

VILLAGENEWS



Saturday, May 6, 2023

CHARLES III WILL BE CROWNED
MONARCH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY, LONDON

SO HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

WE'RE UP TO OUR FOURTH EDITION...

...and hope you like the shape of things so far. Send any comments, either praise in heaps or hate mail in lorry loads, to bishopstoneeditor@gmail.com

Your feedback is truly welcome. Otherwise rant to Mrs F. Hole which can be very therapeutic and utterly pointless. I must say credit for success with the publication so far is mainly down to Andrea, our Publishing Editor, for working (for free) with this deranged, itinerant, illiterate, self-indulgent and misguided lot. How does she pull this mad, sometimes irreverent, sometimes inappropriate content together on time and begin to know what is news and what is yet another village wind up? I guess a sense of humour is top of the CV. Keep sending us that editorial content; you know who you are!! But for the rest of us normal folk, please do send in points of interest, plain old news, photos past and present and any matters that could be of interest or help to "us villagers" or to occupy and bemuse the odd outsider!! We wouldn't be up and running without Graham our Advertising Guru who drums up support whenever he can. DO NOT tell him you are either independently wealthy or a business owner because there will be a 12 month contract wax sealed on your doorstep by the following morning.

Whilst on the mechanics of the newsletter, we have secured a new low, local and most reasonable print rate from ESP Print but our costs still exceed our income and the whole venture needs to be propped up indirectly by the village hall. A grant from Parish Council and advertising contributors do get us close to break-even but we project a shortfall of around £1k at the end of the year. I will write out to plead for additional support from institutions but if we are unable to secure a top up in income then we may have to have a whip round or put the landlord in the stocks and charge for the tomatoes – expensive these days. Otherwise we'll dust off the Church Lane ducking stool and raise funding for each witch.

Richard W. Chairman BVH

An extremely **BADS** review

...page 20

The Coronation

SOME THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

IS THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III A PUBLIC HOLIDAY?

The date of the Coronation, 6th May 2023, is not a public holiday as it's a Saturday. A national bank holiday has been declared on Monday, 8th May 2023 to mark the coronation.

Not all communities will honour the extra day off. In Scotland, local authorities can choose whether to declare a bank holiday, and leaders in the Scottish archipelago of Shetland have opted out for 8th May, citing costs among other concerns.

OPERATION GOLDEN ORB

The coronation of the new King and the Queen Consort on 6th May, will set off a series of festive events around the United Kingdom, organised under the code name "Operation Golden Orb."

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Since 1066, Westminster Abbey has been the setting for the coronation ceremony of nearly every British monarch. On 6th May, the Archbishop of Canterbury will lead the elaborate crowning ceremony under the gothic arches of the central London landmark, broadcast live on the BBC.

During the ritual, Charles will recite the Coronation Oath and be crowned with the historic St. Edward's Crown – comprising a gold frame set with precious gems.

Surprisingly, coronations are not actually a requirement for a monarch. Technically, Charles became King upon the death of his Mother, Queen Elizabeth II.


A MODERN TAKE

According to the press office at Buckingham Palace, the new King hopes to embrace both tradition and a modern

cont. page 2...

FRIENDS OF RIDGEWAY: COMMUNITY & EVENTS
SUPPORTED BY R6 STUDENTS PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT



IN AID OF
**RIDGEWAY SCHOOL &
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ALL WELCOME!

**Friday,
28th April** **Doors open at 7pm ~ Quiz starts at 7:30pm**
£5 per person ~ Teams of up to 6 players

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Please book in advance
Contact: FORCE@ridgewayschool.com / 07866 837247

RIDGEWAY SCHOOL, WROUGHTON, SN4 9DJ

The Coronation cont...

view of royalty. In an official statement, it was said that the ceremony will “reflect the Monarch’s role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in long standing traditions and pageantry.”

In keeping with this more streamlined, contemporary view of the monarchy, King Charles’s coronation procession is expected to be significantly shorter and smaller than his mother’s, which boasted 16,000 participants along a 4.5 mile route, which took two hours to complete.

THE BIG LUNCH AND HELP OUT
(see pg 16 for details on our village Big Lunch celebrations)

On 7th May, the Coronation Big Lunch will take place, featuring street parties in towns and cities across the nations of the UK. Later that evening, the Coronation Concert and a laser light show will be held at Windsor Castle.

A major theme of the new King’s celebrations is volunteerism. To encourage more people to get involved in community service, major non-profit coalitions have organized the Big Help Out campaign, hoping to get people to use the bank holiday of 8th May as a day to contribute to local causes.

In addition, the Royal Voluntary Service is awarding the Coronation Champions Award to draw attention to local citizens helping their communities. Her Majesty The Queen Consort issued a statement applauding the Awards as a way “to shine a light on the herculean efforts of our nation’s volunteers. Up and down the country, millions of unsung heroes are contributing to their local communities, giving generously of their time and their talents to enhance the lives of others.”



Bishopstone Stores

Who would possibly believe that our lovely little shop has now been open for three whole years?! Yes, that means it’s been thirty six months since we were first thrust into a lockdown and we were in a state of the complete unknown! Thank goodness Tim went out and bought those two fridges (that are still serving us well I might add!) and decided to throw open the door of Bishopstone Stores! It feels like we have come a long way since then and although there is no longer a demand for local deliveries, (which we would always still do for you, by the way) and there is rarely a queue round the carpark these days, it is always an absolute pleasure to serve you lovely locals and it’s very much appreciated that you choose to shop here.

It’s delightful that so much of our produce is so local. Obviously, the pork and beef from our own gorgeous animals and the gargantuan veg grown right here on the farm and delivered to us by Pete on his trusty two wheeled steed. Honey from the village hives, apple juice from our, and your, apples, fresh bread made with Eastbrook Farm wheat, milk refills and dairy produce from Berkeley Farm and ice cream made by Rays. Oh, and gin. That will be our double award winning gin. Gin flavoured with the botanicals of sea buckthorn, pear and elderflower grown here, in Bishopstone, on our Agroforestry project and traditionally distilled just down the road in neighbouring Oxfordshire.

With all this, and a whole lot more, on offer right on your doorstep, who needs to fight their way to Sainsburys when the Wanborough road is still closed?! Oh, and in case you haven’t heard - Sainsburys have stopped stocking our wonderful bacon and speedy sausages, along with all other organic pork. So don’t have a wasted journey to them – come and see me instead!

Best wishes and a big THANK YOU to you all!
Lynne



Opening Hours

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

Instagram icon @bishopstone_stores

Facebook icon @helenbrowningsbishopstonestores

IT’S EASY BEING GREEN

RECYCLING MATTERS

First of all – confession time!

I (or rather one of my daughters!) resolved my problems with the Boots Scan2Recycle ‘app’ and I’m ashamed to say, it was all down to ‘user error’! It’s working perfectly and I’m collecting £5 of Boots Advantage Card every time I recycle 5 tricky items of recycling – like toothpaste tubes and anti-perspirant roll-on bottles. I’m very impressed. The confusion was that it isn’t an app at all – it’s just a website. When creating the account on my phone, I ended up with a little icon which made it look like an app but was actually just a short-cut to the website. So once my daughter switched on the setting on my phone to enable the internet (as opposed to apps) to access my camera, it all worked beautifully. Here endeth the saga – hopefully!

Everyone uses the little hack of cutting the end off of a tube (toothpaste, hand cream, cleanser etc) when the contents become difficult to squeeze out and then using the end as a lid, right? That way you can get every last little bit out but the contents don’t leak or dry out, it makes cleaning easier (for recycling obviously!) and it’s great if you have arthritic fingers like me when squeezing the tubes can become difficult as they empty.

We’ve finally had our solar panels installed via last year’s Solar Together Wiltshire campaign and I’m very impressed so far. Even on a rainy or relatively cloudy day they seem to do well and we’re exporting to the grid once our batteries are fully topped up. Sadly we’re not being paid for supplying energy to Octopus just yet as where we live is currently unsuitable for a smart meter. That requires a bit more investigation and possibly challenge! Anyway, we’re giving back in our own way and at no cost so that’s got to be good. We’re getting used to switching our habits to dish and clothes wash and charge electricals during the day. I’ll report back next month on the impact they’ve had on our bills in case other people are considering the investment.

I’m a big fan of both money-saving and living a greener life so often buy in bulk to save money and packaging at places like Costco. I’m just trying out a company called Bother.com which is a B-Corp (a company which meets high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.) Their tag line is ‘Stock up on the branded groceries you love, for less’ and I’m trying them out because I found them particularly good for Eco and refill products that I was struggling to find elsewhere (5 litres of Ecover laundry liquid!) As well as their ‘green’ credentials, they seem to do well on price comparison

– I checked them out by using the Trolley.co.uk website which compares prices for items across many UK supermarkets and shops. Plus they offer free (over £40 spend) carbon-neutral next day delivery and plant a tree for every order. And if you’re into your Cashback* sites you can get 5% back for Bother (and Boots – online and in-store) via Airtime Rewards. I also found a £15 off a £50 spend discount code (use the word ‘TROLLEY’, valid up to 31/5/23) for new customers so do consider giving them a go. I’ll report back next month on how they performed.

Finally one of my favourite TV programmes is the BBC’s ‘Sort Your Life Out’ – I’ve just re-watched the whole lot on iPlayer! I’m in love with the 4 presenters (who I’m sure get loads of help behind the scenes!) but they always seem so happy and unphased. And a man who likes cleaning the toilet they all have – amazing!! Anyway, loads of little tips on cleaning, upcycling and organizing – it’s a great, inspiring watch. I’ve just reserved (the show’s resident declutterer and organizer) Dilly Carter’s book from the library**. One of the things I’ve picked up from the show is reusing clear plastic and glass jars for storage – it’s great – it keeps everything tidy and you can see exactly what’s in them (left). My next project is to make a set of old matching Nutella jars (my kids get through a lot!) to hold our extensive nut selection. My only internal debate being whether I can warrant buying a label maker or whether I should make do with a Sharpie! Fellow fans will understand!

*If anyone is unfamiliar with cashback sites and wants a little tutorial, do get in touch via the Ed.

** Aren’t libraries amazing? One of the many things that makes me very proud to be British! I love a (totally free!) audio book for long journeys as well as the huge selection of books. And a shout out to Hinton Parva’s very own mini-library-in-a-phone-box too. I’m currently enjoying a find from there and there’s all sorts of reads which change regularly – including the latest copies of magazines. Loving the neighbourliness of it all!

Karen Walker

Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI



What were the WI members studying so intently at their recent meeting?

The March meeting was also the Annual Meeting when the new committee and president were elected. Once the business part of the meeting was over members settled down (noisily!!) to a quiz that reviewed some events from 2022. Questions included ‘Who is the manager of the women’s football team?’ (Serena Wiegman) and ‘Who went into the jungle?’ (Matt Hancock.) There was some lively discussion and a bit of disagreement but all ended happily and the winning team was rewarded with chocolates.

Membership of our WI continues to grow and we now have a wide range of members with different backgrounds and interests. We all find it a great way to connect with others in our villages and develop new friendships. In addition, we enjoy opportunities to learn from the variety of speakers and workshops we host each month.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining please contact: janatwan@icloud.com

Future dates:

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.

Thursday 11th May at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.) at Hinton Parva village hall. Sue Birley is giving us a talk on ‘Travels with my Brompton’.

Thursday 8th June at 7:00 p.m. Annual Handicraft and Flower Show at Bishopstone village hall. Everybody is welcome so please come along.





From left: Alex Arkell, George Arkell & Roger Protz at Arkell's Strawberry Thief, Swindon

Pub visits earn Prizes in Arkell's 180th Anniversary Ale Trail

Spring into action and join Arkell's Brewery's Anniversary Ale Trail in 2023. During their special anniversary year, celebrating 180 years of continuous brewing at the original site founded by John Arkell, the family brewery are challenging drinkers to visit as many Arkell's pubs as they can; spread across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire. The trail will be hosted on Cask Marque's CaskFinder App.

CaskFinder is a free app that you can download on your mobile. Once you've downloaded the app, you register and join the Arkell's trail. You don't have to visit every Arkell's pub to win prizes, with prize points at 10,20,30,50 and 75 scans. Just start clocking up your visits and if you scan all 85 Arkell's qualifying pubs you will win the top prize! Prizes include limited edition 180th polo shirts, bottled beer, overnight stays, meals out, and a private brewery tour with Head Brewer, Alex Arkell.

As the warm spring weather approaches and a bank holiday weekend looms, it is the perfect time to plan trips to your local pubs and take the opportunity to explore new places, experience local food and enjoy some refreshing drinks. There are some great walks to be had in the countryside, you can take a look around the towns and villages and then stop off to try the beer and the delicious food offerings.

Alex Arkell, sixth-generation of the Arkell family said "We're really excited about this ale trail. It celebrates so many things; our milestone anniversary, the Great British pub, and interesting, fresh beers, produced by our local brewery. We want people to venture out of their comfort zone, show support and rediscover the charm of authentic pubs and a fresh selection of delicious beers."

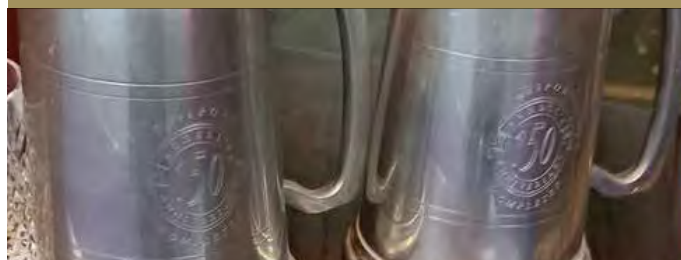
The app allows you to record your visit to the pub, learn about beers and rate the ones you try, and – best of all – win prizes too. Simply locate the Cask Marque Certificate of excellence in the pub and scan the QR code to collect scans and win prizes.

Roger Protz, world leading beer writer, historian, and real ale campaigner was at Arkell's last week writing a piece for the autumn edition of BEER magazine and he helped with the brewery's first scan of the ale trail at Arkell's Strawberry Thief Pub in Swindon. Roger expressed his best wishes to Arkell's in its 180th anniversary year. "It's brilliant to find a family brewer still producing fine beers and serving them in great town and country pubs. I was impressed by the new pub, The Strawberry Thief, Swindon; with impeccable cask ales and splendid food, including pizzas from an on-site oven. Carry on brewing, Arkell's!"



www.arkells.com/tour

A selection of other special activities are planned for 2023 during the brewery's 180th year, these include weekly brewery tours for the public – bookable online (scan the QR code), and a Big Birthday Bash on 16th September with live music and lots of beers to sample.



These two 150th Anniversary tankards, just made an appearance as a prop in the recent BADS production of Blithe Spirit. TND (Thursday Night Drinking Team), an institution formed circa 1970 in the True Heart Bishopstone, were awarded one of these tankards for getting a stamp in the Arkell's Passport from every pub (and off-licence). Over 50 years of unbroken service until Covid!

Green Fingers



Bishopstone & District Gardening Club



Sadly our meeting in March had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the snow ... typical spring weather! Our speaker, Mandy Bradshaw 'The Chatty Gardener', was coming from Cheltenham and the forecast was for more snow made it very unwise for her to travel. However she agreed to fit in another date to talk to us and that has now been arranged for Wednesday August 9th, so please make a note of this in your diaries.

In the meantime I hope that all your gardens have survived the cold snap and strong winds and that the real spring is just around the corner.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday May 10th 7pm in Bishopstone Village Hall

Lizzie from "Oak and Furrow Animal Rescue Centre", Cricklade. She will be explaining the work of the centre, an independent branch of the RSPCA based in Cricklade, providing rescue/rehabilitation for a wide range of injured wild animals both large and small.

Saturday May 13th 10.00am to 11.30am in Bishopstone Village Hall.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Please bring any plants for the sale to the hall from 8.30am

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

DIARY DATE

Saturday 13th May 9am

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

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Ask Fanny



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

Dear Fanny

Can we get back to basics please? I think I've had my fill of your innuendo over the past three months, and wish to hear your views on the scandalously barbed wired footpath at the west end of the village, thereby depriving us and our neighbours of a glorious mooch up to the sunny uplands.

Yours in hope

Jeff 'Cloggy' Arbutnot, Poveys Place

Dear Cloggy

Seriously, we must not forget that this was only a permissive footpath, and we were all allowed to use it only because of the generous nature of the landowners in that part of the parish. However there is a deeper reason for its closure, I have heard. There have been repeated sightings of a witch, a very old crone, moving on her broomstick on many evenings between there and the Coombes at Hinton Parva. Those who have seen and heard her report a serious case of ill will towards some other parishioners, and an apparent vindictiveness towards certain individuals, possibly because of a bad haircut? No one is able to explain this current day phenomenon. I think you should stay at home for the time being.

Yours in despair, Mrs H

Dear Mrs H

I have noticed over the past few years the presence of what I think is called a 'traveller' on The Ridgeway. Others suggest he is a pest, whereas I have found him very accommodating indeed. What opinion do you have of this man, who I think is called Neil or Nigel?

Yours excitedly, Sharon, City Corner

Dear Sharon

Thank you. I have met him once or twice, currently he's staying close to the Idstone part of The Ridgeway in his rather cosy and fluffy large van, (with, apparently, a huge mattress). He's especially charming if you're walking your dogs. And on sunny days I've seen him sunbathing in the altogether on the roof, which is a refreshing tonic on a Sunday morning stroll. My advice is to keep the conversation simple or basic. If you get into world affairs he's a little overbearing. Local landowners say he's useful for discouraging fly tipping, and keeps the Ridgeway tidier than it otherwise would be.

Yours in a semi-satisfied sort of way, Mrs H

Dear Mrs Hole

Do you think there is now an urgent need for a Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Tourist Board? I see from my regular tinterweb searches that there are several bijou places to stay in this parish, if one feels like falling out with one's husband or partner or neighbours. Thank you in anticipation of your reply.

Ms B, Bishopstone

Dear Ms B

I think this is our first correspondence, so much appreciated. Indeed, quite apart from the award winning (what for?) hotel in the High Street, there's a new and quite unprepossessing AirBnB in Icknield Way, something called Owl Barns in Hinton, Mrs Boot's eccentric palace at the back of the pond, and I think people are now also allowed to stay at the grandly fading manor at Hinton as well. It would indeed be intriguing to see how a new tourist board or whatnot would rate these places. I have read elsewhere that the teabags in the Royal Oak are often years out of date, and the place can harbour deadly insects because of its organic 'policies'. Think carefully before you give your husband the night off. I do hope this helps, if you get desperate.

Mrs H

Dear Mrs Hole

Having just seen you careering through these villages, I'd like to bring my new £1000 pussy to your attention. Only some of us

can afford a £1000 Burmese, and it would be very disappointing if vehicular behaviour such as yours were to harm it. It's very recognizable—quite small, with brown fur—and I do spend a lot of time stroking it, much to my girlfriend's irritation. How do I prevent you and others spoiling our harmless fun?

Nick, Bishopstone

Dear Nick

I do apologise if your pussy is in danger. I suggest a small discrete sign at the end of your road (Cues Lane?) stating clearly that there might be an expensive Burmese on the loose, and this, along with the rather prim suggestion (by my standards) that you keep it safely locked away, should ensure a longer and less stressful life for all of you.

Yours affectionately, Mrs H

Dear Fanny

It has recently been brought to my attention that a house in the village of Bishopstone has played host to a MALE STRIPPER in the past couple of weeks. Why was I not invited? I have previous experience of this sort of hugely frivolous activity.

Yours disappointedly, Mrs S, near the High Street

Dear Mrs S

I too am disappointed not to have been invited, especially as the people who invited him said it was TERRIFIC but it never got out of hand! I have heard that he has previously performed for unnamed members of the Royal family, which shows his class.

Yours in hope for a future performance, Mrs H

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



Last month, I tried to explain the new ELMS (Environmental Land Management) support for farming and the assertion that the new payment schemes could replace the former land based regime, which was basically an EU plan to keep the cost of food low. The elephant in the room on this new approach is that food does not feature. Empty shelves recently enhances the case for home agriculture. My definition of a farmer is one who produces food and there's the rub. To recover the former support in full you would probably have to give up farming. Some will, as I indicated last month. They will be landowners with no debt who can let their workers cottages and turn their buildings over to commercial lets, probably applying for organic conversion to top up the support. They will grow wild bird cover and nectar strips, plant woods and it could look pretty. The wealthy, like the Knebb estate on the Weald and the Mapperton estate in Dorset, have gone further to rewild with a fence round the lot. Those who have good lowland farms with debt or rents to cover like my family farm have no choice but to carry on with a higher output system off most of the best land because the payments are mostly insufficiently generous.

ELMs is complicated with over 200 options, which can absorb management time. We look like claiming on the

intermediate to enhance arable soils at £40/h and risking to forgo insecticides at £45/h. We do not have many small, awkward fields to expand our existing areas on the other options for bird or nectar mixes, so that's £95/h gained against £250/h lost from the previous support. More hedges looks an attractive option at £23/m run and they lock up carbon long term. There is support for enhancing biodiversity over many farms. I would support a scheme on the Lambourn downs between the M4 and Wantage but it would need consents from several very large landowners. As I said last month we are really going to miss that £155/h shortfall (£62,000 on a 1,000 acres)

In the hills and uplands, losing their land based support under the new regime could be even more threatening. Many are already organic and isolated so the opportunity to add further value is limited. Our local organic farm here is adding value to their livestock sales through retail and their pub/restaurant. This is what Jeremy Clarkson is trying to do, if the West Oxon planners would cooperate. On camera he claimed to aim for £10,000 from one beef animal. We get £1,500 in a strong market so it surprises me that the uplift is this strong. Of course there are many extra costs in running an eatery in Bishopstone or even in a lambing shed at Chipping Norton!

APRIL PUZZLE: challenge Debbie!

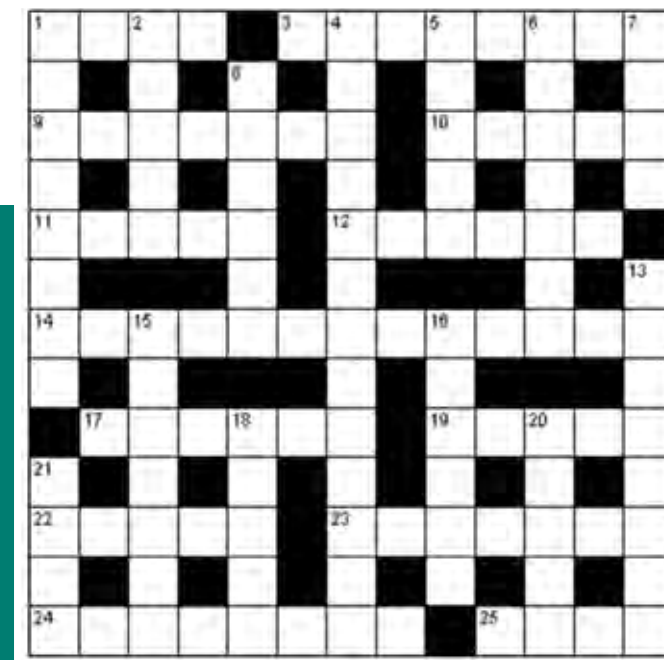
Do you have what it takes to beat Debbie and win a voucher?

Across

1. Article about unknown writer (4)
3. A horse is not all bad (8)
9. Stopping in cages for a change (7)
10. Lawful support - setback for the French (5)
11. Races round island to see wrecks (5)
12. Changed course continually - sound diplomacy (6)
14. Death, some say, resulting from fight on seesaw (3.5.2.3)
17. The rest of Spain? (6)
19. Subject of article written by myself (5)
22. Do what certain people don't, but do reform (5)
23. A hundred agree about area of land (7)
24. She gets a call and a good clip (8)
25. For a bit of fun, start singing in plane (4)

Down

1. Bill presented to clergyman is correct (8)
2. Took a picture that includes an animal (5)
4. Reunited to produce a profit for a female (8,5)
5. Cilla changed colour (5)
6. Entrance for poor singers (7)
7. Nothing seen on eastern river (4)
8. A foreign festival makes it safe (6)
13. Does this take the boredom out of saving? (9)
15. Gourmet putting dog in eastern dish (7)
16. Animals prepared to rest (6)
18. Indian instrument is taken up by sailor (5)
20. With a little rubber a secretary may rub out (5)
21. Paradoxically they could be evens (4)



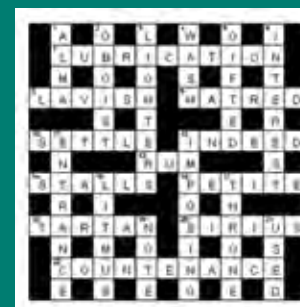
Be in it to win it!

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

<<March Solution



No March Winner

APOLOGIES!

We had a February winner but managed to miss you, sorry. Congratulations again Debbie Clark from The Wyncies. You're on a roll. Please collect your voucher from Lynne at Helen Browning's Shop.

Cycle Route No.5 - Bishopstone to Bath

One of my favourite rides ever! A stunning MTB ride through the ancient Savernake Forest before peddling along 39 miles of tranquil tow path whilst meandering along the Kennet and Avon canal to the Roman city of Bath.

Climb out of Bishopstone up Nell Hill, before turning right at the summit and following the Ridgeway to Fox Hill car park. Then take a left past the Burj Indian restaurant, over the M4 bridge and arrive at the T junction on the B1492, where you turn right and then immediately left, heading down hill towards Chiseldon. With great care cross straight over the A346 and then turn left immediately after 3 Trees Café/Farm Shop onto the Swindon to Marlborough Railway Path. The railway path follow the disused train line for 7.5 miles all the way to Marlborough, with the trail crossing the A346 under the flyover at Ogbourne St George. The railway path terminates in Marlborough where it meets the A4 at a T Junction, and at this point take a left and follow the A4 for approx. ¾ mile up a steep section of hill to the summit. You pass the Savernake Hospital on your right before you turn right into the Savernake Forest.

The route takes you through three miles of ancient forest, which houses one of England's oldest trees, The Big Bellied Oak. Cycle straight through the gorgeous habitat, along the Grand Avenue of Savernake, before reaching the Savernake Road. Here take a right and after 1.25 miles and passing through the village of Durley, you arrive at the Kennet and Avon Canal. This route now becomes very easy to explain, simply head westwards along the tow path for 39 miles to the finish. If you set off early enough you will be treated by some fantastic nature spotting, kingfishers, herons and water voles are just some of the treats I've experienced on my last time along this route.

After 17 miles of tow path you will arrive at Devizes and its famous Caen Locks. The Kennet and Avon Canal has awesome examples of canal engineering. The 16 locks that form the steepest part of the flight at Caen Hill are not only a scheduled ancient monument, they are an Olympic sized challenge every boater must do. This 'wonder of the waterway' is literally a rite of passage. Caen Hill (pronounced 'cane' by the way), is one of the longest continuous flights of locks in the country - a total of 29 locks with a rise of 237 feet over two miles with a 1 in 44 gradient. Fortunately, this route takes on the lock in a downwards direction.

Just after you past through the stunning architecture of Bradford on Avon, you reach another engineering masterpiece, the Avoncliff Aqueduct. Avoncliff Aqueduct carries the Kennet and Avon Canal over the River Avon and the Bath to Westbury railway line. It was built by John Rennie and chief engineer John Thomas, between 1797 and 1801 and is a Grade II* listed structure. This is an ideal refreshment stop as you pass the highly recommended 'No.10 Tea Gardens' or if an Old Inn is more your fancy, then the 'Cross Guns Inn' for a cold beer. Please note to cross the Aqueduct you must first follow the path adjacent to the Cross Guns, passing under before turning back up to reach the tow path again on the opposite bank of the canal. You simply have eight miles left now as you near Bath, passing Bathampton, with its riverside barge café and village cricket ground, before you drop down the locks of Bath to arrive in the city centre.

I usually then enjoy a lunch in one of Bath's superb options - too many to mention - before returning on the Great Western line back to Swindon (remembering to book your bike on for free) or you may wish to stay the night and reverse the ride the next day!

Lydra Lil 

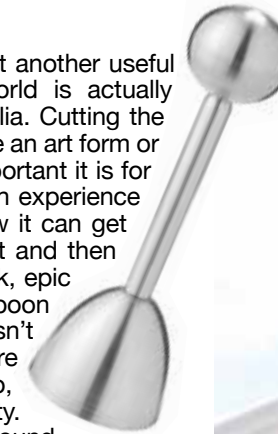
Distance: 57.03 miles
Elevation: 1,054 ft
Average Cycle Time: 5hrs 45 mins



The Gadgeteer

Egg Decapper

Not a Hollywood Easter nightmare movie but another useful gadget for boiled eggs at Easter. The world is actually obsessed with egg gadgets and paraphernalia. Cutting the top off an egg, topping or decapping could be an art form or an Olympic discipline depending on how important it is for you. I guess most will use a knife, those with experience perhaps a serrated knife, but as we all know it can get messy. Cut too high and the spoon won't fit and then breaks the shell. Too low and you hit the yolk, epic fail. Others bash the dome with the back of a spoon and delicately peel away, nooooo! That doesn't sit well in Claridge's, darlings! Ask the maître d' for an egg decapper! They work and also, very importantly, delegate the responsibility. The simplest form of decapper is an oval or round shaped device lined with super sharp teeth surrounding edge. To operate, place the ring over the top of the egg and squeeze. The teeth pierce the shell simultaneously decapping in one swift move. The sharp teeth cut effortlessly through the shell leaving no mess. The ultimate device would be the Egg Topper. This gadget, sometimes called an "egg clacker", has a steel bell that sits on top of the egg. There is a cutting edge around the circumference exactly where you would wish to top the egg. On top of the bell is a steel shaft with a steel or ceramic round weight on top. The weight is spring loaded and when primed and released the weight "clacks" the shaft, shocking the steel



cutter around the egg. The result is a perfect cut. Back in Claridge's, the head chef may use these to decap raw eggs in order to clean the shell and serve a mousseline or fancy foam. Egg Mate available from Fenwick £6.50. Egg Clacker stuffthekitchen.co.uk £11.50

The Gadgeteer

Inside the Peach Pip

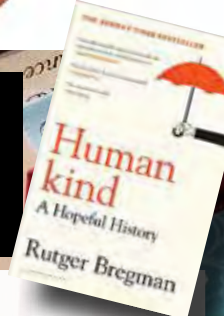
Humankind: A Hopeful History, by Rutger Bregman

This is a book for anyone who is fed up of hearing how terrible the human race is. Bregman digs into the history of humanity, from our scavenging days, through to the beginnings of 'civilisation', to the subsequent corruption and exploitation of power systems, to the world of war, inequality, injustice and climate disaster in which we find ourselves today. At each step, he challenges the increasingly popular view that humans are by nature selfish, power-hungry and conflict-driven beings. Think Sapiens, but for optimists.

Bregman's writing is well-researched and academically credible, yet completely accessible. And funny. And full of intriguing anecdotes. As someone with an interest in social anthropology and a belief in human goodness, I was compelled and affirmed by the arguments made - a little relieved, in fact, to be fed some scientifically-backed positivity regarding human nature. I couldn't put it down.

In his introduction, Bregman claims Humankind to be about one 'radical idea': 'That most people, deep down, are pretty decent.'

Absolutely everyone should read this book. Pip pip, Anna



Mobile Operators to Test UK Wide Emergency Alerts on 23rd April. What is this?

Don't be alarmed if you hear a loud siren-like sound, lasting for up to 10 seconds from your mobile phone on 23rd April.

The government and mobile phone operators have officially started to activate the new UK-wide emergency alerts service which is designed to warn people of any nearby life-threatening dangers, such as fires, flooding, extreme weather, zombie apocalypse.

By providing a means to get urgent messages quickly to the majority of mobile phones in a defined area, this emergency alerts system is similar to those already in place in other countries. Its purpose is to attempt to transform the UK's warning and information capability by providing clear instructions on how best to respond.

This service will only work on 4G and 5G smart phones.

East Suffolk and Reading have already received live tests but the government also intends to conduct a full UK-wide test on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd April 2023.

Initial use of this system will only focus on the most serious situations and will only ever come from the government or emergency services.

CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,

Following on from the joy of Easter, we travel through the month of April and arrive at St George's Day – 23rd April. George, Patron Saint of England. It is his red cross on a white background which is the national flag of England and part of the Union Jack, the national flag of the United Kingdom.

We only have to watch international football when England are playing (for example), to see a field of red crosses on a white background. It is a sign of patriotism.

So who was George? Well, he wasn't English as he was born in the 3rd Century in Cappadocia – now modern day Turkey, and he never visited England. He is often depicted as slaying a dragon, depicting his fight against evil.

George was a strong Christian and died for his faith. He was executed for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods, and therefore became a Martyr.

In England and other places who hold St George as their Patron Saint there used to be many celebrations on 23rd April. Following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, St George's Day became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar.

This year, in May, we will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. So let us celebrate St George in April and be ready for the great celebrations of early May. And like St George may we be ready to take our place in the fight against evil and make our world a better, kinder, more loving and forgiving place.

With love & prayers, Sandy

A Prayer for St George's Day from the Scouts (adapted)

Dear God, you gave St George the strength of character to overcome his fear and die for his beliefs. Help us to develop the qualities of St George, to take responsibility, to be truthful, to have courage and determination and to dedicate our lives to helping others. Amen.



A Prayer for the Coronation

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, Bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, And all in authority under him; that they may order all things In wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, And the good of your Church and people; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Services in the Benefice

full details on www.achurchnearyou.com

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Service
Sun	09.04.23	10.30	All Saints	Easter Day
Sun	16.04.23	10.30	St Mary's	Easter 2
Sun	23.04.23	10.30	St Andrew's	Easter 3
Sun	30.04.23	10.30	St Andrews	Service of blessing: The Bishop of Bristol, Bishop Viv will preside and preach
Sun	07.05.23	10.30	St Swithuns	Easter 5
Sun	14.05.23	10.30	All Saints	Easter 6 Rogation Sunday

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

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.

Thank you!

BISHOPSTONE & HINTON PARVA VILLAGE FETE

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for people to help organise our village fete on 9th September 2023. This year, we may combine it with The Gardening Club Produce Show. Location TBC.

If you would like to help out, run a stall, or find out how else you can get involved in this lovely social event, please contact Christine Thomas a.s.a.p. (preferably by the end of May) by email: littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk or via Whatsapp/phone: 07789 414147



Wanborough St Andrews Church Roof Update

I am pleased to report that the St Andrews Church is once again fully roofed. The final tile has been put in place, and the scaffolding has been removed.

The work was completed during the first week of March, and subject to receipt of final invoices, it was completed within budget. The final site meeting with the church architect and contractor took place in mid-March, when the responsibility of the church, and the keys, were handed back to the churchwarden and PCC.

Roof Project Costings and Fundings

There has been little change to the financial position, and the Total Roof Project Costs are still projected to be in the region of £230,000 (gross). Income from grant applications, donations and fund-raising continues to be received which has reduced the shortfall to just over £45,000.

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 122 donors raising £6,951.25.

This fund raising initiative will shortly be ending, but it's not too late to have your donation to the Roof Project recorded on the Framed Document to be mounted in church.

- 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.

Other Fundraising Events

The roof may be complete but fund raising to pay for it will continue for many years to come. There is the small matter of repaying the loan secured from the Diocese of Bristol.

The Roof Committee 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/>

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

Tickets available from members of the choir.

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

What Happens Next?

The church will remain closed until professional cleaning and organ tuning is completed. Hopefully, the first service to be held at Wanborough will be on St Georges Day, Sunday 23 April, but details will be confirmed on Wanborough.info, the village website at: www.wanborough.info/church_services.html



Tony Pullan – Roof Project Coordinator

01793 790904 • 0774 5011 788

nickyandtonyp@gmail.com • 2 The Beanlands, Wanborough



Become a member of Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Being a member is not an onerous role but is an essential part of our future as an NHS Foundation Trust. Through the Council of Governors, members are given the opportunity to influence how the hospital is run and the services we offer.

Membership is free and you can have as much or as little involvement as you choose. As a member, you will:

- Receive information about the Trust's activities and member events
- Have an active involvement and share ideas for how we can improve our services
- Have the opportunity to influence the way we provide and develop our local services
- Attend meetings such as Council of Governors and the Annual Members Meeting where you can learn more about what the Trust does and its plans for the future
- Have exclusive online access to Health Service Discounts
- Be invited to attend free events for members, e.g. behind the scenes tours and health talks
- Play an active role in deciding who will be elected as a Governor for your constituency by voting for Governors in elections
- Be eligible to stand for election as a Governor if you want to be more involved

Scan the QR code to join, or email Sharon.Scott27@nhs.net for more information.



Wanborough Bowls Club

Hooper's Field, Rotten Row, SN4 0AN

Why give bowls a go?

- It's a fun sport and good for your health
- You don't need any experience
- It's an opportunity to get outside in the fresh air in beautiful surroundings
- We are a friendly, social club
- There are lots of opportunities to play, friendlies and more competitive matches, both within the club and against other clubs.

You are welcome to come to visit, borrow our equipment and have a go with no commitment to join. Email or call the Hon. Secretary to arrange: info@wanboroughbowlsclub.org.uk or 01793 614861

If you do decide to join us, adult membership is just £40 for the first year.

The green will open on Saturday 8th April (weather permitting) and then every day until the end of September. There's lots of parking on site. wanboroughbowlsclub.org.uk



The Parish Times

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

April 2023



EXTRA COLLECTIONS MADE

Following complaints from residents about overflowing dog bins, March's parish council meeting decided that in future all the receptacles in Bishopstone should

emptied weekly, instead of fortnightly.

Sincere thanks is given to everyone who cleans up after their pets and makes the bins a well-used facility.

RUBBISH IS DUMPED AT BURNED OUT BIN

After last month's brilliant litter picking effort by residents, it was heartbreaking to see fly tipped rubbish dumped near the Ridgeway and the bin at Charlbury Hill burnt out.

The parish council arranged for the mess to be cleared up and the bin will be replaced as soon as possible.

Swindon Borough Council is responsible for investigating, clearing and taking the necessary action against anybody who is found to be fly-tipping on public land.

Small-scale fly-tipping offences can incur a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice.

For larger-scale offences, offenders can be fined and prosecuted.

You can report fly-tipping by using the link below.

Simply mark the area on the map where the rubbish has been left and leave a few details.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/28/fly-tipping

Getting rid of rubbish safely and legally is easy in Swindon, especially since the recycling centre started its very effective online booking system. Book at: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20015/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/1118/book_a_visit_to_the_household_waste_recycling_centre_hwrc



The burned bin and rubbish dumped at Charlbury Hill



NEW COUNCILLOR IS WELCOMED

Councillors coopted and welcomed Bishopstone resident Steve Bell to the parish council at its April meeting.

He fills the vacancy on the council left by the resignation of Andy Clark, who was thanked for his service.

Cllr Bell said he wanted to join the parish council because he was very keen to see the rural nature of the villages maintained and protected and added "we should be active in reducing the speed limits on our country roads".

His family has lived in Bishopstone for the past five years.

Cllr Bell is involved with the village hall committee and helped with set construction for the recent BADS production.

He coached youth rugby at Supermarine and enjoys kayaking and gardening. Cllr Bell has a village allotment and supports the local gardening club.

He said: "I believe we live in a very alive and supportive neighbourhood and I wish to be an active part of that community."

A WELCOME REMINDER

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

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

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of challenges when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Ms Jaine Blackman (Clerk)

Phone: 07913 819422

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)

Cllr.valbrodin@gmail.com

Mr Ian Thomas (Vice Chair)

Cllr.ianthomas@gmail.com

Mr Julian Cooke

Cllr.juliancooke@gmail.com

Mr Nigel Crisp

Cllr.crisp@gmail.com

Mr Doug Stevens

Cllr.dougstevens@gmail.com

Mr Tom Green

Cllr.tomgreen@gmail.com

Mrs Gill May

Cllr.GillMay@gmail.com

Mrs Lucille McGrath

Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com

The Parish Council's policies and documents can be viewed at bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

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/ and on the notice boards. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

Useful Information

Swindon Borough Council: Reception Premier House 01793 465055/465056; **Civic Offices** 01793 463668; **Wat Tyler House** 01793 463725

For problems with waste collections call Streetsmart on: Monday to Friday 8am-8pm 01793 445501; all other times 01793 466453 **Report fly-tipping or pot-holes to SBC:** swindon.gov.uk/my_account **Wiltshire Police non-emergency number (less urgent than 999):** 101 **Borough Councillor Gary Sumner** - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS' KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Finance Nigel Crisp/Lucille McGrath

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

Pond & Island Doug Stevens

Hinton Parva Village Hall

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

Policies Gill May

School liaison Lucille McGrath

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

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

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.

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

Redlands Eastern Villages applications numbers S/RES/21/0584/EDSN; S/RES/21/0607/EDSN; S/RES/21/0498/EDSN; S/RES/21/0867/EDSN

Redlands Phase 2 S/OUT/22/1415, S/RES/23/0026/EDSN

Foxbridge Village, New Eastern Villages. S/OUT/20/0160.

GRANTED

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.

BISHOPSTONE village hall



By time of going to press we'll have one more film to show in our Spring Season. We listened to our punters and it was thought Friday nights interrupted the weekend, so our trial of Thursdays was sanctioned. Sadly at our last performances we had more committee members than cinema goers. I know I use "cinema" loosely but it can be soul destroying, sat with a box of tissues blubbing in front of your colleague volunteers. Come along to the last show of this season on 27th April. We really need a good turnout in order to sustain this in the autumn.



JOIN US!
Doors and bar
7pm, film starting
7:40pm
ONLY £5 a ticket,
including free popcorn
and excellent
company.

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!

"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

Hinton Parva Village Hall Thank you!

May I through our village news say a big thankyou for the framed painted picture of Hinton Parva Village Hall presented to me at the Annual Village Supper. What a super and thoughtful present. It really is appreciated and a delight to look at .

My first visit to the Hall was in 1994 and I have spent many a happy hour since in constructing evening entertainments and making friends. My first Chairman was Lesley Parsons and I pleased to report that one of his Apprentices at his work in Wootton Bassett is now a Project Director for me. I have much to be grateful for.

Howard Crapper

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



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 for availability of the Village hall.

Uffington Village Hall Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize Exhibition

The members of your community are fortunate to have the Ridgeway National Trail close by. It is not only a great place for recreation and reflection, it is also an inspiration to artists who embody the spirit of the Ridgeway through paintings and other wall art, sculpture, photography and writing. No fewer than 97 works of art will be on display at the 7th Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize Exhibition in Uffington in April, organised by the charity Friends of the Ridgeway. If you would like to share this opportunity with your community, the essential details are below.

Best regards, Dave Cavanagh, Secretary, Friends of the Ridgeway

EVENT DETAILS

7th Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize Exhibition
Celebrating the Spirit of the Ridgeway
Uffington Village Hall
(Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall; SN7 7SE)

Sat 22 and Sun 23 April
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Entry free, parking plentiful, refreshments available

At the same time you might also wish to visit the Tom Brown's School Museum in the village, open 2:00 to 5:00 pm, and St Mary's Church, 'The Cathedral of the Vale'.

www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk/swire-ridgeway-arts-prize

davecavanagh1000@gmail.com; 07544 979253

www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk;
Facebook @TheFriendsOfTheRidgeway



WHEN THE KING CAME TO TOWN

The male resident of Winton Cottage heard that the Prince of Wales was coming to town, and immediately started to look for a suitable smock and pitchfork. As one of the more ironic members of the community, he tried hard to create an army of peasants to line Bodyhorse Hill all in similar garb to provide a suitable greeting for the next King as he accelerated towards Bishopstone in his azure Aston Martin, roof down of course. In the end, as you'd expect, all this talk fizzled out in the face of the serious Establishment's imminent arrival, and the posse of security geezers soon learnt that the Baileys were not a hot bed of revolutionary or even ironic zeal, and that they could be left well alone.

It was July 2014, and we'd been very surprised, and pleased, to get the call that the PoW wanted to pop in for lunch with 70 guests. And breakfast for 50 of them. He had suggested to his organic farming mates that Eastbrook would be a good place for a guided walk. The pigs and cows were given a spring clean. The yard was tidied up. The chefs were put on full alert. Security (ha ha) was stepped up. We, and others better trained, spent a few days each week looking for likely sniper hideouts. Hard to believe. Men in dark suits and shiny shoes could be seen taking occasional casual walks along the Ridgway, or inspecting scruffy hedges and peering behind abandoned machinery.

Long conversations ensued about whether there was a suitable 'rest room' for Charles to use. Eventually, it was decided that one of the old bed and breakfast rooms (where the shop now is) would have to do, so her Ladyship Kate Keller, the 'cleaner' here for the previous 25 years, was sent in to give it a REALLY good clean. Yes, Kate, you might have to bend over for this one. Well, you can imagine: after the team from Visit Britain had condemned the place two years earlier - one of them was bitten on the leg in the en suite by 'the largest spider I've ever seen in the UK', and the other complained that the organic tea bags were 3 years out of date (some people are never happy) - we'd really made an effort with that room, hung some nice pictures and all that sort of fluffy stuff, but failed to replace the £5 green velour non-fire-rated armchair from Kidson Trigg and its slightly shiny antimacassars. I can only imagine how much dust and how many crumbs flew out of it as he rested there with his tin of Waitrose pre mixed Pimm's that he'd brought with him in the Aston Martin glovebox, after he'd sampled the spotless delights of Kate's newly polished en suite facilities.

On the subject of drinks, we were given very precise instructions on his tea drinking preferences. Earl Grey, quite weak, teaspoon of honey, cup and saucer. My daughter Rose volunteered for this job, and performed admirably while being watched over by two security men (in case she was tempted by the arsenic that we keep in the cupboard for those troublemakers from Ashbury). She handed the tea to the PoW, who promptly put it on a garden table and wandered off; and never drank it. We've kept it, of course, in a glass cabinet at the back of the kitchen.

Needless to say, for the next two years of that room's miserable life, it was laughingly titled the Prince of Wales suite whenever unlucky travellers found themselves marooned in Bishopstone

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.



with nowhere else to go. 'Yes, this is where he had a pee,' I would tell them when they queried the extra £10 I was charging for the privilege of staying there.

The day itself seemed a success - once we'd got over the shock of the internationally renowned head chef resigning at 1am on the day of the visit. We'd brought her in to weave her magic for a few days, but it was all too much for her. When I met with other senior staff people at 6am to agree last minute plans for the day, there was only one decision to make - should we tell Helen that the chef had walked out? We decided not to, and left Paul and his kitchen gang to tie all the many loose threads together. Which they did, with aplomb.

I've been allowed to meet him a couple of times since, surprisingly. After he's given HB her usual smacker, he turns to me and says 'Tom, you're a very lucky man!' At least, I think he's talking to me.

Tim F

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Pond Life

Our Village Amphibians



It's thought that around a third of UK ponds have disappeared in the last 50 years. This has obviously had a detrimental effect on the wildlife so it's becoming increasingly important that we look after our ponds. There are many creatures that rely entirely on ponds to stay alive, so with these in decline, so are many amphibians.

This time of year, the natural world is exploding beautifully back to life and ponds are no exception, so this month I wanted to talk a little bit about our slippery friends.

Amphibians spend their larval stages submerged in ponds but once they've developed into adults, they move between water and land, quite often hiding under logs and undergrowth. You have probably seen them shuffling about under the leaves in your own gardens. All amphibians have an aquatic, gill-breathing larval stage which develops into a terrestrial, lung-breathing adult stage so ponds are crucial to their early stages of life.

Toads and newts hibernate out of the water, generally under stones or logs. Frogs are capable of hibernating in or out of water. Most hibernate on land, but some decide to spend the winter at the bottom of deep ponds, comfortably buried in the mud and debris.

Common toads are infrequent pond visitors, except for when they lay their eggs.

Smooth newts spend most of the early summer in a pond, then emerge to start filling their bellies with yummy invertebrates that they find in tall vegetation. When reproducing, they will carefully wrap each of their eggs, like a little present in leaves submerged in a pond, allowing protection from predators while they develop.

Common frog tadpoles can very cleverly tell if a pond is drying up and will speed up their development process in order to survive. We're so lucky to have such a beautiful pond in our village.

Next month...How we can help.

SCOMMONFROGSPVGLXGZGYWNY
XMLKOFWIVVSLVZDCEXWVCQRRX
LKONJYGFZQIZWRVCCQWMTAJL
PWXOXRVPLYSWJHSQEDMBRNGO
EIPCTUHQPHBSMXJDMULCUIAGG
EFAHVHTFHBJOHLBKJWEMZTTIS
XMLNAUNZWVKTCGYZYNQMZUEFF
LDMICJJELIOROKAPJYSNBRMCS
AQANNAGSWMXIMJMYBNUEXUPCJ
RDTOSGIFKTRTMXPYKKYNNSONC
VIEFERZDXICDOGHBPBKOTACRYU
AKNIFEMDCVNNKIKKZKIWRAPQ
ESESACMGVLHTMTWKOUIDIROF
SLWKKTHHOKVEOBIMCPOWQSINV
WFTMECUZVCZLAYAMBUDUJPTADA
FKEIIRRCQCPBVDONIEHINUAIXD
YUXQKETKJKLEEXSMSPKZCTLFQ
CUDRUSPMGNJTBKKBACGXZIUDDG
UXOEQTRKYVAIAUROCKSYRSZFO
CXHKXEHRAVUCMZFGIUYLYIMLA
KHFEEDDTKOPDUAXNOHMUOINVVD
IZSJCNZDLPYSCENUBZWLXTEZY
HEL RUEEJYCPVLJZSGUCETXMXM
CCQOKWDZVFOIYLYLQFPQZZVJ
LISSOTRITONVULGARISONULXT

April Word Search



This month, there are 15 items relating to amphibians, their surroundings and in addition, their latin names! Enjoy!

PASTMELCAKECISQWMOX
DSHTLHKLJMIWCSRPZHBC
REOZPKBBMBFMSHRAKPRRA
NAUNDAYTHURSDAYSTXA
DIGHMXTRJOWYALPUAKBO
ZUNGEORGTOWNNERPSEER
XLCGYATNIPALMSUNDAYT
CSIKVTSNHSBBTGTIRIYN
EHGELBFTFKSUFZPXHHJ
ADOKSJZQERDSNFESUUIG
SAOCJUNOHRIOOZNONNTT
TFDDOZSGULDNNACVZTBA
EFFTTLUCSAEAGNYRUVUW
ROKWCAMHVBGYSCTOKXN
EDHFLTMRSIWPDJMSVD
GIDIWEKVGJWMSNMFSTF
GLACONTSXRSZSHPKXTDNXY
SDYKATRTKLASTZICDAMG
FBASJHOTCROSSBUNSBYR
GQNLWGRESURRECTIONV

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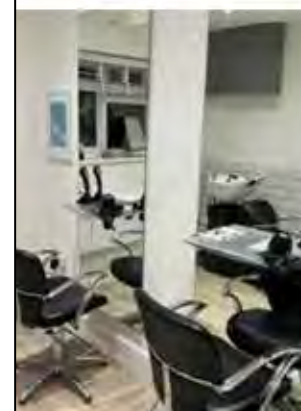


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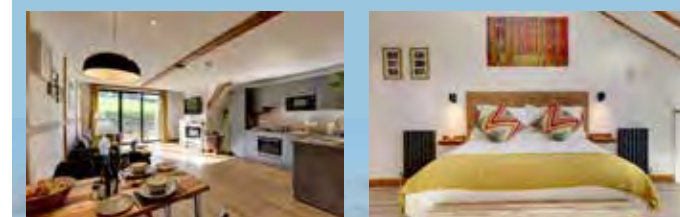
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Photo of the month

Congratulations Alan from Hinton Parva who is the winner of this month's photo of the month with a very obviously hungry feline, Fifi.

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.

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'Waiting for my breakfast'



Royal Woke Times

After the failed experiment with CHAT GPT last time out, giving a completely wrong impression of the place (it suggested we were warm, generous and loved children), I thought we'd revert to type this time and indicate all those events that we're hosting this year, in the name of the King of course. He's especially excited to have been told of Drive It Day, on April 23, since the royal blue Aston Martin (a very serious classic car) will again be parked outside the much missed Prince of Wales Suite, once more spruced up by Kate 'Aggie' Keller.

We're also hoping that fervent royalist and proto-revolutionary Mr Bailey from the High Street will bring his enormous collection of Rovers, that the lush TVR from the accountant in the High Street will be reliable enough to get up Cues Lane, and that the interesting collection of Jaguars and Austin Healeys lurking close to Cues Lane will also make a guest appearance, assuming he can negotiate the pot holes, and also assuming he can promise to stick to the speed limit, which he has recently advised several of our staff about. Rumours that a Ferrari or two in a neighbouring parish will make the short trip are usually wide of the mark. Anyway, jokes aside, it's normally great fun for nostalgics, nosy parkers and enthusiasts alike, and we welcome all of you anytime from 9.30 onwards. Neighbours beware - if the weather is good, it can be tricky getting out of your Cues Lane drive from 12.00-1.30pm. Motorbikes of certain vintages will also be present, in large numbers, so the man in Mount Pleasant will need to polish and test his exhausts before then. As noisily as possible, please. We often have in excess of 150 cars bikes and small commercials, so well worth a trip. Russell Hatch is in charge of parking. Expect very strict instructions, especially after 3 pints of 3B. Lovely food in the garden all day.

Advance warning: expect another noisy disturbance on **Sunday May 28** (more bank holiday fun), when the **Cheesehouse Band** (Syd Simpson says they're quite good these days and he has high standards) make their re-appearance on the green slopes of the Oak's garden around 3pm. They've been practicing for the past 10 years, and we're expecting great things. As usual free admission, and a round of drinks for this Bishopstone based combo would be much appreciated. If it's wet, we'll all go upstairs.

Cricket - our Ashes supper, just before this summer's probably epic Test series between England and Australia, is June 13. Main guest is Jim Maxwell, acerbic and droll commentator on Australian Broadcasting Corp and BBC's Test Match Special. His stories are wonderful. An Australian with a sense of humour and irony! Price for a simple generous supper will be £40, and we're now taking bookings. Room for 40 of you.

Groove Armada/Andy Cato DJ set: still not sure if it's going to be Sept 6 or 7 - diaries etc being sorted. Likely to be kept to 250/300 tickets. Keep your eye on our FB pages and other info we put around the place. Campsite being provided for those who don't want/can't go home. This is not a hoax - it's just that dealing with gloriously talented people (eg me) can be slightly trying.

There's lots more but not enough space. A big thank you to neighbour Mark Jordan for his superb photography, and three of his pics of the local landscape have now been blown up and adorn the downstairs in the pub, and one hotel room. Truly great talent.

Dog owners - if you're using Eastbrook land, please remember to worm your dogs; and from now till midsummer we ask that you keep dogs on leads everywhere. Thousands of ground nesting birds on this place especially, because of the way we farm, and it would be terrible to lose any of them.

Pip pip, Tom

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A Very BADS Evening

by Andrea Wadsworth

One Saturday night in mid-March, our next-door neighbour, my husband and I went to see the much delayed BADS production of Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by the customary bow tie wearing, sharp looking, team who replaced our tickets with the all-important drinks request form for the first interval. The second interval saw us lubricated with a complimentary sherry from Dr Bradman, much to our delight.

Blithe Spirit, directed by Belinda Nicholls, was nothing short of brilliant. I came in blind regarding the plot, so almost everything was a lovely surprise. We laughed from start to finish at this well-cast and upbeat play. Ruth's (Leone) and Charles's (Tom) scenes were particularly engaging and entertaining from the start. Leone was just so natural, according to her husband Fred. Val's performance as Madame Arcati was hilarious. She ought to put some of this in front of the parish council to make it more entertaining.

All too often we switch a film off close to the start because we don't believe the characters but, most importantly to us, every cast member was very believable. Anna Bareham, who played Edith the slightly vacant looking maid, made us laugh with her over-exaggerated slow walking. Dr Bradman, very convincingly played by the pub landlord, worked grumpily alongside his excitable and constantly apologetic wife Violet, beautifully portrayed by Julie Stoner. Belinda's years of theatrical experience are obvious in her natural portrayal of Elvira. Looked like she'd been lent to Bishopstone by the Royal Shakespeare Company! We thoroughly enjoyed the play's slapstick humour and how well performed Elvira's visibility/invisibility was by various cast members. Madame Arcati and Ruth hilariously talking to inanimate objects when addressing her was the icing on the cake. That and Anna's beautiful a cappella.

It's beyond me how the cast can memorise so many lines, especially Leone! I'm sure I speak on behalf of the whole audience in saying that we're so very grateful for the four months of hard work that



went into it, and the courage to provide such a fun performance for everyone. Faced with the task of appearing in a play, I would almost certainly not sleep for months so I'm full of admiration! And the set, and effects - remarkable, to be honest. What an effort by everyone. The whole affair was put together by about 25 people from just the two villages, from serving drinks, handling tickets, building the set and making those noises on stage!

If you haven't been to a BADS production, I implore you to buy a ticket for the next one as this was well worth the wait. The BADS gang has been working together since 1976, we think, although faces have changed! I believe they are aiming for January with their next production so watch this space. If you have a hidden desire to get on stage, or behind the scenes, talk to them.



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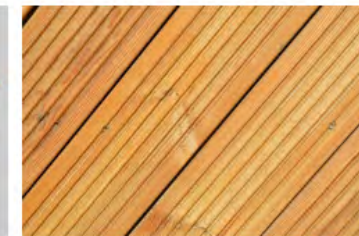
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General Information

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 April/May 2023

2023	Time	Event	Place	Contact
13.04.23	7pm	WI: Talk: Sarah Troughton. (see pg. 3)	Hinton Parva Village Hall	janatwan@icloud.com
27.04.23	7pm	City Lights Cinema. 7pm doors and bar. Film 7.30pm (see pg. 14)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Tickets via Royal Oak or on door
22.04.23	7.30pm	Sarcens Songmen Concert - Church Roof Fundraiser	Wanborough Village Hall	Tickets from Choir Members
23.04.23	St. George's Day			
23.04.23	till 3pm	Classic Car Day 'Drive it day'	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
28.04.23	7pm	Quiz Night: Ridgeway School & Prospect	Ridgeway School	FORCE@ridgewa
01.05.23	Early May Bank Holiday			
06.05.23	The Coronation of King Charles III			
07.05.23		Kings Coronation Celebration Lunch	Bishopstone Village Hall	(See pg 18)
08.05.23	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III			
11.05.23	7pm	WI: Talk from Sue Birley, (see pg. 3)	Hinton Parva Village Hall	janatwan@icloud.com
13.05.23	9am	Shrivenham & District Annual Plant Sale	Shrivenham Memorial Hall	
28.05.23	3pm	The Cheesehouse Band	The Royal Oak Garden	01793 790 481
29.05.23	Spring Bank Holiday			
08.06.23 SAVE DATE	7pm Start 7.30pm	WI: Annual Handicraft & Flower Show (see pg. 3)	Bishopstone Village Hall	janatwan@icloud.com
13.06.23 SAVE DATE		Cricket: Ashes Supper (see pg. 18)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
06/07.09.23 DATE TBC		Groove Armada/Andy Cato DJ set. (see pg. 18)	Info through The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
2nd-11th June		Third North Wessex Downs Walking Festival	northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking	
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. Apologies for any stray typos. We do try hard to catch them all but occasionally some escape.

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.