

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

July 2021

Village News

Summer is Acoming in

*Pictures clockwise from top left:
The cutest sheep in the parish? See page 3;
Sinister alien invasion? see page 12;
What were they burning on the downs? Was it the
wicker man? See page 10, and
A gorgeous green hairstreak butterfly. See Dickie's
Diary page 6.*



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



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SN6 8QB

School Report

Unbelievably, we are now starting our final school term of the year! Our value this term is *truthfulness*. It's amazing the secrets that come out when having this discussion in class . . .from sneaking sweets and ice-cream through to hiding spillages. They always seem happy to admit to a teacher and can always justify why they shouldn't share with a parent!

It was a quieter term before we broke up for the June break. We had a day of team games to continue to reinforce friendships with each other and then a highly exciting and boundary breaking day at PGL Lyddington. The children absolutely loved being outside, and their comfort zones were put to the test. KS1 explored buggy building, sensory trail (blindfolds on!), an obstacle course, and climbing. KS2 (you could hear the screams from Bishopstone, I expect) took part in a giant swing, trapeze, raft building (and lake-falling in, accidentally on purpose type thing), and archery. It was an exhilarating and exhausting day (that's just the teachers) and there was one point where the heavens opened and a storm broke . . .as I was with the younger children I felt like a mother hen trying to shield them from the torrential rain. We came out



the other side stronger and more determined, if rather wet, with a change of clothes required. Miss Pearson then dried trainers under the hand dryer while I tried to keep the piles of clothing with the right child. This is harder than it sounds when they range from the age of five with an apparent need to walk around whilst changing, with the occasional drop of an item once they have finished with it. We have continued with our sports clubs and also run a few *one off* clubs around various types of art. The children were mesmerised by the patterns created by marbling, and I think they would have sat there all night, dropping coloured inks, swishing them around and then dipping in the paper. I think it is so rewarding that something so simple – water, ink, and paper can cause an hour of total mindfulness for them, especially with all that has occurred over the last year. We got to watch Swindon Musicians perform a *strings roadshow* virtually for us, and then took a well-earned half term break. Our final term will see slight changes but things are slowly returning to normal. There are no residential trips this year but we are planning a few secret things for our wonderful year six children, to ensure we send them off with as many memories as possible.

Time to go and teach . . . we have a gladiator in school all of today . . .say no more!

Emma Lindsay

Not Only the Cutest Sheep in the Parish, but in the World

Many years ago, Sarah and Joe Smith used to farm sheep commercially, before moving to Redlands and switching to cattle. Now that they live in Hinton with smaller paddocks, they keep a flock of Valais blacknose sheep. These sheep originate from the Valais region of Switzerland, where they were first recorded in 1400. It took over 500 years, however, for them to be recognised. They were registered as a breed in 1962. They are notable for their wool, and each sheep produces 4 kilos per year, which is used in rug and felt making. Even though they are non-seasonal breeders and have two sets of lambs a year, in Britain they are very rare, with only 400 being recorded here in 2016. They are likely to remain rare as now Switzerland has banned their export. Sarah told me that several local children have volunteered to be apprentice shepherds to look after these adorable creatures.

(see photograph by Sarah Smith front page)

Ed

Mercy, who works for the NHS near London



Four questions to ponder

If you like a change, why not take paper and pen, and answer these questions. Who knows what you will find?

- Why?
- Why not?
- Why not you?
- Why not now?

Feel free to call for a chat and, maybe book a complimentary wellness evaluation with a body scan.

07832 193 362 peter@swepan.com

Bishopstone Village Hall

SAT 14/7 OR 24/7 DIY SOS PDQ

RSVP. etc

If you've decoded this then you're on the first steps to joining us for some painting at the Village Hall! I was going to call the project Operation *Muriel* but Banksy won't be available. I was once told if you have to explain jokes they are not usually funny... Anyway back to it ... Before you get too excited, it's more of the roller and edging type painting than your still life fruit bowls and nudes. Aka decorating the exterior walls and windows. We have the paint/brushes/rollers, motivational chants, and encouragement but lack peoplepower. We are thinking of publishing one of these dates above on the Village Facebook Page during the week before, since this will be weather dependant. Providing we drum up a few hands we'll make a morning of it and provide refreshments etc. The jury is still out on the Salmon Pink vs Elephants' Back colour scheme. Meanwhile we plan our

Village Hall AGM
6.30pm 19th July

Bookings & Enquiries:

Richard Walker 791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Hinton Village Hall



The hall is open for bookings, subject to the restrictions that currently apply. We are hoping that all restrictions will have been lifted by the time you read this, so that we can get back to something more normal. So, if you've got a birthday or anniversary coming up and want to hold a party, or you need a place to hold a meeting or a class, or simply want to celebrate the fact that you can meet up with friends and relatives again, we've got just the place.

The pricing policy is very straightforward - £7.00 per hour for residents of Hinton Parva or Bishopstone, and £9.00 per hour for those outside the Parish.

If you would like to view the hall, or make a booking, please contact:

Janet Hawkins 01793 791 391

and leave a message on the answerphone if there is no answer. We will get back to you asap.

Planters are being put in place along the roadside, to improve the look of the hall and the village, and to allow greater use of the open space in the front of the hall; look out for those over the next month or so.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with maintenance and cleaning - the hall only remains available thanks to the contributions made by fellow villagers, so if you have half an hour to spare a month and think you could help in any way, then please contact Rod:

peck34@john-lewis.com

In the meantime, please enjoy the steps to freedom, but also remember to keep yourself and others safe and well.

Rod and Ken

On behalf of the Committee

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

Sun and fun and we only had to go as far as Hinton Parva! What a special occasion, the first time for many months when we were all able to meet together. The sun shone on us as we shared a delicious afternoon tea and an *alternative* flower, craft, and produce competition. We were fortunate to enjoy this occasion in a beautiful garden courtesy of Hazel and Peter Cook. We extend our thanks to them. We look forward to our July meeting which will be a guided walk around Brampton, led by Stewart Smith, who will share the history of this lovely village with us.

12th August - Indian block printing with Clare Walsh.

9th September - *An accidental violinist* with Helen Dearnly.

14th October - Songs from the shows with Ray Dance and Judith Sharp.

11th November - Tales from an MOD/police dog-handler David Williams.

9th December - Christmas Celebration.

Recently we have been pleased to welcome new members to our WI, should anyone else wish to join us, or if you would like further information, please contact me on 790 432.

Judith Evans

Recycling Matters



Have you seen the proliferation of bamboo products now on the market? Bamboo could be one of our great green hopes! Not only is it being used as an alternative for single-use plastic for toothbrushes, crockery, cutlery, plasters etc., it's also being used as a more eco-friendly alternative to cotton in sheets, towels, and clothing. This is because bamboo doesn't need pesticides or fertilisers, grows quickly, uses less water but yields more per acre, is self-replenishing, produces more oxygen, and absorbs greenhouse gases. The fibres are strong, durable and, therefore, longer-lasting but the fabric is soft, anti-bacterial, breathable, and wicks perspiration away from the skin.

As mentioned last month, I've been trialing reusable makeup remover pads which contain this wonder-plant. You simply put your used pads into the little laundry bag provided and include them in your weekly wash. My first problem was merely a logistical one - deciding what to do with the used pads before wash day - it didn't seem right to toss them into the laundry basket. My second problem was that the pads can still be stained, depending on the make-up, after being washed. Reading reviews, this is apparently just an aesthetics issue, but it does feel off-putting, cleaning your face with something that appears dirty. To counteract this, some brands can be washed at higher temperatures (mine specify 30 degrees) and, unusually, some are black - so that mascara stains wouldn't be so noticeable. Rinsing them with soap and water immediately after use may also help. Some more recommendations I like the look of: First of all, **the Goodclub.co.uk** website. They're trying to make

grocery shopping as eco-friendly as possible and offer both zero waste staples and sustainable brands delivered to your door. Unusually, they seem very competitive with the major supermarkets on price and if you don't save more than your membership fee over the course of a year, will refund the difference. They also offer a free trial for the first month, plus you can get cashback through the Topcashback website. (Please contact me via the Ed if you're not already a member of TCB (I'm a big fan!) and are interested, and I'll donate my referral bonus to the charity of your choice.) Finally, another food waste app you might want to try out – *Too Good To Go*. This lets you buy a *Magic Bag* of surplus food locally at around 1/3 of the full price.

Karen Walker

Pete's Puzzle - Animated Dogs

Don't forget that if you send us the correct solution you could win a



Community Café
12 - 4.30pm Saturday, 31st July
Lyddington Village Hall.

Our cafe will be indoor and outdoor.
Last Saturday of the month.
Live music from local artists and international musicians of **Sounds Like Women**, plenty of homemade cakes, teas, coffee, traditional soup and other stalls
Supported by local community and Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services.

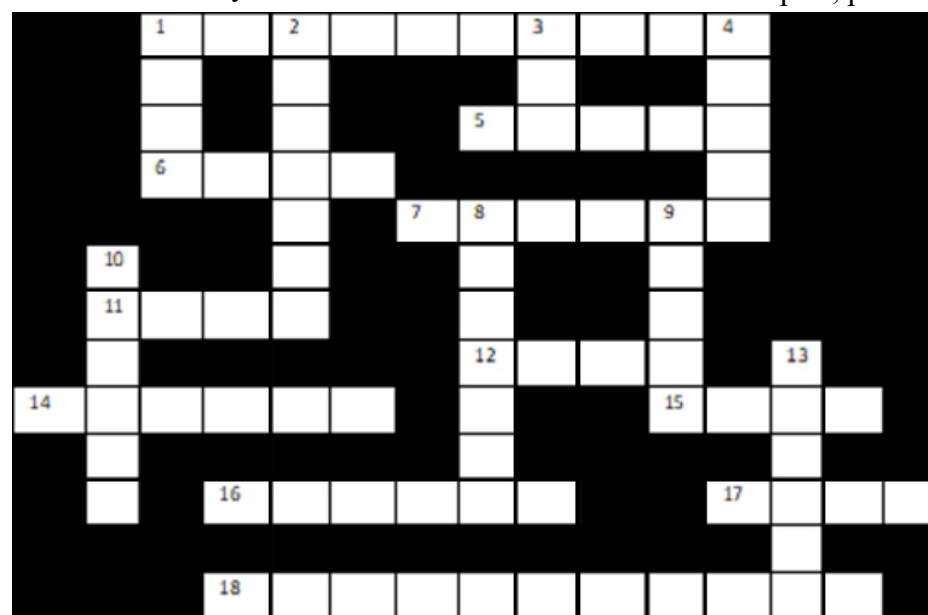
Contact 01793 790 265

There will be NO café in June



Royal Oak voucher worth £10.00.

Also, does anybody have any ideas for future crossword topics, please?



All of the answers are fictional dogs that can be seen in films, TV shows, newspaper strips, or children's books. As an additional clue, I've added the year they first appeared. Please submit your completed crosswords to the Editor by the 10th of the month:

mogsboon@hotmail.com or 790 626 or stick the answers through my letterbox Brock Cottage, Hinton.

Answers to June Crossword

Across: (1) Cat in the Hat; (4) Simba; (5) Stimp; (6) Bagheera; (8) Khan; (10) Bagpuss; (13) Cheshire; (16) Felix and (17) Sylvester.

Down: (1) Custard (2) Tom; (3) Topcat; (5) Scar; (7) Hobbes; (9) Duchess; (11) Sheer; (12) Garfield; (14) Nala and (15) Jess.

June winners: Dave Whitaker and Debbie Clark

Across

1. Southern second in comand 1959. (6 & 4)
5. He's a bit of a stink 1956/61. (5)
6. Girl in a tequila dystopia 1955. (4)
7. Sour face in ropy do 1943. (6)
11. Acceptable childcare? 1953. (4)
12. This perisher has adequate footwear 1959. (4)
14. It's magic round about here with this Scottish-sounding dog 1963. (6)
15. Overdose that is a fat cat's friend. 1978 (4)
- 16 & 3 D. This pesky Dane loves snacks 1969. (6)
17. Can you see this one? 1987. (4)
18. Is this adventurer looking for Clementine? 1958. (11)

Down

1. This herb is an alternative supermarket 1968. (4)
2. V's CI mate rid tape around 1956/61. (7)
3. See 16A. (3)
4. Slime for your information no idea Initially 1932. (5)
8. Goes well with custard, but watch the spelling 1974. (7)
9. This orange planet is a dwarf 1937. (5)
10. He'd make a good private eye, especially looking for peanuts 1950. (6)
13. Stitched up like this fish 1997. (6)



Bishopstone is about to say goodbye to Rob and Jo Selbourne. Having retired from farming at Prebendal Farm, they are moving to Broad Hinton. Despite the long-lasting consequences of a nasty motor accident as a young man, and with less than ideal corn drying and storage, he has done well at Prebendal. Over the years, Rob and Jo have generously allowed their gardens to host summer fêtes, and the popular biennial musical parties on the lawn, all in aid of village and church funds. Jo's parents were popular tenants of the Royal Oak; and she headed up the 100 club for many years and Rob was formerly a parish councillor.

Their departure will end 117 years of unbroken association with his family. His grandfather Bob Wilson moved to Prebendal with his father, James Henry, arriving as new tenants of the church commissioners in 1904. His uncles had been farming tenants of the church at Idstone from 1866. The Wilsons were important Wiltshire and Berkshire farmers and dealers over several earlier generations. Grandfather Bob, supported by his wife Edith, had such an interesting life as soldier, churchman, shot, writer, and farmer. As a soldier in the Great War, he took part in what may have been the last cavalry charge in the Sinai Peninsula, and was awarded the MC. He was central to village life, and church warden at St Mary's for many years. He was a marvellous shot and I remember him, on his 80th birthday, still recovering from shingles, telling me that he was seeing double and didn't know which one to aim for! His writings, *Just for a Lark* and *The Sparrow Hunters*, are a wonderful record of former times. As a farmer, he also took on Manor Farm in 1938, survived the Depression, exported sheep to Russia, and

had two daughters - Nancy who with husband Frank, took on Manor Farm and Patricia who followed on with her husband, Bill, at Prebendal. Bill Selbourne, Robbie's father was an ebullient character. He was very friendly with his neighbour Bob Browning and my wife's uncle, William (Bill) Arkle, who later farmed near Perth, Western Australia and is still going aged 95 over there. At Patricia's funeral we learnt that she had played a hush-hush secret role in war time. Bishopstone will miss them and their service to the community.

On Saturday, June 5th there was a good hatch (30 seen) of marsh fritillary butterflies up the National Trust Hinton Parva Valley and two



Marsh fritillary

green hairstreaks were spotted, one there and one on Russley Downs the same day. The green hairstreak was a first for me, with dark brown upper wings and lime green under wings showing at rest, with wings closed.

Dickie Green

I must just add to this that Bob Wilson instigated the archaeological excavation at Starveall on the downs above Bishopstone, where Bernard Phillips and team uncovered a Roman villa.

Ed

Bishopstone Stores

Well, the sunshine has certainly made an appearance – what a glorious month

June has been! Things have finally started to grow, and the countryside is looking beautiful.

Exciting times here in the shop with the launch of our very own Helen Browning's Organic Fudge! Up until this point all I knew about fudge was that it is delicious and comes in lots of flavours that you simply have to try! So, a bit of research was required...

Although the exact origin of fudge is a little unclear, it seems that the most likely scenario is that it was accidentally created when a batch of caramels went wrong and the confectioner making them let out a cry of *Oh Fudge!* Being Valentines Day in 1886 he decided to taste them and realised that, although they were not as he had intended, they were in fact decidedly good! Fudge was born and, despite many people believing it to be a British invention, this actually all happened in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Different versions have developed over the years – French Fondant Candy, Scottish Tablet, and Penuche, found in Southern America, but the traditional fudge remains a firm favourite.

Our wonderful fudge is made by hand, in a purpose built fudge kitchen in Devon, where they use traditional large copper pots for beating. The ingredients used are locally sourced, organic certified and, where possible, fairtrade. Andrew and his team have been making fudge for over 30 years and have definitely perfected their recipe. All the packaging is compostable, whether you choose the bags or boxes. The only thing you need to do is decide which flavour is your favourite! Choose from Clotted Cream, Vanilla, Sea Salt, or Chocolate – and if you can't make up your mind there is a box of assorted... We also have a dairy free vegan option... Give them a try and let us know what you think!

Enjoy the sunshine!

Lynne Muir

Bishopstone Stores Opening Times

9.00am - 5.00pm Mon - Thurs,

9.00am - 6.00pm Fri & Sat

10.00am - 2.00pm Sun



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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	4th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	5 th Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	11th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	6 th Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	18th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	St. Swithun			
Sunday	25th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	James the Apostle			
Sunday	1st August	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	9 th Sunday after Trinity			

Still social distancing and masks as we now know that the government has announced that the present policy is continuing until at least the 19th July.

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

St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

July	Sarah Best & Jenny Isles
August	Liz Warwick & Jane Manktelow
September	Rachel Blunt & Caryn Greenhalgh
October	Lorna Ford & Linda Matthews
November	Jill White & Karen MacGregor
December	Fran Shishton & Karen Stevens

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,
During the past few months many people have asked *when will we get a new Vicar?* Each time I have replied that there is work to be done before the process of appointing someone new begins to take place. I also believe

that the preparation for that process to begin will take about a year.

I can almost hear the cry *Why?* and I will try to explain the reasoning to you. Firstly, it has been a difficult time for the churches and our communities with the closure of our churches due to the pandemic, the uncertainty of when we can get back to a new kind of normal, and the suspension of our previous Vicar. Phil and I were appointed by the Archdeacon to step in and provide for the worship and pastoral care of the parishioners. We have been asked to help the four parishes of our Benefice to work more closely together, sharing resources where possible, and plan for the future. All of which takes time.

Those elected to our PCCs at the Annual Parochial Meetings in April will meet together as a Benefice Forum. This will give us time to really get to know one another and the issues each church and community face – all of which will help us plan for the present and the future.

If you have any comments, thoughts, or issues you would like us to explore, then please do get in touch. We are there for the Church and the communities we serve.

As a Church – in Lyddington, Wanborough, Bishopstone & Hinton Parva - we are there for you and it is a great privilege to welcome you into them. It is also a great privilege to be set in the midst of our communities as a sign of God's presence with us. A permanent reminder that God is there to share in our happy and sad occasions, the difficult and challenging times, each and every day. *Thank You God!*

With love and prayers

Sandy

Revd Sandy Railton:

01793 814 162 or 07867 525 641
Email: sandyrailton@icloud.com

Revd Phil Ashby:

01793 978 528 07807 789 649
Email: revphilashby@gmail.com

Parish Contacts

The Vicar: The Parish is in vacancy. Parish service cover and pastoral care is being provided by the Rev Sandy Railton. Please contact her through the new Benefice email
villagechurches@gmail.com

PCC Vice Chair – Alan Taylor

01793 791 666

R2attayloralan@aol.com

Church wardens:

St Mary's

Doug Stevens 07899 791 833

dougstevens1966@gmail.com

Joint warden

David Aitken 07738 242 765 boobooks.books@gmail.com

St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148 tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Karen Stevens 01793 791 107 kschurchview@gmail.com

From Farming Fields to Muddy Trenches (updated 2021)

This fully illustrated booklet contains additional information of individuals from Hinton and Bishopstone who took part in the Great War of 1914-18.

Back in 2020, during family history research, a new soldier for Bishopstone was uncovered. This prompted more investigations of the records to establish whether there were any further individuals whose details have come to light since the publication of the original book in 2014.

As a result, ten new individuals have been found, for Bishopstone (two deaths and eight survivors) and new military details have emerged about a further two. For Hinton, one new individual was found and two others indentified where previous military details required amendment.

In addition, new records were found for men who had served in the military prior to the outbreak of the Great War, six from Bishopstone and four from Hinton.

This supplement, along with the original publication, provides a comprehensive account of the contribution the small Wiltshire villages of Hinton Parva (Little Hinton) and Bishopstone made in the turbulent years of the Great War, and pays tribute to the men and women living in the villages at the time.

Booklet price: £4

Postage and packaging: £2.00

If you are interested in purchasing this booklet it can be done in any of the following ways:

1) Either collect a copy from Nigel Crisp, Willow House, Hinton Parva or email admin@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org with your address and one will be hand delivered at a time to suit.

2) Please send cheque for £6.00 made payable to P.A. Williams along with the address label below, to: Mr P. A. Williams, 1 Baird Close, Shaw, Swindon SN5 5QZ.



Wanborough Farmers' Market

Saturday 17th July

9.00am - noon

Wanborough Village Hall,

High Street, SN4 0AD

**(parking available at
The Harrow)**

Face coverings might or might not be mandatory – be prepared for anything! There is likely to be no market in August if the village show goes ahead – some of our traders can be found there.

As always, check the village website

www.wanborough.info

or contact Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Gardening Tips for July

Looking out of the window as we put together the newsletter the sun is shining and summer has arrived. What does that mean? It means going outside and doing energetic things, mowing the lawn, hoeing, weeding and so forth.

So here are a few things that, we are reliably informed, one should be up to (not that we want to make you feel guilty or anything):

- Deadheading lupins;
- Cutting back daffodil foliage;
- Trimming new growth off trained plums and cherries to maintain shape;
- Removing yellowing water lily leaves;
- Planting out dahlias; put in supports;
- Applying liquid fertiliser to lawn;
- Putting slug barriers e.g. wool pellets round plants;
- Mixing up compost;
- Pruning Clematis armandii;
- Keeping containers watered.

Or, if you are like me, enthusiastically putting up a deck chair under a tree, mixing yourself a G & T or a Pimms, sitting down and enjoy. . . possibly having a little snooze.

Ed, with help from features editor

Order Form (Please complete this which will be used as the label for posting)

Name of Recipient

Full postal address



Did you see this going up in flames last month? The burning question - was it because of (a) or (b)?

(a) Flaming Spears or Similar...

It was the work of an unknown London artiste; she and my son Sam, a film maker, were making some different advertising and social media footage for a London based perfume/fragrance company, and this Wicker Man style performance fitted their needs. They chose this farm for its high-ground, accessible setting; they needed a vivid sunny sunset, hence the day they chose (some luck involved), and wanted to shoot in cine film, not digital, for a retro look. It's for broadcast sometime in the next two months.

TF

(b) On the Other Hand

This mystery might have gone unsolved if I, a former Bishopstone resident, now living in Cornwall, had not seen the photograph when I made a flying visit to see the Editor and suggested it may be a re-enactment of an old Cornish tradition *Crying the Neck*, which is still car-

ried out in a field near my new home in Liskeard.

Crying the Neck is a West Country harvest custom, where a corn dolly is made from the last sheaf and is hung in church for the year. The origins of the custom may lie in pagan sacrifice, with the last cut of the harvest symbolically killing the harvest spirit (there are a few theories) as the harvesters chant an ancient rhyme.

Yma genef! Yma genef! Yma genef! Cornish for I 'ave it, I 'ave it, I 'ave it" ...

This custom has been revived in several locations, but perhaps one of the best known is at Liskeard, and I was invited to the ceremony in 2019 by members of Old Cornwall Society. According to tradition, the sheaf is cut at Bolitho Farm, near the church where I am a bellringer. A short service follows in a corner of the field, conducted by members of the local

clergy, then the sheaf is set on fire and Cornish Heavy Cake served.

During Crying the Neck the master of ceremonies finds the last patch of corn in the field and cuts it with a traditional scythe (a long handled sharp hook). He shouts *I 'ave 'un! I 'ave 'un! I 'ave 'un!* and those present shout back, *What 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee?*

Everyone joins in the shouting: *Hurrah! Hurrah for the neck! Hurrah for Mr. So-and-So* (calling the farmer by name.)

The ceremony was given in the Cornish language as well as in English, but it remains possible, I suggest, that something had been lost in translation.

An Tregher (the reaper) – *Yma genef! Yma genef! Yma genef!*

An Re erel (the others) – *Pandr'us genes? Pandr'us genes? Pandr'us genes?*

An Tregher – *Pen Yar! Pen Yar! Pen Yar!*

An Re erel – *Houra! Houra! Houra!*
Jane McCutchan



Oscar and Noodle watch the digger

for a modern building. Now the land is being cleared. Let us hope the building is worthy of the site.

Photograph left by Sheila Collins


The End of an Era

May of us were distressed when, in spite of a preservation order, the Hovel, by Bishopstone pond, was destroyed by a developer to make way



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Remain seated, all seven of you. Today's sermon is going to tackle the issue of local institutional vandalism, and the small increase in local wildlife to be wary of.

It's probably a bit late to join the chorus on this one, but I am simply astonished and dismayed, along with hundreds of you, at what the so-called *developers* are being allowed to do in their pursuit of thousands of new houses and, probably, a ho ho science park in that patch between Swindon and Wanborough. Those of us in domestic life, dealing with Swindon's planners, have to perform several application loops and jump considerable hurdles before we can chop down a tree branch with a diameter of more than 6 inches, or install an additional dormer window; and even then they might say no, and send someone round for a snoop. But it seems that if you're wanting to build 5,000 new homes, or erect a ho ho science park, you can do what you want—to the extent that the first time I drove off Common Head roundabout in April, onto the Wanborough exit, I thought I'd taken the wrong road. Every single tree, bar one, and every single piece of the hedge, had been murdered. And, two days later, the last poor tree came out. Apart from anything else, it's completely changed the landscape, as it has as you drive or cycle up the hill towards Wanborough, or the road between Covingham and Wanborough. Instead of fluffy hedges, relatively full of life, we now have old hedge debris, rotting stumps and water filled, stagnant muddy ruts. There is so much to say and so little space

to say it! These trees and hedges were removed at the time of the year when bird life is breeding; nests with eggs would have been bull-dozed. In this environmentally hyper conscious age we're in, if this is not institutionally sanctioned criminal activity, what is? What was wrong with these hedges and trees? They were not exactly in the way of the bulldozers and diggers, unlike the fetid fences they are now sticking up. And the poor people who are going to occupy the wetlands and marshes in this low lying area, in their houses and distribution depots (sorry, Science Park), would they not have appreciated a hedge or a tree to screen them from the road?

Just how does this happen? And why? Is any thought or consideration given to this aspect of these foul developments, while all the time Swindon Borough Council rub their hands at the thought of more rates, and more people to lord it over? It is an utter disgrace.

By the way, I am not against change and progress. I just think it's always done, and allowed to be done, by cack-handed oafs who have no vested interest in the consequences, except for the dosh they'll collect.

As for the wildlife, we've noticed more snakes around the villages. We have seen more slow worms and grass snakes in the past couple of years, accelerated by COVID quietness we assume; recently there've been sightings of more poisonous reptiles, eg - two or three adders we think, in Bishopstone alone. If you see them give them a wide berth, because they need to be left in peace and in no way disturbed. The Australian method

of hitting them on the head with a shovel apparently has no effect at all. Pip pip

TF



Small Ermine Moths

Spotted in a number of locations. Ghostly silken webbing covering sections of hedgerows and shrubs. Although looking rather sinister the most likely culprit is a harmless caterpillar. The striking and obvious webs hide hundreds of caterpillars of a group of moths called the Small Ermine moths. The webs will slowly disappear and the adult moths fly later in the summer, greyish, whiteish with many black dots, hence the ermine name.

Reference www.butterfly-conservation.org. Butterfly Conservation is the UK wildlife charity dedicated to saving butterflies, moths, and our environment.

Bob unpaid etc.



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I could Be Wrong

It's here again - that confusing time when there's so much excellent sport to watch on TV that you really don't want to leave the sofa, despite the tropical sunshine and quasi-release from lockdown. Oh - and as well as the excellent sport, England's playing footie again. I'm not putting that into the 'excellent' category, as experience has shown that football never comes home, no matter how much we want it to. It packed its little spotted handkerchief sometime in the 1960s, set off on a road trip, and hasn't been seen since.

I suspect that the gardens of sports fanatics are easy to spot at the moment - they're the ones that have either entirely disappeared under cleavers and bindweed, or were paved over a few years ago in a cunning bid to make venturing forth with a lawn mower entirely unnecessary.

Those of you who've been paying attention will realise that I said something very similar about six years ago, in one of the first rambles I wrote for this august publication. Since the pressure to apply finger to keyboard on a monthly basis sometimes weighs a bit heavy, there's quite a temptation to simply resubmit former pieces in the hope that no-one would notice. (Yes, Ed - I know. You'd notice.) I suspect that Dearly Beloved, who some time ago wrote monthly pieces for an industry publication, occasionally delved into his back-catalogue, swapping a few words and keeping his fingers crossed that no-one caught him out.

Indeed, it's impossible to see how some of those niche magazines can possibly print something fresh and interesting in every copy. I used to have a subscription to a running magazine (a magazine for runners, you understand, rather than a publication that whizzed about the place, and wouldn't sit still to be read). After a while, it was easy to see that there's a limited amount to say about running. I think the magazine would have ceased to exist fairly quickly if not for the amazing proliferation of new pieces of 'essential' kit. Luckily, I didn't need to buy these, as I had the maga-

zine, the reading of which on a regular basis would improve my fitness levels no end. Isn't that the way it works??

Well - I can't linger. I have tennis to watch, flowerbeds to weed, and then I need to ensure there are plenty of boxes of tissues available ready for the weeping and wailing which will surely accompany England's match tomorrow in the Euros. Before I go, I'll impart a pearl of wisdom I heard yesterday. Apparently, there's no sight on earth more unpleasant than a professional tennis player's feet. That's very hard to believe, but not something I'm keen to explore personally. If one of you happens to be a chiropodist (or a professional tennis player), perhaps you could enlighten us all - drop a note to Ed. But no photos, please; we don't want to frighten the horses.

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

Last month I asked if anybody would like to help with the

newsletter come the time when I have to hand over the reins. To my delight, Emma Cripwell has volunteered, bless her. I know that she will do a wonderful job, there were a few other offers too; thanks, chaps.

I was quite excited to read in Lynne's article that they are selling fudge at Bishopstone stores, Sea salt fudge sounds interesting. I must shimmy over and purchase some. Also, I adore the thought of using *Oh fudge!* as an expletive; it will broaden my vocabulary.

It's mid-summerish and is actually fairly hot, but I have a confession to make; I don't really like summer. Spring is OK; when the days are pleasantly warm and the nights chilly. I can handle chilly, just put more clothes on or run about, but there are only so many clothes that you can take off. There is all that watering the garden, mowing, flies in the kitchen, wasps in the jam. Autumn is fine, the nights draw in; I enjoy

that too, snuggled in front of the fire reading a book, perhaps a brisk trot to the pub and sit by the fire there. But long light summer evenings, you can keep those!

Not to worry, soon be autumn, mists and mellow fruitfulness.

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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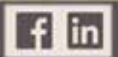


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