

for Bishopstone & Hinton Parva

May 2021

# Village News

Bishopstone & District  
Gardening Club

Grand Plant Sale

In the grounds of  
The Royal Oak, Bishopstone

Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am



If you are looking for some extra plants to brighten up and fill those empty spaces in your flower borders and vegetable garden, then look no further than the Bishopstone Grand Plant Sale.

Once again, due to current restrictions, the sale will take place outside the Royal Oak. It will have a one-way system in place and social distancing should be respected. Please wear a mask.

The stalls will be unmanned and there will be an honesty box for you to donate a generous amount for the plants you wish to take home. All proceeds will be going to the charity TWIGS, which runs a delightful garden and provides horticultural work, and related craft therapy, for people in the Swindon area recovering from mental illness.

ering from mental illness.

If you are bringing plants *to sell at the sale*, and we want lots, make sure you bring them along *between 8.00 and 9.00pm*. Also, please make sure you label them as not everyone can tell their artichoke from their elephant garlic!

For more information, contact:

Chris Thomas, 07789 414 147  
littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

## The Easing of LockDown

Began on 29<sup>th</sup> March with outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households being allowed.

The lack of warm spring weather this year is making outdoor entertaining a bit of a challenge.

Thanks to Belinda Nicholls for the photograph of her inlaws drinking hot soup, and to Sheila Collins for photographing the dog walkers.



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



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[filopugh@gmail.com](mailto:filopugh@gmail.com)

Dreyden Cottage,  
Whatleys Orchard,  
Bishopstone,  
Wiltshire,  
SN6 8QB

## School Report

Emma Lindsay 

The weeks flew by from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. There were a few bumpy moments as children clicked back into routine and, most importantly, friendships. Children were tired by the time we broke for the Easter break (as were the staff!). Sustained learning throughout the day, routines, and golden rules to follow again. I think one of the hardest things for those who had been remote learning was not being able to go and dive into the kitchen whenever they wanted, or shout *I'm hungry can I have a snack now?* We have noticed a drop in the level of fitness of the children over this last year, through no fault of their own, so getting them up and moving has also been a priority. A range of new games and activities has been purchased for the children to use in the playground, including a fitness timed game and giant building bricks.

We have concentrated on grammar within the English Curriculum. To give you an idea, in year 3/4 we were teaching fronted adverbials, relative clauses and possessive pronouns (are you still with me?). All based around a lovely textbook that allowed the children to explore the idea of a shadow that had a mind of its own!

Red Nose Day saw lots of fun, a non-

uniform day, teaching the children about why we take part in this day, hero mask making (we all have a hero inside us . . . what is your strength?), and giant bubble making. The bubbles were stunning rainbow colours and a huge hit, proving sometimes it is the smaller, less expensive things that have the most impact. There were endless giggles, *wows*, and shouts of *can I have another go?* World Book Day saw a range of characters parade in the school, and an array of *weapons* sit quietly in the classroom corner unless it was picture posing time!

Once we broke for Easter, the school only got busier, as the holidays are always an ideal time for internal work to take place, especially now, when we can't do this work during school hours because of Covid19. We have had leaky pipework fixed, new electrical boards to enhance the fire system, and painted two of the classrooms – all looking bright and fresh and ready for some lovely work to go back up on the walls. The school has once again been *fogged* making it germ free; it must be the cleanest school in the area! As with all old buildings, this constant love and maintenance is much needed and a never-ending list. As we launch into the Summer Term, we are looking forward to warmer playtimes and ensuring that we

keep to *lockdown reopening* rules. As we go through the roadmap, we hope that the children, parents, and staff continue to stay as safe as they can within the school community. Only some of the school staff have been 'jabbed' so currently we do not have that adult reassurance . . .but hopefully not toooooo faraway now.

## Swindon Dial A Ride

As normal service starts to resume in the UK, don't forget that Swindon Dial A Ride is here to help you get out and about on our door to door transport, using either our accessible minibuses or volunteers in their own cars.

If you are unable to use public bus services because of a disability or impairment, give us a call on 01793 616 050 for more information on how to become a passenger.

If you are a not-for-profit group that could benefit from the use of a minibus for day trips/meetings etc call us on 01793 617 828 for more information. You can contact us by email if you prefer at:

[transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk](mailto:transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk)

## Bishopstone Allotment Gardens

Subs are now due. Please put the money in an envelope with your name on it, in the usual place.

Any enquiries about renting an allotment phone Roz on 790 508



Here is another person I work with:

Rebecca used to have joint pain, be tired, pre-diabetic and carry extra weight for many years.

Now slimmer, she has lots of energy, no joint pain, and normal blood sugar levels.

In the last few weeks, (after the picture on the right) she has lost another stone in spite of having her foot in a boot due to a minor break.



07832 193 362  
[peter@swepan.com](mailto:peter@swepan.com)



## Bishopstone Village Hall

A short update from Bishopstone Village Hall I write as I hear the melancholic toll of the church bells marking the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh; a wonderful life of service, a solid and familiar pillar of our establishment.

We are allowed to reopen from **12<sup>th</sup> April** in line with current government guidelines but, in our case, this means use remains restricted for many activities, including general hire. A step change will be seen from **17<sup>th</sup> May** when facilities may become available for use (with reduced capacity and continuation of Social distancing). We are expecting to host the local elections **6<sup>th</sup> May**. Careful considerations will be given to managing people flow and Covid-safety. We have been fortunate to receive an additional Covid business interruption grant which is keeping the standing charges associated with the hall paid up. Many will have seen the results of the recent stalwart efforts taken in the upkeep of the grounds. Thank you in particular to Jonathan B. for battling the undergrowth!

Bookings & Enquiries:

Richard Walker 791 913  
richardw@eddingtons.co.uk

## Hinton Village Hall



Luiza and Colin are opening their Community Café outdoors on 24<sup>th</sup> April, on behalf of the Sounds Like Women Charity, so please wish for good weather for them.

Of course, as we are all used to hearing these days, it depends on no change in the Covid Regulations as much as the weather, and the organisers will be completing a risk assessment to ensure that all aspects are considered, including the installation of barriers to ensure

the safety of those sitting outside.

So, with a fair wind, we finally look forward to the hall being used for its first function in over a year. We will post any changes via the village website, on the hall noticeboard, and in subsequent Village News entries.

The hall is also now open for other bookings, for when the indoor venue restrictions are lifted. The pricing policy is very straightforward - £7.00 per hour for residents of Hinton Parva or Bishopstone, and £9.00 per hour for non-residents. If you would like to make a booking, please contact Janet Hawkins on 01793 791 391 and leave a message on the answerphone if there is no answer. We will get back to you asap.

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

*Rod and Ken*

*On behalf of the Committee*

## Bishopstone Stores

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

So, gradually our world is changing! Changing back to what we once knew as normality...It's been wonderful to have the pub garden open and see so many more faces (albeit still behind masks)! Thank you to all of our customers, old and new, that have been frequenting the shop; it really is much appreciated and always a pleasure to see you.

Things are set to continue changing this month with the next stage of the roadmap all lined up for the **17<sup>th</sup> May**, when the doors to the actual pub, rather than just the garden, will be open! Just before that, on Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> May**, we will be holding **the village plant sale** here in the garden. Do come along from 9.00am onwards.

Other exciting changes here in the shop are generally all about even more fantastic new products that we now have to offer you! If you haven't tried the best smoked salmon in the world yet, pop in and buy some! It may not be quite as local as we would have liked but it really is well worth it. We are also now stocking a won-

derful, and very good for you, live organic cider vinegar. Made from beautifully wonky apples from a 200 year old cider orchard, Willys ACV is not only a fabulous all round tonic and prebiotic, it has also been known to aid the symptoms of arthritis. I for one am going to give it a try!

They say a change is as good as a rest. For many of us, we've had a *rest* – a break from being able to be sociable, meeting our friends and family, going further than *local* and, for some, a break from our working routines. The changes in the coming weeks will allow us to put an end to this rest and see some positive changes in our lives. Happy Days are ahead.

See you all soon

*Lynne Muir*

## Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

What a difficult year we have all experienced!! However, our local WI has overcome restrictions in as an imaginative way as possible. We have, of course, become familiar with Zoom meetings, which, although not as welcome as meeting face to face, have enabled us to keep in touch and enjoy a varied and interesting programme of speakers, the latest of which was the author Nicola Cornick who spoke to us about Wolf Hall and the Seymour family. In the Summer months, we made every effort to meet out of doors when we were able to, and thoroughly enjoyed a convivial Summer Garden tea party.

Our programme for future months looks to be very interesting. Some dates for your diary should you wish to join us :

**13<sup>th</sup> May** - Our Resolutions meeting followed by a talk by Nigel Henham about the life of Winifred Spooner, an Edwardian aviator who lived in Hinton Parva. A lady who lived a short but exciting life!

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

**8<sup>th</sup> July** - A Bampton Historical guided walk with Stewart Smith.

**12<sup>th</sup> August** - Indian block printing with Clare Walsh.

9<sup>th</sup> September - *An accidental Violinist'* with Helen Dearnly.

14<sup>th</sup> October - Songs from the shows with Ray Dance and Judith Sharp.

**11<sup>th</sup> November** - Tales from an MOD/ Police dog handler David Williams.

**9<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Celebration. Surely something for all tastes!! Our WI has members from Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton. There is always a warm welcome for anyone who wishes to join us either as a visitor or a member. We meet at either Hinton Parva or Bishopstone village halls on the second Thursday of the month, at 7.30 pm. We also have groups which meet extra to the monthly meetings e.g. a reading group and an art study group. It is always enjoyable to meet up with our regular members but it would be an added pleasure to have new members to join us - why not give it a try!! Please contact me on

01793 790 432 if you would like further information.

Judith Evans

Please contact me on



01793 790 432

if you would like further information.

### Pete's Puzzle - TV Shows

All of the answers are one-word titles of TV shows. (To make it a little easier, I've given the year the programme first aired and the genre).

Please submit your completed crosswords to the Editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month:

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



#### Across

- 1. Male teacher has brain (1972, Game Show) 10
- 7. Sack cat (1974, Childrens) 7
- 8. Lady in excellence (1994, US Comedy) 5



**LAST Saturday of Every Month**

## Community Cafe

**Hinton Parva Village Hall**



**Sounds Like Women**

SWA 01793 60610

Lovely teas, coffee, homemade cakes/soup  
live music & sale of products homemade by women.

**soundlikewomen.com**

Non-profit Community Interest Company number 12052099



**Opening time:**  
**12 to 16:30**

From May 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

### Anagrams of Pub Names - Answers

- 1. The Royal Oak; 2. The Prince of Wales; 3. The Bricklayers Arms; 4. The Bird in Hand; 5. The Pig and Whistle; 6. The Elephant and Castle; 7. The Mayflower; 8. The Barley Sheaf; 9. The Hop Inn; 10. The Dog and Duck; 11. The Green Man; 12. The Duke of Wellington.

- 9. Additions (2005, Comedy) 6
- 12. Sound of a car (1991, Childrens) 4
- 15. Who loves ya, baby? (1973, US Crime) 5
- 16. Psychiatrists are in Seattle (1993, US Comedy) 7
- 18. London Station from darkest Peru (1976, Childrens) 10
- 19. Plant anchorage from Africa to US (1977, Drama) 5

#### Down

- 2. These nurses were heavenly (1975, Drama) 6
- 3. The sound of lightening flies to the rescue (1965, Supermarionation) 12
- 4. Roe is mixed in police comedy (1977, Comedy) 5
- 5. Eat salad back left inside US city (1978, US Soap) 6
- 6. This feeling of peace and relaxation was set in Italy (2011, Crime) 3
- 7. Not moths (1978, Comedy) 11
- 10. Number knockout from Singapore (1981, Drama) 5
- 11. Holiday cottages for Eric and Hattie? (1972, Comedy) 5
- 13. Arthur's friend in a summer lineup (2008, Drama) 6
- 14. Two of these birds give joy (1968, Childrens) 6
- 17. Not found on an island (2004, US Drama) 4

#### April winners

Elizabeth Cooke, Debbie Clarke, Dave Whitaker

#### Answers to April Crossword

**Across:** (3) Lincoln; (7) Warwick; (8) Truro; (10) Hereford; (12) Leicester; (15) Derby.

**Down:** (1) Trowbridge; (2) York; (4) Ipswich; (5) Chester; (6) Lewes; (9) Oakham; (11) Exeter; (13) Taunton; (14) Reading.





Wonders never cease; I have recently read Rachel Carson's seminal 1961 book, *Silent Spring*. It is said that this book helped change the course of history, putting it alongside Karl Marx's *Das Capital*, Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, and, in the US, Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. *Silent Spring* catalogues some of the grotesque consequences affecting the natural world from applying dangerous pesticides to crops, orchards and forestry in the US during the 1940s and 1950s. My own college years studying agriculture spanned 1961-1964, and this book never appeared on our radar. At that time, Seale-Hayne Ag College promoted mixed farming using the growing tool chest of animal medicines, herbicides, and pesticides to improve all round performances. In the 50s, I can well remember our first crop sprayer arriving on my father's 250 acre mixed farm. At this time, he had 40 milking cows, and grew 60 acres of corn, 10 acres of potatoes, and 10 acres of sugar beet, with four men employed and father working hard. It was a 50 gallon, yellow, Vig-zol machine. Our present John Deere sprayer has a 4,400 litre tank (968 gallons) = x 19.4! Troublesome weeds such as charlock, poppy, and, on our lighter greensand, corn marigold were no longer a big problem. The book describes the cavalier early use of dangerous chemicals, such as DDT, chlorinated hydrocarbons, organo-phosphorus compounds and Dieldrin that were used without proper trials, usually at punitive concentrations. Their effects were often disastrous, with knock on consequences to the helpful species in the natural world, resulting in sometimes a worse, not better, control. Streams became fishless, gardens and woods became bird-

less. Blackfly in Ontario became x17 more abundant. In England, an enormous outbreak of cabbage aphid followed an organo-phosphorus spray. In Idaho and Montana, 140 sq miles of forest was treated with DDT to control budworm but it scorched the Douglas firs and induced swarms of spider mites. There were disastrous treatments to apple orchards. Giving people the choice of food produced without chemicals or artificial fertilizers was a consequence. 60 years on, those destructive chemicals are banned, and the best farmers of both persuasions work with nature to be successful. I could be wrong, but organic farmers find crop farming more challenging than livestock farming and rely heavily on higher prices to cover lower outputs. Conventional farmers are also exploring reduced pesticides and biological and varietal methods of control to reduce input costs, because we are all going to have to manage with less government support in future. Time will

tell whether organic grows further or the new buzz word and practice of *responsible regenerative farming* will be the way ahead. If this all sounds very alarming, be reassured that the foods you are now offered, both organic or conventional non-organic, are now good and safe.

*Dickie Green*

### Wanborough Farmers' Market

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**9.00am - noon**

**Wanborough Village Hall,  
High Street, SN4 0AD  
(parking available at  
The Harrow)**

This should be our 2<sup>nd</sup> market since the last lockdown. Expect the usual traders except for Ken's Fish, although he will still be outside the village hall on Thursday afternoons. Face coverings must be worn and be prepared, as before, to give contact details. To confirm, keep an eye on the village website

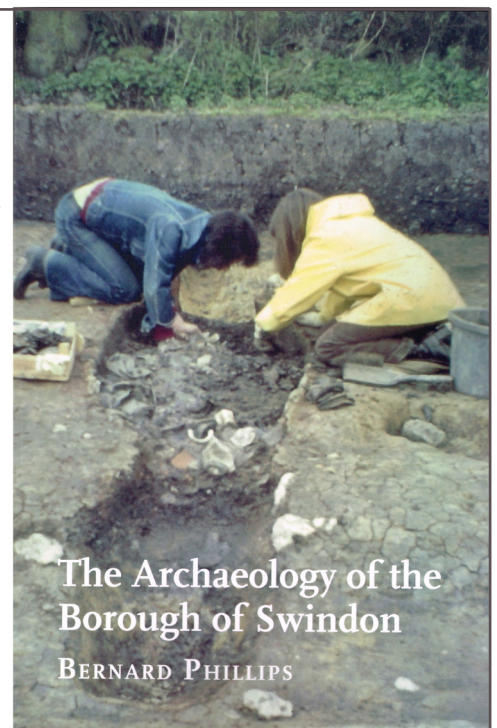
www.wanborough.info  
or contact Sue or David Birley:  
01793 790 438  
sbirley@gn.apc.org

### Anyone for Archaeology?

Our area has a wealth of important archaeological discoveries, from earliest prehistory to the recent past. Bernard Phillips, author of this generously illustrated survey, has played a leading part in excavating, and understanding, Swindon's archaeology over more than fifty years, so is able to bring to his subject a unique authority, making this the indispensable handbook.

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# Ashbury

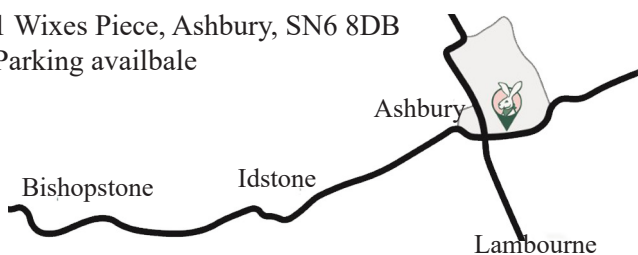
TEA ROOM & SHOP

### Opening Hours

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- Wednesday-Friday: 9.00 - 4.30
- Saturday: 10.30 - 4.30
- Sunday-Monday: Closed

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## Church Services in the Benefice

<b>Sunday</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
<b>Sunday</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone
<b>Sunday</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Holy Communion	Wanborough
<b>Sunday</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> Pentecost	10.30am	Holy Communion	Hinton Parva
<b>Sunday</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b> Trinity Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion	Lyddington
<b>Sunday</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bishopstone

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

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

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to have our Churches open for worship again. Holy Week and Easter were celebrated in each of the four Benefice Churches of Liddington & Wanborough, and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva.

To be able to meet together for worship at such an important time in the Church calendar was wonderful, and, even though we were still not allowed to sing, we sang in our hearts.

That week of uplift, remembering that Jesus conquered death and rose to new life, was followed by the sad news of HRH Prince Philip's death. The Churches once again were open to give thanks for his life of dedicated service and commend him to God's sure keeping in the heavenly kingdom. Our thoughts and prayers continue for the Queen and all the Royal family.

As I look around, I see so many signs of new life at this time of the year. The trees are in blossom, primroses abound in our churchyards, birds are singing, new life is all around us. Joy can be found in so many things - a glorious sunset, a piece of music,

appreciation of art, shared laughter, in knowing you are loved. No doubt each one of us will add many things to the list.

For many of us, our faith bring us joy, knowing we are loved by God; a joy that deepens as we grow in our relationship with God and bubbles up into rejoicing. It is a joy that is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a fruit of the Spirit's activity in our lives.

My prayer for you all this Easter Season, and especially for Pentecost (the Birthday of the Church, which is celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May) is that you will know deep joy in your relationship with God and with one another.

With love

*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

### 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

### St Mary's Bishopstone Cleaning Rota

**May** Chris Thomas & Gill May  
**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 Listeners' Treasure Trove Set to Reopen

Swindon & District Samaritans shop, at 5/6 Curtis Street in Swindon, will shortly re-open and needs volunteers to support this vital fundraising activity at the heart of our local community.  
 Can you help with time and skills to really make a difference by volunteering in our shop, and supporting the people who contact us?  
 As a shop volunteer there's lots to get involved with, including window dressing, working behind the till, sorting donations, and talking to customers. No experience is needed – if you're friendly, approachable, motivated, and keen to learn whilst working with a great volunteer team – this could be perfect for you!  
 Currently, we'll be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with training available. We're looking for volunteers who could offer a regular commitment between the hours of 09.30-12.45 in the morning or 12.45-16.30 in the afternoon on one of these three days.

If you're interested, please check out more details on:  
<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/swindon/shop-volunteers/>  
 or email: [Swindon@samaritans.org](mailto:Swindon@samaritans.org)  
 as we'd love to hear from you.

As a Samaritans support volunteer said: *I'm pleased to be able to*

*contribute to the work Samaritans does and to help take some of the pressure off listening volunteers.*

All of our volunteers help to keep Samaritans going. They make it possible for us to be here for those that need someone to listen in times of distress.



### Inlands Farm Application Appeal – we urgently need your help

You will remember in August of 2020 we were celebrating the SBC Planning decision to reject Wasdell's speculative planning application for a 'Science Park' on Inlands Farm - a refusal based on no less than 20 serious issues with Planning. Unfortunately, Wasdell have decided to Appeal the decision to the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal dates are set. There will be a VIRTUAL public enquiry by the Planning Inspectorate that runs from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021, for 3 weeks.

Their appeal will focus on surmising economic benefit to outweigh the harm to local rural life or impact on our environment, AONB, and consequential urbanisation of South Swindon.

The SSPG intends to be represented at the appeal and provide support to the Swindon Borough Planning team to defend their original refusal decision, and help to tip the decision in our favour. So, once again, we need your support to fund our professional expert case work, and to demonstrate the resolve of South Swindon to strongly oppose this development.

You provided overwhelming support in the last round, and the £7,000 raised ensured collective action to generate reports and the highest number of quality objections ever received by SBC on any planning application to date.

Whilst our previous evidence and your original objection letters all still hold good, and will form part of the consideration by the government Planning Inspectorate, we also have

the opportunity to present additional evidence, and we have begun commissioning this work. We see important gaps in the Applicant's details, and, just as we did last time, have engaged professional experts to inform and advise the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State.

Panattoni's recent purchase of the Honda site means Swindon will be more than well served with purpose built logistic facilities. Panattoni are Europe's largest developer of logistic property (warehousing and distribution), and they intend to develop the Honda site with a further £700m investment. This site already has the road network and facilities infrastructure that would allow Wasdell to more than achieve their warehousing and distribution needs without destroying further green space at Inlands Farm. We need to raise a further £15,000.

We have used £6k of the funds raised in our successful original objection campaign. Please help with anything you can give to maintain our fight to protect our green space and preserve the integrity of our Ridgeway Villages.

You can donate via the

GoFundMe page at  
<http://www.gofundme.com/f/south-swindon-protection-group>.  
 Cheques to be made payable to Treasurer SSPG and handed to Graham Finch (contact [grahampfinch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grahampfinch@hotmail.co.uk)).

In addition, you can help by:  
 · Putting up your A4 poster in a front garden window. Please make use of the poster printed on the back of the leaflet which was dropped through your letter box mid April.

· Hosting a staked poster board in your garden, particularly if you are adjacent to the main roads into and around the village. The Govt Inspector will visit the area and we need to visibly demonstrate all around the Ridgeway villages the strength of local opposition.

If you can help by displaying a board or a roadside banner contact:

Trish Wells at [pr@sspg.org.uk](mailto:pr@sspg.org.uk)

## Recycling Matters

I can confirm that blister pack recycling is up and running at the pharmacy outlet in the Haydon Wick Morrisons! The box is on a side table, so they can just be dropped off and any medicine or vitamin type blister packs can be recycled.



As pandemic restrictions ease, more in-store recycling services are operating again. Shwopping is back in Marks and Spencers. Donate any item of clothing or soft furnishings in any condition to benefit Oxfam. Depending on the condition, items are resold in Oxfam shops, reused overseas, or recycled into new fabrics. TK Maxx has a similar initiative which raises money for Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People.

Some recommendations from readers and contributors this month - do keep them coming, via the Ed! Mrs Mantelpiece recommends Recycles - a Salvation Army Social Enterprise on Princess Street, in Swindon. They will take any bike in any condition to restore or refurbish and then sell it in their shop. They also offer bike servicing and repairs. Full details are on their website.

Martin Savage confirms that the Old Town Co-Op has reopened its plastic bag collection bin. Don't forget all the larger Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose as well as Co-Op stores offer this service. These bins take Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE, the '4' plastic recycling symbol) which also includes bread and frozen food bags, magazine wrappings and bubblewrap. These items should *not* be included

in the kerbside plastic collections.

Martin also confirms that, in addition to the recycling point in Wroughton for McVities biscuit plastic packaging (see the Terracycle site for details), they can be returned to McVities using the Freepost customer service address on the pack.

Sainsbury's in Newbury will hopefully be trialing a reverse vending machine for plastic bottles again soon - the service is currently suspended until collections can recommence. The machine can be found inside the store and, when operational, you will receive a 5p voucher for each plastic bottle deposited. I'll report back on this one.

Another simple step you might want to consider making is to change your internet search engine. Ecosia comes particularly highly recommended. It works in a similar way to the more widely used alternatives, and also earns its revenue from advertisements and people clicking on their links. However, unlike Google et al, Ecosia is a social enterprise rather than a public company with shareholders to pay. They're carbon negative (Google is carbon neutral) and its revenue is used to plant trees around the world. Each search in effect removes around 1kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helps prevent soil erosion, creates microclimates that protect crops, restores depleted soil, and creates habitats for endangered animals. Ecosia also do well on privacy and not avoiding their taxes. Why not give them go?

Finally, why not sign up for the **Great British Spring Clean** taking place **28<sup>th</sup> May - 13<sup>th</sup> June** this year? See the Keep Britain Tidy website for details.

*Karen Walker*

## News of the Covid Situation

Perth, Western Australia

This was written in mid April.

There has been a lot of confusion because the vaccines have been failing to arrive. We now expect to get our Covid jabs this Saturday.

On a brighter note, I joined an art group and have had several terms doing mixed-media abstractions at the local art centre. At first we had Covid masks but now we are free to meet up without them once we have logged in on the QR Code scanner and sanitised our hands.

In church, we still have scanning, hand sanitising and social distancing of 1.5 metres apart unless in family groups, who can sit together normally. Easter services were full to capacity with that rule in place.

Our two book clubs and church groups have been meeting face to face now instead of via Zoom. On each of the five Mondays in March we had a group of twenty meeting at our home. We were pleased when it moved to someone else's house although it did keep the house tidier than normal while it lasted!

We can have unlimited people in our homes now, without masks or social distancing. So we are almost free of Covid restrictions but everyone expects it to break out again because our borders are open to travellers returning by plane now. We can travel across Australia again too, but there are trouble spots and *anything could happen* seems to be the really widely held general view. So there is a general feeling of insecurity about the future and terrible job losses due to Covid.

Being retired is the best place to be.

*Scilla Stack*

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Since it's been confirmed that I'm on the shortlist to replace the much missed vicar of this parish and bring my own brand of piety—upholding matrimonial vows, remembering to get up in time host people's christenings etc etc—and delivering some fruity sermons (in my acrylic leopard skin dressing gown) from time to time (as I did inadvertently to some Episcopalian customers the other day who suggested they thought I had a limited but interesting vocabulary—they had clearly not seen the sign on the gate saying *No Episcopalians*), it's probably time to sign off from this column after about 180 chapters, over nearly 15 years. There's also increasing pressure to be politically correct, and not to stir stuff up on brexit and real politics, by all accounts, so it's not really the place for me, I suppose. Our own form of entertainment and gossip will have to find a new home. I've heard there's something called the interweb so we'll have a look there. Talking of signing off, we're also (finally) saying goodbye to Anna Bareham, who evacuated to this village from Essex at the outbreak of WW2, and who has—finally—found herself a perfectly timed train to move her to Edinburgh where she will take the world of hospitality by storm, assuming that Nicola Sturgeon ever allows Scottish people to enjoy themselves

again. (I am hoping this political nibble is OK since we don't have any SNP candidates in the local election next month? Thank the Lord, as the old vicar would say, possibly). Seriously, but only briefly, Anna has been a truly remarkable cast member here, and, of course, it's such a shame that she's leaving just when the AmDram soc is likely to try to reform. She'd have made an outstanding bedhopper in one of those farces



BADS used to be so good at—genuinely forgetting which bed she was meant to be in, forgetting her lines with regularity, and crying at the first signs of snow in April, among other traits. I suspect that she'll spend a bit of time in the next few months honing the grammar, spelling, and storyline of her first novel, much of which was written during Lockdown 3, while locked in Football Field room with my ungenerous heating allowance. If I can stray briefly into the world of politics again (please) I'd also like to say that this Government, whatever else you think of it, has been very good in compensating businesses like this during lockdown, no matter what you read and hear elsewhere. Some of the moaners you'll be hearing from were effectively operating in their own black economy, with lots of hospitality staff payments being made in cash from the till; in other words, cheating the system, not paying NIC or tax, whether you like the system or not. If staff (or operators themselves) weren't on the payroll, furlough payments did not happen. It's been an interesting way of weeding some people out, I might suggest.

Ah, yes, I've just remembered this is a pub and eatery and hotel—we're effectively open. It can be chilly in the evenings, and we're running a simple fresh menu off our new garden kitchen, usually noon-7.30pm, weather dependent. And nothing extra special planned except for **Classic Car Day/Drive it Day** on **25<sup>th</sup> April**, if you get this before then. All interesting vehicles welcome. Even the TVR I have spotted down the road. And, of course, there's no need to take any of this seriously, if you choose not to.

Pip pip, TF 

Thanks to our sub editor for the photos.



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## Exhausted of Hinton Parva

### Return to Normality (ish) Part 2.

Last month, I wittered on about the do's and don'ts of engaging a little bit more with the world, only having watched it from a distance for so long. I hope those of you who've been able to take the first tentative steps back into a world of haircuts and pub gardens have enjoyed the experience, and that you remembered your trousers. If the post *step 2* News was anything to go by, hairdressers' scissor sharpeners must have been in great demand in April, as a post-lockdown haircut seemed to be top of most people's list of essentials. From the *before* and *after* pictures that were shown, I'd say its position was justified, but I did think that a few photos suggested that there was a lot to be said for lockdown hair. Or maybe for hairdressers sharpening their scissors more often. I understand that some pub gardens are fully booked into the middle of May; let's hope that by then the worst of the weather has disappeared, and that we have no more days of a bit of sun, a bit of snow, more sun, a bit more snow and maybe just a little bit of rain to liven things up. Apparently, residents of Melbourne are used to dressing for all four seasons of weather on a daily basis; maybe we're all going to have to be a little bit more Oz in our approach. I read that one bar in Yorkshire opened a minute after midnight on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, and was soon full of happy revellers. Speaking as one who was brought up there, and knows only too well that the saying *ne'er cast a clout til May is out* is a serious affair, and not one to disregard, I can only think there were some particularly hardy souls out and about. There were even pictures of snow-covered folks sitting with their pints, some with a pint in each hand. It's a good job that we didn't get to this point on the roadmap a month or two ago, or we'd be seeing a huge increase in cases of hypothermia. And it begs the question whether the nation's livers will survive the rush to resume a more convivial lifestyle.



*Regretfully, we were not able to capture that picture of Mrs. Mantelpiece meeting her hairdresser, but here are people enjoying the fresh air and hospitality at the Royal Oak. Again, thanks, Sub for the photo.*

There could be an unintended benefit of encouraging us all to sit outside in the snow, however. The lockdown pounds we're all supposed to have gained should keep us better insulated, and there's a theory that shivering helps to burn calories. Win:win. Right - must dash - I'm off to sit in a pub garden, not so very far from here. My hairdresser's agreed to join me there . . .



*Mrs Mantelpiece*

### And Almost Finally...

You may not have noticed, but the newsletter tries to reflect the zeitgeist of the time. As I write, the pandemic seems to be on the wane in UK and lockdown is cautiously easing, with warnings, this is not over yet. The great Churchillian quote, after the battle of El Alamein, comes to mind, *Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.* Hopefully, soon normal life will be able to resume, not just here but all over the world. On the brighter side, good things come from bad situations. It is wonderful to find how kind, caring and generous our neighbours can be.

I'm sure this will continue when normality happens

*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](mailto: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.

#### Sub-Editor:

Sheila Collins

[admin2.collins@icloud.com](mailto:admin2.collins@icloud.com)

#### Features Editor:

Fiona McAnespie

[mcanespief@gmail.com](mailto:mcanespief@gmail.com)

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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