</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Simple way to support funding of your local Bishopstone Village Hall</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">100 & 500 Club Quarterly Draw</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">June Winners</p> <p>1st Prize - Helen Browning (£75)</p> <p>2nd Prize - Liz Warwick (£35)</p>
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500 Club Standing Order payment details:
(Please notify Phil of your standing order start date)

Name: Bishopstone Village Hall
Sort code: 40-43-35
Account: 01509322 Ref: 500 Club
Email: phil.collins13@icloud.com
Phone: 01793 790 358

Still no bookings allowed, and we have the usual bills to pay. Nonetheless, creative ideas for fundraising are awash within the committee; City Lights drive in??? Sponsored lap of the Hall??? And even a serious one to widen the 100 club uptake (see details above) – a great way to offer support, and you can win enough cash for a weekend in France...useful right now ... ahem! Also, the 500 upgrade enters you in the Xmas draw. We applied for the Calor Community Grant; this failed miserably,

as we have not received a single like, I think we should blame broadband speed... Another initiative, a rather better one, was to encourage villagers to subscribe to *Amazon Smile*. By entering our charity number 271165 on your account, a 0.5% value of the sale on Amazon Smile tagged products will kick back to a specified registered charity, without cost to the purchaser. Donations are then made directly by Amazon to that charity. We would need Bishopstonians to have ordered

£100,000 worth of Amazon goods for us to receive £500.00 back. Judging by the deliveries that I'm seeing in the village, we could hit that next week!

Richard

Dear Ed,

I'm excited to see that residence on the Ridgeway has been legitimised through inaction by the local authorities, and am looking forward to picking a spot for my lovely new home.

I'm not sure whether to take in the views at Foxhill, join Dr Nige and help him think up passive aggressive quips to make passers-by feel even more uncomfortable, or perhaps forgo the mod cons and pitch a tent in the woods next to Wayland's Smithy and dance away the summer with the travelling community. Any suggestions?

Yours truly, TS, Bishopstone

Dear TS,

While we love the image of your dancing away the summer at Wayland's Smithy, we think you may be jumping the gun; one is only allowed to move to a second home if one is legitimately testing one's eyesight while doing it, and only then if one is doing it on the birthday of at least one, ideally two, close relatives. Or possibly if one is worried about looking after a child/pony/gerbil. We think those are the rules today. Tomorrow, who knows. . .

Yours truly, the editorial team



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Brexiters put Boris into Parliament for diverse reasons. For me, it was to regain our sovereignty, and, rightly or wrongly, I was uncomfortable with the protectionism of federal Europe, even though in the short term I recognised it would be painful to farmers. Tariffs to manipulate market advantage have been around a long time. Richard Cobden (1804-65), son of a Sussex farmer, campaigned for free trade to help the poor. He was against tariffs restricting grain imports from the US, which ultimately led Peel to repeal them in the Corn Laws Act of 1846.

All this is rather relevant again today, as we seek new trading relationships round the world, especially as, under a free trade regime, our markets could be flooded with imports produced abroad at lower costs, leading to lower prices. This would, in part, be balanced by industry's ability to buy some commodities from abroad at lower cost.

Recently, an Agricultural Bill passed through the Commons and went onto the Lords for scrutiny. Neil Parish's amendment to protect our farmers from imports of a lower standard failed. The Bill centred on improving environmental biodiversity, flagged up as *public goods*, and was light on measures of food production and security. Many found this surprising in the light of Covid 19 and concerns over our future food supply. At the moment, the detail on incentives for what

will constitute public goods, is noticeably vague, but with the national debt exploding, only an extreme optimist would not fear tougher times ahead.

Many were disappointed that the Bill passed without the protection the amendment would have given even though, before the vote, senior members in the Commons spoke encouragingly of supporting the amendment. Thus a big dilemma. I and others will be hypocrites if we support leaving one tariff regime only to form another in the UK, and successive governments worry about raising prices and its effect on the cost of living.

Currently, the debate has centred on both future trade with Europe after Brexit, but also with US. The US wants a tariff free trade deal here, exporting its chicken and beef. That's chlorinated chicken and beef enhanced with hormone additives in the feed. Hormones are banned here and in Europe because they may be unsafe for some, including pregnant women. Our water and swimming pools contain chlorine; US chickens are produced with lower hygiene, food safety, animal welfare and environmental standards and the chlorine supplies protection at the point of sale. However, recent evidence shows that protection deteriorates over time. The US also fails on antibiotic reduction (currently x 5 here), also on climate change and pollution. Free markets only work on a like for like basis. An imposed tariff

could be justified on products where our standards are not met. But we also need even better labelling for the public to know the provenance of what they buy, and for marketing campaigns extolling our brands of quality and local products. All this is crucial to the future of home production.

Whales versus Carbon

According to the World Economic Forum:

A great whale absorbs 33,000kg of CO2 over its life, whereas a tree absorbs up to 22kg a year.

Wherever whales go, phytoplankton grows, and these tiny plants absorb around 40% of all CO2 – as much as 1.7 million trees (or four Amazon rain forests).

Just a 1% rise in the phytoplankton would be like planting 2 billion mature trees. So restoring whale numbers could absorb 1.3 billion tonnes of CO2 per year.

These amazing majestic creatures could be the key to our future survival. An interesting fact from *Nature's Home* the RSPB magazine.

Chris Thomas

Sad News

Dr Michael Handford highly respected GP and community man of Ramsbury, died unexpectedly but peacefully, at home on Friday 29th May.

For many years he was our family doctor, looking after my mother during her final illness. We could not have wished for a better doctor or kinder friend.

Ed

Farmers' Market

We live in *hope* of there being a farmers' market in Wanborough on **18th July**. Please watch all spaces. We nearly made it in June!

Sue Birley 01793 790 438

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Across

- 1 Peter Kay's not quite going there. (9)
- 4 Lazy.(5)
- 6 Papua's new tester. (6, 3)
- 7 Oh dear! (3)
- 8 A woman's better half. (3)

Down

- 1 See you later... (9)
- 2 Hump back? (9)
- 3 Sumatran red head. (9)
- 4 Trough diners. (5)
- 5 Informal hungry river horse.(5)



If you find this crossword easy, after completing it take the 10 letters from the shaded squares and rearrange to make the names of two animals that you may find in zoos or wildlife parks.

To win a £10.00 voucher to spend at the Royal Oak shop -

By the 10th of the month send the crossword (and if you have done it) the anagram solutions to:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

or deliver to Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva.

Bus Service 47B Ashbury & Bishopstone to Swindon

Service 47 recommenced on Monday 15th June 2020. At present, this is on a restricted Monday to Friday timetable only (not Saturdays). To help with social distancing, there will be separate services for Lambourn, and for Oxfordshire and Swindon, residents.

Following government guidelines, travel will be refused to intending passengers who refuse to wear a face covering (except in exceptional circumstances). Whilst we are not yet able to accept card payments (we are working on it), we require payment of exact fares as change will not be given.

Mondays to Fridays only

47B 47B

Ashbury, Rose & Crown PH 09:30 13:45

Bishopstone, Pond 09:35 13:50

Wanborough, Calley Arms 09:43 13:58

Great Western Hospital (D) R R

Swindon New College 09:53 14:08

Swindon Bus Station (9) 10:01 14:16

47B 47B 47

Swindon Bus Station (9) 08:45 13:10 16:10

Swindon New College 08:52 13:16 16:16

Great Western Hospital (D) 13:22 16:22

Wanborough, Calley Arms 09:01 13:27 16:27

Bishopstone, Pond 09:09 13:35 16:35

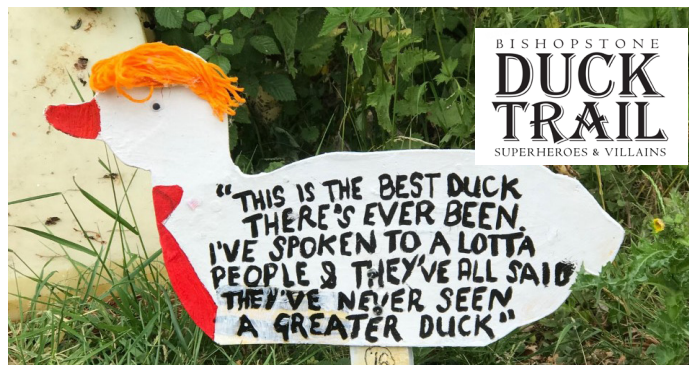
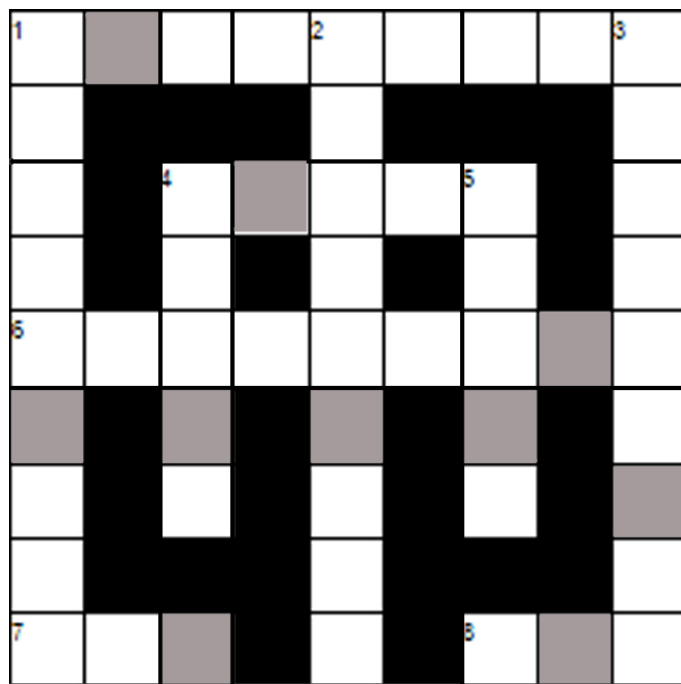
Ashbury, Rose & Crown PH 09:13 13:40 16:40

Updates, and the full revised timetable for Service 47 can be found at:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/36879>.

Pete's Prize Puzzle

Animal Crossword



The Answers

- 1. Robin Hood, 2. Thanos, 3. The Terminator, 4. Ant Man
- 5. Katniss Everdeen, 6. Loki, 7. Dalek, 8. Gru 9. Aquaman
- 10. Darkwing Duck, 11. Captain Hook, 12. Ironman
- 13. James Bond, 14. Katherine Johnson, 15. Hermione Grainger, 16. Donald Trump, 17. Black Widow,
- 18. Dolores Umbridge, 19. Missing, 20. Dr Who, 21. Emmeline Pankhurst, 22. Shuri, 23. Darth Vader, 24. Ms Trunchbull
- 25. Wiley E Coyote, 26. Maleficent, 27. Cruella de Vil
- 28. Wicked Witch of the West, 29. Captain Underpants
- 30. Wonder Woman, 31. Poison Ivy, 32. The White Witch
- 33. Batman, 34. Florence Nightingale, 35. Missing, 36. Malala Yousafzai, 37. Dementor, 38. Wall-E, 39. Supergirl
- 40. Han Solo.

Winner was Kate Watkins from Idstone who won £25 of Helen Browning vouchers and a children's hamper of toys. Our *Best Dressed Duck* was won by Scarlett Morris. She won a collection of kids games and toys.

Sadly the last duck trail as we can't seem to get enough local support to justify the work involved.

Thank you to everyone who donated and/or took part this year.

Belinda

Eastbrook In Betweeners

Traffic Lights and Canines

What is he on about now, I hear you ask. As it's another article about birds there must be a connection so can anyone spot it?

Let's start with traffic lights.

The conservation status of all the UK's birds is measured using a traffic light system.

Red is the highest conservation priority, indicating that species in this group are in urgent need of help. A number of different factors are taken into account but, broadly speaking, the status is determined by the severe reduction in breeding population or breeding range over a number of years, or the species could be globally threatened.

Amber is the next most critical group and birds on this list could be showing moderate declines in breeding population or range, perhaps they are restricted in numbers or in breeding sites in the UK.

Green; species on this list are those of least conservation concern and do not meet any of the criteria of the red and amber groups.

There are currently 67 UK species of birds on the red list, and it may surprise you to know that 17 of those species can be found on Eastbrook Farm. When you consider that a further 24 of those species are wildfowl or waders that you wouldn't expect to see here that's a pretty high percentage.

Is this high number a coincidence? No, of course not. In order to be successful, birds need a suitable habitat providing both nesting sites and protection from predators, along with a constant food supply. The mixed organic farming systems practiced at Eastbrook provide all these in abundance. The mix of grassland (stocked with cattle and pigs in rotation), cereal crops (and overwintered stubbles), and specially sown field margin mixes (containing flower and seed-bearing plants to aid pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, and provide food for birds), are why there is such a profusion of bird life at Eastbrook. As if that wasn't impressive enough, a further 18 species on the amber list

can also be found on the farm.

So that hopefully explains the traffic light part of the title; any guesses as to where the canine bit comes in?

If you were surprised by the number of red list species, then it may also be of interest to know that of those 17 species, 8 are found nesting at, or just above, ground level. This is where the canine part becomes very relevant.

We actively encourage responsible walkers to enjoy all that the farm has to offer; not just the wildlife, but the livestock, scenery, and views. So, whilst you are doing just that, if your dog is not on a lead by your side, do you have any idea where it is and what it is doing? Dogs are very much like children; leave them unsupervised for a time and they will quite likely get into mischief. In the dog's case, all it is doing is following its natural instinct as a hunter, and the big hedges and field margins, with lots of plant cover, provide plenty of opportunities for that. Unfortunately, these are also the areas that many of the red list species of birds choose for nesting. That yellowhammer or corn bunting that you enjoyed seeing; was she flushed off her nest by an unsupervised dog? My plea, therefore, to all dog walkers is to try and help boost the numbers of red list species by being selective in where you exercise your dog. Both the Ridgeway and farm tracks provide easy walking, whilst enabling you to see where your dog is. If you are unsure about exercising your dog off its lead, then Marral woodland provides a safe enclosed area where your dog can roam freely. The 15 acres of woodland are surrounded by a deer fence and there is a mown path to walk along. You can find the wood by following the footpath signposted to Idstone which takes off half way along New Town Lane.

Here is a list of both the red and amber list species which can be seen on Eastbrook Farm; how many can you spot on your walk? The asterisk denotes the ground nesters, but all the red list species need all the help we can give them.

The RSPB website has a very good



bird identifier page if you want to find out more about a particular species.

Red:

Grey partridge*; Lapwing*; Merlin; Skylark* ; Starling; Fieldfare; Song thrush; Redwing; Mistle thrush; House sparrow; Tree sparrow; Yellow wagtail*; Grey wagtail*; Linnet; Yellowhammer*; Corn bunting*; Woodcock*.

Amber:

Mallard; Montagu's harrier*; Common gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Black-headed gull; Snipe*; Stockdove; Tawny owl; Short-eared owl; Swift; Kingfisher; Kestrel; House martin; Willow warbler; Dunnock; Meadow pipit*; Bullfinch; Reed bunting.

Clive Hill

(Corn buntings, photographed by James Andrews).

Sorry

Huge apology to Clive who also wrote last month's *Eastbrook In Betweeners* (which was also published in the farm newsletter) and I wrongly attributed to Tim Finney. Sorry Clive, all my fault, so I'll blame it on Finney.

Ed

A Bird Watcher

Dear Editor,

How grateful the parish of Bishopstone must be to have two *learned* ornithologists living in the same parish - very interesting reading.

More please.

TF

No not that TF, the one that is a member of the W.S. Club (retd.)

PS W.S. = Wooden Spoon for a good stir!!



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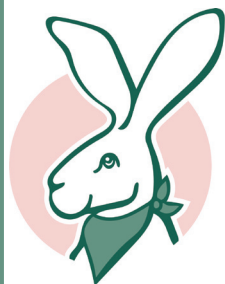
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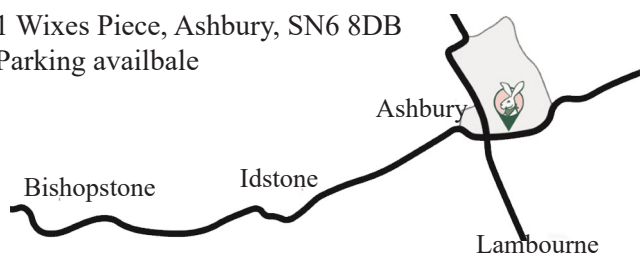
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villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor

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R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church wardens:

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Roz Boot 01793 790 508

John Lowry 01793 790 271

St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

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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

Tom Sargeant 07517 145 051

tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

This is most certainly a time in our lives that will be lodged in our minds, and in our history, for many years to come. The pandemic, the subsequent lockdown, and an increasing need for equality to be more than just a theory, have all come upon us in very powerful ways. They have shown how very valuable each human life is, and just how fragile it can be too. Rev Al Sharpton, in his eulogy for George Floyd, mentioned that even in the midst of the darkness of bereavement there were light moments for George's family also. Former President Barack Obama called to say that, as much as he'd like to attend George's funeral, the security that would have to accompany him would be an unnecessary distraction. The family said they were grateful for his call and his support. He went on to ask if there was anything he could do. Their response *Justice for George, and some proper food!* They'd had more than enough finger food!!! Well, we've had a few light moments too.

A good many of us will remember a band called the Thompson Twins. We might even like to forget their haircuts, even if we've not seen a barber in months! The point is that twins, Blossom and Elijah, were born to Steve and Charlotte Thompson in the midst of all this mayhem.

And what a joy to the eyes they are, too. In *Lord of the Rings* we read *Where there's life there's hope...and need of vittles*. So we give thanks to God, and to Steve and Charlie, for the lives of these little gems, and the timely reminder that hope can arrive in ways we least expect. Great to see our local publicans continuing to provide vittles, even in these extraordinary circumstances, too. Apparently, home brewing has really taken off, so the fact that our pubs are still running some kind of service is a huge testament to them all.

St Augustine taught us that *The measure of Love is to Love without measuring*. While we can't easily measure the sea we can still enjoy it. Our heroes too, seem to reach heights beyond measure. Yet, with One exception, there is not one hero known to any of us that didn't have their faults; pride and ego being most common. *All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23) is not only a statement, it's also a reason for doing our best never to look for fault in another, if for no other reason than *people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones*. The fact is, we are all capable of great things. Because we can become what we spend our time on, whether these great things happen or not has a lot to do with our attitude toward ourselves. It's why my prayer for each and every one of you is that you will know and experience the enormity of God's love for you, enjoy His gifts, and grow in ways you would never have thought possible. With best wishes and prayers.

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

telephone - 790 088

villageprayers@gmail.com

Bill

St Mary's Bishopstong

Cleaning Rota

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

Recycling Matters

Let's start on the complicated world of plastic! Our kerbside collections take the plastics with the symbols on the right but, rather unhelpfully, not all manufacturers currently include them. We'll have a more detailed explanation of the symbols in the coming months. However, if you can't find the symbol on the item, this covers soft drink, milk and cleaning product bottles, and food product packaging such as punnets, yoghurt pots, tubs and trays. The only exception is if the plastic is black, which can't be recognised by optical sorting systems. All should be clean, any film removed, bottles squashed (to reduce the volume and risk of falling off a conveyor belt) and the lids put back on (items smaller than 4cm are normally rejected by recycling machines). Any pump dispensers should have the pump removed as they often contain metal parts, but trigger sprays can be left intact. They need to be placed in a white or transparent plastic bag. Stacking any trays or tubs etc before putting in the bag can save even more space.



PETE



HDPE



PP

Karen



Sail Training in the Time of Corona - Chapter 2

The plan had been to go from the Azores to a port or two on the northern coast of Spain and then back to Bordeaux, where the parents and families would be triumphantly there to welcome back our trainees with much pomp and circumstance, champagne, and medals. With travel across Europe severely restricted, and borders closed, this was suddenly not going to be an option. All the ports were closed anyway and, no matter where we landed them, they then had to get home from there, with their vast quantities of luggage. There was only one real option - we had to take them to Germany. The next few days were the most challenging of all; we suddenly had a far greater distance to go to get to our final destination. The stores we had been able to pick up were all that the islanders had been able to supply, but were not a great quantity when you have 43 people to feed three times

a day and need to keep it interesting. We were all now aware of the seriousness of the situation ashore, and, while we had spoken to our loved ones and knew that, should anything happen to them, we would hear of it via the satellite email, we couldn't just pick up the phone and call home to check in. To add to that, the weather turned on us, slowly going from an ESE force 5 to a NE force 8, driving our course further and further North until we were going North West in the direction of Iceland

and it was getting colder by the day. On top of these delights, when we left the Azores we mixed things up and put our trainees, (who had become very used to a fixed watch system, of 3 watches of 10 people doing the same watch-keeping hours every day), into 4 new watches of 8 people. Then, after 4 days of a 4 watch rotating system, we reverted to a 3 watch system with the 4th watch as the "Handover" team, with the watches rotating every 4 days to give everyone a *Handover* over the passage to Germany. [Figuring out how this all works is my job - hence my love of spreadsheets!] Each watch had a Captain, Mate, 2nd Mate, Engineer, Bosun, Bosun's Mate, Cook, and Doctor or Cook's Assistant. For the 4 days of their "handover" they were acting as those roles, under the close supervision and guidance of the Permanent Crew in whose shoes they were walking. We might have done a lot of nudging and prodding, but we certainly gave them a taste of what it's like to actually be the one in charge... I really didn't think we could have made life any more challenging if we tried, so we threw some drills and emergency scenarios at them as well, just to make sure; this is sail training, after all. We were all exhausted and getting fed up, frustrated at not getting to see the Azores, some were seasick, sleep was in short supply. After 5 months, tedium had set in for some, and the end was not quite in sight yet. But still, we all had 42 other people to talk to, hug, annoy, dance with, laugh, and share food with. Your shipmates are your family, and that's what gets you through the dark times.



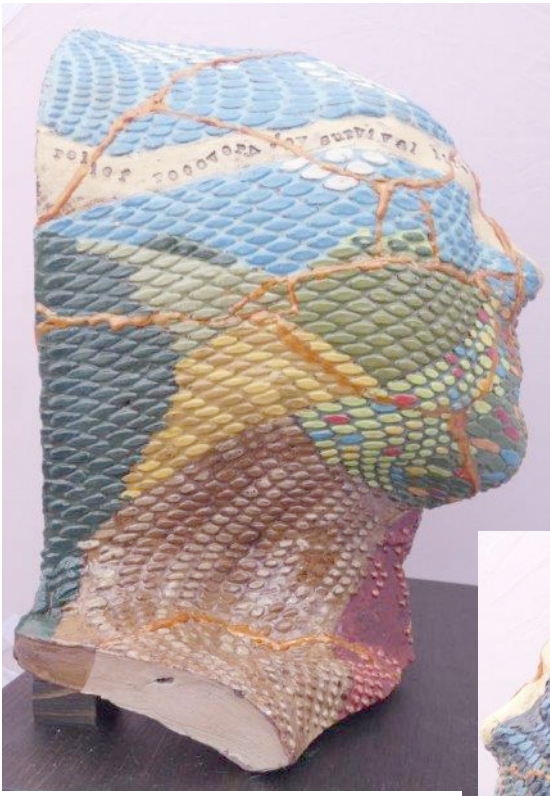
Tamsin

Chief Mate, TS Pelican of London

or even Greenland. We spent a miserable 72 hours beating up and down under engines and fore and aft sails, trying to make headway to the North East, while mostly running back up and down parallel to our own track,

Tall Ship Pelican of London is operated by Adventure Under Sail, registered Charity No. 1124276. Please visit www.adventureundersail.com for more information.

Photographs by Tamsin Lambert



A bright, hopeful Ridgeway landscape

Bishopstone Pottery

Art during lockdown, with Grayson Perry....

Who would have thought when I was sitting here on 7th April, writing an article for the newsletter about how much I love the Turner Prize winning potter/artist Grayson Perry, that Adrian and I would get the chance to talk to him, and much more, at the end of May. So how did this happen?

Well you may, or may not, have been watching his show, Grayson Perry's Art Club, on Channel 4 every Monday from 27th April to 1st June. He wanted to find out how the British public, celebrities, and other artists were dealing with lockdown, and asked viewers to send in the art they had made. Some of the artwork on the show would then be selected for his exhibition, when coronavirus permitted.

When Adrian and I heard this, we felt inspired to work on a piece of art we had been meaning to do together for some time. We wanted to make a Life Mask sculpture from the radiotherapy mask Adrian had worn during his treatment for neck cancer. We realised that the words being used to describe the current coronavirus were similar to the experience of be-

ing locked down and trapped by the mask and feeling fearful and anxious about an uncertain future when you are experiencing cancer. Adrian had recently had the all clear for his cancer and we wanted the sculpture to also show a brighter side and offer hope, at this time of uncertainty, that things can recover and heal.

We hoped we would be able to make it and submit it before the final episode of Grayson's show but it was touch and go



Dark, gloomy, mountainous landscape

as it was going to be a long process. So this is what we did.

Using terracotta clay, we made a clay mould of Adrian's mesh radiotherapy mask. After we were able to release it from the mould, we decorated it with coloured slip. It was very detailed, so we took a side each and it took about three days to complete. One side of the face was decorated with a dark, gloomy, mountainous landscape to reflect the difficult time of cancer treatment, and the other side was decorated to show a bright, hopeful Ridgeway landscape where hope and recovery emerge.

We thought it looked pretty good and were pleased with our efforts so we put it in the kiln for its first firing. We excitedly opened the kiln the next day and were seriously horrified to find that our work had shattered in the firing, into tens of pieces. After the ini-

tial shock, it occurred to us that, if we could put this back together again it would have more significance, that something broken can be mended and, even if changed, be made better. So we glazed all the fragments and put them back together using the Japanese technique of Kintsuge for repairing pottery. This involves using a gold paste, or in our case gold coloured araldite, to actually emphasise the repair joins and therefore make the piece more beautiful. It was like putting a sticky jigsaw puzzle back together again, but we did it and it worked.

So, despite all the disasters, we had just a couple of days to meet the deadline for Grayson's last show, and to send in photos and a three minute video to explain our work. Considering they had already had over 10,000 submissions, we didn't hold out much hope but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Just 24 hours later we received a call from the producer of the Art Club saying Grayson Perry would like to chat to us and would we take a Zoom call from him the next day. We were so excited and, I have to say, a bit star-struck. So that is what happened. We talked to him for 20 minutes and it was so surreal as we were sitting in our kitchen! He told us he really liked our sculpture, found it interesting and wanted to put it into his exhibition. We could not have been more flattered.

So that is how we ended up appearing on the final episode of Grayson Perry's Art Club on 1st June, and being quoted in the Daily Telegraph the next day. Who'd have thought it? Strange times!

Sue & Adrian Dent

Litter Louts

Why is it that discarded waste in our hedges along the roadside which used to be mainly fast food containers, is now discarded blue PPE gloves? Which moron does this on the way home from their shift?

It is totally beyond me why anyone would do this anywhere, let alone in the community where they presumably live. Stop it now, please.

Howard

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Thank you to 47 or so customers and friends who've raised £17.5k so far to allow this little village business to provide approximately 3,900 meals (by the time we've used it all up) to night staff at Great Western Hospital in Swindon—we're about half way through it as I write this (I think it's a Saturday and I think it's 13th June, but, as Russell would say,—every day—I have not checked the blackboard). We aim, with your help, to get to £20,000, in which case we'd be sending midnight meals to porters, nurses, doctors, receptionists, cleaners etc until early August. Look for Pub Grub for Scrubs on the charity Brighter Futures page. And, as you know, my views on Ashbury have changed out of all recognition since the fund was started by one of our Ashbury customers, even though I still maintain Oxfordshire is lightly populated with sheep lovers—and vegans.

Our pub farm shop continues to open 7 days a week, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Monday to Thursday (they have two hours off to boil their turnips), and then 3.00 - 6.00pm, all day Friday and Saturday, and three hours on Sunday from 11.00am. It also continues to sell some of the best tasting food in the area. Yes, the Eastbrook beef is not cut in front of you from a butchers' counter, but treat it well, bring it to room temperature, cook it sensibly and you'll be amazed. It's magical—it expands when you get it out of the pack! I know people buy with their eyes, and our organic strawberries from Coleshill look pale and wan and small compared to the lush looking stuff in ASDA, for exam-

ple, but put them in your mouth and the flavours hit you. This is true food—nothing artificial in them, or on them. They grow when they grow, and that's when you should eat them... Ah yes, hectoring again, sorry. All things being equal, we expect to be open as a garden pub and foodie place and hotel from 4th July. In case you're not following the news.

I can't resist some of ye olde fashioned Brexit giggles at this point. Schadenfreude doesn't do it justice. A majority of farmers voted for Brexit, for reasons similar to turkeys voting for Christmas as far as I can see. They also probably backed a government that was determined, it said, to look after the domestic interest. Well, I see that that same Government has decided to scrap import checks on food coming in from the EU starting on 1st January, because they think that a hard Brexit and COVID combined will mean the only thing on supermarket shelves will be, actually, toilet paper. No watery Spanish strawberries in January, and other such deprivation. The Americans are offering to help of course. We'll be serving 1kg beef steaks (serves one) in a hormone enriched jus, and chicken poached in a chlorine sauce. If the chlorine is not strong enough to kill the unpleasant bacteria that it's designed to do, we can filch some from all those swimming pools in Hinton Parva.

And yes—roll on HS2, rapidly and noisily pillaging its way through the English countryside, and guzzling trillions of cash—all the while, the trains are so quiet that someone died on one the other day near Manchester and nobody was around to notice until the final stop in Bournemouth. Interesting and sad world.

Pip pip, TF



Just love a bit of serendipity - Sat 16th May, Annual Plant Sale cancelled - gardening club members awash with plants all prepped and ready to sell. Solution – hold a *Donations for Plants* fundraising day via a socially distanced wiggly maze in the Royal Oak garden. People came and were extremely generous, raising an amazing £667.37 for the Brighter Futures Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Jo, one of the Royal Oak organisers, emailed me following the event: *Hopefully, the gardening club will be delighted, as we are! It was a very long and tiring day – surprising what is involved in shepherding people around safely, but we were all happy to help.*

Thank you everyone for growing, selling, and buying, and turning a possible daisy-aster into a village success!

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

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Sheila

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Badgers, Bicycles, and Barbecues

Anyone who knows me will realise I'm a restless sort of soul. I believe that the optimal time in a house before moving is around 18 months. Failing house moves, frequent trips to - well - anywhere - are my idea of a necessity. Clearly, this is not the world we're living in right now. A nervous whisk around a garden centre is the new *going away*.

I find myself missing Norman Tebbit (for those of you who've never heard of him, he was a politician who featured heavily in the show *Spitting Image*. His puppet was a leather clad skin-head who acted as Margaret Thatcher's enforcer (surely everyone's heard of her??), keeping the feistier members of the Cabinet in line). While I probably disagreed with virtually every word he ever said, one of his ideas struck a chord. Amid the appallingly high unemployment of the '80s, his advice to the 3 million + jobless was to *get on your bike*. Music to my ears; a piece of political rhetoric that I actually wanted to follow. Of course, the bike bit was figurative - you may remember that I'm bicyclically challenged, and have not yet conquered more than a freewheel down the front garden. But moving somewhere else - that was a concept I could get behind.

Apart from my nostalgia for Tebbit, our current focus on statistics reminds me of happy Jobcentre days in the '80s (working in them, rather than visiting them). Each month we would produce the necessary bank of stats to submit to our regional office. Each month there would be an argument with our head of office about the need to submit accurate figures rather than *what they want to hear*. She generally won. Her efforts to help reduce unemployment by simply presenting more palatable numbers was often assisted by a national change in calculation. On one occasion, every married woman was simply wiped off the jobseeker tally, which certainly made the picture look a lot rosier. It seems today that little has changed. Whoever said there are lies, damned lies,

and statistics was spot on.

When rules were relaxed a week or so ago, we were invited to a friend's for a barbecue (thankfully, before the rain set in). Before we went, she told me - I daren't look at what's going on at the back of my head, but from the front, I look like a cross between a badger and Mary Tyler-Moore. She didn't particularly, but, clearly, she was feeling sensitive about her appearance. I could sympathise, as I'd warned her about my Tintin quiff and the hair that somehow stands out at 90 degrees from the back of my neck to form a shelf.

It's clear that, once they open, hairdressers will be inundated. Folks wearing not just facemasks and gloves, but also towels, turbans, scarves, or simply paper bags over their hair, will be queueing for miles outside every salon. I have a simple solution to this. Each village or town must appoint a panel of worthies. Each resident of that area may parade in front of the panel; residents will be ranked in order of the degree of laughter/horror they provoke. The highest-ranking will be given special hairdressers' passes, and be allowed to go to the front of the queue.

Interestingly, I read today that 75% of people have saved money while in lockdown. I suppose we all need to assess whether the saving is worth more to us than the opportunity to look like a badger or Tintin. Not sure about the rest of you, but I'm hoping they set up the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Hysterical Hair Panel tout suite.



Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...

As I write, our world is still very small. The Lockdown is

easing, although I am slightly bewildered as *experts* disagree as to what can be done safely. I know we've all been worried; fear of contagion, jobs and finances, separation from family, children unable to go to school, but for the moment I'm looking at the positives of this weird situation. We

have a lovely new team member, I've been walking, doing piano practice, and discovered that I can buy frozen raspberries. I've even dusted a piano. I'm generally allergic to committees but, please, please Mrs M, can I be on your Hysterical Hair Panel?

mogs X

Finally

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

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