



VILLAGE NEWS

JAN 2024



The Ridgeway. Photo credit: Mark Jordan



IT'S 2024 ALREADY!

As the year 2000 approached, there was global concern about the "Y2K bug," which was thought to potentially cause widespread computer failures due to the way dates were coded. This of course turned out to be a load of rubbish and the whole world didn't shut down at the stroke of midnight. We're still here to tell the tale.

Look at what's gone on in the last 24 years though. For one, the turn of the millennium marked a period of rapid technological advancement. The rise of the internet and the late 90s-2000s dot-com boom led to a surge in online businesses and a transformation in how people now communicate. I find it almost inconceivable that we're now in 2024. The millennium feels like yesterday.

During the Christmas period, whilst consuming our body weight in snacks and alcohol, we had an old movie marathon, some of which included films set in the future, which now take place in the past. If it's been a while since you've seen these, or never watched them, I'd recommend adding them to your New Year's watch list to see how the makers of movies imagined our world would look now...and for your amusement.

Bladerunner (1982) unfolds in the seemingly distant future of 2019, portraying a world where humanoid androids strive to break free from servitude. The perpetual night creates an atmosphere illuminated solely by neon lights or flickering, defective bulbs. A highly recommended watch!

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968). While it might have been over 20 years off in its prediction of commercial space travel, it did give us one thing that was surprisingly accurate: HAL. They aren't quite trying to murder us by jettisoning our bodies out of an airlock, but Siri and Alexa have more similarities to HAL than differences.

The Running Man (1987). A prediction gone wrong, 2017 didn't see the rise of a sadistic game show where prisoners must fight to the death to secure their freedom. We do seem to have a fascination with fly on the wall shows like Big Brother, I can't imagine we'll ever get to the point of watching live bloodsports for fun?!

Back to the Future 1&2 (1985 & 1989). Much to my husband's disappointment, we didn't get hoverboards by 2015, but Back to the Future Part II did make one prediction that was strangely close to being right. In the film, The Cubs would win the world series in 2017, which they actually did in 2016, ending an over 100-year drought.

There are of course many more future past films worth watching and many I'm sure I haven't seen. Recommendations welcome!

So, as we bid adieu to 2023 and dive headfirst into the uncharted waters of 2024, we wonder what this year will bring us, how our lifestyles will change as a result and hope that it will all be for the better. With any luck, flying cars and hoverboards will finally hit the skies. They'd certainly give the Ridgeway users cause to complain.

By the time this edition hits your doormats, our local BADS production will be well underway - maybe even finished. We'll report back on that next month! In the meantime, stay happy and healthy, wish for less rain and more sunshine as we head towards Springtime, especially for our farming community.

A big thank you to everyone who's continuing to support us by advertising again this year. We couldn't do it without you.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

AW



Community Service

The next generation learning about community service by helping their grandparents Rod and Marion Peck to clean out the debris which blocked the stream and culverts leading to the flooding of Hinton Parva Village Hall.



A Local Request Pallets Please!

We are on the lookout for around twelve, strong wooden pallets to make a composter within the churchyard at St Mary's.

We will be organising a gardening/maintenance day at the church in March, so willing volunteers will be most welcome. More info to follow.

If you are able to assist, please let me know.

Doug Stevens, Church Warden, doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

Bishopstone Stores



Well, that's 2023 done and dusted! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, although it already seems so long ago! January is often a time for reflection, alongside making exciting plans for the year to come....

Highlights for 2023 here in the shop

have included the continuing expansion of our product range – have you tried out the organic liquid herbs yet? These have been a massive hit and have become a kitchen staple for many, no chopping, no wastage, no mess and a super long shelf life – what's not to love! Another firm favourite has to have been the introduction of the first of our Helen Brownings' Sylvan Spirits. Made with delicious blackcurrants grown right here on the farm, it's simply perfect over ice, as a cocktail ingredient or a dash in prosecco. If you didn't get a bottle for Christmas, it's well worth treating yourself!

Pete has continued to grow his exceptional organic veg on our (metaphorical) doorstep and amaze our customers with the size of his carrots! We had an extra

special treat back in October with the first ever Eastbrook pumpkins! What treat they were, varying in shape and size just as you would expect with any organic veg! They will definitely be on the growing list again for this year so don't forget us when the spooky season comes round again!

A quick round-up of 2023 can't be complete without a shout out to the wonderful Pippin's Doughnuts! These graced our counter back in August and what a popular and truly marvellous edition they have been to our shop! Whether you're a traditional jam or custard kind of doughnutter, or have opted for one of the very special weekly specials, there is no denying that they are good! (For the record my favourite has to have been the Cider Apple Crumble – Wow!)

We will endeavor to continue to provide you with all of your organic essentials alongside all your favourite treats and the lovely range of gifting items throughout 2024 and hope to see you very soon!

Lynne

Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 9am - 6pm

Sunday 9am - 3pm

Instagram [@bishopstone_stores](https://www.instagram.com/bishopstone_stores)

Facebook [@helenbrowningsbishopstonestores](https://www.facebook.com/helenbrowningsbishopstonestores)



RECYCLING MATTERS

I have exciting news!! (Sometimes, I really do feel I need to get out more....) You can now drop off empty blister packs for recycling free of charge at Wanborough Surgery. There's now a collection box just inside the door. The Shrivenham Hub has been recycling them for a while now, but at £3 per smallish bag, so this new free collection point will be really helpful and hopefully mean that even less will be finding their way into landfill.

I've finished my not-terribly-scientific Loo Roll testing and am very impressed with the Cheeky Panda offering. If you remember, I previously said that Cheeky Panda is a British B-Corp company, which supports charities, is vegan-friendly (not using glue which contains animal products to seal their rolls – which doesn't need to be declared on packaging), and is bio-degradable and suitable for septic-tank use. It's also beautifully soft yet surprisingly strong. It's similar price-wise to the premium brands so if you routinely purchase loo roll featuring Labrador puppies or koala bears on the packaging, I think this would be an easy 'green' swap and I don't think you will be disappointed with the quality.

A useful website I saw advertised in the press recently is amdea.org.uk – the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances and their Know Watts What campaign. It has lots of useful information about cutting your home spending by choosing, using and maintaining your appliances efficiently. Who would have thought that taking out unneeded accessories in your oven – trays and shelves for example, could save up to 20% of the cost of using the oven?

My pre-Christmas clear-out continued and I sold another 16 items on eBay – ranging from advent calendar perfume and make-up, a pre-loved Furby, a Harry Potter wand, a signed book, more Tiffany packaging, my husband's only-worn-once (because they were too uncomfortable) shoes, a Dyson car-cleaning kit and a large ball of Royal Mail elastic bands(!) and made over £105 profit. I also managed to get rid of a broken Dyson (for parts presumably) and an unwanted ice cube tray on Ollo as well as donating items to the RSPCA shop – hopefully saving a bit more from landfill. Good examples I think that one man's trash can indeed be another man's treasure – or at least still be of use or wanted and have the potential to raise a worth-while amount of money.

I mentioned last month that I wanted to explore other websites for selling unwanted clothes and accessories but I'm afraid I'm still at the research stage! Although I did see someone at the Hinton Parva Christmas Sing-Song wearing a striking pair of sparkly boots from Vinted – so my research into selling could easily back-fire and I end up with a bulging wardrobe.... In an article from August last year, Which magazine had Vinted coming out on top with a customer satisfaction score of an impressive 75% (with Ebay 67% and Depop 61%) but no doubt there are other considerations that need investigating (and bargain boots to be perused!) Ah well – I'll report on progress next month!

Karen Walker



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Happy Gardens



by Jane Pearson



JANUARY MUSINGS

Towards the end of last year, I had the good fortune to rent an allotment in the village. It's very overgrown and looks rather scruffy compared to the other beautifully tended plots that surround it, but it has so much potential. My partner Russ shook his head with amusement when I told him we had a new project and thinks I'm bonkers. He wonders when I'll find time. It's something I've also pondered. But I have a head full of plans and a heart full of enthusiasm and a secret weapon up my sleeve, I'm going to have a go at 'no-dig' gardening and the allotment will be my experiment! I've done some research and have written my findings in this month's feature. I'll keep you all informed of the experiments progress.

FOR THE LOVE OF GARDENING

FEATURE: NO-DIG GARDENING

When I trained in Horticulture, double digging was a badge of honour and standard of excellence that we strived for, but science and methods move on, we now know so much more about soil structure and the harm that cultivation can do to it, and I think my back will thank me for giving the no-dig method a try! Charles Downing is the No-dig expert and my go-to reference for this article.



Why is no-dig best?

Charles Downing explains that digging damages soil structure by destroying natural drainage channels made by worms, disturbing fungal networks, and releasing carbon that's locked in the soil. Reducing soil cultivation through no-dig gardening preserves and improves the soil structure and its overall health.

How to start a no-dig garden:

You can make new no-dig beds at any time of year, but late winter (February or early March) is best if the soil isn't waterlogged.

To start from scratch where you have an area of grass or weeds, lay a double layer of cardboard on top of the soil. Overlap the sheets of cardboard to help prevent weeds pushing through the gaps (avoid using shiny printed cardboard and remove any staples or parcel tape first).

Weight the cardboard down by applying a thick mulch (10-15cm of well-rotted organic matter) on top. If you want to plant up the bed straight away, wet the cardboard before adding the mulch on top.

The cardboard should suppress most weeds, but keep an eye on the bed, removing any weeds that appear as soon as possible before they become well-rooted or seed themselves.

Sow seed directly into the surface mulch, as you would normally in the soil/ground. Alternatively, raise young plants in cell/module trays, before planting out into the layer of mulch.

Maintaining a no-dig bed.

Apply an annual mulch around 5cm deep to your no-dig beds in winter. Sit back and enjoy!

That's the theory, I'll write about the reality over the coming year!

Please visit my website at janepearsondesign.com/blog for Readers Question Time and much more!
www.janepearsondesign.com/blog



PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Galanthus nivalis (Snowdrop)

FUN FACTS

- The Scientific name for Galanthus means milk flower. These flowers are among the first to raise their heads in the New Year and when it is warm they release a lovely fragrance.
- Soldiers were so enchanted by snowdrops that they brought them back from the Crimean War battlefields to plant in their gardens (1853 - 1856).
- A single Galanthus plicatus 'Golden Fleece' sold for £1,390 on eBay in 2015!
- A naturally occurring substance within the plant, called galantamine, is used to help treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, although the bulbs themselves are poisonous.



Snowdrops have inspired many poets including William Wordsworth's "To a Snowdrop"

Lone Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they

But hardier far, once more I see thee bend

Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,

Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,

Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay

The rising sun, and on the plains descend;

Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend

Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May

Shall soon behold this border thickly set

With bright jonquils, their odours lavishing

On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;

Nor will I then thy modest grace forget,

Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,

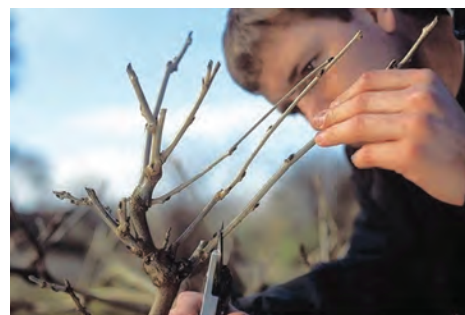
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!

THE POTTING SHED

THINGS TO DO IN LATE JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some seeds undercover.
- Start to chit early and main crop potatoes.
- It's pruning time for Wisteria and evergreen hedges! cut back wisteria shoots you pruned in summer to two or three buds, to tidy up the plant before the growing season starts. You can also drastically shorten long branches and remove sections of older stems to a skeleton framework of reasonably well-spaced branches.
- Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines, and peaches. Flowers and buds are especially vulnerable to frost and may need protection to crop well.
- Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter to ground level, before new growth emerges and remove dead grass from evergreen varieties by combing them with your fingers.
- Trees, shrubs and hedge planting is best done between October and April as long as the soil isn't waterlogged or the ground too frozen to get a spade in. Given all the rain we've had recently, I'd suggest waiting until the ground has drained.

Happy Gardening!

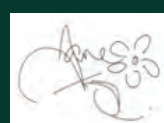


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Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

Room with a view, Garden Design Workshop

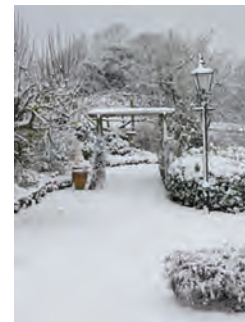
Session 2. with Jane Pearson



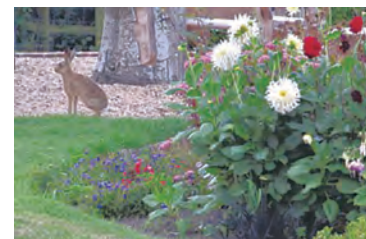
Our second session with Jane Pearson on garden design in December was a jolly event, we all enjoyed a glass of wine and a mince pie to help with our inspiration in form, size, colour for our designs. Jane demonstrated how to establish both the type of soil and its 'health' by feeling its texture and then shaken in water and allowed to separate into layers to show its constituents. Numerous layers of tracing paper later and with all sorts of options to create the look we wanted everyone had a design to work on in the spring. A excellent way to start the year with a new project on hand to spur us on through the coming months.

I feel a few photos might help to cheer us through the winter months, while ordering our seeds, planning our gardens and generally looking forward to the new growth in the spring.

Less of this:



And more of this:



DIARY DATES:

AGM.

Details to be circulated nearer the event.

An exciting program for next year is in the making and all the speakers and dates will be revealed at the AGM.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the committee, to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, and a toast to a great gardening season in 2024.

Marion Peck

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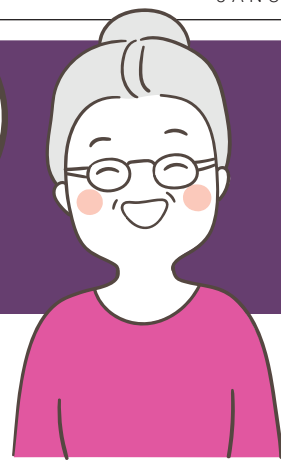
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Ask
Fanny



Notes and queries from readers. Responses from our local agony aunt...

Dear Fanny

Like so many others, I now conduct a lot of my business via Zoom calls. I recently came across some new Artificial Intelligence software that I was told would make the rest of my room, behind my shiny face, look perfect - dirty underwear gone, cobwebs swept away, books all the right way up, dishes all washed, that sort of thing, all to make the right impression. Imagine my dismay when I first used it - the background was exactly as before, but my face and upper body had been removed. Very upsetting indeed.
Mr LB, Hinton Parva

Dear LB

I've had a look at your LinkedIn profile and photograph, and I think your new AI software has made the right call.

Yours

Fanny Hole

Dear Mrs Hole

What do I do with my bush in the winter? And my neighbour's bush, which is even more unsightly? I've been asking your fellow gardening columnist in this organ for ever, and she never replies. I just think it's probably in need of a trim (hers needs removing completely imho) but I'm not sure when or what implement to use?

Yours, confused

Mrs S, Bishopstone

Dear Mrs S

This is a problem a lot of us have faced over the years. And the bush is often a problem too, at this time of our lives. I normally use a pair of shears, around mid-January, and I try to make it a bit stripey, a la mode!! As far as your neighbour is concerned, I suggest you wait till the dead of night, take something a bit tougher than shears and drop it down to its roots. You'll find your neighbour a little bit irritated at first, but she'll soon get used to it. And it'll grow back quite fast. I'd be interested to know exactly where you live since your knowledge of your neighbour's bush is not what we normally encounter in this parish, here in the uptight 2020s.

Yours helpfully

Fanny H

Dear Fanny

Do you think there's any prospect of wild swimming in the parish? It's quite a thing elsewhere and we have this wonderful pond in Bishy that's used for nothing apart from rearing ducklings and baby kingfishers, none of which appeal to me. Is there any prospect of the pond being used for the only activity that really gets my pulse rate up?

Yours in hope

Mrs DD

Hinton Parva (up the hill on the left...)

Dear DD

Well, I think you should start to consider other ways to get your heart rate moving up. Honestly, a woman of your age wanting to go for a wild swim when there's so much other fun to be had, in the parish and elsewhere. Try Tindr!

It's such fun saying no to all of those losers! Ref the wild swimming bit, there's been plenty of water where New Farm Lane meets the bottom of the High Street - you could paddle there up to your knees some days. Seriously, the pond could be put to much better use, I've always thought. It just needs the village people to stump up the money to dredge it first.

Yours, always

Fanny

Dear Fanny

I've heard the barns on the Ridgeway at the top of Nell Hill are coming up for sale. We regularly take our dog up there and I'm hoping that any development of those buildings will not get in the way of our harmless and cheap activity

Mr Paul

The High Street

Hello Paul

I have heard similar stories in the last month or two, and one rumour is that it might be a Mecca for cyclists and others using the new-fangled route called the King Alfred's Way - saunas, a massage parlour, that sort of thing, so it might still appeal to you, but it might be more expensive of course.

Best regards

Fanny H

Dear Mrs Hole

I will start the new year in the way I intend to carry on - by complaining. I know it's not quite as bad as Gaza here, but the appalling noises coming from my neighbours' place on New Year's Eve was enough to make me sign up for the Ukrainian Defence League and be similarly armed. The caterwauling rendition of Oasis's Wonderwall at 2.52am, blasting out of the front door of Number 52, was enough to trigger the Sudanese rebel forces. Oh for some peace in this Houthis dominated zone. I do hope you can assist me in getting people to see the full picture and perspective.

Yours sleeplessly

Mr AN

Lower Church Street

Bishopstone

Dear AN

I saw you the next day - you looked shattered, and I assume it was all your neighbours' fault and not our local Houthis. I agree - people need to keep their complaints about modern life in perspective, and you clearly haven't.

Unapologetically

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

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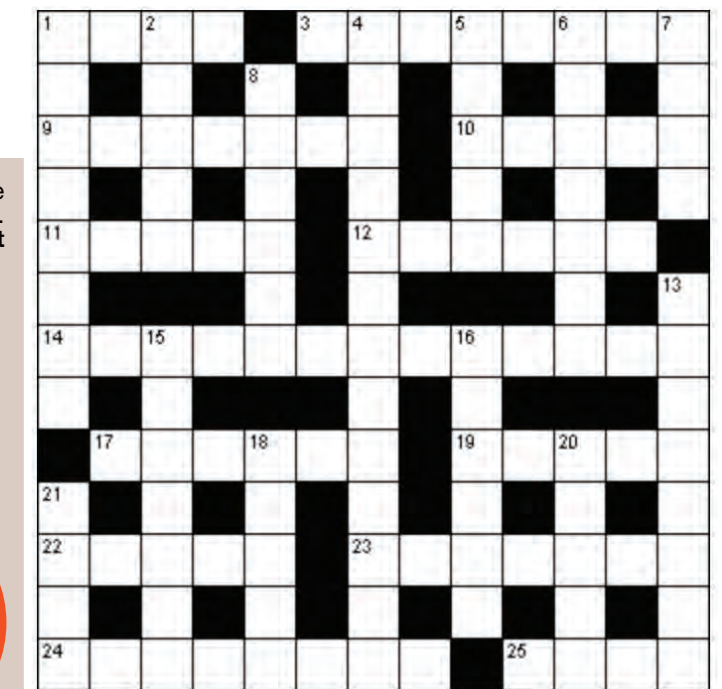
The Christmas crossword winner is **Peter Walker**. Well done Pete! This time, Fleur behind the bar drew his name from a hat. The other two entries were from **Gary Pass & Paul & Margaret Ryan**. Good effort folks!

Across

1. It provides illumination for the French politician (4)
3. Dull players finished first (8)
9. Rolled gold on a boat (7)
10. Once more making a profit (5)
11. Times for musicians in the Stockport Empire (5)
12. Agree while getting told to go? (6)
14. Film star Burr hit Conrad in play (7,6)
17. Country in the Himalayas (6)
19. Become red in the face or hand (5)
22. Mad artist receives offer (5)
23. Father has to bury an artist (7)
24. Sheer rip. perhaps (8)
25. A bird for the architect (4)

Down

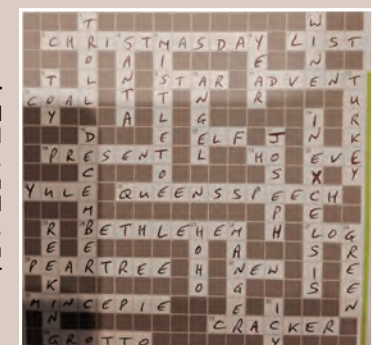
1. Spills, perhaps, in boats (8)
2. Note going backwards and forwards (5)
4. Food that cooks have made plain (4-3-3,3)
5. Raises backs (5)
6. Anti-anti-gas-explosion? (7)
7. Lean nurse (4)
8. Coventry's lady rider - but not in dressage event! (6)
13. No hunter may reveal fugitive (2,3,3)
15. Room in church getting colour (7)
16. Not just lacking in beauty (6)
18. Mountains in an American desert? (5)
20. Unqualified to speak (5)
21. Support for piano? (4)



Be in it to win it!

REMINDER: Please submit your completed crossword by the end of each month, in person or by email to Lynne at Bishopstone Stores. Winning name will be drawn from a hat. The winner will be published in the next edition, following which, you can collect your voucher from the shop. This gives you £10 off your bill at the pub or in the shop.

E: shop@helenbrowningorganic.co.uk



December Solution from Pete Walker

DICKIE'S diary

by Richard Green

Forgive me if I write about the weather! Farmers had a lovely spell in the first part of October to plant their winter corn crops in good order. Remember, planting any earlier compromises blackgrass control. Then came the first winter deluge with 3 inches (75 ml) falling on the night of October 19/20th. The downland soils could take this but the heavy, vale, planted fields were overwhelmed just at that vulnerable time when germination, but not proper rooting had taken place. The next several weeks have seen more heavy downpours. I awoke on the morning of November 2nd and storm Ciaran to cries of seagulls and momentarily wondered whether the sea was upon us. A further 40ml fell with the road at Zulu Farm again in flood and lakes in our fields. The wheat in several fields at Zulu has been flooded out. This calls for resilience to face the losses of planting and also gross margins foregone if later in the spring it is decided to fallow these fields next year in the best interests of soil structure for future cropping. This is unusual devastation but what is happening in Gaza is on another scale. Heavy land right across the country has been affected with some areas recording the most rainfall in October since records began. There will be less wheat harvested next year. These days the Environmental Agency is keen to slow down drainage to rivers which exacerbates flooding .

I have a friend who used to farm at Lyford near Wantage on heavy land. He used to call his heavy land The Badlands. His former farm is part of the site of the proposed large reservoir area that Thames Water has been pressing for a generation. Farm names are a giveaway, such as Starveall farm. Our local one above Bishopstone strangely is now a fertile farm. I have another friend who has a Cold Harbour farm near Wallingford. This name also belies its present earliness and fertility. Locally



we have a Sands farm and Sandhill farm, both descriptive of the soil. Once I got excited at buying a picturesque and cheap downland farm at Maiden Newton in Dorset. Though I knew it to be stony and poor, I was arrogant to think I might improve the yields with sewage sludge. My solicitor discovered some tenuous tenancy claim that ruled out a purchase and he also alerted me concerning local titles nearby such as Heartbreak Hill and Grimstone farm. Our local farms, Church, Ashbury, Odstone, Stone, Idstone, Lower Idstone, Rectory, Prebendal, Cues and Eastbrook are straightforward. Attractive names for farms that are confidence building are Mount Pleasant and Sunnyside. Probably the best of all is Prosperous farm, at Shalbourne near Hungerford where Jethro Tull invented the first corn drill in 1720-33 and there is a Paradise farm at Huntsbourne Tarrant near Andover and another in Leicestershire as a farm park.

The Gadgeteer

Best Kitchen Gadgets You Will Actually Use More Than Once

Yes, there will be a list of these!! As the pine needles settle after the Christmas and new year hullabaloo you can line up an array of boxed and carded gifts and decide what to keep, what to regift or save for the village tombola or other local worthy cause. My own benchmark is if you think it will just about fit in the bottom drawer at home then that is where it is likely to remain, and you are most unlikely to use it again.

I always want for an efficient corkscrew and bottle opener – but nothing too fancy or electric. Spirit measures are essential for cocktails, parties and to mix the perfect before noon G&T. I do like those wine stoppers that suck out the air from those unfinished bottles of Cheval Blanc; VacuVin for example do a great job on this and they were the first to market.

More recently there has been a trend for “machines”; cue Jeff Wayne and the War of the Worlds music! I mean – waffle makers, soup machines, candy floss makers , Blitzens prancers and dancers (just checking if anyone reads this stuff), yoghurt makers, chocolate coin makers and of course the Air Fryer – I’ve not got one of these yet but many swear by them. I have just spotted an electric potato masher – “No one would have believed in the last years of the 19th Century” etc!!!

Back to recommendations: this month I’m plumping for a Carbonator. Try the Brus from Sweden or the Arke version both are gaining market share from Soda Stream. Bottled fizzy water instantly and on tap without plugs wires or taps. The Scandi designed models are adding efficiency and finesse. They save on the cost of carbonated water and are less invasive than the Qooker or hard wired stuff.

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Inside the Peach Pip

When I set up Peach Pip Books in the Village Hall two years ago (time flies!), I made the difficult decision to end my hoarding and use my lifetime’s collection of books as stock. Seeing my much-loved books go off to new homes to be enjoyed afresh felt like a rightful surrender to the circle of life, and I have since become less attached to the idea of keeping a library of books I will never read again. There were, however, a small selection of childhood favourites I could not bring myself to part with – namely, my Roald Dahl boxset and a couple of Enid Blyton’s school series.

I read and reread these countless times as a child and still rely on them in adulthood during times of trouble in order to become once more the person I was when I first disappeared into them. I regularly return to them when I am struggling to engage myself in other reading, because I know they never fail to engage. Aside from the soul food I get from the familiarity of childhood books, I find that children’s books in general tend to do a better job of engaging the reader from the get-go than books written for adult audiences. My theory is that writers for adults can afford to be lazy in their storytelling, as adults will persevere through slow-going sections of a book for the sake of finishing it, or because they know it is deemed to be ‘a good book’, whereas children do not afford a writer this leniency. Books for children must be immediately and continuously engaging. For this reason, I always try to include some children’s books in my reading list. Of course, many books aimed at children are not engaging for adults simply because they fall below an adult’s interest level. However, there are a great many more that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike and have all the richness of language that books for adults have, without any of the boring bits.

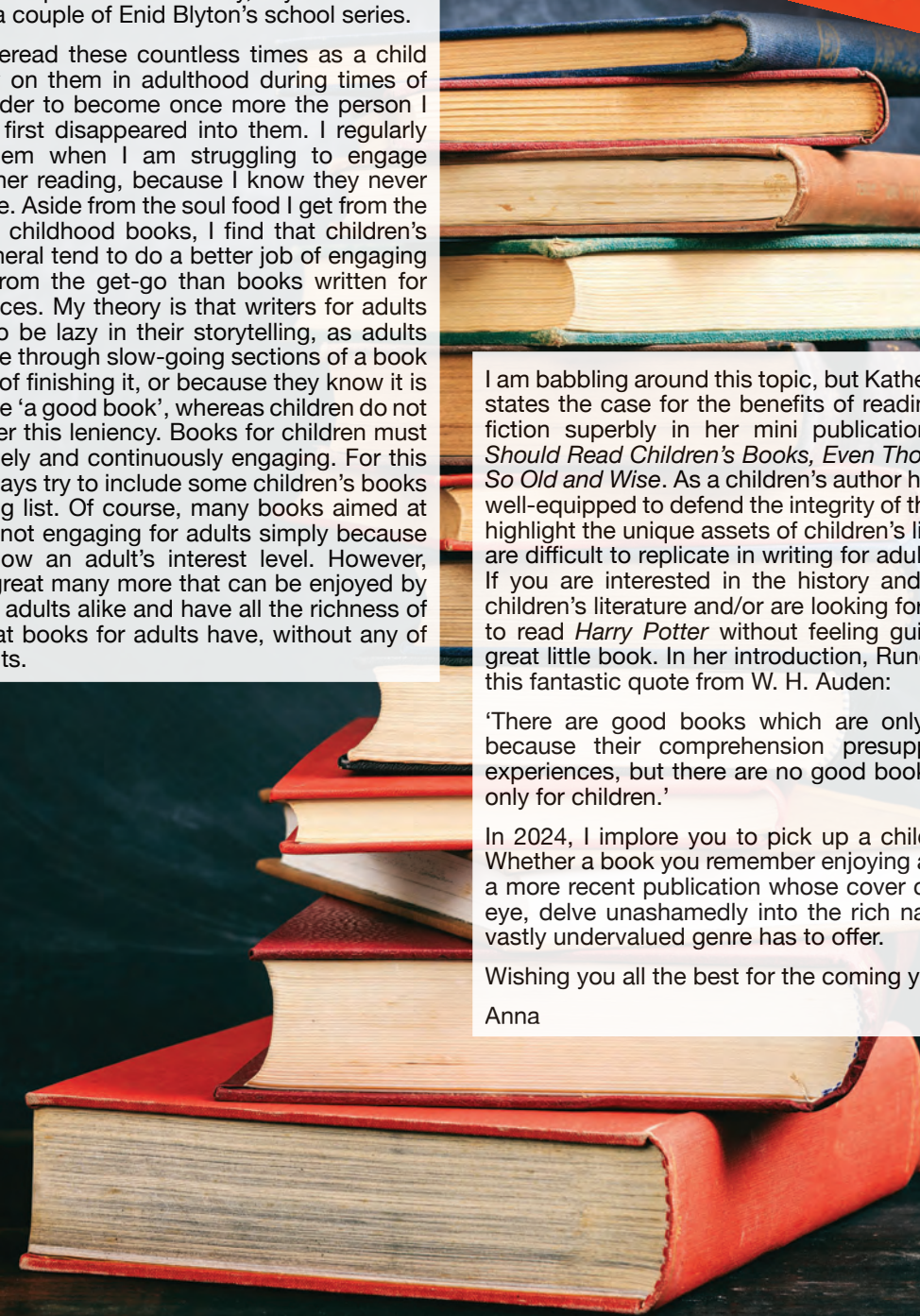
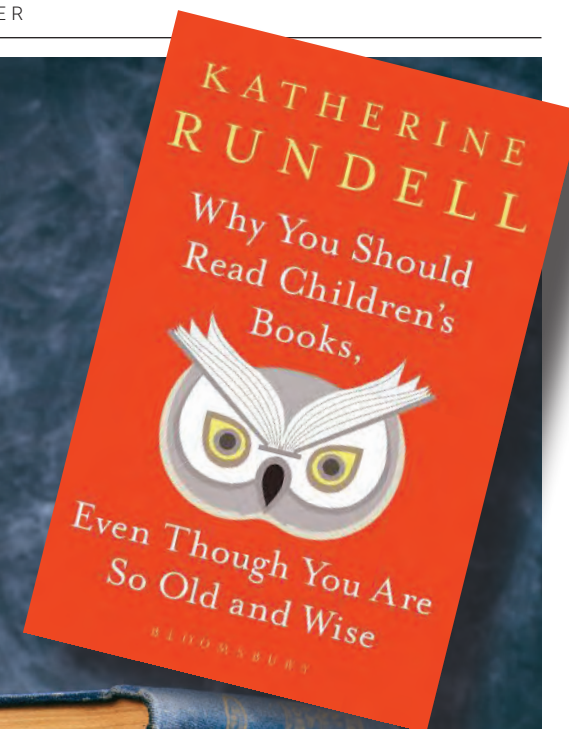
I am babbling around this topic, but Katherine Rundell states the case for the benefits of reading children’s fiction superbly in her mini publication, *Why You Should Read Children’s Books, Even Though You Are So Old and Wise*. As a children’s author herself, she is well-equipped to defend the integrity of the genre and highlight the unique assets of children’s literature that are difficult to replicate in writing for adult audiences. If you are interested in the history and tradition of children’s literature and/or are looking for justification to read *Harry Potter* without feeling guilty, this is a great little book. In her introduction, Rundell refers to this fantastic quote from W. H. Auden:

‘There are good books which are only for adults, because their comprehension presupposes adult experiences, but there are no good books which are only for children.’

In 2024, I implore you to pick up a children’s book. Whether a book you remember enjoying as a child, or a more recent publication whose cover catches your eye, delve unashamedly into the rich narratives this vastly undervalued genre has to offer.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year,

Anna



CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,

It feels like I only recently introduced myself but I am already writing my goodbye. It has been a great joy to work in the villages over the last few months, but I am very pleased that Revd. Steve Paynter will soon be installed as vicar. One thing that churches and communities need is stability, and having Steve living in the area and giving his full focus as the priest in charge of these churches will make a real difference to the churches and their place in the community. Steve is a really passionate church leader, with a wealth of experience and a real understanding of the opportunity to build up good relationships across this area. I know he is going to do a really good job.

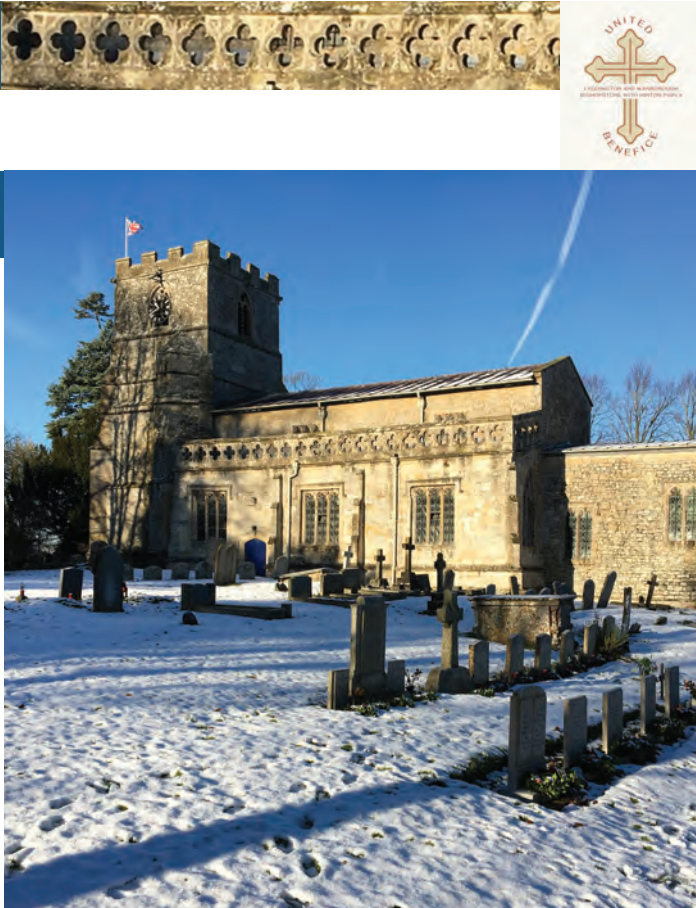
As for me, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made me welcome during my (brief) time in this area. I have loved taking assemblies at Bishopstone school, doing magic tricks with the children and getting to know this area. I am sad it was not for longer!

That said, the beginning of a new year feels like a good time for moving on, new opportunities and new things happening. I will be excited by the things to come this year, and I am sure there will be a huge amount happening in these villages to keep everyone busy. Thank you again for your support and I look forward to hearing about the things that are to come.

Revd. Chris Hunter

Church Services in the Benefice.
Full details on www.achurchnearyou.com

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Sun	14.01.24	10.30	St Andrew's, Holy Communion
Sun	21.01.24	10.30	St Mary's, Holy Communion
Sun	28.01.24	10.30	All Saints', Holy Communion
Sun	04.02.24	10.30	St Swithun's, Hinton Parva
Sun	11.02.24	10.30	St Andrew's, Wanborough
Sun	18.02.24	10.30	St Mary's, Bishopstone
Sun	25.02.24	10.30	All Saints', Liddington



A New Year's Prayer

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.
May the God who made the ages grant us wisdom to know how to use aright the time that is give to us, now in the time of this mortal life.
Amen

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2024

Jan	Chris & Gill
Feb	Jane G & Maggie
March	Sarah & Jenny
April	Liz & Jane M
May	Rachel B & Caryn
June	Debbie & Rachel P
July	Jill & Karen MacG
August	Fran & Karen S
September	Chris & Gill
October	Jane G & Maggie
November	Sarah & Jenny
December	Liz & Jane M

Thank you to the great team who help clean the church. We would love to hear from new volunteers who'd like to join us. It involves no more than 4hrs cleaning during your month on the rota, so not too onerous! Please contact Sarah Bally 07788715742

Anita Lawless

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- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Personal relationships
- ✓ Overall health & wellbeing

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- ✓ Anxiety
- ✓ Exhaustion

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anita@mentalhealthecology.com
07916 151 095
mentalhealthecology.com

Individually tailored sessions, helping you achieve a happy, fulfilled life, wherever you're starting from.



Eat and Raise Money

The remarkable Kate Wright will now be running monthly fundraising suppers at The Burj, Foxhill, to support the music department at Highworth Warneford School rather than Bishopstone School. They take place on the second Monday of each month. These suppers have raised thousands of pounds for extra school excitement.

They take place on the **second Monday of each month**.

Contact: WrightK@warnefordschool.org.uk if you'd like to take part/enjoy/help.

Only £17 a head, starts 7.15pm for 7.30pm.



Well Hung Framing by Kate Herbert

I am Kate, your local bespoke picture framer. I have a passion for framing and enjoy working collaboratively with my clients in selecting the best mounts and frames for all projects and budgets - from box framing, medals and memorabilia to paintings, prints and certificates. I also offer frame repairs and reglazing.

Please call, text or email to arrange a visit to my studio in Watchfield to discuss your requirements.

07710 348 263 bykateherbert@gmail.com

Check out my website for further information wellhungframing.co

The Parish Times

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

January 2024

HAVE YOUR SAY ON FUTURE PRIORITIES

Borough council looks for feedback

Residents across Swindon borough are invited to take part in a community engagement exercise called 'Let's talk Swindon' taking place across January 2024.



they have been told. You can book your place to attend any of the following events: [Tuesday, 16 January 2024, 6.00pm to 9.00pm](#) Foundation

The borough council wants to hear feedback on its future priorities and how it can help residents and Swindon as a whole to thrive and prosper.

Residents input will help the council evolve its new corporate plan, called the Swindon Plan.

You can go along to one of the community events to hear an overview of the draft plan which has been developed, and share your thoughts on how the borough should take this forward.

You can also find out more about the results of the 2023 residents' survey to help councillors understand what they could do differently to respond to what

Park, County Ground Lane, Swindon SN1 2FD
[Monday, 22 January 2024, 6.00pm to 9.00pm](#) Haydon Centre, Thames Avenue, Swindon SN25 1QQ
[Tuesday, 23 January 2024, 6.00pm to 9.00pm](#) Pinetrees Community Centre, The Circle, Pinehurst, Swindon SN2 1RF
[Thursday, 25 January 2024, 6.00pm to 9.00pm](#) Toothill Community Centre, Dunwich Drive, Toothill, Swindon SN5 8DH
[Saturday, 27 January 2024, 2.00pm to 5.00pm](#) Park Library, Cavendish Square, Swindon SN3 2LZ
More details can be found on SBC's website [Swindon.gov.uk](#)

Residents urged to go online

Tens of thousands of Swindon borough residents will receive an email over the next few weeks encouraging them to switch to a paperless Council Tax bill.

Currently, almost 5,500 households in the borough are signed up on the new system to receive their Council Tax bills online, however there are around 95,000 who still receive paper bills through the post.

Households who received their bills by email for previous years need to register on the new system.

By switching to e-billing residents will get their bill, and any other related communication, faster, while also helping the environment by reducing their carbon footprint.

Residents who have opted to be contacted by the Council by email will receive messages asking them to make the switch.

The message will come from Swindon Borough Council's Revenue and Benefits notifications and will contain a link people will be asked to click.

MATTERS ARISING

PARISH ISSUES UPDATE

The formal consultation on the school safety zone for Bishopstone is now closed and the parish council awaits Swindon Borough Council's update on this and their 20mph zone revised proposals.

The parish council has asked Openreach for a further update on the fibre installation programme and will keep residents posted via Facebook and the website.

The Parish Council will be discussing its precept at its January meeting. The precept forms part of the Council Tax bill and is a charge that parish councils need to meet their budget requirements. Bishopstone's precept has not been increased in 10 years.

PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY

The Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall.

It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis, whatever the circumstances might be.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate hall users to find space for their vehicles.

It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall.

PLEASE NOTE: All parish Council meetings will be held at Bishopstone Village Hall until further notice due to flood damage at the village hall in Hinton Parva

THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish and is happy to answer any queries they may have.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of challenges when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away. The Parish Council is always available to answer any questions you may have. Contact the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the councillors email addresses appear below.

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 Tom Green

Cllr.tomgreen@gmail.com

Mrs Gill May

Cllr.gillmay@gmail.com

Mrs Lucille McGrath

Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com

Mr Steve Bell

Cllr.sbell@gmail.com

Mr Gary Pass

Cllr.garypass@gmail.com

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

Meetings will be held at Bishopstone Village Hall until further notice due to flooding at Hinton Parva

2024

15th January **Bishopstone**

5th February **Bishopstone**

4th March **Hinton Parva (to be confirmed)**

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 Steve Bell/Ian Thomas

Hinton Parva Village Hall Val Brodin

Bishopstone Village Hall Steve Bell

Hinton Parva Charities Peter Cooke (PC nominee)

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

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

Responsible Financial Officer Jaine Blackman (Clerk)

Planning Ian Thomas/Tom Green

Website/IT Nigel Crisp/Gary Pass

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/23/1385 Erection of a tennis court and family swimming pool with retractable cover at Hill Manor House, Hatchet Hill, Hinton Parva.

S/HOU/23/1274 Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony above, at Newhaven, Church Walk Bishopstone.

S/HOU/23/0391 Erection of a detached outbuilding/ home office at Hergest Ridge, Cues Lane, Bishopstone.

S/23/0837 Change of use of land from agricultural to private equestrian (retrospective) at land at White Hill, Hinton Parva.

S/HOU/23/0958 Conversion of existing garage to a residential annex at The Old Inn, Bodyhorse Hill, Hinton Parva.

S/23/0190 Change of use from agricultural to residential land and erection of 1 dwelling at land adjacent to Westhill House, Hinton Parva.

GRANTED

S/PAOTH/23/1377 Prior Approval notification for the change of use of a Dutch Barn to provide 1no. Large dwellinghouse (Class C3) at West Hinton Farm, Hinton Parva Lane Hinton Parva.

S/23/1069 Demolition of existing chalet, erection of 1no. dwelling (Class C3), retention of garage and ancillary accommodation and associated works at The Chalet, Church Row Hinton Parva.

S/HOU/23/1211 Erection of single storey side and rear extensions at The Folly, Nell Hill, Bishopstone.

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparishcouncil

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG



**SEND US
YOUR SNAPS**

Email:
**BishopstoneEditor
@gmail.com**

Photo of the month

Graham Curley is our January photographer of the month. We couldn't resist including this lovely picture of Bubbles in her reindeer outfit.

Keep them coming please folks! We're seeing more and more lovely pictures every month and it's always nice to include local snaps.

Become the neighborhood paparazzi sensation with your camera wizardry! Every month, our crack team of discerning judges will don their imaginary monocles and select a lucky winner. Brace yourself for stardom, as your masterpiece gets the full-colour treatment and becomes the talk of the town. It's not just a photo, it's your ticket to local fame!

NEW YOGA CLASS Bishopstone Hall



**Thursdays from 1st Feb
10.30 - 11.45am**

No experience necessary

Contact Nickie 07503 157859

yogawithnickie@gmail.com

www.yogawithnickie.com

**Also offered: Weekend Retreats; Retreat days;
Private Yoga, Pilates, Relaxation & Meditation**

NEW BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL FITNESS CLASSES



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Now being held in
BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAYS 9.30am

The Group Personal Training sessions offer a chance to workout with up to 10 like-minded people to improve health and fitness.

ALL ABILITIES

Everyone is encouraged to work at their own level of fitness.

45 MINUTE SESSIONS

Involving a variety of exercises and fitness equipment, which are varied every week.

Contact Lorna for more details:

Lorna.sams@outlook.com

BURSARIES FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

Little Hinton Educational Foundation offers bursaries to help young people in our parish with expenses related to their education.

If you are under 25, live in Hinton Parva or Bishopstone, and need help with the cost of books, travel, materials, equipment or other learning resources required for your academic, social or physical education, please get in touch.

We need to know your name, age, address, where and what you are studying, and what costs you could use some help with.

**Please write to Mrs Valerie Brodin,
The Coombs, Hinton Parva SN4 0DH**



**HAVE A CHILD
BETWEEN THE
AGES 6 TO 15?**

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A fun & safe environment for children to learn & improve their footballing ability



shrivenhamfcroyals@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL news

BISHOPSTONE

Happy New Year 2024!

We ended the year with the well supported Carols Around the Tree. Thanks again to Jonathan and Sherryl for delivering such a rousing performance. Some lovely vocals from Anna and supporting villagers and the "Church Walk Descant Ensemble" added some wonderful counterpoint. We hope to be more organised next year - Carol Sheets and Mulled Wine!!

We forgot to mention our Tree Elf last month, Rachel H. who also provided additional elbow grease during our Village Hall Clean Up. Speaking of clean up, just a friendly reminder to please clean down, sweep and empty after each hire of the hall. The next visitors also appreciate a final loo flush!!



City Lights

After a recent couple of dismal turn outs for City Lights, apart from our "Die Hard" and faithfuls of course, the committee were contemplating packing up. The December screening of Barbie however, saw almost historic numbers in attendance. Well done to those in pink and our trio of ladies in full 80's retro Barbie! Thanks for supporting, we remain inspired to try and keep City Lights in action. Watch this space as we will try and source some more interesting films to screen over the coming weeks!

Richard Walker
Richardw@eddingtons.co.uk
07740 106 222



BISHOPSTONE ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

On behalf of the Church Commissioners and their land agent Strutt & Parker, several half allotment plots are now available to rent by the local community. A perfect opportunity to grow your own fruit and vegetables.

The price is £8 per half plot per year
(April to March)

No permanent structures such as sheds are allowed but low level storage is permitted.

Although livestock cannot be kept, bee keeping is encouraged by the owners.

If you are interested in taking an allotment in Bishopstone,

contact Steve Bell on 07598 185643



VILLAGE HALL HIRE

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

BISHOPSTONE INFO/BOOKINGS:

Jo Homan: jo@theorchardproject.org.uk
Tel: 07714 745 408
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

DUE TO
FLOODING, NO
HP BOOKINGS
TILL MARCH

HINTON PARVA

A very pleasing crowd of 48 people attended our Village Christmas Sing-Song held this year at Batt's Farm Barn as the Hall remains out of action. A good time appeared to be had by all, enthusiastically tucking in to home-made goodies and quaffing mulled wine and apple juice whilst singing along to Hazel's accomplished accordion-playing. The centuries-old barn looked magical, bedecked with lights and Christmas finery.

Many thanks again to the Smith family for stepping in and offering their beautiful building and special thanks to Joe for helping with the decorations, often precariously perched up an ancient ladder!

Karen Walker,
on behalf of Hinton Parva Village Hall Committee



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Hinton Parva Village Hall
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PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES

WITH DALE OR JIM

FRIDAY 7PM

For more information, contact
Dale and Jim Mitchell
Email: hintonbridge@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01793 627301

JOKE

**What do you get when you cross
an idiom with a Freudian slip?**

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half dozen of your mother.

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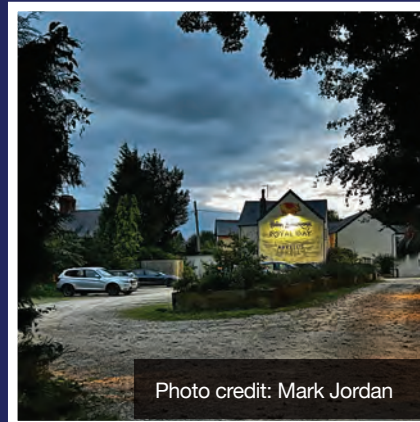
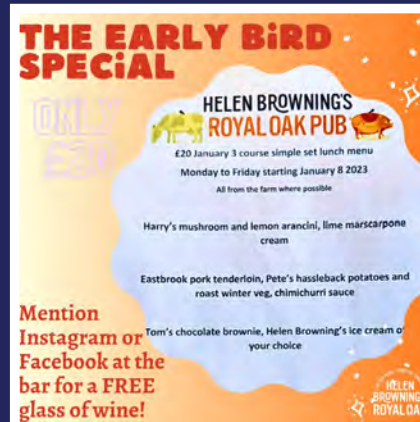
(See the diary in this publication for actual dates)

Post Code: SN4 0DW

Tel: 07515 288414

Email: grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com





The Royal Oak Diary



Find us online



Morning darlings.

Still slightly bemused that I was not on the New Year Honours list, after I'd helped make the then Prince Charles such an extraordinary cup of tea (Earl Grey, dash of honey, overseen by two burly security guys) on his visit here in 2014 - and he never drank it - but I suppose others have done greater things and still not been recognised. Makes me think that this village, or this parish, should start to consider people within it who've made a continuous effort to improve the lives of the rest of us, and there are several of them. After all, it's a slightly more democratic process these days, even if the really big prizes only go to those who've given £00000s to the Conservative party, or who've overseen some energy/post office/pollution/financial scandal at some point in their overblown careers. Time to get your thinking caps on - there are some extremely deserving parishioners here, who might enjoy a little accolade.

So let me start by saying thank you to the Eastbrook Farm staff, who spent a morning before Christmas clearing up the smashed wood and nails (dumped by those 'house clearance' louts that parade their services everywhere) at the end of the new road on the way to Bourton, which brought several people to the car park here waiting for the mobile tyre changing service that we always recommend (Save on Tyres, btw). The farm boys and girls also make sure that the Ridgeway is kept rubbish free most of the time, helped by the guy Nigel who lives up there and moves from county to county (Wiltshire/Oxfordshire) depending on which council is harassing him.

Staying in our own patch, thank you to those involved in sorting the Christmas tree for the village hall (still lit as I write this, January 7...), and to the village hall 'managers' for letting the hapless AmDram group use it so cheaply for three months before they actually 'perform'; and to the woman who manages the AmDram group so wonderfully, and makes slightly insipid champagne out of flat lemonade; and to the gardening society for keeping such enthusiasm growing even in these dull winter months; and the woman who puts this newsletter together; and the man who ensures the beer cellar at this pub is perfect in every sense, along with all his other village roles; and those who run the school, and the church, and the parish council, and the shop, and from time to time the man that sells you cups of tea and sausage rolls on a wet Saturday in January on the Ridgeway. We take so much of this for granted, after all, but it all takes generous effort. We might well complain about the recycling lorry arriving on the wrong day, time after time, but really, it's pretty good round here compared to several other places in the country (and the world).

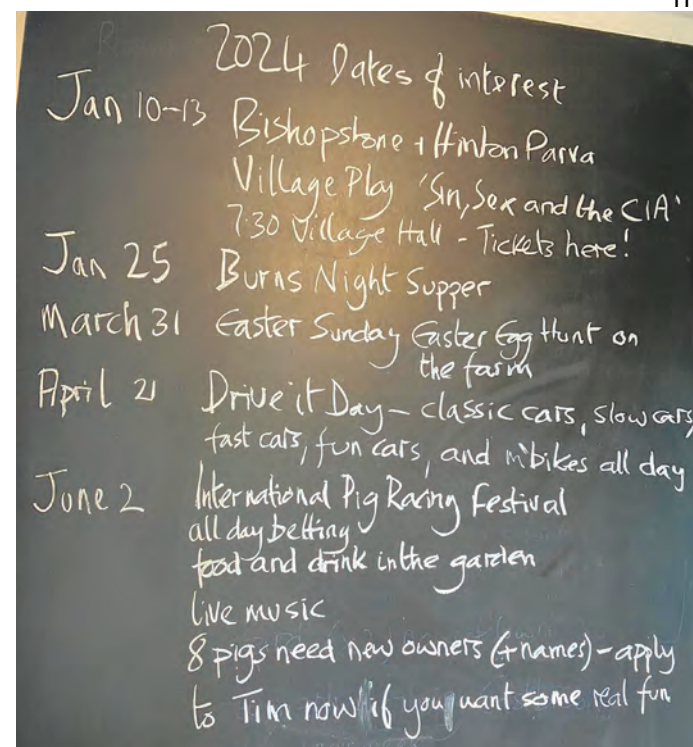
Ah yes, this is a pub diary. Well, by the time you read this, the annual village play will have been and gone, probably panned by the critics in the Swindon Evening Advertiser, as it used to be called, but enjoyed by 300 or so people on four

dank January evenings. The pub itself is offering January and February winter weekday lunches - 3 courses for £20, remarkable. I can see the money flowing out of the door already.

And some other dates to consider - Pig Racing for the King is Sunday June 2, our Drive It Day for classic cars and motorbikes is Sunday April 21, and Graham Harvey the former script writer and Ag Editor of The Archers is due to appear over supper here in late March, after postponing in September last year. We're planning on offering live music from our various friendly musicians (Three Bop, Big Mudfish, Honeymoon Swing, Hooch) every summer Saturday afternoon during July and August in the garden.

And of course we're open every day all day, for tea, coffee, beer, food, meetings, parties, breakfast, business etc. so consider using us from time to time for stuff other than your normal activities.

Thank you
TF



@helenbrowningsorganic



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FANCY A NEW YEAR challenge?

If you're looking for a challenge to burn off some Christmas calories, as we were last week after the horror of weighing ourselves, you might want to consider The Conqueror Virtual Challenges for motivation. You can walk, run or cycle and all your steps count. There was a New Year deal that allowed us to sign up for five challenges and get two free, although that may not still be valid by the time you read this. One of the best parts is that you receive medals for each completed task, and I'm looking forward to shamelessly displaying them in full view of all our visitors—perhaps in the spare bedroom so they can admire their beauty as they go to sleep, or even wearing them to the pub.

And when I say medals, these aren't your bog-standard round ones; they're lovely, shiny, colourful, enameled ones on fancy, wide lanyards. But I digress.

Back to the main point of me sharing this with you. As you know, we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, and this is the ideal opportunity to wrap up and get out there. Up near The Ridgeway, I watched (and filmed) a Kestrel intently hovering, then diving the other day, only to retrieve absolutely nothing from the undergrowth. If I had been sitting at my computer, I wouldn't have witnessed this loss.

There are many challenges to choose from, listed with the distances you need to cover to complete them. Once you've signed up and chosen, you download the app, which you can connect to your fitness tracker (Fitbit or similar), and it automatically logs all your steps, converting them into miles and lets you know how you're doing. I'm currently halfway along The Inca Trail Virtual Challenge. This takes you 26 miles (42 km) across the Inca Trail in Peru and right through Machu Picchu, one of the new seven wonders of the world. You get virtual postcards along the way, photos, and videos of the actual trail, and a Google-style map with the route and street view. It's very well put together and easy to use. There's even a Scooby-Doo Challenge with a mystery to solve along the way.



For every 20% of a challenge that you complete, they plant a real tree or stop plastic bottles from going into the ocean too. So far, they've planted over 10 million trees and stopped over 32 million plastic bottles entering the ocean.

So far, my motivation levels are high, as are Jay's. You can see him jumping for joy in the picture. We're hoping that this will remain the case throughout the year.

If you fancy it, you can use this code to get 10% off your order too: theconqueror.events/r/AW21614. Hope to see you out and about!

AW




Photo: Jay Wadsworth leaping for joy.

Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Your local WI rounded off a busy year with a really enjoyable Christmas celebration at The Brewers in Wanborough. There was a lovely happy atmosphere with lots of laughter. The pub was looking suitably festive and provided a super venue for our evening. Over 50 of us all enjoyed a delicious meal, and were well looked after by everybody at The Brewers.

Once again, and by popular demand, Hazel Cooke led some carol singing on her accordion. It's probably fair to say that there was lots of enthusiasm and effort - even if the singing wasn't especially tuneful. Judith Evans had prepared a quiz, and for once there were no arguments about the answers! Fran Browning had added to the Christmassy feeling by making beautiful flower arrangements for each table. Some lucky people were able to take them home.

Diary Date:

The February meeting will take place on 8th February 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in Wanborough Village Hall. Karen Roberts and Karen Hawkins will talk about Improving Balance and Preventing Falls.

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



HAVE YOUR SAY... on a new political map for Swindon Borough Council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

A new pattern of wards is being developed for Swindon Borough Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Swindon should be 57, the same as now. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and organisations think about their local area.

A ten week consultation inviting proposals will run until 18 March 2024.

Scan the QR code or visit:

www.lgbce.org.uk/news/press-release/have-your-say-new-political-map-swindon-borough-council



Current wards in Swindon

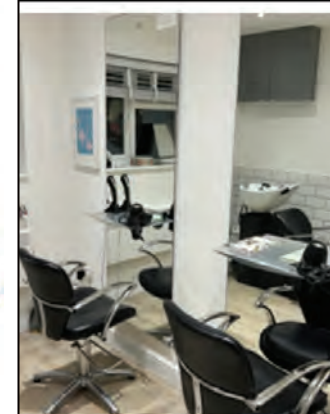
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Contributions

If you'd like to write an article or submit any photography please email Andrea or Val 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 welcome submissions sooner.

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

We are non-profit!

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.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to help with the upkeep please contact Treasurer Andy P, or there are additional copies available and a donation box on the counter in Bishopstone Stores.



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Email:
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@gmail.com**

General Information

Diary

Jan 2024 - Feb 2024

2024	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Fri 12.01	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought , Hinton Parva: Mobile Fish & Chip Van	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW	07515 288414 Cash or Card
Wed 10.01 - Sat 13.01	7pm	BADS Performance: Sin, Sex & The CIA	Bishopstone Village Hall	Book: Royal Oak 01792 790 481
Sat 20.01	2pm - 4pm	Pruning old fruit trees in the village. <i>What3Words location: give.aunts.variances</i>	New Town Lane Entrance to Littlecot	Jo Homan 07714 745 408
Sat 27.01		Repair Café - The Hub, Shrivenham	56 High St Shriv. SN6 8AA	sustainablesshriven ham@gmail.com
Fri 09.02	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought Hinton Parva: Mobile Fish & Chip Van	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW	07515 288414 Cash or Card
Fri 08.03	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought , Hinton Parva: Mobile Fish & Chip Van	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW	07515 288414 Cash or Card
Sun 21.04		Drive it day: Classic Cars and motorbikes	The Royal Oak	01792 790 481
Sun 02.06		Pig Racing for the King (pg 18)	Royal Oak/ Cues Lane	01792 790 481
Every Saturday afternoon during July & August		Live Music in the pub garden (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	01792 790 481
Every Tuesday	9.30am	Fitness Classes. All abilities	Bishopstone Village Hall	lorna.sams@outlook.com
Every Thursday	10.30am - 11.45am	Yoga with Nickie Heap	Bishopstone Village Hall	yogawithnickie@gmail.com
Fridays	7pm	Hinton Parva Bridge Club (check location due to flooding)		hintonbridge@hotmail.co.uk
2nd Mon of month	7.15pm	School fundraising supper , now supporting Highworth Warneford School Music Department	The Burj, Foxhill	WrightK@warnefordschool.org.uk
2nd Thurs of month	7pm Start 7.30pm	WI: Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI	Either Village Hall	Jan Chapple janatwan@icloud.com

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

Church Services - pg 10 Parish Council Meetings - pg 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 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.

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