

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva November 2020



Well done the Litter Pickers

Volunteers are doing a brilliant job clearing up litter which is constantly left by thoughtless, ignorant people. No, *Disgruntled from Bishopstone*, that wasn't fly tipping outside Bishopstone Village hall; it was the litter that they had collected. The suggestions as to where it should be put might make people cross.

Thanks to: Emma Cripwell; Chris Thomas; Richard Walker and JR for the photographs.

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



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Wiltshire,
SN6 8QB

Toby Ford

1st September 1920 - 3rd October 2020

Toby, (christened Terence), was born in Monk Sherborne, near Basingstoke, the youngest of five children. In 1932, his father built Hillside, their new house.

Always interested in animals, as a



young man he helped on various farms with the harvest, and got a taste for farming. As time went on, Toby joined the local defence volunteers, guarding the roads at night. As a farmer, he was in a reserved occupation but was determined to join the Army, so he joined the Royal Artillery to be

trained as a signaller, learning Morse Code and Semaphore, later volunteering as an Army Commando, (No.1 Commando Unit based in Dundee).

Circa 1942, following training in Achnacarry, Scotland, he sailed on a troopship from Liverpool to Otranto, Italy. He was given a wireless set and two 3 inch mortar bombs to train with, eventually landing on French Algerian soil for a raid on Maison Blanch airfield. A call went out for a despatch rider to take messages between units; dressed in American kit, and having stolen a German BMW bike, and without the use of lights, he ran over a shell hole and was blown up. A medical centre put in 52 stitches and plastered him up, and a hospital ship from North Africa took him back to the UK.

Now in callipers, he was told he would have difficulty walking again but, recuperating slowly, he contacted Norman Whatley and returned there to work. He joined the Young Farmers, and one day, at a meeting, met Mary – she always said that she saw this handsome red-headed young man across the room, wearing a dreadful yellow jersey; they got talking and that was that! They married on 17th



October 1946, and Toby, Mary and their children, Diana, and Dennis lived happily at Artis Farm, Wroughton. In 1956, Toby's father, Jack, bought Home Farm, in Hinton Parva. Following his death, Cis, Jack's wife, did a house swap with Toby and Mary and they came to live in Hinton in 1963. Mary loved the house with Toby calling it, *Mary's jewel*, and so began a new chapter of their long and happy lives together. The rest, as they say, is history!

Excerpt from Toby Ford's Eulogy by his daughter Diana Turnball
(*Photograph left: Mary and Toby getting married in 1946; above Toby aged 100, see also page 9.*)

A nutritionally balanced shake can be a healthy meal, quick, easy, tasty, (vegan, no soy available)

*Peter Svensson,
Wellness coach
07832 193 362
peter@swepan.com*





Bishopstone Stores

I'd like to introduce myself as the new manager of your village shop, **Bishopstone Stores**, nestled in the car park of the Royal Oak. I'm proud to call myself a local; I was christened in Bishopstone church and grew up just down the road in Bourton.

My family is of farming heritage, and growing up in the countryside led to my love of animals and the outdoors. There is nothing I enjoy more than taking the dogs along the Ridgeway and blowing away a few cobwebs, or going for a leisurely hack around the lanes on *Brian*, the trusty thoroughbred!

Bishopstone Stores is here for you seven days a week, opening from:

9.00am - 6.00pm Monday - Saturday

10.00am - 2.00pm - Sunday

If you've not visited us yet you will find a fabulous range of products, all produced locally and using the best ingredients. We have Helen Browning's Organic meats, organic bread from Astons Bakehouse, vegetables from Coleshill Organics, local honey, loose flour, free range eggs and more.

We also have take away tea and coffee in completely compostable cups if you need something to warm you up. Please pop in and have a look around! I'm looking forward to get-

ting to know you all, and would be very interested in your feedback and ideas about what you would like your local shop to provide for you.

A big thank you to all that have supported us since opening, I hope we have been able to fulfill your needs during these challenging times. Don't forget that we offer a free local delivery service and we are happy for this to be contact free if you are shielding or have any concerns.

Please call into the shop next time you need to stock up...or just to say Hi. Either way, a warm welcome awaits you. Bring your copy of the newsletter along and I'll happily take 10% off your shopping for you.

Lynne

Wanborough Farmers' Market & Community Connect Coffee Morning

9.00am - noon

Saturday 21st November
Wanborough Village Hall,
High Street, SN4 0AD

Please wear your best mask and be prepared to give your name and contact number. There is a hand sanitiser just inside the door and we will ask you to proceed in an orderly and anticlockwise direction.

When you come out you can rip off your mask and scream as loudly as you like!

For more information contact Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Little Hinton Village Hall



The Committee continues to review the situation regarding opening for business, but still consider that it's inadvisable for the foreseeable future, especially given the recent Government legislation. We are sorry that we are unable to convey any happier news, but, on a positive note, we are working on plans and ideas for the Hall's future use, if and when we are able to open again. We'll keep you informed.

The Committee

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The Village Hall Bishopstone

Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness... You can tell not much is happening at the village hall right now as we resort to poetry, but I am delighted to confirm we are open for select Covid compliant events! We have bookings on hand from the School, Tori Fae Fitness, and the Karate Club over the Autumn. A big thanks to Russell, Phil and Steve for getting us over the line with installation of appropriate signage, appropriate equipment and, of course, all that paperwork. The rules and restrictions are forever changing and we aim to keep the Village Hall open and compliant during this time. I also have news of an online booking system which is being tested as

we speak; further details will be published to coincide with the December newsletter. One immediate result of this initiative is that Sue Tremlin will no longer take bookings and issue keys for the hall. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sue for her help in the past for managing and coordinating the booking diary and keeping track of keys. Sue has given us all a superb service over the years and recently managed a seamlessly smooth and organised handover of the booking diary and contacts. There is so much red tape and responsibility to manage both at the school and at the hall, that it was felt best practice would be to take back the responsibility of coordinating book-

ings via the Committee, and in turn, through the forthcoming web solution. As a result of these changes we have new keys too. Bookings and enquiries can be made via myself on:
791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk until we get the web portal buzzing. It's also now probably time to take the Union Flag down; it has been a wonderful distraction over recent months, since the VE celebrations. As the season changes, the Christmas tree is on order so we are all set for Winter – socially distanced carols, anyone, to cheer us all up? *Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?* ...can you see what I did there?

Richard Walker

Across

- 1 Ed in a fug bends the rules.
- 3 A gentle wave through this ice cream.
- 6 Riki madly seeks cows drink.
- 10 It used to be around 26 miles.
- 13 Delightful people.
- 15 The school bus with five or Carol without.
- 16 Turn around.
- 18 Twice Nickel we hear.
- 20 This cat sleeps tonight.
- 21 Reward for this mutiny.
- 23 See 11.
- 24 I heard this was quiet.
- 25 Could include Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper and Karen Gillan

Down

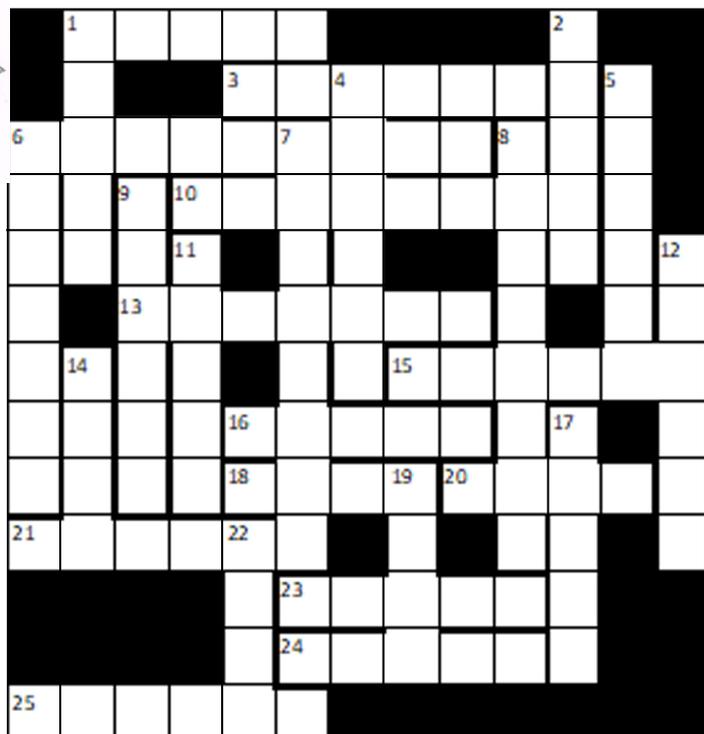
- 1 You might see this in snow or corn.
- 2 Nigel leaves confused Boston for improvement.
- 4 Don't eat this with more than six.
- 5 Do blue mix twice.
- 6 Baker's dozen sugar-coated cubic pleasure.
- 7 Our 25.
- 8 That is to follow processing numerical data.
- 9 Sounds like gear owned by a feline.
- 11 & 23 Pig's tail.
- 12 Northern trucker's not for girls.
- 14 I hear a backwards rower.
- 17 There's nothing about this ancient man theme.
- 19 Red one in seven.
- 22 Old double ten.

To be in with a chance of winning **this month's Star Prize**, send you name, connection between all the answers, and the completed crossword to the editor **by the 10th of the month**.

mogsboon@hotmail.com
or deliver to Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva.



Pete's Prize Puzzle - Sweet Treat?



Answers to October crossword

Across:

2 Cavendish; 5 lamb; 6 brown 9 primrose; 11 heath; 12 peel; 13 may.

Down:

1 Baldwin; 3 north; 4 Hamilton; 7 temple; 8 grey; 9 Pelham; 10 Eden.

I must apologise if confusion was caused by the phrase *name the actor*, which was a typo; these were all, of course, British Prime Ministers.

The winner of the Royal Oak Voucher for the October Crossword was David Whitaker. Congratulations! But come on guys, is nobody going to challenge him?



As many readers probably already know, this organisation has been set up to empower women and their communities, affected by domestic abuse, racial bias and inequality through musical activities and selling well-being related products, especially made by women. We are raising awareness about these problems, giving them a voice and support to empower and inspire, collaborating with Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services (Swindon Women's Aid).

This falls in line with our mission –

Introducing



All proceeds from the product sale go towards supporting women and their communities through our ongoing activities such as musical workshops and community events, which are crucial but especially difficult to maintain in these Covid19 times.

Ingredients: Propolis 20%, bees wax,



honey, Vaseline. Best before 2023. Avoid direct sunlight. Directions for use: Apply on dry lips and skin irritations, dry skin, and blemishes, insect bites and small wounds.

Produced for Sounds Like Women by Apis Bialystok in EU. Net Wt 10g
Another of our plans is to set up:

The SLW Community Cafe

Hinton Parva Village Hall

On a monthly basis, we are hoping and crossing our fingers that the first one will be on:

Saturday 5th December,

Sounds Like Women is a locally based non-profit Community Interest Company.

Luiza Muir

School Report

As we fast approach the half term, this first seven weeks seems to have flown by.

Learning in KS2 has taken us back to Roman times. I've spied children learning to march on the playground, I've heard chanting of Roman words, and seen many craft sessions, which involved much tangled wool and cardboard, (weaving was the planned outcome!). KS1 have been looking at life under, and on, the sea. This week, I was attacked by a cohort of pirates, hats askew and pirate shanty words were directed at me....very scary.

In English, the classes work on a book each term. This term, Miss Pearson has been focusing on, *How to find gold*. In Yr3/4 we have used *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, whilst Yr5/6 explored *The Viewer*. This way of teaching leads the children through the book, looking at the fine detail of pictures and bringing in the other subjects. For example, in the Yr3/4 book we have been discovering Iceland, imagining the Northern Lights, and looking at volcanoes, with the children setting the questions that they wish to find answers for. It is a lovely way of working, as the children take the lead on a lot of the direction, which then inspires them to remain focused and eager for the next lesson.

We are slowly finding ways to adapt to new guidance and advice. The children are being rewarded this week for their amazing resilience and positivity with a *cinema afternoon*. They continue to work hard and love being in school.

Our harvest celebration involved a wonderful Youtube video allowing Revd Bill to join us (and Oscar the puppet owl), and discussion in school. All donations this year went to the Swindon Food Bank. A big thank you, as always, to Mr Ash who donated a beautiful handmade harvest loaf.

Leaves are falling, windows remain open for ventilation, and winter vests are making a comeback . . .but



hopefully not the woolly variety!

Emma Lindsay

Recycling Matters

Finally! Good news if you have pet food pouches, crisp packets or cheese packaging(!) All are actively being collected for recycling in Park South in Swindon at 70 Carstairs Avenue, SN3 2DF. The organiser, Helen, is collecting them to raise money for the New Start Cat Rescue charity in Gloucestershire. Helen has bins for collecting in her front garden, although they can get very full, very quickly. Please ensure the cheese packaging and food pouches have been washed. The cheese packaging recycling programme is in conjunction with Cathedral City and TerraCycle – any brand of flexible plastic cheese packaging can be recycled with full details on the Cathedral City website.



Boots has launched a new recycling initiative in a number of stores, although it does seem to be having some teething problems. It sounds really promising, paying the equivalent of £5 in Boots points for every 5 beauty, wellness, healthcare, or dental products you recycle with them. However, when I tried it out, I couldn't get the app to work, the 2 stores that should have had recycling bins didn't have them and knew nothing about the scheme, the Help Line wasn't manned, and they didn't respond to my left message! Something of a disappointment! I will report back on this one, though, as it does have potential, particularly if they roll it out more locally – I notice some of the initial stores have now changed so maybe things are now happening? The closest participating stores are Witney and Salisbury. Search online for *Recycle at Boots* for details.

On a more positive note, larger Boots stores (and Superdrug, Tesco and Sainsburys) have partnered with Maybelline and will recycle any make-up empties in store. Full details on the Maybelline website.

Karen Walker



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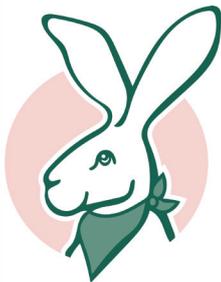
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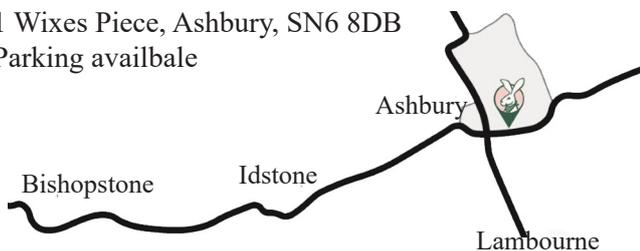
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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	1st November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 4th Sunday before Advent"			
	All Saints' Patronal Festival			
Wednesday	4th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed			
Sunday	8th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Lyddington
		10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Wanborough
		10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Bishopstone
		10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Hinton Parva
Wednesday	11th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	St Martin, Bishop of Tours			
Sunday	15th November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 2 nd Sunday before Advent"			
Tuesday	17th November	6.00pm		Bishopstone
Wednesday	18th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	St Elizabeth of Hungary			
Sunday	22nd November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the Sunday next before Advent"			
	Christ the King			
Wednesday	25th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
	St Andrew's Patronal Festival			
Sunday	29th November		No Service	
	YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 4th Sunday before Advent"			
	1 st Sunday of Advent			
Wednesday	2th December		No Service	
	Vigil of St Francis Xavier			

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

The C of E have stated that they will not change their guidance in sufficient time for our printing deadline so, the above may change in line with any future change in Government policy.

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
November has, for many years, been a month for remembering. Remembering loved ones who are no longer with us, and for remembering those who have laid down their lives, for the freedoms that we enjoy today. Remembering can be helpful and it can be tough at times too. Remembering who we are and our purpose in life can also be a joy, and at other times, it too, can be tough. We are made first and foremost to praise God, that three letter spelling of the word LOVE. Loving someone we think a lot of can be one of the most natural things we do in life, and, is why encouragement is more enjoyable than criticism. Because loving those who are dear to us can

be a relatively easy thing to do; loving God is simply a matter of thanking the person that put our loved ones in our lives. It's then that Love becomes more recognisable, more obvious and everything else has a chance of getting into its proper perspective.

The church has struggled whenever people, both inside the church and outside of it, have put it on a pedestal. It has always fallen short, oftentimes, people have mistaken church for God Himself. The fact that we make mistakes is something we all know about and is arguably the next most natural thing after breathing. It is for this reason that we are called to encourage, rather than judge. *For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God* (Romans 3:23). It is amazing the number of people that run off in

judgement of another, without being in full possession of all of the facts.

Jumping to conclusions is one of the quickest ways of jumping into error. Victims of abuse are often silenced, if not silent. On the surface, all appears well, if only to maintain some kind of peace in their otherwise troubled lives. We simply cannot know everything that goes on behind closed doors. Nor should we pry. Rather than battering others into who we think they should be, we do well to remember that God made us all, each wonderfully different, so as to enrich the world in which we live.

It is encouraging people, especially in their struggles, that enables them to be the best that they can be. In doing so, we honour those who have given their yesterday for our today.

VE Day and so many other commemorations, are opportunities for us to appreciate each other and the freedoms that everyone should be allowed to enjoy. For all of this, we give thanks, to the One who gave it all. 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

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: the Rev Bill O'Connell
 The Vicarage, Church Road,
 Wanborough, SN4 0BZ

01793 791 359
 villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor
 01793 791 666
 R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church wardens:

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

St. Swithun's
 Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148
 tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

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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

**St Mary's Bishopstone
 Cleaning Rota**

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



Toby on his final journey - Rest in peace old friend.

Thank you Val and Jan for the photograph

Sunday School
St. Andrew's church, Wanborough

We plan to hold our first two Sunday school sessions on:
**Sunday 15th November &
 Sunday 13th December**
 at 11.15am for an hour in the church.
 All primary children and their parents welcome. These first sessions include Christmas activities with arts and crafts. Please come along and have some family fun.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Not, we stress from our parish:

- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7.00pm. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door

at the side entrance.

- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: *I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.*

With thanks to Jane Manktelow for sending these in.

Sadly, this is the last of the bloopers that were sent to us, if anybody has any more they wish to share, please send them in.

Ed



Rumours of 'Snake Racing' in West End Lane

– Bob Investigates

It turns out that these *snakes* are not the first thing that comes to mind (how would you get them to race in a straight line anyway) but squashes, *Serpent di Sicilia*. According to the seed packet, we are promised fruits up to 2m long, a vigorous climber that *would climb all over you if you stood still long enough*.

We found a packet of seeds with an expiry date of 2016, (a souvenir of a visit to the Eden Project), and a few germinated.

And the race? An ad-hoc affair between two close neighbours Russell Hatch and Adrian Dent. Who could grow the longest one?

Russell planted his in a large pot with a southerly aspect... *they are truly rampant, climbing up over the shed, clinging onto anything they can find!*

The potted version made a good early showing.

Adrian has a large compost heap... 'that seemed to be an ideal spot. They produced masses of foliage and almost disappeared over the hedge. We didn't think we had any until I sent Sue in, and, eureka! there they were, dangling in the space next to the hedge. Once we had our eye in, we could follow their progress. I'm sure they were growing about 2" a day.

The leafy foliage has now been lost and they are now hardening off in the autumn sun, revealing the Serpents in their true splendour.

And the Race? (I'll show you mine if you show me yours)

A true Bishopstone fudge... we decided that, as the compost heap had a clear advantage over the

potted version, we could have two classes; Open and Potted.

Results:

Potted class: 1st place, Russell Hatch 89cms length, weight 1.5kg

Open class: 1st place, Adrian Dent 153cms length, weight 3.7kg

The challenge... *We'll save the seeds and provide potted up plants in the Spring - if you would like to enter the race, let us know.*



I doubt we are alone in looking forward to the next episode of All Creatures Great and Small, showing on Channel 5 on Tuesdays at 9.00pm. Apparently BBC 1 turned down this remake of the 70's and 80's original because they feared it would not appeal to younger viewers, yet a near record 3.3m watched the first episode. This portrayed the young James Herriot being encouraged by his new mischievous boss, Siegfried Farnon, to speed faster and faster down a steep hill in the vet's Austin, and tear dangerously round a bend so that he could get up the hill on the other side! My first car was a bit like that. It's clean *comfort* entertainment, loaded with nostalgia and some good story lines; though I am not quite sure how he manages to calve a cow stripped off without getting his arm dirty! At present, viewers are also treated to other veterinary programmes such as, Our Yorkshire Farm, featuring a plucky family with nine children from the age of two,

all mucking in, and, The Yorkshire Vet, which is pretty graphic, no holds barred. The latter showed a successful calving by caesarean section with the cow controlled by standing in a cattle crush. My experiences of caesars as a former dairy farmer did not always go so well. I remember a live calf but with the cow down hygiene was compromised, eventually leading, to infection by sepsis and the cow sent off to the Old Berks Hunt.

Down on the farm there has been much progress in my lifetime. A scourge back in the 60's was the abortive disease brucellosis. Several dairymen and vets contacted this feverish condition, known as undulant fever in humans. Fortunately, a widespread state-aided vaccination programme using S19 has defeated this. Likewise, the warble fly has been eradicated. They laid eggs on the cattle's legs to emerged in the spring as great maggots along the cattle's backs, causing distress and damage to hides. Stalking in Scotland, I see wild deer still have this problem, but I am told it is a different fly. I remember seeing a virulent case of Johne's disease as a student, which resulted in a severe debilitating diarrhoea. After fifty years being largely off the radar, farmers can now sign up to a national scheme to eradicate this scourge. The human form is the unpleasant Crohn's disease, but I am not aware of a connection through infection. Then there is Bovine TB. Sadly this has reappeared as it was virtually eradicated after the war, so that by the 60's it was not a problem. I remember, as a youth, helping to test cattle with horns without a cattle crush, our cowman gripping all the young cattle by the nose in the confines of a shedding box. Today TB causes so much devastation, repeated testing and disruption, with over 30,000 cattle compulsorily slaughtered each year. Surviving all this on an infected farm calls for stoicism, forbearance, and an understanding bank manager. These veterinary programmes set in lovely Yorkshire countryside inform and entertain.

Richard Green

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It's been a joy to see everyone of every age enjoying playing in Eastbrook's Flax Field, just above the Ridgeway, when we've been selling our organic hot dogs, cakes, pulled pork, teas and coffees to anyone who happened to be walking past these last few weekends. People playing football, flying kites, tethering their horses, sitting on straw bales, basking in occasional autumn sunshine, watching the waving sunflowers...Not a pc or phone screen in sight (well, hardly...). Thanks to the local man *Andy*—no address, no 'phone, usual semi anonymous tosh—who wrote to the Parish Council and demanded that something should be done to stop Helen B from continuing to expand her empire. Which made me think piously of empire building, and some of the good things that pop out from such lofty aspirations, eg jobs. I've had a look around the empire, such as it is, and discovered that the HB businesses have created three full time jobs since Lockdown One ended; about three more than some of the serious empires have managed. And then I thought about the localness of these jobs, and, as I went through the farm staff, accounts staff, marketing staff, cooking staff, serving staff, cleaning staff, shop staff, I discovered 16 people who live in Bishopstone, 7 who live in Shrevenham, three who live in Bourton, 8 who live

in Swindon, 2 from Wootton Bassett (sorry, Royal WB...), one from Watchfield, someone from Hinton Parva (I think), and another from...Ashbury! I must have a word with Human Resources about that. And one from Highworth. You're right, Andy. We must stop building this empire. It's doing no-one any good. Please pop over for a chat and we can decide how to progress. Btw, Helen is actively wondering whether this corner of a foreign field (Flax Field) ought to be given over to village leisure...

While we're on the subject of local villages, a big shout out to the council and contractors who put up the new speed limit warning signs just outside Wanborough. Until a week ago, you could cruise sedately through that village, and then be told, as you raced towards Bishopstone, to slow down. I thought it was odd, but then I've never fully understood road safety, clearly. I now see they've made the bold decision to change the direction of the sign, so you have to slow down as you enter Wanborough. Even I can see that makes more sense. The IQ of these people! Like the people who write a new local property magazine, who saw in the Sunday Times last month that Bishopstone had been voted the most community-supportive village in the country during lockdown. Mrs Miggins from

Flotsam Street in Bishopstone was quoted as saying how much the village people had helped her. I have looked for Mrs Miggins, and, indeed, for Flotsam Street in this Bishopstone, to no avail—and discovered they are in the Bishopstone near Salisbury. Laziness, but it probably added £20k to local property values.

Bishopstone Stores is being revised under the astute leadership of Lynne Muir, and she writes more about this somewhere else in this delightful organ. (Actually it is on page 4, Ed). If we trip over into another lockdown, she will be there to mill your flour for you, and sell you milk and bread. And deliver it to your door. And she'll ensure there are enough masks for you to wear as you walk our dangerous single track lanes. James Andrews continues to win plaudits for his Eastbrook Farm safaris, and guests remain amazed at his knowledge of the richness of bird life, and wildlife in general, that populate the organic fields all around you.

Did someone mention Christmas? Oh what a party that's going to be. Our Christmas menu will attempt to put some joy into a wet and gloomy December; and, of course, we're all going to have to get used to the idea that New Year effectively arrives at 9.55pm this year, before we boot you out into the street.

NB

Bishopstone Stores is looking for a volunteer or two from one of the villages to help us run the shop on Wednesdays, when we allow Lynne her day off. It's not onerous—smiling, chatting, and engaging seem to be the main personal characteristics we're looking for, and the ability to use a credit card machine, sort any stock arrivals etc. No pay as such but a hefty food discount from the shop or the pub, and a chance to meet people and gossip.

Contact Lynne or Jo Rake.
01793 790 481



(Top left: snug dining at the Royal Oak, photographed by our intrepid sub editor)

tf



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva

On electrical safety, pasties, & parcels
As I write this, the various Administrations of the UK are popping up shouting *We're having a circuit breaker*. Except the English, who have been listening to Smokey Robinson and the Miracles and have opted for the Tiers of a Clown. I'm not sure that's what the song meant, or that we're going to get the miracle we'd all like, and it could, of course, all look very different by the time you're reading this. Someone may have realised that a circuit breaker is actually an automatic device for stopping the flow of current in an electric circuit as a safety measure (yes; that is the dictionary definition) and thought up a different phrase. Alternatively, someone may have got too excited by the electrically-based phraseology, flicked an important switch, and plunged the entire country into darkness. At this stage, nothing would surprise me.

Well; I thought that, until I witnessed this morning's astonishing TV offering - a Government minister explaining that a place selling pasties does not class as a restaurant, so must close. This can be circumvented, apparently, by the addition of a portion of chips and a nice bit of side salad, which will elevate the pasty from a mere snack to a full meal. A Government minister. . . No wonder they need a pay rise, having to deal with such thorny issues.

Occupying my thoughts more than all of this, however, is the knotty issue of Christmas; specifically, the purchasing of Christmas presents. I read that we need to buy early this year. I'm not entirely sure why, but I read it in a magazine, so it must be true. In more normal times, I'd simply have a day at the shops, browsing what's on offer, and muttering, in increasingly desperate fashion, *I suppose that would do at a pinch*. This year, I guess my browsing will be done at home. At least this way I'll avoid the pitying looks from those organised Christmas shoppers who have been making lists for months and who had several things bought and wrapped by the end of February, having suc-

cessfully visited the January sales. Having made some choices, wise or otherwise, (is that why they were called the Wise Men; because they'd bought some myrrh at reduced rates some months before packing up their camels and hitting the road?), the really difficult part of Christmas begins; locating the *delivered* items and recovering them from wherever they've been delivered. Sometimes the items have actually arrived at the correct address, just not made it as far as the door. On one occasion, we rescued a delivery from it's hiding place below a shrub next to the front gate. It was in an advanced state of *damp*, after a night of rain. It was in such a state that, had it been a hedgehog, we'd have rushed it to the vet. Since it was a Christmas present, we didn't have that option, and just had to pop it on top of the boiler and hope it dried out undamaged.

I know we're not alone in the *find the parcel* stakes; the village website operates a sort of *lonely parcel* service, in lieu of a lonely hearts column. I've noticed a variety of *Large brown box from Next* (other stores are available) *seeks forever home* posts, with more over the lockdown period. Perhaps that was Christmas shopping arriving for all those sensible people who started early?

Hang on - hedgehogs. . . They don't need to worry about Christmas present deliveries or the nature of pasties at this time of year - they have the ultimate circuit breaker and hibernate. Pass me the duvet; I'll do the same.



Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...

Yesterday I discovered the cats trying to inspect behind the Aga, so I deduce a mouse or similar creature has taken refuge there. Given that it is impossible to move an Aga I await with some trepidation the aroma of slowly roasted rodent to permeate the kitchen. Happily, I infrequently have anything to do with hospitals, so yesterday's

visit was extremely stressful, not the doctor, she was perfectly pleasant, it was the parking. It took me ages to work out where I should leave the car, even worse, nobody told me about how you pay to be released. Just as well I didn't have my blood pressure taken.

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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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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