



VILLAGENews

SEPT 2026



Photo: New to the village, 'The Holloran children watching the eclipse, from Aimee Holloran

A CELESTIAL SPECTACLE OVER THE VILLAGES

On the evening of Wednesday 12th August, those of us who remembered to look skywards were treated to something rather special, a spectacular partial solar eclipse.

With the weather gods unusually cooperative and the skies largely clear, we decided there was only one place to watch it properly. Armed with our rather fetching eclipse glasses, we headed up to the Ridgeway, where the wide-open views gave us the perfect vantage point.

The eclipse began at around 6.17pm, as the Moon slowly started to creep across the face of the Sun. By approximately 7.14pm it had reached its maximum over Wiltshire, with an impressive 93% or so of the Sun obscured. Although we weren't in the path of totality, it was still an extraordinary sight, and well worth looking slightly ridiculous in our special glasses for.

There was something wonderfully surreal about standing high above the village on a warm summer evening, watching the the Sun gradually disappear behind the Moon. As the eclipse approached its peak, the light took on that peculiar muted quality that photographs never quite seem to capture.

The walk up also gave us another striking view, although this one was rather more arid.

The Ridgeway and surrounding countryside was incredibly dry. Instead of the lush green landscape we're used to seeing, the fields and verges were parched and golden, the grass crisp underfoot and the ground baked hard after

weeks and weeks of remarkably little rain.

In fact, by early August England had endured seven consecutive weeks with less than 10mm of rainfall, while July was officially the driest on record for England. Some parts of southern England had gone almost two months without measurable rain, and Wiltshire had already been declared an area of prolonged dry weather.

It made for an extraordinary landscape in which to watch an extraordinary event – a very brown and dusty Ridgeway beneath an increasingly disappearing Sun.

For an hour or so, though, nobody was worrying about lawns, water butts or whether it would ever rain again. We were simply a handful of people standing on an ancient track, wearing silly glasses and staring upwards as the Moon passed in front of the Sun.

Sometimes the best entertainment really is free.

And, for once this summer, we were very grateful there wasn't a cloud in the sky.



BOOK A TABLE AT THE

BISHOPSTONE CRAFT FAIR

This year's craft fair will be held on
Thursday 26th November from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.
Please ensure that you book a table early to avoid disappointment, as I try to allocate just one table per product type, which ensures that the fair is more interesting for your customers.
Cost: £15.00 per table.

For more information and to reserve your space, please contact **Chris Thomas** on **07789 414147**. Or email: **littlecot2010@hotmail.co.uk**



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(See the diary in this publication for actual dates)

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Email: grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com



Bishopstone Stores

Here we are in the month that is now known as 'Organic September'. For us, a time to celebrate all things organic and to shout about why they are so good.

At Eastbrook Farm, we are proud to be certified by the Soil Association, who rigorously check up on us every year. Organic farming is about balancing the health of everything on the farm, from the soil to the animals and crops. We work with nature, not against it, to maintain the optimum health of the land. This, along with a lack of pesticides and chemicals over our beautiful farm, leads to an increase in wildlife, stronger, healthier soil, happier livestock and a more weather-resilient farm. You cannot deny that a wander through our fields is nothing short of spectacular when you open your eyes to the flora and fauna that surrounds you.

Here in the shop, we are so proud to be able to offer our own organic vegetables and meat that have been carefully nurtured here in Bishopstone. If you haven't tried Pete's carrots yet, or the fabulous potatoes, please come and give them a go.

We also love to be able to support other organic businesses and always prioritise them when choosing products for the shop... Berkeley Farm Dairy, Astons Bakehouse, The Good Egg Company, Kitchen Garden Preserves, Isle of Wight Garlic Farm, Cornwall Pasta Co... our shelves are bursting with organic loveliness.

Please check it out soon; you'll taste the difference and make a difference.

Lynne x



Opening Hours

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

Wednesday: **9am - 1pm**

Sunday: **9am - 3pm**



RECYCLING MATTERS

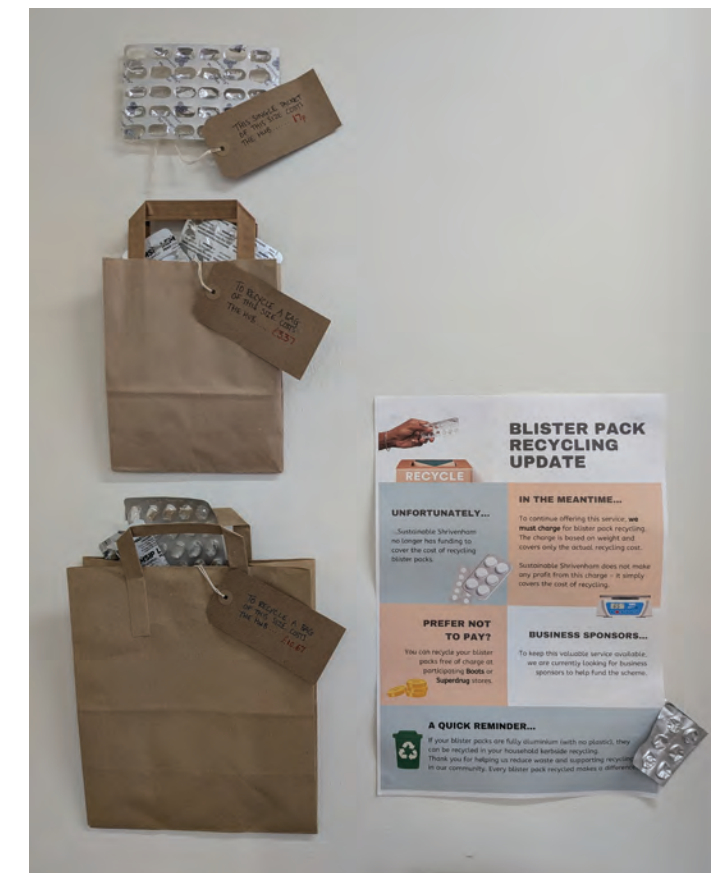
by Karen Walker

As I go through life, I'm definitely embracing a 'less is more' mentality. I'm actually enjoying letting things go that no longer fit my purpose so that I have more space to enjoy what I do have and the things that have been discarded can hopefully be of use to someone else. I'm feeling lighter even if the scales disagree with me! One of my daughters recently went through my pile of clothes to eBay and was really pleased to come away with 3 outfits that looked great on her and I was glad for them to be loved again. This has turned out to be quite financially rewarding for me too. My eBay spree this month has raised over £200 plus I've donated items to the Fete, Hub and charity shop. I already have less clothes space than my husband but my sad aim is to have one of those wardrobes that just has 'summer' or 'winter' clothes in it so that I can easily see everything I have and make proper use of it. The 'other season's' clothes are going to be put safely away in what is my now almost empty eBay chest. Now just to find a place to hide the Christmas presents!

I'm a big fan of our local doctors' surgery in Wanborough and one of the many reasons is that they provide a free service to recycle blister packs. If you use the 'Recycle at Boots' app you can earn £1 worth of Boots points for each 5 packs that you recycle with them so long as you spend £5 in store, however having this free service is also a god-send and very unusual due to the high cost associated with recycling blister packs. The Hub at Shrivenham

have recently had to introduce a charge for recycling them as the cost of sending off a full box load was prohibitive – a staggering £216 per box. They worked out the maths and a single blister pack that would have contained 30 tablets costs them 17p to recycle! To try to reduce costs, they've come up with some useful tips. If your packs are purely aluminium, so don't have any plastic and pass the test of holding their shape when scrunched, these can be put in your household recycling. Our cats' flea treatment tablets seem to fit this bill. And secondly, the cost of recycling blister packs is based on volume and not weight, so how much you can fit into the recycling box. Cutting them up makes a surprising difference, so you might want to do your bit and cut them up before dropping them off for recycling and save a Hub volunteer's scissor fingers or save Wanborough surgery some money!

The Hub's AGM is coming up at the end of the month and I'll report back. Sadly, they've already reported that they are not currently reaching their target takings through the till. Looking ahead, they've said their focus will be on highlighting the things that make the Hub different – so many things! - and give people a reason to visit. In particular they are looking to build on the Kids' Room, Craft Room and Refill offerings. The Hub is an amazing treasure trove and another amazing local asset. Do please consider visiting and supporting it.



HAPPY GARDENS by Jane Pearson

Image: Countryliving.com, Photographer: Kristian Engstrom/Getty Images



Tree shade in our gardens

This summer has really made me appreciate the joy of shade! Trees provide an abundance of it, and whether you have a small garden or a whole landscape on your doorstep, planting trees, shrubs, and hedges can help reduce the damage of extreme weather for people, plants, wildlife, and our planet.

Drought tolerant small & medium trees (8)



Arbutus unedo (Pink strawberry tree)



Cercis siliquastrum f. albida (White Judas tree)



Crataegus crus-galli thornless (Thornless cockspur thorn)



Prunus domestica 'Jublaeum' (Plum)



Prunus dulcis (Almond)



Pyrus calleryana (Callery pear)



Ginkgo biloba 'Goldspire' (Maidenhair tree 'Goldspire')



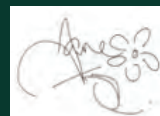
Sorbus aria 'Lutescens' (Whitebeam 'Lutescens')

Below left, are some of my favourite small and medium trees that cope well (once established) with summer drought conditions and wetter windy winters. All the featured trees encourage and support pollinators and unlike some less hardy species, they will survive frosts without the need of protection. Now is a great time to start choosing your new trees, ahead of the dormant season planting window, usually November to March.

Garden tasks for September – October:

- Cut back perennials that have died down.
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- Prune climbing roses
- Trim hedges
- Net ponds before leaf fall
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Choose your trees

Happy Gardening!



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

Please visit my website at janepearsondesign.com/blog for Readers Question Time and much more!

www.janepearsondesign.com/blog

The Ridgeway Gardening Club

Contact: Marion Peck: 01793 791 001

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

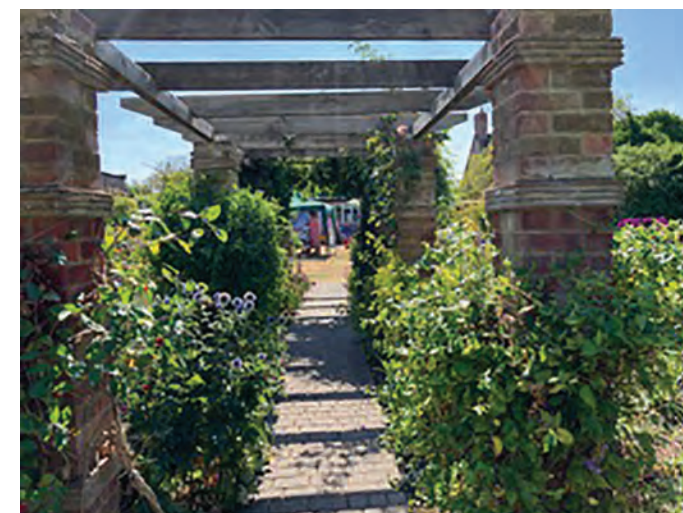


At last, as I write this our gardens can breathe a sigh of relief with the first showers for many weeks and already the grass has just a hint of green. I am always amazed how with the reduced temperature and a little moisture in the air the vegetation seems to come alive. Sadly there have been casualties but nature is a survivor and most plants find ways to keep going and live to fight another season.



August is a holiday month for the garden club with no regular meeting and speaker however Sunday 9th Byron and Joan Carron opened their amazing garden in Wanborough to raise funds for the Swindon Stroke Support Group. Several of our garden club members attended on a lovely afternoon where we wandered through the various 'rooms' in their garden, including herbaceous borders, pergola, vegetable garden and a welcome shaded woodland area before

enjoying a cold drink or cup of tea or coffee under a gazebo. A lovely afternoon raising much needed funds for this dedicated group of volunteers who give their time in providing vital support by way of regular meetings, lunches and outings and much more to both those who have suffered a Stroke and to their carers. Thank you and well done to them all.



We look forward to seeing you all as our meetings resume in the autumn, please see Diary Dates for details.

Diary Dates

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

November : AGM with Festive Meal : Venue and Date to be confirmed



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Ask Fanny.
Loose lips, sharp advice.

Dear Mrs Hole

I am sure this has not passed you by, the new game being played by some residents at the west end of the beautiful Britain in bloom former winning village, aka Bishopstone. Although I suspect after recent chatter, the game has mercifully been ended. It apparently involves someone deciding that the dog poo in their garden had become unsightly and therefore it was best disposed of by being lobbed over the HEDGE. Towards a road. It's not really a game, since there are no targets, or indeed a leader board for the best throw; but on occasions one or two people have been irritated, angry and very uncomfortable about the consequences.

I wonder if you can throw (or indeed lob) any light on these mucky goings-on?

Yours distastefully
Arthur Sourdough
Bishopstone High Street

Dear Arthur

I had heard rumblings about this, and someone says the road out of the village is (or was, now it's rained) patterned with slightly darker markings, if you stop and look carefully. One of the old jalopies in the village also bears the scars of a double direct hit. The driver reports he was pleased he was not driving his soft top car, open to all the elements and more Bishopstone treats.

I do believe that this little game has reached its natural conclusion. The miscreant blamed his/her children, who were nowhere to be seen and are thought to be as rare as red herrings in the village pond.

I feel this seedy chapter is probably closed but I am sure, and hope, that the speculation will continue. If it does, please ensure it reaches my ears.

Entertaining your
Fanny

Dear Mrs Hole

Is there any protocol attached to how people charge their electric cars when there is no direct access to their house? What if other cars are in the way? What happens if someone trips over a charging cable?

This is potential minefield in parishes like this, since there are so many cars that they often have to be parked on the street some distance from the household plug points.

Do you have any advice? I'm curious. I love my proper Mercedes so it's of no concern to me!

Yours
Hilda Davis
Hinton Parva

Dear Hilda

What a lovely name! Such an old fashioned girl!

Yes, it's all very tricky, I agree. Such a relatively new concept, cars that need to be plugged into the interweb or whatever, that I suppose there is no acceptable protocol yet. I have heard stories from Bishopstone

about a so called 'birdshit Golf' car that appears to be unmoved for weeks at a time and is blocking someone's access to power—I guess the solution might be buy a longer cable! And other requests via Facebook showing cars that are probably parked where EVs need to be. But who knows this, when you're looking for somewhere to park? Look at that place where people park on the hill in Hinton—as you know, Hilda, that's no place to be the owner of an EV. Anyway, this car chatter is terminally dull and I expect no further correspondence on the subject unless it causes more of that bare knuckle fighting we mentioned last month.

Yours, bored
Fanny Hole

Dear Mrs Hole

Have you heard?! Bishopstone's best known cocaine dealer is out of prison! I can't work out if this is good news or bad news. Please advise.

Excitedly yours
Phil McCavity
Tooting House
Bishopstone

Dear Phil

You are slightly behind the times—as reported in these columns almost a year ago, he has been out of prison for almost a year, and he was back in the village on almost completely legit business at the end of 2025. Unfortunately his electronic tag went beep beep when he attempted to resurrect his extramarital affair with a local hairdresser and he had to return to his safe (and expensive) house in Cheltenham. Bishopstone's best known cannabis dealer (from several years ago by all accounts) has also been back and having a look around, but again no sightings since last year. And as for that other famous parish visitor, Dominic Cummings, that we saw a couple of times during lockdown, no sightings at all since he lost his job alongside Boris in 2022.

Yours with all the celebrity gossip
FH

Write to Fanny: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER
HARD SUDOKU

LAST
MONTH'S
WINNER IS
Liz Bowles
Grab your voucher
from Lynne
at the shop!

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

Other this month entries:

Codeword: G&G Phillpotts, Scarlett Payne, Julie B, Alex Hirst, Peter Walker, Ninx Flanagan, Gary Pass, John Iles, Yuet Dickenson, Millie Green, Tabbie Green

Sudoku: Liz Bowles, G&G Phillpotts, Scarlett Payne, Ninx Flanagan, Yuet Dickinson

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

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

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**

SEPTEMBER
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.

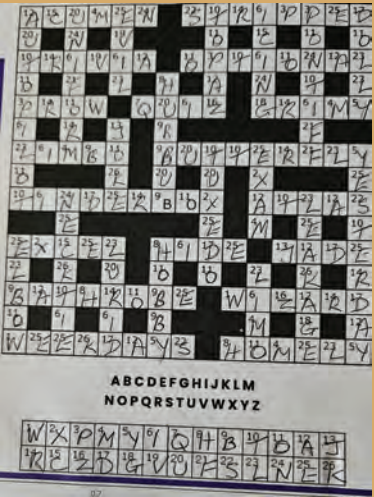
All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

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

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

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

DICKIE'S diary

Richard Green



After 10 months of effort, the celebration to complete this year's harvest was somewhat muted. It was over a month early, finishing cereals in July, with spring beans cut on August 10th. Everything was cut dry. The only respectable yield was from the oil seed rape. The last good harvest was in 2022. Farmers reeling from low yields, soft prices, the high cost of fertiliser for next year and coping with professional fees over the inheritance "family tax" will hope for a good harvest next year to replenish their cash flows. As we prepare for another autumn planting, with sewage sludge and our own dung being incorporated into much of our arable acres, a pessimist might conclude that hope and faith are a doubtful basis for success should a drought return again next year. Looking at long-term solutions, irrigation from newly created lagoons might be possible in the Vale. Without streams, irrigation is unlikely on the downs. Grass, if you can find it, is now like brown sticks. Livestock seem surprisingly happy in the heat, but maintaining milk yields and weight gains is another matter without expensive additional feed. Nationally, Government has yet to grasp that their policies are also driving down home food production, risking food security and an increase in imports in an unstable world. I don't think we are seeking extra funding, rather a more relevant redirection aimed at FOOD and the environment, rather than whole fields unharvested just for the pigeons, rooks and rats.

Thursday, August 13th saw temperatures here reach 35+ degrees in the shade. Arising from some beef sales to Marks and Spencer, we were able to obtain FOC a good selection

of trees and hedging to plant last winter through the auspices of the Woodland Trust, so enhancing Sainsbury's environmental messaging. They all started so well. Peering in the guards, many, sadly, particularly oaks, have now succumbed to the heat and drought. Never say die – we are a resilient bunch. We will plant again. Farmers are conditioned to care for animals, to nurture life and then cope with the inevitable deaths, and these setbacks sometimes come with a forced smile.

Planting for posterity, the paddock in front of Rectory Farm features a copper beech, a holm oak (evergreen) and a mulberry tree. Brighter spots this month have been the fruiting mulberries for the first time from a tree I planted 30 years back. Fully ripe, they are like a massive blackberry and so sweet. Picking is a messy business. Spilling the red juices gives every indication of serious injury or murder! I was inspired to plant a specimen after seeing others beside the church steps at Ashbury and by a pair on Eric Penser's lawn at Compton Beauchamp. Quail were identified when harvesting on the high downs. Clouded Yellow butterflies, another migrant and darker yellow than Brimstones, are also about this year. With nearly an absence of dew to date, one wonders how such birds and animals like hares can manage in such a dry spell, particularly on the downs with no streams.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

The Correspondent, by Virginia Evans

Appropriate to its title, this is an epistolary novel piecing together the life of seventy-three-year-old Sybil, one correspondence at a time. For all her life, letters have been her primary method of communication, and this remains true even into the digital age. Through a collage of letters between friends and family, some professional email correspondence, and one extensive unsent personal letter, we glean the joys and trials of Sybil's long life. We are privy to her wise reflections on life's seasonality, compelling us to be tender towards ourselves in our own seasons and surrender to the healing passage of time.

I gained from this novel an overwhelming urge to write letters. Sybil comments at one point, in relation to text messaging, that 'the sum of this interpersonal

communication is the substance of your life,' yet it is quick and thoughtless and could be gone at any moment. Far better to put thought and care into our relationship communications, which after all are 'the meat of our lives'. As soon as I put the book down, I picked up a pen and wrote to a friend of mine - it felt amazing, and I would thoroughly recommend it. Having said that, I can't pretend I have high hopes of keeping up this habit. Time will tell.

'Remember: words, especially those written, are immortal.'

Flinging love,

Anna

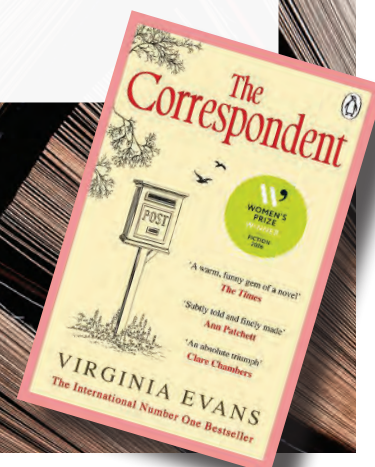


Photo of the month

SEND US YOUR SNAPS

Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com



We love this month's photo sent in by Simon Sea. He took this fabulous balloon picture from The Ridgeway between Idstone and Ashdown, during August. Thank you Simon for sending this in.

Our runner up photo (below) this month is from Neil Cornelius, from Hinton Parva. Another lovely harvesting picture. Thank you Neil.



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,

In the last really hot dry summer of 1976, I landed on the rugged Inner Hebridean Island of Rum, west of Mallaig and south of Skye, with 20 other 17year olds and 4 leaders. We brought supplies for two weeks and camped on the Island, walking, climbing, canoeing, exploring and soaking up this extraordinary place, its geology and wild life. It is a special place and those two weeks proved really special and formative for me in many ways. I credit Rum with finding my motivation to come home and actually pass my A-Levels and the Leader of our expedition with showing me the treasure that might be found in the Christian faith, if you bothered to look. It wasn't that he talked very much about his faith, but it was the sheer attractive quality of his life that left a deep impression on me as a teenager growing up without a faith in God. Two years later I did investigate what Christianity was all about and the rest, as they say, is history.

A few years ago, I thought it would be rather special to revisit this amazing place with my own four grown up sons, 50 years on, if they could find time out of work and family life. They all did and we went in July this year for what proved a spectacular five-day trip in quite stunning weather. We camped at our old campsite from 1976, at Salisbury Dam, visited the 100,000 strong nesting colony of Manx Shearwaters on Hallival, sitting up on the mountain side at midnight as the adults returned to feed their chicks in the burrows beneath our feet. We watched Golden Eagles, Merlin, Black Guillemots, Red Deer, an incredibly clear sightings of an Otter from the cliffs at Kilmory, as well as the unmistakable black silhouette, against a glass calm sea, of a Minke Whale out in the channel between Rum and Skye. Before we went, I was concerned that the famously wet west coast weather and prolific clouds of Rum midges would mean we would miss out on all the riches and enjoyment of this rare jewel of a place. In the event it was beyond my wildest expectations and such a joy to share it with the boys. So, if you have something special from your past that you would like to share with your family, I would encourage you to grasp the opportunity. The rewards can be great.

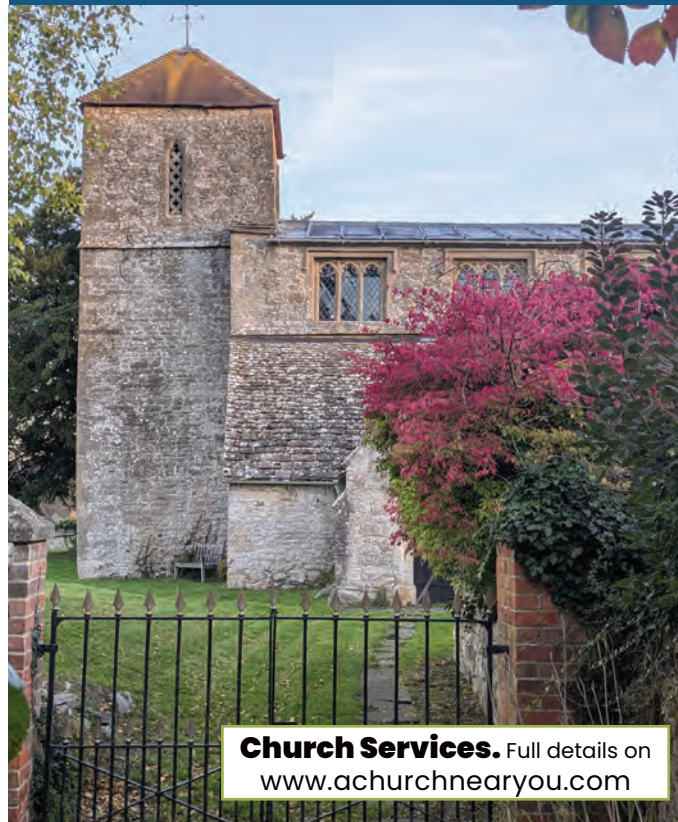
Closer to home we have a Hope Explored Course starting soon, over three evenings at the Village Inn in Liddington, on Mondays 21st, 28th September and 5th October, 7-9pm. Here is a chance to take a fresh look at the claims of Christ and think again about how His life, death, and resurrection can meet our deepest longings for hope, peace, and purpose. Each evening will include a film in two parts, a discussion based on the film and a chance to explore Luke's gospel. If you would like to know more or sign up for the course, which is free, please contact me at stevedpaynter@gmail.com or on 01793296870.

Lastly, we have a one-off evening viewing of the National Emergency Briefing at Bishopstone Village Hall on Tuesday evening 22nd September from 7-9pm. On 27 November 2025, leading experts set out the latest findings on the climate and nature crisis in a formal briefing to national decision-makers. This film presents a summary of their findings and the likely impacts. Do join us to reflect on the situation and share our thoughts and reactions with each other. What responses are needed and possible that we could make? All are cordially invited to this evening of information sharing and reflection.

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.



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	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
Sun	27.09	3-5pm	Open church drop-in & Survey Results
Sun	04.10	10.30am	MW with HC, All Saint's
Sun	11.10	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	11.10	4pm	Café Church at HP Village Hall

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for special places and people in our lives that have helped us find our pathway through this world in ways which bring life and wholeness. Grant that we too may help us others find their way and your presence in our lives. 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

Photo: Kate Wright, St Swithun's, Hinton Parva

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

Sep 2026

Parish Cllr Position

We are delighted to introduce Geraldine Pass and Conta Rowan Hamilton. Geraldine joined us in June and lives in Bishopstone and prior to this, in Russley Park. Conta was coopted at our September meeting and lives in Hinton Parva. Both bring expertise, energy and motivation to serve our community

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 feedback from a number of parishioners about the non adherence to the 20 mile an hour speed limit. This will all be shared with Swindon Borough Council but we are still keen to hear from you as the more information we have will help influence more action being taken. So please feedback before the end of September.

We are keen to recruit more volunteers to support our community speed watch group. Please let us know if you are interested and we can share your details.

Autumn litter Pick Sunday October 11th - save the date

Sunday October 11th 9.30 – 12.30 we welcome anyone who can offer a little time to help up pick up litter in each of our villages including some of the

PLEASE KEEP OUR FOOTPATHS AND WOODLAND CLEAN

There has been a notable increase in dog fouling along the **public right of way** leading from Newtown Lane towards Idstone and around "The wood". The woodland is **publicly accessible land** thanks to the cooperation of Eastbrook Farm and we are extremely fortunate to be able to walk in it. Dog owners are asked to be considerate and to pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste responsibly in the **bin provided on Newtown Lane**. Dog fouling is unpleasant, unhygienic and particularly disappointing in a place that has been made available for us to enjoy.

It has also been reported that some people have been seen disposing of their dog poo in the yellow bin by the bus shelter. This is not the right place, there is a dog poo waste bin on the other side of the pond, please use that. Swindon Borough Council has powers to tackle dog fouling and other problems in areas covered by its Public Spaces Protection Order. If you see persistent fouling, please report it to the Borough Council so that the problem can be properly recorded and appropriate action considered.

Please help us keep our countryside clean, safe and enjoyable for everyone. Thank you.



roads leading into the village. Even helping for half an hour would be wonderful. For many years now doing this in the spring and autumn has enabled us to keep the village tidy and remove what I am sure we all see each day as we go about of journeys, takeaway cups, cans and bottles, dumped furniture on the side of the road

and hedgerows. Not only does it look horrible it causes harm to livestock and wildlife. If you can join us there will someone at the village halls to provide you with all the necessary equipment. We really look forward to seeing as many people as possible. As they say, many hands make light work.

THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

WELCOME TO THE PARISH

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the parish. The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. Many of the houses in each of our villages are listed. When considering making alterations to your home and garden for example tree felling careful consideration is required regarding following the necessary regulations all of which are aimed at preserving the character and beauty of the parish. The Parish Council is always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living within a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or listed building. Contact the Clerk. The Chair or any member of the council all of whom details are provided. We are happy to help.

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/

Useful Information

Swindon Borough Council: Reception Premier House 01793 465055/465056; **Civic Offices** 01793 463668; **Wat Tyler House** 01793 463725

For problems with waste collections call Streetsmart on: Monday to Friday 8am-8pm 01793 445501; all other times 01793 466453

Report fly-tipping or pot-holes to SBC: swindon.gov.uk/my_account
Wiltshire Police non-emergency number (less urgent than 999): 101
Borough Councillor Gary Sumner - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS' KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Finance 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

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**

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)

No other planning applications at this time.

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparcouncil

VIEW THE PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BISHOPSTONEANDHINTONPARVA.ORG



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VILLAGE HALL news



BISHOPSTONE BVH Reg Charity 271165 Hocker Bench

A Big Thank you to everyone for helping with the hall last weekend. We filled a few potholes, painted, swept the gullies, tidied, and polished the stores and sparkled the oven. Outside we also clipped some hedges and errant foliage to give a leg up to our overworked contract gardener Pavel, who mostly goes unthanked for his regular upkeep of the surrounds doing an amazing job for us all. Also, thanks to Steve who reviewed our window and door security fixings. Apparently, all fitted by Steve some 40+ years ago or so- he doesn't look old enough I hear you say! Steve has generously offered to source and refit some of the locks and replace a couple of misted panes free of charge - Amazing - thank you.

Defibrillator

Some may have noticed the Defibrillator bleeping away. This is in the process of being rectified - the "Sticky" pads are apparently out of date and we are in process of resourcing.

Skittles

The once lost never found ; The Three Balls Rampant Trophy will return to be contested again Friday 02nd October from 630pm. Contact Michelle Bishop 07769 943956 to register your team name in advance or attendance. £7.50 per head includes Chilli supper. Booking essential for catering purposes.



Emergency Contact Hub

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 form 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.

HINTON PARVA

Contact: hpvillagehall@gmail.com.
Karen Walker on behalf of Hinton Parva Vilage 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
Hourly rate: £11 residents, £15 non-residents

HINTON PARVA INFO/BOOKINGS:

Janet: 01793 791391
Hourly rate: £10 residents, £12.50 non-residents

BISHOPSTONE ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

On behalf of the Church Commissioners and their land agent Strutt & Parker, several half allotment plots are now available to rent by the local community. A perfect opportunity to grow your own fruit and vegetables.

The price is £8 per half plot per year (April to March)
No permanent structures such as sheds are allowed but low level storage is permitted.

Although livestock cannot be kept, bee keeping is encouraged by the owners.

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



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The Royal Oak Diary



The pub ghost has been spotted again, on two occasions at the end of August and early September. I'm inclined to take this seriously, for a change, since my own sightings, on half a dozen occasions over nearly 20 years, and one or two other movements spotted by other people in that period, had always been in the same part of the place, ground floor, and were put down to tricks of the light—and not mentioned by anyone for at least five years.

Two younger and much newer members of staff, who do not actually know each other, as they work different shifts patterns, have both enjoyably reported seeing something. It is definitely a man (my sightings were male, I'm sure)—and he's always wearing a dark hat. But this time he was upstairs—seen by Angus in August by the coat stand, newly moved up here this summer—and today (as I write this), he made a long slow deliberate movement around the upstairs dining space. Smoking a pipe (!) and according to Marguerite (who was not smoking anything at that moment) headed to the window, appeared to be trying to open it, and then disappeared. This was all reported to me as very matter of fact as I prepared breakfast. The only possible explanation is that Marguerite is French and therefore, of course, subject to flights of fancy before she undertakes another day of potato picking.

Does anyone in the parish recall stories like this before? Or indeed any previous Oak landlords or customers who wore a hat and occasionally smoked a pipe? And who might still be with us? We would all enjoy some vivid speculation. And entertainment. It all seems 100% benign. (Lou Stoneham insists that someone brushed past her bottom late one night, but that's gone to the HR department for further investigation).

Ah yes, the real stuff—**Robert (Bob) Shaw is here to chat about 'Conflict'**—why so much, and are we all going to have to live with it?—the current state of geopolitics and the military. He's a leading member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, and during a spell with UK armed forces worked alongside special forces and with UN Intelligence services. He also spent some time trucking \$5m round Afghanistan 20 or so years ago, looking for an elusive nuclear warhead. Which he is not bringing with him. With Putin the Mad threatening everyone in sight, it might be time we took all this seriously. **September 22, 7pm**, 2 course supper before food supplies run out, £45 pp. Lots of Q and A time. Part of



his fee to Prospect Hospice. Must book. Room for another 25 of you.

And then on **September 29**, an **Italian wine tasting and supper**, five wines to taste and talk about with the guy that makes them; 4 course Italian style taster supper prepared by our German-headed kitchen (!), and 5 spaces left. Get them while you can.

And the **next pub quiz** (after you've seen this) is **Monday October 12, 7pm**. These are popular and very well run nights. Get your team sorted out and tell us. Cheaper simple lovely food beforehand if that saves you a chore.

Jazz trio 3Bop are here on **Friday October 2 at 6.30pm**—and thank you to the musical talents in this parish, Richard Walker, Mark Bishop and John Williams for the varied entertainment they have provided this summer. They will be back!

Thank you all
Tim and crew

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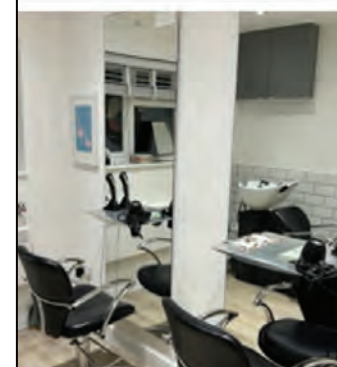
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Contributions

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

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

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

Submitted images

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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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September 2026

2026	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Mon	14.09.26	Food 5.30pm Quiz 7pm	Pub Quiz (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak Book a table: 01793 790 481
Sat/ Sun	19/20.09	11am to 5pm	Swindon Open Studios (Pg 4, Aug Edition)	4, West End Ln: susan.walton790@gmail.com 3 Cues Ln: CristinajordanArt@icloud.com Nell Hill House: instagram.com/janelecoyteart
Tues	22.09.26	7pm	Pub Talk: Bob Shaw + Supper (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak Book a table: 01793 790 481
Tues	22.09.26	7.30pm	The Wessex (Men's Choir), recruitment evening (pg. 19)	The Deanery School, Wichelstowe thewessex.org.uk
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
Tues	29.09.26		Pub Wine Tasting + Supper (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak Book a table: 01793 790 481
Fri	02.10.26	6.30pm	Pub Live Music: 3BOP (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak 01793 790 481
Mon	12.10.26	7pm	Pub Quiz (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak Book a table: 01793 790 481
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



Church Services – pg 10 Parish Council Meetings – pg 13

The views of individual writers expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the parish council or the church. If you have any feedback or questions, please contact one of the editorial team listed on page 23. Apologies for any stray typos. We try hard to catch them all but occasionally some escape. You may also deliver items by hand to Bishopstone Stores and Lynne will kindly pass anything on to us. Please make sure that you include any names and contact details so that we may get in touch with you. None of these personal details will be published unless we are specifically asked to do so.

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