

## TURNIPTIMES

In celebration of a triumphant vegetable

March 2023



Pete Richardson with some succulent Eastbrook turnips

HAVE AN EGGCELLENT EASTER

## Bring a shovel and a wheel barrow

In anticipation of a full  
Bishopstone Pond Raft Race Series.

Willing fools are sought.

**1st Saturday in April.**

Sludge & soil and unearthed turnips will be  
used to fill the potholes in Church Walk and  
The Royal Oak car park.

Ms Iva Shoeful will provide teas and cakes

**REMEMBER THE DATE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Entry \_\_\_\_\_



## TURNIPS

### A SPECIALITY OF THESE PARISHES

Mock thee not, as Frankie Howard used to say (look him up and try not to be shocked, you woke ones). The 'umble turnip has played a significant role in the development of the human brain since, as others have pointed out, it was one of the few foods available to our ancestors as they stumbled blindly and mostly unknowingly into the Renaissance era, once they'd navigated the Reformation; the Tudors and Baldrick were weaned onto them; Marie Antoinette made cakes out of them; and they were cheap as chips, if you'll excuse the phrase.

And they had to be cheap, since in those days people were spending about 98% of their hard earned disposable income on turnips, to keep them from starving, every day. Not for them the modern essentials of life, eg smartphones, online betting and swanky outdoor swimming pools, which leaves about 7% of current income to spend on smoked salmon and veggie burgers. No, the turnip came first. It had to. And they talk about progress!

And these Wiltshire parishes can claim to have been extolling the virtues of the turnip ever since we strangely voted for Brexit in 2016. Various bits of propaganda at that time, and also currently, promoted the turnip as the solution to a modern day food shortage. So when the world stops turning all of a sudden, and some dodgy weather in Morocco prevents tasteless watery tomatoes and cucumbers from making their energy expensive trip from North Africa, the turnip once again comes into its own. Sadly, with the recent positive publicity about turnips from a remarkably prescient member of the government, Eastbrook Farm has now sold its last 5 turnips from the 2022/23 crop, so you'll all starve until August, sorry.

Since it takes cooking at about 1 million deg C to make a turnip palatable, this humble root veg has also been trialled by the researchers into nuclear fusion, the alleged future source of free energy. To achieve that fusion, temperatures need to achieve between 1 and 2 million deg C, and they've been looking for a suitable material to contain this heat. Turnips are proving more robust than tungsten and molybdenum, so far.

**TOTALLY TURNIPY EDITION...**

# SCHOOL report



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR  
YOUR KIND SUPPORT.  
FROM ALL AT  
BISHOPSTONE C OF E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Bishopstone Primary  
School Garden & Forest  
School Makeover  
Project 2023**

All at Bishopstone C of E Primary School are excited to be starting our Garden and Forest School makeover this term. We are very lucky to have the use of the village 'island' where we can run our Forest School, along with an area at the front of school which we plan to transform into a beautiful learning garden. We will use our outside space to engage our children in hands-on learning in an outdoor environment.

We plan to grow flowers and vegetables, and to create a bright, vibrant learning and garden area which will also attract birds and insects. Our Forest School area needs new equipment to enable us to create a natural outdoor classroom.

We are committed to making sure that our children have the best learning opportunities we can offer them, but as a small public school our funds are limited and we can only do so much without the support of the community.

As you can see from the photos below, we have a lot of work to do!



Please contact the School for further details:  
[admin@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bishopstone.swindon.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01793 790521

We are therefore asking if you would please consider donating any of the following items to our school so that our children can enjoy a thriving Forest School and learning garden?

- Seeds or starter plants: Sweet Peas, Marigolds, Sunflowers etc.
- Tomatoes, Strawberries, Potatoes, Beetroot, Lettuce etc.
- Wooden Planters/raised beds (or materials for DIY)
- Compost/Growbags
- Seed starter pots/small flower pots
- New gardening tools: Spade, fork, trowels, secateurs etc.
- Gardening gloves for adults/children
- Paint for wooden equipment and planters
- Spray Paint (non-toxic, primary colours) to paint tyres
- Sleepers/large stones
- A new hose pipe and reel
- Racking/storage for shed
- A wheelbarrow
- Bags of small stones
- Cloches
- Watering cans
- A bird table
- Padlocks for sheds
- A small composter
- Rope/Tarpaulin (for dens)
- Monetary donations are also welcome!

## Bishopstone Stores

Well, it finally feels like spring has sprung. I, for one, am a big fan of the lighter evenings, greener hedgerows, all the baby animals and the mad March hares - if by chance you are lucky enough to see them!

As well as the four-legged new arrivals on the farm, we've had a few of our own here in the shop. Not in the form of piglets and calves (although I'm sure I could squeeze a tiny piglet in behind the counter here?! ) but some exciting new products for you to try.

From the Two Farmers crisps with both traditional and interesting flavours and compostable packets, to the super delicious sticky puddings from the Cotswold pudding company, gloriously handmade just down the road near Cirencester....even the gluten free-ers are wowed by these! And look out for the stunning Chocolate Tree Bars. Completely organic and made from cacao grown on agro-forestry projects, these chocolate bars are like works of art and make the perfect treat, either for yourself or to give to someone else.

Speaking of lovely things to give to other people, don't forget to show your mum just how wonderful she is on Sunday 19th, Mothers Day. Whether you are looking to spoil your mum, step-mum, mother-in-law, nanny, granny, mum-to-be or in fact any woman who has played a strong role in your life, why not choose something from the farm shop? We have a carefully selected gift range including greetings cards by local artists, divine scented candles, organic cotton socks and two skin care ranges to choose



from. Then there's our fabulous piggy pottery, the yummy chocolate, Becky's eco-plants or our very own organic gin! And if you can't find anything you'll think she'll love, grab some Royal Oak gift vouchers: they can be spent in the shop, the pub or even on one of our fabulous horticulture courses!

Hope to see you soon! Lynne

### Opening Hours

**Monday – Saturday 9am - 6pm**  
**Sunday 9am - 3pm**

Instagram: @bishopstone\_stores

Facebook: @helenbrowningsbishopstonestores

## The Hub, Shrivenham

### RECYCLING MATTERS



First this month, as promised, I thought I would tell you about my visit to check out the The Hub in Shrivenham. It's an amazing place, situated where the old Lloyds Bank used to be – opposite The Gulshan Brasserie. Their website at [www.sustainablesshrivenham.com](http://www.sustainablesshrivenham.com) is really comprehensive but I urge you to visit to see for yourselves – it's really impressive and great to see so much in one convenient location. In their words – 'The Hub is a sustainable community centre aimed at supporting our local community and surrounding area to live more sustainable day to day lives. Our goal is to facilitate people working together to create less waste and take up more recycling, reusing and repairing.' I visited on a Saturday morning and the place was buzzing.

The Repair Café was in full swing and proving very popular. I'd only read about these before and it's brilliant we now have one virtually on our doorstep. This is open on every 4th Saturday in the morning and they will attempt to repair small household items, do minor bike repairs and servicing plus minor clothing repairs. There's a craft scrap store with a huge range of items – everything from bubblewrap to buttons. A children's clothing exchange and children's book swap. A Thrifty 50 store, where you can sell your own items in pristine condition and receive 50% of the proceeds (or choose to donate all of the money back to The Hub). Refill and plastic-free toiletries and cleaning products



can be purchased. Plus there's a recycling area for many items that can't be collected in kerbside recycling. Sadly, I'd hoped to recycle my very large collection of tablet blister packs but this has currently been suspended. This is because these can now only be recycled in participating pharmacies due to the potential danger of people incorrectly returning medication in the packaging. Fingers crossed that a local way forward is found to help recycle these soon. Currently The Hub is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am to 4pm and is dependent on donations for their services or just from generous supporters to keep these wonderful facilities running. Please do pay a visit and help keep these valuable services.

My gripes with the Boots Scan2Recycle offering continue. Last time I tried, the free wi-fi in the Greenbridge store had a security certificate error and I was still having problems 'depositing' my 5 items in the Orbital Retail Park store. One of their very nice staff members, equally frustrated with my attempts, ended up making the deposit from her iPhone for me! Maybe they just don't like Android?! Anyway, I've since upgraded everything I can possibly think of on my phone and will try again when I'm next in the vicinity and report back. It is a very generous scheme after all - £6 worth of Boots Advantage Card points (normally £5 and it will go back to this from 29th March) for every 5 items you recycle – you need to spend £10 in store too.

Finally, a mantra to live by, from the late, great Dame Vivienne Westwood who sadly died recently. 'Buy less. Choose well. Make it last.' Wise words indeed!

KW

## Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI



The speaker for our January meeting was Malcolm Wells who talked to us about his varied army career and his charity work. He told us how, as a young cello player, he was advised to join the army as a musician. This led to him joining the Royal Artillery Orchestra, and he went on to play at banquets and state occasions as well as at Wembley.

At the time of the first Gulf War, the army trained him as a paramedic and he served in the Gulf in a mobile field hospital that he described as reminiscent of the 'Mash' tv series.

After leaving the army he spent 16 years working as a national speaker helping to raise funds for Canine Partners, explaining amongst other things how dogs can be trained to operate washing machines!!

For the last 3 years he has been fund raising for the Literacy in a Box charity, a project to give children in 3rd World countries the basics of education. Each box contains enough materials for 25 children. Our WI donated £34:10 to Literacy in a Box currently supporting 41 schools in Zambia.

In February we welcomed Bob Carvey who gave us a talk on 'Maintaining Memory Function'. Bob belongs to U3A and gave us a shortened version of a much longer talk that he gives. He gave us lots of tips to maintain physical and mental well-being. He talked about the aspects of our lives that we can control such as diet, exercise, socialising, learning and sleep. All of these help with our memory skills. As Bob said 'Use it or lose it'.

### Future dates:

**Thursday 9th March at 7:30 p.m.** (doors open at 7:00 p.m.) Bishopstone village hall. Annual Meeting.

**Thursday 13th April at 7:30 p.m.** (doors open at 7:00 p.m.) Hinton Parva village hall.

Sarah Troughton, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire will be joining us to talk about this role and her recent appointment as a Queen's Companion to the Queen Consort.

**New members are always welcome.** If you are interested in joining please contact: [janatwan@icloud.com](mailto:janatwan@icloud.com)



## For the love of Gardens!



### Plant Spotlight

Lara's poppies: I was joined in the studio for a few days by Lara, a local work experience student: This is her lovely poppy illustration. Buy your poppy seeds now for a lovely bright summer display!



Words and illustrations by Jane Pearson

## DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDENING

Those who know me will agree that I love to plan! Early spring is a great time to start preparations for possibly another dry summer so we're having a quick look at drought resistant gardening techniques in this edition.

Drought resistant gardening is all about preparation and 'right plant / right place', it's super easy and suitable for all gardens all year round!

The following tips will help make your garden more resistant to drought conditions.

- Cultivate your soil deeply will help to retain water and make it accessible for your prize plants, it also improves soil structure.
- Digging large quantities of organic matter, e.g. well-rotted garden compost, composted bark or leaf mould, well-rotted farmyard manure or mushroom compost will help no end.
- Try to choose plants which suit your garden soil type and aspect, they will be more tolerant of varying climatic conditions as well as pest and disease problems.
- Plant things whilst they are still small. It's very cost effective and they'll develop much greater resilience as they adapt to their conditions from a young age, they'll also repay your patience with beautiful healthy blooms.
- Choose plants with grey green or silver leaves, they reflect the sun's rays, helping to conserve moisture.
- Remove weeds regularly to prevent them depriving your plants of water.
- Thoroughly water all new plants and keep them watered in the first season after planting so they establish well.
- Mulch: After planting, mulch the bed with two to three inches of gravel, or better still, a layer of compost or straw covered with gravel, to help retain that precious moisture.

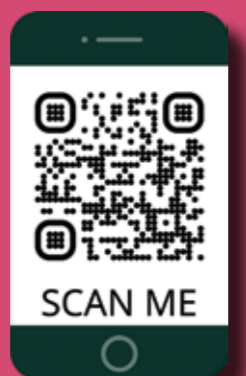


## HINTS AND TIPS

It's the right time of year to plan summer borders full of gorgeous colour, fabulous scent and a cost-effective display using summer flowering bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes. They are appearing in supermarkets and garden centres, and you might be overwhelmed with choice. I've popped my top ten favourites on my web site blog along with further information to help you choose and plan your dream borders or even a container full of colour.

Also Visit my web site for a free list of favourite drought tolerant plants:

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



SCAN ME

## EARLY SPRING TO DO LIST

At last spring arrives! By mid-March frequently sunny days provide an opportunity for a range of gardening tasks and it's time to get busy preparing seedbeds, sowing seeds, cutting back winter shrubs (if you haven't already) and generally tidying up around the garden.

- Plant onions and early potatoes! Growing your own means you'll always have this versatile vegetable to hand, and they'll taste wonderful.
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials and replant them straight away or share/swap with a friendly neighbour. You have one at the Lynchetts (Bishopstone)! Once they have finished flowering you can also lift and divide large clumps of snowdrops 'in the green', to give you a wonderful additional display, next year.
- Top dress containers with fresh compost.
- If you must mow the lawn, try and do it on a dry day and please consider leaving some wilder longer grass for the insects.
- Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under early control.
- Protect new spring shoots from slugs. Please consider the hedgehogs and other animals and choose "hedgehog friendly" slug, pellets, or take a bag with you to the hairdressers for your 'trimmings'. It works better than you might think!

## TRY A TURNIP!

- They are packed with nutrients and quick and easy to grow from seed. Both the root and the leaves of the turnip are edible, and you can even eat the small roots raw.
- They're ready to harvest in as little as six to ten weeks and they like cool, moisture-retentive soil, in an open, sunny location. Harvest the edible leaves in March and April (Turnip Tops). The plants will re-sprout, so you can make several pickings.
- You can also sow in large containers outdoors, for harvesting when small, as baby veg. Try: 'Atlantic' AGM. An early, purple-topped variety, very suitable for harvesting as baby veg, so a perfect choice for container growing.
- Varieties are divided into two main types, according to sowing and harvesting times:
- Early turnips – sow March to June, for harvesting throughout summer. Try: 'Sweetbell'. Best known as a salad turnip, harvested small and eaten raw or in stir-fries. The roots are white with purple shoulders. The leaves can also be stir-fried. Harvest from May to September when the size of a golf ball for eating raw, or the size of a tennis ball for cooking.
- Maincrop turnips – sow July to mid-August, for harvesting in autumn and winter. Try: 'Tokyo Cross' AGM. One of the oldest varieties, but still one of the best. Semi-globe, pure white roots that are firm and crisp with a mild flavour. A very rapid grower. Harvest from mid-October onwards, when the size of a golf ball.
- Sow seeds thinly in shallow drills, 1cm (1/2in) deep. Space rows 23–30cm (9–12in) apart for early varieties, 30cm (1ft) apart for maincrops.

07811 367320

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The Lynchetts, Icknield Way, Bishopstone

[www.janepearsondesign.com/hints&tips](http://www.janepearsondesign.com/hints&tips)



NEXT MONTH

Making a gravel garden

## Green Fingers



### Bishopstone & District Gardening Club



At the February meeting of the garden club we welcomed Jeff Elphick, a professional gardener and podcaster from Cirencester. He gave a very interesting and varied talk entitled "Crayfish on the Lawn" with some wonderful pictures of the many different and prestigious gardens he has worked in as well as Pershore College where he trained.

There were photos of numerous different species of garden flowers, wild flowers and wildlife. From the tiniest moth just a few millimetre long to one disguised as a Hornet, and not forgetting the endangered Hedgehog. We heard an extract read by Pam Ayres from her book "The Last Hedgehog" an amusing yet poignant tale of the plight of the Hedgehog and the prospect of doom for the species.

We learned about fasciation (the growing together of contiguous parts!) where stems and flowers become distorted into strange and wonderful shapes.

And the Crayfish on the Lawn? .....spotted in the grounds of Pershore College, presumably transported there by perhaps a Heron or Otter from the nearby stream.

#### DIARY DATE

Wednesday 12th April, 7pm

A CHEESE AND WINE SPECIAL EVENING with Paul Green from Greenleaves Nursery, Newent, giving a talk entitled 'Something new, something old and a few weird bits'. Plus a selection of plants for sale to fill those spaces in your gardens.

See you all there.

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

### Shrivenham & District Gardening Club



Shrivenham and District Gardening Club is running a coach trip to the Malvern Spring Show on Sunday 14 May. There are still some places on the coach so if you are interested in coming with us

**Email: [shrivenhamdgc@gmail.com](mailto:shrivenhamdgc@gmail.com)**

#### DIARY DATE

Saturday 13th May 9am

We will be holding our usual Annual Plant Sale outside Shrivenham Memorial Hall.

## MOWERFIXER

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**[doug@mowerfixer.co.uk](mailto:doug@mowerfixer.co.uk)**



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# Ask Fanny



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

### Dear Fanny

Do you have any idea of the sort of chaos likely to be inflicted on the mostly retired, quiet life folk living in these two villages when the mooted music and culture festival takes place in September? We did not retire here in order to be trampled underfoot by lentil eating hippies and other wild animals. Please advise.

Mrs P, Thatchers View Bishopstone

### Dear Mrs P

*I am so pleased you have brought this to my attention, since as an active 80 year old I am really looking forward to my first taste of camel riding on the road between Hinton and Bourton. The local community support policewoman confided in me that she has already bought her tickets for the bear baiting sideshow at the same event, so tickets are clearly changing hands somewhere. I will investigate further.*

*Yours over-excitedly, Mrs H*

### Dear Mrs Hole

My wife is considering buying a pet dog to carry round in her handbag, to prevent muddy paws spoiling her new oriental rug. She really likes German Shepherds, the four legged ones, but I'm suggesting this creature might not adapt well to handbag life. Is there a more suitable breed out there?

Mr S, Farm Court

### Dear Mrs S

*I have heard interesting things about your wife's oriental rug. Has she still got a big bush with gooseberries on it? I do hope so. And I have previously loved a German shepherd, but he suffered the same fate as my unfortunate husbands, as noted in last month's column.*

*Yours fruitily  
Mrs Hole*

### Dear Mrs Hole

**Re: Fannys reply to Andy Floyd Webber (Feb. issue)**

I strongly resent Fanny's derogatory remarks regarding 'whore houses in Park North'.

Do you believe that nobody outside of your village will be privy to your denigrating comments?

It may be a 'Village News joke' but it is in bad taste.

Signed, Swindon Resident

### Dear Gloria Gaynor (for it is she!)

*Thank you so much for your appreciation of our recommended theatre outings in the last edition. I had heard only good things about the Park North Collective's efforts.*

*On a less serious note, this journal has been poking a little gentle fun at everyone, including the binary and non-binary good parishioners of Bishopstone and Hinton Parva (whom I believe to be our core readership) for the past 15 years. We find it helps to make this newsletter more enjoyable. Normally letters of complaint to this organ are delivered anonymously by post with a second class stamp and something nasty and smelly attached, so it's refreshing to receive a modern email!*

*PS where is Park North, so other readers can go and enjoy this performance?*

*Yours, and much appreciated of course.*

*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](mailto:BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com)

Minister appears to have hit upon a solution presumably as a result of her experience at Mars confectionery and subsequent political career including a successful period as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under Liz Truss. My question is, do you have any recommendations as to more modern and healthy recipes for turnips?

Regards,

Jon Richardson

### Dear John

*Thank you for your letter. In the 16th and 17th Centuries the nation's staple food of turnips was the green fuel that powered the Reformation and the Renaissance, bringing the world the joys of Shakespeare, the Tudor dynasty, the British Empire, the Church of England and Pirates.*

*You might also like to know that the Prince and Princess of Wales and their friends in Norfolk are known as Turnip Toffs.*

*As you may have noticed, your letter has coincided nicely with our commemorative Turnip Issue of the Village News so you will find many more Turnip related articles throughout. With regard to your recipe request, you might like to try Turnip kimchi, Sriracha glazed turnip, Crispy turnip cake dim sum, Turnip tots or Turnip skordalia (very keto). Alternatively, turn to page 20 for one of our favourites. Best wishes, The Editor.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Dear Editor,

As pointed out by The Right Horrible Therese Coffey Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, due to the recent poor weather in Morocco resulting in shortages of certain unseasonal products we should now all be making more use of root vegetables in our diet, to quote "if there are no tomatoes, let them eat turnips".

As we all know, turnips were the staple diet of the population of England in the 16th and 17th centuries whereas in Wales the staple diet was leaks or daffodils and in Scotland the staple diet was haggis which were plentiful and easily caught. Due to the poor nutritional value and flavour of turnips they were mixed with quantities of lard and salt to give some comestible and nutritional value to this otherwise unsavoury root.

Importing tomatoes and other non seasonal produce from Morocco and Spain came about in order to satisfy government advice to eat five a day fruit and veg which has had the unfortunate consequence of prolonging the lives of millions of people in this country which has resulted in the subsequent aging population putting an intolerable burden on the NHS.

In order to solve this seemingly intractable problem the

## DICKIE'S diary



It's been a long time coming, like an elephant's gestation period. I am referring to the eventual cessation of farming support based on hectares farmed. With Brexit, DEFRA's replacement is called the SFI (Sustainable Farming Initiative). Both Boris Johnson and Michael Gove are on record that farmers would be able to earn similar levels of support by engaging in improving the natural environmental capital of their holdings. At long last there has been more clarity but full details are frustratingly still vague. We need to plan but calling blind at poker is a risky business! Up to now Mr Average farmer's profits have largely equated to the former support. Like a drug addict who cannot get his next fix there is no denying we will miss this a lot. Most of us would prefer a world with rewards from the market place. But as Jeremy Clarkson of Diddly Squat has found, profits can be elusive. He is not Mr Average and spends money like water whilst we have to make a living. Any good farmer also wants to improve his soil, his buildings, his livestock; he also aspires to be a good steward environmentally.

This is where we now have the opportunity to look carefully at the new proposed ELM (Environmental Land Management)

options under the SFI. Most farms have some land too steep, too wet, too awkward, too stony which might be better pulling its weight in one of these new options. I think the way ahead is either organic or intensive non organic but with wildlife corridors including hedges to join up environmental areas or woods, helpful to birds, bees, butterflies, invertebrates and flora.

As in a good marriage we both need each other. The Government has set their net zero targets on emissions and are also under pressure to evolve policies to stem environmental losses. Farmers need these options to help them face a tough new regime without land based support. The trick to suit both parties will be getting the payments for the different options sufficiently generous to get proper engagement. The payments need to encourage us to plant more hedges and woods, to expand the existing non-cropped areas for wildlife, bearing in mind that existing fixed costs then may work out more per hectare on the reduced cropping. Some owner occupiers with no debt may decide to go for all the options and give up farming altogether. Tenants will have to make the best of it!

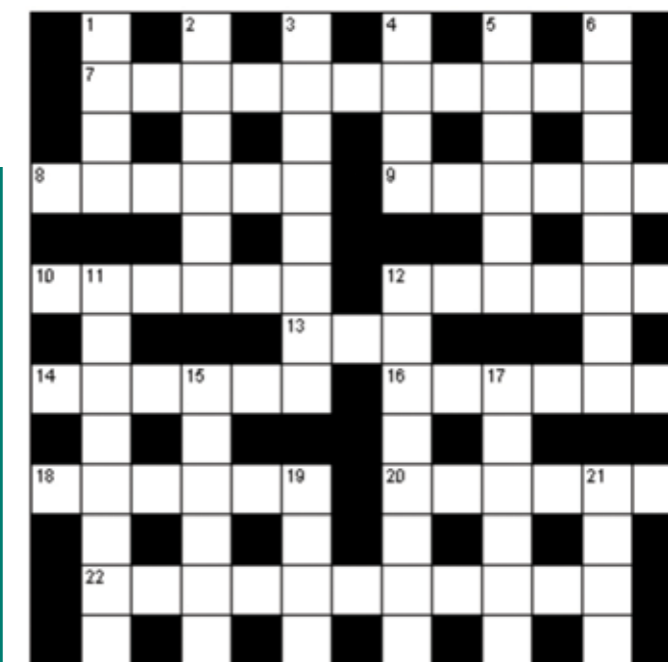
## MARCH PUZZLE: easy cryptic

### Across

7. Messy act - rub oil in (11)
8. Liberal whip goes about six (6)
9. Intense dislike of tangled thread (6)
10. Resolve to get a long wooden bench (6)
12. Denied falsely or truly (6)
13. Funny drink (3)
14. Plays for time in certain theatre seats (6)
16. Small dog or cat, perhaps - it has energy (6)
18. Black stuff with light brown pattern from Scotland (6)
20. Iris comes back with American star (6)
22. Face seen in brook (11)

### Down

1. Name of woman getting letters from Royal Mail (4)
2. Player with so boisterous a part (6)
3. Boats taking the girls for an outing? (8)
4. Laundry used to be hard (4)
5. Fidget terribly, being talented (6)
6. Something to take the boredom out of saving? (8)
11. Charm one's way in (8)
12. Impressive model's statement? (8)
15. The acid test? (6)
17. Ronald gets installed in the royal seat (6)
19. A short letter of distinction (4)
21. Employed some famous editors (4)



## Be in it to win it!

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](mailto:shop@helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk)

### February Answers:

ACROSS: 1. Achilles 6. Hid 9. Range 10. Icicles 11. Alerted 13. Satin 14. Banger 15. Commie 18. Incas  
20. Collier 21. Anagram 22. Egret 23. Nun 24. Dynamite  
DOWN: 2. Concern 3. Ire 4. Lairds 5. Swissroll 6. Holst 7. Disintegrate 8. Greatbritain 12. Treasured 16. Maigret  
17. Acumen 19. Chain 22. Elm

No  
February  
Winner

## Cycle Route No.4 Ridgeway to The Lord Wantage Memorial

On a beautiful Spring morning, I couldn't think of a more perfect route for a picturesque MTB ride along the National Ridgeway Trail to The Lord Wantage Memorial, sitting eloquently above the Point-to-Point course at Lockinge with views stretching across southern Oxfordshire as far as the Chiltern hills.

The route starts by climbing Nell Hill up to the Ridgeway Trail. At the crossroads take a left to head eastbound at Ridgeway Farm then, after approx. 4 miles and after crossing the road at the top of Ashbury Hill, you arrive at the first historic place of interest, Wayland Smithy. Wayland Smithy is an early Neolithic chambered long barrow and is one of the many prehistoric sites associated with Wayland or Wolund, a Germanic smith god. This character appears in Norse mythology and a depiction of him is believed to be present on the Franks Casket, on display in the British Museum in London. A further mile down the trail you climb up a chalk rise to the summit of White Horse Hill.

I highly recommend a quick lap around the top of the Bronze Age Hill Fort, which is a superb photo opportunity and looks down on the White Horse chalk carving. The Manger, a dramatic dry valley, has steep rippled sides left from the retreating permafrost during the last Ice Age. To the east of the Manger lies Dragon Hill, a small roundish hill with a flattened top. It is said to be the site where St. George, England's patron saint, slew the dragon. The blood poisoned the ground and left a white chalk scar for all to see.


The next 5 miles of Ridgeway Trail undulate across the hill tops. Firstly Blowingstone Hill, named after the stone believed to have been used by King Alfred the Great to alert his troops, camped a mile away atop White Horse Hill, to the arrival of the Danish forces before the Battle of Ashdown in AD 871. Next you cross the B4001 at the top of Sparshot Firs before arriving at Segsbury Castle, an Iron Age Hillfort sitting majestically above the Letcombe Villages.

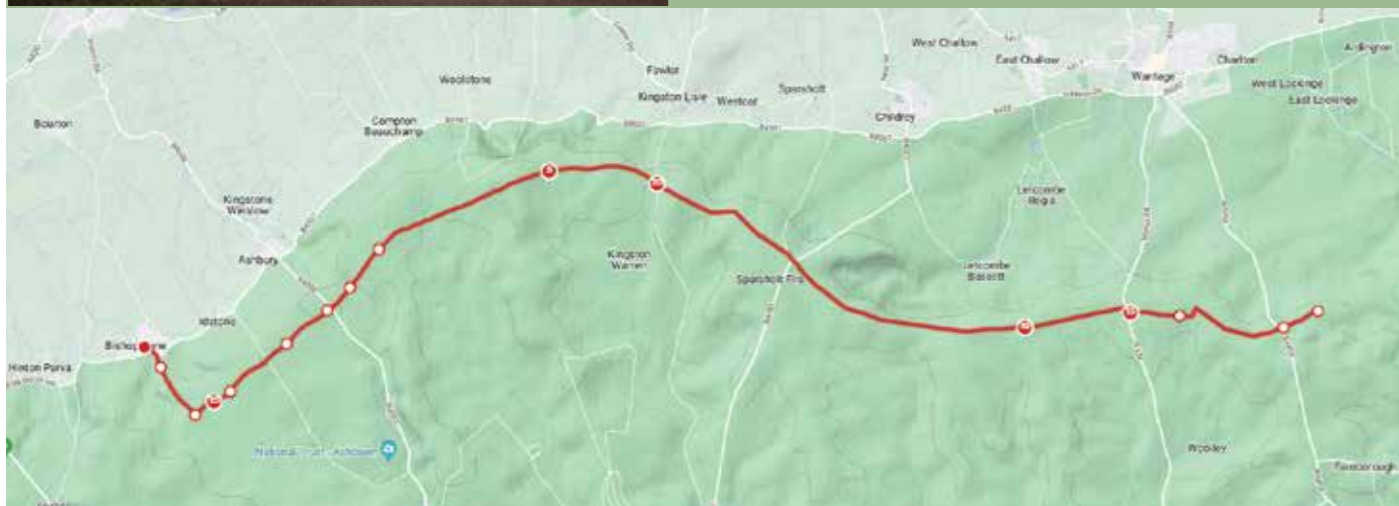
**Distance: 26.01 miles**  
**Elevation: 1,368 ft**  
**Average Cycle Time: 2hr 45 mins**



At this point or on the return leg, if you decide you'd like to visit a gorgeous village inn, I can strongly recommend a two-mile round detour down to the Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis for a tasty lunch or liquid refreshments of your choice (excellent range of beers on tap).

The last 3 miles of Ridgeway trail, leading to the Lord Wantage Memorial, cross the summits of Manor Hill and the impressive expanse of Chain Hill. If the pub isn't for you and you want an alternative, the Court Hill Centre, just 150 yards of the top of Manor Hill is also an excellent location for refreshments with stunning views. On reaching The Lord Wantage Memorial simply turn around and reverse your journey back to Bishopstone.

Lycra Lil 



## The Gadgeteer

### Turnip Peeler

I've been asked many times from villagers about the most efficient gadget for peeling Turnips! The word turnip is a compound of turn as in turned/rounded on a lathe and neep, derived from Latin napus, the word for the plant. The truth be said small mini turnips used for garnishes and such like just need a wash and light scrub with a coconut husk scourer or similar. Try the Skoy Scrub available at good farm shops or Lakeland, made from recycled remnants from the garment industry (beach towels) which is super eco too. Larger Turnips with a thicker skin can be peeled with a turning knife, a la Michel Roux or Marcus Waring. Otherwise, a good old Swiss Peeler from Westmark Germany are the efficient and inexpensive way to go and better used to keep your thumbs in one piece.



Out of interest if you top and tail your turnips the greens are all edible and can be left intact for smart presentation.

The Gadgeteer



## Rachael Payne Professional Hairdresser



 **Established 25 years**  
 **Based in Bishopstone**  
 **Olaplex, Moroccan Oil & Schwarzkopf Treatments Available**

**For Appointments & Consultations**  
**Contact 07527 607947**



## Inside the Peach Pip

Every time it's a bookshop weekend, I get about two hours into setting up before I look, defeated, at the piles of unsorted books scattered around the hall floor and think to myself, "Never again." It is a mammoth task. Anyone who has arrived at my opening time on a Saturday may have seen me still hurriedly setting out the last of the books as I offer them a cup of tea, rather bedraggled - still smiling, though, I hope.

The reason I plough on with new bookshop dates in spite of the immense effort is, I think, similar to the reason women almost inexplicably decide to have more children after a horrendously long and painful labour: because, the fact is, the first child is really quite loveable and (crucially) after a certain amount of time they forget what a terrible experience the whole thing was and decide it might be worthwhile to do it again. How bad can it be?

Peach Pip Books is my baby, and it's so wonderful to see the community enjoying the experience it offers and going away with books that excite them. Seeing parents and children sitting on beanbags reading together; helping grandparents choose gifts for their grandkids; chatting away over a cup of tea about the music playing or the books people have read recently; or just meeting new people in the village and catching up with friends who pop

in. All these elements win me over and make me want to do it again and again.

Of course, the packing-away is just as arduous as the setting-up and tends to reignite my 'never again' attitude... But now a couple of weeks have passed, I have happily forgotten the stress and am thinking fondly of the end result. Thus, I am happy to announce that I will be opening shop again on the following dates at Bishopstone Village Hall:

**Friday 14th April 12-6pm**

**Saturday 15th April 12-4pm**

As always, pay what you want/can, cash or card.

I get the impression it may take a little longer than a few weeks to forget the stress of labour and decide to have another real baby. It's not a perfect analogy.

Pip pip,  
Anna

**P.S.**

My favourite turnip-related story (and only one I can think of):

'The Enormous Turnip' - the Ladybird Read It Yourself series does a great version for first readers.



# CHURCH NEWS



## A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just 2 weeks before Mothering Sunday, which will be celebrated in St Mary's Church, Bishopstone on Sunday 19th March at 10.30am with a Family Communion. Everyone is very welcome.

It will be a service where we remember our mothers and those who have been like a mother to us, and say a special thank you to them as we remember them in our prayers.

It is also a day to say thank you to Mother Church – who gives us comfort, forgiveness, new beginnings and, above all, love and welcome. It is also very appropriate this year as we celebrate our service in St Mary's Church – Mary the mother of Jesus – who teaches us so much about listening to God's call on our lives and being faithful to that call. Mary who experienced both the joys and sorrows of motherhood and stayed by her son in life and in death. Such faithfulness is an example to us all throughout the ages.

Later in the month we continue to travel through Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. A journey which leads us to the wonderful news of Easter, which we celebrate on the 9th April at All Saints Church, Liddington. We look forward to welcoming you to all, or any, of our services.

In many ways Easter has been with us since the week after Christmas. That is when I went into a supermarket to find Christmas decorations and treats reduced by 75% on one side of the aisle and Easter Eggs on display on the other!

Add to that the fact that Hot Cross Buns are on sale all year round it is not surprising that Easter and its meaning can so easily get lost. So often Easter conjures up pictures of chocolate Easter eggs and bunnies, fluffy lambs, tiny chicks and Easter bonnets. And, yes, there is symbolism to be found in all of those, but how often do we take the time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter – the event that lies right at the heart of the Christian faith?

Without Easter the Church would not have come into being. Jesus Christ was beaten, given a crown of thorns to wear and crucified on the cross. Events we remember during Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and progressing through Maundy Thursday to Good Friday. Without the somber events of Holy Week there would not have been an Easter to celebrate.

The good news for all of us is that Jesus rose from the dead, triumphing over death and opening the way to eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom. What wonderful, astounding and awe-inspiring news.

Let us all take time to reflect on the new life of Easter so that we may enter more fully into the joy of Easter. When we look at the newborn chicks and lambs and even chocolate bunnies we can give thanks for the new life and hope they represent. And when we open our Easter eggs let us remember that we cannot eat them until they are broken – reminding us of Jesus breaking out of the tomb, risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A very Happy Easter to you all.

With love and prayers

Sandy



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

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Service
Sun	19.03.23	10.30	St Mary's	Mothering Sunday/ Lent 4
Sun	26.03.23	10.30	TBC	(depending on whether Wanborough Church is open)
Sun	02.04.23	10.30	St Swithuns	Palm Sunday
Thurs	06.04.23	6pm	Hinton Parva Village Hall	Maundy Thursday
Fri	07.04.23	2pm	St Mary's	Good Friday. Procession with the Cross starting at St Mary's
Sun	09.04.23	10.30	All Saints	Easter Day

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

## Wanborough St Andrews Church Roof Update

I am very pleased to report that the new roof is complete.

All of the tiles have been fitted and the leadwork completed. There are some minor items of work to be done, broken south aisle tiles, parapet stonework and guttering to be repaired that were damaged when the theft of the lead took place. The temporary roof and scaffolding are being removed, and our contractor, A C Nurden expects to have the site cleared of everything by 17 March.

### Roof Project Costings and Fundings

The Roof project shortfall is £49,701. We have a long way to go to repay the Diocesan Loan.

The "Sponsor a Tile" initiative is still bringing in much needed funds, with over 111 donors having contributed, raising just over £5,285 for the Roof Fund.

Please encourage family, friends and neighbours to contribute. Cash, and cheques made payable to "PCC Wanborough St Andrews No 1", can be put through my letter box at 2 The Beanlands, Wanborough. All donations will be recorded with names on a framed document to be hung in church.

The reclaiming of VAT is ongoing through the LPW VAT Grant Scheme.

### 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.



### Service of Blessing

I can report that the Bishop of Bristol will be taking the special Service of Blessing once the roof work is complete. I will let you have more details as they become available.

### Future Fundraising Events

**Wanborough Farmers Market:** Saturday 18 March - 9.00 am until 12.00 noon. The Community Cafe will be supporting the Roof Project at the next Farmers Market. The Project Coordinator will be on hand to answer any questions.

It's not too late to "Sponsor A Tile" - Forms will be available at the Farmers Market.

**Quiz Night:** Friday 24 March - 7.00 pm, Wanborough Village Hall £12.00 and includes supper. There will be a bar and a raffle.

Please consider getting a team together for this event.

**Sarsens Songmen Concert:** Saturday 22 April - 7.30 pm, Wanborough Village Hall.

Tickets available from members of the choir.

**Tony Pullan – Roof Project Coordinator**

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

# Quiz Night

Join us for a fun packed evening

Quizmasters - Martin Hook & Mark Hitchmough

**Friday 24th March 2023**

at Wanborough Village Hall

Quiz starts at 7pm, arrive from 6.30pm

Teams of 4 to 6

£12 per person including Chilli Supper & Nibbles.

There will be a Bar where alcoholic drinks & refreshments can be purchased.

Raffle

**Raising Funds for St Andrew's Church Roof**

Book your team by e-mailing - [angela.raymond@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.raymond@btinternet.com)



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# The Parish Times

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

March 2023

## THANKS FOR LITTER PICKING



Thank you and well done to the record-breaking 50+ residents who turned out for the village spring clean on Sunday 26th February. It was a beautiful, crisp and sunny morning and with so many cheerful volunteers the villages and their approach roads

were scoured clean of litter in no time. The children from Bishopstone School also 'did their bit' the previous Friday – having a great learning experience about caring for your environment, and a lot of fun learning to use the grabbers!

## VACANCY ON COUNCIL

A vacancy has arisen on Bishopstone Parish Council, which includes Hinton Parva and Russley Park.

All our current eight parish councillors were elected in contested elections. Elections take place every four years. Our next combined borough and parish election will take place in 2025.

When a councillor stands down between elections, the vacancy can be filled either by holding a by-election or through co-option.

A by-election must take place if ten electors write to the Returning Officer requesting it.

The parish bears the cost of running a by-election, though it is organised and staffed by Swindon Borough Council. The by-election called in 2022 cost the parish £2,500, out of its total precept of £12,849.

If a by-election is not requested, the Parish Council must by law fill a vacancy by co-option. Bishopstone Parish Council has a clear and transparent procedure for co-option, which can be found under 'Policies' on the parish website at [bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/documents-and-notice](https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/documents-and-notice)

If you would like to find out more about becoming a parish councillor,

please contact the clerk or speak to one of our current parish councillors. There's some useful information on the role of parish councils here: [askyourcouncil.uk/understanding-your-council/the-role-of-a-local-council](https://askyourcouncil.uk/understanding-your-council/the-role-of-a-local-council)

## YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR VOICE

Villagers can contact the clerk or speak to any of the current councillors to raise issues or contribute ideas.

You can attend and observe Parish Council meetings, which always start with "Public Question Time" at which any resident may speak. Agendas and Minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on the website and noticeboards. Important updates are posted on Facebook. We aim to be accessible and transparent in all our work. The Parish Council is your local level of government and here to serve you – please talk to us about your concerns.

## LISTED NUMBERS

Further to last month's newsletter article about the (sadly, much neglected) phone box in Bishopstone, readers may be interested to know that since 2017 the historic K6 kiosk has been a Grade 2 Listed building!

On the last occasion that BT tried to remove it, in a last ditch approach to keep it, the parish council and SBC successfully lobbied Historic England for it to be listed.

A similar appeal for the Hinton Parva kiosk unfortunately failed – and in fact the Hinton phone was removed and the kiosk later carted off without warning. The Parish Council appealed for its return, and agreed to adopt it. It was restored by Jan Brodin, assisted by Rod Peck, and is now managed by residents as a village book swap, where you can also exchange unwanted or surplus seed packets. The photo shows Bishopstone phone box in its former glory. Sadly, BT still shows no interest in maintaining its listed historic asset.

You can find more details at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1442860>



## GIGABIT FIBRE UPDATE

Since we achieved the voucher pledge target last autumn, Openreach has completed a full physical survey for our Fibre Community Partnership project, which is still looking on track for delivery by April 2024. Some of the homes in Bishopstone that did not require a voucher have been slowly coming on line. If your address was not asked to pledge a voucher, it may be worth checking in with your service provider from time to time. Voucher holders should hold fire as you will all be notified individually when FTTP is available to order.

### 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)

**Mrs Lucille McGrath**

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

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

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

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/](https://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](https://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)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a casual vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for Bishopstone Parish Council following the resignation of Councillor Andy Clark on 23rd FEBRUARY 2023. Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules, 2006 now applies.

The rule allows for ten local government electors for the Bishopstone Parish to request the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill the vacancy. That request must be made within fourteen days excluding dies non. The fourteen day notice period ends on 16th MARCH 2023. Requests must be made in writing to Returning Office, Electoral Services, Room 1.2, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon Borough Council, SN1 2JH. If a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer, by TEN electors for the said Parish, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy. If a request to hold an election is not received during the permitted time period Rule 5(5) of the above rules will apply. The Parish Council must, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the fourteen-day period, co-opt a person to fill the vacancy.

This notice is dated 27th day of FEBRUARY 2023.

### CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at: [www.swindon.gov.uk/planning](https://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/23/0190** Change of use from agricultural to residential land and erection of 1 no. dwelling (class C3) with detached garage at land adjacent to Westhill House, Hinton Parva. Comments by 22/3

**S/HOU/22/0892** Erection of two-storey side and front extension at: 2 Grove Cottages, Hinton Parva Lane Hinton Parva.

**S/LDE/23/0127** Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the demolition and conversion of existing barns and erection of 2no. new buildings to create 5no. dwellings, with associated garages, landscaping, ancillary development and repairs to Grade II Listed wall without compliance with conditions 3, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 from previous permission S/18/1709 at Prebendal Farm, Icknield Way, Bishopstone.

**S/AMEND/22/1808/RACH** Non-material amendment to previous permission S/20/0415 – Changes to face masonry brick type.

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

**Redlands Eastern Villages** applications numbers S/RES/21/0584/EDSN; S/RES/21/0607/EDSN; S/RES/21/0498/EDSN; S/RES/21/0867/Redlands Phase 2 S/OUT/22/1415, S/RES/23/0026/EDSN

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparish

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

# BISHOPSTONE village hall



**Thursday 23 March 2023 doors 1900**

**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

## The Upcoming

**Thursday 27 April 2023 doors 1900**

**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!



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.

"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](mailto:annajanebareham@gmail.com)  
Hourly rate: £11 residents, £15 non-residents

**HINTON PARVA INFO/BOOKINGS:**

Janet Hawkins: 01793 791391  
Email: [jaymaybee02@icloud.com](mailto:jaymaybee02@icloud.com)  
Hourly rate: £8 residents, £10 non-residents

Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society presents

**BLITHE SPIRIT**  
by Noël Coward

Directed by Belinda Nicholls

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

## THE THIRD NORTH WESSEX DOWNS WALKING FESTIVAL



The Festival will include over 25 walks taking place across the North Wessex Downs and all in celebration of this stunning landscape. The varied programme will include family-friendly, evening and weekday walks with opportunities for you to seek out wildlife, history or culture, visit a farm or simply soak up the views from the top of the downs.

Our welcoming and knowledgeable guides will bring alive some of their favourite places as you explore more of the landscape around you. Be one of the first to hear when bookings for the festival open by signing up to receive the North Wessex Downs emailed newsletter at [northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking](http://northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2nd - 11th June 2023**



North Wessex Downs Walking Festival 2022 Jones Mill

## Tips to deal with pests

By Sean Baker, Enviro Pest Control, Liddington, Wiltshire



There are numerous pests commonly found in our community that can often make their way into our homes and businesses, such as rats and mice, bed bugs, fleas, clothes moths, wasps and cockroaches. When these pests are encountered, they often cause considerable stress, sleepless nights, damage to property and financial loss. Some can carry serious diseases, and some can give painful bites and stings.

A well-maintained, clean home or building will often keep pests away, however, this is not always the case and, even with all the best intent, a pest issue can arise.

To tackle such unfortunate encounters, there are three approaches you can take.

1. You ignore it and hope it resolves itself. Often this is not the case; a pest has entered your home or business due to fundamental reasons, mainly easy access, food, water and shelter. Once in, with the reasons for their attraction or entry unresolved, they will continue to proliferate if left unchecked.
2. You tackle the issue yourself with off-the-shelf pesticides, traps and deterrents. Hopefully, this works and you never see the pest again, but this is unlikely. We regularly see people attempting DIY pest control but failing to solve the issue. If they do get lucky, the same issue reoccurs because the cause has not been identified or the treatment has not been carried out correctly. If you add up the time in researching and applying a product, plus the cost of the product against the success rate, this can be a risky and expensive option, especially as the pests will continue to present themselves whilst you are trying to control them.
3. You call a professional pest controller. A good pest controller will provide a thorough inspection to determine exact pest species and the reasons for its presence. They should apply a range of safe, tried and tested safe control options and should get on top of the issue quickly. Importantly, a good professional will provide you with good advice in terms of what you need to do to support the treatment efforts, and how to achieve long-term control. Depending on the pest and factors, this could be proofing pest entry points, controlling water leaks and moisture, as well as making changes in cleaning and storing practices. Whilst the initial cost for the use of a professional may seem high, it will far outweigh the impacts and costs of stress, anxiety, damage to property and so on.

If you do go down the line of using a professional pest controller, here are some useful tips to consider; these may also apply when selecting other traders.

- Select a business that you will be dealing directly with. Some businesses advertise but do not actually provide the service themselves; they are just a middle-man and will provide you with a subcontractor. You could be paying higher fees for this, and have no or little control over the professional they have provided you with
- Use a qualified and insured business with good experience in the industry. Just using a qualified trader with little experience could lead to issues not being resolved promptly, and you not getting the right advice to achieve long-term control. You will also be exposed to risk if a business does not have adequate insurance.
- A local business is more likely to give you a better personal service and be more flexible.

**Enviro**  
PEST CONTROL

We are a local business providing a professional and friendly service to commercial and domestic customers in Bishopstone and all surrounding villages.

Fully qualified - Insured - 30 years experience  
10% discount off standard rates with this ad  
Mobile - 07379 276187  
Email - [enquiries@enviropestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@enviropestcontrol.co.uk)  
[www.enviropestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.enviropestcontrol.co.uk)

# Pond Life



## Watercress in The City Then & Now



Clifford Stone clearing watercress beds, The City, Bishopstone 1966



Former watercress beds, The City, Bishopstone, March 2023

PASIMNELCAKECISQWMOX  
DSHTLHKLJMIWCSBPHZBC  
REQZPKBBMBFMSHRAKPR  
MAUNDAYTHURSDAYTSTXA  
DJGHMXTJRQWYALPUAKBQ  
ZUHGEORGTOQZWNNEPSE  
XLCYATMIPALMSUNDAYT  
CSJKVTSHSCBBTTGIRJYN  
EHGELBFTEIKSUFZPXHHJ  
ADOKSIZQERBSFNFSUUIG  
SAOCJUNQHRIODZNONNTT  
TFDUOZSGULDNNACYZTBA  
EFFTTTLUCSAEAGNYRUVUW  
RORCWCAMHVGBYSETOKXN  
EDIHFLLTMRSIWPUTNSVD  
GIDIWEKVEGIWMSTNUFSF  
GLACQNTSXRZSHPTDNXY  
SDYKATRTRKLASTZICDAMG  
FBASJHOTCROSSBUNSBYR  
GQNILWGRESURRECTIONV

March Word Search

Congratulations to all of you who found the 20 village related place names last month.

Answers to the right.

March's word search contains lots of words relating to this time of year. There are 22 in total. See if you can find them all. As usual, just for fun!

NPREBENDALFARMGYPOFL  
XWMMWWSBMZJNEOIIULX  
THEFOLLYBANKSFSTKXVP  
TBXJCDIPUNNYHVPWSTI  
UBQOOTKOFTOIHCTEESYHT  
OCDTHOTIHRHOULCWSEH  
OPWWSRTEHACEWMIAAFE  
JRAWHTUHOQKSNITTYOV  
COTKIEMEELUZEFSSYEERI  
GDEZLAHADSIIRAESVRRTC  
ZXARLRREVMEITBRNITCSYR  
KOCPEYAEICHENMDOHRBZR  
KWRLQSRNLNENAFNEEAHA  
QSEITNCTULSDCLAHLSNKG  
FOSADHHEUPHILRLAYSCKBE  
KOSBMUOLFBNNRYMLNBZZM  
RUBXXRTVFGYSWLCETDR  
PGEIACESCFLYVJGHDWTF  
PYDAOHLQOBVEQXDEESAGX  
RVSCMMHFGGNZILOSQNOU

February's Solution

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# HOCKTIDE



The road through the centre of Bishopstone is called Hockerbench which apparently is where "Aldermen of the Hocker Bench" presided every year over the Hocktide revels. Hock Monday, or Hock Eve, marked the first day of Hocktide and was followed by Hock Day, which was also known as Hock Tuesday. Both days were holidays from work for the working classes, which were few and far between, though Hock Day itself was a payment day for rents due.

In this medieval English festival, which was generally celebrated on the second Tuesday after Easter, the men of the village would tie up the women and demand a kiss for their release. The following day the women would tie up the men and demand money for their release which would go to Parish funds...

The revels possibly celebrate the death of Harthacnut who was King of England between 1040 and 1042. Harthacnut was a particularly disliked son of King Canute. It might also be a celebration of the massacre of the Danes in the 11th Century by King Ethelred the Unready.

The festivities were banned under Henry VIII as they were thought to encourage public disorder, but Elizabeth I was petitioned to reinstate the tradition in 1575. The celebrations generally died out sometime in the late 18th century, although a version known as Tutti Day still prevails in Hungerford, where this year's festival is on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

There are some unsubstantiated claims that in the late 16th century the Hockerbench became the centre of the seasonal trade for the 'Bishopstone Hocker\*\*' spoils from the wrecked Spanish Armada.

There is also some historical consistency within the Wiltshire Topographical Collections and observations of John Aubrey A.D.1659-70 (with illustrations). Reported by Richard Jefferies: Aubrey came to Bishopstone. He observes that the church windows were broken by the soldiers in the Civil Wars—probably by the army of the Earl of Essex\*\*\*, in its retreat through Wiltshire towards London. Aubrey also remarks that they had here a "Hocker Bench."

\*\*Oxalis tuberosa? Oxalis tuberosa has been a staple of rural central Andean nutrition for centuries and of all native Andean root and tuber crops, it is presently second only to potato in area planted. It is locally known as Oca.

\*\*\*Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, 1591-1646 Aristocratic commander of the Parliamentarian army for the first three years of the English Civil War. An erratic general whose overall lack of success prompted the formation of the New Model Army.

## Photo of the month



Ridgeway turnips looking across to Bishopstone

## 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.

## No winners this month

We haven't received any photos this month so here are some turnips of course.



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TALES FROM THE HOCKER AND THE BENCH



## Royal Oak Diary

Since I have invested nearly £10 in the latest Artificial Intelligence sensation, ChatGPT, I thought I would ask this AI phenomenon to write this month's pub diary. They say it can do absolutely anything, saving the humans from making any effort at all, which sounds like a good thing.

'The Royal Oak is a traditional English pub nestling in the quaint Cues Lane, Bishopstone, just a few miles from the bustling cultural centre of Swindon (oooh er, something's going wrong already...). This old fashioned hostelry welcomes everyone, and extends a particularly warm greeting to the residents of Ashbury and Wanborough, and all the extended villages and parishes around Swindon. The landlord especially loves children, and is expert at helping new parents to develop good child rearing habits and behaviours. The pub and staff are always exceedingly courteous and considerate towards any immediate neighbours, making them as happy as possible at all times of the day. The landlord encourages everyone to keep voting for Brexit and provides a regular supply of The Daily Mail to help people form their own political views....' That's enough ChatGPT, I think.

Clearly, this ChatGPT has the right idea, but occasionally puts words in the wrong order, and just as obviously keeps missing out the occasional 'not', 'doesn't' and 'you must be joking'. We will continue to work on the algorithm, along with our partners Microsoft, who've invested a bit more than us, about £50bn at the last count.

We were of course delighted to see a Government minister extolling the virtues of turnips recently. As regular customers will know, the pub has been chuntering away along similar lines since just before the Brexit vote in 2016, when we advised that a turnip surprise was just around the corner if you voted the wrong way. Professor Loony, who grows our turnips here, alongside other root veg exotica, eg swedes, is recommending that customers pickle this season's turnips now, because there might be a turnip shortage next year as root veg seeds are already in short supply due to accidental Government intervention.

## 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.

In non-turnip news, HB's Royal Oak can confirm that its new high tech projector and screen are in full working order just in case anyone wants to use our luxe upstairs space for private meetings and parties (and we also can project the TV rugby etc onto it). The well hidden massive digital scalextric is about to be linked to its own screen as well, so if you're running an endurance race (or even a shorter one), you can see who's winning, and who's set fastest lap etc, at a glance. Ask us if you'd like to rent it for an hour or two, from mid-March. All bizarre stuff for a village pub—but that's us.

Classic Car Day (Drive It Day) is Sunday April 23, anytime at all but usually all over by 3pm; and Pig Racing for the King is marked up for Sunday June 4. We're supporting Swindon/N Wiltshire Deaf Children, and the village hall gets the car park money. If anyone has a 'dear to them' local charity they'd like us to support, please make direct contact with me and we can discuss. We don't raise life changing amounts of money (probably £15-18k over 12 years shared between about 10 charities), but as someone else says, every little helps. TF



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# Turnip Surprise

**INGREDIENTS:** 1 Turnip, peeled  
**METHOD:** Place on plate  
**COOKING TIME:** 0 mins

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9. Anti-Oxidants
10. Anti-Cancer (Allegedly)



"Beer" is the fifth episode of the BBC sitcom Blackadder II, the second series of Blackadder, which was set in Elizabethan England from 1558 to 1603. In the episode, an embarrassing incident with a turnip, an ostrich feather and a fanatically Puritan aunt played by Miriam Margolyes leads to a right royal to-do in the Blackadder household.

You can watch a snippet of this episode by hovering your smartphone's camera over the QR code above.



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# EASTER RECIPE Simnel Cake

Simnel cake is a DELICIOUS fruitcake (if you like marzipan), eaten throughout the world, associated with Lent and Easter. It's distinguished by layers of almond paste or marzipan; Conventionally, 11 marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, symbolising the 12 apostles minus Judas Iscariot, or occasionally 12 are used, representing Jesus and the 11 apostles. It was originally made for the fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday, the Refreshment Sunday of Lent (when the 40-day fast would be relaxed), Mothering Sunday, the Sunday of the Five Loaves, or Simnel Sunday; named after the cake. In the United Kingdom it is now commonly associated with Easter Sunday. Enjoy!

## INGREDIENTS

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>250g</b> mixed dried fruit (mixture of sultanas, currants, raisins & candied mixed peel) | <b>175g</b> plain flour            |
| <b>1</b> orange, zested and juiced  | <b>100g</b> ground almonds         |
| <b>500g</b> pack marzipan   | <b>1 tsp</b> baking powder         |
| <b>250g</b> pack butter, softened   | <b>1</b> lemon, zested             |
| <b>200g</b> light brown soft sugar  | <b>2 tsp</b> mixed spice           |
| <b>4</b> eggs, plus 1 beaten to glaze   | <b>1 tsp</b> vanilla extract       |
|   | <b>100g</b> glacé cherries, halved |
|   | <b>3 tbsp</b> apricot jam          |

## METHOD

**STEP 1:** Put the mixed dried fruit in a bowl with orange juice and zest and 2 tbsp water. Cover and microwave for 2 mins, then leave to cool completely. OR, heat gently in a pan, stirring occasionally until the liquid has been absorbed and leave to cool.

**STEP 2:** Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Roll out a third of the marzipan and use the base of a deep 20cm cake tin as a template to cut out a circle. Wrap any offcuts with remaining two-thirds of marzipan and set aside. Butter and line the cake tin with a double layer of parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla (all in one go) and mix until well combined. Mix in the cooled dried fruit and fold in the cherries.

**STEP 3:** Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin. Top with the disc of marzipan, then add remaining cake mixture, level the top with a spatula. Bake: 2 hrs. Check it's cooked by inserting a skewer into centre of the cake, if any wet mixture clings to skewer, return to oven for 10 mins, and check again. Cool in tin for 15 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

**STEP 4:** Brush top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out half the remaining marzipan and use the base of the cake as template to cut out another disc. Place on top of the cake and crimp edges, if you like. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal-sized balls for the apostles. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the apostles in a circle on top around the outside, and brush them with a little egg too. Put under a hot grill for a minute or two until just starting to caramelise – be very careful as the marzipan will burn easily. Leave to cool and wrap a ribbon around the cake, if you like. Keeps for up to a week in a sealed tin.



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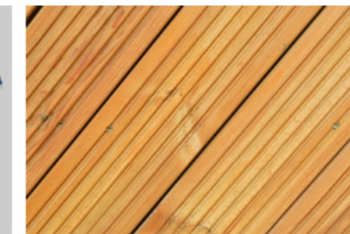
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# General Information

## 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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## Diary March/April 2023

2023	Time	Event	Place	Contact
15.03.23 - 18.03.23		BADS Pre-performance Supper	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481 royaloak@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
15.03.23 - 18.03.23	Doors 7pm Curtain 7.30pm	BLITHE SPIRIT Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society Performance.	Bishopstone Village Hall	Tickets from The Royal Oak
17.03.23		St Patrick's Day		
18.03.23	9am - midday	Wanborough Community Cafe at the Farmers Mkt. In support of Church Roof	Wanborough Village Hall	01793 790904 07745 011788 nickyandtonyp@gmail.com
19.03.23		Mothering Sunday		
23.03.23 & 27.04.23	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
24.03.23	6.30pm Start 7pm	Quiz Night Fundraiser for St Andrew's Roof. Teams of 4-6 (see pg. 11 for more info)	Wanborough Village Hall	Bookings: angela.raymond@btinternet.com
07.04.23		Good Friday		
09.04.23		Easter Sunday		
10.04.23		Easter Monday		
12.04.23	7pm	Cheese & Wine Eve. with Paul Green from Greenleaves Nursery and plant sale		Marion Peck 01793 791 001
14.04.23 15.04.23	12-6pm 12-4pm	Peach Pip Book Shop	Bishopstone Village Hall	Anna Bareham
22.04.23	7.30pm	Sarcens Songmen Concert - Church Roof Fundraiser	Wanborough Village Hall	Tickets from Choir Members
23.04.23	till 3pm	Classic Car Day (Drive it day)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
07.05.23 SAVE DATE		Kings Coronation Celebration Lunch	Bishopstone Village Hall	More details to follow
13.05.23 SAVE DATE	9am	Shrivenham & District Annual Plant Sale	Shrivenham Memorial Hall	
1st Tues of month	6-7pm	Sound Like Women Radio Show (First Tues of month)	Swindon 105.5 fm	Hosts: Mandy, Tracy & Luiza
2nd Thurs of month	7pm Start 7.30pm	Bishopstone and Hinton Parva WI (Second Thurs of month)	Bishopstone / Hinton Parva Village Hall	Jan Chapple janatwan@icloud.com

**Church Services**, please see **page 10**  
**Parish Council Meetings**, please see **page 13**

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 the 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.

Dates are correct to the best of our knowledge at time of going to print. Please see Facebook for any interim updates.