

The Grapevine Great Hinton

DECEMBER 2004

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Another feather for the Linnet

Jon Furby, "our own" restaurateur extraordinaire, has another feather in his cap and award on the wall – he was the winner of the French Wines and Food Match grand final held in a Soho restaurant in October.



The contestants were given a starter, main and dessert and asked to recommend wines to accompany them from a range as diverse as Alsace Pinot Gris and Vins de Pays d'Oc, through to a Sancerre and of course several Clarets. So what would you choose to accompany Cutlet of Suckling Pig with Apricot and Honey followed with the dessert of Cashel Blue Cheese with Fig Ice Cream. Jon matched the judges tastes and opted for a white Vouvray for the pork and then a sweet fortified red from the south, a Banyuls or Maury.

So Jon won £2000 worth of kitchen equipment or a trip to a French wines region. As he invests so much in his business and rarely takes time off, I am pretty sure which he will opt for – why change a winning formula?

Recently Neil Clark, Jon's sous chef was also amongst the honours. He has just won two awards: 'Best Food from Britain' which was based on a pork dish using meat from Sandridge Farm in Bromham. The second award was for 'Best starter & bites' when he did Mediterranean Fish Cakes. They are both on the menu – do call in and try them.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks for the support the Village gave to this collection again. £159.32 was raised and another £9.52 from the Linnet. As the local Honorary Organiser says, "Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work."

Footpaths and Emergency Planning

Jim Clipson

As the title suggests I am the Footpaths Officer for the Parish and also the Community Emergency Volunteer. This article gives a brief update on each activity.

There is a network of footpaths around Great Hinton that adds up to about 13 kilometres in total, so that you can have an energetic walk and never be more than 15 minutes from the centre of the village, or if a gentle stroll is more appropriate you can complete the network over several months. My role is to walk the footpaths and keep an eye out for stiles that are obstructed, paths that are overgrown and any other problems that might occur. We do have a map with the footpaths marked on it; it normally resides in the Village Hall although I am currently committing it to memory. The Explorer series of Ordnance Survey maps shows the footpaths and No. 156 includes all of Great Hinton, the scale is 1:25 000 which shows the field boundaries – an essential addition. I occasionally discuss footpaths with the District Council: its footpaths officer will visit if required and he has a routine that sees him walk every footpath once in 5 years, so that there is a distinct need for local involvement. **Anyone who thinks there is a problem with the footpaths, or has any observations to make should let me know at Ashwell Cottage or by email, my details are below.**

My other voluntary role is that of **Community Emergency Volunteer**; I am the link between the Parish Council and the County Emergency Planning team in Trowbridge. My role is to be aware of the expertise available in the parish should there be an emergency in the village, primarily in the event that the emergency services are occupied with a major event elsewhere in the county and typically when weather conditions prevent additional help. The training scenario was set in winter with a coach-full of Russian schoolchildren crashing into a house in the village with the emergency services being unavailable for several hours. In essence, I liaise with the Parish Council members and they advise of experts who might offer shelter, first-aid or, in the case of the exercise, translation. My current task is to compile a Risk Register for the Parish, this is part of a Government initiative under the Civil Contingencies Bill. Again, should anyone require any further information then please contact me.

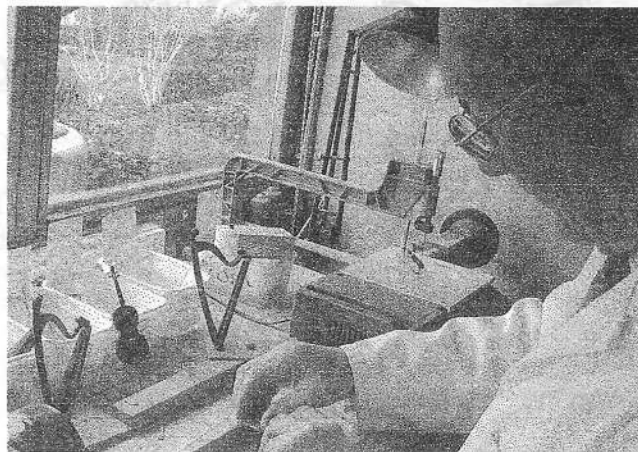
Jim Clipson Ashwell Cottage james@clipson.net

LADIES CLUB The decision to have an open Wine & Cheese evening in September was a good one. We were so pleased to welcome eleven new ladies and most have continued to join us. This also had an effect on our October meeting when we packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in Romania, as we usually do in that month, because we filled a record 104 boxes. That was an excellent result and the local organiser was so grateful for everyone's generosity.

In November we were all amazed at the incredible craftsmanship of Tony Scammells who makes precise 1/12th miniature musical instruments. His display of dolls-house size instruments was exquisite, requiring patience and nimble fingers. Although Tony prefers to have a small group, many of us wished our husbands could have been there to appreciate his skill, and one, Mike Truman, went across to Tony's workshop on a later day to see for himself. It is Mike who has provided the photograph you see here.

We are now looking forward to two December events – the **Christmas Carols by Candlelight on Tuesday, 14th December – 7pm – 8pm** and our Christmas meal together at The Linnet, 7pm for 7.30 on Wednesday, 15th. The Carols and Poems evening has become increasingly popular and we love having the children there to lead Jingle Bells whilst the adults sip mulled wine. Please do join us. I am very grateful to Ken Young and Xanthe Smith for playing keyboard and flute to lead our carol singing and to the ladies for supplying mince pies, mulled wine, and decorations. Do join us, it is a lovely start to the Christmas season.

Some of you may have been wondering about the money we raised last summer for the Hope Nature Project in Southwick Park, in light of the publicity in the Wiltshire Times. Our Village Fete raised £700 to



send to Centre Chairman June Fleming (who opened our fete) for this project. The local paper reported that the charity leaders feared their nature centre could lose hard-earned grants if councillors do not restore their lease quickly which was withdrawn because they claimed conditions had not been met. I have been in touch with June who assures me that conditions had been met and her local councillor is working on her behalf to get things back on track. June tells me that they have £250,000 and are ready to begin the work in the park as soon as permission is given to go ahead. I have written a letter of support for June and her team to West Wilts District Council. We hope the problems can be sorted out and that this worthwhile facility for disabled young people will soon be able to move forward.

May we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and thank you for your support of our events and fund-raising. We are always pleased to welcome new ladies to monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8pm. in the Village Hall. Just come along or 'phone me on 870635.

Carol Clarke

The Christmas season is about thanksgiving, but too often in our prayers through the year we bring before God a shopping list of our wants. We ask for this, we ask for that....and in doing so we think we are sort of "tapping in" to a source which will give us all that we ask for in our prayers. Now, God always answers our prayers but not, in the most part, in the way we would sometimes wish.

There are many aspects to prayer. Petitioning or asking for something is fine, but let's not forget thanksgiving. In a few weeks time Christmas will be with us. Hopefully we will be giving gifts and receiving them. It is right that we should do so as it is the holy season when we

celebrate the birth of Jesus. We give gifts as acts of love. We give gifts in thanksgiving. We give gifts as reminders of the greatest gift that all of us have ever received. And that gift was from God Himself. The gift was the gift of Jesus - "born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the King."

So let's use thanksgiving in our prayers more often. Let's thank God for His many blessings; but let's thank Him most of all for Jesus, whose birth we celebrate again this coming Christmas. **Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!**

Christopher Brown
Rector, St James Church, Trowbridge

BADMINTON The interest and enthusiasm is still being maintained with 14-16 players each week. This number includes 12+ from the village, which, considering it all started with four, is a success story. We are to hold a **Social Evening in December** at the village hall which gives an opportunity for those friends from outside the village to see the facility that we support with our contributions to the "Memorial Hall Fund". The group wish all the readers of the "Grapevine" a **"Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year"**.

Colin & Ken

MINTAKA'S JOURNEY

We thought you might like a final update of our waterways exploits so we have compiled some statistics from our records for you to ponder.

Mintaka's journey covered approximately 500 miles and lasted some 100 days. We negotiated 400 locks and had to operate 85 lift/swing bridges. There were 6 tunnels on our route which took in 17 different canals and 4 rivers.

As everyone knows the weather this summer was poor and we can assure you that up north it was considerably worse than down here. In particular we were plagued with severe winds which made boat handling hard work, especially as we crossed the Pennines on the Leeds Liverpool canal.

Currently Mintaka is at Sawley Marina near Nottingham where we will be visiting her to carry out various tasks in order to prepare for the oncoming winter months and future sale.

Fundamentally we enjoyed our exploits despite the weather. We had many great experiences and enjoyed the most spectacular scenery both of the beautiful and of the ugly kind. Whilst it is lovely to be back we both miss our Narrow Boat Mintaka

Colin and Judy

CF Coffee morning

Many thanks to all who supported the coffee morning on behalf of the **Cystic Fibrosis Trust**. £159.20 was raised on the day, add this to the children's raffle monies from tickets sold prior to the coffee morning and the total raised was £363.20. We would like to thank everyone: the helpers, people who made lovely cakes and donated, and those who were able to come on the day. Once again, many thanks for your support and generosity.

Mark, Lena and Elizabeth Newman.

A big thank you to all who supported my **Macmillan coffee morning** in September. Between us we managed to raise £151.20 for cancer care. Thank you!

Rebecca Locke

I.T CLASSES As most of you probably know Chippenham College are not able to continue our two IT classes on Mondays due to funding and other complications concerning gaining qualifications! This applies to other villages as well as ourselves.

The Monday sessions have been really enjoyable and we have all benefited from the experience, albeit sometimes finding computers very frustrating, but George our tutor has sorted us out and we've had a lot of fun! The hall kitchen has benefited from items bought out of profits from the tea/coffee and biscuits and, of course, the rent has been very useful and will be missed!

However, in a letter just received from the Head of Faculty it has been suggested that a Computer 'club' could be set up in place of the current class but would cost each member £110.00 for a block of two hour lessons over ten weeks. Anyone interested please contact June Pengelly, ICT Faculty PA, Wiltshire College, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QD. A minimum of ten students is required. For students wishing to gain IT qualifications there are several centres in our area where you would be very welcome.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported these classes over the five terms they have been running and hope you have all enjoyed them as much as I have - IT certainly keeps the brain cells busy!!

Anne Truman

LUNCH CLUB continues to thrive on the second Thursday of each month. We still have nineteen members, although so far this season we haven't all managed to meet together. Here's hoping we will all be able to enjoy the Christmas lunch together on Thursday 9th December.

There are now five of us in the cooking team and it's interesting to see each month what each individual will produce; the way the potatoes and vegetables are cooked depends on what the main dish will be. We are very adventurous and it's surprising how many different ways potatoes can be cooked, and the abundant varieties of vegetables we sample, not to mention many delicious desserts.

We always welcome new members so if anyone would like to join us please ring either Richard & Carol Clarke on 870635 or Audrey Plummer on 870586 by the second Monday in each month.

LIFE AT GREAT HINTON There are lots of village events - like summer fetes and skittle evenings, quiz nights, safari dinners and children's workshops held at Easter, Halloween and Christmas. There are well known landmarks such as the village hall, the pub, and also Audrey's garden where we hold our summer fetes. Lastly - the neighbours and friends in Great Hinton. They are joyful, lively and chatty, ... and I think Great Hinton is fab!!

William Locke

F.O.K.S. (FRIENDS OF KEEVIL SCHOOL)

Thank you to all those who attended our very successful Jumble Sale on 9th October. It was very well "stocked" and we had many visitors during the morning. We had our Craft Fayre on 27th November, this year held at Steeple Ashton Village Hall. We had a great variety of stalls ranging from cakes, cards, encaustic art, woodcraft, clothes, plants, books and many more. There was also a demonstration of martial arts as well as a children's craft table and face painting.

The children once again did us proud and attended both Harvest Festival Services at St. Leonard's, Keevil and St. Mary's, Steeple Ashton. They took up an active and very entertaining role in the proceedings with Harvest songs, readings and prayers on the theme of sowing and reaping. The Year 6 pupils then helped the Keevil community to distribute the gifts to the housebound and the charity Action for Homelessness in Trowbridge.

Keevil School '100 Club'

How about trying your luck and joining our '100 Club'? For as little as £12, you could win up to 3 prizes from each of the 6 draws to be held this school year. Cash prizes reflect the amount of tickets we sell, so go on, have a go today! For more info contact Jan Flynn on 828248 or ask at the school.

The Buggy Challenge

The school hall was full of families on 12th October as details of the school's "Buggy Challenge" were announced. As part of Family Learning Week, families are being encouraged to work together to make a buggy and safely carry a fresh egg down a ramp! The buggies were put to the test on November 26th at Steeple Ashton Village Hall where prizes were awarded for "best dressed", "most innovative" and "buggy that travels the furthest". It was great fun.

Christmas Concert

This year it's "The Snow Queen" by Hans Christian Andersen. Our two performances will be: **Wednesday, 15th December at 1.30 pm and Thursday, 16th December at 6.30 pm. Both performances will be at Keevil Village Hall.** Tickets (free) available from the school.

Christingle Service

This year, our **Christingle Service** will be in **St. Leonard's Church, Keevil** on **Monday, 20th December at 6.30 pm.** Everyone is welcome but please inform school of **extra children** attending as we need to cater for everyone! Join us afterwards in the school hall for traditional Christmas fayre! Start your Christmas with Keevil School!

If you require further details of the above, please contact Debbie Scott on 870410.

My Fish I have six fish. They have wonderful tails. They can go in small holes and they like chasing each other. They have eight babies that are so small and live in a net. My favourite out of the babies is the smallest one called Danielle.

From Josie Evans age 6.

CHILDRENS CRAFT CLUB

Saturday 30th October saw eighteen children making finger puppets before joining in 'apple bobbing' and a variation of that game using sticky, iced doughnuts suspended on string!

A good time was had by all before going out, en masse, 'Trick or Treating'. Thank you to all who gave so generously to all the children. My apologies to those of you whom we missed because I didn't realise you expected us to call.

We now have seventeen children from the village attending the craft club and occasionally have the odd visitor or two. We are pleased to welcome Adam and Daniel who recently moved into Peppercorn Orchard.

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 11th December**, when amongst other Christmas crafts I hope we shall be making figures for a Christmas Crib to display in the village hall.

Audrey Plummer

Safari Dinner

Since Easter is early next year (end of March),

Safari Dinner no.28 will take place sometime in mid to late April – it's too early to think about the date now (Christmas needs thinking about first!). So be on the lookout for the date in the Easter edition of The Grapevine.



GREAT HINTON MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Again we are pleased to report that all is well with our village hall. It continues to be used very regularly – far more, indeed, than we had predicted when we planned the new hall. Sadly Wiltshire College has decided not to continue with the computing classes that have been so successful over the past 18 months. This will reduce daytime use next year, but evening and weekend use still remains high.

Financially we continue to manage well, supported by the charges we make to hall users and by the Village 100 Club. We do charge for bookings but the charges we make are very low in order to encourage maximum use of the hall. So remember the hall if you are organising any events for your family or friends – what about a skittles evening? If you want to book the hall please contact David Harnott on 871196.

GREAT HINTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Since the last Grapevine there have been two village events organised by the Committee.

On 9 October we held a Skittles Evening. As usual it was a friendly, enjoyable and occasionally noisy evening. For those who have not been to our regular Skittles Evenings before, we have a traditional 9-pin skittles alley in the hall. We do compete for prizes (highest and lowest scores) but to some extent the skittles are an excuse for a sociable evening out.

The Eddie Knight posse took all the high score prizes, with Eddie getting the highest men's score and Jenny the highest overall score as well as highest ladies' score. (Rumours have been spreading about the use of performance enhancing substances amongst the Knight posse, but on a full body search all we could find were two empty Babycham bottles and an unfinished bottle of Sanatogen Tonic Wine.) It's probably unfair to tell you who received the prize for the lowest score. .. But it was Terry Cunningham. Sorry Terry!

Bonfire Night

We decided some time ago to organise a Bonfire Night event after 8 years or so without one in the village. It attracted more than 100 villagers and we hope that all who came enjoyed themselves, particularly the children. We were very lucky with the weather as it was a fine, dry night.

These things take quite a bit of organising so we were pleased and grateful that a good number of villagers joined in preparing for, running and clearing up after the event. Thanks to David Harnott whose idea it was in the first place and

who masterminded the whole thing. Thanks to Kevin for building an enormous bonfire which burned beautifully, and Roger and Neil for the firework display. It has to be said that in all cases it was just big boys having fun!

Thanks to the many villagers who helped to build the bonfire and, in particular, to Debbie and Will who donated many of the timbers from their half demolished home (Blue Haze)! We need to decide whose home to demolish next year when we require another bonfire. Thanks to Veronica, Debbie, Emma, Gwen, Rachel, Debbie and Rebecca for the food, which was much appreciated. Finally thanks to Jonathan Furby – our landlord at The Linnet – who bought the final spectacular salvo of rockets for our firework display.



If you think it was good enough to do it again next year, please mention this to one of the Committee members.

From our Local Councillor's Newsletter

ROAD SAFETY The County Council defines an accident cluster site as one where at least three injury crashes have happened in the previous three years. Hagg Hill qualifies, hence the interactive sign which lights up to warn speeding south-bound traffic of the hazard.

West Ashton crossroads is also a cluster site. Most of the crashes which occur on the crossroads are nose to tail shunts, so the County has laid some anti-skid surfacing to attempt to prevent this type of accident.

There are a total of 200 such cluster sites in Wiltshire, but County will only be working on 30 of them this year. Stoney Gutter misses out, but should be higher on the priority list next year following the recent fatalities. The County will be studying police reports into those accidents to see

what needs to be done to stop anything similar happening again. For example it may be necessary to change the phasing on the traffic lights to make them more like the West Ashton ones.

B3098

The Director of Environmental Services, George Batten, has been asked to investigate the reasons for the latest delay to the promised works to the road and to reply to Bratton, Coulston and Edington parish councils.

MORE BABIES IN LIBRARIES

Due to popular demand the 'rhyme time' sessions for babies and parents in Trowbridge Library are being extended from monthly to weekly. They take place every Wednesday at 10.15. Sessions are free and there's no need to book.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 7 –8 pm in the Hall

CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS READINGS WITH MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

Bring the children. Collection for Ladies Club Charity of the Year –
St Mary's Trust Steeple Ashton for the repair of the Church Porch Gates

SATURDAY 15 JANUARY in the Hall
(Evening but time to be confirmed)

ANNUAL VILLAGE HANGOVER PARTY

Blow away your post Christmas and New Year headaches with our annual village celebration and evening of fun and games.



SCRIPTURE CAKE

Easy for Old Testament students
Allow half an hour Bible study
2 1/2 hours baking. Cuts into 10

INGREDIENTS

200g Genesis 1V verse 4
200g Jeremiah VI verse
4 Isaiah X verse 14
2 tbs 1 Samuel XI verse 25
280g 1 Kings I verse 22
Half teasp Leviticus 11 verse 13
1 teasp 2 Chronicles IX verse 9
350g 1 Samuel XXX verse 12
50g Numbers XV 11 verse 8, chopped
2 tbs Judges V verse 25

SATURDAY 12 MARCH in the Hall at 7.30pm
PUB OLYMPICS

After the popularity of the Pub Olympics this year we have been encouraged to do it again. You don't have to be any good at any of the events – in fact it might even help not to be much good – but join in the fun of table skittles, darts, dominoes, shove ha'penny, tiddlywinks etc. I know, you don't often see tiddlywinks played in pubs, but we all remember the thrill and excitement of tiddlywinks from when we were young! So get practicing.

Method

Preheat oven to 170c/150c fan oven/gas 3.
Grease and line a 20cm/8inch cake tin.
Cream Genesis and Jeremiah until pale and fluffy. Add Isaiah and Samuel a little at a time, beating well after each addition.
Fold in the Kings, which you have sifted with Leviticus and Chronicles, and then the Samuel and Numbers. Stir in the Judges to make a soft dropping consistency.
Bake for 2 1/2 hours until a skewer comes out clean. With a long slowish baking of this kind, you must use your judgment and check that it's not browning too much.
Once cooked, remove from the oven and leave in the tin for 30mins before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bus Shelter Unfortunately we have experienced some delays that mean that construction will not now start before the New Year and hopefully be completed before the end of March

Fore Street Farm The new owner has recently taken action to protect this historic building from any further weather damage and we understand he is liaising with the planning and listed building officers of WWDC before finalising their proposals. The council therefore still await the detailed proposals. The Parish Council are a statutory consultee in the planning process, though we may only have 14 days in which to make our views known to the District Council. In view of the importance of this building in a very prominent location in our village we do want to provide a wide opportunity for villagers to contribute to the planning debate. Consequently we will try to arrange for the plans to be available for public viewing in the village hall once they are received and time permitting. We will, in any event hold a special meeting of the Parish Council to consider our response to any proposals so please watch out for details on the notice board, or pass on your views to a parish councillor at any time.

Quiet Lanes Quiet lanes are designated minor rural roads where the aim is to pay special attention to the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the mobility impaired. The key objective is to enable users to enjoy country lanes in greater safety and to encourage car drivers to respect more vulnerable road users. Quiet Lanes work best when they are part of a network of designated lanes which can link local residents to amenities and other villages.

As a council we have resolved to investigate the opportunities afforded by The Quiet Lane legislation to improve the quality of the network of lanes, bridleways and footpaths that link Great Hinton to other nearby communities. Wiltshire County Council are currently running a trial Quiet Lanes network at Pewsey, but will not consider any other proposals until that trial has been fully evaluated.

If we are able to progress with this idea it will need a broad base of public support to make it happen, so we have started a process of liaising with neighbouring villages. Steeple Ashton have already indicated support in principle. Once we have participation from as many villages as possible we will arrange a public exhibition of the proposals in the village hall. If in the meantime anyone wishes to know more or is able to offer some practical help in driving forward the campaign, please contact either myself, Carol Burch or Mary Clipson.

New Parish Councillor I am pleased to report that at our meeting in November we welcomed Richard Andrew as the newest member of the parish council.