

MONTHLY

Bishopstone, Hinton Parva & Russley Park



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

VILLAGE NEWS

JULY 2026



Photo: Ceredig Jones

NEWS FROM THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS

Welcome signage is a feature across several National Landscapes that we at the Trust have looked at longingly for many years, without ever being in a position to do anything similar to greet visitors to our area of outstanding natural beauty. Finally, however, the National Landscape Partnership found the funding and asked us to make it happen! Richard Broadhead, our Trustee responsible for Partnership Working, has worked tirelessly with representatives from the five Highway Authorities (Wiltshire, Hampshire, West Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Swindon) to get the signs installed on all major roads entering the National Landscape. They're now in place across the Downs, so keep your eyes peeled next time you're out and about in the area!

DID YOU KNOW... The new National Landscapes logos were introduced in November 2023 as part of a major



The big blue skies of the North Wessex Downs reflected in the National Landscape logo

rebrand for the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), now known as National Landscapes. The rebrand aimed to create a stronger, more unified identity that reflects the national importance of these protected landscapes.

THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE BRAND

A "living patchwork": The central concept for the visual design is a "living patchwork," representing the intricate interplay between people and the landscapes. The 38 unique logos combine to form a vibrant patchwork, symbolizing how individual landscapes are part of a larger national fabric.

Balancing national presence and local pride: The branding strategy was designed to unite the individual landscapes under a single, recognizable identity while still celebrating their unique local character. Each National Landscape team selected colors for their emblem that are symbolic of their local area. Although there are some who believe blue is the wrong colour for the North Wessex Downs, as a landscape of big skies it seems a good choice.

The people's role: While the landscapes themselves are beautiful, it is the people who live in, work in, and visit them who make them outstanding.

Seen together, you can see elements of each concept across the suite of new logos, bringing all the National Landscapes together to illustrate that while each is unique, we also share common themes.



Bishopstone Stores

Here we are in heatwave number 3 of 2026. Regardless of the weather, the shop will always be open 7 days a week for you. All of our delivery drivers work hard in the heat to ensure the shelves, fridges and freezers remain fully stocked. Come on in and grab a cold can, fresh organic meat for the BBQ, or some local honey. If you are browsing our gifting corner over the next few weeks you should spot some lovely new summer stock, ideal for a birthday present, summer party or just to treat yourself.

July is the month when we are all asked to focus on the amount of plastics we are using and whether we can become 'plastic free'. When we consider that there is tons of the blooming stuff clogging our waterways and oceans and harming our wildlife, we surely all have a responsibility to make a small change that could collectively have a big impact on our beautiful planet.

How many plastic milk bottles do you dispose of each week? The average person consumes 70 litres of milk a year, 1.3 litres a week. For a family of four that's just over 5 litres....a lot of plastic! Using our milk refills here at the shop would mean zero plastic milk bottles for your household, and its 25p a litre cheaper..... That's got to be good?! Just bring in your own bottle, or you buy one from us, and fill it with the lovely, organic, Berkeley Farm semi skimmed.

You may also have noticed that we don't sell bottles of water in the shop, we sell it in cans. The reason is simple – it's so much more recyclable than plastic. It can be recycled indefinitely with out losing its quality and it uses up to 95% less energy to recycle than plastic does. All in all, its far more sustainable.

Hope to see you soon for a milk refill or lovely cold can of water

Lynne x

Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday & Saturday: **9am - 6pm**
Wednesday: **9am - 1pm**
Sunday: **9am - 3pm**



f @helenbrowningsbishopstonestores **ig** @bishopstone_stores



How's Plastic Free July going? See plasticfreejuly.org if you're still looking for inspiration.

In preparation for having a water meter fitted, I cleared out our cupboard under the sink. My husband can be a bit of a hoarder – but he does come in really useful when you suddenly find you need a SCART lead or have a charging cable that no longer works as there's a good chance he will be able to come to the rescue.... I'm much more cavalier – once a book has been read, an item is broken beyond repair or something has fulfilled its purpose, I'm keen for it all to leave. There's probably a warning in there somewhere Pete...! In the back of my mind I'm Swedish Death Cleaning – the mindful practice of decluttering your home to spare your loved ones the burden of sorting through your belongings after you pass. Anyway, amongst all the cleaning products I found some bits of plastic that I couldn't identify. Inspiration hit me and I had a go at using Google Lens to figure out what they were. It turns out they were salt funnels for our previous two dishwashers, as well as the current one – and there's surely only so many dishwasher salt funnels a household needs. To be fair, I didn't realise we needed any as we were using those all-in-one tablets, although it transpires if you live in a hard-water area, 'all' in this case turns out to be a bit of a misnomer and we're now topping up dishwasher salt and rinse aid again. So, I highly recommend Google Lens if you need to figure out what something is. Not only did it identify what our bits of plastic were and what dishwasher make they came from, it even showed me where I could buy a replacement! Technology can be a wonderful thing...!

Anyway, back to having a water meter fitted! Long story short – we ended up having our meter installed in the cupboard under the sink after not being able to find the outside stopcock. (It later got found with the aid of a metal detector. We live at the bottom of a hill and it had got covered over with all the debris that flows down it.) We didn't know what to expect but we were surprised and a little annoyed that we could hear it – even when water wasn't being used in the house. I read the literature which didn't mention anything about it making a noise (or not) but otherwise things had been busy of late and I'd always had better things to do rather than investigate or even download the app to see how the meter was working. Finally, 8 days later, I was clearing up in the early hours and took things into the kitchen and did a double-take at what I thought was a shadow on the back of a peninsula unit in our kitchen. It turned out to be a wet patch and further investigation showed that the kickboard below and to the side of it was also wet. Finally, it dawned on me, ironically very close to dawn(!), that we had a leak. Unfortunately, Thames Water's emergency help line wasn't available until 8am the following morning.

My husband took over as I 'slept it off' and apparently had a few fun and games the next morning being passed from department to department and then trying to prove who he was. I normally deal with all the 'life admin' and we went paperless with our water bill a few years ago so he didn't know where our bills now were which would have given him the account number – note to self... although you'd think just his name and address which is on the account would suffice. By the time I got up though, he'd managed to get through to the right department, somehow

persuaded the person that he was a householder and had been promised that as there was 'internal damage' he would get a phone call back with an update within 2 hours. We were due to go out to lunch and we didn't get a call. But we followed up when we got home and an emergency plumber came out that evening which I still thought was quite impressive. With all the kickboards off and the sink unit dismantled, we could see the water rippling down, under our kitchen units, and it was that that was making the noise we could hear. We were so lucky – fortunately it looks like the majority of the water made its way into a drain for an old downstairs shower that used to be in the room next to the kitchen. The damage appears to have been limited to the peninsula unit and kickboards and we're hoping that they might dry out. The emergency plumber wasn't sure if the meter installer pulled the pipe too hard, the change in water pressure caused a seal to fail or the seal was corroded – or possibly combinations of all three. All I know is we count ourselves very lucky as the damage could have been so much worse.

So, should you have a water meter if you don't have one already? Sadly, due to being in what is classified as a 'seriously water-stressed' region, I doubt whether you will eventually have much choice. However, just be aware, if you do have one installed, you shouldn't be able to hear it! Any noise could be an unwanted indoor water-feature!

MOWERFIXER

*maintenance/repair service
mowers, hedgecutters
strimmers etc.
for the Ridgeway villages*

*New & 2nd hand
garden machinery for sale*

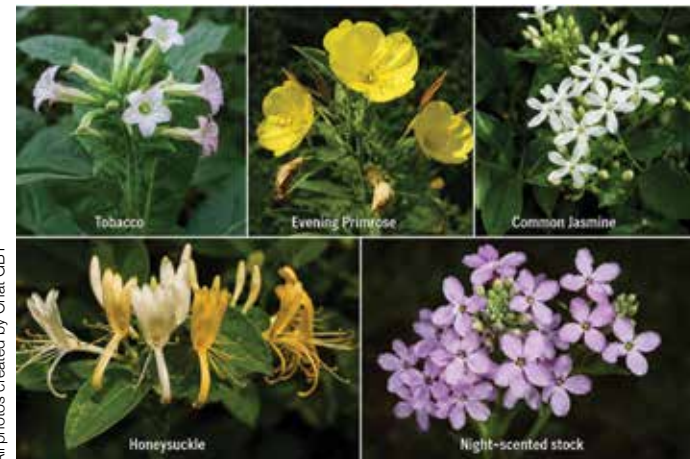
0789 979 1833
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

HAPPY GARDENS

by Jane Pearson

Monthly Musings

Last month I wrote about our local and national box caterpillar infestation, this is ongoing and I would like to thank everyone who is helping to control the caterpillars. I mentioned that I'd invested in some moth pheromone traps and I'm pleased to say that they are now working. Initially I didn't think they had, there wasn't a moth in sight for the first couple of weeks because the male moths work in cycles and swoop in en masse every month or so. The two traps in our garden are fully operational and doing their job and I hope to soon invest in a couple more for the hedgerow. As well as addressing concerns to Swindon council I am approaching our local council. My fingers are crossed that they can provide funding for hedgerow traps and further control methods, update to follow.



Day flying moths like the Hummingbird Hawk moth and Silver Y love nectar rich flowers with long narrow tubes such as Buddleja, lavender, Red Valerian and verbena



Go a little wild! Create egg laying and larvae nourishing environment with:

Native trees (Oak, Birch, Hazel etc). Hawthorn and all native mixed hedging

Wild patches of nettles, dandelions and Lady's and hedge bedstraw and wild madder, these don't have to be vast, a small corner of your garden is perfect.

Add water, a pond is great but even a shallow bowl will do, a cork or two floating in it makes a great landing raft not just for moths but also butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

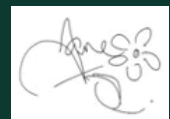


Next months garden tasks:

- Prune Wisteria. Why? To improve next years flowering display. Wisteria can be pruned twice yearly, in July / August and January/February. How? Cut back whippy side shoots of this year's growth to five or six leaves.
- Summer prune trained (restricted forms) of apples and pears. Why? To allow sunlight in to ripen the fruit and ensure good cropping next year. How?
Visit: www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/summer-pruning
- Deadhead flowering plants regularly. Why? To encourage new blooms. How? Pinch of the faded blooms with your finger and thumb or snip back to the first leaf below the flower. On longer multi-flowering stems, snip the entire stem.
- Collect seeds from your garden plants. For more info, **visit: www.rhs.org.uk/propagation/seed-collecting-storing**

But most of all, enjoy your garden.

Happy Gardening!



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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

The Ridgeway Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

ridgewaygardeners.co.uk | info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk



On Wednesday 10th June the Ridgeway Gardening Club welcomed Ben Newman from Hinton Parva Water Garden, who brought with him a wealth of knowledge on designing and creating garden ponds. Over the years his family has been in the business, Ben has seen a clear shift: ponds are no longer just ornamental features, but thriving wildlife havens. With that in mind, he opened with one strong piece of advice if you're aiming to encourage wildlife, avoid keeping fish, especially the more destructive species. The wrong fish can undo years of careful planting and balance.

Ben began by guiding us through the all-important question of where to place a pond. Sun and shade, overhanging trees, and falling leaves, the style of our gardens, formal or cottage-style all play a part naturally suggesting the pond's position, shape, style, whether soft curves or crisp straight edges. "Think of your pond as another flower bed," he said, reminding us that its outline and planting should blend seamlessly with the rest of the garden.

A simple hosepipe, Ben explained, is the perfect tool for sketching out your intended shape before the spade ever hits the soil. Using a classic kidney-shaped pond as his example, he talked us through the pros and cons of preformed ponds versus rubber liners. Preformed ponds offer ready-made shelves and contours and can last a lifetime, though their rigid shape leaves little room for creativity. Rubber liners, especially a good-quality EPDM liner laid over sand or underlay, offer far more flexibility and can last 30 years or more.

Depth matters too: aim for 24 inches at the deepest point, with a shelf 8 inches below the surface for marginal plants. When filling the pond, rainwater is ideal, though most of us will inevitably reach for the hose. Tap water, Ben noted, contains chemicals and will take time to settle into a natural balance.

Once the pond is full, the real fun begins with the plant selection. Ben recommends 50% coverage of water lilies, providing essential shade for wildlife. Lilies sit in the deepest part of the pond, opening during the day and closing at night, as they mature, they reward you with even more flowers, though they do need dividing every 3-5 years.

Next come the oxygenating plants, which should cover around 30% of the pond. Hornwort is a favourite, free-floating, easy to manage, and perfect for smaller ponds as it doesn't require baskets. These plants are the quiet workhorses of the pond, releasing oxygen, absorbing excess nutrients, and creating habitat for water grubs, which in turn feed frogs, toads and newts.

Marginal plants sit on the shelf and bring structure, colour and softness to the pond edges. Reliable favourites include Irises, Marsh Marigolds, and Water Mint. Floating plants can add extra interest too though many are subtropical and fragile, while the Water Soldier remains our only native floating species, looking rather like the top of a pineapple.

Maintenance, Ben assured us, is much like tending any other flower bed. A healthy layer of silt provides nutrients and habitat, and plants should be divided in rotation to keep everything balanced.

And finally fish. If you must include them, avoid Goldfish, Koi and Carp, which are notoriously destructive. Better choices for a wildlife-friendly pond include Golden or Green Tench, Rudd, or Stickleback.

Ben's talk left us all inspired, armed with practical know-how and a renewed appreciation for the rich ecosystems a well-designed pond can support.

Whether you're dreaming of lilies in full summer bloom or hoping to welcome frogs and dragonflies, his advice offered



a clear path to creating a pond that truly becomes the heart of the garden.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ben Newman for his time, expertise and the passion he brought to his talk. He invited all members to visit his Water Garden site in Hinton Parva, where visitors can explore a range of ponds and plants first-hand and speak to him or a member of his knowledgeable team for expert, personalised advice.

Hidcote Manor Gardens Outing

On a bright June morning, twenty members and friends of the Ridgeway Gardening Club set off for a long-awaited visit to the National Trust's Hidcote Manor Gardens in the Cotswolds.



Famous for its pioneering series of outdoor 'garden rooms', each with its own distinct character, planting style and atmosphere. Hidcote offered plenty to explore and enjoy.

Many of our trippers couldn't resist stopping by the plant centre and shop, keen to bring a little piece of Hidcote home. Fortunately, the coach had ample space for everyone's new treasures.

This was our first organised outing in several years, and judging by the enthusiastic feedback, it certainly won't be our last.

Diary Dates

Saturday 25th July : 2pm : Guided tour of Lower Farm, Bishopstone.

The Garden club have been offered a wonderful opportunity to visit the Eastbrook No-Dig Organic Vegetable Beds and Agroforestry Project at Lower Farm on the edge of Bishopstone. Helen Browning will give a tour of the Agroforestry and Pete Richardson will show the vegetable growing operation. The whole site at Lower Farm is a haven for wildlife and a pioneering project of national acclaim, right on our doorstep.. prepare to be inspired!

Non-members are also welcome to join us please contact the club on info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk to let us know you would like to join. Lower Farm is 30 minutes walk from the village centre, and we will also set up a car sharing pool as parking on site is limited.

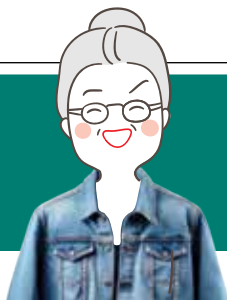
Sunday 9th August : 2.30 pm Open Garden : The Gables, High Street, Wanborough.

Byron and Jean Carron will be once again opening their beautiful garden in aid of the Swindon Stroke Support Group.

There is no club meeting in August

Ask Fanny.

Loose lips, sharp advice.



Dear Fanny

I write to complain about your previous agony aunt page. You devoted every word to bloody roadworks! This is of no interest to me whatsoever. I want to know about affairs, gossip, scandal, irritating neighbours, that sort of thing, and in fact it's normally the first page I turn to.

Get your thinking cap on, please, get your ears more finely tuned and tell me who's doing what to whom behind that new fence!

Very disappointed

Blonde Cow Girl, Bishopstone

Dear Cow Girl,

You're not the first complaint, but clearly one or two oafs got aerated by that traffic mess up last month, and I felt I had to please them. The trouble is, as things stand, there haven't been any new high fences erected recently in the parish (apart from that eyesore on the step to the Dingle—huh?). I can't understand these fences at all—is it security issues? It's not exactly Manchester Makerfield round here. Or is there something else we ought to know? Anyway, I take your point and will endeavour to be more creative in future. I could tell you about the woman (from another close village) discussing her disappointing husband in the village hall car park as I strolled past last week, but that would be too close to home.

Yours in discretion

Fanny

Dear Fanny,

Am I about to become that neighbour?

I need your wisdom before I either lose my sanity or my reputation.

As a cohabitant of dogs for over 30 years, I absolutely love dogs. Honestly, I do. But there's one small canine somewhere in the village who seems to believe that almost every weeknight, sometime between 11.30 pm and well after midnight, is the perfect time to hold a lengthy public barking recital. Sadly, its owners seem oblivious to the late-night performances.

We ensure that our lively lot are tucked up in bed at a reasonable time, and if they do have to take a late-night toilet trip, they are accompanied and shushed if they suddenly decide to get woofing.

Normally, I'd shrug it off, but we get up for work at 5 am every day, and after weeks (or is it months?) of interrupted sleep, I'm beginning to unravel. Warm nights mean the windows have to stay open, which only makes things worse. Thanks to the acoustics around the pond, it's impossible to pinpoint their exact location, and we don't just get the barking—we get the encore as it echoes back and forth from all the surrounding buildings. It's like having surround sound installed in the bedroom some nights.

Surely we can't be the only ones hearing the nightly "triple yapping".

Every evening I summon every ounce of self-control not to lean out of the window and shout across the village, "Shut the &*\$ up, you little &*\$!"

So here's my dilemma: would it be terribly unreasonable to make an anonymous plea in the newsletter, hoping the owners recognise themselves? Or is that the passive-aggressive first step towards becoming the village misery?

Sleep-deprived, dog-loving, and trying very hard to stay neighbourly.

Neighbourly but Knackered, Bishy

Dear dog in the night correspondent

This is indeed a problem that deserves some attention even though it does not appear to involve illicit shenanigans of any sort, much to the disappointment of Blonde Cow Girl, I expect. I think you are very sensible to raise this issue in this July organ, since it is widely read by those who appreciate a fine version of the English language. However, raising it here will not necessarily solve the problem, since one of my previous troublesome neighbours simply shouted at me when I stuck a written note in her box suggesting that her Dachshund was a complete pain in the arse. Barking on and off all day. Anyway, I think you have every right to find the person and suggest that this is un-neighbourly behaviour by their unpleasant mutt. At the very least, it should be locked inside at that time of night. I am sorry that this story contained nothing spicy, but I could reel off a whole host of spice about my ex-neighbour, in private, if you're interested.

Yours this side of the law

Fanny Hole

Plenty of houses for sale?

Mrs Hole

Can you understand why there are so many houses for sale in the parish at the moment? Is there something we should know?

Mr Frank Knight and his wayward son Rutley

Dear Frank

Thanks. Quite a few of them have sold. One or two are for sale 'off the books'—in other words the current owners don't want the rest of us to know what they're up to, so they're being marketed privately. The great sadness for some of us is that those people who should be selling up and moving out appear to be here for the long term—except one, and I can't say who! We've had some refreshing newcomers arrive very recently, I am advised. I look forward to seeing their new fences being erected.

Fanny

Write to Fanny: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

JULY HARD SUDOKU

LAST
MONTH'S
WINNER IS
Nick Steele
Grab your voucher
from Lynne
at the shop!

This month's was pulled from the hat by Lynne in the shop! Well done **Nick** for winning this month with your Codeword entry!

Other this month entries:

Codeword: Ninx Flanagan, Rachel Hale, John Iles, Julie B, G & G Phillpotts, Debbie Clarke, Peter Walker, Keith Franklin

Sudoku: Nick Steele, Rachel Hale, Julie B, G & G Phillpotts, Peter Walker, Yuet Dickinson, Keith Franklin, John Iles.

Those who complete both puzzles have their name put into the hat twice. **Well done to all the newbies this time. We've had a record number of entries!**

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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@helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk

JULY CODEWORD

Codewords are like crossword puzzles but have no clues!

Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

To start you off, we reveal the codes for two or three letters.

10	24	17	10	2	1	14		24	26	10	16	4	5	10
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ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Winning Sudoku from last month



ENTRY DEADLINE: last day of the month. Thank you.

Courtesy of puzzles.ca

DICKIE'S diary

Richard Green



A pair of stonechats have been regularly seen at the bottom of the lynchets valley at Bishopstone. These ground nesting attractive little birds with a chestnut breast should be rearing a brood.

Besides the yellow of flowering oil seed rape in the spring what other bright colours adorn our farmland fields? On

our own farm our spring beans, planted on heavy ground at Zulu farm, are now flowering with white pink scented flowers which I have heard described as an aphrodisiac - any way the bees adore them. Some unproductive odd corners sown last autumn as pollen and nectar rich sources have included the striking legume called crimson clover: a plant I have never seen in our fields before (photo, right). The later flowering blue heads of phacelia, also in the mix, are now showing as the crimson clover begins to seed.

Driving along the A420 to Faringdon the Manners family planted several fields last autumn, all on the left side, to linseed for its oil content. During May these fields displayed their attractive pale blue flowers. It was a grand sight, now turning olive yellow with ripening seed heads. I hope the harvest goes well for them. Closer to home, I expect I am not alone in having admired the pink flowering sainfoin grown by the Browning family and Dai Wilson and showing on the right of the hill road to the Starveall Dairy above Bishopstone. This is a tall legume, rarely sown these days, which they are now cutting for round bale hay. This flower shows in the wild each year further up on the ridgeway. The Brownings also include



the deep rooting chicory plant as a herb in their grass leys. The pretty blue flowers will be evident, I expect, later this year.

Nearly a year ago I was able to visit some leading farmers in the eastern counties. Andrew Fairs in Essex trading as FairKing has specialised in developing markets in this country to grow niche crops including the purple flowering borage which can be a tricky oil bearing crop to grow, but selling for £4,000/ tonne and used in health and cosmetic products. He grows 1,000 acres on his farms and 100 farmers are sending him seed off another 11,000 acres, all to be cleaned and processed on his farm. Other trials and small marketing opportunities are being investigated with Phacelia, Echium - also known as Star Aventis - as a cosmetic product, Lunaria known as honesty, also for cosmetics, Chia with a historic reputation as a stamina enhancer, Gold of Pleasure (Camelia Sativa) used as an egg replacer for vegans and Quinoa used in health foods. These crops give a rich kaleidoscope of colours, such a different joy to experience in Essex and wider afield with his contracted suppliers.

Also, look out for daffodils in Cornwall, lavender in the Surrey hills near Mayfield and tulips in Lincolnshire to make a colourful change from wall- to- wall cereals round here.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

Stop Reading the News: A Manifesto for a Happier, Calmer and Wiser Life, by Rolf Dobelli

For a number of years now, I have made active efforts to avoid the news, mainly for anxiety-related reasons. When others discover this, I am often confronted with scoffing remarks about my ignorance, accusations of a lack of care about global suffering, and questions about how I would find out about major crises. At the very least, puzzlement ensues. How excited I was, then, to see Rolf Dobelli's manifesto donated to my workplace.

Dobelli affirms my own reasoning for not reading the news, supported by research into the impact of news consumption on both mental and physical wellbeing, as well as providing robust defences to all of the common challenges to the radical stance of news avoidance. He emphasises the importance of identifying our fields of influence and prioritising focus on things we can change rather than those we cannot. Regarding major world

events, Dobelli notes that anything of true importance will likely make itself known without access to the news media, through word of mouth for instance. Personally, I have found this to be true.

Some of the arguments Dobelli presents against news consumption, I had never considered at length before: the news being a sensationalist machine, designed to addict rather than meaningfully inform; the inability of 'information' churned out so soon after an event to have necessary complexity; and the lack of relevance of the vast majority of news stories to the lives of their audience. The point that gave me most food for thought was his claim that the news media is a vehicle for terrorism - that is, without the news media to publicise stories of terrorism and induce widespread fear surrounding them, terrorists would hold no power. They rely on the news to achieve their goal. It is toxic, addictive and exploitative. Avoid.

'It's a spectacle designed to say: this is about everything. And yet, it's about nothing at all.'

I think the Village News is fine...

Flinging love, Anna



Photo of the month

SEND US
YOUR SNAPS

Email:
BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com



Justin Moss wins month's amusing photo of the month with 'A Lot of Bull, Behind a Rather Small Fence' (left). Also thank our very own Val Brodin for her stunning 'Mackerel Sky' (below left). Finally, for this month's beautiful cover photo and also 'An evening run on the downs with my dog Lenny.' (below right) a thank you to Ceredig Jones.

Keep them coming! We love seeing your photos and will fit as many in as possible, throughout the other pages.



Become the village paparazzi with a keen eye and a steady hand. Each month, our panel of highly opinionated judges (imaginary monocles firmly in place) will crown a winner. The prize? Full-colour glory and the quiet satisfaction of being talked about in the queue at the shop.

CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar



Dear Friends,

July has arrived and school holidays will begin soon. The children can't wait, maybe parents are dreading it? I have reached the time in life, much to my surprise, when I have grandchildren, three at the moment. It is wonderful. Jennie and I have raised our four boys and now they are beginning to raise their own children, the oldest of which is three currently. Parenting is definitely a more difficult complicated task for modern parents than it was for us, despite the profusion of amazing gadgets, toys, experiences and technologies now available in the retail sphere.

Charity shops and recycling platforms are a brilliant place to source the stuff needed but the real challenge comes, not in providing the physical stuff children need, but in providing them with the emotional, psychological and spiritual environment that will help them become mature, happy, curious, stable, resilient, compassionate, loving, kind, rounded human beings. Obviously, the example and modelling of life by us, the parents and grandparents, is the biggest factor in this but there is something else I think can get badly overlooked. **Boredom!** Boredom is a much underrated but essential part of growing up. Why? Because it is the engine of imagination and imagination helps us to develop all sorts of very human qualities such as interests, hobbies, problem solving, curiosity, knowledge, creativity and the ability to make sound judgements and decisions. How can we expect young adults to make sound judgements in their lives if they have never been exposed to situations growing up in which they had to make decisions which had any kind of real consequences? Being entertained all the time does not allow these traits to develop, hence the need to manage screen time and smart phones and not jump as soon as the words are uttered "I'm Bored."

I remember being so bored at home it drove me and my mate from down the road out of the house to find things to do, to explore, to amuse ourselves with. We had to think about it, plan it, do it, hopefully return safely, review it and improve on it tomorrow if we could and felt like it. Dad was at work and mum was doing her homemaking tasks and it was never considered their responsibility to entertain us all the time or for them to arrange for us to be entertained. We dreamt up many things to do but looking back we learnt massively thorough the freedom we had to do this – a freedom much less easy to find for youngsters today, I freely admit. But put a few children in a parking lot and they will find a way to amuse themselves. It seems to me children have an inbuilt curiosity about the world and life which only needs releasing and letting be, along with others their own age. Over stimulation from outside, delivered entirely by adults or entertainment platforms to simply fill up their time is in danger of stunting children's imaginations, creativity, and sense of self and wellbeing. Time exploring on their own the natural world is wonderful for this. Yes, as parents and grandparents we are there to supervise our young people, to make sure the envelope of freedom for them to explore is a safe one and age appropriate, but let's not stifle all that youthful curiosity and energy for it is the engine of growth.

As Christians we often reflect on what it means to be created in the image of God. Surely one of the things that makes us so different from the rest of creation is our imagination. Formal education has its place but so do the holidays with time to let curiosity roam free and come to the fore and to be able to develop our own individuality and sense of self, within God's glorious wider creation. In the natural world we see God's amazing creativity writ large. Is it surprising that made in His image we too are fundamentally creative and imaginative beings ourselves? Have a great summer.

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

Our churches are: All Saints': Liddington SN4 0HB,
St. Mary's: Bishopstone SN6 8PY,
St. Andrew's: Wanborough SN4 0BZ,
and St. Swithun's: Hinton Parva SN4 0DW.



Photo: Kate Wright, 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	2026	Time	Venue
Sun	12.07	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	12.07	4.00pm	Informal pm. service, HP Village Hall
Sun	19.07	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	26.07	08.30am	BCP (1662) HC St Andrew's
Sun	26.07	10.30am	MW, St Swithun's
Sun	02.08	10.30am	MW with HC, All Saints
Sun	09.08	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	09.08	4pm	Informal Service, HP Village Hall
Sun	16.08	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	23.08	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion, St Andrew's
Sun	23.08	10.30am	MW, St Swithuns
Sun	30.08	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

Prayer

Thank you Lord for making us in your image in a world of such diversity and beauty.

Help us as adults to encourage and enable our young people to access their own creative natures and grow up as whole, rounded, stable and happy individuals. Amen.

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2026

July '26	Jill & Karen Mac G.
Aug '26	Fran & Karen S.
Sept '26	Chris & Gill
Oct '26	Jane G. & Maggie
Nov '26	Sarah & Jenny
Dec '26	Liz & Gaye

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

HC: Holy Communion, BCP: Book of Common Prayer, MW: Morning Worship, Informal Afternoon Service of worship songs, Bible reflection, prayer and fellowship.

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The Parish Times

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

July 2026

Parish Council Highlights Facebook Page as Key Source for Local Updates

The Parish Council is reminding residents that its official Facebook page remains a reliable and convenient place to find local information, updates, and notices about village matters.

Central Hub for Community News

The Facebook page serves as an online noticeboard, offering a straightforward way for residents to view parish updates such as meeting dates, agenda publications, notices, community alerts, and other useful information. It provides a single place where key announcements can be accessed quickly.

Encouraging Residents to Stay Connected

Residents are encouraged to follow the page to stay informed about parish news and general updates. The Council notes that the page is regularly maintained and offers a quick and accessible route for viewing verified information relevant to the community. **Please follow us at Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Parish Council on Facebook.**

Further reminders will be issued as part of the Council's ongoing effort to improve communication and ensure residents have easy access to parish news.

Village Speeding Concerns Prompt Further Investigation

Speeding remains an important issue that is frequently raised by residents across the parish, prompting the Parish Council to seek further evidence to identify whether the Bishopstone 20mph zone is reducing traffic speeds, and whether there might be a need for additional speed management measures in our villages.

Share Your Local Knowledge

Residents are asked to let the Parish Council know about areas and incidents of concern, highlighting particular stretches of road and times of day where the speeding problem appears worse. The Parish Council will help to collate this evidence to inform and support discussions with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and request a formal traffic survey.
Email: clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Community Speed Watch

Our Community Speed Watch team needs more volunteers to help run regular patrols. If you could spare even an hour a month to help, please get in touch!

One Parish Councillor Vacancy – Could It Be You?

Bishopstone Parish Council currently has **one vacancy** and is inviting residents to come forward for co-option. We are especially keen to hear from those living in Hinton Parva or Russley Park, as representation from across the parish ensures that every area has a strong and balanced voice within Council discussions. However, all eligible parish residents are warmly encouraged to express their interest. Serving as a parish councillor is a meaningful and rewarding way to contribute to village life. From shaping local priorities to supporting community initiatives and helping safeguard the character

of our parish, the role offers a real opportunity to make a positive impact. No prior council experience is required — just enthusiasm, commitment, and a genuine interest in local matters. If you care about the future of Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, and Russley Park, this could be the perfect moment to get involved.

To find out more or to put your name forward, please contact the Parish Clerk. Let's ensure our parish continues to thrive with strong, active representation from across our community.

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK [@bishopstoneandhintonparvaparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bishopstoneandhintonparvaparishcouncil)

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Emma Parry(Clerk)

Phone: 07763543634

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Ian Thomas

Cllr.ianthomas@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

Mr Dinesh Thanigasaam

Cllr.dinesh.thanigasalam@gmail.com

Mrs Geraldine Pass

Cllr.geraldinepass@gmail.com

The Parish Council's policies and documents can be viewed at [bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/](https://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026 /27

Meetings begin at 7.30pm. Late changes are shown at [bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parish-council/](https://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parish-council/) and on the notice boards. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

2026

6th July **Bishopstone**
7th Sept **Bishopstone** 5th October **Hinton Parva**
2nd Nov **Bishopstone** 7th Dec **Hinton Parva**

2027

4th January **Bishopstone** 1st February **Hinton Parva**
1st March **Bishopstone** 5th April **Hinton Parva**
10th May **Hinton Parva**

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](https://www.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 Karen Walker/Dinesh Thanigasalam
Footpaths and Highways 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 (PC nominee)
Bishopstone United Charities Doug Stevens
Trees Ian Thomas (Bishopstone)
Responsible Financial Officer Emma Parry (Clerk)
Planning Ian Thomas
Website/IT Gary Pass (community volunteer)
Policies Gill May/Karen MacGregor
School liaison Dai Wilson
Russley Park Dai Wilson

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Re: Proposed ground floor extension to form family room and raising of roof to form additional first floor accommodation. At: Hillcrest, Hinton Parva Lane Hinton Parva Swindon SN4 0DHThe above application has been received by this department. The application forms and plans can be viewed using our Public Access system via our website <https://pa.swindon.gov.uk/publicaccess/> by entering the application number **S/HOU/26/0801** into the search box, the documents can be viewed. If you wish to make any comments then please email sbcdc@swindon.gov.uk by **16th July 2026**.

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT [WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG](https://www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org)



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VILLAGE HALL news



Bishopstone



Hinton Parva

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BVH Reg Charity 271165
Hocker Bench

Village Hall Chair: Richard Walker
01793 791 913 | richard@eddingtons.co.uk

HINTON PARVA

Our 'Pop Up Pop In Café' on Saturday 13th June made £50, brought villagers together for a good chat and identified 2 volunteers to help with keeping the Hall going! Sadly, our Hall doesn't currently cover all of its costs from its booking income and so we are dependent on raising money from such additional events as well as any external funding we're able to apply for or receive to maintain the Hall to the standards we're contractually obliged to meet. On the day we raised £50, we spent over £300 to cover our annual insurance for example. If you have any ideas for future events or would like to be involved in any capacity to help our beautiful village hall, please get in touch at our email address:

hpvillagehall@gmail.com.

Karen Walker on behalf of Hinton Parva Village Hall

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
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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're interested in taking an allotment in Bishopstone, contact Steve Bell on 07598 185 643

JOEY JODPHUR (JJ)

FROM DEEP IN THE VALLEY OF THE RACEHORSE

There are so many things wrong with our country at the moment but Royal Ascot continues to deliver pomp and pageantry like no other, one of the real sporting highlights of the British summer. Racing PLC was so grateful to have the patronage of their Majesties the King and Queen for all five days of the meeting with the traditional Royal procession being greeted by tens of thousands of racegoers right along the mile-long home straight. It is very encouraging that the King has taken over the mantle from his late mother seemingly with such enthusiasm for the game. Ascot does much more than rest on its Royal laurels however, none more so than under the recent stewardship of their impressive CEO Felicity Barnard. It was great to see hundreds of school children from Berkshire attend each day and a ballot was devised for local residents to offer free entry to those whose day to day lives are most impacted by the traffic and one-way systems in place for the meeting. An excellent example of the racecourse executive putting community at the heart of what it does. A recent economic impact report highlighted that the five days of Royal Ascot alone account for around 1,930 jobs and generate approximately £140 million in GVA. Facilities for equines, especially in the hot weather were also second to none, and much praise can go to Clerk Chris Stickels and his groundstaff who produced a fast but safe racing surface everyday, albeit helped by the inordinately wet start to June. There was criticism in some quarters of a notable track bias, that horses on the stands side were advantaged, but the most senior trainers walking the track each day said it walked evenly across the full width. As we saw at Lord's for the first Test, it's not easy to produce a natural playing surface to last five days, and even harder at Wimbledon where it has to last two weeks.



Turning to the track and the week got off to a flyer for Lambourn when Ten Bob Tony trained by Ed Walker won the opening Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes at huge odds of 50/1. Even those closest to the horse couldn't have foreseen such an improvement on all known levels of form. With plenty more fancied chances throughout the week Ed dreamt he might be challenging Aiden O'Brien for leading trainer awards, but sadly the winners dried up from then on, showing just how hard it is to win at flat racing's world championships. Clive Cox's Orthodox was arguably the most impressive two-year old winner of the week when streaking clear to win the Norfolk Stakes and is an exciting prospect for the Sheepdrove trainer. Other notable performances included Bow Echo's defeat of Gstaad in the St James' Palace Stakes, Ombudsman landing the Prince of Wales Stakes, and a stirring Gold Cup finish saw Scandinavia get the better of Trawlerman in an epic duel.

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva Village Fete

Saturday 12th September

We have a new addition to add to our already packed itinerary for the day – model airplanes! What with excellent live music, a fun dog show, tug of war, salsa dancing, a chocolate fountain, delicious food and drink, games and stalls, there should be plenty to see and do!

In preparation, we're now actively collecting the following at the locations below: - Books, Bottles (of any kind!), Soft Toys in good, clean condition and anything suitable for the White Elephant stall (no furniture please – if in doubt, please ask).

- Bishopstone – all items can be dropped off with David and Lynda at Old Barn Farm on Church Lane.
- Hinton Parva – Lynda at Icknield Cottage for White Elephant & Bottles.
- Hinton Parva – Karen at Chestnut Cottage for Books.
- Hinton Parva – Mandy at West Hinton House for Soft Toys.

We're a friendly bunch though, so we'll get it to the right place if need be!

We will be taking donations for the Country Larder stall on or just before the day. And if you are able to donate goods or services that would be suitable for raffle prizes, we would



love to hear from you.

If you have any ideas for the event or would like to help, have a stall or take part, do please get in touch with Geraldine Pass on 07787 172017 or geraldinepass2@gmail.com

Remember, all the funds raised go towards the upkeep of our two beautiful churches and supporting other local amenities.



The Royal Oak Diary



For those of you of a curious mind, the pub and farm are hosting a series of slower, longer farm walks (and picnics and beer and wine and food tastings) around Eastbrook Farm and Lower Farm (on the Bourton road, where Helen plants trees and grows fruit, and where Pete grows so much of his salad stuff) in the last week of August leading up to the August bank holiday, viz week beginning August 24.

In addition, if you've got children who might not be interested in climate change, soil types and why food can often taste better when it's grown with a bit of care (and who don't want a walk), we're thrilled to have the services of nationally recognised child play expert Rachel Hobbs who will take expert care of them and enthrall them and engage them at the same time. More specific details will emerge over the next couple of weeks, on our blackboards, on our website and on our Facebook page. If it's of any interest, stick it on your memory stick, and let us know at some point. We'd hope for about 30 people per session, taking in different parts of the farm, all led by Helen herself. Sociable, slow (although she can often walk fast), and hopefully inspiring, but you can never tell! Each walk will cover a different part of the farm—we'll advise which part on which day, of course.

And we'll try to round off the week, on the Friday, with an evening of local music talent in the garden, some of the bands you might have seen here before.

Our next scheduled music in the garden is July 18, The Bakelite Boys at 1.30 for a couple of hours of swing fun.

I would like to thank the regulars and casuals who have contributed to our astonishingly popular pub quizzes, now a year old! Graham Phillpotts has overseen (and devised the questions) quietly, gracefully and smartly, and it's rewarding to see so many people—never less than 30, sometimes over 50. We resume in September, the SECOND MONDAY of the month. We're moving it back a week because some of our regular would be contestants are involved in parish council work on the existing clashing day, so we're trying to ensure everyone gets a chance to be here. The next quiz will be **Monday September 14. Food from 5.30, talky bits at 7.** We've raised a bit of dosh from you all—some of it went

to the school playground fund raisers—they've done a great job—and some of it to Prospect. I think our next charity to support is Pennyhooks Farm, where the Bourton road meets the A420. They provide vocational care for autistic people, quietly and effectively, in case you were not aware.

We always hope to be able to look after you. Thank you for your support.

Tim and Helen and crew



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lee@wilsonconstruction.org.uk

Hospitality & Accommodation

BRYN LLINOS
brynllinos@yahoo.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
07515 288 414
grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com

HELEN BROWNING'S ROYAL OAK
01793 790 481
info@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk

THE OWL BARN
hello@theowlbarnwiltshire.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL: BISHOPSTONE
07769 943 956
miclawre@cisco.com

VILLAGE HALL: HINTON PARVA
07916 599 772
Email: ellakusta01@gmail.com

Professional Services

JANE PEARSON DESIGN - GARDEN
07811 367 320
janepearsondesign@icloud.com

LULI CREATIVE DESIGN - GRAPHIC
07795 086 197
info@luli.uk

PARISH COUNCIL
07913 819 422
clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

PEARCE FUNERAL SERVICES
01793 832 072 | 422 422
info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk

Retail & Shopping

BISHOPSTONE STORES
shop@helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk

BLOOMFIELDS FINE FOODS
01793 783 999 | 766 399
bloomfieldsfinefood.co.uk

PUREHEAT FIREWOOD
01793 855 277 | 07885 542 718
pureheatfirewood.co.uk

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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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July 2026

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

Stick me on your fridge

2026	Time	Event	Place	Contact	
Fri	10.07.26	5pm-8pm	Food for Thought, Hinton Parva: Fish and Chip van (pg.19)	Charlbury Stables SN4 0DW	grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com
Sat	25.07.26	2pm	Gardening Club: Guided Tour of Lower Farm (see pg. 5)		
	1&2.08.26		Great British Food Festival	Lydiard Park	greatbritishfoodfestival.com/tickets/lydiard-park
Sun	09.08.26	2.30pm	Open Gardens: The Gables, Wanborough	High Street, Wanbrough	
Sat	22.08.26	12.00-5pm	Wanborough Village & Country Show	SN4 0DA	wanboroughshow.org
Sun	30.08.26	12.00	Street Food Festival	Wood St, Swindon	
Sat	12.09.26		Village Fete: Save the Date!	Winding Wood Field Bishopstone	littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk 07789 414147
Mon	14.09.26	Food 5.30pm Quiz 7pm	Pub Quiz	The Royal Oak	Book a table: 01793 790 481
Sun	27.09.26		Swindon Half Marathon		swindonhalf.co.uk
1st Friday of each month 6.30pm			Cafe Jazz	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
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 210 505
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: A fine pyramidal orchid on Helen's restored downland, Justin Moss.

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!
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THE EDITOR'**
Email:
BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com