



VILLAGENEWS

MARCH 2024



Pond Life

Love our pond and island

Bishopstone pond covers an area of around one acre (about half a football pitch). Constructed in the early 1800s, the pond formed a working head of water for the mill. The pond is fed from an active spring head approx. 1,000m to the south, situated at the foot of the Lynchetts valley. The island was probably always there to an extent, but developed between 1840 and 1853, probably as a result of digging out the watercress beds which were an important source of income for villagers. Village folklore speculates that the island was formed from the regular dredging of silt that accumulated during the pond's life as a working power reserve for the mill wheels. In reality, such silt would have been spread on the surrounding land as a valuable natural fertilizer.

The Parish Council bought Bishopstone pond and island from the Church Commissioners in 2005, to secure them for the benefit of the parish. The Parish Council wanted to ensure that the biodiversity and heritage of the site could not be disturbed by inappropriate use or development and that the pond and island should remain an amenity for parishioners to enjoy and a safe area and habitat for as much wildlife as possible.

A study carried out at the time revealed the wealth of plants, birds and mammals living on and around the pond and dependent on it for their continued existence. The species list is extensive and poetic. Guided by experts, the parents and children of the village added to this diversity, planting further species to benefit wildlife, including knapweed, betony, cranesbill, scabious and loosestrife. Recently, kingfishers have nested on the island and a little egret has been a regular visitor.

After its purchase, part of the island became a community



allotment and a wonderful learning centre for children at the village school. Sadly, the vegetable garden fell into disuse, and in 2019 the Parish Council took back control. Trees were planted and pruned and debris removed. Volunteers helped tidy up and it is once again a green and natural haven for all to enjoy. Recently, the Parish Council enthusiastically entered into a new agreement with Bishopstone School enabling the children to experience Forest School activities on the island during term time.

To dredge or not to dredge?

Since the closure of the mill in the 1960s, the pond has naturally silted up over time, although the level of silt has not increased over recent years as it has found its natural level. Algae blooms are often experienced at certain times of the year and indicate that healthy natural and seasonal processes are taking place in the water.

When the island was purchased for the village, professional advice was sought from Swindon Borough Council, The Pond Conservation Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. WWT were commissioned to undertake a survey to establish what plant and animal species were present. The detailed

continued on page 2

Pond Life cont...

survey took 12 months to complete, so that all seasons were experienced. A significant finding of the survey was the discovery of Water Vole (*Aricola Amphibus*) activity and habitat on both banks of the feeder streams either side of the island. As the Water Vole is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is a priority conservation species, this steered low key clean-up activities on the island.

Both WWT and the Pond Conservation Trust were consulted on the question of dredging the pond. Their clear advice was to leave the pond as it was and not to dredge it. This was based on a number of factors. Firstly, that as the pond was no longer being used as a power source for the mill, there was no need to increase its capacity to hold more water. Secondly, dredging is an invasive activity that would need permission from Natural England as, by the nature of the process, there is a good chance that dredging would disturb the Water Vole habitat and that of other species present. Finally, the cost of dredging would be prohibitive. Several dredging contractors were approached and their estimates of the costs of such an exercise ranged from £80-100,000 (back in 2005!)

The pond and island are a finely balanced and delicate ecosystem that survives through sympathetic human management. Please treat this heritage with care, so that future generations can experience the tranquillity and enjoy the diversity of wildlife that thrives here in the heart of our village.



For more information about Bishopstone Pond, please visit the parish website at:
<https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/documents-and-notice/>
 where you will find the 'Pond and Island' document.



A great source of information about ponds in general is the Freshwater Habitats Trust, a national evidence-based conservation charity that has been working since 1988 to protect life in freshwater.
<https://content.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/2013/09/Silted-up-ponds-and-dredging.pdf>

Bishopstone Stores

With the Easter bunny about to hop round the corner any day now, the question has to be asked - do you have enough chocolate in the house?! If not, pop over and stock up from your village shop! Little Choc Chicks and Raspberry and White Chocolate Pigs are waiting to be devoured!

We've also got delicious organic hot cross buns made by Astons Bakehouse using our very own Eastbrook Farm grain! While the traditional hot cross bun is known to have a Christian origin, with various aspects and ingredients being representative of the death of Christ, there are indeed other meanings and superstitions surrounding them. My favourite of these has to be that the sharing of a HCB will cement a friendship for the next year, the accompanying rhyme confirms this... 'Half for you and half for me, between us two, good luck shall be!'

Other folklores suggest that a bun baked on Good Friday and hung from the kitchen rafters will never go mouldy. It will warn off evil spirits and prevent kitchen fires as well as ensuring that all bread baked throughout the year will turn out perfectly - worth a go, I guess! The trusty Hot Cross Buns were also taken on sea voyages to protect against shipwrecks - clever little things these buns!

So whether you need to fill your cupboards with treats, grab some buns to share with friends or just stock up on your daily essentials, pop over to the shop....you will



find us open as usual over the Easter weekend: Good Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-6, Easter Sunday 9-3 and Easter Monday 9-6. We will also be stocking our marvellous Organic Pink Beef if you are looking for an easy and mouthwatering main for Sunday or to serve cold throughout the weekend. Be quick with these though, stock is limited so let me know if you want one!

Have a wonderful Easter!

Lynne

Opening Hours

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

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RECYCLING MATTERS



A BIG thank you to our valuable litter picking volunteers who were out in force on 25th February, across Hinton Parva (pictured) and Bishopstone. We really appreciate you keeping our villages clean and tidy. Keep your eyes peeled on Facebook for the next date if you'd like to join in next time.

Many thanks to all the litter-pickers who took part in the Villages Spring Clean! It's lovely to see the villages look their best. I'm always surprised at what this deep-dive surfaces. I tackled the road out of Hinton Parva down towards Hinton Springs and found 3 (empty) litre bottles of vodka! I can just about get my head around a driver or their passengers drinking a coffee, can of soft drink or bottle of beer and then inconsiderately lobbing the empties out of the car window on their journey. But large bottles of presumably neat vodka?! My brain just doesn't compute! And I'm very glad I wasn't on the road whilst they were passing through.

I spoke in the past about my hankering for a label-maker – a la Dilly Carter on TV's 'Sort Your Life Out' and I've succumbed. I'm now labelling almost everything in sight and repurposed anything from old spice jars to empty Nesquik containers, inspired by a (2nd hand!) book I was given at Christmas – 'Outer Order, Inner Calm', and am really pleased with the result. What with the Mrs Hinch – 'Hinch Yourself Happy' book that I picked up at the Shrivenham Hub, the family won't recognise our house soon. I couldn't stop laughing when one of my daughters said she didn't like one of the newly uncluttered surfaces in the kitchen as she didn't want it to look like a 'show home'.... That's soooo unlikely with two teenagers in the house and a hoarding husband. But I like the idea of 'A place for everything and everything in its place' – even if it still doesn't help me stop losing my glasses!

I've started my research on Ebay, Vinted and Depop – but got very distracted by the buying side of things! I'm sure there are bargains to be had but I was amazed at the mark-up being made on the Anya Hindmarch range of Universal Bags she produced in collaboration with some of our UK supermarkets – a reusable, recyclable and made from recycled plastics shopping tote. I guess it's now a fashion item – it is very attractive as shopping bags go(!) – but new ones are selling at 8 times or more than its original (supermarket) price of £10! However, back to the research! If you have an idea of the sort of thing you're after, or preferred brands, all 3 sites seem to have great search engines and filtering – hopefully leading you to exactly what you're after, probably much quicker than traipsing round the shops. And they sell new items (presumably mistaken impulse purchases) as well as 'pre-loved' so you can do your bit to help reduce 'fast fashion'. I hope to have more next month.

Finally, I've been reading good things about a skincare and more company called UpCircle – you may have seen their original products on the Dragons Den programme back in 2018 where they were successful in getting investment. They're a B-Corp, their main (natural) ingredients are

repurposed from other companies, they use recyclable and refillable packaging and they're award-winning with great product reviews and impressive testimonials. You can buy their products online as well as in shops such as Space NK, Holland & Barrett and Oxfam with some refill facilities available in Marlborough's zero waste shop - 'Packaging Not Included' as well as the full range online. I will give them a closer look!

Karen Walker



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We'd like to introduce you to our new columnist doubling our wage bill from 0 to 0.0, we welcome Joey Jodhpur a seasoned professional from Lambourn with a wealth of experience and close racing insight, writing here under an alias, the quality of information is serious, sensitive and second to none.

JOEY JODPHUR (JJ)

FROM DEEP IN THE VALLEY OF THE RACEHORSE

From Piggy Power to Prestbury Park, the eyes of the horse racing world will be on the Cheltenham Festival this week as the finest equine talent assembles in Gloucestershire for jump racing's annual World Championships. In terms of numbers alone (250,000 racegoers, 220,000 pints of Guinness and 30,000 bottles of champagne) the Festival™ serves as a mere prequel, to our very own Pig Racing Festival, (but with perhaps a Royal Oak charcuterie board vs the Bolly) but nonetheless it forms the centrepiece in the calendar for many of our local trainers based in West Berkshire, Wiltshire and along the North Wessex Downs AONB. In the Lambourn Valley alone, 1 in 3 of the working population work directly in racing (800+ FTE) and the industry's economic contribution is worth £22m GVA – so the nerves will be jangling for many as that famous opening day roar approaches.

Most local hopes (and those of British Horseracing in general!) will be pinned on the historic Seven Barrows stable of Nicky Henderson as he bids to stop the Irish juggernaut of dominance. Unfortunately for the master trainer his defending Champion Hurdler Constitution Hill has contracted a very bad case of equine man-flu and Henderson has had to admit defeat in his preparations and the horse will not be defending his crown. This is a great loss not only to Lambourn but the wider-industry as 'CH' has that very rare Usain Bolt-like quality, to create an 'I was there moment'. Instead the Seven Barrows handler will have to rely on, amongst others; Jonbon (Queen Mother Champion Chase), Sir Gino (Triumph Hurdle) and Shiskin in the blue riband event, the Gold Cup.

Also in Lambourn, another Royal trainer Jamie Snowden saddles a few nice horses most notably last year's winner You Wear It Well (Mares Hurdle) and



Ga Law (Ryanair Chase) both of whom will be ridden by star jockey Gavin Sheehan. Other local interest includes West Illsley trainer Hughie Morrison's quirky veteran Not So Sleepy in a now wide-open Champion Hurdle, Alan King's Edwardstone (Champion Chase) from Barbury Castle; and there would not be a dry eye in the house if Emma Lavelle's Paisley Park could land a second Stayer's Hurdle crown on Thursday, four years after his first.

I hope everyone has a successful (and profitable) week, and most importantly that all our equine stars come back safe and sound. The care and affection these majestic animals are afforded 7 days a week by their devoted grooms is what I will take away each day as I plough my way through the tweed betting jungle, plastic cups and sockless Peeky Blinders!

Joey Jodhpur's (JJ's) Cheltenham tips

(exclusively available to eagle eyed online subscribers of this newsletter)

Tuesday 12th March

Champion Hurdle – State Man

Wednesday 13th March

Queen Mother Champion Chase – Jonbon

Thursday 14th March

Stayer's Hurdle – Crambo

Friday 15th March

Gold Cup – Galopin Des Champs

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

Our first meeting of the year was with Harriet Rycroft and a talk titled 'Potty Time' - how to keep your container displays looking good all year round'. As Ex-Head gardener at Whitchford Pottery her brief was to create displays to show off the pots at their best. She was then gardener at Cotswold Wildlife Park. As a result of her time at Whitchford Harriet developed a particular love of container planting and consequently her garden is packed with pots, around 700 of them, of all sizes and types, not only traditional terracotta but also anything available from dustbins to biscuit tins! Her fame spread when her garden was featured on Gardeners World.

She talked through all types of plants and trees that can be grown in pots, the care and conditions they require. The early spring display of bulbs, planted up in November, offset with evergreen foliage plants, followed by alpines, succulents, annuals and tender perennials such as dahlias and hostas, to name but a few, maintaining an amazing array of colour and form all year long. By grouping the pots as closely together as possible, on different levels and using lots of foliage Harriet creates microclimates which help to retain moisture and give shade where needed. Plenty of top dressing and fertiliser to keep the plants health and vigorous plus frequent deadheading is the key to keep the whole display in prime condition.

Harriet's demonstration of creating a display showed us how to utilise a variety of plants, including a small conifer and alpines set among broken pots and an assortment of gravel and pebbles was a fitting conclusion to the evening. An excellent start to the season and lots of encouragement and ideas to fill out patios with colour and interest throughout the year.



DIARY DATES:

How time flies, by the time you receive this we will already have

Wednesday 13th March: 7pm, Bishopstone Village Hall: Rebecca Brain: 'Propagating Plants'.

Rebecca, who lives here in Bishopstone, is RHS trained and specialises in Organic vegetables. She runs the Soil Song Plant Nursery selling locally grown organic plants and will be bringing along a selection for purchase at the meeting.

Wednesday 10th April: Rebecca Brain will be returning with a second talk, this time entitled 'Using Wildflowers in the Garden'.

This talk explores why it's important to have wildflowers as well as cultivars in your garden, the use of wildflowers in the herbaceous border, making a mini-meadow, using wildflowers as an underplanting to suppress unwanted weeds, increasing wildflowers in your lawn areas and how and when to sow and plant them. We will look at which pollinating insects need which flowers, and how wildflowers can be fantastic companion plants to keep pests and diseases away from roses and other garden plants.

Wednesday 8th May: 7pm, Bishopstone Village Hall: Adam Alexander: The Seed Detective, will be joining us

with a talk entitled 'Meetings with Remarkable Vegetables - from Wild Parent to Cultivated Offspring'. Adam is an expert vegetable grower and has travelled the world to discover remarkable vegetables that we can grow here. He saves the seeds and had over 500 varieties in his own library. An evening not to be missed especially for all the vegetable growers amongst you!

Saturday May 11th: ANNUAL PLANT SALE. 10.00 to 11.30 in Bishopstone Village Hall. Time to start looking out for and potting up any spare plants and seedling for the sale which is always an extremely popular event and important fund raiser for the club.

Marion Peck

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

Dear Fanny,
In the unlikely event that the issue has been resolved by the time of printing, please disregard this email. Otherwise, we would really appreciate your help. Last year, we saw advertised a place that appeared perfect for us. It depicted a lovely thatched cottage in a delightful village with the sun shining, to quote Rhianna, "bright as a diamond in the sky". Our daughter used to have a job photoshopping blue skies in pictures taken by estate agents all over the UK, so we knew it was essential to inspect the situation for ourselves. And that is how our first visit to Bishopstone came to be on a glorious day in May 2023. The place couldn't have looked more perfect. The birds were singing, the sky was indeed blue and the sun rays warmed our cheeks, so consequently we decided this was most definitely the place for us. Little did we know that soon after that day our beloved Star would pack up its belongings and move to a place in the sun, rarely to be seeing again! Now, don't get us wrong, we are originally from the Basque Country in northern Spain. We know only too well that The Sun is a frivolous and capricious creature that can vanish without a trace for weeks or months at a time, leaving the rest of us to endure a never-ending parade of grey, rainy days. It normally returns looking gorg, sporting a beautiful tan and acting as if nothing's happened, and no one has the courage to confront it for fear of further gloom. We also know that there was no promise in the estate agent's contract of an ever-present sun in the sky; although we would argue there was an implicit understanding that it would make an appearance at least once in a while! If it is trying to do the job remotely from some Mediterranean or Caribbean country, we are afraid it is not working. There are just some roles that simply necessitate office attendance. To make matters worse, instead of addressing the Sun problem, Mr manager "big ego" The Wind sporadically graces us with its presence for a couple of days and proceeds to the ferocious and sudden reorganisation of the whole department, leaving nothing but chaos in its wake. Ms Rain, meanwhile, is either on steroids, experiencing a manic episode or both and just WILL NOT STOP producing!!! Returning to the always wise Rhianna, her words "under my umbrella ella ella" are more fitting to the situation.

We are afraid this is just not good enough and we all know the problems are only going to get worse. This dysfunctional lot need to be "performance managed" as a matter of urgency. Could you kindly direct us to the appropriate HR department?

Yours disgruntled,
Barbara and Josu,
Bishopstone

Ps. We have also read that excessive sediment in ponds can contribute anaerobic conditions that cause bad smell and are not helpful to wildlife. We would be very happy to volunteer or contribute in any way we can in any Dredging efforts.

Dear B and J
How lovely to have a popular music artiste mentioned in your delightful and diverting note (but I prefer the earthier

tones of Lana del Ray). I have to say that estate agents always tell everyone 'Nothing but the Truth' (Procol Harum); and then of course there was clearly no mention either in the agents' blurb of the need to 'Hold Back the River' (James Bay); but they probably did hint at the amazing 'Sundown' as promised by Gordon Lightfoot, and indeed the annual (once only in living memory) Bishopstone 'Summerfling' courtesy of k.d. lang.

I do hope that this in some way helps to relieve your disappointment 'on days like these'. Matt Munro, btw. Although he (Matt) says skies are always blue...

Yours fishily (and of course I agree with your anaerobic pond comment which I hope to take a bit further next month)
Fanny

Dear Fanny
I found a middle aged couple struggling to get out of the stream in the Dingle this Sunday afternoon! Assuming they must have gone in to retrieve a missing item and had fallen over (for they were soaked through) I asked them what they had lost. To my surprise they informed me that they had been doing "cold water immersion therapy" and hadn't lost anything. I would beg to differ. Their mind? Their marbles? Is this going to become a "thing"?

Are we to expect the next natural spa to be built in the Dingle in time for pig racing and will the residents of Bishopstone be in for a claim on the money made? Have we our very own "Cocoon" money maker?

Yours
Mrs B. Friend
Church Pond Way

Dear Mrs B Friend
How absolutely marvellous! 'You've made me so very happy', Blood Sweat and Tears'. At last, some water sports in the villages, as recommended by one of my correspondents in HP. I do (do) wish I'd had some advance warning of this terrific escapade, since I'd have erected my tripod and shot away. Somebody's got to do the Dirty Work for the Village News (Pointer Sisters), after all. BTW, are you sure they weren't just having a wash on the cheap? If they were, I'd just have had to walk on by, like Kiki Dee, of course.

I didn't think the Dingle was quite deep enough at that point, but as James Bay mentioned earlier, possibly somebody's held back the river while I wasn't looking.

Whatever...enough of my back catalogue. And before the Health and Safety urchins start chirping, let adults decide for themselves what's fun and what's not, and what's safe and what's not.

Yours irrepressibly
FH

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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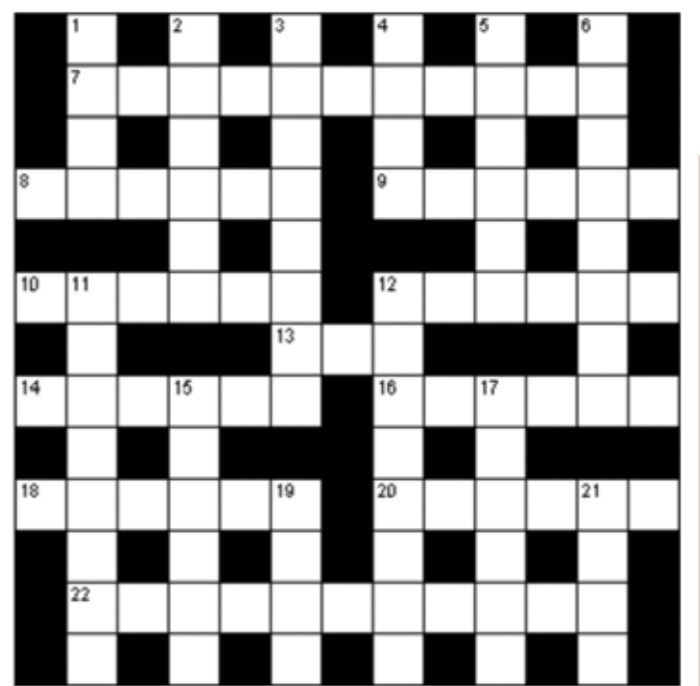
Three entries were received for February's crossword. Pulled from the imaginary hat by Hugh the bar manager was **Pete Walker**. Other entries were Gary Pass & Julie B.

Across

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

Down

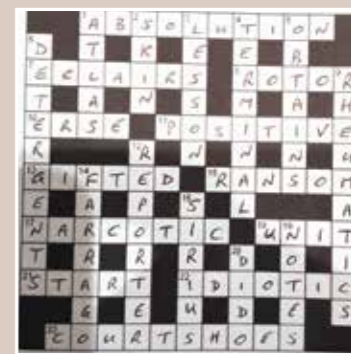
- 1. Name of woman getting letters from Royal Mail (4)
- 2. Player with so boisterous a part (6)
- 3. Boats taking the girls for an outing? (8)
- 4. Laundry used to be hard (4)
- 5. Fidget terribly, being talented (6)
- 6. Something to take the boredom out of saving? (8)
- 11. Charm one's way in (8)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



Be in it to win it!

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



February Solution from Pete Walker.

DICKIE'S diary

by Richard Green



Buried treasure is a word that used to exact excitement from youngsters before the days of phones and TV. It is still alive today with older sorts belonging to metal detecting clubs. Finders Keepers is a recent TV series in several parts featuring the dilemma faced by a metal detecting father and future son in law. They find a rare Saxon hoard of gold which corrupts them both absolutely.

In early January on a cold frosty morning there were sixty cars parked at Lower Idstone farm, courtesy of David and Harry Williams. This was their second visit detecting over forty acres near the village and I spoke to one man. I was told that on a previous visit a coin had been dug up dating from Henry 1's reign (1068-1135), a rare find and he had driven down from Wigan no less that morning hoping for more excitement!

Finds worth over £1,000 are classed as treasure trove and if sold or valued to a museum, the proceeds are split 50/50 between the finder and landowner. Our landlords, the church have now banned metal detecting here but earlier finds at Rectory Farm include many examples of Roman coins and several 3rd -4th century bronze brooches, also a fine 14th century seal matrix in good condition showing a hawk attacking another bird with the inscription "Alas ie su pris".

Coins in our possession. Vespasian dupondius 1/8 denarius AD 69-79 Faustina Senior AD 131-161. Gallienus AD 253-268. Antonius of Valeria AD 253-260. Tetrions AD 270-273. Constantine the Great AD 307-337. Constantine 2nd AD 337-340. Magnentius AD 350-353. Valens AD 364-378.

How these early Roman coins came here before occupation remains another mystery.

More recently usually on an annual basis the club "Muddy Boots" from Newbury come to detect on our fields above Bishopstone, we call Lammydown. They also find Roman coinage and in 2011 found a fine bronze axe head said to date from 800 BC. I am not sure how reliable this date was but such finds do point to these fields being farmed certainly for over 2,000 years. Several more teams have been out this year detecting on our neighbours Peter and Julian Cooke's land near the ridgeway above Church farm, Hinton Parva but news of their finds has not reached me.

The Gadgeteer

The good ole rolling pin – another Gadgeteer matter for debate. I first started my kitchen journey by refusing to purchase ANY kitchen gadget. A minimalist Zen like existence set to chakra and Russian orthodox chants ensued. Eventually in my midlife crisis I succumbed to a sharp knife and chopping board. When tackling pastry, way back then, I made do with an empty Bordeaux bottle, lightly floured. Eventually the label came off but it did the trick. Smooth and cool but not like my street cred when entertaining with that article in my repertoire! I eventually read about marble rolling pins, super smooth, naturally non-stick and cold which is great for pastry – the downside would be the weight, but many do swear by these. I've also experienced the plastic non-stick ones that you can fill with ice – stay away from these – eventually they will leak or crack. I'm also not a fan of the silicone or non-stick coated steel pins and largely now in favour of Beechwood or Maplewood pins. Hard core bakers often opt for French pins or tapered dowels as they are really easy to manoeuvre and can make it easier to keep edges at an even thickness. The handled professional pins often have bearings helping you to glide over shortcrust with ease, perhaps useful in a commercial environment. Expect to pay £50.00 and upwards. Often a simple dowel is just what you need. Try the Olivewood versions with pretty grain patterns or inexpensive beech in various diameters. The more you use them the more "loved" they become, the patina of age builds with lubrication of lard and butter helping with the non-stick properties over time.

More recently there has been a trend in embossed or engraved rolling pins with patterns such as honey comb or Easter shapes.



You will still need your dowel or pin to get pastry to the right thickness but one final roll with an embossed pin can add an intricate, professional look to your biscuiting. On your pins. Get set. Ready. Steady..... Bake!

Inside the Peach Pip

How Do You Live?, by Genzaburo Yoshino (translated into English by Bruno Navasky in 2021)

My favourite kind of novel is one with very little action and a great deal of reflection. *How Do You Live?*, a Japanese coming-of-age classic from 1937, is just the thing. Its narrator follows 15-year-old Copper (a nickname referencing Copernicus) as he observes and reflects on the world around him, grappling for the first time with ideas about existentialism and the nature of humanity. Many of his thoughts arise from personal challenges involving class and power dynamics within friendships, or from historical topics taught in his formal education. Interspersed throughout the story are interactions between Copper and his uncle, who listens patiently to Copper's musings and questions and reflects on them, helping his nephew to reconsider and deepen his perspectives.

Following Copper's organic journey of discovery, watching him live and learn and try to use what he has learnt to become a better person, is charming. The understanding he develops of the human experience is far more sophisticated than many adults', I'm sure, and if this novel were used as a universal moral guide then I feel humanity would be on a better track.

One of my favourite quotes from the book is this, written to Copper from his Uncle in a letter responding to Copper's realisation that we are all drops in a stream:

'We gather together to create the world, and what's more, we are moved by the waves of the world and thereby brought to life.'

Beautiful.

Flinging love,

Anna



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CHURCH NEWS



A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,
Thank you to everyone for giving Jennie and I such a warm welcome to your communities and parish life. We are settling well and, I hope, learning fast.

On 31st March Christians all around the globe and across all denominations will be celebrating the great Christian festival of Easter. Many will use the wonderful Easter Acclamation: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

It is an amazing statement. Essentially just three words. He is risen. Three simple, short words, comprising just 9 letters. But the meaning and consequences of those three simple words are revolutionary and transform everything about everything. The whole of Christianity stands or falls on this one truth. Paul puts it this way:

1Cor 15 ¹⁷ **If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.** ¹⁸ **Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.** ¹⁹ **If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

But the evidence is incredibly strong that “He is risen indeed”. The transformation of the disciples from distraught, shocked and grief-stricken men and women into an unstoppable band of joyful servants of Christ, many of whom were ready to lay down their lives for him, and many did so. Added to this, we have the empty tomb, the lack of a body and the eyewitness accounts. Then the explosion of the early church upon the world, despite severe persecution and hardships. Coming to a personal knowledge of Christ crucified and risen changed people on the inside, before transforming their lives on the outside. The news spread fast of this little known, little travelled, little educated, humble man of gentleness and compassion. He went the way of many good people who challenged the status quo – execution on false charges. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! He did not stay dead. He was raised on the third day. Therefore, his teaching, the claims he made about himself, and his death on a cross in our place, all predicted many centuries beforehand, are credible and entirely consistent with His life and ministry. Those three simple words “He Is Risen”, if true, change everything for us about how we live life and face death. Do you believe He is Risen indeed? Do join us for our Easter Day Service of the celebration of this great truth. On Easter Day and each of the following six Sunday’s of Eastertide Christian everywhere will be using that great Easter Acclamation. Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Kind regards,
Revd, Steve Paynter
stevedpaynter@gmail.com (Corrected from last month)
01793 296870

An Easter Prayer

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.



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

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Sun	10.03.24	10.30	St Mary's, Bishopstone
Sun	17.03.24	10.30	St Andrew's, Wanborough
Sun	24.03.24	10.30	St Swithun's, Hinton Parva
Fri	29.03.24	14.00	Good Friday St Mary's, Bishopstone
Sun	31.03.24	10.30	Easter Day St. Andrews, Wanborough
Sun	07.04.24	10.30	All Saint's, Lyddington
Sun	14.04.24	10.30	St Mary's, Bishopstone
Sun	21.04.24	10.30	St Andrew's, Wanborough
Sun	28.04.04	10.30	St. Swithun's Hinton Parva
Sun	05.05.24	10.30	All Saint's, Lyddington

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

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

PUTTING YOU in the picture

local business insight

Local picture framer Kate Herbert has run her studio workshop, Well Hung Framing, in Watchfield since settling in the area in 2015. As a mother of two school aged children, she started picture framing about ten years ago, and has now become something of the 'go to' framer of choice for those wanting beautiful, high quality products at competitive prices. "I love the variety of picture framing, and I really enjoy working with clients to help them select the most appropriate combinations of mounts and frames to complement their pictures" said Kate in her well stocked basement studio. "It's such a pleasure being able to frame precious memories for people – from relatively straightforward prints, photographs and certificates, through to more complex pieces like a child's first pair of shoes, a set of medals or a sporting shirt."

As Kate has become locally established, she has developed a loyal following from near and far, and takes enormous pride in the personalised nature of her work, spending time with her clients to discuss their ideas, while providing helpful advice on mount colours and styles, and the perfect frame in which to put the work. With more than three hundred frames to choose from, the choice could be bewildering to the uninitiated, but Kate's creative and experienced advice is sure to help everyone make the right decision. "Working closely with my clients is the most rewarding thing about my job. Whether it's a relatively simple job on a budget, or a more complicated piece of fine art, there's nothing more satisfying than seeing a client delighted with the finished product."

With a number of testimonials on her website, the evidence of Kate's professional excellence is clearly undisputed. As one satisfied customers states, "I have used Well Hung Framing on many occasions for all sorts of different pieces and I have been more than delighted with the result every time. Kate has a fantastic eye, so even if you're not sure where to start with your piece or artwork, photos, medals etc – Kate has lots of great ideas which not only 'frame' your chosen piece but enhances it. I would strongly recommend using Well Hung Framing in a heartbeat. Thank you."



Contact Kate:

www.wellhungframing.co
T: 07710 348263



A snippet of Bishopstone Pond History

Sometime in the distant past. Date unknown

Wacky way to hit the water



Help, we're sinking! . . . two raft race competitors and their specially adapted car

VILLAGERS in Bishopstone took to the water in wacky rafts to help raise cash for the local school.

The raft race was part of the annual Final Fling celebrations, organised by Bishopstone Primary School. It is held at the end of the summer holidays and cash raised through the events goes towards school funds.

Rafts included a converted Robin Reliant motor car with oil drums in place of the wheels and a pirate ship made by staff at the True Heart pub in the High Street, Bishopstone.

Organisers of the event now hope that this year's Final Fling has boosted the school's funds

by more than £900.

School governors clerk, Robin Britton, said the event had proved to be a great success.

She said: "It is held every year at the end of the summer holidays, and because the school is very old, the funds that are raised during the event help with the every day running costs.

"All those who took part had a brilliant day and almost everyone from the village came out in force to either watch or take part in raft races, tug-of-war events and duck racing."

Other attractions during the day included a bouncy castle, stalls and a bi-plane fly-past.

Anyone recognise these young men?

NEW COUNCILLOR JOINS THE PARISH

Active early 'retiree' fills vacant seat

Hinton Parva resident Karen Walker has been co-opted to fill the vacant position on Bishopstone Parish Council.

"I intend to have an active 'retirement' and my role as a parish councillor will help me with my goals of continuous learning and to make a difference," said Cllr



Walker, 58, who is taking voluntary redundancy from her role as an IT project manager at Nationwide Building Society.

"I'm proud to live in Hinton Parva, am passionate about seeing our villages thrive and relish this opportunity to do more for and in our community."

Parish council Chair Val Brodin said Cllr Walker's skills gained through her employment, experience of working with both professional and voluntary teams and interests will make her an "excellent addition" to the council.

Cllr Walker has lived in Hinton Parva since 2003 and is very active in the community.

"I am on the Hinton Parva Village Hall Committee and help organise and run local events in the village including a café and Bake Sale in memory of local resident and friend, Mogs Boon,

raising money for the Prospect Hospice," she said.

"I volunteer a day a week as a teaching assistant at Wanborough Primary School, I'm on the Ridgeway School PTA and I write a monthly column in the Village News."

Her particular interests include the environment and sustainability, children's education, creative writing and animals; she previously ran a branch of a local animal charity and is a member of the RSPCA.

MATTERS ARISING

FIBRE BROADBAND UPDATE

The road works required for Openreach to complete the fibre installation in Hinton Parva and going towards Bishopstone are being brought forward, thanks to ongoing pressure from the parish council and intervention by our Ward Councillor Gary Sumner.

It is anticipated that work will recommence on 18th March.

RUSSELY ACCESS ISSUES

Parish councillor Gary Pass is working with Swindon borough councillor Gary Sumner and Wiltshire County Council to try to resolve access issues for Russley Park residents.

Potholes and road damage have been causing issues on Gore Lane with one entrance to the homes becoming unable to be used.

Gore Lane is partly the responsibility of the county council and partly the borough.

Thanks to litter pickers who braved the cold

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who turned out to litter pick on 25th February.

Bishopstone fielded 22 adults, four children and umpteen dogs and delivered the horrible haul pictured here, which was kindly collected by Swindon Borough Council. Also pictured are the Hinton Heroes, Gary and Phil (who found out just how cold the Ridgeway can be on a sunny February morning!), Todd, Mark and Nigel. Also out and

about in HP were Karen W and the Buckley family - thank you!

We know that some residents are litter picking on a regular basis, and we can clearly see the difference you are making. Our community is a cleaner and safer place thanks to everyone who gives their time and effort.



FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparcouncil

TEMPORARY CLOSURES

Swindon Borough Council has granted temporary road closure notices for:

THAMES WATER at the junction of City Corner and Short Drove, Hinton Parva. Traffic to be diverted via The Lane, Church Lane, Body Horse Hill and vice versa. The Order comes into force on the 29 March 2024 for six months but it is anticipated the works will be completed by 12 April 2024.

OPENREACH on Hatchett Hill between Little Hinton Lane and White Hill and Church Row between Tuckers Lane and Little Hinton Lane.

Traffic to be diverted via Hatchett Hill, Little Hinton Lane, Icknield Way, Nell Hill, The Ridgeway and White Hill. The Order comes into force on the 18 March and it is anticipated the works will be completed by 22 March 2024.

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

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

Mrs Karen Walker

Email TBC

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

8th April **Bishopstone**

13th May: Annual Parish Assembly at 7pm;

followed by parish council meeting at 7.30pm

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 Karen Walker

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

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/OUT/23/0456: Outline planning permission for up to 275 dwellings (use class C3) revised at New Eastern Villages. **Comments by 15/3**

S/24/0183 Demolition of existing chalet, erection of 1no. dwelling (Class C3), retention of garage and ancillary accommodation and associated works. - Variation of condition 2 from previous application S/23/1069 to amend drawing showing new positioning of dwelling at The Chalet, Church Row, Hinton Parva. **Comments by 25/3**

S/HOU/23/0764 Installation of solar panels at Old Post House, Nell Hill Bishopstone **Comments by 25/3**

PENDING DETERMINATION

S/OUT/23/1514 Outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings and open space with all matters reserved other than means of access. Redlands Phase 2, Redlands Farm Wanborough Road **S/23/1482** Installation of solar panels at former that hovel, Oxon Place, Bishopstone.

S/HOU/23/1385 Erection of a tennis court with surround fencing and family swimming pool with retractable cover, stone paved surround and adjoining terrace at Hill Manor House, Hatchett Hill, Hinton Parva. **S/HOU/23/1274** Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony above, 2no dormer windows and external staircase at Newhaven, Church Walk Bishopstone.

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

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG



SEND US YOUR SNAPS
 Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Photo of the month

Thank you to Mark Jordan for this gorgeous picture of a local Friesian herd with stunning sunrise.

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!



'International Pig Racing Day'
 13th Annual. Originally Pig Racing for the Queen on her majesty's Diamond Jubilee 2012 and more recently 'Pig Racing for the King'
 Sunday 2nd June 2024
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.
 The registered Charities to benefit from this year's event include the Swindon and North Wiltshire Deaf Children's Society the Village Hall, The Village News and the Prospect Hospice.

The Ridgeway National Trail, a good cause way.

We're so lucky having The Ridgeway right there, on our doorstep. There's a section of it that I'm really familiar with, I'm sure many of you are the same. For me it's the part between Nell Hill and the valley of Bishy Coombe. Mrs N and I must have walked it hundreds of times in the 10 years we've lived here. I know exactly where the wild apple trees are (so does our Labrador), where the puddles form on the path after rain, where the partridges run and hide, the post where the barn owl likes to perch and the tree in which you can occasionally spot the kestrel sitting a top. Whatever my mood as I head there, it's always better having walked that section.

Often we've mused "we should walk the whole Ridgeway one day". Its history is unmatched in Britain, being that it's reckoned to be at least 5000 years in existence and the nation's oldest road/trail. Well now, that thought has become a reality and we're walking the entire ridgeway, 87 miles from Overton Hill, nr Avebury to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire. We're doing 9 miles each day over 10 days between mid Feb and the end of May. By the time you read this we'll be between around day 3 or 4. As a motivation for completing this challenge we've decided to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, the below from fellow villager GC highlights just what a wonderful difference they make for people. It'll keep us going when the going gets tough. Give us a wave if you see us up there!

AN



I would like to wish Al and Belinda an enjoyable and successful venture and hope they will receive your support to the charity that it deserves."

GC

"I would like to thank the Great Western Hospital for their support and from the Urology & Oncology Departments (and The Macmillan Nursing Team) over the last 12 months. They have been outstanding with the treatment they have provided to me and continue to do so. They have been supported by Cancer Research using trial drugs to support my condition and I hope their results will be beneficial for future patients."

Please visit Alec's fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support, if you'd like to donate:

www.justgiving.com/page/alec-nicholls-1706133846259

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VILLAGE HALL news



BISHOPSTONE

The gullies are becoming a drain. Despite reporting to SBC and a few dawn drive by's the problems continue. Recent downpours of biblical proportions are now somewhat making us all nervous particularly as we have seen the terrible damage at Hinton Hall due to flooding. We are forming a home guard and sandbags being dispatched as we speak in prep to fend off potential flood waters from the Nell Hill Rapids. The drains on the Nell Hill and the Hockerbench get blocked with run off and soon the water finds its own track to the entrance of the hall. We need to rectify the problem and build in an adequate contingency in the form of better on site drainage and soak away. We certainly empathise with the troubles at Hinton Hall and hope they are cleared up and open for business soon. Meanwhile, we've had a busy month; PAT testing, Electrical Safety, Fire Extinguisher Service and a Boiler Service. Thanks to all the Committee for taking care of these matters.

We are also now Hiring a Cleaning Fairy or equivalent 1 to 1.5hrs per week. A light touch each week keeping the Hall spick and span - contact Richard Walker 07740106222.

500 Club

It's time for another draw of the 500 club and the winner is.....

Please contact Andy Pocock andrewpocock@yahoo.co.uk should you wish to take part in our own Lottery style draw. A simple DD gets you in the running.

City Lights

After our Facebook vote on screening for 21st March, unfortunately we were unable to reach enough support to run the film that evening. We were also clashing with Underneath the Archers supper. We will reschedule another poll for an April screening.

Richard Walker, Chairman

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 Villlage 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

The village hall remains temporarily closed due to flood work being carried out. Watch this space for updates!

HINTON PARVA BRIDGE CLUB

New members always welcome
Hinton Parva Village Hall
**CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO FLOOD
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

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A Labracadabrador.

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The Royal Oak Dairy



Having recently returned from 4 weeks of self-healing with the aid of my personal Californian irony free Yogi - she says she has enabled me to make a connection with my divine companion, in all seriousness - I have realised that we've positioned HB's Royal Oak in the incorrect commercial sector. Instead of being a community style pub offering great value and irritation to many of you, we ought to have been in the industrial-capitalist sector all along, because in that area you make a lot more money, in fact so much money that you don't know what to do with it. Can you imagine the fun!?

I'm regularly inspired by a variety of well written work - our catholic tastes here range from Private Eye to Byline Times via The Oldie and The Road Rat, among others - and my current favourite is The Idler, which I commend to you without reservation. The editor this month is curious to know what the Red Bull Mateschitz family do with the \$615 million dividend paid to them in 2022, when they also took \$865 million in 2021 - and all from making a pointless drink composed of sugar, caffeine and taurine, all to keep you workers awake. They own F1 racing teams, European football clubs, US major league teams etc. etc. We think (me and the editor) that you'd be better off taking a short nap to refresh yourselves, but there might not be as much money in it. I could have written a similar piece about Coke, and an even more relevant one about the betting woman tycoon who owns a football club in the midlands who has paid herself over £700m in dividends in the past two years. Why do we all bother when it is clearly much easier to make money in UTTERLY pointless industries? What fools we are - either for not doing it ourselves, or for spending money with them. Whatever...

Oh well, as I often say. Just more of the humble irritation here - The Archers supper, probably sold out by the time you read this, on March 21; Easter Egg Hunt on the farm (location tbc) Easter Sunday, you must book please; Classic cars and bikes on April 21 - our 17th Drive it Day. Always good fun, either bring something fun or come and nose around.

Much to my surprise, all pigs for Pig Racing Day now apparently sold, although not all of you have paid. I would ask that you do asap, and provide some names that tie the commentator in knots, or get him into trouble (like Justin Moss's poor animal). That's June 2, and for newcomers in the village, expect Cues Lane to be closed from about 10.30am for most of the day from the top end to Thatcher's View. Not named, I am told, after a previous Prime Minister.

And politics - it's going to be an interesting year, so at various times expect us to host our local general election candidates. We'll keep you posted.

And just for fun, and of interest to no-one - The Oxford Mail reports this week that Uffington White Horse car park is the 12th most popular spot in the county for some dogging activities. Please pick up after your dog.

For those of you who knew him, there will be a small celebration of Peter Deal's life on May 7th at HB's Royal Oak, 6pm onwards. Pam Deal would be delighted to see you there, so you might add this to your diary.

TF



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WHY DO WE HAVE LEAP YEARS?

Why were we treated to an extra day this year?

You might be accustomed to hearing that it takes the Earth 365 days to complete a full orbit around the Sun, but in reality, this journey lasts about 365 and a quarter days. Leap years play a crucial role in ensuring synchronisation between the 12-month calendar and Earth's orbit.

After four years, these extra quarter days accumulate to form an entire day and during a leap year, we incorporate this additional day into the month of February, extending it to 29 days instead of the usual 28.

The concept of adjusting the calendar annually traces back to ancient Rome, where a lunar-based calendar of 355 days was used, causing misalignment with the seasons. To rectify this, an extra month named Mercedonius was inserted every two years.

In 45 BCE, Roman Emperor Julius Caesar introduced a solar calendar derived from an Egyptian model. This calendar included an extra day in February every four years to maintain alignment with Earth's orbit. This system, in tribute to Caesar, became known as the Julian calendar.



However, further refinement was necessary. It was discovered that Earth's orbit actually lasted about 365.24219 days, slightly less than 365.25 days. Consequently, adding a full day every four years was excessive.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII implemented a subtle adjustment. Leap years still occurred every four years, except in century years divisible by 100 (e.g., 1700 or 2100), unless they were also divisible by 400. Despite its complexity, this adjustment enhanced calendar accuracy, leading to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar. If you didn't know before, you do now.

Bishopstone & Hinton Parva WI



The January meeting of our local WI got some of the members thinking about future holidays. This was because the talk was entitled 'Awe and Art of the Pharaoh's Nile.'



One of our members Trish Wells gave a very interesting talk about a holiday she and her husband had taken in Egypt when they travelled from Cairo to Abu Simbel. Trish gave us a fascinating talk including describing the wonderful objects they saw and she also included some details about the lives and history of the Pharaohs. The photos that Trish shared with us were stunning.



Our February meeting saw two of our members, who are both practicing physiotherapists in Swindon, (Karen Roberts and Karen Hawkins) provide us with a very useful talk. The topic was improving balance and preventing falls, starting with some useful hints and ideas, and then a practical session. Members had a chance to practice techniques and exercises under the watchful eye of the two physiotherapists. This was done with varying degrees of success and lots of hilarity! We were also given several

practical suggestions about how to provide a safe home environment.....lots of simple tips which gave us all things to think about and got everybody talking.



As well as going to meetings WI members have been busy knitting and crocheting. We have been asked to knit or crochet poppies to be added to displays to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day.



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



North Wessex Downs Walking Festival 31 May - 9 June 2024

We are busily planning this year's walking festival programme which, once again, with the help of our brilliant partners, will include a variety of walks taking place across the North Wessex Downs. The programme will include gentle strolls as well as longer walks - taking in some of the most beautiful parts of the landscape as well as its nature, wildlife, heritage and the opportunity to learn about some of the many projects we have funded through our Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

Last year's festival was a great success (if a little hot on the last couple of days!) and many of the events booked up quickly. However, as a newsletter subscriber, you will be among the first to hear when bookings open and this is likely to be late March.

Thank you for your continued interest in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and the work of the National Landscape Team and the Partnership.

Please do encourage your friends and family to sign up to the newsletter so they don't miss out!

<https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk>

Kind Regards

Ann Shepley, Communications Officer,
North Wessex Downs National Landscape

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Golden Charter 

Countryside is a colonial, racist space say charities

THE British countryside is a 'racist, colonial' white space, wildlife charities have insisted in a report to MPs.

The claim was made by Wildlife and Countryside Link, a group with 80 members including WWF, the RSPCA and National Trust.

Its report is a response to a call for evidence on the links between racism and climate change. The group said 'our policy recommendations ensure that all people have the right to a healthy natural environment - all people must have access to nature'.

But it added: 'Racist colonial legacies continue to frame nature in the UK as a "white space" and people of colour as "out of place" in these spaces and environmental sector.'

It continued: 'Cultural barriers reflect that in the UK, it is white

'Framed as a white space'

British cultural values that have been embedded into the design and management of green spaces and into society's expectations of how people should engage with them.'

It said the perception that green spaces are dominated by whites can prevent people from ethnic minority backgrounds from using them.

The report suggested that to ensure ethnic minorities have better access to the countryside, it wants the Government to create a 'legally binding target for access to nature - such as ensuring that everyone has a green space within a 15-minute walk from their home.'

Last year the then Environment Secretary Therese Coffey promised that the 15-minute walk to the countryside would be government policy. But that has since been dropped.

By **Collin Fernandez**
Environment Editor

The report also claimed: 'The UK's role in the European colonial project has also driven the current climate and nature crises.'

Link's chief executive is Richard Benwell, a former Lib-Dem prospective parliamentary candidate.

Charities directly supporting the report include the League Against Cruel Sports and The Countryside Charity, formerly called the Council for Preservation of Rural England.

Froglife and the Bat Conservation Trust also support the report, submitted to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Race and Community, chaired by Labour MP Clive Lewis.

Using evidence from environmental experts such as those at Link, MPs will issue recommendations on the subject this spring.

It is not the first time the British countryside has been accused of being hostile to ethnic minorities.

The 'Hate Studies Unit' at the University of Leicester has launched an investigation into 'rural racism'.

The group Muslim Hikers has said rural areas were perceived as unwelcoming and off-limits to minority communities, while the University of Reading claims that the countryside is out of reach for non-whites as there is a 'threat of hostility' to them.

Link's Mr Benwell said: 'Sadly, evidence shows that people of colour in the UK are more likely to live in areas with less green space and that are more heavily polluted, and at the same time they are significantly less likely to visit natural spaces.'

'There are multiple complex reasons behind this, as well as contemporary well-documented experiences of racism people encounter. Access for all and addressing the barriers people face should be one of the guiding lights for all nature sites.'



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...an interesting article, courtesy of The Daily Mail, Feb '24.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

on a new political map for Swindon Borough Council



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



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

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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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Send us your DIARY DATES
Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

General Information



Diary

March 2024 - April 2024



2024	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sun	17.03	St Patrick's Day		
Thu	21.03	The Royal Oak. Supper with Graham Harvey of The Archers (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak	Tickets: 01792 790 481
Sat	23.03	3.30pm - 4.30pm Yoga for Gaza. Raising money for Gaza. Suggested donation £10	Bishopstone Village Hall	yogawithnickie@gmail.com
Fri	29.03	Good Friday - Bank Holiday		
Sun	31.03	Easter Sunday		
Sun	31.03	The Royal Oak Easter Egg Hunt. £10 per car/family (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak	Book: 01792 790 481
Mon	01.04	Easter Monday - Bank Holiday		
Wed	10.04	7pm Bishopstone & District Gardening Club: Rebecca Brain, 'Using Wildflowers in the Garden' talk (pg. 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Marion Peck 01793 791 001
Sun	21.04	Drive it day: Classic Cars and motorbikes (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak	01792 790 481
Tues	23.04	St George's Day		
Wed	08.05	7pm Bishopstone & District Gardening Club: Adam Alexander - The Seed Detective Talk (pg. 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Marion Peck 01793 791 001
Sat	11.05	10.00am to 11.30am Bishopstone & District Gardening Club: Annual Plant Sale	Bishopstone Village Hall	Marion Peck 01793 791 001
Sun	02.06	International Pig Racing Day (pg 14)	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.

Tell us your thoughts!
'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR'
Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com