

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

June 2021

Village News



Getting Back to Normal

As I write this, in the middle of May, lockdown is beginning to ease, six people will soon be allowed to meet indoors, and almost 20,000,000 people have received their two vaccinations.

Meanwhile, in the parish, things are starting to happen.

Top left: Hinton's new 'phone box swap, *see page 4* (photograph Mandy Ridler). Top right: Sounds Like Women Community Café, *see page 3* (photograph Fiona McAnespie). Bottom: Gardening Club plant sale, *page 12* (photograph Steve Bell).



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



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Whatleys Orchard,
Bishopstone,
Wiltshire,
SN6 8QB

School Report

Everyone has returned to school after Easter  with a spring in their step; the endless ducklings on the pond help (although they are also vanishing at a rate of knots).

Our value this term in school is *Service*. We started the term by looking at the book *What We'll Build*. A wonderful story, which focuses on a father sharing with his daughter the challenges and achievements that could occur over the next few years for them. It has fitted in not only with our school value but also the situation that we have regarding Covid19. Written by Oliver Jeffers, it's certainly a lovely bedtime reading book with your child, and has it allowed endless discussions within class as the illustrations are a story in themselves.

We now have our sports clubs back up and running. This includes dodge ball and we have a new dance teacher, Jenna, who is focusing this term on street dance. It amazes me what the children learn and achieve in just an hour . . . I am still trying to master move number one and they have a complete dance (and I am aware I probably look more heron than graceful swan!).

All the children from Reception through to Year 6 took part in an interactive online safety workshop. This

was brought to us via the internet by Richard from *The Stay Safe Initiative*. We have found that an intensive focus allows the children to get a really good understanding of a subject that is so broad, yet so relevant to them. I sometimes feel that they are teaching us what is *out there* online. It also included them taking part in an activity which involved squeezing out a tube of toothpaste, reminding them that *once words have been said they cannot be taken back again*. A valuable lesson that we should always remember.

We have had the wonderful artist and author Mark Robertson in school, creating the most amazing dragon pictures with the children, and exploring with them how he became an illustrator. He was truly inspirational and made us realise how much the school has missed all our visitors and trips over this last 18 months.

Finally, last week we joined Pinewood School online, this time for Year 5 and 6 to take part in a chemistry workshop which was beamed to us from Birmingham. There were some serious explosions to observe, liquids that changed colour and, of course, the underpinning science being shared in such a fun way. A big thank you to Pinewood for inviting us to take part. I was so impressed by our Year 5/6 children. It was a Friday, they were

asked to stay for an additional hour in school . . . and nearly all of them did. How lucky am I to have a school full of children who choose to stay extra time; I couldn't ask for more and appreciate them every day.

Emma Lindsay

Sounds Like Women

After many postponements due to Covid, on 24th April, the Sounds Like Women (SLW) Community Café opened its doors for the first time at Hinton Parva Village Hall. It was a massive success, offering both outdoor and takeaway services in a friendly and welcoming community setting. There were plenty of cakes and soups, plus live music from SLW artists Marina Avetisian, local Luiza Moir and Jo; Homemade by Women products were available to buy.

There was a brilliant atmosphere, in large part due to the wonderful, hard-working volunteers who kept the tea flowing and the cakes coming!

All proceeds from the café go towards supporting women and their communities through ongoing activities such as the café, musical and music therapy workshops, and community events.

The cafe will (Covid-willing) be open on the last Saturday of every month (see ad on page 5 for details of the next event).



This is my friend Lyndee. She decided to change, called her coach, set up a plan, and went from 113kg to 73kg, losing 40kgs!! (over 6 stone!!). Her son Ben has special needs, (non-verbal Autistic) with very limited food preferences. He went from XXL to M, losing over 30kgs. If you find this inspiring, call me for a chat:)

07832 193 362
peter@swepan.com

Hinton Village Hall



The Hall is open for bookings, subject to the restrictions that currently apply. We are hoping that all restrictions will be lifted from 21st June, 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 reply. We will get back to you asap.

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 Village Hall

Another Covid month passed by and all remained quiet on the Western Front; well, until polling day at least! Now the nail biting is over I'm pleased to report our borders remained intact. Our Covid safe Village Hall contingencies stood up to the test of voters in the SBC, local Crime Commissioner and PCC elections – well done to our Village Hall Team for all their *match fit* preparations.

Another step forward to post-Covid; we managed our first onsite Committee meeting yesterday. We discussed bookings, grants, cinema, maintenance, the new 500 club, and, most importantly, staffing levels. We are generally in very good shape but we are keen to

recruit a volunteer book-keeper/ accounts person to keep finances in order going forward. Do reach out to any of the team to discuss. Finally we plan to select a couple of dates for a Hall *Decoration Party*. We'll provide the paint, equipment, suitable refreshments, and as much banter as you can take. Watch this space. Finally, we are open for bookings again and already have dates in the diary for 2022, so do book early for your event. Bookings & Enquiries:

Richard Walker 791 913

richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Anyone wishing to join the 500 draw please email:

phil.collins13@icloud.com

with DD details.

Bishopstone Stores

9.00am - 5.00pm Mon - Thurs,

9.00am - 6.00pm Fri & Sat

10.00am - 2.00pm Sun

Hopefully, by the time you read this the May showers will be over, temperatures will have risen, and you'll be basking in glorious sunshine in the garden – either yours or the pub's!

Whatever this month brings for you, don't forget to pop into the shop for all your daily essentials... We can always deliver to you if that makes life easier?! If you aren't already using it, our refillable milk station is without doubt the way forward, and will unquestionably reduce the amount of plastic bottles being used! You are most welcome to bring your own bottles to fill but, if you don't have them, we sell lovely glass ones here for just £2 each. Every time you refill your bottles the milk is just £1.10 per litre – not half bad for local organic milk. Popular opinion means that the milk is semi-skimmed, and it is provided to us from Berkeley Farm in Wroughton. They take the milk from our lovely Friesian herd here at Eastbrook Farm and combine it with their own Organic Guernsey yield to produce the fabulously creamy milk. They also use it to make the delicious butter, double cream, and yoghurt that is always available here in the shop. It really is great to be selling produce that has such a

small amount of miles to travel while still being of exceptional quality. The origin of what we eat is so important to both our health and the planet.

We have now extended the shop opening hours slightly so that we can be here when you need us! Hope to see you all soon!

Lynne Muir

Phone Box Book Swap

The phone box at Hinton Village Hall has had a makeover. Out with the old payphone and in with the books. It is now a book and seed swap for the community.

It is open for everyone to use and, even if you don't have a book to swap, please feel free to take a book (or two!) If there's space on the shelves keep bringing your books. All we ask is that the books donated are in good condition. There are also garden seeds to exchange in the same way.

Val and Jan Brodin have done a fabulous job of firstly getting the phone box returned to its original site, and then undertaking the meticulous restoration. The interior has been fitted out with shelving to accommodate more than 100 books.

Val has found out a little more about the phone box. Originally, the crown embossed in the cast iron was painted the same red as the kiosk and then, in the 1990s, BT began to paint them gold as we became more interested in the history and heritage of street furniture. The Hinton phone box dates from before 1953 as it has a Tudor style crown. After the Queen's coronation, she requested that the crowns on all future phone boxes be replaced by the style used in her coronation. So, from 1953 onwards, they had the St Edward's crown embossed in the cast iron (the one with the little dent in the middle of the dome!) Happy phone box spotting.

If there is no space on the bookshelves please contact us and we will be happy to store any books until there is space. Contact:

Mandy Ridler 07794 260 492

mandyridler@gmail.com

Lesley Coates judithlcoates@aol.com

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI



10th June - A summer tea party / an alternative flower and handicraft show.

8th July - A Bampton Historical guided walk with Stewart Smith.

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.

Please contact me on
01793 790 432

if you would like further information.
Judith Evans

Community
Hinton Parva Village Hall
Cafe

Sounds Like Women

LAST Saturday of Every Month

Lovely teas, coffee, homemade cakes/soup
Live music & sale of products handmade by women

Opening time: 12 to 16:30

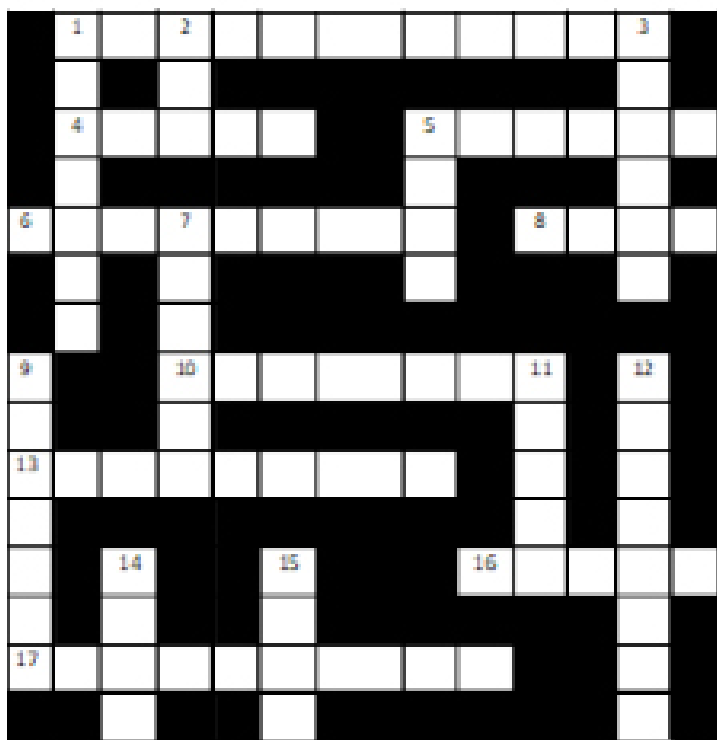
soundslikewomen.com

Responsible Community Interest Company number: 12842088

Saturday, 29th May & 26th June

Our cafe will be indoor and outdoor, in the front of Hinton Village Hall.
Live music from local artists and international musicians of **Sounds Like Women**, plenty of homemade cakes, teas, coffee, traditional soup. Supported by local community and Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Services.
Contact 01793 790 265

Pete's Puzzle - Animated Cats



All of the answers are fictional cats that can be seen in films, TV shows, or in newspaper strips. Some are named in the title of the work they are in, others are from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Jungle Book, Postman Pat, The Aristocats, The Lion King. 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.

Across

1. He's not Puss in Boots - 1957 (11).
4. Simon is a postgraduate - 1994 (5).
5. My tips are mixed up - 1991 (6).
6. This panther's in age rehab - 1894 (8).
8. See 11 down (4).
10. Sack cat - 1974 (7).
13. Northern county disappears slowly - 1865 (8).
16. I bet he likes this brand of cat food - 1919 (5).
17. He'd like a bit of pie - 1939/45 (9).

Down

1. You may have this with your pudding - 1974 (7).
2. Go back for a car check - 1940 (3).
3. He's higher than his friends - 1961 (6).
5. Four's uncle messes around with cars - 1994 (4).
7. He's not Bob - 1985 (6).
9. Kate or Camilla - 1970 (7)?
- 11 & 8A. This tiger's a hen shaker - 1894 (5).
12. A former President or Spiderman - 1976/78 (8).
14. Alan is up for this lioness - 1994 (4).
15. Black and white in green dale - 1981 (4).



May winners

Debbie Clark & Dave Whitaker

Answers to May Crossword

Across: (1) Mastermind; (7) Bagpuss; (8) Ellen; (9) Extras; (12) Brum; (15) Kojak; (16) Frasier; (18) Paddington and (19) Roots.

Down: (2) Angels (3) Thunderbirds; (4) Rosie; (5) Dallas; (6) Zen; (7) Butterflies; (10) Tenko; (11) Sykes; (13) Merlin; (14) Magpie and (17) Lost.



Writing for June, but its been so cold, even into May. Even so, I heard chiff chaffs as early as March 3rd, blackcaps in mid April, but swallows and martins have come later. Though some were seen in April I did not spot them until May 8th. I hope we can agree that I am not an habitual moaner but this month, I will share a number of frustrations.

The legal release of Chinese lanterns can cause fires and distress to farm animals. I see no reason not to make this illegal; it has already happened elsewhere. Fly tipping and rubbish dumped onto gateways and verges is growing. Eight mattresses were thrown onto the Spence's fields between Ashbury and Ashdown. We had a load of builder's rubbish dumped to block the entrance to Lammydown Farm. Walking our roadside fields at Ashdown in preparation for silage making, I collected six bottles and cans thrown into the field from passing cars. This tipped rubbish had to be moved from private property to the council verge from which the council are obliged to collect. Full marks to Oxon CC for attending so quickly. I have recently been up to Liddington Clump, where there are many memorial plaques to departed loved ones, but, peering into the old war time pillbox, I was met with a disgusting tip of bottles, cans, and detritus. What a contrast for those who would wish to remember their loved ones there.

There are reports of livestock farmers who have had nasty threats from vegans and the animal rights brigade, while they are innocently trying to make a living off grass which is an excellent carbon sink and still the most common crop in England. Nearly all farmers now have to lock everything up against theft. In rural south west France, which I know well, this is not necessary. We have to protect our crops with trenches to

stop 4 wheel drives and coursing cowboys violating our crops.

Lastly, it was so disappointing to find that the protective deer fencing we have erected does not meet with someone's vision of the countryside. The countryside code requires the public to shut gates as they pass through. This deer gate on a by-way towards Lambourn on our farm has been vandalised, with eye bolt hangers thrown away. Re-erected and in places welded, it still may not survive these vandals intact. I counted 90 fallow, all female does, up there this week in one herd. There will be more in June when they give birth.

Gilbert and Sullivan wrote that song about a policeman's lot not being a happy one. Nevertheless us farmers will persevere, stay happy most of the time and hope that this small minority who let the silent majority down will be brought to their senses one day for us all to enjoy the countryside responsibly.

Dickie Green

Recycling Matters

Hot on the heels of *Zombie Awareness Month* (May, US) and *National Sewing Machine Day* (13th June, UK) comes *Plastic Free July* (Worldwide). Yup, these are all genuine national awareness days! (And surely those Americans are leading far more exciting lives than we Brits?!!) Plastic Free July is an annual global initiative to reduce single-use plastic consumption and waste. You can find out more, get ideas about how to reduce your own usage and/or sign up to the challenge alongside an estimated 250 million other participants at plasticfreejuly.org. Hopefully, as the Coronavirus epidemic situation improves, we'll once again have more opportunities to buy food that isn't shielded in plastic packaging and (re-)use our own containers for our



purchases. Don't forget, plastic is for life, not just (plastic-free) for July!

And now for some inadvertent plastic consumption of a different kind you might not be aware of! Did you know that some teabags are sealed using a plastic called polypropylene or are made from a plastic material rather than paper? At the time of writing this includes big brands like Tetley and Yorkshire Tea, whereas PG Tips and Teapigs are plastic free. The manufacturers' websites that I looked at included a statement about their position on their use of plastic, so it should be relatively easy to check if you're concerned.

Did you know that chewing gum, unless marked as being of plant origin, is made from a butadiene-based synthetic rubber? This is a polymer plastic made from oil, similar to what car tyres are made of. (Yum!) It is indigestible and water insoluble and these virtually indestructible properties mean it will last for hundreds of years, possibly stuck, oh so attractively, to a pavement near you!

It's great to see that more manufacturers are now making it easier to recycle some of their less environmentally-friendly products. One of the latest to join is Gillette. They've joined forces with Terracycle to recycle any brand of razor and razor blades. You simply sign up at www.gillette.co.uk/recycle.list and they will send you a freepost envelope to collect and return them in. When received, the items are separated into their component parts. The plastic is ultimately turned into pellets which can be used to make such products as picnic tables and park benches, and the metal is sent for smelting and converted into new alloys. You can request up to four envelopes per year.

Finally, whilst we're on the personal care front, I'm currently trialing reusable makeup remover pads. Mine are made by Stylpro, are 70% bamboo and you put them in their little bag once used and add them to the weekly wash instead of using cotton wool or (nooooo!) disposable wipes. I'll let you know how I get on next month.

Karen Walker



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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	6th June	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	1 st Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	13th June	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	2 nd Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	20th June	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	3 th Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	27th June	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	4 th Sunday after Trinity			

Masks have to be worn and social distancing observed as before, during the pandemic.

Look out for notices about July Services. Following the Government announcements in June we hope to be able to provide more services in the Benefice. We might even be able to sing hymns again!!

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

St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

June	Jane Golding & Maggie Gill
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,

The church has just celebrated Pentecost Sunday (often called the birthday of the Church), when God sent his Holy Spirit to renew, encourage, and give strength to the disciples to boldly preach the gospel of Christ. This was

followed by Trinity Sunday, when we remembered that God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity – God is one and God is three in one.

In my study, I have Rublev's icon representing the Holy Trinity. Three figures are seated at a table, each one looking and bending towards the other, creating something of a circle of unity. They are bound together in love. That icon is a powerful reminder to me that Christians are called to love and work in unity.

That does not mean keeping the love between ourselves, but sharing it with everyone around us. It shows us that we must work together, not in isolation. We need one another to make a completeness.

At the Benefice Annual Meetings, new officers were elected for each of our four churches. That does not mean working in isolation – each must look to the other, making us one, learning from one another, supporting each other, and growing together. That way we will be able to serve our parishes in a better way.

There are signs of new life all around us – seeds sprouting, buds appearing on trees and shrubs, fruit beginning to form. The dominant colour

green is evident in many different forms, reminding us of new life and growth. Is it any surprise that, in church, the Sundays after Trinity have the liturgical colour green – reminding us again of new life, new growth, of being fed and nourished? Following the *lock down* we see signs of new life around us, looking forward to the opportunity to meet together again. May we take this opportunity to grow together in love – in our churches, in our families, in our communities, and in our world.

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



Your Newsletter Needs You

I expect the news has filtered through by now that I'm a bit poorly and likely to get more so. However, for the foreseeable future, my aim is to continue editing the newsletter and bossing everybody about.

We can always do with more help. As you probably also know, our excellent sub-editor is deserting us for fresh fields in a few months. So are there people out there dying to work on the newsletter? If not writing articles or sending pictures, perhaps suggesting topics for different articles you would like?

We would love to have the thoughts of younger people. Do get in touch.

Mogs (editor)

Wanborough Farmers' Market

Saturday 19th June

9.00am - noon

Wanborough Village Hall,

High Street, SN4 0AD

**(parking available at
The Harrow)**

Please wear a face covering and be prepared to give a contact number. Please also observe social distancing.

To confirm, keep an eye on the village website

www.wanborough.info

or contact Sue or David Birley:

01793 790 438

sbirley@gn.apc.org

Bag a Bargain.

NEARLY NEW DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE

Wellington Barn on Manor Farm,
Calstone, Calne, SN11 8PY

9th June 2021, 9 am - 7pm (£6 entry)
Booking tickets essential at
www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/news-events

Refreshments available

**Middlewick House
Open Garden,**

Middlewick House, Middlewick Lane,
Corsham, SN13 0PX

26th/27th June 2021,
11.00 am - 4.30pm

Entry fee £7, children under 12 are
free

The gardens at Middlewick House in Corsham, formerly the home of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and now home to Nick Mason of Pink Floyd and his wife, actress Annette Lynton Mason, are to be opened in aid of two local charities: Wiltshire Air Ambulance and The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

There will be a range of stalls selling everything from jewellery and accessories to food and homeware to browse. The refreshment barn will be open throughout the day with a delicious selection of cakes on offer and a BBQ will be providing hot dogs and burgers to sustain you whilst you wander the gardens and meet the animals.

The SSPG Case Against the Appeal on Inlands Farm Development

The South Swindon Protection Group has gained representation as one of the four Full Participants throughout the Inlands Farm Appeal. The others are Wasdell Group (the Appellant), Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and Highways England.

This is important because it means we will see all legal and tactical communications and be part of all discussions. This also enforces that the SSPG, as representatives of residents of South Swindon overwhelmingly opposed to this application, are in this for the long term.

Swindon Borough Council's case focusses on the technical planning issues on which they refused the application. Our involvement allows us to legitimately augment SBC's case, and allows us to present insights into the credibility of the case, as well as to cross-examine witnesses.

Our attention will be concentrated upon the economic viability of the 'Science Park' proposal which is at the heart of the appellant's claim. To help make our case, we have secured the expertise of several Expert Witnesses, and they will be represented at the formal Appeal hearing.

The Proposal - what is the reality? Let's remind ourselves that this is a hybrid application referred to as a "Swindon Science Park", with Phase 1 being a full application for a "Light Industrial unit", and Phase 2 an outline application for a potential "Science Park and Innovation Centre". There is no evidence in the proposal to substantiate Wasdell's claim that it can provide a "world leading R&D host hub facility capable of attracting the required talent to sustain a Sci-

ence Park". To promote the application as a "Science Park" is therefore both misleading and a complete misnomer. And we note that Phase 2 is to be delivered "subject to demand". Recent local history has proved that "Light Industrial" applications are easily transferred into residential applications. Badbury Park, in South Swindon, was unsuccessfully marketed as a Science Park for over 5 years before it was successfully converted into a site for hundreds of homes. It's worth noting that the return on investment in land for residential use is up to 10 times that for industrial land, and 100 times for greenfield.

Alternative sites

Superior industrial land is already available in SBC's Local Plan to meet business needs – and this has now been extended with 370 acres of brown field land at the old Honda site. The site has been sold to Panatoni who are one of Europe's largest providers of industrial and logistic facilities, and it already has the road infrastructure and support facilities in place.

We must protect Swindon's Green Belt and AONB

Wasdell acknowledge that their proposal does not comply with SBC's Local Plan for greenfield sites. They are unapologetic in seeking to overpower the local planning criteria with an economic argument - a position the SSPG is now able to firmly refute thanks to the work done by our Expert Witnesses. Be aware that if their Appeal fails at the Inspectorate level it could be heard by the Department for the Secretary of State.

Our journey may be a long one! Please continue to help in our efforts to defend this case, and ensure

the financing of expert testimony, by contributing via our donation page at sspg.org.uk.

SSPG – A Call to Action for Our Collective Visible Objection
The Appeal hearing is scheduled for three weeks commencing 15th June. In consideration of Wasdell's Appeal, the Planning Inspectorate will visit Inlands Farm and the outlying area both before and after the hearing. We need to make sure the Inspectorate is left in no doubt about the strength of opposition felt by residents in the area. It is vital that we present a highly visible declaration of local opposition throughout Wanborough and Liddington area.

All the case studies we have looked at tell us that strong local opposition plays a significant part in the case for the Secretary of State to consider. At the time of going to print, we have positioned 8 large 2m banners at key entry points into and out of Wanborough and Liddington, and 80 A2 poster boards in gardens and verges along the main roads.

Please help to take even more steps to visibly display opposition via:

- The A4 poster distributed through all household letterboxes last month can be displayed in front windows. Additional copies can be downloaded via a link at sspg.org.uk.
- A2 Poster boards (staked for front gardens and verges, or for attaching to gates and vantage points).
- A4 laminated posters for attaching to other vantage points eg lampposts and telegraph poles.

Requests for poster boards or laminates can be made to


pr@sspg.org.uk

Patricia Wells



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Since I missed out on the vicar job, although no-one knows who's got this plum role, and having decided not to apply for the local Police and Crime Commissioner post, on the grounds that I'd have to declare and confess a few thingys, it's time to get back to the real business of creating properly paid jobs in this community, and, hopefully, making other useful contributions. Nice to see some new faces wandering damply round the car park and garden here in mid-May when we hosted the Gardening Club spring plant sale (on a winter's day), and raised about £250-300, although that's a guess since the treasurer ran off with all the shiny plastic notes before I got a chance to count them. I'm sure we'll exceed that figure when we've transferred the money we took on people's cards. Jobs-wise, we've taken on about

ten people from Bishopstone, Hinton, Ashbury (!), Wanborough and Shrivenham since we started to serve again in our chilly, damp, windy garden. Last May I'd have been saying our sun baked, parched and sheltered garden, but not even Boris can control the weather, especially during a pandemic. Lots of these newcomers are starting their first jobs—we expect several of them to rise through the ranks here, in between the serious parts of their lives (exams, professional qualifications), and one of the things that pub life does is increase your self confidence when dealing with the public, i.e. people you don't know. I have said it before, we have taken on reluctant 15/16/17 year olds throughout our 14 years here, and within a month, lots of them could be running the place. I expect the new intake to

be similar. One or two outstanding ones already showing through. Always on the look out for enthusiastic and intelligent local talent.

There was a small spontaneous meeting of village thespians at the pub (wholly legal) in early May discussing the proposed next performance by the Bishopstone/H Parva am dram society, which is looking to put on a performance at the end of this year or possibly early 2022. There was great enthusiasm fuelled by a few pints and a few gins—this is another call to those who have a desire to express themselves publicly on a stage in front of several people snoring (and snorting) loudly on a cold wet night, and effectively to introduce yourself, if you're new around here, to your appreciative neighbours. As you might know, we're good at farces (in fact we're naturals), so expect some entertainment to ensue after plenty of hard work.

Speaking of actors, Belinda promised me some exceedingly good gossip after something she overheard at the Parish Council elections at the beginning of the month, but she's gone very quiet. So disappointing.

I could rabbit on about Dickie's Diary and his defence of agricultural chemicals, and his love of the natural world, and the paradox contained therein, but I love him too much.

Pip pip

TF 

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

What a treat it was to see so many people turn up at the Royal Oak before 9.00am with plants to sell at the plant sale. It was a chance for a catch-up with fellow gardeners that we had not seen for months. The early start and the wet weather did not deter anyone and by 10.00am the sale was ready with everything from hellebores to hockers. (Hmmm or should that be Ocas!!).

The weather brightened and lots of plants were bought to grace the gardens of Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. The Gardening Club is very grateful to all of you who either donated plants or made a donation to take plants away. Your generosity helped to raise over £440 for TWIGS. This money will help the charity TWIGS, which runs a delightful garden at Cheney Manor, to provide horticultural work and related craft therapy for people in the Swindon area recovering from mental illness.

Our thanks also to the Royal Oak for providing us with an outside venue for another year.

On another note, the dreaded lurgy, that shall not speak its name, has meant that the Gardening Club has not been able to meet for over a year. However, we are already planning to start over again and some speakers have been booked for next year. We have all missed meeting up and sharing our passion for gardening, which has helped keep us sane over the last few months. So, whether you have been a lifelong gardener or have just become hooked on the pleasures of gardening more recently, we do hope you will join us when we can meet again. We would love to see new faces as well as our regulars. So please look out for further information soon and ring either Chris Thomas or me, Sue Dent, on the numbers below if you would like to hear more about the Club.

Chris Thomas: 07789 414 147 littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk Sue Dent: 01793 790 246 susan.walton790@gmail.com

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Can't Hear Ye, Can't Find Ye.

We've all got used to very different ways of doing things over the past year. For some, the changes have been much greater than for others. Consider the humble Town Crier. Standing in a marketplace shouting a lot hasn't been an option. *Working from home* must have been a nightmare for the average Crier's family and neighbours. Imagine what they've been putting up with - clarion calls at all hours of *Hear ye, hear ye; little Johnny's refusing to do his online maths again*, or *Hear ye, hear ye; I got all the way to the shops and realised I'd forgotten my mask*; or even, *Hear ye, hear ye; has anyone got a spare loo roll they don't need?* All delivered at enough decibels to necessitate the wearing of ear defenders.

This year, organisers of the national town crier championships, which clearly couldn't go ahead in their usual format, decided to run the competition via video recordings instead. Sadly, they didn't receive enough high-quality recordings, so resorted to asking entrants to submit written entries, words, which at least would have been a relief to the beleaguered families and neighbours. As *The Sun* so eloquently put it *Can't hear ye, hear ye. . .* (Have *The Sun* and *eloquently* been used to gether in a sentence before, I wonder?) Having spent the past few weeks on a leaflet-delivery mission, I'm finding myself having much sympathy with others with similar jobs. I always thought that the worst part of being a delivery driver round here would be actually finding the houses. After all, we don't make it easy, with house names, but no numbers, and road names that don't exist or lead a double existence. Some parts of Bodyhorse Hill are also known as Icknield Way, for instance. That caused some confusion when we first moved here and tried to go and vote. If the last few weeks have shown me anything, it's that finding a house is one thing - finding its letter box is something else again. Those of you who have installed nifty boxes at the

end of your drives can take a bow now. You have improved the lives of postpeople and paper boys and girls across the land beyond measure. We once had to install an external postbox, not so much because we were thoughtful, caring people, with a fondness for postfolk, but because we had a dog that ate the post. It wasn't a problem until she swallowed the majority of a cheque, and we realised that *Something Must Be Done*. I look back with an inner glow, as I think of how much better we must have made our postman's lot.

When you've read this, pop outside and try to put something through your letterbox. If it tries to take your hand off at the wrist, is too small to accept anything larger than a postage stamp (sans-letter), has a draught-excluder brush that also excludes items of post, or is about an inch above the floor, please know that people are suffering each time they deliver to your house. Next month, perhaps I'll expand on the perils of gates that won't open (or, worse, won't shut again), drives with an angle of ascent that necessitates the use of mountaineering gear, houses with no letter boxes at all, and - my personal favourite - the houses with freely-roaming dogs which hide around the back until innocent visitors are at a point of no-return on the drive before descending on them in a loudly-barking melee of teeth and tails. I'll spare you the story of the guard-geese, though, for fear of upsetting readers with a sensitive disposition. . .

Mrs Mantelpiece



And Almost Finally...

I'm sitting here freezing cold. Surely it shouldn't be so cold in May, but,

hopefully, when you read this we will be in the middle of a heatwave and you will think that I'm mad - that's the trouble with writing things a few weeks before you see them.

I'm revelling in the fact that Nick, my first born, has come home from Ire-

land to stay with me. I haven't seen him since a year last Christmas (but I still recognise him). If you see a questionable looking character hanging around, it's probably him.

Do say hello, he's quite harmless and friendly.

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:

Editor:

mogsboon@hotmail.com

Subject: newsletter (in case my computer rather rudely thinks you are junk mail) or deliver to:

Brock Cottage, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DH, telephone 01793 790 626.

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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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