

MONTHLY

AUG 2026

Bishopstone, Hinton Parva & Russley Park



www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

VILLAGENEWS



Bishopstone & Hinton Parva VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 12th September, 12 – 4pm



The date is fast approaching and we have some exciting new additions to the Fete this year, which raises funds for the upkeep of both Bishopstone and Hinton Parva churches and supporting other local amenities. As briefly mentioned last month, the North Berks Radio Model Aircraft Society will be putting on a display of their small, but perfectly formed and highly aerobatic electric aircraft, including a helicopter! The group is passionate about their aircraft and will be bringing along some larger static models for us to admire too.



There will be two local beauty and wellness

businesses in attendance who will be offering taster facials, massage (steady!) and foot massages on the day. Perhaps the latter could be enjoyed after taking part in the Pink Pistols' line dancing session? If you've recovered from the earlier salsa class! We're looking forward to the new Auction of Promises and would be delighted to receive more donations of goods or services.

Our Fun Dog Show will once again be taking centre stage. Crufts this is not – as well as looking for 'The dog the judge would most like to take home'. There are prizes for the waggiest tail, floppiest ears and best child handler. Finally – there's a class for the dog that looks most like its owner – with the addition (if needed!) of props, clothes or fancy dress to owner or dog! Judging will be by Bishopstone's



own Dog physiotherapist who will be delighted to tell you about her business after performing her judging duties. The Dog Show will be kicking off at 12.30pm. Not to be missed!

Last year's wonderful duo 'Sweet Nightingale' will be performing again and it is hoped another local trio may also be performing....

We'll have delicious food options for lunch – Casslow's Pizza as well as burgers and sausages. There will be cream teas, our Country Larder, our chocolate tombola, an ice cream van and a well-stocked bar, including local Ramsbury ales, cider, wine and soft drinks. Or you could get lucky on the Bottle Tombola!

The school will be running face painting, skittles and a tug of war event and there will be stalls and traditional fete games to keep all ages amused. Our raffle has some amazing prizes including a glider flight, an organic hamper, Sunday lunch, a case of wine and luxury toiletries. If you can't make it on the day but want to support the Fete, you can purchase the raffle tickets in advance from Geraldine who can be contacted at Geraldine.pass@btinternet.com.

Fingers crossed for good weather!

If you need any further information or clarification, please get in touch with Christine on 07789 414147 or littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE FETE

How you can help...

Organising any large-scale event is always tricky due to the number of other commitments, holidays and other events already in the social calendar and we'd be very grateful if you feel able to shore up our number of volunteer helpers. Please make yourself known if you are able to help in any capacity – setting up, helping on a stall or clearing down. Just an hour or so would be much appreciated and make pulling off another memorable event so much easier. Younger residents are welcome to help – if that's 'help', rather than help – an accompanying adult would be appreciated!

We still have spaces for additional stalls if you're feeling entrepreneurial or know of a local business who might be interested – we're just charging a bargain £20.

And we need things to sell and are actively collecting the following at the locations below: - **Books, Bottles, Chocolates & Sweets, Soft Toys** in good, clean condition and anything suitable for the **White Elephant stall** (no furniture please – if in doubt, please ask. For those not familiar with the term, 'White Elephant', we're after items that you do not want anymore that can still be useful to someone else – your trash could be somebody else's treasure!

- Bishopstone – all items can be dropped off with David and Lynda at Old Barn Farm on Church Lane, the barn is open most of the day.
- Hinton Parva – Karen at Chestnut Cottage for **Books**.
- Hinton Parva – Mandy at West Hinton House for **Soft Toys**.
- Hinton Parva – Lynda at Icknield Cottage for **White Elephant**.

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

We would love, love, love to have lots of lots(!) for our first auction of promises – big or small, so if you could donate goods or services please get in touch with Mark. Further details are on the poster -> And please start thinking about baked goodies for the day – homemade treats always go down so well and we would love to have a good selection for our Country Larder stall and for our afternoon teas! We're happy to accept any offerings on the day or discuss with Karen Stevens, Gill May or Christine – contact details below.

If you need any further information or clarification, please get in touch with **Christine on 07789 414147** or **littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk**

Bishopstone Stores

It seems that our rain dances are yet to come to fruition. Despite the ups and downs of the longest, hottest summer that I can remember, we are still seeing the joys of labour on Pete's veg stand with seasonal additions of tomatoes, sweetcorn, fennel and cabbages. And there is more to come.....

Combine these with our own organic meats for your BBQ and alfresco dining and you have everything you need. Our lovely friends at Stitchcombe Farm do a superb job ensuring our pork is available to you each week and that we have a great supply of their organic beef, grass fed lamb and local wild venison. They are always open to suggestion for new products and we've been in talks with them about some different things they can do with our meat. Have you tried the marinated BBQ or Chinese pork belly bites yet? Meatballs will soon be on the menu and possibly even some jumbo sausages...As ever, please shout if there is something you need or think we should stock and we'll do our best to oblige.

As we edge nearer to apple season we have a bit of last seasons juices to clear through. We sell the delicious apple juice and apple & beetroot juice for £5.50 a bottle but are now offering the deal of the summer with 3 bottles for £12. And if you are truly addicted to the good stuff have a chat with us about buying a case of 12 at a rock bottom, under the counter style price.

Enjoy the remainder of the heatwaves and your holidays

Hope to see you soon

Lynne x

@helenbrowningsbishopstonestores @bishopstone_stores

Opening Hours

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

Wednesday: **9am - 1pm**

Sunday: **9am - 3pm**



RECYCLING MATTERS

by Karen Walker



In July we did our latest Interrailing trip through bits of Denmark, Sweden and Norway and had a fabulous time. If you like to tour, rather than be too long in one place on your holidays, I can highly recommend letting 'the train take the strain' and interrailing is such a bargain. We did cheat a little this time, due to my husband's limited annual leave, and flew to and from Copenhagen to save on 'getting there' time and we also took a couple of ferries to travel between locations to see the spectacular fjords.

I was particularly taken with Copenhagen and Stockholm. They are beautiful but relatively small for a capital city and are very walkable – the lovely weather helped of course. The lack of car traffic was noticeable in both cities and most inhabitants seemed to cycle everywhere to get around – often with children or pets onboard. All three countries use the Pant (a Scandinavian word for deposit or pledge) System – which is a national deposit-refund scheme for metal cans and plastic bottles and features reverse vending machines in supermarkets. These were first toted in the UK by Michael Gove back in 2018 when he was the Environment Secretary and the UK's Deposit Return Scheme, which will use them, is finally due to be rolled out in October 2027. It has been very effective in Scandinavia, with over a 92% return rate. Hopefully it will reduce the number of drinks cans and bottles we see strewn around our beautiful countryside. We often saw people peering into litter bins and putting any booty into large bags to claim the deposit.

You might not be aware that Denmark is very flat, with no natural mountains. Its highest natural point is 170m high so would be dwarfed by our own Charlbury Hill at 253m! However, what it does have are innovative designers who incorporated an artificial ski slope, the world's largest climbing wall and a hiking trail on and around their waste to energy power plant – CopenHill, which is highly visible in Copenhagen.

Another 'Wow!' moment was going to see The Vasa in Stockholm, near to the also excellent Abba Museum. A friend's husband had told me about it the night before we travelled so we decided to seek it out. The Vasa is a Swedish war ship which sank on its maiden voyage in 1628 and was salvaged in the 1960s and is now the best-preserved 17th century ship in the world. It's amazing – eerily beautiful, looking like a ghost ship.... It's huge – 69m long and 52.5m high – which is apparently 12 times taller than a double decker bus! Think an intact Mary Rose on steroids!

Anyway, on to some tips that I benefitted from which you might find useful when travelling. I was limited to an airplane cabin-size bag for our two week's travelling and I'm not normally known for packing light... however, I felt quietly smug that I had space to spare. I used compression packing cubes for my rolled up clothes but also, rather than relying on my usual hanging toiletry bag, I used small clear rectangular travel bags to put my mini-sized toiletries in – one for day, one for night, one for teeth cleaning, one for the shower etc which made it easy to see where everything was, meant I only had to take out the bag needed at the time and made packing and unpacking in our various locations really easy – playing Tetris to fit everything in the gaps left by my packing cubes. As well as my case, I took a 'day bag' rucksack for when travelling and I did some research

and bought a Ceneda water bottle carrier with a phone pocket. I took this instead of a handbag as it had enough room for any essentials, could be worn cross-body keeping my hands-free and was insulated, so kept my water cold. It was all I needed when out for the day sight-seeing and I've used it since when out walking or going to a festival where you're limited to an A4 sized bag. I also didn't take a purse, just putting the cards I needed in my phone case and storing them and any store reward cards in Google wallet. I normally carry a large purse with me, when not on holiday, but I'm not convinced I need to do so any longer.

I wore a pair of trainers when travelling and had a pair of Fit Flop (not Flip Flops!) My go-to for comfortable shoes that don't look too orthopedic! sandals as well. These were great to have a change of footwear after a long day of sight-seeing, but when you still had yet more walking to do to get dinner. Finally, I took a pair of hotel slippers and bought some cotton modal shortie pyjamas to take with me, not to sleep in but to mooch around our hotel room in, in a bit of comfort after a long day. If you're not familiar with modal, it's made from beech tree wood pulp and has a silky texture. Bliss! I think comfort and travelling light, could become my order of the day!

MOWERFIXER

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

*New & 2nd hand
garden machinery for sale*

0789 979 1833
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

SWINDON OPEN STUDIOS 2026

19TH/20TH AND 26TH/27TH SEPTEMBER

Swindon Open Studios is an event that gives you the chance to explore a treasure trove of art across homes, studios, local venues and workshops as artists share the stories behind their creations.

This year 3 studios in Bishopstone are opening their doors to warmly welcome you in to view and/or purchase their art.

Bishopstone Pottery: 4 West End Lane.

Sue and Adrian Dent would love you to visit the potters' studio in their colourful cottage garden. There they indulge their passion for clay producing brightly coloured slip-decorated earthenware and raku ceramics. The slip decorated pots reflect the the potters's interest in geometric and natural form. Raku pots are glazed with crackle glazes producing black and coloured designs. Bishopstone Pottery looks forward to welcoming old and new friends to see how we work and have a good natter.

Opening times 19th/20th September 11.00am – 5.00pm

Contact us: susan.walton790@gmail.com

Tel: 07827 922 257

Cristina Jordan: 3 Cues Lane, Bishopstone.



Cristina Jordan will open her studio for visitors to have the opportunity to view a collection of abstract paintings and mixed media works exploring themes of identity, memory, acceptance and renewal.

Unlike a traditional exhibition, visitors will also be able to see sketchbooks, works in progress, and the creative process behind the finished work. "This event offers a chance to see how ideas evolve from fragments, memories and emotional responses into finished artworks," says Cristina.

Opening times 19th/20th and 26th/27th September 11.00am – 5.00pm. www.cristinajordanArt.co.uk CristinajordanArt@icloud.com 07595 221 696

Jayne Le Coyte: Nell Hill House, Bishopstone.



Jane is a multi-disciplinary artist, who creates colourful and impressionistic artworks in oil and acrylics. She strives to embody light and life with the exuberant application of colour. Still-life paintings, as well as portraits, both human and pet, will be available for purchase and commission.

Opening times 19th and 26th September 10.00am – 5.00pm. Follow and contact at <http://instagram.com/janelecoyteart>



Bishopstone Pottery

While you are out and about in our glorious Ridgeway villages you can also visit the studios of 3 excellent painters in Wanborough.

Hilary Sinclair

An oil and watercolour painter who explores the nature of water, often incorporating figures.

Opening times 19th/20th September 11.00am – 5.00pm

Maggie Errington

Maggie works mainly in pastels. Her pastel subjects range from portraits, landscapes to animals.

Opening times 19th/20th September 11.00am – 5.00pm

Sherryl Fox

Sherryl's art is inspired by her love of theatre and landscapes. Her paintings are built on a foundation of drawing and observation, which you can enjoy in her sketchbooks.

Opening times 19th/20th September 10.30am to 4.30pm

For full details of all the artists in this area and the rest of Swindon go to www.swindonopenstudios.org. There will shortly be brochures available in pubs and other public places. If all that fails just give me a ring on 07827922257 and I can get a brochure to you.

Please note: Artists may have different opening times and dates so please check these times in the brochure or online before you visit.

We all look forward to welcoming you to our studios.



The Ridgeway Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

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



Visit and guided tour of Lower Farm, Bishopstone



Instead of our regular meeting in the village hall Members and friends of the Ridgeway Garden Club gathered at Helen Browning's Lower Farm on a warm, but not too hot, July afternoon for a guided tour of her Agroforestry project.

She explained that this is a long term project some 200 acres to reintroduce and encourage farmers to plant trees not only for the benefit of the environment, wildlife and the farm animals, but also for commercial gain.



She has planted many varieties, for example Willow, Perry Pear, Apple, Apricot, Almond, and Sea Buckthorn, as well as Raspberries, Gooseberries and Chokeberries tucked in under them.

"Lane" planting of the trees leaves wide areas of

pasture in between for grazing as well as shady areas for the animals in our increasingly hot, dry summers. All the crops are harvested and supplied to the Royal Oak pub in Bishopstone for use in the kitchen.

After a few years when the trees are mature enough Helen will bring in the cattle, pigs and sheep to graze, enjoying the much needed nutrients from the trees, particularly Willow, not available in grass alone and so reducing the need for supplementary feeds, while benefitting from the cooler shady environment.

In a more traditional woodland area there are some British Saddleback pigs, a very natural environment for these very friendly animals to root around in the undergrowth with lots of trees (and human legs when available!) to rub against!



Our tour then took us to another large field, unsuitable for crops because of the wet, heavy clay soil in winter, hard to imagine during our current heatwave and drought, where Helen has plans to

create a natural wetland area. This would involve the digging of "scrapes" and ponds in the clay where the water would naturally drain, creating a wildlife habitat for birds and animals. Piles of timber from fallen trees also provides an environment for bugs, beetles and other creatures.

We were then taken to the allotment where Pete talked us through all the fruit and vegetables he grows primarily to supply the Royal Oak. As with everything else on the farm it is all organic, using their home produced nitrogen rich compost created from the Cow "poo", wood chips and a small amount of seaweed extract. A wonderful array of courgettes, squash, a variety of brassicas, salad crops, beans and tomatoes and many more. To finish we were offered a selection of the produce to take home.

A really interesting and informative afternoon, opening our eyes

to the complex relationship between nature, wildlife, farming and the climate which we should be nurturing to maintain the countryside and all who live there.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 9th September: Richard Rickets: Bishopstone Village Hall 7pm "Bees Knees"

Author of "Bee Keeping for Gardeners", Richard gives a fascinating and richly illustrated talk on the many species of bees and how we as gardeners can help to save them,

Back by popular demand.

Wednesday 14th October: Charlotte Howard : Houseplants and How not to Kill them.

Charlotte is an RHS Master of Horticulture and is the owner of Capability Charlotte. She specialises in inspiring gardeners who love to plant both inside and out. This talk will provide an informative insight into the key elements to nurturing long living, healthy houseplants.

Friday 16th October : Quiz and Chilli Con Carne Night

Food for Thought

Mobile fish and chip van

Available for private parties,

weddings and all functions.

Find us each month at Charlbury Stables

(See the diary in this publication for actual dates)

Post Code: SN4 0DW

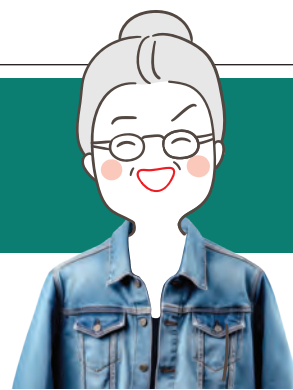
Tel: 07515 288414

Email: grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com



Ask Fanny.

Loose lips, sharp advice.



Dear Mrs Hole

I know your blonde cow girl correspondent didn't want any more 'boring' stuff about roads and things, but have you noticed how many walkers come close to being mown down on that appalling 'footpath' linking the Ridgeway between Liddington cross roads and Foxhill. I'm not the world's slowest driver but even I take my foot off the gas on that stretch, in sympathy with those struggling along the verge, which is often overgrown.

My own view is that this is a National Trail disgrace, and Swindon Council should earn itself some big brownie points by sorting it out asap.

Yours with the brakes on

Mr Niki Lauda,
Cues Lane, Bishopstone

Dear Mr Lauda

I hope the walkers realise that several of us try to take them into consideration as we drive past. People who don't know the route are often taken by surprise. I am happy that you raised this subject. I will deal with the cow girl.

Strictly speaking this is just outside our parish so is not of relevance to this newsletter—but since the esteemed leader of SBC lives among us, possibly he might take note.

I agree it is a disgrace, and 100% unsafe for users. There is an easily accessible field on the other side of the hedge for the upper part of this 'trail' —can it be beyond the wit of intelligent people to move the trail onto that farmland? And there is scrubby woodland on the lower part, also, you'd have thought, sensible and easy to access.

At this time of year, I reckon there are 50-60 walkers a day in both directions. I wonder if anything will happen as a result of this?

Your agreeable
Fanny

Dear Fanny

I am pleased to report back on the curious incident of the dog in the night time. One or two people round the Bishy pond report a noticeable reduction in late night barking, and thus we wish to thank you for drawing this to our attention, and presumably the dog owner's.

Yours peacefully

Sandy Capp, Bishy Pond Dweller

Dear Sandy

Happy to have helped. I do think there's more than one dog causing irritation in these parts-the explosion in the dog population is hard for me to understand, especially as so many dog owners prefer not to walk them enough.

Fanny

Dear Fanny

It's less than a month till the annual Bishopstone and Hinton Parva village fete, and I have to say we really enjoyed the bare-knuckle fighting last year. We were a bit surprised because we thought this old fashioned sport had been outlawed on health and safety grounds going back several hundred years, so we were delighted that the far sighted organisers had decided to put on this show for us. Can you confirm that such an event is taking place again next month (the 11th, I think)?

Yours in anticipation

Barbara Woodhouse and Ms D
Pride Cottage, Hinton Parva

Oh Barbara!

The sort of stuff that I love! One of my favourite films was Shoot out at the OK Salon!

I can confirm that the village fete is being held on September 12, from noon till 4pm, at Winding Wood, in Bishy; but the bare knuckle fighting is a more spontaneous expression of people's love for their neighbours. And I am sure that old enmities have not withered (with good reason, from what I have heard!). But I have to correct you in one key area—the scrapping last year was at the inaugural village rounders afternoon, not the village fete; it was an attempt by some of our community minded neighbours to bring local people closer together. It worked, to an extent, but not in the ways anyone had expected. The fete is a more serene occasion, usually, with lots of opportunity to gossip. I'll be there, so be careful! As for the next rounders competition, there is no news on that, as I write this.

Enjoyably yours
FH

Write to Fanny: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

CARTE BLANCHE

Afternoon Garden Party

Featuring
The Essential, Soulful Summer Soundtrack
By
The Groove Alchemists

MARK BISHOP & JOHN WILLIAMS

From doo-wop to bebop, ska to reggae, soulful funk to funky soul - and all the timeless grooves in between!

SATURDAY, September 12 • 2 TIL 6
Helen Browning's Royal Oak
Bishopstone, Swindon SN6 8PT

Full Bar • Food • Fun

AUGUST HARD SUDOKU

LAST MONTH'S WINNER IS
Ninx F.
Grab your voucher from Lynne at the shop!

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

Other this month entries:

Codeword: G & G Phillpotts, Liz Bowles, Suze, Keith Franklin, Nick Steele, Alex Hirst, Gary Pass, Milly Green, Debbie Clarke

Sudoku: G & G Phillpotts, Liz Bowles, Suze, Keith Franklin, Ninx Flanagan, Nick Steele, Yuet Dickson, Debbie Clarke, Pete Best, Louise Stoneham

Well done everyone! Those who complete both puzzles have their name put into the hat twice.

	2	5							
			9		4	6			
							3	4	
1		2		9					
		3		6		7			
						5		9	
			6				2		
	8		3				5		
				1	5				8

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

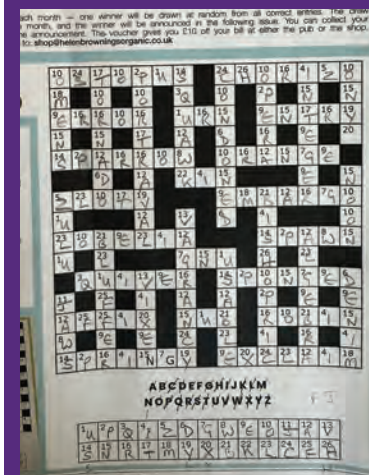
AUGUST CODEWORD

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.



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

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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

DICKIE'S diary

Richard Green

Regulars will know of my interest in the stonechats at the bottom of the lynchets valley at Bishopstone. Their young have now fledged and I think I see a family of seven.

I came to Rectory Farm, Idstone in late September 1973 with Penny aged 22 and a springer spaniel called Flop. We had been married a year. Our kitchen then depended on a Belfast sink with ivy growing up inside of the kitchen wall and it took us a while to eliminate the many cockroaches that emerged from the kitchen surrounds particularly evident when we switched the light on after darkness.

Rectory Farm is serviced by the Church Commissioners private water supply from a spring behind the City at Bishopstone with water pumped to two reservoirs on the downs for a gravity feed. Thames Water are to introduce a hosepipe ban this year on July 23rd. After the hot summers of 1975 and 1976 the private water supply was diminished to the extent that Thames Water bolstered the estate needs as a temporary solution with additional main supply water tanks installed in the grounds on the Old Mill at Bishopstone, now of course converted to residential. 50 years on a repeat of this has not proved necessary to date and the spring supply is so far still flowing to meet all our needs. As I write these notes, the harvest is continuing at pace with the grains very dry and with disappointing cereal yields though the oil seed rape harvested first was quite good. Variable rain in June means some wheat yields round here are close to average but most are 33% down. 50 years on, despite all the strides in agronomy management and plant breeding crops and grass remain very dependent on moisture to



achieve their potential. Our gardens are going to have to cope now without sprinklers which is unbelievable after such a wet winter. But that's another story.

The silver lining of this drought will be the saving on drying costs by expensive diesel or electricity, a much earlier finish (touch wood) and the gain of time which can which be priceless. In 1976 many farmers finished harvest in July and we here finished on Aug 4, but this year we have the later crop to harvest of spring beans which may not be fit to cut by that date. Cattle are still just eking a living from the parched pastures and we hope to have enough conserved to take us through a long winter. They may need some hay bales soon but it is amazing how stock seem to thrive in hot weather. Eye infections which are known as New Forest Eye are a downside problem of this very hot weather, despite our cattle having been protected by an anti-fly treatment poured along the spine.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

The Names, by Florence Knapp

'Cora will register the name of her son. Or, perhaps, and this is her real concern, she'll formalise who he will become.'

What's in a name? In her debut novel, Florence Knapp imagines three alternative paths for her protagonist and his family, dependent upon the name his mother decides to register in each scenario. Will she appease her abusive husband by giving her child the family name, 'Gordon'? Will she break with tradition and choose 'Julian', a name meaning 'sky father', in the hope that her son will transcend the brutality of his predecessors? Or, most radical of all, will she take her daughter's suggestion of naming him 'Bear', so he may grow to be 'soft and cuddly [...] But also, brave and strong'?

In each case, we observe the chosen name shaping the boy's view of himself and the attitudes of those around him, changing the trajectories of their lives. What each name represents seems to be more important than the names themselves. The challenge for Gordon/Julian/Bear is to learn that they themselves, not their names, determine who they will become. A name is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. Life is there for the choosing.

This is a heavy read in places, with some explicit scenes of physical and psychological domestic abuse, so best avoided if you're not in the headspace for that. On the whole, though, a fantastic concept for a novel; thoroughly engrossing; wholeheartedly recommended.

Flinging love,

Anna



Photo of the month

SEND US
YOUR SNAPS

Email:
BishopstoneEditor
@gmail.com



This month's stunning photo of the month (above), was sent in by Sarah Cooke (thank you Sarah), but taken by her son Toby Cooke at 5:26 am on 21st July. Sarah said that this is the first time they've ever had to start harvesting wheat so early due to the dry conditions.

Our runner up this month (below) is another lovely topical image sent in by Jo Morris, also from the end of July. Thank you Jo and Sarah for these lovely photos.



Dust off your Box Brownie, polish your telephoto lens or simply wipe the fingerprints off your phone and become the village paparazzi.

We're looking for photographic evidence of village life in all its glory — stunning sunsets, local wildlife, beautiful landscapes, curious happenings and anything else that makes you think, "Ooh, that might get me in the Village News."

Each month, our ruthlessly discerning judging panel will retire behind closed doors, don their imaginary monocles and subject the entries to an entirely disproportionate level of scrutiny before crowning one worthy winner.

The prize? Full-colour glory in these very pages, village-wide bragging rights and the heady possibility that someone may recognise your name in the pub.

There's no trophy. There's no cash. There isn't even a rosette.

Just fame. Fleeting, local, glorious fame.

CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar



Dear Friends,

As the last days of August gently play out and September comes, so the Churches calendar for prayer, study and worship moves into the relatively new season of Creation Tide. This is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. A Harvest Service of Thanksgiving for God's abundant creation and all who work the land and in the food industry will be held on Sunday 13th September at St. Mary's, Bishopstone. Do join us – it would be great to see you.

However, never before have issues around food security, environment and climate seemed so viscerally urgent as they do this year, following the devastating floods and wild fires in Europe. After hundreds of thousands of years of stable, benign climatic conditions around the earth in which human civilisations and culture has been able to flourish, we are now engaged in a rapid destabilisation of the complex weather patterns connected to the carbon cycle in our atmosphere. So far, we have only experienced about 1.4C of warming above pre-industrial levels but we are heading for 2.8C and more in the near future. What then and how should we respond? Clearly, we cannot spend every day in a state of eco anxiety about something we as individuals cannot solve single handedly. We have a life to live and things to do and it would not be good for our mental health or wellbeing. But, equally clearly, it is an area that needs urgent attention and action, now. So somehow, it seems to me, we must resist the collective shrug of the shoulders that talk weakly in our media about our warming climate and how are we going to adapt to it, and face firmly what is coming down the line, while actions to lessen the extreme severity of those inevitable consequences, are still possible.

To this end I am organising, along with members of our Parish, a showing of the 50minute film "A Nation Emergency Briefing" at the Bishopstone Village Hall on Tuesday evening 22nd September from 7pm. On 27 November 2025, leading experts set out the evidence on the climate and nature crisis in a formal briefing to national decision-makers. This film presents a summary of their findings and you would have thought would be greatly in the public interest for us all to know! But apparently not. Has this summary been aired on national TV? No! I am troubled and mystified by this. But it doesn't stop us meeting and considering what we currently know and sharing and discussing together our reaction to this and exploring any actions we might like to take in response. I therefore cordially extend to everyone one of you an invitation to a showing and discussion of the short film "The National Emergency Briefing" at Bishopstone Village Hall on 22nd September from 7pm (Free entry). I look forward to meeting many of you there.

After all that you may need some hope so here is a trailer for our Autumn Course this year entitled "Hope Explored." These are being held at the Village Inn in Liddington on Monday evenings 21st, 28th September and 5th October from 7pm – 9pm. Over three sessions, Hope Explored presents the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and provides an opportunity to discover how he fulfils three great longings we all experience: the longing for hope, peace, and purpose. The structure of each session is simple: a film in two parts, a discussion based on the film and a chance to explore Luke's gospel. These evenings are for everyone who has a longing for hope, peace and purpose in their lives, regardless of whether you have been a Christian for years or you are not even sure whether there is a God or not? All welcome.

If you would like to know more or sign up for the course, which is free, please contact 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

The Parish of the Wellspring Villages

The main morning Church Services always start at 10.30am.

Day	2026	Time	Venue
Sun	16.08	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	23.08	8.30am	<i>BCP Holy Communion, St Andrew's</i>
Sun	23.08	10.30am	MW, St Swithun's
Sun	30.08	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	06.09	10.30am	MW with HC, All Saints
Sun	13.09	10.30am	Harvest MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	13.09	4pm	Informal Worship Service, Hinton Parva Village Hall
Sun	20.09	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	27.09	08.30am	<i>BCP Holy Communion, St Andrew's</i>
Sun	27.09	10.30am	MW St Swithun's

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

Prayer

Living and blessed Lord,
who in the abundance of your love
established this green world;
and furnished it so richly
that in it life might flourish
in a myriad manifestations of beauty.
Enable us so to put aside all
reckless exploitation of its resources,
that, in new humbleness and generosity of heart,
we might recover the fertile garden
of your holy dream
from which the whole world will be fed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2026

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.

Enviro PEST CONTROL

We are a local business providing a professional and friendly service to commercial and domestic customers in Bishopstone and all surrounding villages.

Fully qualified - Insured - 30 years experience
10% discount off standard rates with this ad
Mobile - 07379 276187
Email - enquiries@enviropestcontroltd.co.uk
www.enviropestcontroltd.co.uk

Bryn Llinos

A holiday cottage close to Beddgelert in the heart of Snowdonia

4* Rated with 5* Reviews

Excellent for beaches, mountains, walking, cycling and mountain biking

Heritage steam railway just 50 metres away at Nantmor Halt (Porthmadog to Caernarfon)

Discounts available for local residents to Bishopstone, please contact: brynllynos@yahoo.com

www.holidaycottages.co.uk/cottage/64657-bryn-llinos



GRANT FRASER TOWN & COUNTRY

We are a family owned, fully independent company who take pride in getting customers moved onto their next milestone in a simple and stress-free way.

If you are thinking about selling your property, to arrange a free, no-obligation valuation today, contact:

01793 228 440 07737 745 231 grant@grantfrasertc.co.uk
www.grantfrasertc.co.uk

The Parish Times

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

Aug 2026

Parish Cllr Position

We are pleased to say we have had a positive response to our vacant councillor position and hope this will be filled in September. If anyone is interested in perhaps being a councillor in the future and would like to know more please do contact the clerk and we can arrange a catch up to share more, or as always, join us in one of our council meetings. It is so important to get representation across our parish and whilst we do not hold meetings in Russley Park, your views, thoughts and concerns are massively important to us. Dai Wilson is councillor contact so please reach out.

August '26 Meeting.

The August Parish Council meeting has been cancelled. A number of councillors are away on holiday and we wanted to give our new clerk the opportunity to have dedicated time to work through a number of actions from the July meeting including setting out our financial budget in a new format.

105.5FM

We have also been invited to be interviewed by a reporter from Swindon 105.5 who is creating a new series called "Parish Priorities and Purpose" with the aim to pre-sent them under a new light and bridge the gap between constituents and councillors and promote the parish council's role and what they do. The reporter is interviewing all 20 parish councils and will meet each chair over the next couple of months.

Speeding Update

In last month's newsletter we shared that we are keen to investigate how having a 20 mile an hour speed limit is reducing traffic speed in Bishopstone. The speed of traffic in all our villages is important and we have received a number of concerns from parish-ioners about cars and vans speeding through our villages and this is a reminder that we are still keen to seek your feedback. We will forward all feedback to Swindon Borough Council and also discuss at our September meeting so there is the opportunity to share with us your thoughts and concerns as this could support a formal traffic survey.



Whilst much of the Parish Council's time is centred on such things as planning, upkeep of our villages and protecting them we also need to ensure we are the voice for our community when there are changes to legislation and policy development that impact residents access to services such as health and social care, policing etc. All Parish Councils received a letter from Baroness Casey of Blackstock, Chair of the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care informing councils on the launch of the Big Conversation on Care. The Parish Council is one way to share details on

how people can contribute by sharing their thoughts and ideas so please see below details to visit the Big Conversation on Care site:

<http://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation/>

Autumn Litter Pick.

Heads up also for our Autumn litter pick. We will confirm a date for October and as always so grateful to those that support this to help. It is an opportunity to meet up with villagers and get to know one another whilst doing something incredibly important.

THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

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 Thanigasam

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/

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026 /27

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.

2026

6th July **Bishopstone** August **(Cancelled)**
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

Wiltshire Police non-emergency number (less urgent than 999): 101

Borough Councillors Gary Sumner - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

Matt Hinton - mhinton@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

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Re: Proposed Works to tree within a Conservation Area. At: The Folly Nell Hill Bishopstone Swindon SN6 8PW (S/TWC/26/0928)

WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

Award winning
**DELICATESSEN
COFFEE SHOP
& FOOD TO GO**



Best in Local, Regional
and International Food
Since 2006!

OPEN DAILY

**EAT-IN AND TAKEAWAY
DELICIOUS, HOMEMADE
FOOD. BREAKFASTS, LUNCHES
MEALS. COFFEE & TEAS,
SANDWICHES & BAGUETTES,
SALADS, SAVOURIES, SOUPS,
PLUS LOTS MORE...**



WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

Outside Catering

**ARTISAN CHEESES · OLIVES
FRESH BREAD · PRESERVES
PIES · DAIRY · SAUSAGES
DOUGHNUTS · LOCAL ALE
HOMEMADE CAKES · FRUIT
& VEG · CIDER, WINE & GIN**

And lots more...

SHOPS 8 HIGH STREET, HIGHWORTH T: 766399
33 HIGH STREET, SHRIVENHAM T: 783999

FOOD TO GO PRICELIST ONLINE AT WWW.BLOOMFIELDSFINEFOOD.CO.UK

**SHOP
OPENING
TIMES
WEEKDAYS
8 - 4pm
SATURDAY
8 - 3pm**

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparishcouncil

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG



Est. 1986

Chappells

ESTATE AGENTS

Sales, Lettings & Property Management

village specialists for over 4 decades

Celebrate with us our
40th anniversary!

Property experts with the experience others envy

✉ sales@chappells.uk.com ✉ lettings@chappells.uk.com ☎ 01793 618080

35-36 Newport St, Old Town, Swindon SN1 3DP



HERITAGE TREE CARE

Professional Tree Surgeons

**Comprehensive Service
Qualified Staff
Fully Insured**

- ✓ Pruning and Shaping
- ✓ Felling and Removal
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Stump Grinding
- ✓ Tree Planting

Free quotations and advice
Call Ian Walding (N.C.Hort / N.D. Arb)

01793 790210

Email: ian@heritage-treecare.co.uk
www.heritage-treecare.co.uk



THE OWL BARN

A MEMORABLE STAY IN HINTON PARVA

theowlbarnwiltshire.co.uk



Pureheat

Firewood

Top quality British firewood
Kiln dried logs
Hardwood & softwood logs
Kindling & firelighters
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Office: 01793 855277 Mob: 07885 542718

Find us on Facebook pureheatfirewood.co.uk

1 bag of kindling
free with code **PHK**
with all orders!

WOODSURE
READY
TO BURN



SHRIVENHAM
WATCHFIELD &
ROYALS FC
ESTABLISHED 2000

HAVE A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES 6 TO 15?

JOIN YOUR LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB

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

shrivenhamfcroyals@gmail.com



SHRIVENHAM FC
S.N.G. ENGLAND

COME AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Why not join us at our next home game for some
proper local football, great people and a good time!



RECREATION GROUND SHRIVENHAM SN6 8BJ

VILLAGE HALL news



BISHOPSTONE

BVH Reg Charity 271165
Hocker Bench

After a quiet summer, we are looking ahead to Autumn and more fundraising and maintenance activities.

Skittles

The Lost Three Balls Rampant Trophy will return to be contested again Friday 2nd October from 6.30pm

Village Hall Tidy and Paint Jobs

All welcome to join us Saturday morning 5th September 0900-1200. Pop in to pick up a paint brush, pruning shears or lopper, sponge cloths and Windolene! We have a list of small jobs that could be tackled with any volunteers that can spare an hour or so on a Saturday morning. The end elevation in particular has been prepped and needs a lick of paint and some potholes to fill in the car park.



Finally, we are evaluating an opportunity to become an **Emergency Contact Hub** for the local community. This initiative will need wider support from community members, not just run by the Hall committee, and will need wider expertise, so we are reaching out now to gather volunteers

The Objectives of the hub

- Provide a template for the community to help itself in an emergency
- Solve problems within the community in an emergency using our own resources and expertise
- Provide a safe gathering place for community members to support one another
- Provide a geographic location and focal point for sharing information between community members and the professional responding agencies

If you would like to learn more or become part of a group taking this initiative forward please contact:

Village Hall Chair: Richard Walker
01793 791 913 | richardw@eddingtons.co.uk
Message: 07740 106 222

We expect to meet informally in the next couple of weeks.

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

HINTON PARVA

Contact: hpvillagehall@gmail.com.

Karen Walker on behalf of Hinton Parva Village Hall

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Both Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Villages 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: 01793 791391
Hourly rate: £10 residents, £12.50 non-residents

Brandon's
EXTERIOR CLEANING

CLEANING SERVICES

Professional Cleaning for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva

OUR SERVICES:

- Window Cleaning FROM £20
- Gutter Clearing
- Gutter & Fascia Cleaning
- Driveway & Patio Cleaning

FREE QUOTES!

Text or Call
07392851487

INDULGE YOURSELF IN THE GLORIES OF THE DOWNS, BISHOPSTONE AND EASTBROOK FARM, WITH THE FARM BOSS HERSELF, WITH SOME PROPER LEISURELY FARM WALKS.

Sometimes the farm walks and safaris at Eastbrook can go too fast—there's always something else to move on to. And talk about. And some of us just take for granted what's on our doorstep, without realising exactly how it has come about. So in that last week of August as we all head towards the end of the summer holidays, Helen would enjoy taking some customers and neighbours on specific farm walks, lasting a bit longer, 3-4 hours, with plenty of time to chat, and sit, sometimes with a bit of refreshment and packed lunches as part of the deal.

Helen has three walks in mind across three days—

Tuesday August 25: Fruit, nuts, and pioneering agroforestry and all that goes with it down at Lower Farm, 1 mile from here, starting at the pub, packed lunches and water/soft drinks available to order. Will also include our glamping site at Botswicky, part of Lower Farm

Friday August 28: Setting off from the pub, through the original woodland Helen planted more than 30 years ago, Marrall Woodland; then up through the gentle and flora-fascinating Eastbrook Valley. Onto the Ridgway, possibly seeing the pigs en route. Stopping for a picnic lunch and drink close to the Nell Hill crossing; then back to the village via Smiths Bottom

Saturday August 29: Up to and around the land at the south end of the farm, close to Ashdown House, for example, and including the land that we've just taken on from our retiring neighbours and that's rapidly converting to organic status—and changing every day! Probably starting at the Ridgeway junction where it crosses Nell Hill, upto 2 o'clock bushes, and picnic lunch at Starvall dairy, our relatively new investment. Plenty of dairy cows and calves to see en route.

An opportunity to see all of it; to hear what we do, why and how we do it; and knowing Helen, probably a bit of agricultural and environmental politics thrown in.

There is room for 15-20 guests on each of these easy adventures, so if there's a day or a route that appeals, please make sure you book. We can accept bookings and payment at the pub itself, of course, face to face, phone, email. A long walk on each day with Helen will cost £10 per walk per person, with an additional £15 for a generous packed lunch and drink to be enjoyed when we stop somewhere comfortable.

Helen is expecting 10-15 of her Soil Association staff to take part in the walks each day, so plenty of expertise to call on and join in with. They're quite nice!

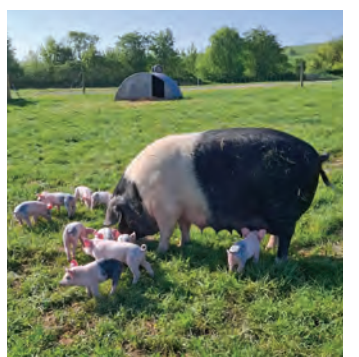
TF

Some guidance:

Bring proper gear—this could range from hats and sun cream and water bottles to boots and waterproof hats. It's an unusual English summer. We'll all know more nearer the time.

Children—are they just a burden?! Do they want to listen to tree and cow talk? Well, we've got you covered—we have engaged a friend of ours for the week — Rachel Jones, a nationally certified early years practitioner who runs her own forest school in S Wales, will take your kids into the woods to dig some ponds. Or make a dam or dens. Or look for water somewhere. They will be in good hands and having safe fun, £5 per child per hour.

Picnics/packed lunches need to be ordered in advance—we need to know your allergies, if you have any, and anything else you'd prefer to avoid. It will be simple—good bread, good meats/cheeses/salads etc; fruit; something to drink. £15pp. We'll deliver it to the chosen picnic site on the day.



Watchfield Opticians

Opening hours:

9am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday
9am – 1pm on Saturday

Your local Opticians situated next to the Co-op in Watchfield.
With parking available right outside and easy access.

Full Eye Examination.

OCT and OPTOMap scanning.

NHS funded eye tests available for those eligible.

Children's Eye Test.

Contact Lenses.

Hearing Tests and Ear Syringing.

Great choice of glasses and sunglasses to suit all tastes and pockets.



2 Majors Road, Watchfield, SN6 8TQ
T: 01793 783848 E: info@watchfieldopticians.com
www.watchfieldopticians.com



The Royal Oak Diary



Where to start, really? We're baked, the garden is baked, the chefs are roasting nicely, and it's been a huge pleasure to see so many of our local crowd enjoying the usually peaceful haven that we have created in this parish. Touching to see so many of you when Carte Blanche (neighbours John and Mark, but they're not living with each other yet) played their summer toons on the deck in mid July—so good that they're back here on **September 12** after the village fete, for a couple of hours. Richard Walker's talented gang **EzeTiger** are also back after the popular uprising they created after Pig Racing (mass semi-drunken dancing/sprawling on the lawn)—they're booked for the Sunday of the **bank holiday weekend, the 30th afternoon**, and will provide a lot of fun. Thank you to all of them—I've said it before, what a wide range of talents we have in this parish. And of course our regular music men **Bakelite Boys on Saturday afternoon 22 August** and **ThreeBop on 29 August**.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you might have seen a note about some slightly longer farm walks that we're hosting on **25, 28 and 29 August**. Three different walks, 3-4 hours each, with Helen B, on the assumption that some of you are quite interested to know what we do, how and why we do it, this organic farming lark that surrounds many of us and which helps to create and enhance the landscape we live in. We don't know how many of you will be interested, but if you are, I'd tell us sooner not later. We can't cope with huge numbers.

Bringing some cheer (!) to autumn, we're continuing our theme of public speakers exploring the subject of conflict in the world, and why it's so common and serious currently. Bob Shaw is our guest on **September 22**—ex-UK Armed Forces, specialist in Special Forces, Military Intelligence and diplomatic work, a leading guide within the Guild of Battlefield Guides—and his subject with us is basically 'are we stuck in a period of continuing conflict?—and why?' With special reference to Iran, Ukraine and why he had to traverse Afghanistan looking for a nuclear warhead with \$5m in the back of his truck a couple of decades ago. Part of his fee is going to Prospect Hospice—we've raised about £30k for them over the past few years. We're offering a two course supper plus speaker plus Q and A for £45pp. It think it will be enlightening, if slightly depressing.

And we have an Italian wine tasting on **September 29**—five wines, simple four course supper, £35pp, all hosted by



Photo: Royal Oak Garden, Gary Pass

the managing director of one of Tuscany's leading organic vineyards. Room for 35 people, please.

I do hope we see you at some point

TF and crew

01793 790481

@helenbrowningsorganic

FENCING & GATES
(Residential/Security/Commercial)

DRIVEWAYS

GROUNDWORK & DRAINAGE

PATIO CONCRETE BASES & RAMPS

PATHS

PLASTERING

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

**MINI DIGGER HIRE
& SKIP LOADER WITH DRIVER**

lee@wilsonconstruction.org.uk
07894 759 055 | 01793 376 830
Pinfold | The Forty | Bishopstone | SN6 8PQ

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Bishopstone Primary School News



An update from Bishopstone C of E Primary School PFTA (FOBS – Friends of Bishopstone School) on our Playground Project fundraising



First of all, sincere apologies to anyone in the village or further afield, for whom it might appear that everything went a bit 'radio silence'. We can assure you that a lot has been happening behind the scenes, but appreciate those not closely involved with the school would not have had awareness of the progress. Finding suppliers/getting quotes/booking in the work at a

time which is best for the children's safety & schedules etc. all takes time for School to arrange, but we are pleased to say we are finally in a place to provide an update on what has been done with your generous donations and contributions.

2 years ago, the playground in our lovely village primary school was in a bit of a sorry state. The surface had deteriorated and many holes had appeared, making areas of it unsafe for the children to play in. The markings had faded, equipment was getting a bit tired, parents were fed up with children emptying bits of crumbled surface from their shoes onto the hallway floor etc. – you get the picture! SBC had been approached – sorry, no funding available! The previous

installers had been approached - sorry, can't do anything, normal wear and tear! Estimates were coming in for around £20k to resurface the playground, with a further £15k - £20k needed for everything else.

So, after discussions between FOBS and the School, the Playground Project was launched! Phase 1 – raise £20k to resurface the playground. To maximise our fundraising capabilities, we decided to apply to register FOBS as a Charity. Lots of paperwork was completed (thank you Jadel!) and 'Bishopstone C of E Primary School PFTA' was born. Our 4 Trustees were appointed, along with our merry team of PFTA members. Whilst we were waiting for our Charity status, one of the students – Gwen – came up with the great idea of completing a sponsored run to raise funds for a 'quiet area' in the playground, which was a great success and the quiet area officially opened in May 2025.



Our first year was a busy one to say the least! We organised events in the community such as the 24 hour sponsored Xmas cycle, supper at the Royal Oak & bingo night, along with running a cakes & games stall at the Royal Oak's annual pig racing event and arranging multiple Bag2School bag collections. We also ran events within school – Autumn & Valentines discos, Xmas fayre, Easter egg hunt, Summer party, Smarties tube challenge, personalised Lego keyrings, book sale etc. The gardening club children even grew and



sold some potatoes! Due to our new Charity status, we were able to receive some very kind and generous donations from friends of the school & businesses local and afar. By the end of our 2024/2025 year, we had raised £15,852 - 79% of our goal, almost there!

Then, just before the summer holidays, we had some potential good news! School had approached SBC again

about funding for the resurfacing – this time, someone from SBC came out to visit and assess the playground. School were then told there was a chance that SBC would carry out the work. This was amazing news as it meant – if this chance turned into reality - the money already raised for the Playground Project could be used for Phase 2. Very conscious that nothing was 100% confirmed yet, we decided to continue fundraising towards our £20k target, as it was looking more likely that this would also be the amount needed for Phase 2. We crossed everything and hoped for the best and, upon return to school in September, it was confirmed that SBC would be completing the resurfacing – hoorah!

So, for 2025/2026, the pressure was off a bit, but we still needed to raise a bit more for Phase 2. A couple of our parents – Nikki & Tara – took on the Swindon half marathon and raised a fab £800! We organised and ran some more events – a festive Xmas fun run, a quiz & disco and an Easter themed crafts & games afternoon - and raised additional funds through some more Bag2School collections and EasyFundraising. We also received donations from Mr. Smith Senior's walking groups, the village rounders event, sales of eggs from one of school family's chickens and money collected by the Royal Oak at their quiz & supper nights. As we close the 2025/2026 year, the final total raised for the Playground Project is £18,733.

Raising this amount of money is quite an achievement when you consider the small size of our community. There was – thankfully – no blood, but definitely sweat, tears and a hell of a lot of hard work involved! We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone involved in helping us to achieve this – our FOBS team, Trustees, Headteacher Mr. Smith, School staff, the children, parents/carers/family/friends, villagers & others from afar, Tim Finney & the team at The Royal Oak, Alfresco – the list goes on! Thank you for donating your time, support and hard-earned money. We really appreciate it and couldn't have done it without you!

2 years later and our playground is looking much lovelier than it did - the resurfacing work has been completed, the children have a 'quiet area' to step away from the hustle & bustle, KS1 (4-7 year olds) have a lovely new fence for their own area and all children are enjoying new equipment such as a giant playhouse, a climbing wall, a 46 piece architect set (used to design/construct a trail of balance blocks/beams), a 12 piece low level climbing box set (to create i.e. an assault course), a new picnic table, giant chalk sticks & mini football goals. After all this, there is still a bit left in the 'pot' and School are currently looking into designs for line markings, including a football pitch, and other playground items



– rest assured, every penny raised for the Playground Project will be spent on the playground. Once again, thank you for all your support in helping us and the School achieve this!

community
catalysts®

unlocking potential
effecting change



Want to make a real difference to people
in your neighbourhood?

Ever considered setting up your own small
business that supports people to thrive?

Community Catalysts can help!

Our free programme helped Fabia
share her own experiences to offer
support for others

Want to be like Fabia and
run your own small business?



Take that first step today!

Anita Wingad

Community Catalyst

a.wingad@communitycatalysts.co.uk

07341 425126



CommCatsValeofWhiteHorse

enquiry form



SCAN HERE

Rachel Payne
Professional Hairdresser



Established 25 years
Based in Bishopstone
Olaplex, Moroccan Oil
& Schwarzkopf Treatments
Available

For Appointments & Consultations
Contact 07527 607947



KERRY CARE
Collective
Private Bespoke Home Care

Tailored support, delivered by experienced
personal assistants

REGISTERED
INSURED
DBS CHECKS

- Full Care Packages
- Breakfast, Lunch, Tea and Bed visits
- Medication Assistance
- Shopping & Prescription Collections
- Domestic and Laundry Service
- Meal Preparation
- Companionship
- End of Life Family Support

Care, you can count on and trust

kerry.a.hartley@gmail.com 07726598105

luli
GRAPHIC
DESIGN

PRINT
WEB
BRANDING

07795 086197 info@luli.uk luli.uk



EDWARD BAYS LIMITED
HEATING & PLUMBING

AT YOUR SERVICE SINCE 1912

**All Commercial and Domestic
Plumbing and Heating Works**

- Servicing
- Gas/Oil/LPG
- Maintenance
- Safety Checks
- Commissioning
- Rayburn & AGA
- Bathrooms
- Installation
- Fuel Tanks
- Design
- Mechanical
- Renewables

Contact us today on

01793 763790



admin@edwardbaysltd.co.uk



- ✓ OFTEC CERTIFIED
- ✓ CIPHE APPROVED
- ✓ GASSAFE CERTIFIED
- ✓ WORCESTER ACCREDITED INSTALLERS
- ✓ GRANT GI INSTALLERS
- ✓ GLOWWORMCLUB INSTALLERS

www.edwardbaysltd.co.uk



Pearce Funeral Services

Our Family Service, Caring for You

- Independent family run funeral directors in Swindon
- Compassionate staff who treat every funeral as personal
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- 30 years experience and more than 500 five star reviews
- Home visits always welcomed
- Committed to the fair funeral pledge

"Such a high standard that I would suggest many in this difficult business would struggle to emulate"

"Outstanding is an understatement"

"Incredible service"

"If it hasn't been done before, they will find a way"

For our truly personal service feel free to phone, email or visit one of our branches.

01793 832 072

92 Ermin Street
Stratton St Margaret
Swindon, SN3 4NN

pearcefuneralservices.co.uk

01793 422 422

Papermakers House
Rivenhall Road
Westlea, West Swindon, SN5 7BD

info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



Included in the Good Funeral Guide since 2011 in recognition of our high standards of service.

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Estate Agents

CHAPPELLS ESTATE AGENTS
01793 618 080
sales@chappells.uk.com

GRANT FRASER TOWN & COUNTRY
01793 228 440 | 07737 745 231
grant@grantfrasertc.co.uk

Health & Wellness

COMMUNITY CATALYSTS
07341 425 126
awingad@communitycatalysts.co.uk

RACHEL PAYNE HAIRDRESSER
07527 607 947

SHRIVENHAM FOOTBALL CLUB
shrivenhamfc.co.uk

WATCHFIELD OPTICIANS
01793 783 848
info@watchfieldopticians.com

Home Services & Trades

ENVIRO PEST CONTROL
07379 276 187
enquiries@enviropestcontroltd.co.uk

HERITAGE TREE CARE
01793 790 210
ian@heritage-treecare.co.uk

MOWERFIXER
07899 791 833
doug@mowerfixer.co.uk

WILSON CONSTRUCTION
07894 759 055 | 01793 376 830
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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Team

ADVERTISING:

Mark Jordan: markjordan3@icloud.com

PUBLISHING EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHY:

Andrea Wadsworth: andrea@luli.uk

SUB-EDITOR:

Val Brodin: valbrodin@gmail.com

CREATIVE COPY:

Roving Reporter Bob

Guest Contributors: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

Fanny Hole: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Andy Pocock: andrewpocock@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION:

Yuet Dickinson: 07757 998 698

Contributions

If you'd like to write an article or submit any photography please email Andrea or Val for consideration in the next issue. We aim to distribute the newsletter on or around 15th of each month.

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

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

Submitted images

By submitting images for use in the Village News, whether for editorial or advertising purposes, you accept personal responsibility for complying with copyright laws related to those images. The Village News is not liable for any fines resulting from unlawful use of images. If you obtained an image online without purchasing it from a stock library or receiving permission from the copyright holder, it is likely that you do not have the right to use it. If you are uncertain, various online tools are available to check image copyrights.

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.



**FIND US
ONLINE**

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

[f /groups/bishopstoneandhintonparva](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bishopstoneandhintonparva)

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

August 2026

2026	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sat	22.08.26	12.00-5pm	Wanborough Village & Country Show	SN4 0DA wanboroughshow.org
Sat	22.08.26	Afternoon	Pub Music: Bakelite Boys	The Royal Oak 01793 790 481 (see pg. 18)
Tues	25.08.26		Helen Browning Farm Walk	Lower Farm BOOK: 01793 790 481 (see pg. 17)
Fri	28.08.26		Helen Browning Marrall Woodland	The Royal Oak BOOK: 01793 790 481 (see pg. 17)
Sat	29.08.26		Helen Browning South End of the Farm	Ridgeway Jct. BOOK: 01793 790 481 (see pg. 17)
Sat	29.08.26	Afternoon	Pub Music: 3Bop	The Royal Oak 01793 790 481 (see pg. 18)
Sun	30.08.26	12.00	Street Food Festival	Wood St, Swindon
Sun	30.08.26	Afternoon	Pub Music: EzeTiger	The Royal Oak 01793 790 481 (see pg. 18)
Sat	05.09.26	9am-12.00	Village Hall Tidy & Paint Job	Bishopstone Village Hall
Wed	09.09.26	7pm	Gardening Club: Richard Rickets (pg. 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk
Sat	12.09.26		Village Fete: Save the Date!	Winding Wood Field Bishopstone littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk 07789 414147
Sat	12.09.26	After the Fete	Carte Blanche Afternoon Garden Party	The Royal Oak 01793 790 481 (see pg. 6)
Mon	14.09.26	Food 5.30pm Quiz 7pm	Pub Quiz	The Royal Oak Book a table: 01793 790 481
Sat/ Sun	19/20.09	11am to 5pm	Swindon Open Studios	See Page 4 See Page 4
Sat/ Sun	26/27.09	11am to 5pm	Swindon Open Studios	See Page 4 See Page 4
Sun	27.09.26		Swindon Half Marathon	swindonhalf.co.uk
Wed	14.10.26	7pm	Gardening Club: Charlotte Howard (pg. 5)	Bishopstone Village Hall info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk
Fri	16.10.26		Gardening Club: Quiz and Chilli Night (pg. 5)	info@ridgewaygardeners.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: Harvest time on the Ridgeway, Ceredig Jones

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'**
Email:
BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

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

Stick me on your fridge