MONTHLY

Bishopstone, Hinton Parva & Russley Park

www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

VILLAGE NEWS

NOV 2026



Fireworks at the pub

A BANG-UP BONFIRE NIGHT AT THE PUB

The skies above Bishopstone were once again spectacularly lit up as The Royal Oak hosted another fantastic Bonfire Night, courtesy of Tim and his wonderful team!

As always, the event was a roaring success, drawing a fantastic crowd of villagers, families, friends and visitors, all wrapped up against the November chill and ready for an evening of fireworks, food and good old-fashioned fun.

The atmosphere was buzzing from the start, with children waving sparklers, grown-ups enjoying a drink or three from the outdoor bar, and the smell of delicious food filling the air.

We always look forward to the mouth-watering pulled pork burgers, hot dogs and, quite possibly, the best fries on the planet always keep everyone happily fed. There's something particularly wonderful about tucking into a hot, tasty supper outdoors on a chilly autumn evening!

Of course, no Bonfire Night would be complete without a proper bonfire, and this one certainly didn't disappoint. The enormous fire roared away, with Guy perched on top meeting his traditional fiery fate, while everyone gathered around to enjoy the warmth.

As we've come to expect from The Royal Oak, the fireworks were absolutely fabulous. A dazzling display of colour, flashes, bangs and sparkling showers, much to the delight of the crowd. Plenty of oohs, aahs and cheers could be heard as another brilliant display unfolded overhead.

It's always lovely to see such a fantastic turnout, with so many people coming together to enjoy one of the village's favourite annual traditions. Events like this really do remind



us how lucky we are to have such a brilliant local pub at the heart of our community...and we always seem to be so lucky with the weather.

A huge thank you to Tim and all his lovely, hardworking staff for putting on yet another cracking evening. From the delicious food and flowing drinks to the roaring bonfire and spectacular fireworks, an enormous amount of effort goes into making these occasions such a success.

You've done Bishopstone proud once again!

We're already looking forward to next year.

A gentle reminder to anyone planning on letting off more fireworks over the coming weeks. Please give the villages a heads-up on our local Facebook page, so that we can tuck any nervous animals safely away. Thank you.

Coming Soon to Bishopstone Village Hall

COLD FRONT BY ALAN ROBINSON

Performed by Bishopstone Amateur Dramatics Society (BADS)

Get ready for laughs a-plenty as the finest thespians our villages can muster take to the stage in this chilly tale, directed for the first time by Hinton Parva's very own Val Brodin.

When Mike whisks Karen away to a remote cottage in the Scottish Highlands, he thinks he's planned the perfect birthday surprise. But things soon sour when the cottage turns out to be nothing more than a rusty tin shack, and the "friends" Mike has invited are people Karen can't stand. As tensions rise and temperatures plummet, they find themselves entombed in a blizzard, leading to frosty exchanges and those of a more amorous nature.

Performances run from Wednesday 13th January to Saturday 16th January 2027 at Bishopstone Village Hall with doors and bar open from 7pm and curtain up at 7.30pm.

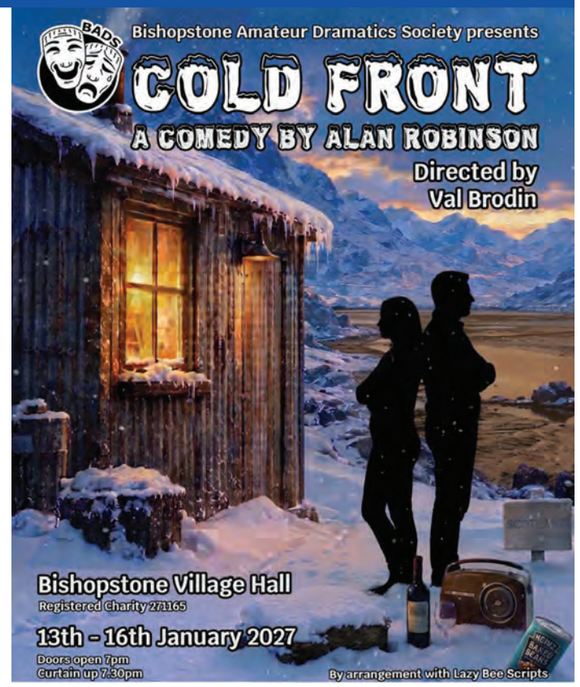
All tickets are £10 and can be purchased from the BADS online box office, or pop in to Helen Browning's Royal Oak where you can buy tickets for the show and book a pre-theatre supper at the pub for £22.50 per person for a two-course meal.

Whether you're a seasoned theatre goer or just fancy a good laugh to start the new year, this is one not to miss. So support your local amateur dramatics group and enjoy an evening of community spirit, comedy and chaos.

This year's BADS production sold out fast, so **DON'T DELAY, BOOK NOW** at www.ticketsource.co.uk/badstickets

WARNING: This play includes some mild swearing and adult themes.

Cold Front is performed by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts.



HELEN BROWNING'S ROYAL OAK
Pre-Theatre Suppers from 5.30pm at Helen Browning's Royal Oak -2 courses £22.50 pp
To book: Call 01793 790481
Tickets £10 pp from our online box office or pop in to Helen Browning's Royal Oak
www.ticketsource.co.uk/badstickets

Bishopstone Stores

'Where does the time go' we ask ourselves on an ever increasing basis?! October feels like it didn't even really happen and here we are in the midst of November with the threat of Christmas music on the radio and starting to get our planning heads on.

Let us help you….

We are already taking orders for Christmas meats – whether you need a turkey and all the trimmings for the big day, prime steaks for Christmas eve or a few extras to make the Boxing Day feast something special, let us know and we can ensure you have what you need for the festive period.

Don't forget to check out our gifting corner for some inspiration. Thursday 26th of November is the prime opportunity for this as we will be staying open till 8pm and offering a 10% discount to anyone spending £30 or more. This coincides with the annual village craft fair so the perfect opportunity to get all your Christmas shopping nailed in one go and celebrate with a drink in the pub afterwards!

As a side note, if you haven't seen them yet, we are super excited to be offering two brand new products from Eastbrook Farm! A delicious perry cider, made with the pears from Helen's Agroforestry, and fantastic bread flour made from Eastbrook Farm wheat and ground purely by the wind power of Wilton Windmill near Marlborough.

Hope to see you soon

Lynne x



Opening Hours

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

Wednesday: 9am - 1pm

Sunday: 9am - 3pm

@helenbrowningsbishopstonestores @bishopstone_stores



by Karen Walker

RECYCLING MATTERS

There's much discussion about the future of Swindon's well-worn Wyvern Theatre and its potential replacement but I am a great fan of this local venue and we visit it regularly. They have super helpful staff and some top notch shows and I hope that when it finally is replaced, we aren't left without a theatre in the interim. I'm further singing its praises this month because I had cause to experience their accessibility arrangements for the disabled for the first time. I enquired about the feasibility of taking my soon-to-be 89 year old Aunt to a show and it worked out a treat. They have reserved accessible seating which means they can take out a seat for a wheelchair to fit in. Ours was right near the front, so we had an excellent view, and they offer a carer or wheelchair pusher a neighbouring seat for free! Access into the building was brilliant. There were near-by car parks with disabled spaces, dropped kerbs and slopes, rather than stairs, all the way to the bar and accessible loo. We, like the rest of the audience, could even have our interval snacks and drinks delivered to our seat at no extra cost. Sadly, sometimes I find taking a person in a wheelchair on a trip something of a challenge and it can become a full-body workout as you negotiate the state and camber of the pavements and the lack of dropped kerbs in the right places; things I don't even notice as an able-bodied person. But I can highly recommend a trip to The Wyvern for those with limited mobility. My aunt couldn't remember the last time she had visited the theatre and said she had thought she was too old for adventures, but our successful trip to the Wyvern may have opened up a whole new world for her!

I use interdental brushes on the recommendation of my dental hygienist and in my experience they all seem to be fundamentally the same – a wire core with plastic bristles secured to a handle made from bamboo or plastic. Typically, because I am tight (aka keen to minimise my carbon footprint!), I continue using each one until it breaks – the wire snapping off from the handle. I was in Bristol recently and came across a promotional booth for Tepe interdental brushes and they were giving away samples of their new Easyfit brush. The brush for this one is a cone shape – getting bigger as it goes towards the handle – a one size fits all approach - and it seems to be made of the same bright blue plastic material throughout. Anyway, I was given a couple and took them on a recent holiday. After a week or so, I realised that my brush had worn and had gone bald in the middle but the two ends remained perfectly functional so I continued to use it. It was a couple of days later that it dawned on me that I hadn't seen any of the missing distinctive blue bits of brush in the basin and that presumably therefore I have been ingesting them…. I won't be buying any of these!

Christmas is fast approaching and The Hub in Shrivenham has a great selection of things for Christmas – decorations, cards, gift wrap and bags, all at much reduced prices. As well as pre-loved items in excellent condition they often have donated items (unloved presents??) that have never been used and are still sealed. For example, this week I saw a brand new cat crochet kit which would have made a lovely present for a young crafter and a still sealed-in-plastic live quiz show game called 'Outsmarted!' which we bought last year and love. It currently costs £29.99 on Amazon and The Hub was selling it for £3.50! I pointed out the huge price disparity and it got re-priced to £10 but still a huge bargain at one third of the RRP. One way to make your money go further this Christmas as well as doing good?



HAPPY GARDENS

by Jane Pearson



Image: Countryliving.com, Photographer Krister Engström,Getty Images

Monthly Musings November – December 2026

It's leaf raking and garden tidying time of year again! I really enjoy preparing the gardens I look after for winter. It's a great opportunity to take stock of what has done well through the year and note which plants have struggled, then make plans to tweak and adjust things for the coming spring. Between the rainy days, it's also a busy time, clearing and mulching the borders and planting bare root trees and shrubs and spring bulbs. Mindful that the weather is turning, it's often a challenge to complete all the tasks on my list before the first frosts arrive, but always a joy.



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

Garden tasks for October – November:

Get your garden winter ready:

- Clear away old leaves, rotten fruit and flowers, weeds and rubbish from the soil then spread a thick mulch of well rotten compost, manure or bark chips in order to feed the soil over winter, protect plants and reduce weed growth but please don't bring the mulch right up to the stems of plants, give them a little breathing space!
- Leave sturdy upright grasses and perennials with interesting seed heads intact, they provide winter interest and food and shelter for wildlife. Just cut back plants with blackened or mushy leaves or flopping stems.
- Take advantage of the season to plant spring bulbs, hardy annuals, perennials and bare root shrubs or trees before the soil becomes frozen or waterlogged.
- Lift tender plants and move to a greenhouse or coldframe.
- Prepare containers for winter, move them to a sheltered spot near a wall and raise them up on pot feet or bricks to allow water to drain freely. Insulate pots with bubble wrap or fleece to prevent cracking and wrap tender plants such as Olives with fleece.

Happy Gardening!

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

Ginny opened the October meeting by updating us on a roundup of club news:-

Firstly that we are now in need of new committee members to bring in new ideas and spread the load, particularly a new treasurer. (See below for more information.)

Secondly, she announced that the very popular **Quiz and Supper Evening** has had to be postponed until the new year, hopefully in February. Details will be posted on the website when available, as will the exciting programme of speakers and events for 2027.

Lastly, but by no means least, she introduced our final speaker of the 2026 season:-

Jane Parker, and her talk **"Greenhouses and How to Get the Most Out Of them"**

Jane started by explaining the pros and cons of different styles of greenhouses:-

Traditional Wood Framed ones on brick bases are very attractive but can have the disadvantage of restricted light particularly to small plants near the solid walls, as well as the thick wooden framework. There is also the issue of maintenance of the structure.

Aluminium Frame ones allow maximum light to all areas having glazing to ground level, smaller frame members and easier maintenance.

Glass panels give good light transmission and heat retention but are expensive and vulnerable to footballs! Acrylic or Polycarbonate give good light transmission and lightweight so worth considering especially if there are footballers (of any age) in the garden!

Steel Framed Polytunnels low cost per cubic metre and quick to assemble. The covering is relatively low cost to replace. However it is more difficult to control the temperature as ventilation is more of a problem.

Then there are other considerations:

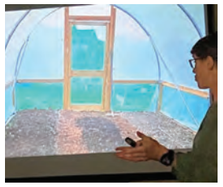
Position:- It is important to consider the position of your greenhouse, preferably where there is plenty of sunlight, one can always create shading if necessary, but not too exposed to wind. Also consider how far from your house, water supply and electricity if you want to heating. As well as regular tending to the plants

Watering:- This is best done in the mornings using a dripper system on a timer to ensure regular water to the roots of the plants where its needed.

Heating:- This can be done if required in variety of ways, using electric tube or fan heaters, paraffin burners, or bottled gas burners.The latter two have the advantage of releasing CO2 which is needed by the plants.

Raising Seedlings:- The use of a free standing polythene covered frame inside the greenhouse or horticultural fleece covering gives extra protection so that small seedlings and plants can be moved out (off the kitchen windowsill !) much earlier in the season.

So much more to think about when gardening with a greenhouse than meets the eye, another very informative and interesting talk and lots to mull over during the winter as we look forward to, and plan for, another season in the garden.




DIARY DATES

An exciting new season ahead with a fine selection of speakers, regular events and a private opening of nearby gardens:

Wednesday 20th January: Speaker To be Confirmed.

Friday 12th February : QUIZ AND CHILLI SUPPER NIGHT. - (Postponed form October 2026)

Wednesday 10th March : Ray Broughton ; 'Pruning'
Ray is a highly respected horticultural educator whose career spans more than four decades. He trained at Wisley Gardens in the mid 1970's, laying the foundations for a lifelong commitment to horticultural excellence.



Ask Fanny.

Loose lips, sharp advice.



Dear Miss Hole,

We in the outlying areas (Hinton Parva) were pleased to have it recognised that those west of the parish capital had been quieter of late. Whilst some of this has been due to having snorkels in our mouths, we have to say that issues facing the metropolis of Bishopstone such as intense traffic management and spurious pub signage, are less relevant to us country folk. We do of course commiserate with your early signs of severe urbanisation as has been seen in China over these past 50 years.

Please be aware that those wishing to avoid such modernity are still welcome in the western fringes of the parish (if above water).

Best wishes

A Country Lad

Dear Country Lad

Mrs Hole, if you please. I'm a strictly married (widowed) woman, hence my exemplary behaviour. Anyway, pedantry to one side, how lovely to hear from the posh end of the parish. At last. I know it's posh over there because of the lime green check suit you wear to informal occasions, much to everyone's delight.

In a sense, you exaggerate the intense urbanisation of Bishopstone. Two of the (few) reasons we have to be grateful for the existence of Hinton Parva is the intense flooding you allude to, saving us the trouble, and the state of your roads. The potential developers considering 'enhancing' our beautiful parish must take one look at the roads though HP and decide that the costs of so-called planning gain (turning Bodyhorse Hill into a dual carriageway for example, with an intersection and flyover at Hinton Springs) far outweigh the benefits of a 5000 house semi urban estate draining the drinking water from our silt-filled pond. Another story, perhaps, but one which will come soaring up the agenda.

Talking of houses, I must say I do like the look of that small development at the bottom of HP—those barns there are being converted with some remarkable style. I take my hat, and ageing lingerie, off to the people behind that. And while we're in Hinton Parva, I also take my other bits of clothing off for those people who have abandoned the high fence approach in the bottom east corner of that village, near where the flooding occurs. So lovely to be able to see their beautiful garden and outbuildings, while driving past at, of course, the legal speed limit in my new EV Jaguar. A little wide for local roads, but you'll definitely see me coming.

Yours happily

Fanny

Write to Fanny: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com

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SATURDAY 8 – 3PM

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

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

NOVEMBER SUDOKU

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

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

Other this month entries:

Sudoku: John Iles, Nick Steele, Geraldine Pass, Ninx Flanagan, Liz Bowles, Suze *(huge apologies to Nick Steele for forgetting to add you to last month's list!)*

Codeword: Nick Steele, Ninx Flanagan, G & G Philpotts

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

		7		2			1	
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		2						5
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	9	3	1					

Courtesy of puzzles.ca

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**

NOVEMBER 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.

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

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

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

Winning entry from last month



DICKIE'S diary

Richard Green



Farmers have had a wonderful autumn to get ahead and complete their planting schedules and now at last the rain is arriving. Grass has decided to grow again which is helpful for winter grazing but on our farm our cattle will soon be housed. They can be fattened more easily inside and our tracks and fields are not spoilt getting to them in wet weather. We have seen good numbers of hares. The down side is the very unwelcome tyre marks left by cowboys driving over our crops looking for them with their lurchers. The clouded yellow butterfly, a migrant is rare most years and lovely to see but this year's fine weather has turned them into one of the most numerous visitors.

Since Brexit the former EU support for farming has been in steep decline in England. Commodity support still persists in the EU and in the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales to create a very unfair and uneven playing field and market place. Meat imports from Australia and Brazil produced to different standards and eggs imported with a salmonella risk compound home competitiveness.

Our government gave assurances that after leaving the EU that the former support would be transferred here for enhancing environmental projects. Some of these schemes aimed at increasing diversity have completed their term and now need renewing so a new application window in October was eagerly anticipated. We knew the date but not the time when the online portal would open which was to be announced by email giving 15 minutes notice. With many existing environmental margins, wild bird cover, and nectar areas about to go unfunded Oliver, our son was looking online from 4 am. It went live later that morning. He succeeded. So many people have missed out. Even advisors failed. It closed down because applications exceeded the capped threshold early in the day. Screens went blank or refused to progress. Potential applicants are now going to be out of pocket by many £1000's. These nurtured and now unfunded conservation areas might now be destroyed and cropped. What a way to treat food producers who during a normal day need to be on a tractor or tending livestock and should not be subject to such ultimatums. DEFRA have a poor record in delivery even though there is a civil servant for every five farmers. This is an example of a bloated state created to manage a support system which need not be so complicated. Civil servants are necessary but with their gold- plated pensions, tax payers have to fund them.

Inside the Peach Pip

by Anna Bareham

Holes, by Louis Sachar

It is probably the wrong time of year to be recommending a book set in a barren wasteland under the burning Texan sun, but perhaps it will help you feel a little warmer as the nights draw in. Louis Sachar's acclaimed middle grade novel Holes follows wrongly-accused 14-year-old Stanley Yelnats as he navigates 'Camp Green Lake', a remote correctional facility that is not nearly as pleasant as it sounds. The lake having dried up many years ago, Stanley and his fellow inmates spend their days digging holes in it, an activity supposedly designed to strengthen character, but that is really part of an operation to find something.

Sachar intermittently draws the narrative away from Camp Green Lake to tell of Stanley's family history and of Green Lake in generations past. These episodes have a fairytale feel, starkly contrasting the mundanity of Stanley's digging and alluding to the possibility that something mysterious is happening under the surface soon to be uncovered. As Stanley awakens to this idea, elements of folklore begin to enter his own story and the novel transforms into a kind of adventure mystery.

I found this to be a profound and thrilling read, expertly crafted. Strongly recommend.

> Zero wasn't worried. "When you spend your whole life living in a hole," he said, "the only way you can go is up."

Flinging love,

Anna

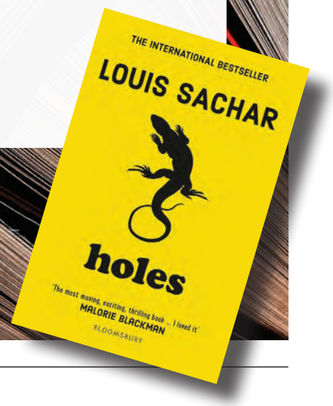


Photo of the month

SEND US YOUR SNAPS

Email:

BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com



Our winner this month is Francesca Walker with her gorgeous shot sent to us at the end of October. She said,

> *"I was on my way to school on Wednesday morning and there was this absolutely beautiful sunrise and I had to take a quick picture. It's quite unusual to see a sunrise so beautiful especially that late in the morning around 7:20 ish. it is one of my favourite images and I really hope I can share it with some more people. Thank you."*

Thank you Francesca, you've contributed lots of really lovely photos this year.

We always look forward to receiving 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

WELLSPRING Villages

Dear Friends,

November brings us into the season of Advent. That time in the Christian Year when we address our minds and hearts to the coming future hope Christians long for - the appearing of Jesus Christ in power and great glory, at the end of this age. His appearing will herald light into our current darkness, creation restored and made new, evil finally vanquished and all tears gone. It is a great future hope, founded on true events in the past, which changes everything about our present, whatever the circumstances we may find ourselves in.

But Advent is a complex season to visualise and get all the different elements of the Biblical picture into a right scale, order and perspective. I am a big fan of the works of JR Tolkien and CS Lewis as they wrote the overarching truths revealed to us in the Biblical writings into their own imaginary stories. These stories, Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' and Lewis' 'The Chronicles of Narnia' do a wonderful job of placing large scale biblical truth into a more easily accessible human framework; relatable, vivid, colourful, amusing and powerful. If we want to know what Advent is then experiencing it through the eyes, heart and feelings of Mr Beaver, whom the children encounter on entering Narnia, is not such bad place to start from. Here is their initial meeting – enjoy.

"It's no good, Son of Adam," said Mr. Beaver, "no good your trying, of all people. But now that Aslan is on the move—" "Oh, yes! Tell us about Aslan!" said several voices at once; for once again that strange feeling—like the first signs of spring, like good news, had come over them.

"Who is Aslan?" asked Susan. "Aslan?" said Mr. Beaver. "Why, don't you know? He's the King. He's the Lord of the whole wood, but not often here, you understand. Never in my time or my father's time. But the word has reached us that he has come back. He is in Narnia at this moment He'll settle the White Queen all right. It is he, not you, that will save Mr. Tumnus."

"She won't turn him into stone too?" said Edmund.

"Lord love you, Son of Adam, what a simple thing to say!" answered Mr, Beaver with a great laugh. "Turn him into stone? If she can stand on her two feet and look him in the face it'll be the most she can do and more than I expect of her. No, no. He'll put all to rights as it says in an old rhyme in these parts:

Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,

At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,

When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,

And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.

You'll understand when you see him." "But shall we see him?" asked Susan. "Why, Daughter of Eve, that's what I brought you here for. I'm to lead you where you shall meet him," said Mr. Beaver.

"Is—is he a man?" asked Lucy. "Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy. "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you?

Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

"I'm longing to see him," said Peter, "even if I do feel frightened when it comes to the point."

"That's right, Son of Adam," said Mr. Beaver, bringing his paw down on the table with a crash that made all the cups and saucers

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



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

rattle. "And so you shall."

And so, we all shall too. Do join us for any of our Advent Services from 22nd November to 20th December listed below. Our Nine Lessons and Carol Service this year will be at St. Mary's, Bishopstone, at 4pm. Everybody most welcome.

Kind regards,

Revd. Steve Paynter

stevedpaynter@gmail.com

01793 296870

The Parish of the Wellspring Villages

The main morning Church Services always start at 10.30am.

Day	2026	Time	Venue
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
Sun	06.12	10.30am	HC, All Saint's
Sun	***13.12***	***4pm***	***Carol Service, St Mary's***
Sat	***19.12***	***4pm***	***Christingle Service, St Andrew's***
Sun	20.12	10.30am	HC, St Andrew's
Thurs	***24.12***	***5.30pm***	***Christingle, St Mary's***
Thurs	***24.12***	***11.30pm***	***Midnight HC, All Saint's***
Fri	***25.12***	***10.30am***	***Christmas Day HC St Andrew's***
Fri	***25.12***	***10.30am***	***Carols & Readings, St Swithun's***
Sun	27.12	10.30am	HC, St Swithun's

All dates and times are submitted to the Editor.

Prayer

Lord, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you. Dispel the clouds and darkness and awaken us to your glory, that we may walk in your light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St Mary's Church Cleaning Rota 2026

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 — Nov 2026

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK SUCCESS











Thank you to those of you who were able to join us on Sunday 0ctober 11th to help pick up litter. It's fair to say that wine bottles, beer cans and Gregg's paper cups are a theme! The main roads in and out of Bishopstone and Hinton were particularly bad. The next litter pick will be in the spring, and we will get the date out early in the new year. Special thanks to Richard Walker, Chair of Bishopstone Village Hall Committee who took the time to corner off a section of the village hall car park for us to leave all the rubbish.

MATTERS ARISING

Bishopstone Pond- This is a key priority for the council and a small working group, led by Cllr Thanigasalam supported by Cllr Thomas, Cllr Bell and Cllr Wilson have started to progress the commissioning of an ecological survey. We will be advised on the timing of the survey and will update on progress as soon as possible.
Speedwatch- sadly we have not had anyone come forward interested in becoming a Community Speedwatch Volunteer. As a reminder you must be over 18, complete mandatory roadside and online safety training which is provided by Wiltshire Police. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.
You may have seen more police presence over the past few weeks this was following the request by the council, for some additional surveillance and presence. The police were very receptive and responded proactively.
Getting Winter Ready- if you have a salt/grit box near your home, please check whether it is stocked ready for winter. If you notice that one needs refilling or repair, pleases report to Swindon Borough Council at https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20040/roadsafetymaintenance and repair/342/report an empty or damaged salt box or salt bin
Be Aware- there have been several breaks in's during the day time in Hinton Parva, so we all need to be vigilant.

FOLLOW ALL OUR LATEST NEWS ON FACEBOOK @bishopstoneandhintonparvaparishcouncil

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Emma Parry (Clerk)
07763543634
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
Mrs ContaRowan Hamilton
Cllr.contarowanhamilton@gmail.com

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026 /27

Meetings begin at 7.30pm. Late changes are shown at bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parish council/ and on the notice boards. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

2026
6th July **Bishopstone** August **(Cancelled)**
7th Sept **Bishopstone** 5th October **Hinton Parva**
2nd Nov **Bishopstone** 7th Dec **Hinton Parva**

2027
4th January **Bishopstone** 1st February **Hinton Parva** 1st March **Bishopstone** 5th April **Hinton Parva** 10th May **Hinton Parva**

View the Parish Council Website at www.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 potholes to SBC: swindon.gov.uk/my account **Wiltshire Police non-emergency number (less urgent than 999):** 101 **Borough Councilor** 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)
School liaison Dai Wilson
Russley Park Dai Wilson

SWINDON DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2043

The Parish Council have not been formally notified of the Regulation 19 consultation however the plan does not show any site allocations for Bishopstone or Hinton Parva. The Parish Councill will comment to note its support of no building in the non-coalescence zone. This would prevent distinct towns, villages or settlements from merging into a continuous urban sprawl.

Should you wish to have your say on the final draft on the Swindon local Plan 2043 before it is submitted for independent examination you can do so up until 11.59 on 12th November 2026. Comments at this stage should focus on whether the Plan is legally compliant and sound. Find out more at:

http://www.swindon.gov.uk/newlocalplan

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at: **www.swindon.gov.uk/planning**
Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the
If you would like to attend to discuss, please contact the clerk.
S/26/1265 Erection of 4no. dwellings, alterations to existing vehicular access point from City Corner, Landscaping, drainage and associated works. Land South of Icknield Cottage Hinton Parva Swindon, SN4ODH
There are no current applications or active appeals in Bishopstone or Russley Park

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VILLAGE HALL news


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Village Christmas Tree Delivery – 22nd November

Our village Christmas tree will be arriving on Sunday 22nd November, with the decorating and putting up of the tree to follow shortly afterwards. If you fancy lending a hand and getting into the festive spirit, please give us a shout – all help is very welcome!

Carols Around the Tree – 21st December

Join us for a lovely evening of festive cheer as Anna and Cheryl Bareham host our annual Carols Around the Tree on Monday 21st December. Come along, sing your favourite Christmas carols and enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie (or two!). Everyone welcome!

A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell

We're delighted to welcome Carla Stevens to the Village Hall team, who will be taking over bookings from Michelle.

A huge thank you to Michelle for all her hard work and dedication over the years. We wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement!

And a big welcome to Carla – we're delighted to have you on board!

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

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Both Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Villlage Halls have availability if you would like to hire either of them.

BISHOPSTONE INFO/BOOKINGS:

Carla Stevens: 07517 142 379
Email: Bishopstonehallbookings@gmail.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

HINTON PARVA

We held our AGM at the end of October and it was the best attendance we've had in a long time! Sadly, Helen stood down as our Chair, although she will still continue to help us in other capacities. Thank you for all your hard work Helen! Conta, one of the hall's trustees, was unanimously elected as Chair. And we've had two enthusiastic villagers join the committee, Carole and Trudy – Carole even remembers when there was a village Youth Club held in the village hall! The hall's finances remain stable and although we've seen an increase in hall bookings, the rent we receive from them doesn't cover the costs of running the hall so we need to continue to think of innovative ways to bring in additional money to keep the hall running.

We have two dates for your diary. We'll be holding our Christmas Village Sing Song and Get Together on Saturday 19th December at 5pm. This is a free event, all are welcome and there will be a collection for 'Big Breakfast Plus', a Swindon charity which provides cooked breakfasts for people who are homeless or hungry in a warm and welcoming environment. We appreciate it's a busy time of year, but it's a lovely way to take a break for an hour and come and socialise with friends and neighbours and join in with the singing.

Finally our Village Supper will be held on Saturday 23rd January, with tickets costing a bargain £15 per head. Again, all are welcome, and as this is usually our main fund-raising event of the year, we'd love to see it sold out.

Contact: hpvillagehall@gmail.com.
Karen Walker on behalf of Hinton Parva Vilage Hall







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The Royal Oak Diary



I just thought I'd indulge myself by relating some of the more illuminating moments of 20 years running a village pub by mistake. We probably won't mention the horizontal fireworks in 2009, or the time I was showing a late arriving couple on a hot july night into their room and watched two wholly naked people on top of the bed slowly turn their eyes towards me and my surprised companions as we walked in, in a way that was not welcoming. He needed to go on a diet was one of my take aways from that. Or when Valerio sent me off to hunt for the drugs cash that he was sure people were hiding in Football Field room, and I walked in and found two people about 80 years old reading the Erotic Review to each other, in bed. Quite encouraging, I thought. They were not drug dealers, clearly… Valerio laughed, and admitted he'd told me the wrong room. On purpose, just for entertainment of course. We must not mention the time we had four police cars in the car park one Sunday afternoon—they arrived at some speed—but they only came into the pub for a cup of tea after they'd done their serious business elsewhere, but quite close. It's amazing how indiscreet they can be after a free cup of tea. Things have never been the same since.

What we can gently and nostalgically mention is the glorious Kate Keller tendering her instant resignation (refused of course) when the Visit Britain inspectors in 2008 found some out of date tea bags in the old rooms (now a shop) and a spider big enough to inflict a sharp bite on the inspector while he sat on the loo. Or when Kate made a world first discovery—we did not realise at the time—while cleaning (for the first time for a while) under the bench on table 4. Yes, it was the world's first sighting of the Higgs Bosun particle, a very rare phenomenon in the world of quantum physics, and even more rare in Bishopstone, a few years before that multi billion dollar Hadron Collider in Switzerland also found one.

Of course, we can also recall my mother's first (remarkably and happily not her last) meal here cooked by our opening night chef Darryl. A pie, apparently. Darryl has gone on to be a pretty good motor cycle mechanic, and my late mother recovered after a few days of intensive medicine and several profanities which we'd never heard from her before. The landlord's car has also been the source of some aggro, usually when he's forgotten to apply the handbrake when arriving in a hurry, often to sack another chef. On at least two occasions it has mysteriously reversed itself out of the car park and damaged local property. The time it reversed itself into Jeff and Sharon's old place was the funniest, in hindsight. It pushed an old fence onto Jeff's almost new Discovery. And broke one of Sharon's plant pots. You'd have thought world war 3 had started. 'I can't go the golf club in that! I'll have to cancel the tournament tomorrow' said Jeff, in his slippers. (There was a small almost invisible scrape by the rear lights). 'And Sharon says the plant pot cost her £9.95 from Dobbies'. Two Scandinavian B-list rock stars (female) spent most of their evening here snorting cocaine in the ladies' loo, much to our horror, the first time we had come across that particular habit; and Jeremy Clarkson's sole appearance here was spoilt by one of our star-struck Italian waiters asking for a selfie—it was delivered gracelessly, and he went off and started his own place, now apparently a National Treasure!

As you can imagine, there have been cock ups that would take a whole chapter to describe, from discovering that the temporary pig man wore red high heeled shoes and very delicate lingerie in his spare time (turns out I was wrong, they belonged to another unwitting guest), to the Visit Britain inspectors again—theirs was an ill fated trip, as they were parking i had assumed they were the useless gang I'd hired to fill the tarmac car park pot holes that day, and i gave them a real bollocking for being late. Their 24 hours here did not improve, even after a night in the self-styled Prince of Wales Suite.

I could mention the stuff that's been stolen—furniture (our best piece), pictures (on one occasion they swapped one they liked for one of their own…), wine, towels, expensive toiletries in big bottles. But life is too short, and whizzing past at such speed, that we can't dwell on this serious stuff. Most of it's been fun, unless you're one of a series of hopeless chefs now buried under the rose garden.

Looking ahead for a moment—you might see this before we welcome **Chris Jones here on November 17** to engage you all in serious and fun chatter about the Nations Series, when the UK hosts the next and final stage of the north v south international rugby series. Chris is a smart and intelligent analyst of the game, working for the BBC as a correspondent and commentator, and runs his own podcast with Ugo Monye. There are 10 spaces remaining at £35 for supper and chat, from 7pm. **Friday December 4 sees our ageing talented jazz trio 3Bop playing from 6.30**; the village craft fair (and our own ski will stay open late) is November 26 and you're welcome to use the car park here if you need to for access to both.

Then it's December and we'll all think again about what we're going to do in 2027. Already!

Pub next quiz night is a week earlier than usual due to a major event conflict here—so it's Monday December 7, at 7pm, the first Monday of the month. We'd love to see you of course. We take teams of 2-8 people, and we ask for £2 per entrant, some to Prospect Hospice and some to the winners if they want it. It's always challenging, Graham Philpotts puts a huge amount of effort into his varied questions.

TF and crew

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Aeroplanes smash into each other over Bishopstone and Hinton Parva

Yes, it's true. But not last week. Someone out there might be more of a dedicated sleuth than I have time to be, but a postcard, part of an extensive trove handed over last month, from 'Auntie Edith' (I think) to her friend Mrs Alexander in Somerset in 1934, states; 'the + marks are near where the planes smashed into each other'.





Auntie E had pencilled in three little crosses/plus marks on the front of the card, and the photo is taken a short distance behind Roz Boot's old house looking up the lynchets. And the hand drawn marks indicate an aerial collision on the higher ground between the two valleys that move up from Smith's Bottom. Beyond that, I know nothing of this mini local disaster. Someone else might be able to help?



The trove of cards, mostly I think from the turn of the 1890s into the early 1900s, yields other information (how I long, not for the first time, for the presence and wit of parish unofficial historian, the much missed Mogs Boon) which show—
The commercial water cress beds at the lower end of Smiths' Bottom; and evidence of an almost tree and shrub less environment, and posted in 1934



Two houses badly damaged by fire (not sure where or which of our two villages) and several people gawping at the wreckage; hands in pockets; someone will know!
The school and mill below Hockerbench, and a single horse tied to the pond railings, with very few other signs of life or habitation;

Bishopstone High Street with one or two houses that still stand, and others that have long gone, probably close to The Wyncies. No room to park your Porsches there 125 years ago.



Finally, from this quick selection, some rowing boats on Coate Water, appearing to be from 1905–this one is from Beatrice and also to Mrs Alexander, this time in London. What's gently amusing is the opening lines of her greeting—'don't be frightened but I am in Swindon at present'. But adds 'am having such a jolly time!'
The cards themselves are published by Bishopstone's Postmaster Mr F E Hedges. Although I do wonder—there's a bit of slippery stuff here, because it seems to me that they're actually published by a Swindon company and its name is blacked out and Mr (or Ms) Hedges has overlaid his/her credentials. Interestingly, the cards are actually printed in Belgium…
If anyone can add anything to this little bit of history, I am sure that the editor would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you to our lovely pub customer John Hillier for handing them over to us.
TF



Sign of the Times

You may have noticed markings on the outside walls of St Marys Church, Bishopstone. One is located on the second nave butters to the east of the south door. It was a sun dial used by clergy probably in the 14-15 century to mark the hours for religious services *(top left image below)*. A wooden peg was inserted into the middle and the sun's shadow gave the time of day. You can still see the hole where the peg went.

There is a faint sun dial beside the small Norman door on the west side of the Church *(top right image below)*. A small cross has been scratched into the wall on the south west side of the church *(bottom left image)*. The cross may have been left by pilgrims as a mark of Christian homage. The criss cross marks could be an old masons mark, or a pagan mark of some kind *(bottom right image)*.

If you live in an old thatch cottage, have a look around or near the front door you may see markings. Inverted W signs or VV are Witches marks to ward off evil spirits. You may be fortune enough to have a Daisy wheel , a round circle with leaf shapes in the middle, again possibly to ward off evil spirits All fascinating stuff dating back centuries, so good hunting.

David Wade









Thank you David, for sending this to us. We love a bit of witchy history.

There are lots of interesting articles online about warding off evil spirits with witch marks if you'd like to learn more. The National Trust have some good information on their website, showing marks on some of their properties:

nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/history/warding-off-evil-with-witch-marks

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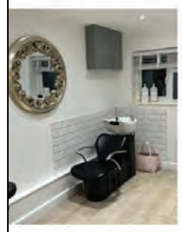
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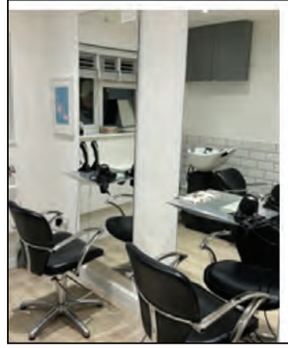


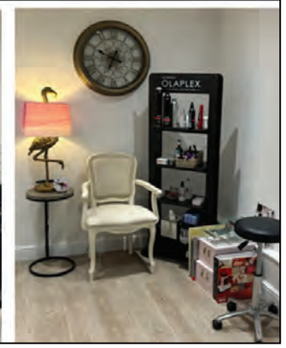
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lee@wilsonconstruction.org.uk

Hospitality & Accommodation

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT
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grahamrowcliffe58@outlook.com

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

THE OWL BARN
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VILLAGE HALL: BISHOPSTONE
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VILLAGE HALL: HINTON PARVA
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BLOOMFIELDS FINE FOODS
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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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We are non-profit!

The Village News is created and run by a small group of volunteers and is a non-profit organisation affiliated to Bishopstone Village Hall. Reg Charity no 271165.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to help with the upkeep please contact Treasurer Andy P, or there are additional copies available and a donation box on the counter in Bishopstone Stores.

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www.bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

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

Stick me on your fridge

November 2026

2026		Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues	17.11.26	7pm Supper	**Pub:** Chris Jones BBC Rugby Correspondant (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	Book: 01793 790 481
Thurs	26.11.26	6-8pm	**Craft Fair** (pg. 3)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Chris Thomas: 07789 414 147
Sun	22.11.26	1pm - 6pm	**Old Town Christmas Festival**	Wood Street Swindon	info@thisisoldtown.com
Sun	22.11.26	11am - 4pm	**Swindon's Christmas Craft & Flea Market**	STEAM Museum SN2 2EY	hello@craftandflea.co.uk
Sat	05.12.26	10am - 12pm	**Christmas Indoor Craft & Car Boot Sale**	Supermarine RFC SN3 4BZ	RFC: 01793 824828
Sat/ Sun	05.12 & 06.12	11am - 5pm	**Eastcott Studios Christmas Gift Market**	28 Eastcott Hill Swindon	eastcottstudios.co.uk
Fri	04.12.26	6.30pm	**Pub:** 3BOP Jazz Trio (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
Mon	07.12.26	7pm	**Pub:** Quiz Night (pg 18)	The Royal Oak	01793 790 481
Sat	19.12.26	5pm	**Village Sing-Song**	Hinton Parva Village Hall	hpvillagehall@gmail.com
Mon	21.12.26		**Carols around the tree**	Bishopstone Village Hall	
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			
Wed	20.01.27		**Ridgeway Gardening Club:** Speaker TBC (pg. 5)		info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk 01793 791 001
Sat	23.01.27	7pm	**Village Supper**	Hinton Parva Village Hall	hpvillagehall@gmail.com
Fri	12.02.27		**Ridgeway Gardening Club:** Quiz & Chilli Supper Night (pg. 5)		
Wed	10.03.27		**Ridgeway Gardening Club:** Ray Broughton: Pruning (pg. 5)		
Thurs 13 - Sat 16 January 2027		7pm	**BADS**: Cold Front by Alan Robinson (pg 2)	Bishopstone Village Hall	Ticket info - pg. 2.
Recurring Dates...					
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
EveryTuesday		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



Fireworks at the pub!

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

Church Services - pg 10 **Parish Council Meetings** - pg 13

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

Tell us your thoughts! **'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR'** Email: BishopstoneEditor@gmail.com