



VILLAGE NEWS

OCT 2026



Photo: Frankie Walker

HALL OWL WEEN.

Ghostly Goings-On at the Village Hall?

In addition to The Royal Oak's pub ghost, is something spooky afoot at the village hall, or has our feathered wildlife been making an impression?

With Halloween fast approaching, it seems that some rather mysterious apparitions have been making themselves known around the village, and the Village Hall appears to be at the centre of the supernatural activity!

We've received a report of a ghostly image appearing on the windows of the Village Hall. This eerie, almost perfect impression has left behind the unmistakable outline of what appear to be birds, wings outstretched, as though captured in mid-flight.

But before anyone calls in the local ghostbusters, there may be a rather more down-to-earth explanation. It seems that an unsuspecting owl may have misjudged its flight path and collided with one of the Hall's sparkling clean windows, leaving behind a ghostly silhouette as evidence of its unfortunate encounter.

And it seems our Village Hall isn't the only place experiencing these mysterious visitations. There have been reports of similar ghostly window impressions appearing elsewhere around the village, apparently left by other birds that have come beak to glass with unsuspecting windows.

The likely culprit is the reflection of the sky and trees in the glass. To a bird travelling at speed, a beautifully reflected



patch of blue sky or inviting greenery can look just like a perfectly clear flight path.

As intriguing as these ghostly works of art may be, bird strikes can cause serious injuries, so we do hope all our feathered visitors have survived their encounters unscathed. Window stickers or markings on the outside of the glass can help make it more visible to passing birds and hopefully prevent further mishaps.

So, if you happen to spot a ghostly figure on a window this Halloween, don't be too quick to blame the supernatural. It might just be a feathered friend who has made rather more of an impression on village life than intended!

And if you've discovered any mysterious bird-shaped apparitions on your own windows, we'd love to hear about them. After all, it seems our village wildlife is quite literally leaving its mark!

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**



BADS IS BACK!

Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society
presents **'Cold Front'** by Alan Robinson.

As always with BADS, you can look
forward to a riotous evening's
entertainment, so make a note of the
dates and watch out for ticket sales
announcements coming soon!



RECYCLING MATTERS

Do you ever find yourself forgetting what you know you know? Hopefully it's not an age (or worse) thing...! Recently our fitted sheets finally wore through and tore and I knew I must be able to do something with them, rather than binning them, but I couldn't recall what. They were taunting me for days when I finally gave in and decided to call upon Google and found (again!) that the Swindon Borough Council website has a handy 'Waste Wizard' where you can type in what you need to dispose of. It couldn't have been easier. 'Textiles' can be collected with the fortnightly recycling. Any textiles that can't be reused or donated elsewhere can be put in a plastic bag and left with the recycling. Whilst I was at it, I sorted out some waaaaay past it underwear and a burnt oven glove to join them.

And they would love donations of these items too. Sustainable Shrivenham is legally bound to put any profit back into the community and our villages are included in that commitment. But first, they need to make a profit again, and be sustainable themselves, so do consider supporting them.

Are you aware that Watchfield has a new Prospect Hospice shop? It's near the Co-Op and sells (and are looking for donations of) good-quality pre-loved clothing, shoes and accessories, books, toys, homeware and more.

Finally, if you've started thinking about Christmas and are a (would-be) baker, have you noticed that if you turn a gingerbread man cutter upside down, so he's standing on his head, it makes an excellent reindeer cutter? A bit of magic to impress the kids with!



As reported last month I attended the Sustainable Shrivenham's AGM which is responsible for The Hub in that village. Sadly it reported a loss of over £13,000 last year, partly due to The Hub being closed for a quarter of the year when the old bank site they were in was sold and they moved into a smaller renovated part of the building. They currently need to take around £4,000 per month to cover their outgoings and at the moment they're around £700/month short this financial year. Like so many retail businesses, they're finding it tough on the (village) high street. Obviously their mission, 'To equip the local community with the information, skills and resources to inspire and enable them to make more sustainable choices in their everyday lives' is one that is close to my heart, so I've joined their committee to hopefully help. I think The Hub is an amazing space and if you're into sustainable living or would be open to using refillable cleaning and personal care products, or would just like to find a bargain book, jigsaw, anything for children, stationery, craft item, love a rummage around a great pre-loved section or just want some plastic-free pick 'n' mix sweets, pop into The Hub.

Bishopstone Stores

So, it seems that our long, hot summer has drawn to a close, and although feeling very mild for October, there is a definite nip in the air and the nights are drawing in. Gone are our BBQ's and salads and it's a big 'hello' to warming, comfort food and easy mid week meals.

We've already seen a shift in our produce as we ogle over pork belly joints, diced venison and the occasional pie.

Pete's fabulous root veggies are now in abundance with carrots, parsnips, beets, not to mention a rainbow of squash. Did you know we are now offering bulk quantities of veg? If you can store a sack of potatoes in the garage – give us a shout!

And pumpkins! We've also got pumpkins. Come and choose your perfect carving pumpkin for the Halloween trail.

As the leaves turn golden and we wind our clocks back by an hour, we also start casually checking the calendar and count the weeks till Christmas. Talk to us about your Christmas meat requirements, we'll be taking orders to ensure you have exactly what you need. From Turkeys to sausage meat, beef fillets to smoked salmon, your festive feasts can all be catered for.

Two dates for your diary to help your Christmas shopping to be easy and local: Thursday 19th November is the Ridgeway Barns Christmas Market, where you'll find me offering our amazing HB gin, spirits and other goodies, and Thursday 26th November when the shop will be staying open late and offering a 10% discount on everything.....perfect for you to call in on your way to the Bishopstone Village Christmas Craft Fayre.

Hope to see you soon, Lynne x



Opening Hours

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

Wednesday: **9am - 1pm**

Sunday: **9am - 3pm**

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HAPPY GARDENS

by Jane Pearson

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

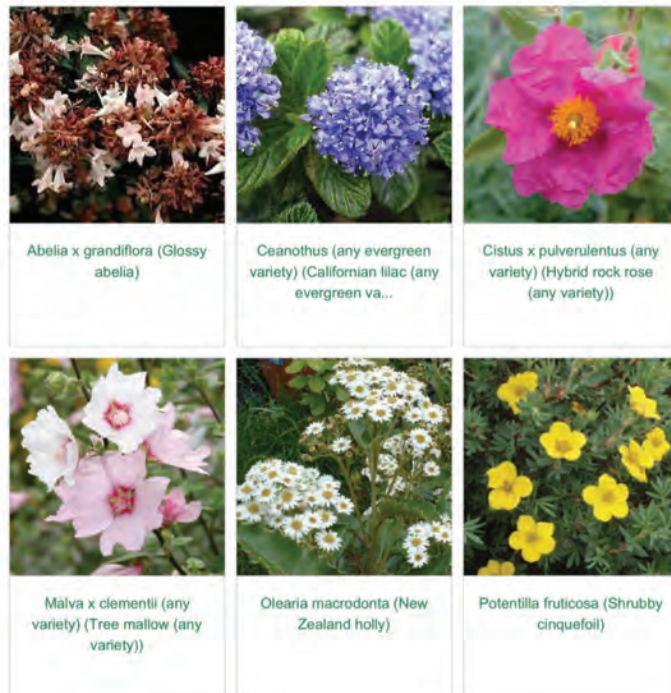


What a beautiful Autumn! There is something special about a warm dry sunny autumn. It's lovely to be outside and managing the gardens that I care for, although like many, I am wishing for rain (only after dark!) and an end to our hosepipe ban.

This year's drought has focused my enthusiasm on promoting plants that have a higher resistance to dry conditions. As heatwaves become more common, relying on daily watering is increasingly impractical and choosing drought-tolerant plants is one of the best ways to create a resilient, low maintenance garden.

Last month I shared some of my favourite drought resilient trees with you, and this month I have selected drought resilient shrubs. If you are planning a new border or you have lost some 'old favourites' in this year's heat wave, the following selection are worth considering, but please remember that all newly planted specimens need regular watering until their roots are established.

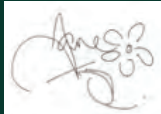
Drought-resilient shrubs



Garden tasks for October – November:

- Cut back perennials that have died down
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Move tender plants into a green house or conservatory or sunny windowsill
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and nuts
- Prune climbing roses
- Collect seeds to sow next year
- Mow lawns and trim hedges

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



'The Amazing Honey Bee' - A talk by Richard Rickett - A Fascinating and Eye-opening Talk

At our recent Club meeting we were delighted to welcome back Richard who captivated us with his knowledge and passion for the honeybee and indeed all bees. He is co-editor of BeeCraft Magazine, has kept bees for 40 years and currently has 30 hives. He has written several books, and is also Westonbirt Arboretum's bee keeper, where he runs beekeeping courses.

Honey bees and Ancient Man

Honey bees have been around for 30 million years! Humans all over the world have relied on honey to sweeten their food. Evidence comes from cave painting and Egyptian hieroglyphics and fossils.



The Honey Bee really is Amazing!

Eyes - they have 5 eyes. 2 large compound ones with 6000 lenses in each and 3 smaller ones on the top of their head that detect light changes. They see UV light which enables them to see nectar on flowers looking like glowing landing pads

Antennae - detect smell touch taste and hearing. Their sense of smell is about 50 times more sensitive than a dog!

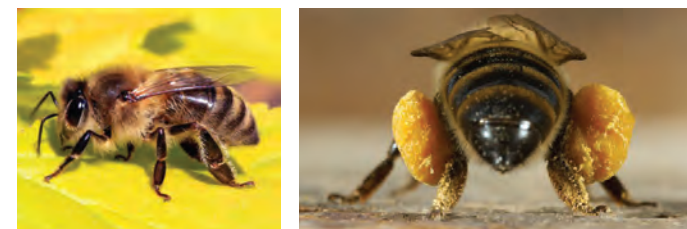
Wings - 2 front ones that have hooks and 2 back ones that have eyes so that they can, when needed, join their wings together and beat them at incredible speed

Hairs - They have 3 million hairs to collect pollen - 10 x more than humans! A worker bee collects 30 kilos of pollen a year!

Legs - the female bees' back legs have sacs that serve as pollen baskets to carry the pollen to their nest

Queen Bee - lays 2,000/3,000 eggs a day.

Drone - male bee. The worker bees (female) throw them out of the nest to conserve winter resources. Their main function is to mate with the queen bee.



Worker Bees - non reproductive female bee, whose main function is to provide all the labour required to maintain and protect the hives; collecting pollen for food, and nectar for making honey.

How we as gardeners can help protect Bees?

This was the most important message we went away with.

Bees face a serious global and regional decline due to intensive farming, habitat loss, and climate shifts. We as gardeners really can as individuals make a difference, by:

- planting pollen and nectar rich flowers, preferably open single blooms.
- embracing weeds - bees love ivy and dandelion flowers, and
- eliminating pesticides in our gardens

Buy local bee keeper's honey and avoid commercial varieties that can be contaminated and spread bee disease to our native bees

It was a highly informative and entertaining talk condensing a huge amount of information of which I have only given you a snippet!

Many thanks to Sarah for providing the above resume of Richards talk.

Important news:

CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

A couple of our long serving committee members have expressed their intention to take some much deserved time back from their committee responsibilities. So we are actively seeking some new committee members to join our friendly committee. Chris Thomas has also decided to step down from her role as Treasurer, having served the Club for many years - we will miss her energy and contribution. You do not need to commit much time to join the committee and there are a variety of ways you can get involved. The continued success of Ridgeway Gardening Club relies on having a reliable and willing committee, so if could spare a couple of hours a month then please get in touch or email us at info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk

HOLD THE DATE

End of Season Celebration

11th November 2026 - 7pm

Royal Oak - Bishopstone

This event will replace the previously scheduled Quiz and Chilli night which we hope to reschedule for early in 2027

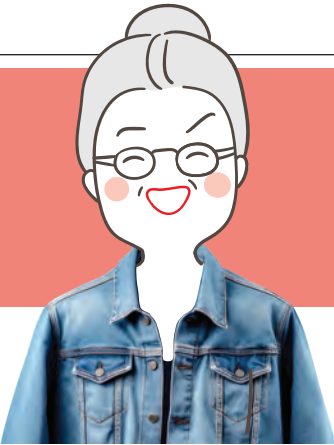
We hope that many of you will join us for a meal and social event to celebrate the end of a great year with Ridgeway Gardening Club.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for us to celebrate surviving another year of challenging gardening conditions and raise a glass with our fellow gardeners.

Tickets will be on sale shortly (price to be confirmed) and will include a two course supper. To thank you for your continued support, our members will receive a subsidy towards their ticket.

Non-members are also welcome to join us. Please contact the club on info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk to let us know if you would like to reserve tickets for this event.

For those members who are interested our Annual General Meeting will take place on the same evening from 6.15pm - 7pm.



Ask Fanny.
Loose lips, sharp advice.

Dear Mrs Hole

I have heard that the annual village play is in the early stage of rehearsal, and since I have also heard that it contains a substantial chunk of light innuendo, and a bit more, ahem, smut than recently, do you think the director needs to be recruiting a so-called 'intimacy co-ordinator' along the lines so favoured by modern Hollywood starlets? It would be terrible if things got out of hand between these has-been village stalwarts. We do NOT need more scandal after the goings on earlier this year.

Yours sincerely
Sir Herbert Gussett
Arcadia
Hinton Parva

Dear Sir Herbert

I have to say that this play sounds perfect for the parish audience (and those from outlying but less cultured villages). One of the actors told me that it was 'intellectually not very challenging', but that two of the amateur players had been in tears at the first rehearsal, due to misunderstood intentions and an utter misreading of the script. Having spoken to the director, she assures me that the levels of intimacy involved are wholly appropriate for the parish since far worse and more interesting things are going on behind the domestic hedges and high fences that are so prevalent nowadays. My advice—buy a ticket, and see for yourself. If you can wait till January!

Yours all a-tingle. It sounds a lot of fun.

Mrs F Hole

Dear Fanny

I notice that a new sign has appeared in Bishopstone, not one that I fully appreciate. See my enclosed picture. Does the owner and instigator of this sign have planning permission for the sign, and also clearly for the new 'pub' he is intending to open? I think we should be told.

Yours abstemiously
Mr T Finney
Eastbrook Farm

Dear Mr Finney

I am assured by those that know that this is primarily a joke intended to irritate existing pub landlords, and it appears to have worked. I am surprised at your letter, since this property to me appears to be more like a motor bike workshop than a pub or indeed cider house, which is mostly what's on offer from my occasional visit. Anyway, as regards planning, I am sure the Glorious Leader of SBC will have taken note, but in truth, the sign is basically no better or worse than any other house name sign in the parish.

Thank you
Fanny

Dear Fanny

This note is a minor complaint, although my lawyers will be involved if you do not publish it. There was correspondence about 'dog poo throwing' in your last edition, and one or two people seem to think that I might be the guilty party. I am outraged. First, I don't have a dog. Second, I don't ever toss it over the hedge—even if I had some in the garden. I urge your readers (of whom there are very few) to look elsewhere around here. Not far away. There's another story about violating the hose pipe ban in relation to this, but you'll have to wait.

Mrs Anon (you know who I am)
West End
Bishopstone

Dear Mrs Anon

Thank you for putting the record straight, and I am sorry this has caused distress. I feel the whole episode is now closed, especially as the road, and the hose pipe, and the rain, have now been involved and all evidence washed away.

**Just as a footnote, we are all aware here at Bishopstone Towers that the level of correspondence from Hinton Parva is falling away. Possibly this is because that end of the parish seems permanently under water and therefore tittle tattle is finding it hard to get through (and it certainly from time to time makes it hard for your correspondent to walk the byways and lanes of that delightful patch). Or have I upset you? If there is anything you'd like me to hear about, you know where I am.*

FH



Write to Fanny: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

OCTOBER
SUDOKU

LAST MONTH'S WINNER IS
Geraldine Pass
Grab your voucher from Lynne at the shop!

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

Other this month entries:

Sudoku: Yuet Dickinson, Ninx Flanagan, John Iles, Suzy, Julie B, G & G Phillpotts

Codeword: Nick Steele, Liz Bowles, Peter Walker, Ninx Flanagan, John Iles, Suzy, Julie B, G & G Phillpotts

Well done everyone! Those who complete both puzzles correctly, have their name put into the hat twice and double their chances of winning.

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

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

OCTOBER
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.

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

ABCDEF GHIJ KLM
NOPQRST UVWXYZ

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 entry from last month

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.

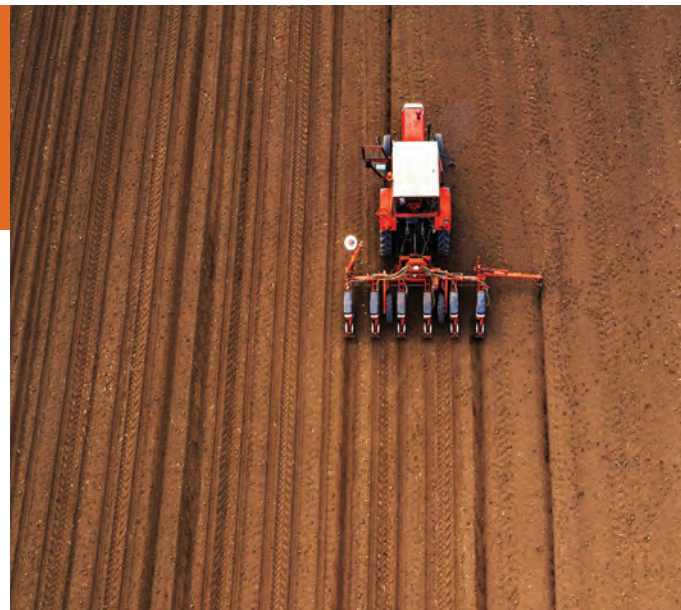
DICKIE'S diary

Richard Green

On Saturday September 28th farmer Tom Spence from Ashbury hosted this year's local ploughing match run by the Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and Burford match committee. This was a good site on the chalk with excellent car access off the B4000 near Ashdown Park on top of the downs. In terms of history the first organised match began after the war in 1948. The event was cancelled in 2001 (foot and mouth) 2020 (covid 19) and in 2024 (flooded site). Last year on the Barrington Park estate near Burford the soil was so dry that competitors struggled. Despite the summer's drought and on a beautiful autumn day the many competitors were making a much smarter finish than last year.

Now that we have glyphosate (round up) to control weeds and with the cost of diesel and the challenge to reduce carbon emissions it causes by ploughing on commercial farms is in decline. Regenerative farming relies instead on direct drilling with more surface cultivations but ploughing still has a place before root crops and maize, also where dung needs inverting and on organic farms.

These events give a glimpse of former times with demonstrations of ploughing by heavy horses and also of traction engines winching ploughs across fields with heavy wire cables, a practice that was briefly popular between the wars. In the tents there were 31 competition classes under the homecraft section featuring, produce, cooking, flowers and photography. Young farmers have creative classes to champion emerging skills and the not so young farmers can compete with this year's harvested grains. A length



of hedging on site also gives competitors to show off their hedge laying skills.

The main ring was busy with country displays and many local businesses have a spot to feature their wares. I was among them to promote my latest book, hot off the press, entitled 29 Remarkable Farmers.

For some hard to divine reason these ploughing matches still capture the interest of rural people who turn up with their families in large numbers for a great day out. The whole event and organisation over just one day is all run by volunteers and it ran like clockwork. By the end of Monday the whole site was cleared, the work of tractors, horses and steam ploughs had all been levelled and tidied ready for Tom Spence to plant his next crop.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

A British Childhood: How Our Children Live Now, by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

It is clear to most of us, I think, the deep cultural shift that has occurred over the last 10-20 years as a result of rapid technological and social change. In this first non-fiction book from former Children's Laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce, he examines the impact this has had on the nature of childhood in Britain. School seems to have become a place to escape to rather than from, he observes; children are being 'overprotected in the real world and underprotected online'; and in an age of screens, being read a bedtime story now denotes the height of privilege. Each chapter focuses on a different shift, and is tied in to a relevant children's book - for instance, the character 'Mike Teevee' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is referenced in discussion of changing screen habits.

Strikingly, Cottrell-Boyce uses observational evidence from his own experiences of visiting schools as the Children's Laureate and speaking to teachers, parents, social workers and students, to expose the extent of the neglect our youngest generation are facing from the government and often, inadvertently, their caregivers. His empathy for the children he speaks to (and the adults fighting tooth and nail in their corner) is as clear as his disdain for the systems that have failed them. There is a mixture of exasperation and hope throughout, which I am sure many teachers can relate to.

This is a really engaging read if you are in any way interested in pedagogy, as I assume it would be for any parents or teachers out there. I enjoyed it immensely.

'I hardly ever leave a primary school without feeling that the world is the right way up, after all.'

Flinging love,
Anna

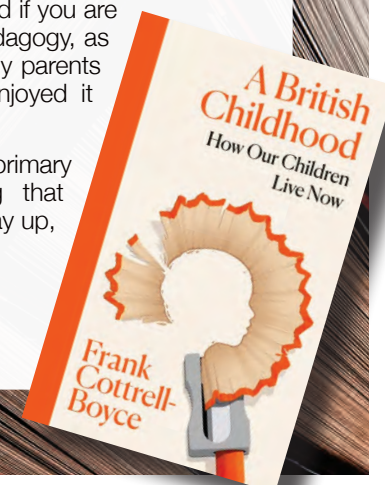


Photo of the month

SEND US
YOUR SNAPS

Email:
BishopstoneEditor
@gmail.com



Our winner this month is Karen MacGregor with her wonderful grass snake photos. These were sent to us in August but we don't always manage to squeeze all the good ones in, in one month. Karen said,

"This is the first time we have seen a baby grass snake in our garden that I rescued from one of my cats. My research says that as it was only 1 cm diameter it was a juvenile. They are harmless to humans and spend time near water to hunt for amphibians. I now regularly put out water for them (and the other animals) around the garden, given this extended hot weather which I want to turn into permanent water areas. Apparently, August is a good time to see young grass snakes after they hatch in late summer from eggs laid in June/July (quite often in compost heaps)."

Thank you Karen, we love them!



Send us your best shots of village life, wildlife, landscapes or curious happenings. The prize? Full-colour glory, bragging rights and fleeting, fabulous local fame.

CHURCH NEWS

A Letter From The Vicar



Dear Friends,

On the evening of Tuesday 22nd of September twenty of us met in Bishopstone Village Hall to view and discuss the fifty-minute film entitled "The National Emergency Briefing" on the Climate and Nature Crisis. It was a tough watch as leading authorities in their fields gave a brief summary of their life time of research and what it indicated about the future trajectory of our climatic weather patterns and its implication for our lives now and into the future. Nine areas were covered: Nature, Climate, Tipping Points, Extreme Weather, Food Security, Health, National Security, Economics, Energy Transition. It was fairly overwhelming as we tried to process barely comprehensible statements about the breakdown of the global economy, food supply chains, civil disorder and national security threats. There were, thankfully, messages of hope. Transition to renewable energy infrastructure is actually affordable and achievable and life in a new sustainable future could be even better than we currently experience. But the transitions still urgently required need big and bold decisions by leaders and societies across the world. There are no silver bullets. A top down and bottom-up approach is the only way forward in a democracy. For our political leaders to make the decisions needed, public opinion needs to be powerfully in favour of such actions. Hence the film, which has had over 4000 showings in the UK by end of September and still rising.

What can we do? The National Emergency Briefing initiative team are encouraging us to write to our MP's, asking them if they would consider signing the EDM (Early Day Motion)928 on the Climate and Nature Crisis [https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film]. This is asking for a Nation Emergency Briefing, headed by the PM, in the manner and style of those televised during the Covid Pandemic. Could you also host a viewing of the film for your communities or work colleagues? If you would like to see the film and reflect on it together with other neighbours, do join me for a further viewing in Warborough Village Hall on Monday 16th November 7pm – 9pm. Once again, everyone welcome.

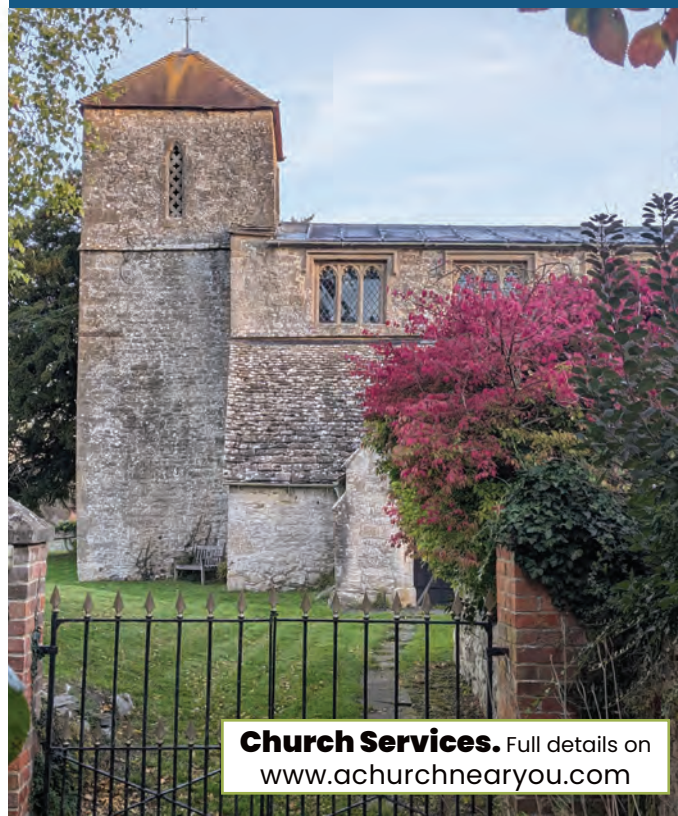


Kind regards,
Revd. Steve Paynter
stevedpaynter@gmail.com
01793 296870

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.**

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

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	11.10	10.30am	MW with HC, St Mary's
Sun	11.10	4pm	Café Church at HP Village Hall
Sun	18.10	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	25.10	8.30am	BCP, HC, St Andrew's
Sun	25.10	10.30am	MW, St Swithun's
Sun	01.11	10.30am	MW with HC, All Saints
Sun	08.11	10.30am	Remembrance. MW with HC St Mary's
Sun	08.11	4pm	Informal Afternoon Service HP Village Hall
Sun	15.11	10.30am	MW with HC, St Andrew's
Sun	22.11	8.30am	BCP, HC, St Andrew's
Sun	22.11	10.30am	MW, St Swithun's
Sun	29.11	10.30am	MW with HC, St Swithun's

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2026

Oct '26	Jane G. & Maggie
Nov '26	Sarah & Jenny
Dec '26	Liz & Gaye

Thank you to the great team who help clean the church. We would love to hear from new volunteers who'd like to join us. It involves no more than 4hrs cleaning during your month on the rota, so not too onerous! **Please contact Sarah Bally 07788715742**

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

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The Parish Times

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

October 2026



Top 3 concerns

fed back to Parish Councillors

Speeding, Flooding and condition of Bishopstone Pond

All concerns were discussed at our October meeting. **Speeding:** We reported on the 20mph speed limit in Bishopstone in last month's newsletter and it is clear, following further feedback, that compliance with the new speed limit is poor. The current road works on the A420 are adding to the volume of traffic, with cars and vans using the back roads, and particularly vehicles entering the village coming from Idstone, at speed, causing concern for the safety of children at the school. We are planning to review how many active Speedwatch volunteers we have and schedule further speed checks in both the villages over the next few months. This will enable us to provide evidence to support any further possible action. Please let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer to support this.

Flooding: Following the reporting of the flooding particularly around the centre of Bishopstone and the houses around the pond, SBC officers have carried out site visits to assess possible solutions. Cllrs Sumner and Hinton have informed the Parish Council that a new drainage channel beneath Icknield Way has been identified as a potential way forward and they are following up on how this can be progressed. We are also pleased to hear that the removal of gravel at Hinton Springs has been included in SBC's program of work.

Bishopstone Pond: Some concerns have been raised that the general condition of the pond is unhealthy with a green milky residue forming in the middle along with rising silt levels. The Parish Council has therefore agreed to look at having an updated ecological survey carried out.

National Emergency Briefing At the end of September Steve Paynter, Vicar of the Parish, arranged a one-off evening viewing the National Emergency Briefing in Bishopstone Village Hall.

In November 2025, ten of the UK's leading experts briefed over a 1000 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The ambition of the screening and briefings, which are being screened in communities and workplaces across the UK, is to raise awareness and build public support for a government led briefing. The briefing sets out the implications for climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. The screening was very thought provoking and those who attended had time to discuss and reflect on what we felt after watching the film. As a Parish Council we are mindful of the impact of climate change and we are already seeing it in action with the recent floodings as just one example. The Parish Council has a key role in tackling climate change by driving local carbon reduction, protecting biodiversity, and building community resilience against extreme weather. If you ever get a chance to join a meeting and see the film, you will certainly be enlightened.



THE PARISH TIMES FOR BISHOPSTONE, HINTON PARVA AND RUSSLEY PARK

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Useful Information

Swindon Borough Council: Reception Premier House
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Wat Tyler House 01793 463725
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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
Policies Karen Macgregor/Gill May
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/](http://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

S/HOU/26/0998

Russley Park Cottage, Russley Park, Bishopstone SN8 2JY
Erection of single-storey rear extensions, front porch, and conversion of garage into living accommodation.

STAY HEALTHY – Flu Vaccine

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VILLAGE HALL news



BISHOPSTONE

BVH Reg Charity 271165
Hocker Bench

Skittles

Skittles - Cancelled as we could not make up enough teams. We hope to rebook later in the autumn.

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

HINTON PARVA

We will be holding our AGM at the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th October at 7.00pm. If you have any interest in our beautiful Village Hall in whatever capacity, do consider coming along. We're very keen to recruit more committee members or occasional helpers in general to help to ensure the future for this amazing community asset. If you're interested in finding out more or can't make the meeting, please discuss with Karen, contact details on our poster, or any committee member to find out more.

Contact: hpvillagehall@gmail.com.

Karen Walker on behalf of Hinton Parva Village Hall

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



As the weather changes (at last) into something more typically autumnal, it's time to think about any legally burnable garden and household debris that you want rid of—and where better than the **Oak's annual Guy Fawkes night bonfire, always on November 5**, a Thursday I think. I repeat my previous observations—this is not an excuse to get rid of old tyres, wretched plastic and ageing relatives. You can bring the latter, but please keep hold of them in case they think they're becoming a burden. I'm pleased that at last we have a PM who might seriously try to resolve social care, and the cash that's needed, if only because I'll probably need some sooner rather than later. Some people think. Anyway, we can start taking delivery of your wood etc from November 1, there'll be a space clearly marked in the car park.

And events, dear boy, events, to bring an even older PM into this screed. **November 17** might be an evening rugby enthusiasts will enjoy. **Chris Jones is BBC Radio rugby correspondent** and commentator, and November sees the resumption of the Nations Series—where the best of the southern hemisphere travel north to (probably) smash the north into submission. England (that's where we live) play the All Blacks the following weekend, having already played Australia. The Welsh are up against it, as are the other home nations. How does Chris see it all panning out? Have England got anything like a decent game plan? He was a fantastic analyst last time, last year—he's here again, 7 pm supper, £35pp for lots of listening and chatting, November 17. No menu, we just feed you. Tell us in advance if there's something you can't eat, please.

Wrapped around all this is our monthly **Monday quiz**, the second of the month, so **October 12** (missed it) and **November 9** are next dates. Not easy, lots of fun, £2pp entry to Prospect charity, cash for the winners if they want it, and amazing value suppers from 5.30-7pm. Booking is VERY useful.

And then **3 Bop**, our talented jazz trio, **Friday 6 November**, 6.30pm, and this will be livened up by our glorious leader HB delivering her bespoke and pokey cocktails from 6pm. I must remind her again of some of her trivial responsibilities.

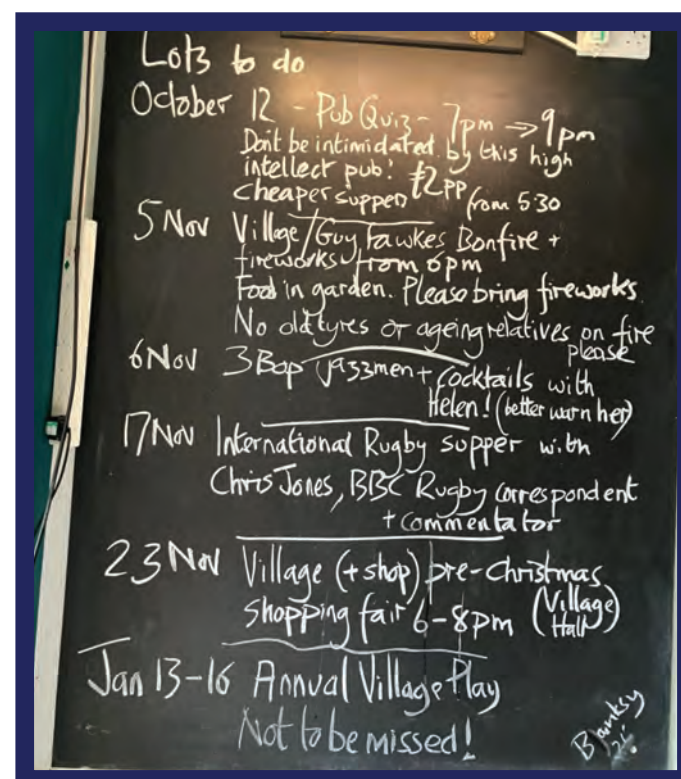
PS some of you with eagle eyes will have spotted a car clamp in the pub car park. We love all our pub and hotel visitors of course, but become increasingly irritated by non-customer people who use the car park and who don't even



have the courtesy to come and talk to us about using the space—that we pay a rent for. It will be an expensive release fee, I am advising you of that. We can get very busy, and occasionally a lack of space is an unnecessary irritation. I do not, on this occasion, enjoy writing this.

pip pip

TF and crew



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Frightfully Good Halloween Treats!

Get ready to cook up a little Halloween horror in the kitchen! From creepy crawly snacks and gruesome goodies to devilishly delicious sweet treats, we've gathered some frightfully fun food ideas to sink your fangs into. **etsy.com/uk/shop/FlavorFold** has some wicked recipes. and we've also found some great table accessories perfect for Halloween parties, hungry little monsters or simply giving the family a scare at suppertime. The recipes are wickedly easy to make and terrifyingly tasty. **Bone appétit!**



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Village Fete 2026 THANK YOU!

Bishopstone and Hinton Parva came together last month for a phenomenally successful Village Fete, raising just over £4,600 to support our beautiful village churches St. Mary's and St. Swithun's

Over 250 people attended the event enjoying brilliant sunshine, community spirit, and a wonderful array of stalls and activities.

A massive THANK YOU goes out to everyone who made this day possible. To the stall organisers for your countless hours of planning and coordination behind the scenes and on the day for your energy, enthusiasm and wonderful treats and games that kept everyone refreshed and entertained; to the set-up and take-down crews for doing the heavy lifting to transform the space and leave it spotless afterwards; and to all the volunteers and visitors for your generosity, kindness and enthusiastic support.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Thank you,
Chris Thomas

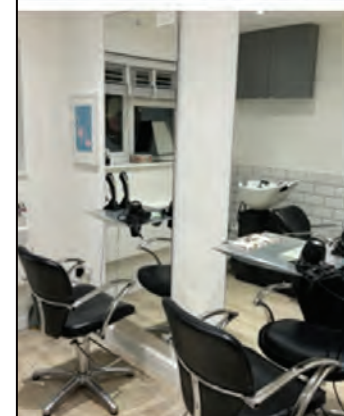


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GENERAL INFORMATION

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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.

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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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October 2026

2026	Time	Event	Place	Contact
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	7pm	Gardening Club: Quiz and Chilli Night (pg. 5)		info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk
Sat 31.10.26		Halloween		
Thurs 05.11.26		Guy Fawkes Night		
Thurs 05.11.26		Pub: Bonfire & Fireworks (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
Mon 09.11.26	7pm	Pub Quiz (pg. 18)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
Wed 11.11.26	7pm	Gardening Club: End of Season Celebration (pg 5)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
	17.11.26	7pm Supper Pub: Chris Jones BBC Rugby Correspondant (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	Book: 01793 790 481
Thurs 24.12.26		Christmas Eve		
Fri 25.12.26		Christmas Day		
Thurs 31.12.26		New Year's Eve		
Fri 01.01.27		New Year's Day		
Thurs 13 - Sat 16 January 2027	TBA	SAVE THE DATE! BADS: Cold Front by Alan Robinson	Bishopstone Village Hall	Ticket info coming soon.
1st Friday of each month 6.30pm		Cafe Jazz (pg. 18)	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.

Tell us your thoughts!
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