



# VILLAGENEWS

Bishopstone Village Phone Box

Feb 2023



IT'S ALREADY FLIPPIN' FEBRUARY!

## FULLY FUNCTIONAL AND RED

Why not treat the kids to a bit of nostalgia? 60p, phone Granny? Try reversing the charges, remember that?

We almost lost this a while ago. A successful case was made, mainly on the grounds of poor or non-existent mobile signal around the Village Hall, and should we have to evacuate the Hall (assembly point by the phone box by the way). This was our only option to contact granny etc.

BT wanted to remove it on the grounds of 'non-use' or they couldn't be bothered with the upkeep maybe.

Since then its functionality has been added to our '3F's' checklist (Fabric/Function/Fire Safety) and on a two weekly basis BT will now have a call log of calls received and somebody calling International enquiry's (free).

Our Red Phone Box should continue to function until we go fully fibre. Then 'BT' will have to instal a back-up power supply for the modem (and the light)... I wonder?

Bob, our Roving Reporter

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SHROVE TUESDAY?

The day known to Christians as Shrove Tuesday isn't always on the same date. It varies year on year, depending on when Easter falls. It's always during the seventh week before Easter and the day before Ash Wednesday; the beginning of Lent.

Traditionally, pancakes were eaten as a way to use up foods before the Lent period, so they don't go off, but these days, that's not always the case. The tradition has evolved into an excuse to fill our tummies with a delicious variety of options.

Whether you're team maple syrup and bacon, if you always opt for good old fashioned lemon and sugar (my favourite by far) or if you fill your pancakes with other goodies, I think it's safe to say that the vast majority of us get hungrily excited for pancake day.

If you'd like us to publish your pancake success or disaster pictures next month, please send them to [BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com) and if we get enough, we may be able to create a pancake wall of fame. In the meantime, here's a nice simple recipe for making your flipping stack on Tuesday 21st February. We'll look forward to seeing some of your culinary delights.

### Best UK Traditional Pancakes

#### YIELD

6-12 (Depending on size)

#### INGREDIENTS

100g flour  
1/8 tsp salt  
1 egg, beaten  
8 oz (235 ml) milk  
2 Tbsp of your favorite liqueur, or water  
Butter for pan  
Lemon wedges and sugar, to serve

#### METHOD

Sift flour & salt into a large bowl; make a well in the middle & add the beaten egg.

Stir in half the milk, gradually until it begins to form a batter.

Beat well and add the rest of the milk and liqueur or water.

Pour batter into a jug and let stand for about 15 minutes before making any pancakes. When rested, heat a nonstick pan over medium high heat, add a small knob of butter to the center of the pan, stir the batter then pour a small amount into the pan & swirl it so it spreads thinly.

Cook for approx one minute, then turn/FLIP if you're brave. (photos please!) Cook other side for approx 30 seconds (longer if you like browner)

Plate, drizzle with juice from a fresh lemon, sprinkle with sugar; roll or fold & eat immediately.

Continue adding a tiny bit of butter to the pan and cook the remaining batter.



## Bishopstone Stores

This short month of February brings us not only lighter evenings but also one of my favourite days of the year - Pancake Day!!

To give it its proper name, 'Shrove Tuesday' (21st of Feb this year) is an official feast day before the start of Lent. Traditionally, it wasn't all about eating pancakes but was actually derived from people confessing their sins and being declared free from any guilt - thus being 'Shriven'. In preparation for Lent, Shrove Tuesday was considered the perfect opportunity to use up all the rich foods that could not be consumed during fasting: eggs, milk, sugar and in modern times bacon, chocolate spread and ice cream!

Pagans, on the other hand, have a slightly different excuse for eating copious amounts of pancakes. They believe that the transition of the season from winter to spring is a difficult one and give their support to

Jarilo, the god of vegetation, fertility and springtime, by making and eating pancakes! The hot, round pancakes symbolise the sun and through eating them they get power, light and the warmth of the springtime sunshine.

Although the fillings may have changed over the years, many traditions remain. The Pancake Bell can still be heard, originally rung to call people to confession. Tossing still occurs, said to have been initiated by a woman from Buckinghamshire in 1445 who was making her pancakes when the bell began to toll. On returning to her pan she hurriedly flipped the pancake to avoid it burning on one side!

Whatever your reasons for demolishing these wonderful fluffy gems, and whether it be for breakfast, lunch or supper, make sure this year's are the best ever by grabbing all your ingredients here at the shop. Homemade, organic pancakes will surely be a hit with everyone. Whether you prefer sweet or savoury we've got everything you need to create Pancake Perfection! Eggs, flour, sugar, milk and all the fillings you could ask for - bacon and

maple syrup, lemon juice and sugar, chocolate spread and banana...or gin and tonic? Just remember to throw the first one away and then eat as many as you wish!

Enjoy! Lynne



### Opening Hours

Monday - Saturday 9am - 6pm

Sunday 9am - 3pm

@bishopstone\_stores

@helenbrowningsbishopstonestores

## Photo of the month

SEND US YOUR SNAPS

Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Achieve local fame with your photographic skills. The lucky winner will be chosen by the team each month. They will have their photo printed in full colour, right here, for the whole community to see.

### Congratulations Millie Ridgway

Millie from Hinton Parva sent us this gorgeous picture of her Alpaca, Goofy who is obviously after a big cuddle. Such a great photo of a beautiful face!

'Goofy the Alpaca', Millie Ridgway, Hinton Parva

## WI Pics theWI INSPIRING WOMEN



## Recycling Awkward Items

### RECYCLING MATTERS



In this month's installment, I thought I'd tell you about some exciting new finds about where you can recycle some of those more awkward items (not including husbands!) plus some of my top tips (no pun intended!)

If you're a supporter of the wonderful Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue (our local wildlife rescue centre near Cricklade, an independent branch of the national RSPCA), there's a supporter in Wootton Bassett who collects items that might otherwise be destined for landfill, to raise funds for them through the TerraCycle programme. I don't find the TerraCycle website terribly easy to use but I've obtained some photos of exactly what they collect and I'll post on the villages' Facebook site or I can send you the details if you'd like them - contact me via the Editor if necessary. They have wheelie-type bins outside their house at 73 Dunnington Road, SN4 7EL and have a huge list of items that they collect. These include:- cheese packaging, biscuit wrappers, confectionery packaging, bread bags and bakery packaging, Kinder and Ferrero Rocher packaging, Pringles tubes, personal care plastic such as roll-on deodorants, wipe packaging, toothbrushes and tooth brush heads, dental floss casings, Flash cleaning cloths and pads, Baylis and Harding caps and pumps, Hasbro & MB toys and games. LOL Surprise toys and packaging, disposable gloves, Marigold gloves and packaging, coffee packaging plus certain shampoo eco pouches, crisp, nuts, pretzel and popcorn packets and water filters. Phew! They also collect old electrical items, coins, notes, jewellery, stamps and ink cartridges for the Goatacre Animal Sanctuary. And to make your bulk recycling even more worth-while, you could combine it with a visit to the branch of Rays Ice Cream in the town and have a lovely walk along the Wilts and Berks canal nearby - we saw a kingfisher!

Closer to home is the Shrivenham Hub, in the High Street, which I'm going to try and visit before my next offering. They're only open Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm but recycle many of the above plus tablet blister packs which I've long been seeking a home for! They offer a number of other initiatives on their fascinating website so I'll try and report back next time.

Now to Boots Scan2Recycle. On the plus side, you can currently earn the very generous equivalent of £6 of Boots Advantage Card points (normally £5 and it will go back to this from 29th March) for every five items you recycle - you need to spend £10 in store too. The downside is the instructions aren't very straightforward, it can be time-consuming plus it can take over a day for your items to be verified, so you need to think ahead before a visit to a larger Boots store to make your 'deposit' and claim your reward. The items need to be not suitable for local recycling, non-hazardous, clean and empty. You upload photos of the items, complete descriptions of them and then they are verified. In order to make it work, I've had to take the photos on my phone, add the items (three empty tubes of toothpaste including one miniature, hair serum and a body lotion) via the website and then 'bank' them via the app. They're then 'pending' for around a day whilst they're verified - I can only see this by toggling back to the home screen on either the website or app. Then when they're available to 'deposit', I found I had to use the free instore Wi-Fi rather than my phone's data connection and the Advantage points are rewarded via the Scan2Recycle app rather than the Boots one. Hopefully I'm getting the hang of it!

Finally, my last top tip - lists! When I'm on top of things (which doesn't happen all that often...) we have a freezer list - it's amazing how you forget what is hidden in the depths! My daughter recently produced a going-out-of-date-soon/expired list of food - and I'm pleased to say the vegetable oil that was 4 years out of date doesn't seem to have caused any ill effects! As a result of a New Year's resolution to use up what I've got before buying more, I've just produced a lotions and potions list and have realised that I'm the not-so-proud owner of 22 unopened full-sized bottles of pamper stuff and 60 miniatures and sample-sizes! In my defence, they do seem to be the default present a woman of a certain age receives, friends pass things on to me plus I have a bit of a Beauty Box habit. What might you have hidden away? Don't forget, if you can't make use of it, why not give it away to someone who can locally via an app like Olio. Or be like me - use it up (eventually) - and get £95 worth of Boots Advantage points to re-stock when done!

KW

## Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

The WI meets on the second Thursday of every month either in Bishopstone or Hinton Parva Hall. Meetings usually start at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.) but this year we have tried having afternoon meetings in January and February so that nobody has to drive in the dark.

Our recent meetings have covered a variety of topics including looking at aspects of climate change and what we can do to help, hearing about local Downland village history from Paul Williams and a fascinating talk from David Lomax on Sculpture and its Historical Purpose.

There have also been practical sessions where we have been able to make birthday cards, Christmas

wreaths and decorations.

We have also been out and about in the local area including a guided walk in Highworth, a very interesting visit to a farm in Lydiard Millicent and an informative visit to a lovely garden near Chippenham. It goes without saying that because it's the WI there is always tea and cake!!

The year was rounded off by a very happy Christmas meal at The Brewers in Wanborough. There was some very enthusiastic (if not very tuneful!!) carol singing and quizzes that taxed our brains.....with varying degrees of success!!

Our next meeting is on Thursday April 13th at Hinton Parva hall at 7.30p.m. when we are lucky enough to have

Sarah Troughton, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire coming to join us and to tell us about the role.

New members are always very welcome and we are very happy for people to come along as visitors. If you are interested in joining our WI please email Jan Chapple.

janatwan@icloud.com





## For the love of Gardening!



### Plant Spotlight

Oooh - the joy of early bloomers!

At this time of year look out for scented Daphne, Sweet Box (Sarcococca) and Witch-hazel (Hamamelis) along with hope-bringing clumps of Snowdrop (Galanthus), Iris and stunning Mount Aso willow (Salix) and Salvia 'Blue Spire' stems (perovskia).



Did you know that most of our 'green and pleasant land' has felt the impact of human beings at some stage and much of this has been detrimental to our environment. The Royal Horticultural Society states that "we have a climate emergency and a biodiversity crisis" but I truly believe that all is not lost! Over the coming months I'll be exploring how we can plant to encourage regeneration in the face of warming summers and wetter, milder winters. Our gardens represent about 2% of the UK's entire land area and can be a gold mine of biodiversity. So, let's plan to make them even better!

This month I'm giving you a good excuse not to tidy your garden! I'm starting off with 6 ways to make your garden wilder, as featured in the latest RHS members magazine.



## HINTS AND TIPS

### How to get more plants for free!

We all know that buying plants can be an expensive business, but by taking hardwood cuttings now you can add to your garden, gift, swap or donate plants without spending a penny and it's easier than you may think!

Most deciduous plants (and some evergreens) can be used, including Dogwoods, Willow, Gooseberries, Roses, Currants, Honeysuckle, Jasmine and many more. I think the most difficult part of the process is being patient and managing your expectations for success. If you take cuttings now, they won't start rooting until the spring and may take a year or so until you can transplant them into your garden or into a two-litre pot. Some years are better than others, so don't be disheartened as even the experts at RHS wisely factor in a small failure rate, on a brighter note, you'll average at least a 75% success rate, so take lots, it's worth a try!

For a "how to" guide, please visit my blog at:

[www.janepearsondesign.com/blog](http://www.janepearsondesign.com/blog)



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## Green Fingers



### Bishopstone & District Gardening Update

The B&DGC on Jan 10th, was well attended by about 20 members and some new faces. Everyone enjoyed a glass of wine over some good 'catch up' chatter before the formalities. Keith Gibbison chaired the meeting and relayed the treasurers report in Chris Thomas's absence revealing a healthy bank balance to start the year. Sue Dent then introduced all the diary dates for 2023. A very interesting programme of speakers and events to look forward to.

A very warm welcome to our new members, some of whom attended the AGM, and thanks to all who offered to help at events. We will be reinstating refreshments at our meetings and their services will be much appreciated.

Wednesday 8th March 7pm

Are you thinking of entering a horticultural show or just an interested attendee? Then this is the evening for you!

Mandy Bradshaw: The Chatty Gardener, will be talking about 'Getting the Right Angle at Chelsea - a journalists view'. Some insider knowledge of the 'tricks of the trade' to catch the attention of the press as well as the interest of the judges at events such as the Chelsea Flower Show and even our very own Gardening Show in September!

See you all there.

**Contact: Marion Peck, 01793 791 001**

## GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Thank you dear Bishopstone reader for saving us all from the threat of more cheesy gardening jokes that appear in lieu of questions! Excitingly, we have our very first question (plus a helpful photo) about a two-year-old pink rambling/climbing rose cutting. The question is: "What do I do with it now? Should it be cut back?"

FTLG's answer - Yes! Now is the perfect time to prune roses:

Rambling / Climbing roses: A useful way to tell the difference between these two groups of roses is their flowering times: Ramblers tend to flower once during the summer usually around June whereas most climbers will repeat-flower through summer and into autumn, often with larger blooms.

Even though your plant is young it will benefit from a light prune. Find your thorn proof gloves and a pair of sharp secateurs and reduce the healthy stem height by a third. Make your cut at an angle, as this helps water to run off and cut any dead stems that are thick and dark brown down to the base of your plant. Strip off any suckers at the base with your hands to prevent re-growth.

Remove all the growth of other dominant plants (some might say weeds!) and any dead leaves from your roses base. They are competing with your lovely specimen for moisture and nutrients, and this will slow growth. Decomposing leaves may harbour damaging pests and diseases, so by removing them you're encouraging more healthy stems.

Give your roses a feed after pruning using an organic granular fertiliser or rose feed or even tomato feed and add a thin layer of mulch, repeat the feeding and mulching in July. Bush and shrub roses also benefit from removing one or two stems at the base and taking the rest back by a third as above.

Remember that all container plants rely on us to keep them watered, so once the growing season starts, they'll need some moisture, even if it has rained!

Please send me your gardening questions and dilemmas, I'll do my best to answer them next month.

Happy Gardening! Jane



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Ask  
Fanny

## Notes and queries from readers, a response from our local agony aunt...

### Dear Fanny

I just wonder if anyone else is finding the state of the roads around these villages a little disappointing currently? In particular, the low point of Bodyhorse Hill has recently been flooding, for the first time that I can remember after 60 years of living here. I do hope I can blame the Parish Council for all of this.

Yours extremely enjoyably  
Mrs S, Ye Old Forge, Hinton Parva

### Dear Mrs C

*In my opinion this is all exceptionally good news for Hinton Parva and Bishopstone. Discouraging all unnecessary traffic. We must do all we can to stop our villages becoming like Wanborough Town Centre and if that means allowing the roads to degenerate into cart tracks, we ought all be pleased. I suggest that you renovate that old cart in the shed. And give the horse a good slap while you're at it. FH*

### Dear Fanny

In the good old days, before the village pub became such a middle class bohemian hang out, it used to be possible to buy any sort of illegal drugs in the pub car park, on any night of the week. The lack of availability is a great disappointment to me and my neighbours. Can you advise on where we should start to look for new supplies?

Yours sleepily  
Mr RH, Sea Mist, Bishy

### Dear RH

*I fully recognise this problem. My understanding from reading the Daily Telegraph is that the national illegal drug supply is organised by a company called 'County Lines'. The nearest county to here is only 1/2 mile away, so my acquaintances suggest that your search might be more fruitful if you headed for Oxfordshire. The closest civilised spot for this activity must be Ashbury, I suppose, which comes as some surprise, since I know a few people there who do not indulge. FH*

### Dear Fanny

Am I alone in thinking there are too many horses in the village? Can anything be done to clear up the mess that they often leave behind? Sometimes outside my front door. Why can't these creatures come equipped with poo bags, like some of the dogs around here?

Yours revoltingly  
Mrs B, High Street

### Dear Mrs B

*In my opinion, you should immediately go outside with a bucket and shovel and put it on your arid cabbage patch. Growing up in Dudley just after the war, our mother forced us to follow the rag and bone man for miles in case he (and his horse) left any of this glorious treasure for us to collect. FH*

### Dear Fanny

Please could you tell me if you are you comfortable answering questions about personal affairs?

Yours,  
Ms W, Wiltshire

### Dear Ms W

*At last something fruity to get my teeth into, as they say. The whole issue of relationships is very, very close to my heart. As a four- times widowed octogenarian (now exceedingly rich of course), I have always used a simple and secret method for fixing those relationship problems once and for all. I am happy to pass on any advice you might seek.*

*As regards questions of a more intimate nature, you won't be surprised to hear that this is not my specialist area, since that was of no interest to me once married.*

*Thanks for opening this can of worms.*

*Mrs F Hole*

### Dear Mrs Hole,

As someone with no previous experience of the Theatre I was very much looking forward to the latest BADS production at the Village Hall. After sitting alone in the hall for two and a half hours, I couldn't help but think that the Covid health and safety measures were, to say the least, excessive. Act one opened with just me looking at a stage curtain. After an interval without refreshment Act two followed a similar pattern. I am no expert but felt the acting was non existent. Do you think I have wasted my hard earned tenner? If so I am off to see CATS (ginger ones).

Yours,  
Andy Floyd-Webber

### Dear Andy

*I wholly agree. I have contacted other local theatre lovers and they also recommend 'Schitt's Creek' being performed by the Ashbury Players, 'The Merry Wives of Wanborough' by the Wanborough Thespians, and 'The Best little Whorehouse in Park North' by the Park North Collective, a grant aided wholly accessible non governmental organisation.*

*Yours agreeably  
Mrs F Hole*

Mrs F Hole will continue to be delighted to answer any reasonable and unreasonable queries from readers.

Email me (Mrs F. Hole) with any queries:

BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

## DICKIE'S diary

February "filldyke" came early this year and I would guess we have had 15" of rainfall since the dry summer ended in October. That is over half the usual annual rainfall in only three months. Times like this certainly highlight whether the land is well structured and clearly display whether drainage systems



are effective. In the quest for beating the blackgrass menace, my son Oliver nearly delayed too long in planting winter wheat in one field in the Vale. That frosty spell in December allowed Martin Orchard to

get wheat planted and make a tidy job by starting at 5am with the soil frozen. You have to have faith in farming and it's pleasing to see the wheat blades now emerging a month later. We still have winter wheat seed (our own) which we hope to sow in early February on the high downs towards Lambourn, after oats which is a good entry. This area of 100

acres has support under a scheme for overwintered stubbles which disallows planting in the autumn. Ever the optimists, we are hoping for a drier spell soon.

The birds know spring will be on its way; rooks even started building nests before Christmas. Magpies are also preparing and for some reason like to place their bread basket nests several metres up in the thorn bushes beside our roads. There is a very large nest in a tree near the A420 east of Webbs Wood builders' yard which I had not noticed until recently. It must be a large bird such as a kite, raven or buzzard. Whilst shooting at Fairford, a vast flock of linnets rose from a large field planted with an environmental mix, literally hundreds swirling around like murmurations of starlings.

In the fields and gardens, the hazels are displaying their lemon catkins. Daffodils and tulips and crocuses are already showing leaves and here in the middle of January I can see the first bright yellow buds of aconites beginning to emerge in their shady position. Snowdrops appear backward with only an occasional flower. A sprig of scented box (sarcococca confusa) from our garden is wafting its delicious aroma across our kitchen.

Photo: February Fill Dyke, Benjamin Williams Leader, 1881, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

## FEBRUARY PUZZLE: easy cryptic

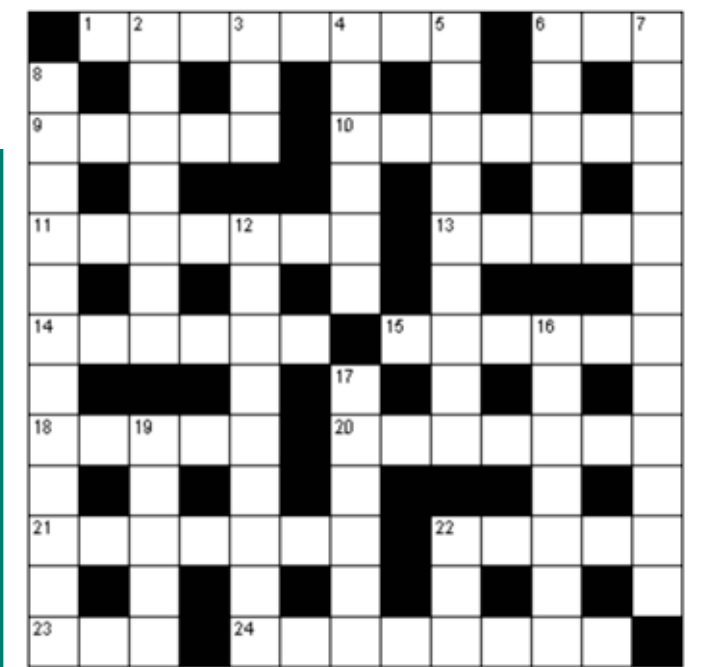
### Across

1. Sea sweeping back over cold Greek hero (8)
6. Head start I'd concealed (3)
9. Roam with a stove (5)
10. Hangers-on in cold weather (7)
11. Warned of related changes (7)
13. Material that did not stand out? (5)
14. Explosive sausage? (6)
15. Red makes Military Intelligence come out (6)
18. Old Peruvians of a certain caste! (5)
20. Mine worker taking sheepdog by river (7)
21. An outcome which makes ma a gran! (7)
22. Greet wild bird (5)
23. Religious woman not affected by revolution (3)
24. I may tend to explode (8)

### Down

2. Business trouble (7)
3. Anger in heart of heiress (3)
4. Lard is produced for Scottish land- owners (6)
5. Cylinder jammed? (5,4)
6. Composer taking brief holidays by the end of August (5)
7. I get strained, break and come apart (12)
8. Country - it's in Mastermind, perhaps (5,7)
12. True dears should be cherished (9)
16. I'm great novel detective (7)
17. Man with cue, getting break, displays keen perception (6)
19. A piece of jewellery 22 yards in length? (5)
22. Wood used by hotel managers (3)

Enter to win!



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

### January Winner

Congratulations  
Debbie Clark from  
The Wyncies.  
Please collect your  
voucher from Lynne at  
Helen Browning's  
Farm Shop.

**January Answers:** ACROSS: 1. Skinflints 7. Presage 8. Frail 10. Colt 11. Scorpion 13. Africa 15. Havana 17. Lollypop 18. Bash 21. State 22. Leather 23. Nectarines DOWN: 1. Shell 2. Iran 3. French 4. Infernal 5. Tsarina 6. Spectacles 9. Lancashire 12. Accident 14. Release 16. Poplar 19. Ashes 20. Main



## Cycle Route No.3 - Ridgeway to Avebury Stones

A classic ride to the magical site of the Neolithic Stones of Avebury. Climb up to the Ridgeway, our very own National Trail on our doorstep, via Nell Hill. At the crossroads by Ridgeway Farm turn right and follow the route up Fox Hill with the Bishopstone Lynchets in full view, then continue through Fox Hill car park before turning right and heading past the Burj Indian Restaurant. Cross the M4 on the only road section of this stunning ride and at the T junction with the B4192 turn right. After 100 yards you will see a gated entrance on your right which leads up Liddington Hill, all the way up to the base of Liddington Hill Fort, well worth a quick detour as the views are breath taking. Next follow the Ridgeway in a Southerly direction for approx. 3 miles as it crosses over Copse Drive (above Ogbourne Downs Golf Club), making sure shortly after you cross you take the right fork and follow the Ridgeway signs. This next section is a Downhill biker's dream as the Ridgeway descends all the way down to Ogbourne St Andrew through the Poulton Downs, crossing Red Lane and Bythem Road en route.

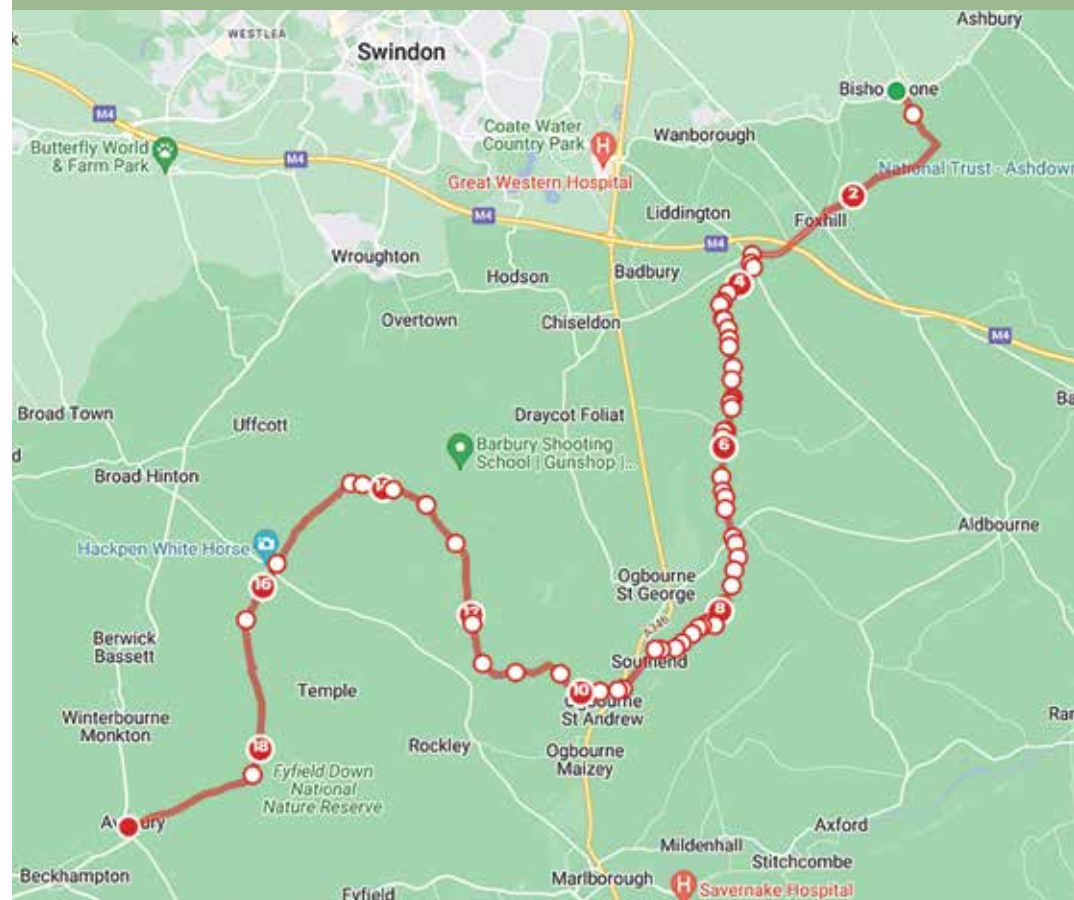
The route then follows the Swindon to Marlborough Railway path in a South-East direction for ¼ mile before a right turn leads to crossing the A346 into Ogbourne St Andrew and Wet Pits Lane: please take care here this road is infamous for speeding vehicles and extremely busy. Follow Wet Pits Lane round to the left, before turning first right adjacent to St Andrew parish church and continue up to Ogbourne Down Pond. Take the track left immediately before the Farm buildings in an Easterly direction, before heading due North for approx. 2 ½ miles on the gentle inclined chalk path all the way to Barbury Castle whilst crossing the gorgeous Marlborough Downs. Barbury Castle is an Iron Age hillfort with a double ditch surrounded by unimproved chalk grassland. This was the site of a battle where Cynric defeated the Britons in 556AD. Prior to Barbury castle you will cycle pass several racing stables and gallops before turning left through the attraction's National Trust car park and then straight through the middle of the Castle before a quick steep descent back onto the Ridgeway proper.

The Ridgeway then heads in a South Westerly direction towards for 2 miles before reaching the summit of Hackpen Hill. This is again another stunning viewpoint across Wiltshire and is also where Road & MTB cyclists merge, just above another of Wiltshire's famous chalk hill carved White Horses. The route from here continues

**Distance: 39.71 miles**

**Elevation: 2,465 ft**

**Average Cycle Time: 4hr 45 mins**



due South for 2 miles until it reaches the famous Polisher Stone, dating back to Iron Age times and used for sharpening stone workers' axes. Then finally it's a 1 ½ mile southeasterly descent down Herepeth Street, straight into the middle of Avebury's iconic stone circle, and the halfway point. Before reversing the above route home, I recommend a pre-packed picnic or a visit to the Red Lion Pub (inside the Stone Circle) or a combination of both, not forgetting a very well-earned beer or two back home at our very own Royal Oak.

Lycra Lil 🚲

## The Gadgeteer

### Egg Per'fect Timer

Complete with inappropriate apostrophe, this is an amazing gadget designed for friends or relatives who simply "can't cook an egg". It really works!

Originally designed in 1978 by Robert Burton, now of Beverly Hills California, the timer has since become a "go-to" gadget in kitchenware departments around the world, everywhere from Singapore to Scotland with Burton selling hundreds of thousands of timers each year.

Initially setting up his shop in the garage, Robert began the production process by pouring acrylic resin into half egg shaped moulds. The secret of per'fection is the heat sensitive colour changing strip sealed into the centre of the egg timer during pouring, Bob Burton's trade secret! Once the resin has set in the moulds, the egg timers are boiled to further "cure" the plastic before cooling and hand polishing. This great invention works by placing the egg timer into a cold pan of water with your fresh egg or any number of eggs. Bring to a boil and simmer. As the eggs cook, the timer absorbs heat at the same rate as the eggs in the pan.



As the timer heats, the colour changes from red to black across the carefully graded scale, ensuring eggs are cooked just the way you like: soft, medium or hard boiled. Uniquely the timer even works at altitude where water boils at a lower temperature, since the heat strip mirrors the egg temperature so no adjustment in scale is needed -even mountaineers can use the timer!

Available in the UK from The Conran Shop, Lakeland, John Lewis and all good independent cookshops the Egg Per'fect can change your life or stay in the bottom drawer for eternity - but do make sure you purchase the Burton version to uphold quality and accuracy.

The Gadgeteer

## Inside the Peach Pip

I have recently read:

**Fortunately, the Milk, by Neil Gaiman**

This is one for the kids, but I would be surprised if it isn't also of the utmost entertainment to any reader of any age. Completely bonkers from start to finish, it is the story of a father going out to buy milk and the tales he tells his children of his adventures along the way. I have to say, I never expected to read a fantasy adventure book in which a carton of milk has a more interesting arc than any of the characters, but I now predict it becoming its own genre.

Having said that, the milk's glory is possibly stolen by the masterful creation that is Professor Steg, an endearingly earnest and eccentric stegosaurus with ambitions far beyond its own time, and the ingenuity to match.

Even more ingenious is the father's nonchalance in

telling his ludicrous story. Abducted by aliens, he claims; captured by pirates; travelled through space and time with a stegosaurus to save the planet... Yet fazed only by whether or not he has, fortunately, been able to hang onto the milk.

Fantastic. Loved it. Nothing else to say. Apart from leaving you with what I think, perhaps, is the best depiction of an alien I have ever heard: 'so green and small and so globby and crusted that he might have been an enormous snot-bubble blown by an elephant with a terrible head-cold.'

Pip pip,  
Anna





# CHURCH NEWS



## A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin this letter with many thanks for all your good wishes and prayers through my recent, yet prolonged illness. They were a great comfort to me and I am pleased to say that I am well on the road to recovery.

With the dreadful weather we have experienced recently – snow, frost, heavy rain and high winds – I was surprised to see some primulas in the front garden in bloom. Pink and yellow amidst the soggy grass. What a cheer they brought to my heart and lifted my spirits, especially as I had been thinking about the coming season of Lent.

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 22nd. In the Benefice this will be marked with a service at St Mary's Bishopstone at 7pm where those attending are invited to receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads in ash. The ash is made by burning some of last year's Palm Crosses.

Very often Lent conjures up thoughts of struggle, of 'hanging in there', of 'giving things up'. So often we get caught up in negative thoughts and we can get stuck in a rut, our vision is limited. We can look upon Lent as a negative time, a period of days to be got through without chocolate, without wine or some other treat. But having a sense of discipline in our lives can help us put things back in perspective.

What do we learn from giving up chocolate, or whatever our Lenten resolution is? Do we learn that our bodies benefit from this abstinence? Do we catch a glimpse of what it feels like to have no choice but to go without every day of our life? Do we think of fair-trade for those involved in the early stage of gathering the raw material for our bar of chocolate? Do we resolve to donate money we have saved to help such people? Do we thank God for the many blessings he gives us that we so often take for granted? If we can answer 'yes' to these questions then Lent will be a positive time and we shall be changed for the better.

And remember, Lent is not just a time to give something up. We can use the 40 days to create some extra space to do something positive – to explore some of the big questions of life and faith, to spend time with a lonely neighbour; to appreciate God's world and see the beauty he has created, to discover that God is there – around us and with us.

And I know God is with us in the struggle, in the dark and the cold – and will help us overcome. Spring is sprung – thank God for primulas!

with love, Sandy



Photo, Graham Curley

**Church Services** in the Benefice Feb. 23 / March 23  
full details on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Service	Officiate
Sun	19.02.23	10.30	All Saints	Next Before Lent	TBC
Wed	22.02.23	19.00	St Marys	Ash Wednesday	TBC
Sunday	26.02.23	10.30	St Swithun	Lent 1	TBC
Sunday	05.03.23	10.30	TBC	Lent 2	TBC
Sunday	12.03.23	10.30	All Saints	Lent 3	TBC
Sunday	19.03.23	10.30	St Marys	Mothering Sun/ Lent 4	TBC

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

## Wanborough St Andrews Church Roof Update

The contractors are back on site after the Christmas / New Year break, and I am assured that the work is progressing well and on target to complete next month. The Roof Committee were able to get onto the roof to take some photos of work in progress, see below. The roof is taking shape, felted and battened ready to receive the Welsh Slate tiles. The first batch of tiles were delivered to church on 13 January, and the second photo shows the crates being unloaded.

The scaffolding and temporary roof was put up in the heat of last summer, but the cost of it was justified. It has kept the church interior protected from the torrential rain that we are having this winter, and it has allowed work to continue uninterrupted.

Work on the roof beam inside church has now been completed

### Roof Project Costings and Funds

There has been little change to the financial position, and the Total Roof Project Costs are still projected to be in the region of £230,820 (gross). Income from donations and fund-raising continues to trickle in which has reduced the shortfall to £49,000 approx.

Applications for grants from charitable organisations continue to be made, but the present economic climate is making it very difficult for charities, and awards for grants are very difficult to come by, although the results of further grants are still outstanding.

### Church Services at St Andrews

The church is still closed until further notice and Sunday services are being held at the other churches in the Benefice. Details of these can be found at: [https://www.wanborough.info/church\\_services.html](https://www.wanborough.info/church_services.html)

When the work has been completed, a Service of Blessing will be arranged, and has provisionally been booked for June. Watch this space for more details.



### Sponsor a Tile Campaign

The response to the "Sponsor a Tile" campaign has been quite overwhelming, and Roof Committee members are delighted with the support of over 94 donors raising £4,837.50.

Please scan the QR code here to access the online giving portal. Alternatively, pop your form and cheque or cash through the Roof Coordinators letter box at 2 The Beanlands. Please make cheques payable to "PCC Wanborough St Andrews No 1".

### Record of Donors

A permanent record of all donors will be mounted in church.

This framed document will list all the names of those who have supported the Wanborough Roof Project.

It's not too late to get your name on the record.



### Please support Wanborough Church

Make a donation in aid of the New Roof

More information about this is available from the PCC Treasurer:

E-mail: [standrewswanborough.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:standrewswanborough.treasurer@gmail.com)

Donations can be made by cash or cheque

which should be made payable to

"PCC Wanborough St Andrews No 1".

The PCC Account details for online banking are:  
**Sort Code 30-98-41 and Account No 00316459**

Please donate by Gift Aid if you can. Using this tax favourable method, the Roof Project will be able to claim back from HMRC 25p for every £1 donated.

### Other Fund Raising Efforts

We would be very pleased if you can support the following in aid of the Church Roof Fund:

### Easy Fund Raising

Wanborough Church has been set up as a beneficiary on the easyfundraising web site. Where you purchase goods online, be it your weekly shop, a holiday or something else, a contribution can be fed back to the church appeal without any cost to you, if you first register on the link below.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewschurch-wanborough/>

Saturday 18 March 2023 – Quiz Night, Wanborough Village Hall, 7.00 pm - Details to be confirmed.

Fundraising is continuing, and will do so for many years to repay the loan secured from the Diocese of Bristol.

If anyone else is able to arrange a fund-raising event for the roof project, it would be most welcomed, whether large or small.

Tony Pullan – Roof Project Coordinator

01793 790904 • 0774 5011 788 • [nickyandtonyp@gmail.com](mailto:nickyandtonyp@gmail.com) • 2 The Beanlands, Wanborough



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# The Parish Times

Bishopstone Parish Council, serving Bishopstone, Hinton Parva & Russley Park

February 2023

## LEARNING IN NATURE

### Children enjoy lessons on the island

By Bishopstone School head  
**ROBIN SMITH**

As a small school with limited space for physical education within our school grounds, we have been looking for local solutions.

At the start of this academic year we have been really lucky to have been given permission to use the island on the pond, as our Forest School. Using this wonderful space within our local area was the perfect opportunity for the children and staff to embrace teaching and learning in a natural environment.

Through Forest school the children learn to assess, appreciate and take risks, making sensible, informed deci-

sions about how to tackle the activities and experiences they encounter. They learn to be self-sufficient and take care of themselves, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Through trial and error, they learn to deal with failure and develop the perseverance to keep trying: a vital skill in the classroom as well as outside.

Forest school ties in with many areas of the National Curriculum. For example, being outdoors year-round helps children learn about weather and the seasons, which are part of the programme of study in geography and studying mini beasts and plant life relates to the science curriculum. The children have enjoyed a wealth of experiences including found natural objects, creating a leaf headdress, a stick man and identification of leaves. Although their favourite activity so far has been a well-earned hot chocolate and crumpets around the fire pit.

The children also benefit from the simple act of being outdoors. Research shows it improves mental and spiritual health, communication skills and social relationships, among other things. Connecting with nature helps children feel part of the world and just being outside in nature is calming – it can be seen in how the children behave.



## PARISH MATTERS ARISING...

**Tree down in the Dingle:** When last month's tornado tore a path through Bishopstone, it felled a large tree in the Dingle.

The Parish Council arranged for our lengthman to clear the path immediately to allow pedestrian access.

Swindon Borough Council has been asked to remove the debris, which should be done soon.

**Dog Bin at Nell Hill:** Residents have informed the Parish Council that the dog bin at Nell Hill is being extremely well used, which we were delighted to hear. In future, it will be emptied weekly.

**Road closures:** The Parish Council has been informed that Pack Hill reopens on February 13th but Wanborough Road closes the same day for up to six months.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPRING CLEAN THE PARISH

We're planning another clean-up on Sunday 26th February at 10am.

Please meet at the village hall in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva.

The Parish Council will supply grabbers, hi-vis vests and black bags and SBC will collect the rubbish next day. Let's clean up our verges before spring growth covers up the mess!



### REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTED



An oak sapling to replace the felled chestnut at the junction of West End Lane and Icknield Way has been planted.

The Parish Council purchased the new tree for the community after learning that SBC would be unable to do so due to lack of resources. A ceremony of dedication will be held to coincide with the Coronation in May.

THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

### BOROUGH AND PARISH ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on Thursday 4th May for all Swindon borough wards except ours.

Parish and borough councillors are elected for a four year term and our most recent elections took place in 2021.

Your Borough Councillor for Ridgeway Ward is Gary Sumner Email [gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk](mailto:gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk) Website: [www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk](http://www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk) or phone 01793 790814.

### BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**Ms Jaine Blackman (Clerk)**

Phone: 07913 819422

Email: [Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](mailto:Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org)

**Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)**

[Cllr.valbrodin@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.valbrodin@gmail.com)

**Mr Ian Thomas (Vice Chair)**

[Cllr.ianthomas@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.ianthomas@gmail.com)

**Mr Julian Cooke**

[Cllr.juliancooke@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.juliancooke@gmail.com)

**Mr Nigel Crisp**

[Cllr.crisp@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.crisp@gmail.com)

**Mr Doug Stevens**

[Cllr.dougstevens@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.dougstevens@gmail.com)

**Mr Tom Green**

[Cllr.tomgreen@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.tomgreen@gmail.com)

**Mrs Gill May**

[Cllr.GillMay@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.GillMay@gmail.com)

**Mr Andrew Clark**

[Cllr.andyclark@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.andyclark@gmail.com)

**Mrs Lucille McGrath**

[Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

6th March **Bishopstone Village Hall**

3rd April **Hinton Parva Village Hall**

15th May **Hinton Parva Village Hall (to include**

**Annual parish meeting at 7pm)**

15th May **Hinton Parva**

5th June **Bishopstone**

3rd July **Hinton Parva**

7th August **Bishopstone**

4th September **Hinton Parva**

2nd October **Bishopstone**

6th November **Hinton Parva**

4th December **Bishopstone**

**2024**

8th January **Hinton Parva**

5th February **Bishopstone**

4th March **Hinton Parva**

1st April **Bishopstone**

Meetings begin at 7.30pm. Late changes are shown at [bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parish-council/](http://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](http://swindon.gov.uk/my-account)

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

**Borough Councillor Gary Sumner -** [GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

#### PENDING

**S/HOU/22/0892** Erection of a two storey rear extension at 2 Grove Cottages, Hinton Parva Lane Hinton Parva.

#### GRANTED

**S/PO2R/22/1701** Prior Approval Notification for the change of use from offices (Class B1a) to 1. residential flat (Class C3) at: Office, Upper Farm, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva.

**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.

#### WITHDRAWN

**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.

**S/22/0758** Erection of 1no. dwelling and garage/ workshop (revision to garage/ workshop approved on previous permission S/21/0698) at land adjacent To Upper Farm, Hinton Parva.

**S/HOU/22/0378** Erection of a single storey rear extension at Poveys Cottage, Tuckers Lane Hinton Parva.

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparish

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT [WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG](http://WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG)



# BISHOPSTONE village hall



Thursday 23 February 2023 doors 19.00

**THE OUTFIT (2022) 15 (CRIME/DRAMA)**

Runtime: 105 mins Language: English

Director: Graham Moore - with Mark Rylance, Johnny Flynn

The year is 1956. Leonard (Mark Rylance), an English master tailor who's ended up in Chicago, operates a corner tailor shop with his assistant (Zoey Deutch) where he makes beautiful clothes for the only people around who can afford them: a family of vicious gangsters. One night, two killers (Dylan O'Brien, Johnny Flynn) knock on his door in need of a favour – and Leonard is thrust onto the board in a deadly game of deception and murder.

**WHY COME TO THIS FILM?** Who doesn't love Mark Rylance?

"A single-location thriller, a period gangster piece, The Outfit is beautifully constructed and satisfying in its shape. It's anchored by another strong performance from Mark Rylance." Eye for Film  
"The Outfit follows a pattern set by countless gangster flicks of the past, but its freshness is in the intelligence and surprise of the script. Like a well-made suit, it's not old-fashioned – it's classic." Empire

"In a production with no shortage of remarkable actors, Rylance's precise performance of the prim Englishman – buttoned up in both senses of the phrase – is the driving force of the film. Leonard's keen perception is tailored to perfection."

## The Upcoming

Thursday 23 March 2023 doors 19.00

**SEE HOW THEY RUN (2022) 12A (COMEDY/MYSTERY)**

Director: Tom George - with Sam Rockwell, Saoirse Ronan, David Oyelowo, Ruth Wilson

Runtime: 98 mins Language: English

In the West End of 1950s London, plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered. When world-weary Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and eager rookie Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunnit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.



**WHY COME TO THIS FILM?** It's got an amazing cast and it's terrific fun.

"Aided by excellent comic direction from This Country's Tom George (who uses split screen to especially good effect) and a zippy score from Daniel Pemberton, the film affectionately sends up whodunnit tropes while serving as a compelling and riotously entertaining murder mystery in its own right." Radio Times

"With a sprightly wit and an all-star cast to bring it to life, the movie manages to be a loving parody of theater gossips, postwar London and Christie's murder mysteries all at once." New York Times

"Rockwell brings grizzled, Walter Matthau-type charm to the inspector but it's Ronan who shines brightest as an over-eager, by-the-notebook constable, star-struck by the suspects and taking everything at face value. They make such an enjoyable duo, in fact, that the further investigations of Stoppard and Stalker would be very much welcome." Empire

Thursday 27 April 2023 doors 19.00

**LIVING (2022) 12A (DRAMA)**

Director: Oliver Hermanus - with Bill Nighy, Aimee Lou Wood

Runtime: 102 mins Language: English

A remake of Akira Kurosawa's 1952 film Ikiru, with a screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro. When Mr Williams (Bill Nighy), a buttoned-up bureaucrat in 1950s London, is diagnosed as terminally ill, he decides that he would like to achieve something for once, instead of just endlessly pushing paper. A group of ladies has come into the Public Works office, asking to have a hazardous area in their neighbourhood transformed into a children's playground. With nothing to show for his decades of service, the formerly ineffectual Mr Williams makes it his personal mission to push the job through before he dies.

**WHY COME TO THIS FILM?** For a heart-breaking performance by everybody's favourite Bill Nighy. Plus he sings!

"Sentiment and understatement meet in this beautifully melancholy (end-of-) life drama. Elegantly directed by South African film-maker Oliver Hermanus and boasting deeply affecting performances from national treasure Bill Nighy and rising star Aimee Lou Wood, this deceptively gentle 50s-set film addresses weighty matters of life and death with a winning simplicity that is hard to resist." Mark Kermode

"Really quite something: a rare remake that only augments and enriches the original. For Bill Nighy, meanwhile, it feels in every sense like the role of a lifetime." Empire

"Bill Nighy lands his perfect role at last." The Times

## VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Both Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Village Halls have availability if you would like to hire either of them.

**BISHOPSTONE INFO/BOOKINGS:**  
Anna Bareham: annajanebareham@gmail.com  
Hourly rate: £11 residents, £15 non-residents

**HINTON PARVA INFO/BOOKINGS:**  
Janet Hawkins: 01793 791391  
Email: jaymaybee02@icloud.com  
Hourly rate: £8 residents, £10 non-residents

## CALLING ALL FITNESS INSTRUCTORS

We've heard through the grapevine there is an appetite for a regular village Fitness Class or Pilates/Yoga class to be run in Bishopstone.

Should anyone be interested in setting up or running an event please contact: [annajanebareham@gmail.com](mailto:annajanebareham@gmail.com) for availability of the Village hall.

## "TORNADO"? BISHOPSTONE THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 23.40



Bob our long-standing roving reporter (unpaid) returns with a report from the 'Bishopstone Tidal Observation Post (BTOP)'. The 'extreme' weather event is variously described as a thunderous 'low flying Helicopter' or a mini-Hurricane. Trees were uprooted, slates lost, and garden furniture damaged and distributed around the village. Altogether a quite frightening experience for those in its direct path.

**It is no doubt very fortuitous that this happened when we were all safely tucked up in bed!**

Sustained high winds were experienced for a few minutes, from the Southwest in what appears to be a very narrow track centred about the Dingle, Cues Lane, and the High Street.

BTOP is located at the edge of the Village and the recorded data shows peak gusts of 43.7mph with an associated drop in atmospheric pressure. We would not normally associate this with the devastation experienced. Clearly the speeds were much higher in the centre of the track. Only minor rearrangements of garden furniture, although the howling wind noise awoke most.

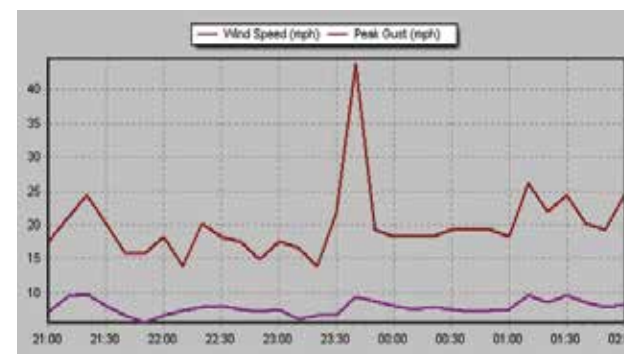


Fig. 1 Wind speed. Average & Peak Gust

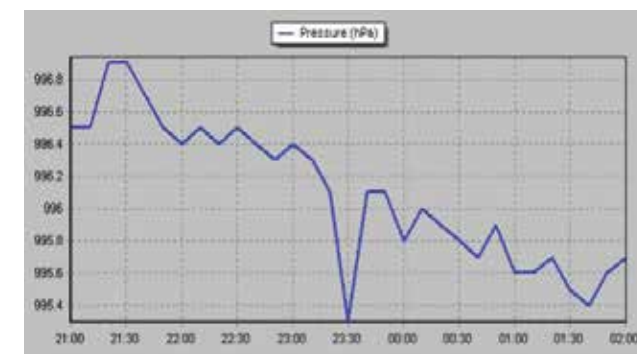


Fig 2. Atmospheric pressure

## TORRO (Tornado and Storm Research Organisation)

Was it a Hurricane a Tornado (Bird, Plane?)? This is not an isolated occurrence and similar events have been recently reported in this area, in particular, we are reminded of an event reported by TORRO (Tornado and Storm Research Organisation) and published in the Royal Meteorological Societies, Weather publication. Feb 22. At least Eight confirmed Tornadoes along its track. Fortuitously, again, we were on the very edge of its influence.

On the morning of 31st October 2021, a small low-pressure system developed along a cold front off the south coast of England, with high wind speeds to the south of the low-pressure centre. This so-called 'mesolow' made landfall over Dorset around 8am and tracked north-eastwards across England, passing over the North Sea off the Yorkshire coast around 12 noon. It brought with it significant wind damage to trees and property and disruption to the public transport network.

<https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wea.4158>



**BTOP** BTOP; is one of thousands of amateur automated weather stations worldwide that upload to the Met Office WOW site online. (Helps with 'Nowcasting' apparently, or you could just look out of the window...)





# Pond Life



## What's happened to Longun?

Spring is just around the corner and we're all waiting with bated breath for the new fleet of ducklings to arrive. Some villagers have expressed their concern about Longun, our resident Indian Runner Duck who has maybe found a new home. Over the years, there have been random duck breeds appearing and disappearing but we've all become particularly fond of Longun. He's quite a character. His dulcet tones can no longer be heard across the pond and he hasn't been turning up each day, shouting at us pond dwellers for his breakfast and dinner.



Has anyone seen him? Is he curled up on someone's lap watching episodes of Corrie or has he been inspired by Forrest Gump and decided to live up to his name? We hope he hasn't gone forever like his fancy sidekicks. We're sure they must be living their new pampered life in someone's back garden now having done their bit for Bishopstone's visitors. Maybe he's laying low till Shrove Tuesday has passed.

In case you're in any doubt, he can be seen in the picture with his old friend Ted, another member of The Odd Squad, who we haven't seen since last year. Does anyone know of his actual (or fictional) whereabouts? Email [BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com) if you do.

NPREBENDALFARMGYPOFL  
XWMMWWSBMZJNEOIIULX  
THEFOLLYBANKSFSTKXVP  
TBXJCDIPUNNYHVPHWSTI  
UBQOTKOFTOIHCTEESYHT  
OCDTHQTIHRHOULCWEH  
OPWWEsrTEHACEWMIAAFE  
JRAWMTUHOQKSNITTYOV  
COTKIMEELUZEFSSEYER  
GDEZLAHADSIIRAESVRRTC  
ZXRRRLREVMETBRNITCSYA  
KOCEPYAEICHEMDOHRBZR  
KWRLOSRLNENAFNEEAHA  
QSETNCTULSDCLAHLNZNZG  
FOSADHHEUPIHLRAYSKBE  
KQSBMUOLFBNRYMLNBZZM  
RUBXXRTVFZGYSWLCETDR  
PGEIACESCFLYVJGHDTWF  
PYDAOHLOBVEQQXDESAGX  
RVSCMMMFGGNZILOSQNOU

February Word Search

A very well done if you found all 23 of January's birds beginning with B. That was a bit of a tricky one.

February's word search contains past and present place names around Bishopstone.

There are 20 in total. See if you can find them all. Just for fun!

GYWKEAMRBLUETHROATJBSX  
BQKQADYBCYRCBKQXBPMP  
LHLYZSNRFLCDYFLMLBHJWAAH  
AVQAU8ZNAQAHZJQZGAAYHSCRE  
CBZQONTANHCYVGMVCRFJSKTU  
KQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
CYKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
AGAAAMWHAIOINAHAEWYLJDLR  
PKOPKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
LTHBGOVONHJQGLLOWFCWTDU  
ANUMELONHACPOOXKPEKJAGE  
KRLYNALOLAQSSAADZGFROTH  
BGEEMHLLVVEIPRGGPQKQKQKQ  
RQKXHLGKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
WBAKXHXKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
ILKALVIDSQUZKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
CZRMALHDBLCKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ  
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BPHGLYTTJUSTREKVMNBRHOSGLY  
IYSVPZQJGZONGBRJEGETRIJY

January's Solution

## The Elusive Bishy Kingfisher

This beautifully captured photo was one of this month's submissions for photo of the month but we thought we'd give it a well deserved and more fitting mention alongside Pond Life. Thank you!

Kingfisher, Bishopstone Pond, Alyla & Keith Towell

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## Royal Oak Diary

It's come as a surprise to discover that the Caravan Club (meetings weekly, Tuesday, Royal Oak, cinema seats, 6pm onwards, no invitation needed) is actually more animated by boats than caravans. When I spent a few minutes with the informal membership (about six of them) at the end of last month, they were gaily passing round their iPhone photos of luxury cabin cruisers and dowdy yachts, comparing such fascinations as power, height of the mast and storms they had survived. I have spent the past 16.5 years imagining that their tales of derring-do had been about motorway services they have enjoyed, and exactly how much impatient traffic they have managed to clog up. It reminds me of an early personal fixer I employed here, so long ago that most of you won't remember him. Trevor was an ex-cop (foiled a bank raid, shot in the back, invalidated out - ho ho) and a former minor porn star (in his dreams), but whose best and most repeated stories were about his yacht charter business in the Med. Which of course foundered on a previously unmapped large rock (read, island) in a force 12 storm while he was below deck attending to the cabin buoy. He ended up mowing the lawns at the Royal Oak, and living off Frey Bentos pies while surrounded by 10 years' supply of toilet paper. Let that be a lesson to you, boat enthusiasts.

While on the subject of enthusiasts, there is a musical cycle in this village that keeps on turning. Many of us thought that the death of the much missed and much loved Dave Whitaker would naturally mean the end of the world famous Cheesehouse Band - so named because they used to, ahem, 'practice' in the old and smelly cheese factory at the back of the farm house before they moved to the more suitable large farm office on Sunday evenings (only two complaints from the unreasonable neighbours). However, it seems the band goes on, led by the extraordinary enthusiasm and talent of Syd Simpson no less, proud Scottish multinational

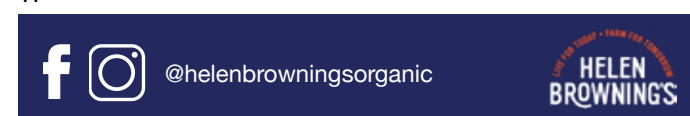
businessman of this parish. He's best known in these parts for his occasionally virtuoso renditions on the accordion but his range is apparently wider than this. He has recently been in contact, as The Cheesehouse Band comes back up to the surface, and we have promised him a live exclusive debut gig at the pub on a Sunday night in March. More details when they are confirmed (or read all about it in New Musical Express, or NME as we used to call it). I have alerted our security company.

And...we have been surprised at the reaction to the news that Groove Armada will probably be performing at Eastbrook Farm in September. Most people don't seem to believe us. Anyway, you cynics, if you're really lucky, The Cheesehouse band will probably be on the undercard. You'd better be good. There could be 1000 people there, jeering cheerfully.

In the shorter term, HB's Royal Oak will continue to show the rugby Six Nations on the pub TV, or possibly on the new no expense spared WiFi projector and screen upstairs; our lovely cafe jazz trio Utrillo regularly entertain us on various Friday evenings (next one Feb 17 from 6pm), and Louise Palfrey has been organising little 'workshops', as the modern jargon goes, on organic gardening, veg growing and tree planting. Three excellent, engaging and entertaining 'tutors' in Becky Richardson (gardens), Pete Richardson (veg, you'll never grow a better carrot), and Ben Raskin, world authority on trees. He's planted, and still planting, with Helen, about 15,000 trees of various sorts at Eastbrook. The first one was end January—an exceedingly great day, with sensible generous lunch, much fun for all. Contact Louise, somehow, and find out more.

Hope we see you, at something or other.

TF



## Pig Racing for the King

**Public Notice:** SBC Reference SRC000070

### 12th Annual

(Formerly International Pig Racing Day and originally Pig Racing for the Queen on Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee 2012).

### Sunday 4th June 2023 Road Closure Notice: Cues Lane, Bishopstone

An application has been made for the usual short-term road closure according to the Town Police clauses Act 1847. (Any reference in 'the Act 1847' to any carpet, rug or mat, including door mats, beaten or shaken before the hour of eight in the morning are probably inapplicable in this instance.)

The registered Charities to benefit from this year's event include the Swindon and North Wiltshire Deaf Children's Society, the Village Hall and the Prospect Hospice.

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## BADS is really back this time!

After the disappointment of postponing the village play in January we are jubilant to announce that we have some new dates for our performance - from Wednesday 15th March through to Saturday 18th March. It's been lovely getting back into the swing of rehearsals again with almost all of our cast and crew in attendance and they are almost all working very hard to bring you an outstanding performance. I say 'almost all', as one of our cast foolishly thought they would be done and dusted with our play by now and are currently tied up in knots performing Lord of the Fishes pose on a beach somewhere hot! It's ok though, we've found a mop to stand in for the time being.

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward is a fantastically fun play and our maestro, Russell, has outdone himself to bring you some clever onstage magic! To find out exactly what, you'll have to book.

Tickets are now on sale and available at The Royal Oak and sales are going well so far - book now to avoid disappointment!

**Performances will run from Wednesday 15th March 2023 - Saturday 18th March 2023 with doors opening at 7pm.**



HERE'S OUR POSTER!

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

Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society presents

# BLITHE SPIRIT

Directed by Belinda Nicholls  
by Noël Coward

Bishopstone Village Hall 15th-18th March 2023

Tickets: Wed/Thurs £8.50 (£6 concessions), Fri/Sat all tickets £10  
Ticket Sales: The Royal Oak - Telephone 01793 790481  
Doors Open 7pm, Curtain Up 7.30pm

This amateur production of "Blithe Spirit" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

Pre-Theatre Suppers from 5.30pm at The Royal Oak  
2 courses £20 p.p. - To book call: 01793 790481

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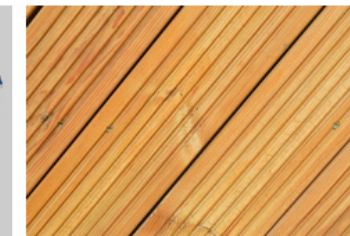
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# General Information

## 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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01793 792 965

## Diary

Mid Feb 2023 - Mid March 2023

2023	Time	Event	Place	Contact
<b>14.02.23</b>		Valentine's Day		
<b>17.02.23</b>		Utrillo Cafe Jazz	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
<b>07.03.23</b>	6-7pm	Sound Like Women Radio Show - First Tuesday of every month.	Swindon 105.5 fm	Hosts: Mandy, Tracy & Luiza
<b>08.03.23</b>	7pm	Bishopstone & District Gardening Club. Mandy Bradshaw: The Chatty Gardener (see page 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Marion Peck, 01793 791 001
<b>Monthly</b>	Doors 7pm Start 7.30pm	Bishopstone and Hinton Parva WI (Second Thursday of the month)	Bishopstone or Hinton Parva Village Hall	Jan Chapple janatwan@icloud.com
<b>21.02.23</b>		Shrove Tuesday		
<b>22.02.23</b>		Ash Wednesday		
<b>23.02.23</b> <b>23.03.23</b> <b>27.04.23</b>	7pm	City Lights Social cinema. 7pm doors and bar. Film starts 7.30pm	Bishopstone Village Hall	Tickets via the Royal Oak or on the door
<b>NEW DATES</b> <b>15.03.23 - 18.03.23</b>		BADS Pre-performance Supper	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
<b>NEW DATES</b> <b>15.03.23 - 18.03.23</b>	Doors 7pm Curtain 7.30pm	BLITHE SPIRIT Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society Performance.	Bishopstone Village Hall	Tickets from The Royal Oak
<b>17.03.23</b>		St Patrick's Day		
<b>18.03.23</b>	7pm	Quiz Night Wanborough Church Roof Fundraiser	Wanborough Village Hall	Nicky & Tony 01793 790904 07745 011788 nickyandtonyp@gmail.com
<b>19.03.23</b>		Mother's Day		

**Church Services** in the Benefice Jan 23 / Feb 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.