



VILLAGENEWS

NOV 2025



FIREWORKS NIGHT A ROARING SUCCESS

In my opinion, one of the best nights of the year. This year's village Fireworks Night at the Royal Oak was as enjoyable as ever. After a slightly slow start, a huge crowd gathered around the enormous bonfire, fuelled by various unwanted items collected from around the village, to enjoy the night.

The fireworks themselves were nothing short of spectacular. There were loads, and the fantastic show expertly controlled by Russell Hatch, Steve Palfrey and Jim Fairful, lit up the night sky for a very acceptable amount of time. It certainly wasn't all over in a flash.

The food was equally impressive as always. Mouth-watering pulled pork buns smothered in melted cheese proved a hit (and a gloriously messy one!), alongside hearty burgers, hotdogs, and crispy chips. Add to that a few well-earned pints, and it made for the perfect recipe for a warm, festive evening.

Well done Tim for organising, and to all who came along to make it such a brilliant night.





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Exciting News for Shrivenham

The Hub and Post Office Moving Forward Together!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news for our village. The former Lloyd's Bank building on Shrivenham High Street has now been sold, and our new landlord, J. Knapp & Sons Ltd, has stepped in with a strong commitment to keeping essential services and community spaces at the heart of Shrivenham.

This means both Shrivenham Post Office and Sustainable Shrivenham have a secure future in the village, and we'll soon be neighbours. Together, we're creating a stronger, more connected centre for our community.

Splitting the building 50/50 will enable both to thrive. For The Hub, this means continuing as a much-loved community space, while for Shrivenham Post Office it means more room to expand and improve services. Customers can look forward to a wider range of Post Office services, alongside an increased selection of greeting cards, stationery, gifts and toys – and hopefully no more queues out on the pavement at busy times!

There will be a short transition period: The Hub will close in its current form at Christmas to prepare for this exciting new chapter, and Shrivenham Post Office will be business as usual for the time being and planning their move after Christmas. Both plan to be open in their new premises by March 2026.

We would like to thank all our customers and supporters who have helped us on this journey and we look forward to sharing more in the coming months.

Together, we look forward to welcoming you into our refreshed space in the spring – a real hub for Shrivenham!



everyday lives'. I attended their recent AGM and asked who they consider to be their 'local community' and am pleased to say that we very much feature! This may be of particular interest if you need financial assistance for your own community sustainability project as any profits from the initiative has to go back into the community and currently it is running at a small profit of around £2,000.

There are changes afoot for The Hub. They will close from the 20th December until around March of next year as the existing building is renovated and changed to accommodate a bigger and improved Shrivenham Post Office. The Hub will retain 50% of the building and are hoping that with the addition of The Refillery shop, they can continue to offer all their current services in their refurbished premises.

I recently spent some time having some training in The Refillery shop so I can volunteer there and took the opportunity to have a good look around at some of the perhaps more unexpected things that they sell – they have such beautiful but practical items. It's well worth a look. If you still use a tumble dryer, they have the cutest sheep wool balls which help shorten drying time and thus save energy and money. They are selling books by the inspirational, no-nonsense, green goddess and former British Bake Off winner, Nancy Birtwhistle. Definitely ones for my reading list! They have brightly coloured string bags and mini dustpan and brushes for household surfaces. There are biodegradable sponges and scourers and essential oils. On the food side there's fill-your-own wholewheat pasta, three varieties of rice and couscous – great if you want to give them a try or only need a small amount for a recipe. There's also a Fruit Cake mix of a variety of dried and glace fruits so you don't have to make multiple purchases that you might then never use again. We're slowly working through the household products and I can recommend the spray toilet cleaner!



Thinking ahead for Christmas, the team is going to be putting together gift boxes. Or if you fancy doing it yourself, perhaps consider the Epsom Salts or the delicious Clipper Hot Chocolate with some mini marshmallows? (I felt obliged to do a taste test – very nice if like me you have a sweet tooth!) They have lovely reusable glass jars and bags you could put them in if you don't have your own. Or how about jars or bags of the pick-your-own sweets? There's a big selection and they'd make popular stocking fillers.

Finally, misquoting the words of the entrepreneur Victor Kiam, 'I liked it so much, I bought into the Community Benefit Society' and became a member. I did feel that I had 'found my tribe' at their AGM and they seem to be led by an impressive and dedicated team. If you're equally inspired, you can become a member for an annual nominal membership fee of a minimum of £5. Details are on their website. Maybe I'll see you at their next AGM!



Bishopstone Stores

It's safe to say our bring your own fireworks party went off with a bang and much fun was had by all, it was lovely to see so many faces from the village.

Halloween done, and Guy Fawkes done, can only mean one thing – Christmas is not too far away! If you are already frantically planning and writing lists of things that you didn't know even needed a list, why not pop in and see us and get some bits ticked off? We are taking meat orders for anything you could possibly need between now and the big day. Turkeys, gammons and all the trimmings for a traditional feast, as well as pork, beef, lamb and venison cuts if you are opting for something a little different or need something special for a specific day.

Do come and join us on the evening of 27th November when our shiny, brand new door (have you seen it yet?!) will be staying open till 8pm. This is the perfect opportunity for you to get into the spirit of things as we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies and offering you a taste of our own organic gin and blackcurrant spirit. If you are really in the mood for shopping, we are offering 10% off to anyone who spends over £30 on the evening. To top it off, you can then pop along to the village hall for the annual Christmas Craft Fair where a whole host of local crafters will be selling their wares. A quick drink in the pub or a spot of supper before heading home will make it the perfect Bishopstone evening out. Feel free to use the pub carpark if you aren't within walking distance.

We very much hope to see you there.

Lynne x

@bishopstone_stores @helenbrowningbsbishopstonestores



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HAPPY GARDENS

by Jane Pearson



Monthly Musings

It's been a busy Autumn, my working days filled with bulb planting and perennial dividing, hedge trimming and topiary shaping. There is something very satisfying about preparing a garden for the winter and it's a joy to see crisp geometric evergreen shapes that seem to pop in the low light of the year. I actually look forward to the first frosts that expose the beautiful skeleton of a cared for garden!

For the love of gardening



It's the perfect time to plant bareroot plants. But please don't let their forlorn looks put you off! They're more robust than you may think and planting in the dormant season gives the plants roots a good chance to establish and thrive.

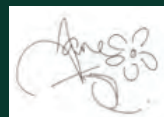
In my day-to-day work, we're busy planting hedging. The young bare root hedging plants are known as whips and all bare root plants need soaking in buckets of water for at least a couple of hours. Give them time to rehydrate before being planted and they will reward you. Hedging isn't the only bare root option. Roses are a great buy this time of year as well as fruit trees, Strawberries and peonies.

The potting shed

It's beginning to feel distinctly wintery, with wet windy weather being much more common and the frosts are starting to bite, but it's not too late to plant some spring bulbs where gaps appear. Other tasks for November & December include:

- Prepare your garden for winter; insulate outdoor taps by wrapping them in bubble wrap held in place with an elastic band. Wind-up hose pipes and store them in the shed or garage and (if you're lucky enough to have them!) remove irrigation system timers and batteries.
- Plants for free! November is a good time to take cuttings from evergreens such as privet, ceanothus, pittosporum, escallonia and hebe.
- Tidy up! Continue to weed. Rake fallen leaves from lawns and borders and store in black bags or chicken wire pens to make leafmould, it's a great free mulch for the following winter! Remove hellebore leaves. Old leaves can carry leaf spot disease and may affect new growth, so snip the old leaves off, right at the base of the stem and show off the flowers when they arrive.
- Sow sweet pea seeds now in old loo roll middles and let them over winter in a cool spot with plenty of light such as a cold frame or unheated greenhouse. Tip; mice love germinating sweet pea seeds, so prior to sewing, try soaking the seeds in liquid seaweed fertilizer or garlic water, it's said to disguise the smell and deter the mice, I'm going to try it myself this winter!

Happy gardening!



07811 367320
janepearsondesign@icloud.com
The Lynchetts, Icknield Way, Bishopstone
www.janepearsondesign.com/hints&tips

Please visit my website at janepearsondesign.com/blog for Readers Question Time and much more!
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Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001



The year is marching on and we have enjoyed some vivid autumn colours in the gardens and hedgerows, but now with British Summer Time over the evenings are drawing in, the heating is on and Christmas only a stone's throw away! How time flies!

For our October meeting we welcomed a crowd of not only club members but many other avid quiz enthusiasts for our Annual Quiz and Supper Night which, once again, proved very popular with a full house of 13 tables. A lot of bustle and



chatter as everyone found their tables, handed in their team names and settled down with their glass in hand to do battle with the questions ahead. Raffle tickets purchased it was time to get serious.



Cheryl took to the stage as our quizmaster and managed to quieten the contestants for the first round. The general knowledge was a challenge but six of the teams seemed to know a lot more than the others and quickly took pole positions, how many of us could possibly know what Pogonophobia is? Some obviously did and I did notice a number of beards in the room, maybe that was a clue!

The first round completed and the table quiz distributed, it was time to enjoy the usual spread

of Chilli, Baked Potatoes and Salad followed by an array of delicious Puddings as we pondered over the puzzle sheets in front of us. Who were all those faces on the page and what was the 'common theme'? That turned out to be the first name, Chris. However it still didn't mean we knew them all!

Supper over it was back to the quiz. The noise level increased with the banter and friendly rivalry, but Cheryl kept control as we moved on through the remaining rounds, with very mixed results on the score chart!

In the end there was a clear winner and the prizes for first (and last!) were presented, to some happy smiling faces. The raffle was drawn and everyone went home having had a very

entertaining, enjoyable and sociable evening.

Thanks must go to Cheryl, to Chris and Debbie who worked away in the kitchen to ensure the supper was ready at the appointed time and the washing up done, and to all those to cooked and baked to make sure there was plenty for all.

Altogether a very successful evening, raising much needed funds to ensure another year of excellent speakers in 2026.



Diary Dates

The programme for next year is currently being finalised and will be published as soon as the last few elements are in place. Rest assured we have some excellent speakers lined up.

The meetings are always on the second Wednesday of the month, except January and August, so the first meeting of 2026 season will be on Wednesday February 11th.

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Ask Fanny

Unsolicited advice from a woman who's seen it all...and wishes she hadn't.



Write to Fanny at:
BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Dear Fanny

It has come to my attention—via the latest edition of our cherished village news—that my family has made yet another unsolicited cameo in your column. I think this is now the fourth time in as many months - I must say, at this point, you're more consistent than our broadband.

I'm currently in the process of creating a framed montage of all the mentions, proudly hung in our downstairs lavatory. Tastefully arranged, of course.

I can't help but feel we may have gotten off on the wrong foot... It seems your quill is particularly prickled by recent events involving trees and forts other forms of village vandalism (or as we call it home maintenance/improvements).

Let me clarify—we love trees. Big fans. Huge. Some of our best friends are trees. But we also love houses that don't split in half due to root systems pushing against our foundations. And so, after consulting both a structural engineer and a tree surgeon (both of whom charge as though they're about to perform open-heart surgery with a chainsaw), we made the tough call to remove the trees.

Was it heartbreaking? Yes. Was it expensive? Deeply. Were the kids devastated when we told them the holiday fund had been repurposed into stump grinding? Absolutely. But we took solace in the fact that no 200-year-old willow would be taking flight and crash-landing across the main road due to ill health and a hollow rotting trunk.

One lovely villager, passing by with the wisdom of a countryside

oracle, said to me, "Well, you can't make an omelette without cracking a few eggs". I very much appreciate we are cracking eggs left right and centre but I assure you, Fanny, the finished dish will be full of locally-sourced joy, herbs from the garden, and only the finest emotional free-range seasoning.

And so, I extend an olive branch. Or a willow branch. Or maybe a yew, as we have quite a surplus. We didn't come here to ruin trees or cause upsets. We came for the community, the quizzes, and the chance to perhaps one day be viewed by you not as felled-tree felons, but as neighbours who just happened to turn a small green space into a slightly less green space with improved drainage.

In fact, speaking of quizzes—I must dash. I've got the village quiz to prepare for.

If you're there, Fanny, do say hello. You may find we're actually rather lovely. And if not, well—there's always more wall space in the downstairs loo for your next masterpiece.

Yours with love, laughter, and a chainsaw receipt, T.

Dear T,

Is it really 4 mentions already? I'll have a word with my correspondents in the parish and see if they can find something else that irritates them. I just reflect others' comments to me so I'll tell them it's getting boring.

My correspondents are a bit worried that your dog might have escaped, since the fence isn't much use if the gate is always left open! Mrs F.

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NO JOB TOO SMALL

OCT 2025 SUDOKU

LAST MONTH'S WINNER IS Debbie Clarke
Grab your voucher from Lynne at the shop!

Thank you for your entries! The winning name was pulled from Lynne's hat.

The winner was Debbie Clark, with her Sudoku.

Other entries were:

G & G Phillpott – Crossword & Sudoku

Peter Walker & Lucy – Crossword & Sudoku

Debbie Clarke – Crossword

Reminder: All entries to be submitted by the last day of the month. Thank you.

Those who complete both puzzles have their name put into the hat twice.

Win a £10 Voucher!

Please submit your completed Sudoku and/or crossword by the end of each month, either in person or by email to Lynne at Bishopstone Stores.

A £10 voucher is awarded each month — one winner will be drawn at random from all correct entries. The draw takes place on the 1st of the month, and the winner will be announced in the following issue. You can collect your voucher from the shop after the announcement. The voucher gives you £10 off your bill at either the pub or the shop. Drop them in, or submit by email to: shop@helenbrowningorganic.co.uk

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Courtesy of puzzles.ca

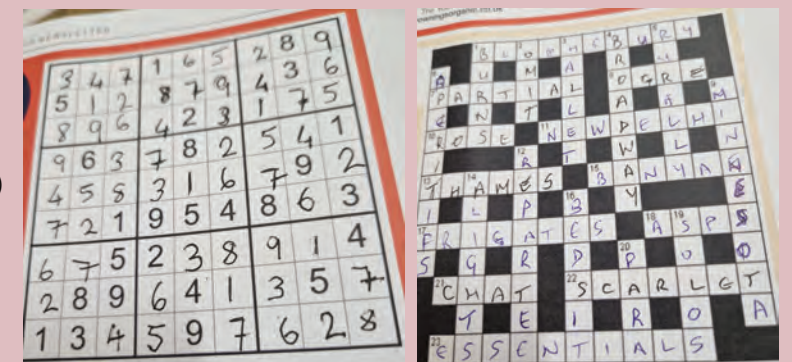
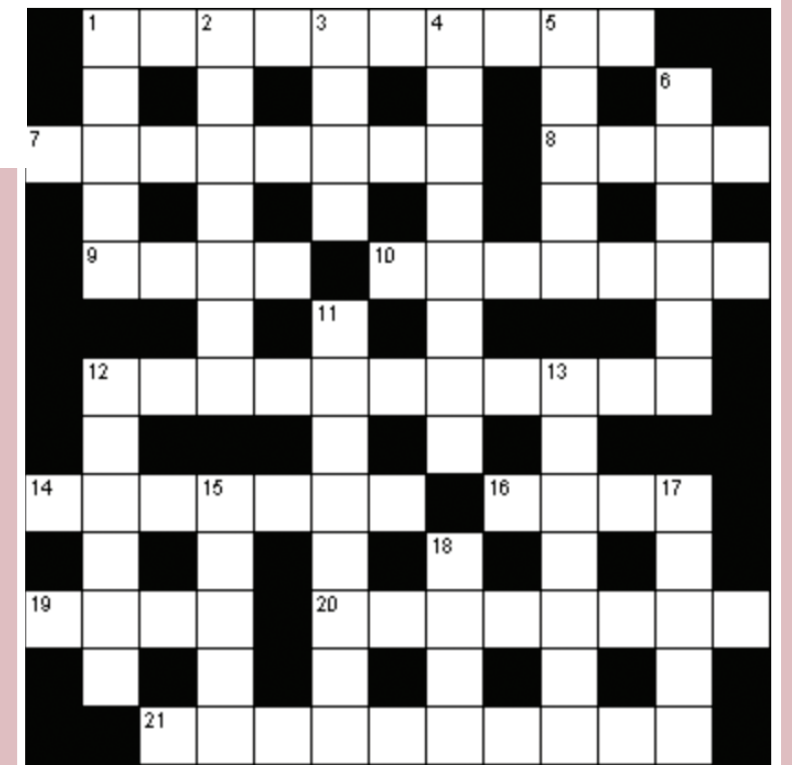
OCT 2025 CRYPTIC PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Wandering mine, danger if exploded (10)
- 7 Better off potted (2,6)
- 8 Garden building half finished (4)
- 9 Neat work by hairdresser? (4)
- 10 Wild parsley for team members (7)
- 12 Bedfordshire town in which fictional aviator has to paddle (11)
- 14 Seriousness that makes things fall (7)
- 16 When food won't go down quickly? (4)
- 19 Beloved but expensive (4)
- 20 Feelings time soon alters (8)
- 21 Lasting well in its present form (10)

Down

- 1 Artist in a film one tried to see (5)
- 2 Loving a party call (7)
- 3 Noble expected to embrace king (4)
- 4 Not pitying crooked hustlers (8)
- 5 A street in New York that's unpleasant (5)
- 6 Late transport (6)
- 11 Moves about restlessly, making bets (8)
- 12 Breakfast's beginning with terribly early cereal (6)
- 13 Ordering caviare demonstrates greed (7)
- 15 A writer of science-fiction never needs to take part (5)
- 17 Principle unaffected by revolution (5)
- 18 No American displays common sense (4)



Courtesy of Simple Daily Puzzles

Completed puzzles from last month

DICKIE'S diary

by Richard Green



This note is inspired by a chance meeting in Bishopstone. Walking my dog Flo off the lead we met a lady with a Collie on a lead. Both dogs were happy to calmly sniff. The lady explained she had friends in Crete where this dog had been abandoned. She had arranged for its transfer to the UK after rabies protection and to me after only a fortnight here, things were going swimmingly well for both parties. Dogs can be a great facility for social intercourse between owners! Most also have this enviable reputation for unconditional love.

Over a long life and only one at a time I have known Dazzle the Dalmatian, Scampie then Dabster both Jack Russel Terriers, Flop a Springer Spaniel, Flic a Border Terrier cross, Fun a yellow Labrador. More recently Crumpet and now Flo both Cocker Spaniels. Eight dogs. Dazzle was great growing up but as a dog he wandered which was his undoing. Scampie and Dabster were great mousers and ratters. Scampie in particular was a character. She loved going to ground and we had to dig her out several times, once after a couple of days despite trying to entice her back with meat poked down the hole. We were so busy stacking sheaves of corn into a dutch barn in 1958, the last harvest with a binder that she got buried beside a stantion and we had to dig her out alive the next morning. Getting old she had bad breath and the vet found a chicken bone wedged across the roof of her mouth. Flop was my first gun dog at Idstone and a lovely dog with our two young boys. She had puppies and we received a lovely picture back from Switzerland of the largest dog puppy

standing on a wall at Lake Constance. Flic was also a great ratter/mouser and very tough. She always had to have her head sticking out of the landrover window. She chased sheep once. I gave her a hiding and she never did it again. Fun had a good temperament but something went wrong with the training. We needed an electric collar and a buried wire round the curtilage of Rectory Farm to keep her in. Somehow, she would know if there was a power cut or the electricity was off. Friends christened her Porsch because of her speed out shooting. Tragically she had to be put down after getting under my landrover wheels. Crumpet and Flo have been great successes and good retrievers. There is something truly magical seeing your dog bring back a pheasant or a duck across water for the first time. Training Crumpet she was not that keen on dummies. Reluctant to lose this dummy which I had thrown in a gravel pit, it was drifting away and I found myself having to swim for it myself, complete with rubber boots. Fortunately, it was summer! Penny loved Crumpet who was blue roan. Flo is black and now a prima donna aged thirteen.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

No One Is Talking About This, by Patricia Lockwood

'Why had she entered the portal in the first place? Because she wanted to be a creature of pure call and response: she wanted to delight and to be delighted.'

Having our phones in our pockets, and our lives contained within them, has become part and parcel of being human in the modern world. In *No One is Talking About This*, Lockwood tells a story in two halves, narrated by an unnamed protagonist who has gained a following for her social media posts, and is living a life entirely absorbed in what she refers to as 'the portal'. The first half of the story is told as an almost stream of consciousness and doesn't have much of a traditional plot at all. One gets the sense she is flicking through posts in the portal and her thoughts are darting all over the place in response, one distraction to another. The portal dictates her life - whatever she sees in the portal in the morning will be the thing that occupies her brain all day, whether that be something depressing or amusing or simply absurd. She is truly obsessed with the portal.

The second half of the novel is where reality forces its way back in. When faced with the tragic news that her

sister's baby will be born with a rare genetic disorder, Proteus syndrome, the protagonist begins to refocus. She becomes more attentive to and emotionally involved in the world around her, as the baby is born and she observes its weightless joy juxtaposing its tragic, heavy condition. Such love and heartbreak, she finds, is impossible to express in the unserious language of the portal. Although she is still in some ways a person in and of the portal, by the end of the novel I feel she has lost her craving for it and come to know that outside the portal lies truth, depth and freedom, should she be bold enough to face them.

This feels like an important novel in 2025, when doomscrolling has become a daily activity and social media is increasingly being used to propagate groupthink and spur hatred. It is a reminder that the moreish portal, although temporarily satisfying, does not fulfil. Life is in us and around us, it is painful and beautiful, and we need to live it fully to love it.

A good way to rescue yourself from the portal? Read a book! This one's quite good.

Flinging love, Anna



Photo of the month

SEND US
YOUR SNAPS

Email:
BishopstoneEditor
@gmail.com

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!

Thank you for this lovely winning photo from **Keston Morris** this month on the left.

Some other lovely pics we received below are: **Justin Moss:** November Blackbird, **Judith Coates:** Hinton Parva Rainbow and **Dennis Cooper:** Man at work, Bishopstone High Street. Some great pictures this month, thank you all!



CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar



November is the month of remembrance. Remembering both those who lost their lives in the wars and conflicts of the past, and also of those who we loved so deeply, but see no longer, those who have now passed onto a distant shore, the remembrance of All Saints Day at the start of the month.

But what does the task of remembering actually ask of us and why is it so important? Why do we need so much reminding anyway? There are times in this life when to be able to forget might seem to be more merciful. Many of the most brutal conflicts around the world are caused precisely because people can't, or won't forget, or forgive, and are trapped in cycles of hatred, revenge and bitterness.

Those suffering trauma may also long to forget but, of course, it is impossible to unlive experiences so deeply profound and so utterly painful. After my own father's death in 2017 I gradually came to realise, as my understanding of what trauma is developed, that what made sense of many aspects of his life was that he was a war time kid, who grew up amidst the carnage of the blitz in Shepherds Bush, London. He used to tell us what happened but never, never, how it felt!

It seems that to remember well is part of the journey to an acknowledged acceptance of past reality that allows healing and a letting go into new life. To heal we also need to be present to the pain, to look it in the face and know that it is not the last word on our lives, or on life itself. For Christians this is a journey with and in Christ, "who went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified." The cross of Good Friday, the deep loss, hopelessness and grief of Easter Saturday for the disciples, before the bright dawn and new life of Easter Day, is at the heart of God's redemptive work for our troubled lives. In our fallen world this seems to be the universal pattern of remembering that leads to new life in the here and now, as well as the promise of new life to come in eternity, in the ultimate making of all things new.

Indeed, when Jesus departed physically from our presence, he didn't leave us a set of precise words to memorise so that we could enter into his healing work on our behalf, but an action to do. Luke 22: 19 "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'" Remembering is important. It brings an honesty before God about ourselves and about the past; it is an honouring of lived experience, of lives given for the good of others, of loved ones we have cherished and the grief of their absence from us, as well as a bringing into that space constantly, God's great love for us, poured out on the cross in Jesus, as he took into himself the sin, evil and death which so disfigures and hurts.

It is in the remembrance of this act of the self-giving love of God that our new life and hope for healing and wholeness, for ourselves and our world, springs forth.

Kind regards, Revd Steve Paynter
stevedpaynter@gmail.com 01793 296870

Prayer

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2025

November	Jill & Karen Mac G.
December	Fran & Karen S.

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

Our churches are: All Saint Liddington, St. Mary's Bishopstone, St. Andrew's Wanborough, and St. Swithun's Hinton Parva.



Church Services. Full details on www.achurchnearyou.com

The Parish of the Wellspring Villages

The main morning Church Services always start at 10.30am.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Sun	16.11.25	10.30	HC St. Andrew's
Sun	23.11.25	08.30	BCP HC St. Andrew's
Sun	23.10.25	10.30	Morning Worship St. Swithun's
Sun	30.11.25	10.30	HC St Mary's
Sun	07.12.25	10.30	Crib Service HC, All Saint's
Sun	14.12.25	10.30	HC, St. Mary's Bishopstone
Sat	20.12.25	5pm	Christingle, St Andrew's
Sun	21.12.25	NO MORNING SERVICE	
Sun	21.12.25	4pm	Carol Service St Andrew's
Wed	24.12.25	5pm	Christingle, St Mary's
Wed	24.12.25	11.30pm	Midnight HC St Andrew's
Thurs	25.12.25	10.30am	Family HC, All Saints
Thurs	25.12.25	10.30am	Carols & Readings St Swithun's
Sun	28.12.25	10.30am	HC, St. Swithun's

Report on The Wellspring Villages Celebration weekend 4th and 5th October.

A local historian wrote recently "Within the walls of our churches lie centuries of faith, art, memory and community life." How very true. We could also add that written into the landscape and the surrounding settlements, farms and chalk downlands, lies a further record of the human story in these parts of God's good creation, here in North Wiltshire.

Over the weekend of 4th and 5th of October, as the newly constituted single Anglican Parish of the Wellspring Villages, we picked up many of these threads and wove them together into a beautiful picture of the human journey so far in our villages, while anticipating new united pathways going forward into a new future together.

The former Anglican Parishes of Lyddington, Wanborough, Bishopstone and Hinton Parva became the single Anglican Parish of the Wellspring Villages on 1st June and we marked and celebrated this in a Pilgrim Walk around the four churches on the Saturday, and a special Harvest Celebration Service on the Sunday at All Saints, followed by a 'bring and share' Harvest Lunch in Wanborough Village Hall.

THE WELLSPRING PILGRIM WALK: Sat 4th October 9.30am St. Andrew's.

About 20 people met at St. Andrew's, amidst beautiful flower displays, harvest produce and pealing bells, with others joining along the way. We gathered around the font and used water collected from one of the Wanborough springs to symbolise our faith, hope and love in God, which we pledged to pour out in His service in the days and years ahead, as we poured the water into the font. Then Dame Sarah Troughton, a member of our worshipping community and Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, sent us all off, with suitable words of encouragement, on our Wellspring Pilgrim Walk around our four churches of Wanborough, Liddington, Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. It was a beautiful Autumnal day, cloudy with sunny spells and a strong gusting breeze.

In Liddington the bell ringers gave a demonstration of Bell Ringing

Photo: Kate Wright, Hinton Church

HC: Holy Communion, BCP: Book of Common Prayer, MW: Morning Worship

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

using a camera and video link so that we could watch the bells in action at the same time as the bell ringers handled their bell ropes, in a complex synchronicity of shifting patterns. Using Liddington Spring water this time, we again gave thanks around the font for the settlement of Liddington, formed around clear spring waters emanating from the chalk downlands above many generations ago, and for the church community of All Saints, established in subsequent centuries. Again, we pledged ourselves to the ongoing service of God in this place as we poured the water into the font.

The longest stretch of our walk took us down through the Liddington Combe, under the M4, up to the Ridgeway Path heading towards Foxhill and then up onto the high Ridgeway path along the top of the chalk escarpment, overlooking the Vale of the White Horse. A stunningly beautiful stretch before turning left down the Bishopstone Coombe to Bishopstone Village Hall for Lunch. Delicious autumnal soup and fresh oven baked bread replenished our depleted resources. From here we returned to St. Andrew's via St. Mary's Bishopstone and St. Swithun's Hinton Parva, following the same pattern of prayer and reflection. This took us winding through the lower fields and farmland beneath the chalk escarpments, past human settlement and finally up onto the large open field and children's play area east of St. Andrews. We plan to make this walk an annual event. It is a stunning beautiful and varied walk, through amazing countryside, which also offers the opportunities to pause for thanksgiving, reflection, praise and prayer, in the wonderful ancient churches of these four villages. Each village formed around fresh water springs flowing from the Downs. Our prayer is that the living water Jesus promised the women at the well in John 4, will indeed well up in us, his followers and people, in this newly constituted single Parish of the Wellspring Villages in the years ahead.

THE HARVEST CELEBRATION SERVICE: Sun 5th October 10.30am All Saints Liddington.

Pealing bells again welcomed us to church at All Saints, Liddington, on the Sunday morning, along with glorious Harvest displays of flowers and produce of all kinds and a stunning cake, in the shape of an open Bible with the words of John chapter 4, verses 13 and 14 printed onto the fondant icing on the top "Jesus said to her, *'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'*" So, we were actually able to read and inwardly digest Jesus' words in every possible sense. Naturally, the theme of the service focussed around water, it's amazing and unique properties, without which there would be no life on earth and no harvest at all. Julian Cook, a local farmer, shared his experience of the importance of water in his life, as well as his experience of the living water, God's Holy Spirit, that Jesus promised to give us when we put our faith and trust in him. The centre piece of the service was a symbolic action, involving our four Churchwardens each carrying spring water from one of the four villages, coming together at the font and pouring those waters simultaneously into a bowl on the font, as we dedicated ourselves afresh to the ongoing work of prayer and the service of God, in this special place of the Wellspring Villages.

Not everything went to plan. The pages of the order of service got accidentally printed in the wrong order. I didn't notice in the busyness before the service began. This made for an interesting service with an entirely new order of proceedings which seemed to have a life all of their own. I couldn't help recollecting, afterwards, the words of Britain's best loved comedian, who wisely stated after he tried to play the introduction to Grieg's piano concerto unsuccessfully, "These are all the right notes (for us words), just not necessarily in the right order." Happily, it didn't detract from the service at all, if anything, it made it even more special and unique.

THE CELEBRATION HARVEST LUNCH: Sun 5th October 12.30pm Wanborough

The 'bring and share' Harvest lunch took place in Wanborough Village Hall. The food was superb, as was the wine, and far more then we could consume in a single lunchtime, although it was well worth the effort. There was of course cake, the grand cake in the form of an open Bible. What truly English occasion could take place without cake! This inevitably led to a cake cutting ceremony, a toast to the newly formed Parish of the Wellspring Villages with an excellent splash of bubbly and a heartfelt round of applause to bring our weekend celebrations to a suitable end.

Thank you to everyone who attended some, or all of the proceedings, and a very special thank you to everyone who worked hard to help deliver what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable and significant weekend in the life of our new Anglican Parish of the Wellspring Villages. If the teamwork on display this weekend is a taste of things to come, then the future of our single Parish promises to be both truly positive, interesting, creative and united.

Details of all future services and events will be on our new website.

Revd Steve Paynter, Vicar.

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The Parish Times

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

November 2025



POND PLEA

Don't dump your loaves here

Again this month someone has thrown a quantity of bread rolls into Bishopstone pond, which risks clogging the sluice outlet under the road and could lead to flooding, as well as having undesirable consequences for local wildlife and pets.

Thanks to Cllr Bell for retrieving the offending baps.

We doubt the miscreant is anyone local (we know residents are too proud of our pond to pollute it!) but we are now asking walkers and people living nearby to keep an eye out for anyone dumping quantities of bread or other waste material in the pond and intervene gently to educate and advise.

It's fine to feed the ducks small quantities of bread, but here's why it's bad to put loaves of bread into a pond:

Harm to wildlife Bread has little nutritional value for ducks, swans, fish, or other pond life. Eating too much of it can

cause malnutrition or diseases.

Pollution of the water Uneaten bread sinks and rots, encouraging harmful bacteria, algae growth, and mould. This can reduce oxygen levels in the water, making it harder for fish and other aquatic creatures to survive. It can also be harmful to dogs.

Attracts pests Decaying bread can attract rats and other vermin.

Unnatural crowding

Regular feeding with bread encourages large gatherings of birds, which can lead to aggression, spread of disease, and damage to the pond's ecosystem.

So while chucking unwanted bread in a pond might seem harmless (or even kind), it actually disrupts the ecosystem.

If you want to feed the ducks, safer options are grains (like oats, barley), birdseed, or chopped lettuce/peas, but please, always in small quantities.

MATTERS ARISING

GRITTY BUSINESS

If you have a road salt/grit box near your home, please check whether it is stocked ready for the winter. If you notice that one needs refilling or repair, please report to Swindon Borough Council at https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20040/road_safety_maintenance_and_repairs/342/report_an_empty_or_damaged_salt_box_or_salt_bin

You only need a thin layer of salt to treat an icy area. If you are putting salt onto snow, it will not thaw instantly. You should clear the area, add a dusting of salt and walk over it to work it into any remaining snow. Take care to not block drains or push snow into piles in areas where people may walk or drive. You should not use salt from grit bins on private footpaths, driveways or properties.

Pumpkin leftovers

It's a scary fact that every tonne of waste that isn't recycled costs around £140 of taxpayers' money on general waste disposal costs. The question is what to do with the pumpkin once Halloween is over: if you've got more pumpkin than you can use straightaway, you can freeze it – just parboil in chunks, cool and pop it in an airtight container, ready to conjure up something delicious another day. Otherwise, please recycle in your compost or food waste caddy.

Work on willows

Work to coppice the willows by Bishopstone school is scheduled for February half term, when children are not present and to avoid conflict with playground works.

THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

WELCOME TO THE PARISH

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

We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community. The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. 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 on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or listed buildings.

Contact the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the councillors email addresses appear below, along with the Clerk's telephone number.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Ms Jaine Blackman (Clerk)

Phone: 07913 819422

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)

Cllr.valbrodin@gmail.com

Mrs Lucille McGrath (Vice Chair)

Cllr.lucillemcgrath@gmail.com

Mr Ian Thomas

Cllr.ianthomas@gmail.com

Mr Julian Cooke

Cllr.juliancooke@gmail.com

Mrs Gill May

Cllr.gillmay@gmail.com

Mr Steve Bell

Cllr.sbell@gmail.com

Mrs Karen Walker

Cllr.karenwalker@gmail.com

Dr Karen MacGregor

Cllr.karenmacgregor@gmail.com

Mr Dai Wilson

Cllr.daiwilson@gmail.com

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025 /26

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.

3rd Nov **Bishopstone**

2nd Feb **Bishopstone**

1st Dec **Bishopstone**

2nd March **Hinton Parva**

5th January **Hinton Parva**

13th April **Bishopstone**

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 Lucille McGrath

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

Pond & Island Steve Bell/Dai Wilson

Hinton Parva Village Hall Karen Walker

Bishopstone Village Hall Steve Bell

Hinton Parva Charities Julian Cooke

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 Gary Pass (community volunteer)

Policies Gill May/Karen MacGregor

School liaison Lucille McGrath

Russley Park Julian Cooke

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/25/1318 Erection of 60cm wooden, open trellis, above the 1m high wooden garden fence at The Rails, Oxon Place, Bishopstone..

S/HOU/25/1037 Erection of 6ft fence in replacement of hedgerow which has died at 1 West End Cottages, Icknield Way, Bishopstone.

S/HOU/25/1335 Installation of a new external domestic oil tank sited on concrete base at 3 The Mews, Russley Park.

S/HOU/25/1357 Conversion of integral garage to create habitable accommodation and erection of garden shed at 6 Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone.

S/HOU/25/0046 Erection of gabion retaining wall (retrospective) at The Rails, Oxon Place, Bishopstone.

S/HOU/24/1148 Erection of two storey rear extension and front porch at 2 Mount Pleasant Farm Cottages, Mount Pleasant Farm Lane, Horpit.

S/25/0666/REPPER Land at Mount Pleasant Farm, Mount Pleasant Farm Lane, Horpit. Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar farm complete with landscaping, associated infrastructure and temporary access.

GRANTED

S/25/0840 Outline application for Farmhouse (Removal of condition relating to agricultural occupation from application 11056 1967 at The Homestead, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva.

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VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG

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VILLAGE HALL news



Bishopstone



Hinton Parva

BISHOPSTONE BVH Reg Charity 271165 Hocker Bench

Village Hall

Nothing notable to report during October. Plans are in place to obtain alcohol licences for skittles new date **21/11**, the much-rumoured **New Years Eve Party 8-til late**, BADS performance and bar in January. The New Years Eve party is being arranged by villagers, for the village, and expected to be cost neutral. We will apply for a licence although no pay bar as such. Tickets will be priced to cover costs of entertainment and food etc.



Skittles 3 Ball, Rampant Trophy (we may have physically lost it!)

Please message Michelle or Richard with Team Names / numbers for the Skittles evening £7.50 per ticket including Chilli supper with veggie options and a selection of desserts. Raffle. Surplus takings to Village Hall. Registered Charity.

Xmas Tree Elf

Our Christmas Tree Elf has been busy sourcing the finest and cheapest Nordic, "very drop" Christmas tree and plans to deliver **Saturday 22nd** for the usual step ladder and tree decorating. ADVANCE NOTICE ; Village elves will be enlisted at Skittles ' to help prepare the tree in time for craft fair 27th November.

Carols Around the Tree (Save the Date)

Anna and Sheryl have confirmed the village carols around the tree this year . A most wonderful way to kick off the seasonal celebrations. FREE. bring friends, family torches or lanterns along with your best singing voices **Monday 22nd December BVH**. Timings to be published in December edition.

ADVANCE NOTICE : NO PARKING FROM 4PM

Richard Walker, Chair
01793 791 913 | richard@eddingtons.co.uk

Bishopstone
New Year's Eve Party

Date: Wednesday, 31st December
Time: 8 PM 'TIL LATE!
Location: The Village Hall
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Theme: Black & Gold (Optional)

Tickets: Adults: £12.50 Children: £3.00
Contact: Emma Walker (07872 844715)
Michelle Bishop (07769 943956)
Sally Pocock (07854 926616)

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

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

BISHOPSTONE INFO/BOOKINGS:
Michelle Bishop: 07769 943 956
Email: miclawre@cisco.com
Hourly rate: £11 residents, £15 non-residents

HINTON PARVA INFO/BOOKINGS:
Janet Hawkins: 01793 791391
Hourly rate: £10 residents, £12.50 non-residents

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.

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The Royal Woke Diary



Having a flick back through the payroll archives the other day, I see that in the 19 years we've been running the worst pub in the village that we've now passed the 230 current and previous employees figure. Not bad for a tin pot little business that began as a hobby, to save a pub (and then two) from itself. And which now has a wage bill of about £35k a month. The reason I start with this is that I am increasingly exasperated by the focus of our supposed national and international leaders on so called 'productivity', with the aim being I suppose to get more 'work' done by fewer people.

Before I continue this rant, I would also point out that probably 140 of those people we've paid over the years are the offspring of our neighbours, in this parish, in Ashbury, Wanborough, Shrivenham, Bourton and Liddington, to name a few. Some of them lasted a week; some a month; some 16 years, remarkably. Lots of them still come back and work here when their education pattern allows. And then of course, they go off and get 'proper' jobs, as one of my Bishopstone ex-neighbours once irritatingly told me, referring to his daughter, who'd learned some vital life skills in her three years with us.

My own view is that people, real people, are crucial to the success or otherwise of a business. There's so much hype about AI (NOT artificial insemination on this occasion), and Bots, and digital forms of communication—but do you always enjoy dealing with businesses on this basis? 'Your assistant Jane is ready to help you...' says the little pop up in the corner of the screen—what, at 11pm on a Friday night? I hope you're paying her properly.... Do you enjoy a Bot chat with a company that's sent you something that doesn't work: or you need to have something fixed, and the Bot has no idea what you're talking about. 'Are you satisfied with that answer?' No I'm bloody well not! I want somebody to talk to! (I have to ask, is this an age thing?)

On top of that, looking at the current state of play, we have a need for more jobs, locally, nationally and further afield, not fewer. So increasing productivity, to make stuff cheaper, or profit margins fatter, doesn't create the jobs that earn the income that allows people to pay for this stuff in the first place, regardless of the price. It creates a population of unemployed folk that then costs the rest of us loads of money in other ways.

We are inundated with offers from digital companies offering gizmos that mean we could reduce our staff numbers. We could give you all tablets (electronic ones to start with, then possibly something to help you sleep at night) and let you order via a QR code. Our kitchen automatons could then lower the basket into the deep fat fryer unaided. The beer could be self dispense equipment, of course, like you increasingly

find at major events. You (and we) could avoid human contact completely, if we really wanted to. No thanks. Businesses like this, and lots of other trades, really rely on that interaction between people talking and listening to each other. Apart from anything else, it ought to be part of the fun, as well as enhancing the enjoyment of society. So we'll continue to avoid the QR codes etc, and carry on employing people and making their future lives so much more rewarding. And probably get penalised by Government for doing so!

Oh, by the way, we're open 7 days a week—FOBS are having a fundraising supper here on the 17th of November, still aiming for their £20k target for the refurb of the Bishopstone school playground. Our Ukraine Peace talks dinner is November 20, sadly Mr Putin can't come, and it's sold out anyway, so he's too late if he changes his mind. December menus reflect Christmas flavours and ingredients; I'm thrilled to see Bishopstone Village Hall is hosting a lovely party on New Year's Eve, takes the pressure off us to make an effort, so I hope loads of you go and enjoy it. Pop in here for a drink beforehand if you need reminding why that night is overblown hype imho.

Thanks for getting this far, TF



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December	3 rd and 17 th

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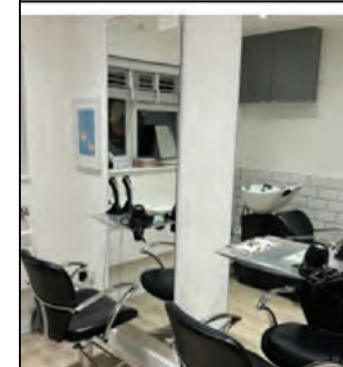


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GENERAL INFORMATION

Team

ADVERTISING:

Mark Jordan: markjordan3@icloud.com

PUBLISHING EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHY:

Andrea Wadsworth: andrea@luli.uk

SUB-EDITOR:

Val Brodin: valbrodin@gmail.com

CREATIVE COPY:

Roving Reporter Bob

Guest Contributors: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Fanny Hole: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Andy Pocock: andrewpocock@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION:

Yuet Dickinson: 07757 998 698

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.

Please note that the DEADLINE for any submissions will be the last day of the previous month. We welcome submissions earlier, if possible. As we are volunteers and manage the village news alongside our other jobs, late submissions run the risk of not being included. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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

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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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November 2025

2025	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Fri	14.11.25	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought , Hinton Parva: Fish and Chip van (pg.16)	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com
	17.11.25 (TBC)		Fundraiser Supper Friends of Bishopstone School	Royal Oak SN6 8PP Book: The Royal Oak 01793 790 481
Thurs	20.11.25		Politics , talk with Pete Cracroft, UK's UK's Kyiv based Defence Attaché (pg.18)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP Book: The Royal Oak 01793 790 481
Fri	21.11.25		Skittles: Village Hall (pg. 16)	Bishopstone Village Hall Contact Richard: 01793 791 913 or Michelle: 07769 943 956
Thurs	27.11.25	5pm - 8pm	Bishopstone Stores Christmas Shopping Night (pg 2)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP The Royal Oak 01793 790 481
Thurs	27.11.25	6pm - 8pm	Bishopstone Craft Fair (pg.3)	Bishopstone Village Hall Chris Thomas 07789 414 147 littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk
Thurs	04.12.25	Supermoon		
Sat	06.12.25	7.30pm	Highworth Choral Society: Christmas Concert (pg 5)	St Michael's Church SN6 7NA secretary@highworthchoral.co.uk
Fri	12.12.25	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought , Hinton Parva: Fish and Chip van (pg.16)	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com
Mon	22.12.25	TBC	Christmas Carols Around The Tree	Bishopstone Village Hall (See pg.16)
Wed	24.12.25	Christmas Eve		
Thurs	25.12.25	Christmas Day		
Fri	26.12.25	Boxing Day		
Wed	31.12.25	8pm - late	New Year's Eve Party	Bishopstone Village Hall See pg.16 for ticket details
	14th 17th Jan 26		BADS: Bishopstone Am Dram: A Bunch of Amateurs	Bishopstone Village Hall All tickets £10 from The Royal Oak or: ticketsource.co.uk/badstickets
Wed	11.02.26		Gardening Club: First Meeting of '26 (pg 5)	
Every 3rd Sat from 18.01.25	9am - 12pm		Wanborough Farmers Market	Wanborough Village Hall, SN4 0AD Lorna Naseem 07903 210 505
Every Tuesday	9.30am		Fitness Classes. All abilities	Bishy Village Hall lorna.sams@outlook.com
Every Thursday	10.30 - noon		Coffee, Cake and Chat, Wanborough. £5.00, all welcome	The Brewers Arms SN4 0AE If you need a lift, call Lorna: 07903 210505
Every Thursday	9.15am - 10.30am		Yoga with Nickie Heap (p.17)	Hinton Parva Village Hall yogawithnickie@gmail.com
2nd Mon of month	7pm		The Burj Fundraising Supper: for The Prospect Hospice (charity number 280093)	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



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 on page 23. 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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