



VILLAGENEWS

OCT 2025



WILTSHIRE GETS ITS GLOW ON

If you were wondering why the harvest moon earlier this month seemed more spectacular than usual, it's because we were treated to a rare harvest moon, supermoon and hunter's moon rolled into one in the night sky. A hunter's moon, is the name given to the full moon that usually comes after the harvest moon, but this month, they occurred at the same time.

So what brought these three together this year? The harvest moon is a spectacle that has fascinated farmers and storytellers for centuries. It's the full moon closest to the autumn equinox, and it earned its name because its bright light gave farmers extra time to bring in the crops before the long nights of winter set in.

What makes the Harvest Moon different from other full moons is the way it rises. Unlike most full moons, which appear roughly 50 minutes later each night, the Harvest Moon rises only about 20–30 minutes later in our part of England. This means we're treated to several nights in a row of a glowing, early-evening moonrise, as if the moon itself were lending a hand with the harvest.

This year's Harvest Moon was unusual as it appeared larger and more golden than normal. This is because it was also a 'supermoon'. A supermoon happens when the moon is at its closest point to Earth, so it appears slightly bigger and shines up to fifteen percent brighter. This happens because the moon orbits the Earth in an elliptical rather than perfect circle, meaning it is sometimes closer and sometimes further away.

In addition to this, it was also a hunter's moon, which is the name typically given to the full moon that follows the harvest moon, but this year, the timing was so close that experts used both names.

Similar to the harvest moon, the name comes from the moon's particularly bright light, which historically was used by hunters when stalking prey at night.

All this combined, made it one of the brightest, boldest moons of the year so far. In Wiltshire, the effect of a big bright moon can be especially striking with our wide, open skies and chalk downland. We have long had a close relationship with the moon. Stonehenge and Avebury, just a short drive from our villages, are aligned with



Photo: Val Brodin, Harvest Moon, Oct '25

celestial events, reminding us that our ancient ancestors watched the skies with as much wonder as we do. Some archaeologists suggest that the great sarsen stones were placed not only to mark the sun's journey, but also to capture key moments of the moon's cycle, a prehistoric reminder of how closely farming and the heavens have always been linked.

After all, there's something timeless in the glow of the Harvest Moon — a reminder of how our lives are still bound to the land and the skies above Bishopstone and Hinton Parva.

And it's not over yet. We will see **two more supermoons this year**. The second of the year will occur on **5 November** and the third on **4 December**. So if the clouds allow, step outside on these evenings, perhaps up on The Ridgeway or even just into your garden, and take in the view. You'll be looking at the same moon that inspired myths, songs and gatherings across Wiltshire for thousands of years.

November's is expected to be the biggest one of all, so with Neil Diamond ringing in your ears, get your cameras out and send us some photos!

POP-UP ART GALLERY AT THE PUB:

Cristina Jordan – *Beyond Borders*

We're delighted to share that local Bishopstone artist **Cristina Jordan** will be opening a pop-up gallery **upstairs in the pub** later this month.

The exhibition launches with an opening event on **Saturday 26th October from 6–8pm**, where Cristina will be present to talk about her work. The show will then continue to run **until Sunday 16th November**. Thanks to Tim's generosity, Cristina's striking pieces will be showcased on the big wall upstairs throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Cristina's exhibition, titled ***Beyond Borders***, explores the theme of pushing past the obstacles and doubts that so often hold us back from new experiences. The collection is a reflection on the courage required to step beyond fear, hesitation, and the endless "what ifs" that can stop us in our tracks.

For Cristina, this message is deeply personal. Having completed **three degrees in her 40s**, she sees her artistic journey in her 70s as another bold step forward—proof that it's never too late to take on something new. As she puts it: "It can't be that scary to be an artist in my 70s—and it's better than thinking 'What if I don't.'"

Everyone is warmly invited to come along. On opening night, Cristina will be there to chat with visitors. After that, if you have any questions or are interested in making a purchase, you'll be able to get in touch directly—fingers crossed for a successful run!

This promises to be a heartfelt and inspiring exhibition from a much-loved local artist.



Bishopstone Stores

As the season changes and we see different colours in the hedgerows, nights drawing in and we feel a distinct nip in the air our shopping habits and thought processes may also change. We move away from salads and BBQs and think of hearty stews, warming soups and slow cooked comforts. Luckily, our seasonal produce will ensure all your needs are met. Pete's awesome organic veg is now an abundance of root crops, beetroots, parsnips, carrots and the like. A colourful array of squash, the first leeks, flavoursome celeriac, it all points towards the vitamin and nutrient boost we all crave as we head towards the colder months.

Change can also be seen in the meat fridges as we welcome back the fresh pies, diced steak, venison cuts and so much more. We've already seen some great showcase pieces from him – the slow cook rib of beef, the Italian Osso Busso and there will be many more for you to try. Our lovely butcher can provide anything you wish for, just lets us know on a Tuesday and it will be ready for you to collect on the Friday.

Dare I say it, but about now is when we start to count down how many weeks there are until the big C! If you are starting to plan, why not pop in and see how we can help. Whether it's a dinner party over the festive period or something for the big day itself we can help. You will also start to see our gifting corner grow with some fabulous stocking fillers and beautiful new products arriving over the next couple of weeks. Foodie gifts and hampers will also be readily available...we should be able to find something for everyone!

Hope to see you soon, Lynne x

Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday & Saturday: **9am - 6pm**

Wednesday: **9am - 1pm**

Sunday: **9am - 3pm**



Instagram icon @bishopstone_stores

Facebook icon @helenbrowningsbishopstonestores



Did you see the press release from the Environment Agency back in August in response to the summer's drought conditions, asking us to collectively 'delete old emails and pictures as data centres require vast amounts of water to cool their systems'? The detail may be a little flawed – the majority of the UK's data centres actually use waterless cooling systems but the logic is sound. We may not realise it, but emails and digital storage have a significant global carbon and water footprint and cumulatively use vast amounts of energy. So, clearing out your mail boxes, unsubscribing from unwanted mailing lists and using smaller attachments and digital signatures can not only improve the efficiency of your digital device and help you be more organised but benefit the environment too. Win-win!

I've recently been trialing the SESI refillable Non-Bio Laundry Liquid from The Refillery in Shrivenham and am pleased to say I can't spot any difference in results to my previous laundry liquid but it costs a lot less. The Refillery stock a fragranced and non-fragranced version at £3.80 and £3.40 per litre respectively which compares very favourably to both the sustainable and non-sustainable brands in the supermarket without the need for a 'new' plastic bottle or carton. All SESI's products are vegan, cruelty free and biodegradable. I'm

going to trial their washing up liquid next – how good does the spiced ginger fragrance sound? And I love that it's so easy to try the refillable products at minimal cost – you just pay for the amount you want and are not constrained by having to buy a whole bottle or container full.

The Refillery is currently looking for volunteers to help man the shop. I've recently signed up and am about to have some training. If you're interested, their website says they're looking for people who can offer an occasional hour or a regular shift. You can get in touch with them at therefilleryshriv@gmail.com or pop into the shop to find out more.



A friend recently asked me if I would like to walk up the Tump. I was stumped – not having heard this expression before. He was referring to Charlbury Hill, a TuMP, an official term meaning a British hill of Thirty and upwards Metre Prominence,

where prominence refers to the relative height compared to any surrounding hills, so having at least a 30 metre drop on all sides. Charlbury Hill's prominence is actually 64 metres and is therefore not a HuMP – a Hundred and upwards Metre Prominence hill. The things I've learnt from the Relative Hills Society! I briefly got sidetracked by 'Marilyns' – two prominent hills surely? Although the name is indeed a nod to the well-endowed legend, it's actually a play on words with the Scottish mountain – a Munro. A Marilyn is a hill with at least a 150 metre prominence – and they don't have to come in pairs!



Courtesy of trigpointing.uk

BISHOPSTONE CRAFT FAIR

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

6PM - 8PM

BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

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HAPPY GARDENS

by Jane Pearson

Images created by ChatGPT

Monthly Musings

I always associate autumn as a transitional gardening season and it's a pretty busy one! In early autumn there's the last of the harvest to gather, bulbs to plant (but save tulip bulbs for November) and lots of tidying up to do. Then it's on to late autumn pruning, protecting and preparing for winter: "Putting the garden to bed". Because this is such a perfect time for pottering, rather than writing my usual advice and plant choices, I'm offering a comprehensive list of useful things to do, whilst also hoping you can enjoy the Autumn fresh air and sunshine.



Tucking the Garden in for Winter

As the days shorten and frosts creep in, late autumn is the moment to ready the garden for its winter rest. A little preparation now not only protects plants through the colder months but also sets the stage for a flourishing and colourful spring.

1. Planting for the Future

November is still a good time to plant spring bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and crocuses. Garlic and overwintering onions can also go into the soil, and broad beans sown now will get a head start next year. Sow hardy annuals (sweet peas, cornflowers, nigella) outdoors or in pots for early spring blooms.

2. Protecting Tender Plants

Your favourite frost-sensitive plants like dahlias, cannas and pelargoniums should be lifted, potted and stored in a frost-free place. I choose to leave my Dahlias in the ground and cover with a thick layer of mulch, but there's no guarantee that they'll survive a very hard winter, so if they're precious to you, lift them! Shrubs in pots can be insulated with bubble wrap or hessian and wrap tender shrubs with fleece or burlap and give vulnerable planted

evergreens and perennials a mulch to protect their roots. Bring tender plants (geraniums, fuchsias, citrus) indoors or into a greenhouse. Move containers closer to the house for warmth and protection.

3. Tidying and Clearing - with nature in mind.

Remove annuals that have finished flowering and cut back faded perennials, though leaving some seed heads provides both structure and food for wildlife. Rake up fallen leaves from lawns and paths but consider making a leaf pile or a mesh leaf bin to create nutrient-rich leaf mould. Keep mowing lawns while grass is still growing — but raise the blade height. Dig over empty veg beds, add compost or manure, or sow green manures to enrich the soil.

4. Pruning and Maintenance

Roses can be trimmed lightly to prevent wind rock, while apple, pear trees and vines may be pruned once fully dormant. It's also wise to check fences, sheds and supports, repairing any damage before winter storms set in and check drainage.

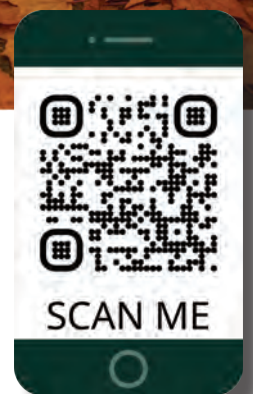
5. Caring for Wildlife

A late autumn garden can be a haven for birds and hedgehogs. Provide fresh water, clean and top up bird feeders, and leave a quiet log or leaf pile for hibernating creatures.



With these simple steps, the garden is tucked up safely for winter, ready to weather the cold and burst back into life with the first signs of spring.

Happy Gardening!



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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!
www.janepearsondesign.com/blog

Bishopstone & District Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

My thanks to Virginia Warr for this month's article as, sadly, I was away. However I have enjoyed reading it and found it very informative and I'm sure all those who attended also did.



Climate Change and Gardening: Insights from Claire Mitchell

We were delighted to welcome members and supporters of the Bishopstone and District Garden Club to our September meeting, where we enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking presentation by Claire Mitchell, widely known as The Garden Editor. Her talk on Climate Change and Gardening offered a timely reminder that our gardens are not immune to the shifting climate—and that we, as gardeners, have a vital role to play.

Claire Mitchell is a horticulturist with a professional background in climate change and renewable energy. She has a strong eye for design, a passion for living sustainably and a belief that gardening is for everyone, regardless of skills, ability and background. She runs The Garden Editor, a sustainable gardening and design service to improve people's gardens, without costing the earth. She studied at Sparsholt College and the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. She is also a founder director of a community-owned renewable energy co-operative and a trustee of the Chartered Institute of Horticulturists. Claire opened with some sobering statistics about climate change and its projected impact on our landscapes. While the data can be difficult to digest, three clear trends emerged:

- Hotter, drier summers
- Warmer, wetter winters
- More extreme weather events—floods, high winds, and storms

These changes will affect everything from plant selection to soil health, and Claire encouraged us to become more curious and discerning about the materials we use. For example, vermiculite and perlite—commonly used in potting mixes—require fossil fuels for their production. More sustainable alternatives like crumbled cork or crushed whelk shells offer a better circular economy and are worth exploring.

We also examined our reliance on peat, which grew from the popularity of containerised planting and nursery-grown plants. Claire reminded us that peat bogs are precious ecosystems, forming at just 1mm per year and offering greater carbon sequestration than tree planting. Preserving them is essential. She recommended Melcourt Sylvagrow as a high-quality, peat-free compost and urged us to be selective when choosing planting mediums.

Responsible Gardening Tips from Claire:

- Ask questions: When plants are labelled “responsibly grown,” ask if they were grown in peat.
- Challenge plastic use: Why aren't plant pots recyclable? Try returning them to the nursery to raise awareness.
- Choose bare root plants: These are increasingly available and offer a lower-impact alternative.
- Harvest rainwater: It's free—capture and store it during wetter spells.
- Water wisely: Focus on new plants and trees, group pots for

efficiency, and always water at the root ball.

- Improve drainage: If your garden floods, add planting pockets among patios and hard surfaces.
- Work with your soil: Sustainable gardening is about Right Plant, Right Place—not forcing the soil to be something it's not.
- Make your own compost: It's low-carbon, tailored to your garden, and boosts soil health.
- Mulch generously: Helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and protect roots in winter.

Adapting Your Planting Choices

Claire encouraged us to build resilience into our gardens by choosing climate-tolerant plants with strong root systems. Look for silver or fine-leaved varieties, and consider:

- Grasses (great for dry summers and wet winters)
- Aquilegia, Geranium, Nepeta, Asters, Roses, Columbines, Foxgloves
- Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed) as a shelter belt
- Autumn-flowering blossom trees

With longer growing seasons, consider sowing annuals in the autumn. And instead of burning wood, use dead branches to create dead hedges—a low-carbon solution that boosts biodiversity.

Claire closed with a message of hope: as responsible gardeners, we can make a meaningful impact on climate change. By making conscious, informed choices, we can nurture our gardens—and our planet—for generations to come.

Learn more about Claire on Instagram at @the_garden_editor and on facebook at facebook.com/gardeneditor

DIARY DATES:

ANNUAL QUIZ AND CHILLI CON CARNE NIGHT

Friday 17th October
6.30pm for 7pm start
Bishopstone Village Hall




Tickets £12.50
Available from Christine Thomas
07789 414147 or Sarah Bally 01793 791121
Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Bookings in advance please to avoid disappointment and help with numbers for catering.

Everyone is welcome at the meetings, a one off charge for the night or £10 for a years membership. Come along, enjoy a complimentary cup of tea or coffee, meet the members and enjoy some fascinating talks.

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 Mrs F

Without wishing to sound like a Daily Mail headline writer, has the Bishopstone and HP housing bubble finally burst? Are our assets plummeting in value? Is the end of the world nearly here? It is of course possible that house owners have developed an exaggerated sense of the value of their bijou, less bijou and sometimes wholly suburban style residences. At the last count, from gossip and research, I reckon that 7 houses in Bishy alone are currently for sale, and most of them, especially the suburban ones, not selling fast. Or is it some other sinister undercurrent, as mentioned by Mr Bungalow last month?

I wonder if you have any insight?

Yours sincerely, IP Nightly,

Near the bottom of the village

Dear IP

Thanks. Interesting you refer to the Mail, since we have such a headline writer living amongst us from time to time. More on the Mail later...

Anyway, ref. houses, it seems that some people just don't like village life/are downsizing/have found something more suitable elsewhere; or their circumstances have changed, of course. We wish them well, and look forward to welcoming a whole raft of new talent to the parish. Just so long as they don't start erecting massive fortification-like fences, and demolishing much loved old trees.

Yours magnanimously,

Fanny

Dear Mrs F

Can I just say what a really lovely parish this seems to be. Living in Swindon, it is such a relief to be able to visit relatives in Hinton Parva without having to drive past hundreds of St George's flags littering the landscape. Indeed the only flag I recall seeing was the Ukraine one, outside the HP village hall and outside a couple of private homes, although they seem to have disappeared.

Thank you, parishioners!

Mrs T Robinson, Park South

Dear Mrs Robinson

I think you are well supported in this by most of the village. The major cloud is Mr Kruger, our MP, who as you know defected to the Reform UK flag waving gang last month, and whose views might well reflect some others' in the area, much to many people's dismay.

This brings me back to The Daily Mail, which in my humble opinion is not fit for lighting a log burner. Has this 'newspaper' finally taken leave of its senses? (It has come close before). Are Mail readers really dazzled by the extraordinary political and scaremongering tripe delivered by this rag? Do readers not recall that it proclaimed Liz Truss as the world's greatest ever prime minister, just before that lettuce finally wilted—several days after she did? I need to go to a drug fuelled swingers' party in Park South (where exactly are they held?) to clear my head after all this Mail talk. And don't get me started on the Express.

Yours, Mrs Hole

Dear Fanny

Your comments on dogs last month raised my hackles a bit—but not as much as the dog that chased me while barrelling through my evening jog on the Ridgeway last week. Dogs off leads—don't their owners have any sense that barking and snarling (and even curious) dogs can be upsetting, especially when taken by surprise? I'm all for good dog ownership, but please just think about the effect they can have on others.

Thank you, Mr PR, Bishopstone

Dear Mr PR

I have nothing to add. My views on responsible dog ownership were made clear a month ago, and they still stand. I heard that one of our local world class athletes was chased by a dog all the way up one of the valleys, and in the process broke his own PB (personal best, for those of you who don't get the lingo...)

Fanny

Dear Fanny

Have you uncovered any more details about the drug allegations at the village rounders match in August, which seemed to be such a popular event?

Nosily, Mrs B, Bishy

Dear Mrs B

All I can add, as someone who wasn't there, is that the drugs did not seem to be performance enhancing, in an athletic sense. Which is highly unusual for a sporting occasion. I can sometimes smell the dope drifting across the garden hedge...Fanny

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OCT 2025 SUDOKU

**LAST
MONTH'S
WINNER IS
The Philpotts**
Grab your voucher
from Lynne
at the shop!

Thank you for your entries! The winning name was pulled from the hat.

The winner was The Philpotts with their crossword.

Other entries were:

Crossword: Peter Walker, Debbie Clark, Gary Pass, Julie B

Sudoku: The Philpotts

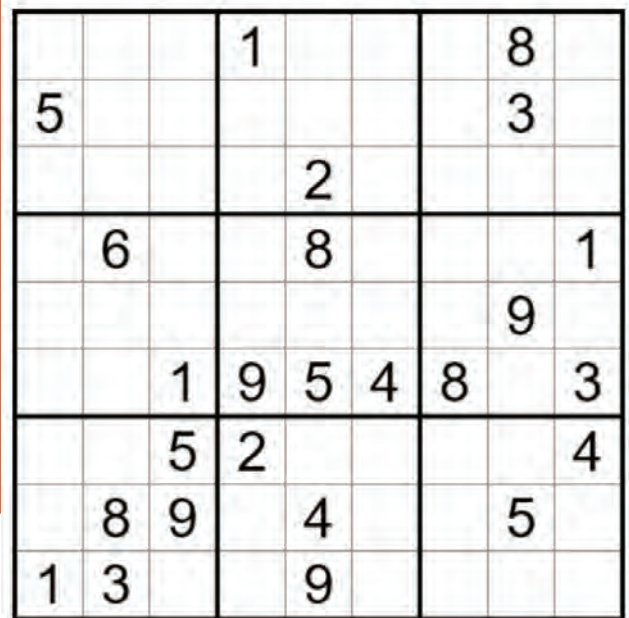
Reminder: All entries to be submitted by the last day of the month. Thank you.

Those who complete both puzzles have their name put in 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



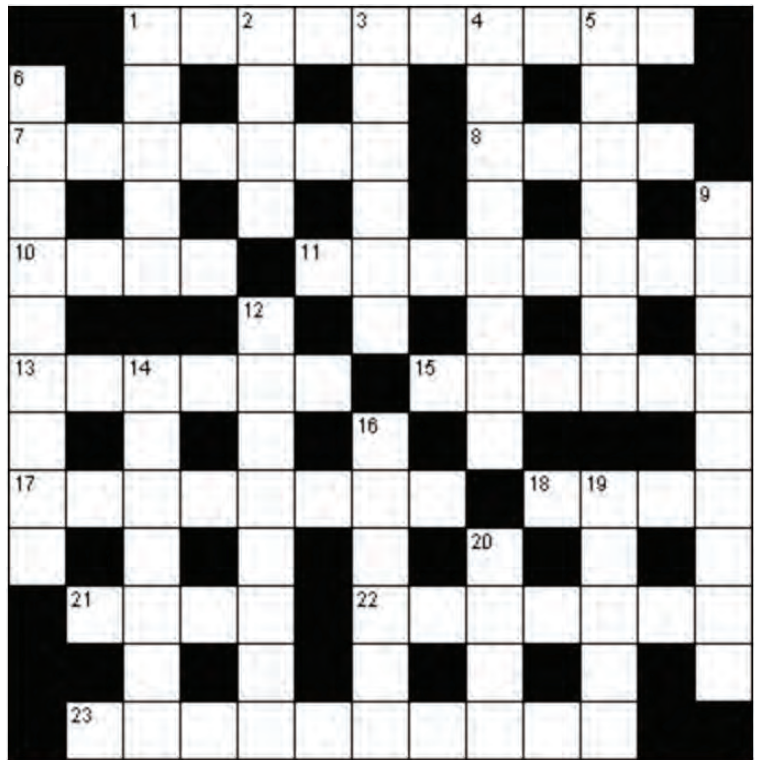
OCT 2025 CRYPTIC PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Flowers taken to a northern town or part of London (10)
- 7 Only a bit biased (7)
- 8 Monster helping to make progress (4)
- 10 But this flower is not always pink (4)
- 11 Wine held out in capital city (3,5)
- 13 River set back, going round bad actor (6)
- 15 Tree cultivated by Anna (6)
- 17 Ships not completing first gear change (8)
- 18 Snakes pass out (4)
- 21 Tea-time talk? (4)
- 22 Claret's odd colour (7)
- 23 Seas's inlets eroding main points (10)

Down

- 1 A Scottish poet is ardent (5)
- 2 Skip in the Dolomites (4)
- 3 Hit back, meeting hindrance from striker (6)
- 4 Showy American street (8)
- 5 Rugby Union convention in the country? (7)
- 6 Drinks produced if a priest is tipsy (9)
- 9 Oddly, Maine's not an American state! (9)
- 12 Humorous exchange - exchange for pear tree! (8)
- 14 A frivolous school head comes to rest (7)
- 16 A county - it provides accommodation (3,3)
- 19 Things for one to do (5)
- 20 Airborne soldier gets a knock, coming back



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Completed puzzles from last month

DICKIE'S diary

by Richard Green

At this season the romantic poet John Keats (1795-1821) is remembered for his poem Autumn and the first two lines "The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness; close bosom friend of the maturing sun". He died so young of the family disease tuberculosis for which at that time there was no cure.

This year everyone I know is reporting an extravaganza of laden fruit. In our Bishopstone garden we have a large and ancient perry pear tree. Looking for someone to harvest the crop we have found a company from West Lavington who tell us perry pears are becoming increasingly rare and they seem interested. He plans to lay a tarpaulin and shake and poke them down. Everyone has apples. In our garden our young bramley tree, the best cooking variety, has a big lean caused by too much fruit. We should have removed many more apples much earlier and those remaining would developed to greater size. At the farm we have eating apples that are very sweet. The blackberries we have picked, some with grandchildren's help, will go nicely to make offerings of blackberry and apple pie this winter. Colourful garden ornamental and hedgerow crab apples are equally laden.

It's early to be thinking of Christmas festivities. The blackthorn bears an abundance of sloes, if you are thinking of making sloe gin. You do not have to go far and a spell in the fridge to mirror the frost effect might be a good plan with our milder winters. But historically much autumn fruit was said to be the portent of a hard winter to come. If the birds don't take them holly is also full of berries. I am also noticing a carpet of fallen acorns under the



oaks. The practice of panage still survives in a few places where pigs are allowed to harvest this free bounty.

Back in August before the weather broke we felt motivated to do something about the increasing tide of yellow invading some of our permanent pastures. The Injurious Weed Act 1959 lists ragwort, curled and broad leafed dock and spear and creeping thistle as species needing control under the law. With help and a fork to lift the root we did a fair job clearing fields of ragwort that we rent from the National trust at Ashdown Park. In doing this task I noticed the pretty cinnabar moth caterpillars feeding on the ragwort florets. Our Riussley Downs were also topped with cattle moved because of the danger of ragwort poisoning. Time will tell if any reduction follows. For some reason that I do not understand mature sheep can graze ragwort safely simultaneously performing fair control of this biennial.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

Juicy Pens, Thirsty Paper, by SARK

*All of our words and stories are gifts, to
and from the world.*

This vibrant creative offering from SARK is a callout to aspiring writers everywhere to pick up a juicy pen and let the words ooze out. She provides useful writing prompts and strategies for overcoming the great enemy procrastination, as well as sharing stories from her own life that have helped her 'access [her] inspired self' and formed the confident, empowered writer she is now.

SARK takes pride in the 'crooked' aesthetic of her books, which she writes and illustrates entirely by hand, in glorious technicolour. In *Juicy Pens*, she encourages

us to write daily regardless of the outcome, to cast off perfectionism and put pen to paper for the sheer joy of it. This is a book to rouse you from your creative slumber and inspire you to live a storytelling life.

The juiciest book I've read in a long time. 10/10.

Flinging love,

Anna



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YOUR SNAPS**

Email:

**BishopstoneEditor
@gmail.com**

Photo of the month



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 misty morning photo from **Alan Coates** this month. You've all stepped up your game again, well done! Keep 'em coming!

Some other lovely pics we received below are: **Chris Thomas**: 'The Plantation' (we think Helen has another name for this area) down Drovers Lane and **Dinesh Thanigasalam**: Autum starting in their Bishopstone garden.



CHURCH NEWS



A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Friends,

I have no doubt that you, like me, have been enjoying these recent spells of stunning weather through September. Crystal clear conditions, vivid blue skies, towers of white clouds, bright warm sunshine on vibrant, newly restored lush green grass and red skies early morning and late evening. What a feast of utter beauty to see the summer out and the autumn in. Then the slightly astonishing abundance of fruit on our fruit trees! Laden doesn't really do it credit. Apples, pears and plums in an abundance beyond anything I can remember. I have inherited some old fruits trees in my garden which have produced prolifically, almost beyond reason! Harvesting, processing fallers, passing on to family, friends and neighbours and trying to store the undamaged specimens has provided lots of opportunities to be outside enjoying this season of abundance and beauty. It is of course tempting, in the high-tech modern world of global food chains and intensive agriculture, to think that it is by our cleverness, skill and ingenuity alone that we meet all our food requirements. But of course, the simple truth remains, the same as it has always been, life only ever comes from pre-existing life, in our human experience. Without the amazingly complex coded information in a single dna molecule and nanomachinery in even the simplest of living cells, we would have nothing to plant, grow or harvest. "The earth has brought forth its increase. God, our own God has blessed us" as the Psalmist put it in Psalm 65. It remains perfectly logical to give praise to the God of creation for the beautifully ordered world we find ourselves blessed to be living in and, at least, part of our harvest thanksgiving to God for his abundant provision for our needs, is an attitude of responsible stewardship and care for all that he has brought into being, as well as a grateful and generous heart.

To that end on Sunday 19th October at St. Andrew's, Wanborough, we will be holding our annual Stewardship Sunday. This is an opportunity to reflect together on the amazing generosity of God to us in creation, and redemption, and look at the Christian discipline of giving back to God from all the rich provision he has poured upon us. Financial planning as individuals and as a church community is a normal and good part of the life of being a follower of Christ. Do come as we thank him for his rich provision to us and look to the needs of the future of our churches in the Parish of The Wellspring Villages.

I write this letter a few days before we celebrate the formation of the single Parish of The Wellspring Villages from the original, four parishes of Liddington, Wanborough, Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. I will report on how the weekend proceeded in the next edition of The Village News in November.

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

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2025

October	Debbie & Rachel P.
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.**



Photo: Kate Wright, Hinton Church

Church Services. Full details on
www.achurchnearyou.com

Prayer

God our Father,
Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him who gave His life for us on the cross,
rose again from the dead and through whom all things were
made, even your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Parish of the Wellspring Villages

The main morning Church Services always start at 10.30am.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Sun	12.10.25	10.30	HC St. Mary's
Sun	19.10.25	10.30	MW St. Andrew's Stewardship Sunday
Sun	26.10.25	08.30	BCP HC St. Mary's
Sun	26.10.25	10.30	Morning Worship St. Swithun's
Sun	02.11.25	10.30	HC All Saint's - All Saint's Day
Sun	09.11.25	10.30	Act of Remembrance with HC - All Saint's
Sun	09.11.25	10.30	Act of Remembrance St Mary's
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

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

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

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The Parish Times

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

October 2025



Picture by Brian Robert Marshall

PLANS FOR OUR POND

Work done to aid drainage

Councillors have been working with Swindon Borough Council to try to resolve the rain water drainage problems on the main road through Bishopstone before the winter sets in.

SBC has now cleaned the gullies between Nell Hill and the pond.

Thanks are due to the farm team, who have very kindly dug additional

grips at Nell Hill to reduce the run-off from the high ground.

The Parish Council has arranged for work to be carried out to reduce the willows on the bank of the pond by the school. This will improve light to the classrooms, reduce tree debris in the playground and pond, and also assist with drainage.

MATTERS ARISING

PARISH BUSINESS

The Parish Council's monthly meeting is a very effective and immediate forum for discussion of matters of concern to villagers.

Every Parish Council meeting starts with a 'public question time' and all residents are welcome to attend and ask questions. Meetings usually start at 7.30pm, alternating between Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. Residents can also contact the Clerk to raise any issue, and councillors will respond as quickly and fully as possible.

Agendas and minutes are published online at <https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parishcouncil/> and paper copies are posted on the village hall noticeboards.

FLY TIPPING

If you spot fly-tipped rubbish, please report this directly to Swindon Borough Council via their website: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/28/fly-tipping

STAY HEALTHY

Flu spreads more easily in winter. The flu vaccine is free for:

- people aged 65 and over
- people aged 18 to 64 with certain health conditions (such as diabetes, heart disease or a weakened immune system)
- carers and close contacts of people with a weakened immune system

Vaccination is the best protection. Book your flu vaccine through your GP, local pharmacy or at work if you're eligible

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparcouncil

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 March Hinton Parva

1st Dec Bishopstone 13th April Bishopstone

5th January Hinton Parva 11th May Bishopstone

2nd Feb Bishopstone (inc annual parish meet)

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)

Pond & Island Steve Bell/Ian Thomas

Hinton Parva Village Hall Karen Walker

Bishopstone Village Hall Steve Bell

Hinton Parva Charities Julian Cooke

Bishopstone United Charities Doug Stevens (PC nominee), Chris-

tine 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

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/25/0840 Outline application for Farmhouse at The Homestead, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva.

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, Horpit. Construction of a ground-mounted solar farm.

GRANTED

S/25/0911 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/24/0183 regarding changes to windows and doors at The Chalet, Church Row, Hinton Parva.

S/HRN/25/1034 Hedge removal at 1 West End Cottages, Icknield Way, Bishopstone.

S/HOU/25/0959 Erection of a greenhouse at Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone.

REFUSED

S/25/0985 and **S/LBC/25/0986** Change of use of agricultural building to form a single dwelling (class 3), demolition of barn and replacement at barn adjoining Church Farm, Little Hinton Lane, Hinton Parva.

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VILLAGE HALL news



Bishopstone



Hinton Parva

BISHOPSTONE

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Hocker Bench

Village Hall

Save the Date: Friday 21st November for next 3 Balls Rampant Skittles Trophy. Tickets £7.50 includes a Chilli Supper Donations for raffle welcome . From 7pm. Submit your Pro Team Name in advance or ramp up to join a new rookie squad on the night.

Gulleys and Drains

Thank you to the Farm team for taking the time to create new run off gulleys on Nell Hill . We've already noticed a difference with reduced run off further down the village to the Hall and beyond to the pond during recent downpour. Thanks also to the PC team and Gary S for progressing drain clearance . Hopefully we are now all set for the winter.

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 185 643

Sad News

As we go to press, we have just heard of the sad passing of Graham Curley. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee and close friends from the community, our thoughts go out to his family with our sincere condolences at this very sad time.

Richard Walker, Chair

01793 791 913 | richard@eddingtons.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Both Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Village 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



Bread Dumped in Pond

Residents were horrified to see that an enormous amount of bread had been dumped in Bishopstone pond last week.

It is fine to feed ducks bread in small, quickly eaten quantities. However, uneaten bread breaks down, releasing nutrients that cause excessive algae growth, which can make the water toxic, depleting oxygen and killing wildlife - it can also be harmful to dogs. Rotting bread attracts pests like rats and foxes, causing further harm to the environment and the ducks.

Fortunately, this excessive amount of unsightly dumped bread was quickly spotted by residents, including Cllr. Gary Sumner, who quickly took action to remove the danger and prevent pollution of our beautiful pond and its wild inhabitants.



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The Royal Woke Diary



No messing about today, no railing against some of the neighbours, no lamenting the loss of any more ageing trees in the village, no diatribe against customers taking the odd hallucinogenic substance with their biscuits, because I'm going to walk out of here in a few minutes and collect some waste fruit from around the farm, and then take it up to feed to the pigs near Starveall. It's a relaxing, even therapeutic way of managing the stress levels that you develop running the worst pub in the village. Actually it's a joy to run this place—customers from far and wide (this week, Austrians, Swiss, German as well as Ashbury...)—and a superb bunch of people to work with; I cannot imagine a better way to bring a working life towards its end. Not quite there yet, mind you. Still plenty of gentle abuse to dish out.

So we'll get straight onto the events we are organising and hosting in November this year, and it's a pretty remarkable list.

Quiz night on Monday November 3, 7pm. 37 people last week, and very competitive and superbly umpired by Graham Phillpotts from this parish. Lovely simple cheap suppers available before that. £2 per team member, and fat cash prizes and surplus to school playground fund.

Bonfire Night is Wednesday November 5, and we usually light the fire around 6pm, not later. We ask customers to bring fireworks, which we set off under our very strict 'no horizontal rockets' health and safety guidelines. We do not provide fireworks ourselves. Food and drink in the garden. We'd love some legal fuel for the fire—please bring from the Sunday before, November 2, but PLEASE, nothing stupid or illegal. It will be clear where in the car park to leave it.

Music on November 7, ThreeBop; laid back, but sophisticated, jazz from 6.30pm. We never charge for putting on music here. These are talented guys. First Friday of each month.

Monday November 10 International Cricket supper with Mike Gatting, former England captain, just before the Ashes series in Australia. This is probably now sold out but I think there'll be the odd drop out so if you want to go on a reserve list, let us know asap.

Monday 17 November (tbc)—a subsidised but lovely supper in aid of FOBS—Friends of Bishopstone School,

who are doing amazing work trying to raise £20k to refurbish the school playground. Contact your FOBS people if you want to be here. We hosted one back in March and it seemed a huge success. Those people have done astonishingly well to collect all this dosh, and they need one or two extra pushes to get them over the line.

Thursday November 20—something different! Real politics, not my poor posturing for a change. The UK's Kyiv based Defence Attaché has just returned from a 3 year posting helping the Ukrainian Government in their possibly slightly unequal task of fighting off the Russians. (Actually it's Mr Putin and his cronies, the rest of them would rather live normal lives...). Pete Cracroft gives his views on how the Ukrainians are doing, what the west can and can't do to help, what it's like to live in Kyiv, and how the west can't afford to let the Russians even appear to win. This is a private supper for 30 people at £30pp, and I promise it will be fascinating, and revealing. You ought to book, if it's to your taste.

There might be something there to interest you...

TF



@helenbrowningsorganic



Public Notice: Road Resurfacing

Resurfacing of the carriageway on the junction of Cues Lane and Hockerbench is to be carried out during the **October Half Term (Provisionally 24th October)**. It is expected that the resurfacing works will only require one day to complete. Traffic management is being reviewed by SBC to ensure there is the least amount of disruption on the roads, but there might be a requirement for an emergency road closure at some point.

Along with resurfacing, there will be reinstatement of the road markings and the scheme will be installed for the School Safety Environment Zone and the 20mph Speed Reduction Scheme. There may be some weeks' delay before the correct speed signage is fully installed.

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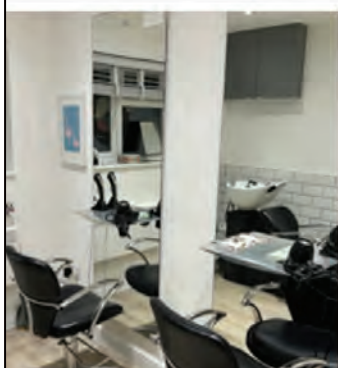


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Contributions

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.

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.

Submitted images

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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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DIARY DATES
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BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

October 2025

2025	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed	17.10.25	6.30 pm	Bishopstone & District Garden Club: Quiz Night & Chilli Supper (pg 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall Marion Peck 01793 791001
Sat	18.10.25		Auction of Promises - Fund raiser for Ashbury School, Church & Hall	Ashbury Village Hall
Sat	26.10.25 (-16.11.25)	6pm - 8pm	Beyond Borders Art Gallery. All welcome (Pg. 2)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP cristina@mykitchenartstudio.co.uk
Fri	31.10.25	Halloween		
Mon	03.11.25	7pm	Quiz Night (pg.18)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP 01793 790 481
Wed	05.11.25	Guy Fawkes - Bonfire Night & Supermoon (pg.1)		
Wed	05.11.25	6pm bonfire lighting	Bonfire night at the pub (pg.18)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP 01793 790 481
Fri	07.11.25	6.30pm	Music at the pub: 3Bop (pg.18)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP 01793 790 481
Sun	09.11.25	Remembrance Sunday		
	10.11.25	7pm	Ashes cricket supper. Guest speaker Mike Gatting (pg.18)	Royal Oak SN6 8PP Book: The Royal Oak 01793 790 481
Wed	12.11.25		Bishopstone & District Garden Club: AGM & Supper (pg 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall Marion Peck 01793 791001
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
	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		
Fri	12.12.25	5pm - 8pm	Food for Thought, Hinton Parva: Fish and Chip van (pg.16)	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com
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 More details to follow
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

Photo: Dinesh Thanigasalam: Sky from back garden, Bishopstone

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 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.

Tell us your thoughts!
**'LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR'**
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