

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

March 2021

Village News

February Pictures



Thanks to: Steven Ayres for two great pictures of Bishopstone; Lesley Coates for Sebastian with his snowman; the wren by James Andrews and Steve Bell for banner pictures.

Lapwings, Linnets, Golden Plovers and Wrens - this Birdlife Heaven

While most of us are all stuck at home, how about taking a stroll within a mile or two of Bishopstone and taking in some of the wonderful wildlife that calls this place home at this time of the year?

Winter brings all kinds of visitors to the farm but, notably, we have welcomed some noisy and beautiful residents to house-share with the pigs, about half a mile along the Ridgeway from the Flying Pig itself. Those of you who have taken a stroll may have spotted these charismatic, ground nesting birds feeding amongst the pig arcs. With a stunning black and white pattern with metallic sheen and a call that sometimes sounds robotic, the Lapwing is unmistakeable. Watch them against a sharp winter blue sky background, flashing white and black as they whirl and turn. These are a Red UK conservation status bird, with a declining population throughout the UK, though nobody seems to have told the huge flocks that visit us! If you have dogs, we always ask that in our fields you keep them on leads, for the sake of our livestock and the ground nesters that live here. If you look closely, you may also spot another bird among them, often in smaller numbers, but just as stunning



Continued page 3

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



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continued from front page

when you get a glance. The Golden Plover (below) – on close inspection they look like they’ve been dusted with gold. This bird is normally territorial and coastal but, at this time of year, they decide to all just get along and form flocks, often with lapwings, to last out the colder months.

We’ve been considering ordering the pigs some ear plugs for some of their other winter neighbours – the starlings! Huge flocks arrive on UK shores as we go through winter, and several thousand of them can often be seen up among the pigs, making use of the exposed ground and foraging for food. If you are lucky enough to be in the area towards the end of the day you may even get to see one of the wonderful murmurations, large and small, that we often witness during these winter months.



Another red list bird—i.e. threatened—making the most of organic, nature friendly farming. One more to add to the list, and in huge numbers at the moment

by the Ridgeway, is the stunning Linnet. A small finch that was once popular as a caged bird for its melodious song, it can be spotted in huge flocks at this time of year, with flocks of 200 or more twirling and swooping over the wildflower field just below the Ridgeway crossroads, then stopping briefly in the small trees lining the Ridgeway itself before going out again to feed. This bird is another that’s found itself on the red list, with population declines estimated to be around 57% between 1970 and 2014. It’s easy to overlook some of the more common garden and farm birds at this time of year as they scramble around looking for food, so keep an eye out for birds such as the wren. These tiny little birds weigh between 9-10g and have to work incredibly hard during winter months. Overnight, they fluff out their plumage and form communal roosts but, despite these adaptations, by dawn the following day these little birds will have lost nearly all of the weight they put on during the previous day’s foraging. The farm is absolutely teeming with wildlife, all year round, but at this time of year it’s so much easier to see with leafless hedgerows and (some) clear winter days. I’d encourage you to explore, and, if you want to find out more look for me. I’m about from time to time and will happily take

you out on an explore! Call the pub and they’ll find me. 01793 790 481.

James Andrews

Wanborough Community Trust: May Day Fayre & Scarecrow Trail cancelled for 2021

It is with a heavy heart that Wanborough Community Trust and the small event organising group have made the decision to cancel the Scarecrow Trail and the May Day Fayre for 2021. We desperately hope the pandemic situation will allow these events to run in full technicolour in 2022, and would welcome volunteers to step forward to help as part of the organising team for next year’s events. I am moving out of the area this month, and although I am happy to stay involved with these two great events into 2022, (and support the new organising group as much as they need), it would be impractical for me to try to organise from my new base in Shropshire!! Please would some new volunteers step up to the plate and offer their services to keep these wonderful traditional events on the local calendar?

Please get in touch by email to:

tessaannlanstein@gmail.com

or respond to requests for help when they appear in the Autumn via Lyden magazine / Facebook etc.

Thank you,

Tessa Lanstein

This is my friend Kirsten. In July 2020, when she was wearing size 18 jeans, she decided enough was enough and got on the Herbalife Nutrition weight loss programme. This February, she wears size 8 jeans. Losing weight does not have to be a struggle full of sacrifices, it can be an exciting journey, discovering how well you actually can feel! Give me a call or send an email to discuss if this could be something for you to try this spring.

Peter 07832 193 362
peter@swepan.com

Hinton Village Hall



Pandemic restrictions continue, but we all hope for some benefit from the rapid vaccination programme that might allow some return to normality. The Village Hall is in fine fettle, and ready to operate when the Covid situation allows. Luiza and Colin are hoping to open their Community Café in the Hall, on behalf of the Sounds Like Women Charity, on 27th March, but, of course, it all depends on the pandemic rules in force. (Please see separate advertisement in this Newsletter and the poster update on the Hall Noticeboard).

We will post any changes via the Village website, on the Hall Noticeboard, and, subsequent Village News entries. In the meantime; keep the faith, keep safe, and keep well.

*Rod and Ken,
On behalf of the Committee*

The Village Hall, Bishopstone

Planning for when lockdown ends and more convivial, socially distanced activities are permitted, we have a number of delightful events in the melting pot. Any further sensible suggestions (or less), are welcomed. So far received; a *paint your own village hall day* BYO brushes but paint provided! Think Lawrence Llewellyn-Bowen meets Grand Designs! *Fast Piano Racing* (the new, greener, lawnmower racing equivalent, sponsor revenue deals waiting to be signed) Mr Tom G has offered to run the Tote. We've had a few suggestions on a party to celebrate the erection of Old Father Time...well we've been a long time in lock down! For those who are not yet acquainted with OFT, we have a magnificent weather-vane that used to reside atop the hall which has been refurbished

and dormant (haven't we all) which needs re-establishing. Basically, an excuse for a decent party! City lights has received a suggestion to stream *The Prisoner* all 17 episodes back to back, probably so we can find the *I'm not a number, I'm a free man* part and put this section on loop - thanks Mr H! We're going to overhaul the kitchen ready for those wild village parties (children's birthday type of course). Finally, we do have a few bookings in the future so do drop a line if you would like to pencil something in, or have any other suggestions to kick start village life post Covid.

For forward booking please contact:

Richard Walker 791 913
richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

Wanborough Farmers' Market *Should be on*

9.00am - noon

**Saturday 20th March
Wanborough Village Hall,
High Street, SN4 0AD**

We cancelled January and we're cancelling February, so goodness knows what will happen about 20th March. To find out, see the village website www.wanborough.info or contact Sue or David Birley: 01793 790 438 sbirley@gn.apc.org

The Wanborough Community Trust grant application process

This is still in operation and has some funds still *in the pot* so if, as we emerge from social distancing, there are groups or projects (from across the Benefice: Wanborough, Liddington, Bishopstone & Hinton Parva) that could be (part) funded by the Trust please do not hesitate to review the grant criteria via [Wanborough.info/Information/Wanborough Community Trust](http://Wanborough.info/Information/Wanborough%20Community%20Trust). If you think your idea meets the criteria please forward an initial email to:

wanboroughCT@gmail.com.

Finally, the Trust is seeking 1-3 new Trustees to join the team: 3-4 meet-

ings a year providing a governance overview and grant application review panel are the main responsibilities, so please volunteer your services, or make enquiries via the Secretary, David Halfhead:

halfhead@btinternet.com

The Trust covers the Benefice of Liddington, Wanborough, Hinton Parva and Bishopstone so you don't have to live in Wanborough to volunteer!!

Tessa Lanstein

Recycling Matters

Did you see the shocking statistics in the news recently about food waste? Over 1/3 of all food produced globally



goes to waste. The value of this is \$1 trillion and, if food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest emitter of greenhouse gases (after China and the USA). The one billion people in the world that go hungry could be fed on less than a quarter of the food that is wasted in the US, UK, and Europe. An area larger than China, and 25% of the world's fresh water supply, is used to grow food that is never eaten. Reducing food waste is now cited as the number one solution to the climate crisis. 17.7% of the food we buy gets thrown away, costing the average UK household £60 a month. Every day, 20 million slices of bread, 3.1 million glasses of milk and 4.4 million potatoes are thrown away in the UK, despite 8 million of our citizens struggling to put food on the table.

What can we do to reduce these horrifying figures? The *Love Food Hate Waste* website is a great place to start. It has an A-Z of food items detailing how best to store and freeze them. There's a portion calculator and a search facility in the recipe section where you can type the ingredients that you want to use (up).

Being organised could help – menu plans, shopping lists, a list of what's in your freezer and the occasional audit of food cupboards, followed by getting creative with any ingredients approaching their *Use By* date. Frozen or freezing food is fabulous

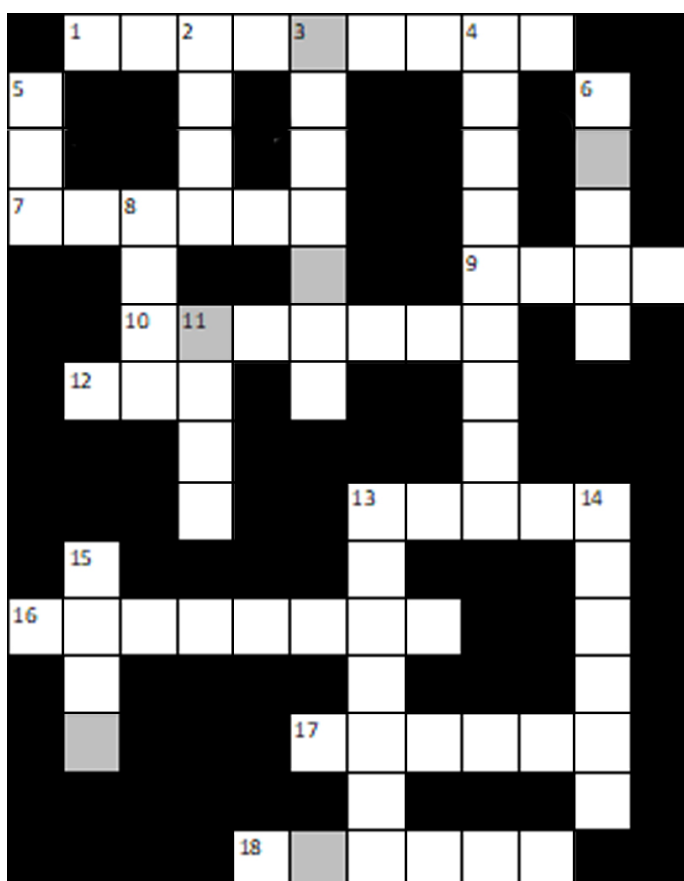
for eliminating waste. You can ‘open freeze’ any fresh fruit or vegetables that you have over (or harvest in the summer months) and then bag up so you can use just what you need. Think ahead about what you will actually eat – if no one ever eats the salad garnish or dressing included in your take-away or restaurant meal (sigh!!), ask for it to be omitted. Don’t be shy about asking for a doggy bag (or better still, go prepared!) and use any left-overs for another meal or freeze.

Finally, the Olio website and app connects local people with each other and with local businesses so surplus food, such as items nearing their sell-by date in local stores or spare home-grown vegetables, can be shared and not thrown away. It can also be used for non-food household items too – like a local Ebay – but all free of charge.

Karen Walker

Pete's Puzzle - BISCUITS – For Beginners?

As last month’s crossword was quite difficult, I’ve gone back to something that should be fairly easy this month. Please submit your completed crosswords to the Editor so that we can gauge the popularity of this feature. The clue for the shaded squares – could be to mix with aristocracy.



Across

- 1 Is this Italian General what Mr Lineker may become? (9)
- 7 & 9 This Spice Girl should be careful of broken bones (6) & (4).
- 10 & 2 down Is this crazy clown getting into the boxing arena? (7) & (4).
- 12 see 15 down (3).
- 13 see 13 down (5).
- 16 Take a whirl with these Austrians (8).
- 17 & 18 One of Fagin’s crew sounds lucky (6) & (6).

Down

- 2 see 10 across (4).
- 3 American whiskey (7).
- 4 This biscuit may go down well (9).
- 5 Would you eat this fruit in a bap? (3)
- 6 You’ll be fighting down under for this biscuit (5).
- 8 It’s pleasant in southern France (4).
- 11 Sounds like a Strictly dancer (4).
- 13 & 13 across You’re unlikely to have both with your pudding (7).
- 14 Might a leopard take extra dairy with milk initially? (6)
- 15 & 12 across Wealthy beverage (4).

February winners

Sadly we had no winning entries

Answers to February Crossword

Across: (2) dry; (5) verge; (7) wheel; (9) spyhole; (13) uni; (14) fly; (16) craft; (17) kayak; (19) igloo; (22) mystery; (23) queue; (24) bound; (25) jet.
 Down: (1) xenon; (3) right; (4) teach; (6) gas; (8) hue; (10) prickly; (11) loftier; (12) yak; (15) zoo; (18) avenue; (20) orient; (21) etude.



Helen Browning's Bishopstone Stores

Organic Essentials Order Form

Name:

Phone Number:

Address:

Dairy	Price	Quantity Tuesday	Quantity Friday
Semi Skimmed Milk - 1 lt	£1.25		
Whole Milk - 1 lt	£1.25		
Lightly Salted Butter - 250g	£2.55		
Unsalted Butter - 250g	£2.55		
Natural Yoghurt - 450g	£2.00		
Fruit Yoghurt - 150g	£1.10		
Double Cream - 250ml	£1.60		
Double Cream - 500ml	£3.00		
Essential Meats			
Back Bacon - 184 g	£4.50		
Streaky Bacon - 184g	£4.00		
Speedy Sausages x 12	£3.75		
Dry Cured Ham - 130g	£5.00		
Bread			
Sourdough Boule - 400g	£2.80		
White Farmhouse Loaf - 400g	£2.40		
White Farmhouse Loaf - 800g	£3.70		
Wholemeal Stoneground - 400g	£2.40		
Wholemeal Stoneground - 800g	£3.70		
Eggs			
1/2 Dozen	£2.60		
1 Dozen	£4.90		

Call us on 07453 243976 or email shop@helenbrowningorganic.co.uk to place your order and we will deliver each week. Payment by credit card either over the phone or pop into the shop.

Bishopstone Stores

9.00am - 5.00pm Monday - Saturday
10.00am - 2.00pm - Sunday

Spring is upon us! My favourite season – the first flowers in the garden, hedgerows beginning to look greener, evenings becoming lighter and - best of all - baby animals arriving into the world! The piglets and calves at Eastbrook Farm are just the cutest!

New things in the shop too...I'm sure you've seen the ever growing range of products that are steadily creeping onto the shelves and into the fridges! We are now also offering you a great new regular delivery service – get all your organic essentials, milk, butter, bread, etc deliv-

ered to your door twice a week (or just once if you prefer). There is a copy of our order form above. Just pop into the shop or give me a call to let me know what you would like, and when, and I'll do the rest! We'll keep a tab of what you have ordered and payment can be made either over the 'phone, or in person, every four weeks. There's no delivery charge and if you wish to add to or amend your order you can do at anytime!

Our fabulous Bishopstone Stores Book Swap is now in full swing – thanks to everyone who kindly donated books to us. So, if you've read everything on your own bookshelf, come and have a browse through mine! Bring one of yours and take something dif-

ferent home...and when you've read that one? Well, you know what to do! I'm also very pleased to say that we have become a drop off point for the Swindon Food Collective. They are our local food bank, an independent charity that rely on donations to be able to help local people who are struggling to provide food for themselves or their families. They are looking for donations of non-perishable foods - tinned items, long life juice, squash, sugar, etc, along with toiletries and household goods. If you have anything spare in the cupboards at home, or are able to add something to your weekly shop, pop it into our basket and we will ensure it gets there.

Lynne Muir



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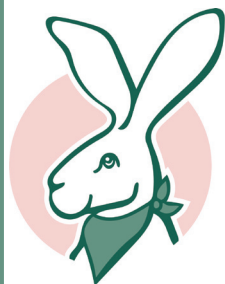
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Opening Hours

Tuesday: 10.30 - 4.30

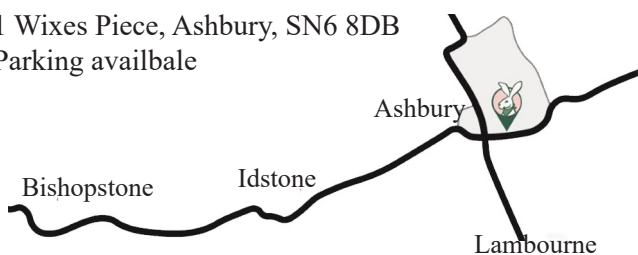
Wednesday-Friday: 9.00 - 4.30

Saturday: 10.30 - 4.30

Sunday-Monday: Closed

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Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday	7th March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
	3 rd Sunday of Lent			
Sunday	14th March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
	4 th Sunday of Lent			
	Mothering Sunday			
Sunday	21st March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
	5 th Sunday of Lent			
Sunday	28th March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
	6 th Sunday of Lent			

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

All church services are cancelled during lockdown, please keep a look out on social media or email: villagechurches@gmail.com for an update as to when services can resume

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

It has been a difficult time for many reasons – the Covid lockdown, restrictions on seeing family and friends, anxious waits for vaccination. It has also been a difficult time for the Church – our Churches are closed because of the Covid restrictions, there are difficulties keeping in touch with parishioners, and Bill's departure.

A bleak time all round, but as I look out of a window I see signs of new life; snowdrops and crocuses in bloom, daffodils pushing up green stems from the dark earth – a reminder that spring is on its way. Let us take hope from the miracle of nature. We are in the middle of Lent, a time when we often give up something for six weeks, but maybe this year we should take something up instead. We could 'phone a lonely person, offer to help in some way. Or we can make extra time for prayer, remembering those who have died from Covid, and their family and friends, those in hospital and all NHS staff, together with all key workers. They need our prayers for protection, for renewed strength in times of acute tiredness, for hope in their bleak times.

During the vacancy in the Benefice myself and Revd Phil Ashby, together with support from the Deanery and

Diocese, will be looking after you. We plan to have a short Zoom service every Sunday at 10.30am during lockdown and will endeavour to get details to you in due course. There will be an order of service which you can print – and, if you know someone who cannot access Zoom, perhaps you can print them a copy so they can follow the service at home.

We hope that our Churches will be able to reopen soon. In the meantime, please feel free to contact myself or Phil on the numbers below.

Please be assured of our prayers for the Benefice during this time of change. We are prepared to help in any way that we can.

With love & prayers

Sandy

Revd Sandy Railton:

01793 814 162 07867 525 641

Email: sandyrailton@icloud.com

Revd Phil Ashby:

01793 978 528 07807 789 649

Email: revphilashby@gmail.com

Spring Cleaning or Clearing Out Garages etc?

I'm looking for a cupboard or, preferably, a double wardrobe with shelves, to house choir robes and anthem books etc. where they can all be kept in one place. The choir can no longer hang them on the pegs under the bell

tower in Wanborough, and I prefer not to have them at home any longer.

If I'm in luck, the piece of furniture can be collected.

Thank you

Myra

myrabinks@hotmail.com

St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

March

Jill White &

Karen MacGregor

April

Fran Shishton &

Karen Stevens

May

Chris Thomas & Gill May

June

Jane Golding

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

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

John Lowry 01793 790 271

St. Swithun's

Tom Cripwell 01793 791 148

tomcripwell@gmail.com

PCC members:

Roz Boot 01793 790 508

Doug Stevens

07899 791 833

dougstevens1966@gmail.com

Karen Stevens 01793 791 107

kschurchview@gmail.com

Penny Green 01793 791 310

Tom Sargeant 07517 145 051

tom@yeoldeforge.co.uk

Dickie's Diary

Biking and walking have never been more popular. They tick a lot of boxes during the lockdown. There is a saying that is not quite true these days *you never see a farmer on a bike*. Anyway, I am a walker. With Penny, or my dog, for company there are a good number of options close to home without getting too muddy. During this February, stonechats and larks also feature for company, sometimes with a passing raven or kite. Ashbury has its Kingstone Coombes above the allotments. Bishopstone has its Lynchets, with a wonderful view from the stile at the top towards Faringdon Folly and the Cotswolds. With White Horse Hill and the manger, these landscapes are great forces of nature. But I have to confess I get bored with the local, and want to reach out for new experiences with circular routes to lift the spirits. This pandemic will soon have been with us for a year and, with almost an obsessional focus and being mostly retired, we have explored far and wide. For new ideas

we have various guides including *Walking the North Wessex Downs*.

The Devil's Punchbowl above Sparsholt is another force of nature. Lynch Wood, close to Lambourn, is notable for the profusion of box and snowdrops amongst the trees. It was part of the Lambourn Place estate, the gothic revival mansion was pulled down in 1938 after a serious fire. Towards Marlborough, with views over the Pewsey Vale, start near West Woods when the blue bells are out, pass through Gopher Wood to Knap Hill nature reserve, and head back along the Wansdyke; good clean walking. Also near Marlborough and starting at Fyfield before soon crossing the A4 to Pigglesdene, are Stony Valley and Devil's Den. This walk takes in massive sarsen stones similar to those at Ashdown Park, and is near Fyfield Down, a world heritage site. Beyond Marlborough, with views over Pewsey Vale, Martinsel Hill and a walk down to Oare is very pretty.

Then there are walks round Avebury and further along, turning north off the Devizes road and starting at the car park near Morgan's Hill nature reserve, (great for butterflies). The walk up to the Lansdown Memorial above Cherhill, with the White Horse and Oldbury Camp approached through the hamlet of Calstone Wellington is very special. The rolling undulations of downland are most attractive.

In the Cotswolds, and best in summer, the walk along the Windrush taking in the isolated decommissioned church at Widford and on to the Mitford's former manor at Astall with refreshment at the Swan at Swinbrook is lovely. So too is a walk along the Coln from Quenington to Bibury. We like to explore the churches on our walks; it's a shame that most have had to be closed lately, but we did find another decommissioned one open recently at East Shefford up the Lambourn Valley, with a key to be returned to a box at the gate after sanitising!

Dickie Green

Please Note

As of going to press the newsletter understands that under Covid

rules, exercise should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

The Editor

1st Wanborough Scout Group

New Joiners / Waiting List Open

Despite the pandemic, 1st Wanborough Scouts has managed to continue some form of scouting throughout last year: some via zoom and virtual camps and other sessions face to face which was lovely. The start of 2021 has seen us back on zoom again although we appreciate that this is not everyone's favourite, especially after a day of online home schooling! However, we are keen to get back up and running with normal scouting as soon as conditions / legislation allows and, to this end, we are opening our doors for more new starters / waiting list joiners to get in touch now, so we have your details ready for when normal service resumes. The following sections are available:

Beavers: Tuesday 6.00 - 7.00pm for 6-8 year olds

Cubs: Thursday 6.30 - 8.00pm for 8-10½ year olds

Scouts: Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00pm for 10½-14 year olds

1st Wanborough Scouts does not just cover Wanborough; families from Liddington, Hinton Parva, Bishopstone, Badbury Park, Liden and Covingham are all welcome to join us...

The scouts website:

www.scouts.org.uk

has lots of information for parents to find out more about what scouting offers. The programme of activity includes indoor and outdoor activities all aimed at providing fun and learning that help to deliver skills for life. We are happy for youngsters to attend for a trial period before committing to the Group, so why not get in touch and sign up for getting involved in the summer (hopefully!). To register your interest please head to 1st Wanborough Scouts website:

1stwanborough.org.uk

and complete the *join* form. Alternatively send an email to

tessaannlanstein@gmail.com

with child's details.

Covid News from Around the World - part 2

The West Coast of Canada

Personally, in the beginning I was oblivious to the threat to all mankind. Not the A-bomb, the H-bomb, not even the red button in the Oval Office in Washington, D.C., but a virus. Covid, first impinged upon our personal world with an email from Princess Cruises telling us that our trip from Sydney, Australia to Vancouver, had been cancelled. WHAT??? I was packed! We were flying to Tasmania to see my brother in 5 days!! From there, flying to Sydney for the cruise home. My world stopped. That was just the first of many cancellations in our future.

The whole world was in shock and, for a short period of time, no-one in the world was fighting each other. The TV showed us locked-down Italians bursting into song from their balconies. In our small town, we, in apartments and neighbourhoods, stopped whatever we were doing at 7.00 pm to go outside or to our balconies to clap and cheer, bang pots and pans, blow whistles or play an instrument. All in thanks to the first responders and medical personnel who were putting their lives on hold and on the line to battle the worldwide common foe, a Coronavirus called Covid-19. Heart shaped pictures drawn by children hung in windows, and hand painted rocks with inspirational messages turned up in the oddest places. Signs for distancing and little footprints appeared overnight to guide everyone's feet. Posters urging us to wash our hands and not touch our faces were everywhere. We were united.

Then people started dying in long-term care homes, the numbers growing day by day, and it sank in that this was going

to be a long-term life changing event. To Be Continued...

Hazel, British Columbia

South Africa

The first lockdown here was very strict and *effective*...in parts. No alcohol sales allowed anywhere... so what did people do? ...I heard that some establishments served wine in teapots, poured into glasses with an empty, non-alcoholic, bottle placed in front of patron. Cigarette sales were banned... desperate people found ways and means of obtaining them. Carried over the border from Lesotho, down the Drakensberg mountain passes by pack donkeys! From Mozambique, through the Kruger Park...never mind the animals. Smokers are an enterprising bunch!

Nine provinces had their borders closed A police pass had to be produced and was only provided in emergency cases. The latest lockdown, was announced on 29th December at 8.00pm and came into effect at 12.00 midnight...4 hours later!! Curfew between 9.00pm and 6.00am; again, all alcohol sales forbidden, very strictly enforced second time round. It's not permissible to even carry a bottle to your neighbour's home or transport one in your car... I was given a lovely gin pack for Christmas. Had to make sure it was finished before returning home!

Height of summer here, and it's been really hot. All beaches are closed, dams, river picnic sites, parks are no go areas. Totally alien to a South African not to be allowed on to the beach!! This has been so devastating to the tourism industry, as thousands of bookings were cancelled over New Year. No furlough payouts here, and the economy cannot close as people will starve, so restaurants and shops are

doing business.

Then came the new South African variant and BoJo and Priti have insisted we spend 10 days at a Heathrow Hotel on arrival in UK. Indeed a very uncertain and unsettling time for all the world.... Personally I'm so thankful for my home which has become my castle. Hoping to return to the UK in the next few months to see my family and good friends again!

Val in Jo'burg

India

We all know disasters happen, whether it be natural disasters or global pandemics, but nothing has hit us as hard and close as COVID-19.

Work from home provided us an opportunity to work from the luxury of our homes.

With SBWS* in place, I am saving around 3 and half hours of travel time that I am spending with my family. The smile on my 2 years old daughter's face when she wakes up and finds me around is priceless. But I do miss meeting my friends and colleagues at my work place.

Initially, handling both office work and household chores was a bit of a challenge. But with time and support from my family I learnt how to schedule my daily routine. Flexible working hours have also brought an increase in efficiency and have given me time to rediscover myself.

Each one of us is indebted to all the healthcare workers, police officials, sanitization workers, and others who have been risking their lives for the greater good of society. They are the real heroes in life.

As all times pass, this phase will also pass and we should make sure to evolve as better individuals.

Shipra Jain, Delhi

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Nothing stirs here at Bishopstone's worst pub and luxury hotel, except my thin blood when I see our neighbouring farmer Dickie Green giving me a mention in his February column, suggesting I'd be relieved that the Brexit deal was now sorted and we could continue, easily and without barriers, to export organic pork to hungry Germans (and others). Nothing could be further from the truth, but hey ho, it's what most of us voted for so let's get on with it. Our hard-earned cash is now going to French Government coffers (via the export/import agent we have hired en France) and to German business (a freezer store in Germany where we can store the product when it eventually gets there), rather than to hard working Brits.

Less a case now of them coming over here and stealing all of our jobs....more, as the recent shenanigans might indicate, we're going over there and stealing all of their jobs. But that might be beyond some of our readers....I don't need to dwell on this, but the oven-ready hassle-free trading environment that was promised to the 51.5 per cent making up Brexit voters (most of whom never trade and who can't quite see what the fuss is all about) isn't as advertised, on the side of buses or anywhere else. It's laughable.

And something else—it's environmentally appalling, which you don't often read about. While lorry traffic over to Calais and beyond is remark-

ably high (90% of pre Christmas levels), it seems most of them are carrying fresh air and not much else on their way out. The hauliers reckon that 60 percent of their space on the way out is empty. We've had to hire a 40 foot trailer to get our 10 tonnes of pork to Germany; this takes up about 20% of the space. No one will carry mixed loads because the French can take days to check and then reject the paperwork because the registration number of the lorry (which we pay a UK VET -from Spain or Romania - £100 to write down - a vet, for heaven's sake) has been written in the wrong ink. Don't get me started! Oven-ready my you know what. Mr Green, we are prepared to offer export tutorials at £500/hour. You'll need several hours. And another thing I don't think the vicar gets enough credit for the job he's done in these parts over the past seven years. I'm not chairman of his fan club, by any means, and I've heard funny stories about him forgetting to turn up for the odd christening, and irritating the PCC from time to time, but Rev Bill has always seemed to me to be a very human man, with an occasionally wicked sense of fun coupled with a decent, and practical, notion of charity. Can be a bit lazy, I've heard, but so are lots of us men from week to week. Could we expect perfection? Not sure what more we could ask for from a man of the cloth, unless we're all look-

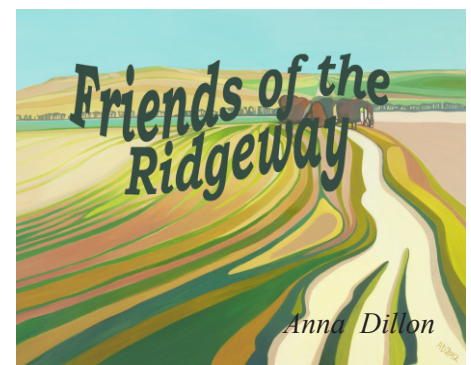
ing for a bit more piety. Good luck in your well-timed retirement, Mr Bill. If Boris ever lets us out again (and we expect May, with restrictions on what any of us can do) we'll be looking for staff at HB's Royal Oak. Full and part time housekeeper/s; front of house staff. *IF* it's likely to be of interest, let us know. Most of you know where we are.

Bon chance, as our French customs agent giggles over the 'phone to us.



TF

Photograph by James Andrews



Regrettably, it does not seem safe and sensible to hold a physical exhibition for the Swire Ridgeway Arts prize this year. Hence, the 2021 Arts Prize will be an online exhibition.

The exhibition will be open on line at our website:

<https://ridgewayfriends.org.uk/swire-ridgeway-arts-prize/>
from **Sunday 18th April** with the prize giving online via Zoom on **Sunday 25th April**. Entries should be photographs of the original art work and accompanied by an entry form.

Full details are available on our website:

<http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk/>
We hope that it will again be a successful event celebrating the artistic inspiration of the Ridgeway, albeit not in the form we would like.

I shall of course be glad to respond to any questions.

Anthony Burdall, Chairman

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Faringdon

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Exhausted of Hinton Parva Teeny Weeny Trade Deals

A few days ago, we rushed home from a dog-walk, full of excitement. Surely lockdown must have ended, we thought, and we'd missed the announcement. The number of cars on the road, speeding back and forth with a blatant disregard for the 30 mph signs surely betokened a sudden cataclysmic change in The Rules. Either that, or the impending arrival of something large and earth-shattering from outer space. We scoured the News once we got home, only to be disappointed to learn that the former wasn't the case. There again, there was some cause for celebration that we weren't about to star in Asteroid III - The Demise of Humanity.

Also a cause for celebration is the recently announced Bank Holiday on 32nd January, to be known as National Daytime Telly Day (NDTD), in honour of this lockdown's switch from exercise to binge watching. January, as it used to be known, will now be known as Interminable January. NDTD will be immediately followed by February Fool's Day, because we're all so fed up we can't wait until April for something to cheer us up. And I think we'll all agree that the extension of Pancake Day into Pancake Month will be very welcome indeed.

The other suggested innovation, Bunged-upXit, suggested to overcome the lack of fresh vegetables in the national diet since 1st January, is seen as unlikely to catch on. Already, the wheels of government are grinding on this front, however, as the arrival of a minuscule cauliflower and an itty bitsy carrot with last week's shopping showed (no - that's not some new exotic vegetable - it's just a tennis ball that I included for scale).

Anyway - hurrah - we clearly now have a trade deal with Lilliput; I must have missed Liz Truss's exuberant announcement, as there surely was one. A woman who can get so excited over cheese would hardly let a coup of such magnitude pass quietly. Maybe there's scope for more tiny trade deals; the fairies at the bottom of the garden might be prevailed upon to deliver not just babies to gooseberry bushes, but the gooseberries themselves, neatly packaged, to supermarkets (or Village Stores). The recent freezing weather brought more veg-related developments. Our Esteemed Editor, on inspecting her first flooded, then frozen, vegetable patch realised that she was going to be able fill her freezer with ready-frozen produce, neatly side-stepping all that blanching malarkey. We could all take a spinach leaf out of Ed's book.



And Almost Finally...

As we go to press, Valentine's Day has recently occurred.

Anybody get a card and even, perhaps, a present? I got a card one year, addressed to the editor. No idea who sent it, but I was ridiculously pleased. One of my friends on Facebook posted that *the world divides into two groups, those who look forward to Valentine's Day and those who look forward to Pancake Day*. I fall into the latter category and I don't even particularly like pancakes.

In the routine of this strange little, new world we all inhabit, I am keeping a keen eye on the birds in my garden. Yesterday, there was a new one. Research suggested that it was a marsh tit, or could it be a willow tit? They both look the same to me; I must ask Mr Andrews. But it was the most exciting thing that happened all day.

I'm also thoroughly over-excited about swapping books at Lynne's Bishopstone stores. I hope we'll meet there, and also swap bird stories.

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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