

VILLAGE NEWS

Dec 2022



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A TREE!



Welcome to the first new edition of the Bishopstone, Hinton Parva & Russley Park Newsletter.

In this month we report that the news is the news! It's back, in full colour and with some old favourites and exciting new content. Rumblyings around the villages called out for the return of the famed rag which has been sadly missed since the passing of our dear Mogs Boon. Had we underestimated the workload? Yes. But when a meeting was called to discuss relaunching the newsletter, the support from the community was strong. It was like a mafia sit down at the Royal Oak speakeasy, dim lighting, extortion and talk of swimming with the fishes with suggestions of new column "Pond Life". In order to keep advertising revenues and print costs under control it was agreed to publish and manage via Bishopstone Village Hall which is a registered charity and has all the mechanisms to keep transactions transparent and auditable. Money from advertising revenue and any donations will be offset against printing costs. The balance, if any, will go to the charity. We are fortunate to have a Chartered Accountant as our treasurer so everything will be kept tip top. That's the boring stuff covered – sorry Andy P! Our new publishing Editor is Andrea Wadworth who runs her own Creative Design Agency, Luli and has generously offered her time to pull content together. We'll expect nothing short of Pulitzer Prize writing from Tim Finney, contributions from local community businesses such as Jane Pearson – Gardeners Questions, Peach Pip

Books, Bishopstone Shop and content from the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council and school as well as from eco advocate Karen Walker, Dickie's Diary & Lycra Lil. What would be even more amazing is to receive NEWS from the community – please take it upon yourselves to contribute news, photos, stories of past and present or future if you are of that mindset. Please just don't camp out paparazzi style with a telephoto lens along Icknield Way – someone is already doing that! We hope we can rebuild the newsletter and link together the wider community through established pillar organisations businesses and members of the community.

Richard Walker, Chair Bishopstone Village Hall

This issue of the Bishopstone and Hinton Parva news should not be published without a small note of gratitude to Mogs Boon, the delightfully eccentric and independent minded member of this community who dragged the previous incarnation of this organ into at least the 20th century. Most of you know that Mogs died late last summer and that's the reason you've seen nothing like this since then. In 15 years of writing something for her, she never once relented on her deadlines, chasing her correspondents in a terse and uncompromising way when they were holding up publication. She was a delightful woman—in every other way—and to meet her, you'd think butter would not melt in her mouth. Some of us saw the other side of her. Quite scary. We all hope that we can produce a village newsletter which does her justice, and cover our villages' activities in a way that keeps you all reasonably informed. Your contributions will be vital.

TF

SCHOOL report



Bishopstone Church of England Primary School



It's certainly beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, and not only because the school is currently knee deep in glitter, glue and decorations. Whilst standing in the fog, handing back our wonderful children to their parents after this afternoon's art club, there was a distinct chill in the air with a fine rain spotted on the office CCTV masquerading as a blizzard. The children and staff have been busily preparing for their annual nativity performance, a lantern parade (look out for us around the village on the 13th December) and our Christmas fayre – where the school will be trying to sell some of their own

wonderful craft work, including pomades and tree decorations. The school has been as busy as ever, with so much going on throughout the term. What has been really pleasing is the links we have made within the community and utilising much that the village has to offer, as well as continued friendship with Pinewood school.

We continue to attend St Mary's church for our weekly celebration assemblies, which have been led by Reverend Sandy and saw the school lay our own poppy wreaths during the school's act of remembrance on 11th November, we held a lovely harvest service receiving a large amount of food in generous donations from our parents – gratefully received by the Swindon Food Collective. The school has returned to use the island on the pond for Forest School Fridays, led by our Forest School leader. The children have been busy naming some of the ducks, who they are now able to pick out. Sessions on the island have seen the whole school attend outdoor learning sessions in all weathers, kitted out in wellies, waterproofs and bobble hats! Many thanks to the Parish Council for their support with this. Our staff love to dress up and will use any excuse to do so! We have even encouraged the children to join in and have managed to dress up several times already this academic year, wearing odd socks for a national anti-bullying campaign, in a variety of spots for Pudsey bear and Children in Need, and most recently as their favourite rockstars to help improve their times tables. On rockstars day the school even had a visit from a mini Ziggy Stardust, a tiny guitarist from ACDC and several members of youthful Bon Jovi to help celebrate multiplication! We are blessed with a wonderful group of incredibly supportive parents and we thank them for their support since our return to school in September.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all at Bishopstone CE Primary School.



Craft Fair a Success!

We have kicked Christmas off to a good start with Bishopstone Christmas Craft Fair which took place on 1st December.

Our own Chris Thomas got this going again for the first time since 2019. It was lovely to see everyone out and socialising again. Such a great crowd. I for one spent more money than I made but it was definitely worth it.

Thank you Chris for all your hard work arranging it. She would also like to say thank you to all the helpers, stall holders and shoppers.



Just to let you know our opening times through the festive period:

- Christmas Eve 9-6
- Christmas Day CLOSED
- Boxing Day 12-5
- New Year's Eve 9-6
- New Year's Day 9-6
- 2nd Jan 9-5
- 3rd Jan CLOSED
- 4th Jan CLOSED

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the shop this year, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas

Lynne

@helenbrowningsbishopstonestores

It's so nice to be back!

RECYCLING MATTERS



But what strange times we live in? Given the country's current economic challenges testing us all, I thought it might be useful to discuss how some greener options don't actually cost more and can hopefully save you money in the long run.

Since Covid, the Walker wage-earners are now mostly working from home and are acutely aware of rising fuel

costs. Fortunately the weather has been kind (so far!) and like many, we've consciously reduced our heating thermostat and the hours our heating is on for compared to recent years. Like many, I guess we'd taken warmth at the touch of a button and its relatively low cost for granted – forgetting that we grew up with no central heating and frost appearing on the insides of bedroom windows in the depths of winter! Remembering the words of Alfred Wainwright (and much quoted at Hillsborough Day Nursery, now Alfresco, when our kids were there) - 'There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing,' I've been in search of other ways of staying cosy.

During Covid times, when the only thing we seemed able to do was go out for a walk, we discovered winter thermal walking trousers. These have a fleecy lining and are brilliant at keeping you warm – even if it does feel like you could spontaneously combust at any time with all that polyester rubbing together! With the same concept of fleece and layers in mind (but hopefully not quite so unflattering!) I've ordered myself some thermal long-sleeved tops, leggings and socks which hopefully will look a bit more fashionable – or at least can be hidden under normal clothes. Mine will eventually be coming from Marks & Spencer (Royal Mail strike permitting) but a quick search shows that the idea seems to be on trend at the moment in a number of stores. I've also bought a couple of pairs of lined trousers for my Dad, who not being as mobile as he was, now feels the cold more. These are from a company called Chums and sell both indoor and outdoor lined trousers.

As well as dressing warmly, whenever I sit down at my desk or to relax in an evening, I routinely have a throw draped over my lap, and wear my fleecy-lined boot slippers. I also anticipated getting out my lovely furry hot water bottle but after the recent news about serious accidents caused by them, it will need to be thoroughly checked out first. Apparently all hot water bottles should have the month and year of manufacture printed on them and should only be used for up to 3 years before being replaced. They shouldn't be used directly against skin or filled with boiling water, but rather boiled water that has been left to cool. I've always found that once in the covered bottle, the water retains its heat very well anyway and I don't use anything warmer than hand-hot, just in case. I love a hot water bottle but if mine is now past its use by date perhaps I'll recycle my microwaveable heat pad for elderly pets and put that to use!

On another subject, I recently found myself in a shop asking, on being told the total price, 'Are you sure that's right?' Surprisingly, given the seemingly endless rise in food costs, I thought I was being charged too little! How often does that happen? We were in the Hinton Marsh Farm Shop in Shrivenham picking up some items for dinner. Unfortunately our family has morphed into having lots of different dietary requirements –one vegetarian, one out-and-out carnivore, one lactose intolerant and lots of combinations of just-plain-awkward which makes meal-times a challenge. The Farm Shop is perfect in that I can buy just the amount I needed – no need to buy a pack of something and freeze what was over. Everything is grown, made, bred and/or butchered very locally and as Rebecca, the owner pointed out, as a result they can cut out the middle-man and keep the prices very reasonable whilst the quality and standards are very high.

I'm sure we're all very aware of the local businesses that have suffered recently in both Wanborough and Ashbury due to road closures. Who would be an entrepreneur when your whole livelihood can be threatened so quickly and seemingly easily? Covid, road closures, fuel costs – the challenges seem endless. We are so lucky to have some fantastic businesses almost on our proverbial doorstep. Do consider supporting them and reducing your food/Christmas present/hair & beauty etc. miles! And on that note, I bought some lovely Christmas items from the new gift shop in Shrivenham – Blossom Barn.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Sustainable New Year!

Karen Walker

Bishopstone Stores

Well, who can quite believe that it's this time of year again already?! That's right, Christmas is literally just around the corner and if, like me, you aren't ready, why not pop into the shop for those last-minute panic-presents?! Visit our gifting corner (it gets slightly bigger at this time of year you know) and let us solve your dilemmas.... cosy socks, delightfully scented candles, snuggly blanket, or a world-famous piggy mug, we've got something for everyone. There's lots to choose from for the foodies of the family too and we can even make up your chosen treats into a fabulous goodie box.

And then of course, there's the Festive Feasts to consider! Whether you are catering for one or twenty-one why not make it that bit extra special with some of our very own organic pork and beef? If you forgot to order

from us don't despair – we'll have a great range here in the shop for you. Unsmoked gammons, perfectly pink beef, sausage meat, sausages and of course, bacon, will be stacked into the fridge on Tuesday 20th December along with our usual range of organic meats. Make your Christmas dinner truly fabulous by grabbing some of our Eastbrook Veg to create a rainbow on your plate! Expertly grown by Pete the Master Grower, you can guarantee to have the tastiest, and quite simply the biggest veg in Wiltshire! A new venture for us here at Eastbrook but we have all been astounded that just one carrot can feed a whole family!

BADS is back!



Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society is returning with 4 evenings of entertainment to brighten your winter nights.

This year the production will be 'Blithe Spirit' by Noël Coward, a farce in 3 acts that is sure to be spookily entertaining with many of your favourite local actors returning along with some fresh faces from the recent summer sketches.

The set team have been very busy re-constructing Bishopstone Village Hall stage to give it a 1930's vibe, powered by many cups of tea! Belinda Nicholls, our stoic director, has been studious in her attention to detail as ever to transport you back in time while sending countdowns to the cast and reminders to learn their lines as 'books down' is fast approaching. Rehearsals are in full swing with the cast frantically trying to learn their lines, remember where they should be standing and sourcing appropriate costumes and props!

It will be a night to remember that will leave you 'haunted' for years to come!

Performances will run from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st January 2023 with doors opening at 7pm.



This amateur production of "Blithe Spirit" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

To book your tickets call or pop into The Royal Oak (Tel. 01793 790481) and why not book a pre-theatre supper while you are there?

Tickets are £8.50 (Wed/Thurs, with £6 concessions) with all Fri/Sat tickets at £10.

@BishopstoneHintonParvaAmateurDramaticsSociety

For the love of Gardening!

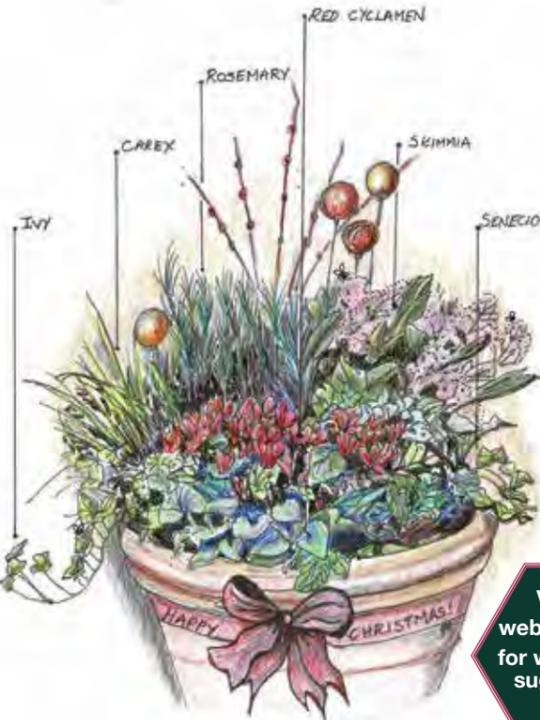


Hi, I'm Jane,

I moved to the village last July and I'm passionate about plants and design, I've volunteered to write this gardening column, but I need your help!

I'm open to requests and I'm keen to know if you would like a Bishopstone Gardeners' Question Time? Or if there's something else that you would like me to tackle (Garden related!) You can reach me on my email, phone me or pop a note through the door (all contact info. below).

I'm starting this first issue with a festive recipe for a Christmas container to brighten your day!



Visit my website (below) for winter plant suggestions

PLANT A SEASONAL WELCOMING CONTAINER

Ingredients:

- One bucket size or slightly smaller container with holes in the bottom for drainage.
- 1-2 handfuls of stones, chunky gravel or broken crockery.
- Plant feet or bricks
- Plants. At least one tall one for impact, 3-5 medium plants for interest plus some trailing ivy and pops of colour. Visit my web site below for a handy winter container plant list
- Water
- Some decorations: You could use: a small string of battery or solar Outdoor twinkly lights, baubles (best not to use glass!) and a lovely chunky ribbon.
- Plenty of Incentive-this might include hot chocolate, mulled wine, and mince pies!

Method

- Choose your container. If made of terracotta make sure its frost-proof (not frost-resistant) to prevent cracking. Planted containers can get heavy so either plant 'in place' or choose a lightweight pot that's easy to move.
- Raise your pot off the ground with pot feet or bricks, this lessens the likelihood of frost damage to your plants (just a couple of inches above ground can be a degree or two warmer!)
- Place stones, broken crockery/pots or chunky gravel in the bottom of the container to a rough depth of 1cm (1/2 in) , this stops the compost washing out but still allowing water drainage.
- Fill the pot 2/3 full with peat free multipurpose compost or make your own mix with 2 parts good garden soil and 1 part well-rotted garden compost.
- Carefully remove your plants from their pots (biodegradable pots can be planted directly into the compost), tease out the roots gently and arrange on top of the compost. You want the original soil level of your plant to sit about 3.5cm (1.5 in) below your pot lip, so you might have to add or remove the compost in your new pot to achieve this.
- Once everything is in place, firm the compost gently around your plants and add a dusting of fresh compost to top your pot (no more than 1 cm (1/2 in)
- Water well to settle any air pockets and top up with compost if necessary. You should end up with a 2.5cm (1in) gap between the soil level and the top of your container
- Garnish with a bow, baubles and or twinkly lights
- Admire your gorgeous creation. It looks festively fab!

Aftercare

- A weekly watering should be enough in the winter with no feeding required until the spring.
- Deadhead regularly to encourage more flowers

Spot the Bee!

How many bees can you see in the winter container sketch?

Bee Wise! Bees need our help and many species don't hibernate in the winter, they huddle together to keep their queen warm and on sunny days they leave the hive in search of nectar. You can help them by planting winter flowering plants such as Mahonia, Hellebores, Willows, Crocuses, Snowdrops and Aconites.

December To Do List: In case you're bored!

1. Plant Trees & Shrubs
2. Take hardwood cuttings
3. Prune Acers, Birches and Vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding.
4. Prune open-grown apples & pear trees (but not those trained against a wall)
5. Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts & remaining root crops
6. Reduce watering of houseplants and don't feed them, they need a fast!
7. Check your winter protection structures are securely in place including tree stakes
8. Mulch your borders,
9. Wrap delicate pots and move tender plants to warmer areas.
10. Check your green house heaters are working-for your plants and your personal winter escape!

Happy Gardening!

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janepearsondesign@icloud.com

The Lynchetts, Icknield Way, Bishopstone

www.janepearsondesign.com/hints&tips



Green Fingers



AGM

The AGM date has been moved to Tuesday 10th January 2023 from 7.00pm in the Bishopstone village hall Our AGM will be combined with a BRING AND BUY GARDEN SALE (tools, pots, books and any garden items) in the hall. So start sorting out your unwanted garden items and put aside any unwanted gardening gifts at Christmas. We will let you have more information about the organisation of the sale closer to the event. There will be a glass of wine and a chance to view the sale before the AGM. Then the sale will begin when the AGM business is complete. We would like to encourage more people along to the club so please let your friends know about this event.

Quiz Night

As you already know, the quiz night was a really fun night. However, you may not know that the night raised £800. £400 for the coffers of the gardening club and £400 for the Bishopstone United Charities. Thank you to all of you who gave so generously, especially for the raffle.

The Future

We would like to make this a great, successful year for the gardening club. The club suffered through the 'Covid years' but managed to creak back into action in 2022. Now we can look forward to an informative and sociable year in 2023 with the Bishopstone and District Gardening Club.

Sue Dent

Bishopstone & District Gardening Update

Hello Fellow Gardeners

I expect you are like me, and starting to put your garden to bed for the winter. As I write this it is 4.30pm on a wet November afternoon. It is already nearly dark and I feel quite glum that I cannot still be in the garden! However I am looking forward to the new year when the gardening club will start 2023 with an AGM followed by a full programme of great speakers for the rest of the year, as well as our plant sale, show and quiz night. The full programme will be given out at the AGM.

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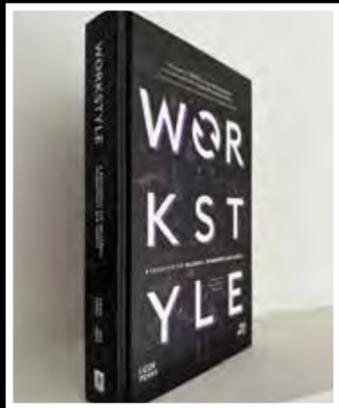
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Local author calls for immediate and revolutionary change to the way we work



Wave goodbye to clock watching, presenteeism and that Monday feeling. They belong to an outmoded way of working according to authors Lizzie Penny and Alex Hirst whose new book **Workstyle: A revolution for wellbeing, productivity and society** calls for radical changes to the way we work that will improve wellbeing, productivity and society.

Alex Hirst came up with the concept of Workstyle with Lizzie Penny in response to their negative experiences of a 9-5 traditional working week. Alex suffered from debilitating burnout, before starting a family and leaving London for life in Bishopstone.



Alex has been leading the Workstyle revolution for almost a decade, co-founding a social enterprise, Hoxby, in 2014 to prove the concept. He has since helped thousands of Workstylers around the world to set, project and respect their own Workstyles, and conducted pioneering research into the link between autonomy, productivity and wellbeing. His business has delivered projects in a Workstyle way for some of the biggest brands in the world and his book is currently a Sunday Times No. 1 Bestseller.

Email Alex for a signed copy: alex@workstylerevolution.com

Join the: workstylerevolution.com

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DICKIE'S diary

How safe is your meat?

Who would have predicted three years ago that our lives would be so affected by Covid and now Avian Flu. In wishing you all a Happy Christmas may I ask if you have ordered your festive bird yet? Avian or Bird Flu is a nasty contagious viral disease affecting commercial poultry and there have also been serious deaths of sea birds and swans. With supplies of turkey and goose compromised do not leave it until the last minute to secure your order.



We came across this problem a few years ago in south west France which is a big area for duck farming supplying duck breasts and foie gras. We noticed that the flocks were either indoors or had been culled and the same has now happened here. All commercial poultry have been ordered indoors since November 7th this year. There is compensation for affected herds but here's the rub, the gap required before restocking means that for turkeys a farmer will miss out on two Christmas markets. Dire for a specialist producer who will have to find work elsewhere to support his family.

Likewise egg supplies are also coming under pressure with prices up 50 p/ dozen and producers claiming that despite the frightening food costs their margins have only increased 5-10 p/ dozen.

Game shooting in this country has not escaped primarily because many game farmers have relied on imported supplies of eggs or day old chicks from France. This trade has developed because partridges over there lay earlier in the warmer conditions. This year the disease and rules preventing exports have stifled trade. Reduced supplies have seen prices escalate for young birds ready to go to wood rise 250% making the operation unviable. As a result two local shoots, one at Bishopstone and one at Compton Beauchamp are not operating this year. Rather like the energy issue with tight supplies exacerbated by dependence on Russia, too great a reliance on imports can affect the food chain. Farmers' leaders have been thumping the barrel of food security for years with little effect. Going forward there is now a strong case to encourage home production if only we can find the labour force to make this happen. If you are eating turkey, goose or game this Christmas be assured that once cooked the meat is safe.

Dickie Green

PETE'S PUZZLE: films

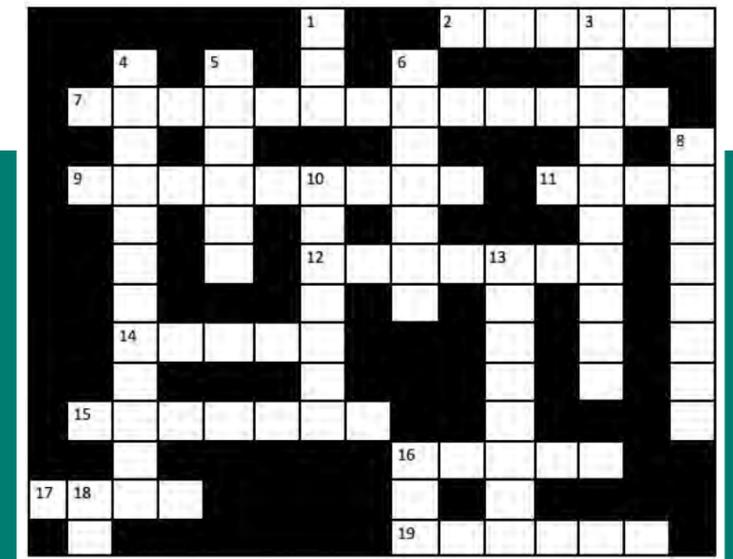
All of the answers are one-word titles of films. I've tried to give a suggestion of each film within the clues.

Across

- Always ask for a room with a bath?
- Men with notebooks watching for hours, probably drug-induced.
- Start this dream.
- It's hot for thieves.
- Don't drag your foot.
- Half this, it's a sin.
- Start serving early retirement, policeman informs corrupt officers.
- If you go down to the woods today, oh dear!
- Just start with no when unexpectedly pregnant.
- Handing north out brings about peace in India.

Down

- Boy takes in a bird.
- Called Erin? That's not right for this princess.
- Nan first keen for this creator.
- Don't write off this tale of despair.
- Don't rob the co-op with him around.
- Fast hard lust ends romantic story
- Act in it like Leo and Kate?
- He's a bit above the rest.
- Zoltar provides some ambiguous advice.
- But first attach balloons under pressure.



Enter to win!

If anyone can remember as far back as the last edition and happens to have saved it with a completed crossword, you might just be in for a tenner off in the Royal Oak.

Please submit your completed crossword by the end of each month either by foot or by email to Lynne at Bishopstone Stores, who will drag a winning name from a hat if more than one of you is bright enough to complete it. When you read your name in the next edition to say you've won, you can nip back to the shop to be presented with a nice shiny voucher for £10 off your bill at the pub or in the shop.

Email: shop@helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk

Watch this space for answers and winners!

Cycle Route No.1 - The Quest to Iwo Jima

A perfect ride distance for fitness enthusiasts to time trial or recreational cyclists to experience everything the stunning Ridgeway has to offer. The predominantly off-road circuit (only 0.5 miles on the road) takes in the woodland trails, chalk climbs, meadow valleys and a stately home to boot.

Distance: 13.62 miles
Elevation: 781 ft
Average Cycle Time: 1hr 30 mins

The route is best journeyed in an anti-clockwise direction on the map below, starting through Bishopstone's 'Winding Woods' and through the local sheep grazed valley's up onto the Ridgeway. Then follow the Ridgeway easterly to the top of Idstone Hill, turning right and gently descending the bumpy bridleway, dodging the puddles or not, which leads you to the estate of Ashdown House. Take a moment to catch your breath, admire the drive and dolls house like exterior of this National Trust property. The next short section, right turn, onto the road to the water station on the Lambourn Road. Here you take an adjacent left turn and climb up the chalk 'Weather Cock Hill' track leading to the iconic flag post adorned with the Union flag against the breath-taking back drop across the 'Valley of the Racehorse'. Our Iwo Jima!



Here you have really earned the view. Next take great care whilst dropping down the aptly named Stave section track called 'Death Slide' as this short but steep white clay section can be very slippery in the wet and has deep gorges eroded by the weather. Take it steady and you'll be fine!

Bear left onto the second half of the route which starts with a gentle incline back up to the Ridgeway. The local tourist spot of 'White Horse Hill' is in plain view ahead, keep looking out for large herd of deer which normally inhabit 'Pingoose Covert' wood to your right. They can be stunning in the winter sun. Reaching the Ridgeway again your journey now hits the Woodlands, parallel to Wayland's Smithy, turn left into "Slalom Woods" heading south for fun single track, weaving between the mesmerising ancient tree line. Turn right onto the track and at the bottom of the hill cross the Lambourne Road. Straight over hugging the edge of the Ashdown Estate woods on your left before making a right turn across the field for a final time back onto the Ridgeway. Turn Left & head for home from here and if you time it right you can enjoy satisfying refreshments at the infamous 'Flying Pig' sitting majestically above the dreamy village of Bishopstone.

Lycra Lil

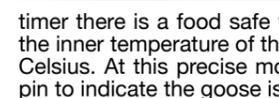


The Gadgeteer



Scouring the world for over twenty years in search of the perfect kitchen tool or gadget, the Gadgeteer has sought out, tried and tested them all. In this short column a small ration of potentially life changing gadget wisdom will be imparted to the masses and in turn the readership of this publication. This month we present the Pop-Up Turkey Timer. Invented in America by a Eugene Beales in the 1960's the Pop-Up Timer was developed to help home cooks at thanksgiving overcome the conundrums and complications of calculating minutes per pound cooking times and preventing dehydrated carcasses being presented before the family gathering. The most crazy ideas come from North America or China too where they are often nonsensical.

In the US the rewards for successful inventions fuel a mad culture of sometimes daft creativity. In this case however the Pop-Up Timer does actually work and solves the "finger in the air" uncertainty of preparing a perfect roast. The timer is relatively inexpensive in comparison to the price of a free range bird albeit a one-time use gadget. The timer works by pressing the spear shaped timer into the leg of the bird as soon as it goes into the oven. The timer heats as the bird cooks. Inside the



timer there is a food safe wax, perfectly formulated to melt once the inner temperature of the roast reaches the perfect 82 degrees Celsius. At this precise moment the timer "pops" releasing a red pin to indicate the goose is cooked!

The Pop-Ups proved to be so successful in America they are now often issued free with turkeys at the butchers. In the UK they can now be found at good independents such as Borough Kitchen in London or department stores such as John Lewis and Fenwick. Next month spring cleaning!

The Gadgeteer

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Inside the Peach Pip

For some years now, it has been my ambition to open a bookshop. It has been my stock answer whenever anybody asks me what on earth I want to do with my life: "Well, ideally... eventually... I'd like to open a bookshop." Invariably, this is met with bemusement and some retort about how "surely nobody buys physical books anymore" and "it must be a dying trade" (it isn't).

For a time, it was a dream that felt unreachable owing to my lack of a large money pot and the fact that I haven't the foggiest how to run a business. Minutiae, I have since decided. Realising that Bishopstone Village Hall was a steal to hire, and that I had a house full of books, I began asking, "How hard can it be?"

I created some haphazard branding and soon enough, back in early March, I was set for business. Books on every surface, record player popping, comfy beanbags, tea and coffee, and a banner outside for 'Peach Pip Books'. Very satisfying. What's more, thanks to some nifty Facebook advertising and questionable hand-drawn flyers, some of you lovely people actually showed up!

It has been my great pleasure running Peach Pip every couple of months since, and I want to thank everyone who has made it so: those who have helped lug books around (looking mainly at my parents), assisted with serving customers, kept me company, brought me food (parents again), generously

donated books or equipment, and of course all who have given their custom and support. Some of you have even donated back the same books you bought from me! You know who you are. Note to self: must seek a wider customer base...

I hope Peach Pip has become a place of community, and it is in that spirit that I would like henceforth to run it as a pay-what-you-want event. The next pop-up date for your diary will be the evening of **Friday 23rd December from 6-8pm**, running alongside the Village Hall Carols Round the Tree event. Please come along and take as much or little as you like for free, or PWYW - donations towards the running of the shop will be gratefully received.

Perhaps one day I will have a 'proper' bookshop, but this is quite enough for now.

Anna Bareham

Anna's Christmas recommendation:
Gifts, by Laura Barnett

And for children:
How the Grinch Stole Christmas,
by Dr Seuss



CHURCH NEWS



Photo, Graham Curley

A Taste of Ramsbury

A very merry evening fundraiser took place on Friday 18 November in the Bishopstone village hall where the products of Ramsbury Distillery and Brewery were sampled accompanied by some delicious cheese. Proceeds from the evening and the raffle were just over £500 and were donated to assist with keeping St Mary's and St Swithun's Churches open to the community.

The PCC's thanks go to all who donated and supported the event, to Chris Thomas and her team for organising it, and to Hazel and Jordan from Ramsbury who hosted it. AT

Church Services in the Benefice Dec. 22 / Jan. 23 - full details on www.achurchnearyou.com

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Service	Officiate
Sunday	18th December 2022	15:00	All Saints	Advent 4 Crib Service	Rev'd Sandy Railton (TBC)
Sunday	18th December 2022	16:00	St Mary's	Carol Service	TBC
Saturday	24th December 2022	17:00	St Mary's	Christmas Eve Christingle	Rev'd John Railton
Saturday	24th December 2022	23:30	All Saints	Christmas Eve Midnight	Rev'd John Railton
Sunday	25th December 2022	09:30	St Mary's	Christmas Day Eucharist	TBC
Sunday	1st January 2023	10:30	St Swithun	Naming of Jesus	TBC
Sunday	8th January 2023	10:30	All Saints	Baptism of Christ	TBC
Sunday	15th January 2023	10.30	St Mary's	Epiphany 2	TBC

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

A Letter From The Church

Dear Parishioners

Rev'd Sandy Railton is still recovering from her illness which has led to some different faces leading our services across the Benefice.

A big thank you must go to Rev Dr John Railton and Archbishop Rev Christopher Brian who have been covering most of the services. Sandy really hopes she will be able to attend the Christmas Christingle service here at Bishopstone. We are praying that she has recovered well enough to lead this well attended village tradition of Christingle on Christmas eve.

News from other parts of our Benefice is that St Andrews, Wanborough is now closed for replacement of the stolen lead roof and a structural repair to a beam in the nave. This will mean St Andrews will be closed at least until Spring next year. Please do dig deep to help them with their repair funds by visiting the Benefice webpage appeal <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/wanborough-st-andrew>

As Christmas approaches, we look towards new beginnings, we think it appropriate to sign off with a prayer.

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. Amen.

With Seasons Greetings from all of the leadership team of:

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Could you offer an hour a month to help us reduce traffic speeds in Bishopstone and Hinton Parva?

Our Community Speed Watch team urgently needs additional volunteers so we can have a more regular presence to deter speeders.

Full training will be provided by Wiltshire Police

(mostly online). Speed Watches mainly



take place at rush hour times, in either the early morning or late afternoon, as that's when our villages experience the worst traffic problems. If you'd like to join the team and help make our country lanes safer for walkers, riders and all residents, please contact cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com for further information.

COST OF LIVING HELP AVAILABLE

Households across Swindon borough will benefit from over £1.5m of grant funding issued by Central Government to help those people who are most in need to cope with the significantly rising cost of living.

As with previous allocations, a portion of the new funding will be distributed automatically as vouchers for food and energy to low income families.

For other households who need immediate or short-term support to meet their family's essential needs, a new fund has been opened which residents can apply for. Residents must meet an eligibility criteria in order to be successful, and will be granted vouchers

to help towards the costs of energy, water or food.

The new fund is for those that have not already received the £650 cost of living payment from the Government, and those whose expenditure is more than their income, or have experienced an unexpected expense which affects their ability to meet the cost of energy, food or other essential bills.

Swindon residents can apply for financial assistance via www.swindon.gov.uk/costofliving. If you need any help to apply for benefits, contact Citizens Advice Swindon on 0808 278 7813 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm).

ON THE AGENDA

Agenda of Parish Council meeting held at Hinton Parva Village Hall on Monday 5th December, 2022 at 7.30pm

Members of the public or press are welcome to observe all parish council meetings and may raise issues and ask questions before the meeting, in public question time. Plans can be viewed via <http://pa1.swindon.gov.uk/publicaccess> by entering the application number.

1. Public Question Time
2. Approved Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Last Meeting 7th November, 2022
5. Matters Arising
6. Planning
7. Ward Cllr Gary Sumner's report
8. School's use of Island
9. Councillors' allowances
10. Precept
11. Provision of defibrillators
12. New newsletter
13. Key Area updates
14. GDPR
15. Community Safety
16. Accounts to be paid
17. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints
18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting date is 9th January at Bishopstone Village Hall. Any changes will be posted on noticeboards, website and Facebook.

Draft minutes of monthly meetings can be found on the parish website bishopstoneandhintonparva.org on the Friday following the monthly meeting. They will be formally accepted at the following month's meeting. Agendas and minutes can be found on the website and will also be posted on the parish council notice boards outside the village halls.

A WELCOME REMINDER

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new residents of the Parish.

We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community. The Parish contains two conservation areas and many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of challenges when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away. The Parish Council is always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Contact the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council listed below. We do hope you will be very happy here.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Ms Jaine Blackman (Clerk)

Phone: 07913 819422

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)

Cllr.valbrodin@gmail.com

Mr Ian Thomas (Vice Chair)

Cllr.ianthomas@gmail.com

Mr Julian Cooke

Cllr.juliancooke@gmail.com

Mr Nigel Crisp

Cllr.crisp@gmail.com

Mr Doug Stevens

Cllr.dougstevens@gmail.com

Mr Tom Green

Cllr.tomgreen@gmail.com

Mrs Gill May

Cllr.GillMay@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Clark

Cllr.andyclark@gmail.com

Mrs Lucille McGrath

Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com

The Parish Council's policies and documents can be viewed at [at bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/](http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

9th January Bishopstone Village Hall

6th February Hinton Parva Village Hall

6th March Bishopstone Village Hall

3rd April Hinton Parva Village Hall

All meetings begin at 7.30pm. Late changes are shown at bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parish-council/ and on the notice boards. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

Useful Information

Swindon Borough Council: Reception Premier House 01793

465055/465056; Civic Offices 01793 463668; Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

For problems with waste collections call Streetsmart on: Monday to Friday 8am-8pm 01793 445501; all other times 01793 466453

Report fly-tipping or pot-holes to SBC: swindon.gov.uk/my-account

Wiltshire Police non-emergency number (less urgent than 999): 101

Borough Councillor Gary Sumner - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS' KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Finance Nigel Crisp/Lucille McGrath

Footpaths and Highways Julian Cooke (Hinton Parva) Ian Thomas (Bishopstone)

Pond & Island Doug Stevens

Hinton Parva Village Hall Andy Clark

Bishopstone Village Hall Tom Green

Hinton Parva Charities Peter Cooke (PC nominee)

Bishopstone United Charities Doug Stevens, Christine Thomas (PC nominee), Laurie Manktelow (PC nominee)

Trees Julian Cooke (Hinton Parva) Ian Thomas (Bishopstone)

Russley Park Liaison Nigel Crisp

Responsible Financial Officer Jaine Blackman (Clerk)

Planning Ian Thomas/Tom Green

Website/IT Nigel Crisp/Andy Clark

Policies Gill May

School liaison Lucille McGrath

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

S/22/1685 Erection of 1 no. dwelling, the erection of a detached garage and associated site works at Henny Rose Barn, City Corner Hinton Parva. **Comments by 19/12.**

GRANTED

S/LBC/21/1675 Installation of replacement windows at Poveys Cottage, Tuckers Lane, Hinton Parva

S/22/1236 Erection of a lean-to extension to existing farm building to provide storage at Little Hinton Farm, Hinton Parva.

S/HOU/22/0591 Erection of new stables at The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Bishopstone.

APPEAL

S/OUT/20/0533 Outline application for the erection of up to 220 no. dwellings, commercial facilities up to 300 sq.m. (Use Classes A1/ A2/A3/A4/A5/ B1 & D1) and 2.2 ha land for a primary school with associated parking, landscaping, drainage and heritage trail; access to Southern Connector Road not reserved at Foxbridge, Wanborough.

S/21/1291 Erection of 2no. dwellings and associated works at land adjacent to Manor Down Farm, Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone.

Pond Life



This month's Pond Life is brought to you in the form of a word search. No prizes for this one it's just for fun.

Answers will be in next month's edition so you can give yourself a pat on the back.

There are 20 words to find and to make it a little more challenging I'm not telling you what they are. Enjoy!

JW

Q Z S S U B M A R I N E O J R
 Q K V I W D U C K O G W Y Y N
 S T V U L A V K Q X R S H F O
 I A B W K T N P O I A Q D I Q
 N D T I D R A G O N F L Y S S
 D P H L K F R O G O T Z A H T
 I O Q L I I E M N C G E G V R
 A L H O I U N G P E U X R X E
 N E S W M L V G R F L F R W A
 R Q N C X I C M F E L J A E M
 U T A L X Z L P B I T R T T G
 N H I L Q F M L H Y S J D W L
 N N L X M O O R H E N H N I I
 E C D U C K L I N G V U E M O
 R O B B S L W S M Z O U D R L



Royal Oak Diary



Welcome back darlings to the worst pub in the village, faced like the rest of you with an utterly disgraceful electricity supply market, with the fat cats from British Gas and Eon asking for a £10 a day standing charge for the privilege of being a customer. Fortunately there are some fairer (slightly fairer) suppliers out there, eg Smartest Energy, who only charge 40p a day for this dubious privilege. Notwithstanding a rate increase of 400 per cent per unit. From renewable resources—I was not aware the sun and wind and tides etc were costing that much more these days, with or without a disgusting war in Ukraine. I am scandalised by plenty of stuff currently, including but not exclusively the Home Secretary who threatens to arrest any of us if we make too much noise on a protest. I suggest we rent a bus and go down there and shout a lot, about anything, just to irritate her.

And of course we can continue to irritate lots of you! Whether it's loud parties, ripping you off with outrageous drink prices, tapping into your phone's Apple Pay page and simply takin' money for old rope, or depriving you all of free car parking spaces (my imagination is extremely fertile this morning), we know all the tricks of the trade. But we never use any of them, oddly enough.

Instead, we offer seven days a week of food and drink, often in the warmest and most irreverent spot in the village, and unfettered access to any events that we choose to hold, whether it's pig racing (next year June 4), classic car days, occasional live music (next open to all session is our favourite dance band Hooch from 6.30 on Sunday December 18, plus some staff awards quite possibly), farm and food open days, etc etc. We try to be part of the community here, albeit on our own terms, as you're aware.

The annual Christmas and New Year period here is a subdued affair, since we also enjoy a very limited amount of time off. So we open on Christmas Day for drinks for favourite customers, 11.30-2pm; big lunch if people want it on Boxing Day; and New Year here is a very downplayed occasion—no tickets no bouncers no music no fun, and all in bed by 10 please. Don't get too excited by this over-rated day. Or go to Ashbury.

Talking of neighbouring villages, even I feel deep sympathy for the people and businesses of Wanborough, plagued as they have been by a greedy borough council and simply hopeless (I don't buy all the excuses) construction companies as they were cut off from the civilised world for most of 2022, and probably a large chunk of 2023. The gene pool in Wanborough must be shrinking. All to allow thousands more houses on pieces of land that get very wet. And that's without the Amazon building that looms like an alien over the north end of these parishes, all lit up like a Christmas tree at night. Bet they're not paying £10 a day standing charge.

A couple of requests that will turn into rules if people don't take enough notice—we'd prefer on our farmland here, where people have easy and relaxed access, that dog owners a) could keep their dogs on leads, especially during late winter/spring/early summer so our large number of ground nesting birds are not disturbed and nests destroyed; and that dog owners always pick up after their pets—we lost between 20 and 25 calves this year through abortions in dairy cows due to the worms that unwormed dogs can leave behind, and b) that the Royal Oak car park is not used as a (speedy) short cut through the village. There are people and children around at all times, the extra traffic churns the place up, and I'm tired of spending £1000 a year on gravel so some of you can save 15 seconds leaving or going home. I was nearly knocked over by one speeding Volvo in October. Which would have been disappointing, for some of you

TF



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General Information

Tell us your thoughts!
'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR'
 for January's issue:
BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Contributions

If you'd like to write an article or submit any photography. Please email Andrea for consideration in the next issue. We aim to distribute the newsletter on or around 15th of each month.

Deadline for any considerations will be the last day of the previous month but we'd welcome submissions sooner.

If you would like an advert designing for placement in the village news, please contact Andrea who is offering a discounted rate for Village News adverts.

We are a non-profit organisation

The Village News is created and run by a small group of volunteers and is a non-profit organisation affiliated to Bishopstone Village Hall. Reg Charity no 271165. If you would like to make a donation to help with the upkeep please contact Treasurer Andy P.

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Diary

Mid Dec 2022 - Mid Jan 2023

2022/2023	Time	Event	Place	Contact
09.12.22	11.30am - 4pm	Bishopstone School KS1 School Nativity	Bishopstone Village Hall	admin@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk 01793 790521
11.12.22	6.30pm	Highworth Choral Society's Christmas Concert. highworthchoral.co.uk/concerts	St Michael's Highworth	Tickets £10, (under 12s free) Lighthouse bookshop, members or hcssecretary2019@gmail.com
17.12.22	Noon - 4pm	Better with Music Cafe. Live music, music workshop, food, second hand sale, open mic, special guest	Swindon Central Library SN1 1QG	FREE ENTRY soundslikewomen.com
18.12.22	6.30pm	Village dance night and staff thank yous	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
21.12.22	7pm	Jingle & Mingle - Christmas ladies night open to all in and around Bishopstone and Hinton Parva	The Royal Oak	Lucille McGrath 07917 411 881
23.12.22	TBC	Carols by the tree	Bishopstone Village Hall	Check Facebook page (above) for details
23.12.22	Noon - 2pm	Christmas Jazz Lunch	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
24.12.22	5pm	Village Get-together to sing Carols and Christmas Songs. Mince pies, mulled wine and other light refreshments. All are welcome, entrance is free.	Hinton Parva Village Hall	Please RSVP to help with catering requirements: Contact Rod at PeckRM34@gmail.com 07784 183 239
10.01.23	7pm-9pm	Gardening Club AGM	Bishopstone Village Hall	Sue Dent
18.01.23 - 21.01.23		BADS Pre-performance Supper	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
18.01.23 - 21.01.23	7pm	Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society Performance.	Bishopstone Village Hall	Tickets from The Royal Oak
Date TBC	TBC	Village Supper. All are welcome	Hinton Parva Village Hall	More details to follow

Church Services in the Benefice Dec. 22 / Jan. 23, [see page 10](#)

The views of individual writers expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the parish council or the church. If you have any feedback or questions, please contact one of the editorial team listed to your left.

You may also deliver items by hand to Bishopstone Stores and Lynne will kindly pass anything on to us. Please make sure that you include any names and contact details so that we may get in touch with you. None of these personal details will be published unless we are specifically asked to do so. Thank you to the whole team for your support in getting our new first issue off the ground. You've all been amazing.

Andrea