

Village News

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva October 2020



Photographs clockwise from top left: Hinton School, 1910; Hinton church choir with Rev. Charles Perkins; Watercress beds, Bishopstone; Supply Cottage, Hinton, 1910; Stoke Cottage, Bishopstone, 1914; the Hovel, illegally knocked down, 2016; dredging the mill pond, 1920s and centre Hinton shop 1920.



Village Picture Competition

Early in the 20th century, Richard Johnson, who lived in Hinton, took many photographs (including most of the ones above) that have become an interesting record of their time.

We should keep on adding to this archive for the future, so how about sending us your photos, recording life now, perhaps in the same places

that Mr Johnson took his pictures? Look at the bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/picturegallery for inspiration.

Entrants are required to give permission for their pictures (and the permission of any person featured) to be printed in the newsletter and uploaded to the website.

Send the pictures (at least 300dpi) to mogsboon@hotmail.com.

Winners
Autumn 100/500
Club Draw see page 4
Church Raffle
see page 9

Banner photographs by Jane Clark

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

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Always There

Without a doubt, these are strange times as the coronavirus changes the way we live, and yet, Swindon & District Samaritans remains steadfast in continuing to be there for anyone who is struggling to cope.

Despite some of our listening volunteers isolating and shielding, your local branch has remained open throughout the pandemic to provide a confidential listening service by phone and email. Many of our wonderful volunteers took on extra shifts during the most difficult times so we could continue to provide much needed emotional support. Even now, every six seconds Samaritans answer a call for help.

Health, care, emergency, and key workers have put their physical and mental health under pressure as they form the frontline against coronavirus. To help the helpers, Samaritans have partnered with Shout, Mind, Hospice UK, and The Royal Foundation to offer round the clock, one-to-one emotional support to those on the front line, to help ensure they get the right support with their mental health, now and in the future.

Like so many, our branch has needed to adapt given the constraints of the pandemic. We are now able to recruit and train all of our listening volunteers online using online video conferencing. We always welcome new volunteers, and hold regular information events, where you can find out more and have the opportunity to speak to some of our volunteers.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact us:
samsrecruitment@btconnect.com

We are just welcoming the first of our volunteers who have been virtually trained into the branch, as they look to start the next phase of their volunteering by providing emotional support on the phone and by email. Even as we learn how our lives are changing, and respond to these different challenges, it is great to greet new volunteers who will now be there to support and listen to others at a time when it has never been more important.

Maggie Gill

Join the Great British September Clean
11-27 SEPTEMBER 2020

Bishopstone-Based Litter Pick*
Saturday 26th September
Meet at Bishopstone Village Hall, 9.30am

Please wear gloves and heavy clothes. To confirm attendance, or get any questions answered, please call Molly Watson:
07812 986 926
 or via village facebook page

* The Hinton litter pick was the week before

Molly

Best Breakfast

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

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The Village Hall Bishopstone

We were all set to reopen, Covid-ready, mission-fit, risk-assessed, cleansed, sanitised, and rubber gloved to within an inch of our elbows (and that was just our trusty committee). Then the *Rule of Six*. This new directive announced hours ago, (at time of print), has pretty much scuppered our planned safe and compliant reopening. Best laid plans and all that!

We may still facilitate hire for the correct numbers and the right reasons but, clearly, our audience has evaporated. The school has booked a few sessions as they have ticked all the right boxes. Emma and Sue are already up to speed on keeping in line with latest legislation and updates. Despite the legislative setback – again we are absolutely understanding of the reasoning behind this – the hall is ready when needed.

Our handy checklist below:

1. Complete booking form.
2. Ensure payment is made by BACS.
3. Nominate Responsible Person.
4. Complete your own Risk Assessment.
5. Manage your own risks during hire period.
6. Clean down touch points before leaving.
7. Stay safe!

We are in the process of changing the locks in order to best maintain compliance with Covid-19 and the 'new norm'. We will also trial an online booking system. For any immediate enquiries, please contact Richard Walker

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk
791 913

Meanwhile, our income stream has,

of course, diminished to a trickle – or should I say, a mere occasional drip! I do urge everyone who values the village hall to sign up for the new 500 Club:

Contact Phil Collins, our treasurer, for further details

790 358.

Keep safe and well.

Richard Walker

Bishopstone Village Hall Autumn 100/500 Club Draw

1st prize £70 won by Rachel Blunt

2nd prize £35 won by David Wray

Winter Draw in December
Contact Phil 790 358 to join

Little Hinton Village Hall



The Committee has reviewed 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 discovering what villagers would like the Hall to be used for, if and when, we are able to open again.

The Committee

Wanborough Farmers' Market

Wanborough Village Hall,
High Street, SN4 0AD,
9.00am - 12.00 midday

Although we did run a successful market in August, at the time of writing, I'm not sure the September one will go ahead and equally unsure about October which should be the next market on Saturday 17th. To check visit www.wanborough.info

Sue Birley 01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

The Community Café

Well, it's an uncertain and unpredictable time – but we would love to hold the Coffee Morning at October's Farmers' Market if we can!

We offer tea, coffee, and home baked goodies – and, more importantly – a chance to meet and greet (as it were!) others, something many have been longing to do since lockdown restrictions began. We are adhering to current Covid regulations, with disposable cups, wrapped goods, and social distancing (etc etc...). Come, and bring a smile.

The Community Coffee Morning Team

B & D Gardening Club

Right now, the gardening club page should be festooned with pics of flowers, cakes, jams, and chutneys; visitors *Oo-ing* over the heaviest onion; Phil and Marion duelling with courgettes; Adrian, proudly holding aloft the Best in Show Trophy. Sigh... what a strange year. Our speakers have agreed (Covid-19 permitting) to talk to us next year, and I'll keep you up to date with any news. Meanwhile, keep safe and well. Oh yes, please send in your Halloween pics - we have some fabulously warty squashes.

Sheila

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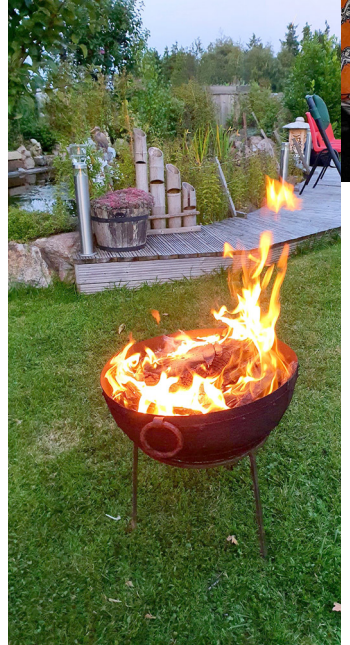


Community day

In spite of the Covid-related restrictions on the day, this event in a garden in Hinton, was a massive success. No more than 30 people attended, but, to date, over 10,000 views streamed on-line!

We've raised funds and, most of all, enjoyed an amazing atmosphere amplified by great music and kind people, raising awareness about how we can help people affected by domestic abuse in our closest community. Our guests included Emma Rawlings from Swindon Women's Aid, and Tracy Graham, an ambassador for the organisation and survivor of domestic abuse, as well as Graham Harris - writer and founder of a project *Bullied back to Life*, with which SLW collaborate.

All the performances from seven hours of live stream can be seen on www.facebook.com/soundslikewomen - our fun page.



Luiza Moir

Pete's Prize Puzzle - Friends in High Places

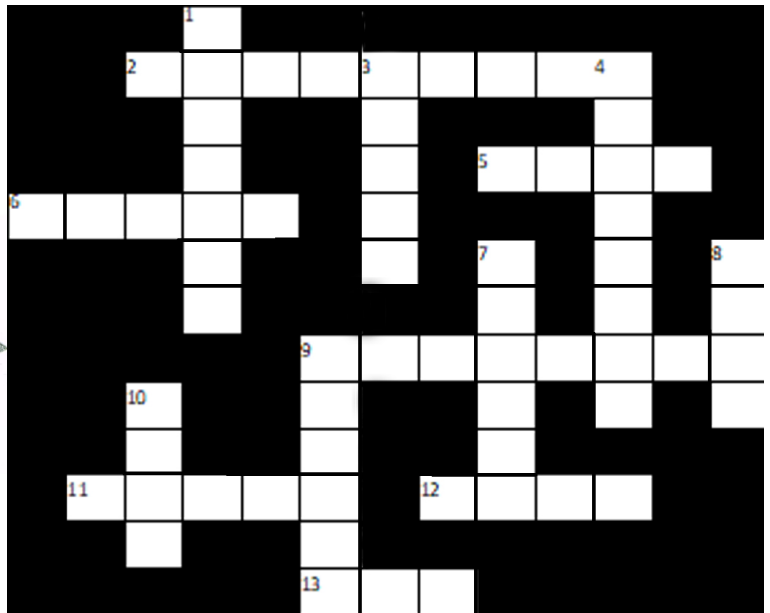
Across

- 2. Winner of second highest number of Tour de France stage wins (surname)
- 5. Baby animal
- 6. Colour formed by mixing a primary and its complementary colour
- 9. Type of flower
- 11. Shrubland habitat
- 12. Fruit's skin
- 13. Month



Down

- 1. American acting brothers
- 3. Direction
- 4. New Zealand city
- 7. Place of worship
- 8. Shade or colour
- 9. Walter Matthau film, The Taking of _____ 1 2 3
- 10. Project in Cornwall



Answers to September crossword

Across:

2 goats; 4 ocean; 5 fox; 6 brother; 9 up in the; 10 dawn; 11 monuments.

Down:

1 thou; 2 gravity; 3 tomorrow; 6 batman; 7 dusk; 8 air. All these answers are from titles of the films in which George Clooney acted.

What connects all of these answers? To be in with a chance of winning **this month's Star Prize**, send the completed crossword and the name of the actor to the editor **by the 10th of the month**.

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

School Report

After several months, it is lovely to be able to write again for our local community. The *strangest of times* seems to be my current most spoken phrase. And what strange times they have been. When all was locked down, the school continued; through Easter holidays, through the May holiday, and all the way up to the end of July, when we broke for summer. I have never completed the journey to school in my car so quickly in the last seven years! Some days I would pass only lorries or cyclists.

My staff were (and are!) amazing. Every single one went far above and beyond in a time when bigger and better staffed schools struggled. Revd Bill continued to support the school through a newfound variety of technology. A school requires much the same amount of input, regardless of whether you have one child, 10 children, or 50 children in. The paperwork is the same (and, during the summer months, doubled with all the Government requirements), and activities still need to be planned. During that time, staff were teaching both children in school and setting work for those at home. We had some amazing fun creating videos, keeping the school community linked up – these can be found on the new school website if you click on the *About* tab. Emotions were, and still are, high. Traditions fell by the wayside. Solutions had to be found to get around the appalling internet in Bishopstone . . . such as dashing home to teach online, which works fine, until my cat decides to get in on the act! In fact, I think my cat became more of interest than some of the lessons! On one occasion, I think every child that I had logged on with me had their pet with them . . . but things like this have created such positive memories in a time when it would be all too easy to focus on the negative. We had to say good-bye to the most wonderful Year 6 children, with goodies in school and those at home having them delivered . . . it was still lovely but will never replace our church *leavers assembly* completely. So where are we now? Well, we are back . . . all children in school as one giant *bubble*. Lessons are running, new ways of working include tables facing the front, one-way systems, and staggered pick-up and drop-off times (massive thank you to parents for making these work). However, what really matters is our children. They are smiling, the school is full of laughter and noise, chatter and excitement, new children have joined; there is not a nicer sound to listen to. As to the next month or so, we don't really know; as the guidance changes, we adapt, as new regulations come in place, we will meet them . . . but, thinking positively, not planning too far ahead certainly keeps me going.



Emma Lindsay

Schoolreaders

Improving literacy - increasing life chances

Volunteers needed to listen to children read in local primary schools after lockdown.

Our reading volunteers are going to be desperately needed following the Coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of children won't have had enough reading practice during lockdown. In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Most children will have missed a term of school, so the reading gap is now even wider. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.

Schoolreaders needs more volunteers in the Swindon area to support children's reading and prevent them falling further behind. If you want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading and some spare time each week.

To join us, please visit the website:

www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form

or call 01234 924 111

for further information.

Charity Number: 1159157

Sunday School St. Andrew's church, Wanborough



Coming soon

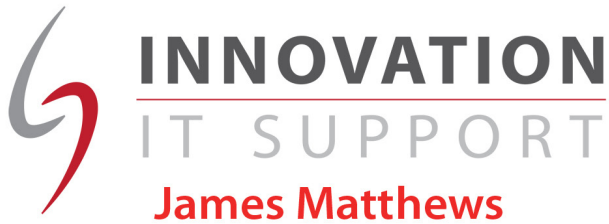
We plan to hold our first two Sunday school sessions on:

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.



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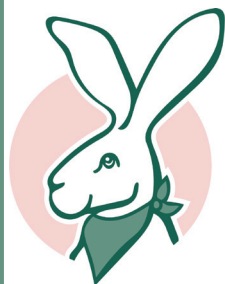
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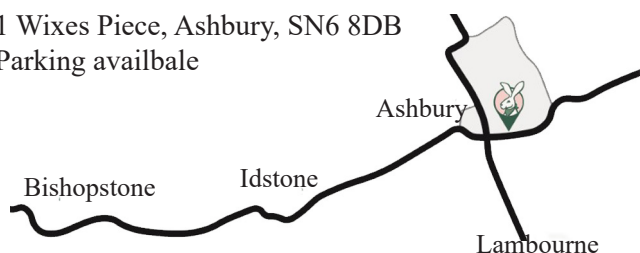
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Sunday-Monday: Closed

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	4th October	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 17 th Sunday after Trinity Harvest Sunday				
Tuesday	6th October	6.00pm	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
Wednesday	7th October	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
William Tyndale (transferred)				
Sunday	11th October	10.30am	Harvest Sunday	Bishopstone
YouTube "A Little Liturgy 18 th Sunday after Trinity				
Wednesday	14th October	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Vigil of St Teresa of Avila				
Sunday	18th October	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the feast of St. Luke - 19 th Sunday after Trinity				
Wednesday	21st October	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Henry Martyn (transferred)				
Sunday	25th October	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the Last Sunday after Trinity" Bible Sunday				
Wednesday	28th October	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
SS Simon & Jude				
Sunday	1st November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
YouTube "A Little Liturgy for the 4 th Sunday before Advent" All Saints' Patronal Festival				
Wednesday	4th November	7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Wanborough
Commemoration of the Faithful Departed				

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

With the Government announcement pointing toward another lockdown in mind, this is the best that can be done at this time. 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,

A huge efficiency drive was launched at one of the hospital trusts I worked at, and it was based on a system that is used for making cars. To everyone's delight, it was found that the hospital's systems were in fact fine. There was an opportunity to improve the speed of blood test results, which was taken up, but, other than that, the only delays were due to the hospital having nowhere for patients to move to for convalescence. The problem with the hospital's drive for efficiency was that the patients and staff were suddenly seen as being there to serve the system. Systems built to help people get better had suddenly turned illness into a vehicle for proving efficiency, staff were in danger

of becoming merely operators of the system, and the patient just happened to be the container in which the hip (or anything else for that matter) needed repair or replacement.

Ticking boxes was in danger of becoming more important than compassion and care. And yet, time and again, people who feel good about themselves have recovered better than those that don't. Similarly, no accountant has ever been able to put good will on a *Profit and Loss* sheet. More than this, people who are encouraged more than criticised are less likely to fall ill in the first place. So much of our society is focused on *process* that simple good manners are in danger of becoming extinct. For the Christian, everyone, regardless of their place or background, should be treated as if

they were Jesus themselves. In short, caring for someone should always be more important than being right! Sadly, people leaving messages without the good manners to say who they are, correspondence that does not contain any interest in the person to whom it is being sent, and the decline in the use of the word *Dear* at the beginning of an email, text or message, all point to a general decline in our attitudes towards other people. Many of us remember that, as children, there were times when we knew it would be a good time to ask our parents or teachers something, and times when it wouldn't! Kindness was something we leaned upon, indulged in, and, indeed, benefited from, and many of us will know for certain that a bouquet of flowers can make all the differ-

ence, both in good times and in sad. One of the things that this virus has forced families into, is a greater recognition of the need for kindness. Relationships have thrived and, indeed, failed because of the level and type of kindness that exists in that family.

And by that I don't mean buying someone off with exuberant gift-giving, much less gifts with strings attached. It is when kindness is replaced by control that a relationship is bound to fail. Jesus died for us all, and at no cost to any of us, and He offers us this as a pattern of how we were made to be in each and every circumstance. His love is unconditional and even today He is saying *Come just as you are, weaknesses and all, because I know you and I love you so much more than you are capable of loving yourself*. It is when we begin to understand God's love for us, regardless of our weaknesses and our faults, that we are then able to be so much kinder to others, especially those we struggle with. It's then that kindness has a chance of taking root and, indeed, flourishing.

Finally, I would like to say a huge and deeply felt thank you to everybody for all their work in putting together the church raffle.

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

Parish Contacts

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

01793 791 359

villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church wardens:

St Mary's

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

John Lowry 01793 790 271

St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell – 01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

Doug Stevens

01793 791 107

doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

Karen Stevens

01793 791 107

kschurchview@gmail.com

Penny Green

01793 791 310

Sara Hall

01793 791 202

thecourthouse@gmail.com

Tom Sargeant

07517 145 051

tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

St Mary's Bishopstone

Cleaning Rota

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

Church Raffle

We raised £2,740 in ticket sales and, although this was below the target, it is a wonderful contribution to keeping St. Swithun's and St. Mary's afloat. Thank you so much to everyone who bought a ticket and cheerfully tolerated being approached, whether at home, in the local pubs, or even when roaming the villages.

Sincere thanks too for the generous prizes from:

Tom & Ushma Sargeant and Amazon: Amazon vouchers

Tim Finney & Helen Browning: The Royal Oak / Eastbrook Farm

Harry and Monica Meakin: Moose Cocktails

Austin Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd: Cash prize

Emma Cripwell: Luxury goodie box

Alison Fleming: Neil's Yard *Mystery prize (an extra prize!)

So, what was the mystery prize? We didn't know until we opened it but it's a whopping £250 to be used in The Royal Oak for food and drink, the shop, bedrooms, farm safaris or wildlife photography. Wow!

And the lucky winners, in order of draw:

Alison Carly, Wanborough: £250 Amazon Vouchers

Charlotte Mintern, Bishopstone: Luxury goodie box

Barry Inglefield, Hallam, Marlborough: £150 cash prize

Emma Williams, Bishopstone: £250 for Royal Oak / Eastbrook Farm

Tom Taylor, Bishopstone: Neal's Yard *Mystery prize

David Taylor, Bishopstone: Moose Cocktail box

Finally, thanks to all those who sold tickets, Susan and John Lowry, Roz Boot, Penny Green, Tim Finney & The Royal Oak, Conta Rowan Hamilton, Tom Sargeant and others. It is greatly appreciated.

See page 12 for photograph

Tom

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Not, we stress from our parish:

- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be *What is Hell?* Come early and listen to our choir practice.

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.

- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm – prayer and medication to follow.

- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

- This evening at 7.00pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

With thanks to Jane Manktelow



Harvest finished here with cutting the spring beans on September 14th in lovely weather. In the past month, we have had 5" (125 mm) of rain, and Storm Francis blowing a gale to test us and blow out some oats onto the floor. August seems to be a wet month these days. There was some frustration and losses with sprouted grain, so its good to finish. On the chalk and in the Vale its been a fair harvest. Friends on the more drought prone Cotswold soils have had a bad harvest, suffering from the dry spring. Our wheats, cut before the rain, have tested good for bread-making premiums. Our barley is in two heaps; some looks good enough to meet the malting specifications on germination and low nitrogen, but later cut fields are separate, because they had started to sprout, spoiling the germination. We grew two kinds of oats, and both lost their bright colour after the rain. However, the milling oats have tested good. These have a porridge and biscuit market. We also grew naked oats (without a husk); these are wanted for bird seed and for breakfast muesli. Our grain shed can clean these crops to help obtain the premiums. We feed the cleanings to our beef cattle after its been ground up by a visiting contractor, either now out in the fields, or on top of the silage during the winter. New above-ground troughs in the fields stop cattle muddying the feed at ground level, and also deter bovine TB from badger infection because they cannot climb into them. The spring bean harvest was a new crop for us. It comes to harvest later, and went through the combine as the weather improved with some good yields.

This week, we have two local farm machinery sales. They are able to go ahead as necessary business outside, despite the new Covid -19 rules of six.

The late Bill Ball's farm at Lower Idstone, and the late Marcella Seymour's farm situated under White Horse Hill are on the market for the first time for many years. The Balls' have been at Idstone longer than any of the other farming families in Idstone and Ashbury, though Robbie Selbourn's occupancy, following his grandfather, Bob Wilson, at Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, may predate the Balls'. These farm machinery sales can be a mix of social and business interest. After many years, all the old sheds and barns are cleared out, with items of yesterday appearing out in the field, laid down and numbered, in rows, ready for the auctioneer. Tractors, vehicles, and more modern machinery join the antique items, but it has to be said that, on small farms, much of the offering will be of more interest to hobby and lifestyle farming families, rather than the current professionals. Shiny new machinery such as big tractors and combines cost £250,000+ making these investments increasingly prohibitive except on really large farms.

Richard Green

Recycling Matters

Recycling and the proper disposal of waste during these Covid times has, like many things I guess, become a little tougher. Fly-tipping feels like it is on the increase, or maybe it's just that we're walking the locality more to see the aftermath? Is it linked to now needing to pre-book trips to the household waste recycling centre which are closed to trade customers altogether, or just plain laziness? Frustratingly, the amount of litter being dropped from cars or simply dumped, even within sight of a bin, seems to be on the increase too. The Ridgeway has become Party Central, with bags of bottles, cans, and plastic glasses just

strewn. And the ubiquitous take-away packaging doesn't always get taken away. You'd assume that one of the reasons that people travel so far from a drive-through to eat their burger or partake of their hot drink is to enjoy the scenery; ironic that many then spoil it. Thank goodness for our local litter-pickers who also seem to be on the increase too, and Keep Britain Tidy's **Great British September Clean!**

Unfortunately, the Soft Plastics recycling point at Tesco Extra in Ocotal Way has been closed due to *abuse*. I didn't ask...! But many bags and wrappings, including bread, cereal, and frozen food bags, magazine wrappers, bubble wrap, and anything marked LDPE 4 can be recycled in the carrier bag recycling bins in supermarkets. There's a full list available here - <https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/plastic-film>.

There's good and bad news about pet food pouches - there are now 2 collection points in Pets at Home (outside the vet's, and by the Blue Cross unit) but both are currently closed as they're not sure when collections will recommence. Watch this space!

In my research, I've found a few surprising items that can't currently be recycled that I thought I'd share. Till receipts, or at least the shiny ones printed on thermal paper are coated with a substance called bisphenol, and need to be put in the bin. And if you break a drinking glass? Ironically it can't be recycled! This is because, unlike bottles and jars, they will have been heat-treated, or contain additional chemicals to make them heat-resistant, and so won't melt at the same temperature. These should be safely wrapped and put in your household waste bin. Finally, do you know what your carbon footprint is, or even what it means? It doesn't just apply to international jet-setters! There's a number of great calculators online - I found the World Wildlife one at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire> particularly easy to use. And they all include great tips on how we can reduce our environmental impact.

Karen Walker

THE BREWERS ARMS
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Once my agent had agreed the fee, all I had to do was hire the crowd control barriers, and in the end we didn't need many of them. Excitement was all pretty well contained at HB's Royal Oak as we drew the raffle tickets for this year's Church fund—a simple but well supported exercise run by Tom Cripwell, his latest paramour Ms Emma C (she took the socialist dancing pictures), and various village notables (too many to name, sadly). Lots of local vocal support from Roz Boot, and the hirsute Vicar, kept safely behind his own crowd barrier. Various people from other villages were having lunch at the time, and joined in the general sunny merriment. It's estimated that the whole affair raised about £2,700 (for yet another church roof??); it was a perfect substitute for the annual fete which was washed out this year due to something called COVID. Saves us all going to the recycling centre with unwanted old dresses and flared trousers off the second hand stalls, I suppose. Now you mention it, I did pick up a remarkable sheer number for Ms Helen B at the fete a couple of years ago, for

a fiver, which we used on our annual trip to Cannes. Or was it Wales?

The Royal Oak prize was £250 worth of spending with us—if it fell into your hands, don't think, oh why would I want to spend the night at The Royal Oak when I live 300 yards down the road—think of it as an excuse to make your relatives have breakfast (and their own showers and toilets...) somewhere else, so you can start the day with your normal routines and not have to talk to them while you read your newspapers.

Our pub/farm shop, probably to be renamed Bishopstone Stores, has been a little lacklustre in recent weeks as we cope with thousands of people using Bishopstone and the hotel as their staycation venue, but our full time manager, Lynne Muir, from Watchfield, has given up her retail corporate job in Marlborough to bring new life. We want this place to be unmissable—great food, lots of it produced in the village or from Coleshill; gifts, experiences, deliveries to those who need it. Anticipate some real activity between now and Christmas. Lynne starts around

the time you read this. Those of you who know Childrey Stores will have some idea of what I'm talking about. Talking of staycations, not sure if I've ever mentioned our almost wild camp site in these august columns before. Amazing compost toilets, simple shower, sofa, pig arcs, all located at Botswicky Lagoon, on Lower Farm, the extension of Eastbrook over the Bourton/Hinton Parva road. So wild that the cows broke in last week, sat on the chairs (now matchwood), lay on the sofa (stained), walked through the firepit, smashed the picnic table....anyway it's all fixable and if any one wants to explore, ask me. We've also put some picnic tables and chairs in Marrall Woodland, on the right as you progress down the bridleway. A great place for a mini feast and lots of pleasurable fun, we think. As usual we try to help people enjoy themselves, in our rather casual and informal way. 

tf
For the winners of the raffle see page 9.
Thank you to Emma Cripwell for the photograph.



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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Don't be a Daisy Duke

Until this morning, I felt confident that I was on top of some of the more mundane aspects of life, such as whether I was indoors or outdoors. I always thought the *door* bit gave it away. Surely, if I've gone out of a place through an external door, I'm outdoors? Equally, going into a place through an external door places me firmly indoors? Is that your understanding, too? Well, maybe we've all got it wrong. Since our local MP was being interviewed by Mr Marr this morning, I thought I'd listen in and, hopefully, resist the usual temptation on these occasions to hurl a large, heavy object at the TV. Unusually, he managed to distract me completely from any thoughts of TV destruction by asserting that people were struggling to understand indoors and outdoors, and that he thought there was a need for simplification. My worry now is that I thought it was simple enough in the first place. Have I been getting it wrong? Have we all been getting it wrong? Answers on a postcard to Ed, please, if you can shed some light on this. Meanwhile, we're off to Wales to enjoy a few days outdoors (I think), before the weather changes and we all have to spend our time indoors (possibly). None of this flying off to somewhere that's off the quarantine list, only to get there and find it's now firmly on the quarantine list, for us. We'll have a staycation. What can go wrong with that, I thought? After careful research, I established that most of the rest of the country seemed to have had the same thought. The UK was virtually fully booked in September, which is good news for all those businesses reliant on tourists. Unfortunately, the only hotel with rooms available (which I booked immediately I found it for fear of being gazumped by another holidaymaker) was in the county next door to Caerphilly, which was put into *special measures* about five minutes after I booked our trip. So maybe two days away will turn into two weeks and

two days? Perhaps a lockdown will be imposed, and we'll be required to stay in Wales for the foreseeable future? Thankfully, I also learned this morning that it's OK to break the law if you feel comfortable doing it, so it'll be down to me and my conscience whether I stay put or leap into the car and drive back across the Welsh border like Daisy Duke in the General. For anyone too young to remember Daisy Duke, she lived in Hazzard County with her cousins Bo and Luke, the Dukes of the eponymous Hazzard. The General was a car, of course, with doors that didn't seem to open, as people just jumped in and out through the windows. Maybe even then there was some confusion about the purpose of doors and their role in making you *in* or *out*. Looking back, Daisy wasn't a great feminist icon, as all she did was hang about pouting, wearing a pair of very short shorts. They don't make them like the Dukes of Hazzard any more, for which we should all be truly grateful. I think that, if push comes to shove, I'll stay put, as I know that I wouldn't feel comfortable breaking the law. Besides, the weather's looking good for the next few weeks, so Mr Mantelpiece and I will be able to enjoy the great Welsh outdoors to our heart's content. I think; outdoors is the bit with the beaches, the sea, and the cliffs, right??



Mrs Mantelpiece

And Almost Finally...

We are living in a time of rapidly developing new buzz words: social distancing; flattening the curve; self isolation; herd immunity; staycation? It took me a minute to work that one out - OK I'm dyslexic, (I think it means, not holidaying abroad?) It has been used in two separate articles in this month's ramblings, no, we won't be giving a prize to the first person to name said articles; you don't seem to be a very reward driven lot anyway. While thinking about prizes, I hope, even if you don't send in the crossword

solution or inundate us with beautiful photographic records of the villages in 2020, you will at least claim the 100/500 club win. As to the raffle prizes, if you don't want yours, I'll have it. I'll sign off with the obligatory closing buzz words, stay safe,

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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