

The Grapevine Great Hinton

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"Happy New Year" to all readers of the "Grapevine" from the Badminton players. Have you made any New Year resolutions? If it is to get fit or lose the weight put on over Christmas then why not join us on a Friday night? Playing three or four games would be a very enjoyable way of achieving those aims. If you would like to join us on a Friday please ring me.

Ken Young 870403

Table Tennis

I read in the paper the other day that if you play table tennis it will help you live another 14 years!! Whether this is true or not doesn't matter, because table tennis exercise is bound to be good for you. In the Village Hall there are two table tennis tables waiting to be used, and I and John Putt have decided to hold Table Tennis evenings on Mondays from 7.30 - 9.30pm.

If you would like to join us, please just turn up. The charge to hire the Village Hall will be split between the players, but it is only likely to be a couple of pounds. Let's use the Village Hall - that's what it's there for.

Mike Truman 870607

Neighbourhood Watch

Steeple Ashton villagers have recently suffered from a spate of thefts from unlocked cars and this month people have been spotted in our village trying car doors after dark. In addition a white car with a man driving and a woman in a woollen hat walking in front seemed to be acting suspiciously. Please do ensure your cars are always locked.

A NEW IDEA - MOVIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

With 14 nominations for the Bafta Awards the screening of the movie 'Atonement' in Steeple Ashton Village Hall on **29 February at 7.30 pm.** will be a sell out, so it would be best to buy your tickets in advance. Cinema quality screening, together with wine and chocolate etc - what better way to see this superb film without the need to drive more than a couple of miles? And tickets only cost £4.50. Screening is in conjunction with the charity Moviola, which enables villages all over the South West to show current successful movies in their village halls. There's a supporting programme in addition to the main feature film.

*'Atonement' is an awesome achievement - I urge you to see it as soon as you can - ***** Daily Mirror*

*Starry, sexy and unmistakably British, 'Atonement' is the kind of film that comes along all too rarely. - ***** The Times*

You can buy tickets from Steeple Ashton Village Shop, or phone the Ticket Secretary on 870660. Or if there are any tickets left, you can roll up on the night. Proceeds are in aid of Steeple Ashton Preservation Trust

More information?? Phone Gill Verschoyle on 870302.

ART GROUP

We have been pleased to welcome two new members this term and all of us enjoy a very relaxing couple of hours with whatever medium we each prefer, music in the background and a glass of wine, hot chocolate or herbal tea half way through, according to personal choice!. Some use acrylics, some water colours, others gouache. Just a pencil or charcoal would be fine, too. You do not need to be good at art, but willing to have a go, and very often you'll surprise yourself at your unexpected master-piece. We all have times when we want to screw the paper up and throw it away but mostly we will file the "not-so-good" works only to re-discover them in the future and decide they weren't so bad after all! We have no formal instruction, but use books for inspiration, greetings cards, photographs, magazine clips and each other to guide and encourage. Just occasionally we might bring in still life items to copy.

We meet Thursdays 7.30pm-9.30pm and if you would like to come along please contact -

Mike Dodd on 870446 or Carol Clarke on 870635

INSTRUCTIONAL ART CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND IMPROVERS

I am intending to hold a Watercolour Art Class for beginners and improvers starting Monday 4th February from 2.30 to 4.30pm. If you would like help in painting a picture, I'm sure I can help you. You may have a favourite holiday scene that you would like to copy, or maybe you'd like a painting of your house. The course will run initially for six weeks on Mondays. I envisage the programme will be as follows:

Week 1 - Painting skies

Week 2 - Painting rough stone walls

Week 3 - Painting mountains, hills and field landscapes

Week 4 - Painting trees with and without foliage

Week 5 - Painting country buildings

Week 6 - Drawing and painting the full picture incorporating studies 1-5. This will involve drawing your subject with special attention to perspective.

Give me a ring for full details. I look forward to hearing from you.
Mike Truman 870607

The Passing of an Era in Great Hinton

It was with a great deal of sadness that we learnt of the death in December of Gilbert Miles. Gilbert was 95 when he passed away and had lived at Parsonage Farm since he moved there with his parents in 1929. A reluctant farmer, Gilbert was nonetheless someone who cared greatly for the welfare of his animals and was active on his land until as recently as last summer. We all miss seeing him on the tractor which he was driving until last Autumn with Clive bravely on the back giving the hand signals. Those of us who were lucky enough to know him will long remember him with great affection. Personally I will always remember him telling me that the day he moved to Great Hinton, at the age of 17, was the worst day of his life - having left his young friends behind in (far away) Potterne he found himself in "a village of old people". At the funeral service there was a collection of £205 which has been given to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Chris Munday

Hall Bookings

The hall is being well used at present except at weekends. How about an evening of skittles with friends or a children's party? During the week Monday is Table Tennis, Tuesday is Yoga, Wednesday Circle of Light (except third Wednesday each month for Ladies Club), Thursday is Art with Friday at present free. Anyone interested? David.

Sunflower Competition

It has been suggested that a competition for children under 12 should be held for the tallest Sunflower.

I will supply the seeds from the same plant and judging will take place in the autumn. Will anybody interested please let me know and I will deliver the seeds.

David 871196

London Marathon Runner Raises Money for Our Local Children

This year I have finally taken the plunge to run my first marathon and at the same time raise as much money as I can for a very good charity. On 13 April I will be running the London Marathon for a charity called **Childtime**. They are a local charity in the Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset area who commit their time and money to children who are far less fortunate than our own.

Childtime offers many types of counselling, support and shelter for children and their families and carers who are experiencing issues such as bereavement, parental separation, self-harm, bullying, domestic violence and sexual abuse or any serious illness. **Childtime** enables them to share their hurt and distress and overcome their mental and emotional difficulties and gives them the opportunity to see a way to a much better life for themselves in the future.

I have committed to raise £1250 but obviously wish to raise as much as I can for this very good cause and would really appreciate your help with this, either with sponsorship or general encouragement for pounding those streets when training over the next 3 months.

I have set up a web site with

<http://www.justgiving.com/debbieellis>

so it is easy for you to sponsor me on line. For those of you who prefer it I also have a sponsor form and if you send me an email debbie@ellismanor.net I will enter your details on it for you. **DEBBIE ELLIS**

Safari Dinners Donate £100 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance

More often than not we end up with a small surplus of funds after a Safari Dinner. In the past we have made donations to the Village Hall building fund, the Hall kitchen refurbishment, the Tsunami Appeal and the Earthquake Appeal. After the November Safari we had amassed enough to donate £100 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal, for which they were very grateful.

The Spring Safari Dinner will be on **Saturday 26 April**, hopefully by then it will have stopped raining!! Please let me know by **Friday 18 April** if you want to take part. (Don't forget to put both dates in your diaries.) You will then know at the beginning of the week your course and numbers. If this is a mystery to you and you want to know more please phone and ask. Sandra 870906

Men's Christmas Dinner

I looked forward to the first ever Men's Christmas Dinner with some apprehension, but need not have worried, because the response was phenomenal from no less than twenty-three men. Thank you everyone for making the event a great evening. It was good to have Peter Baker and Mat Batten join us, both being the most recent newcomers to the village. A sum of £71.75 was raised for the N.I.C.U. (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) which is a special unit for Premature Babies at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. The money was raised by raffling a picture for £23.00 and the winner then auctioned it for £25.00! And Jon gave us credit of £23.75 for unopened wine. See you all next Christmas.

Mike T.

B.Y.O Evenings

Tuesday evenings at the Linnet are still as popular as ever, attracting on average 10 -12 villagers offering an opportunity to catch up with village news. We meet at about 8.30pm each Tuesday to enjoy an inexpensive evening as you only Buy Your Own drinks. The 100 Club Draw is made on the last B.Y.O. Tuesday in the month so come and see how the draw is done. Do come and join us if you can.

Mike T.

Firework Party

Thank you to all who helped in building the bonfire and preparing the food for last year's show, especially the family who spent all morning building the bonfire although they couldn't attend the show in the evening. I endeavoured to speed the fireworks up this time and with the help of John, Mike and Steve, I think we succeeded. If anyone has any suggestions to improve on the display please let me know. Once again thank you all who helped, and especially Gill and Dom for the use of their outbuildings and field.

David Harnott

Lunch Club

Lunch Club continues to flourish well. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Christmas and New Year lunches but I received excellent reports from those who participated. Our next lunch will be on **Thursday 14 February**. Reminders will be distributed the week prior to the lunch. All are welcome so if you are not on our regular list for a reminder but would like to join us please give me a call so that I can include you. Audrey 870586

Children's Workshop

Six children met together in the village hall at the beginning of December. They enjoyed decorating gingerbread Christmas trees with icing and various candies. As numbers have dropped and several more children are approaching secondary age we have decided to give the workshops a rest for a time until more children are old enough to join in.

Audrey

Harvest Supper

As usual the Harvest supper was a great success. A record number of people attended and we only just managed to seat everyone. Thanks to all who came to help decorate the hall with all the produce which appeared. Many thanks also to those who helped with the cooking. A handsome profit was made on the meal which as usual was sent to help various Christian Aid projects. The produce was auctioned by Kevin who in spite of being in great pain with his bad back did an excellent job. The proceeds of £68.40 from the auction were donated to Trowbridge Action on Homelessness.

Audrey Plummer

KEEVIL SCHOOL NEWS

The open day was a huge success and many thanks to those members of the community who not only visited the school, but bought some super old photographs to add to the collection. A very big thank you goes to Great Hinton Village Hall who very kindly donated the use of their crockery and without their support we would have a lot of very dry mouths! The day demonstrated what superb support there is from the whole community.

Now the building has at last been finished, we are in a position to comfortably house the growing numbers of children. We presently have 96 pupils in school and early indications are that we are easily up to our target intake of 15 for Reception Class this coming September. It is reassuring to be in such a secure position.

We were delighted to survive our recent Ofsted inspection and come out of it with such a good result. To get nothing below a rating of 2 (good) is fantastic. A good may not sound great, but when translated from Ofsted speak to proper English it really means very good and with a 1 (outstanding) for pupil enjoyment – well – you can't get much better can you? With the various issues that the school community has coped with since last year, it is a testament to the strength and commitment of everyone involved in the school that we have achieved this.

The Church inspection that followed the Ofsted picked out that *"the school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners. Pupils at Keevil Primary School love their school. They know that they are highly valued by all the staff and want to work hard for their teachers. They enjoy coming to school and feel safe and secure within a caring Christian community. They feel that they are treated fairly and are becoming mature, responsible people who are increasingly able to use strategies to resolve any difficulties as and when they arise."*

I would like to thank everyone for their support for this fantastic school and I look forward to building on this success further in the coming years.

Jackie Chalk HEADTEACHER

F.O.K.S. (FRIENDS OF KEEVIL SCHOOL) FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2008

BULKINGTON RAILWAY – EASTER MONDAY

Bulkington Railway has very kindly offered to open up the railway for train rides on Easter Monday 24th March and raise funds for Keevil School. This is a wonderful opportunity for family and friends to come along and enjoy the fun of the railway and enjoy refreshments in the village hall afterwards. More information on times etc. will follow.

PLANT SALE AND CRAFT FAYRE

We will be holding our annual plant sale at the school in the spring. The date hasn't been set yet, but you will be notified by mail drops and on the village notice board shortly. Any plants and shrubs that you would be willing to donate would be very much appreciated. We will also be holding a Craft Fayre and you will be able to buy refreshments and cakes from our ever popular cake stall. We will have a variety of children's entertainment, so there will be something for all the family! If you would like to hire a table at the craft fayre, please contact me asap.

KEEVIL 10k & FAMILY FUN DAY 10TH MAY

Organisation is well underway for our 4th 10K Run. We have arranged it for slightly earlier in the year so that we do not fall into the half term week – this we found meant that many families were on holiday. We do hope you will all come along and support us on the day as we will have family entertainment and refreshments as usual and we are also hoping to entertain you with some afternoon activities to continue the event throughout the day. Our website will be up and running very soon. You will be able to find all the information about the day on www.keevil10k.co.uk. Telephone contact number for information is: 07757650684

If you are able to help by either marshalling, general help on the day or even leaflet dropping etc., etc., we are always grateful for anyone to come forward. As I always say, this is our busiest event so any help is a huge bonus.

If you require further details on any of our activities, please contact Debbie Scott on 01380 870410 or Keevil School on 01380 870376

Debbie Scott Chair, Friends of Keevil School

GOING GOING GONE !!

"An hour of ironing sold to the gentleman in the pink shirt"..... We have decided that the Air Ambulance could benefit from the funds from an Auction of Promises to be held at **3.00pm on Sunday 20th April**.

Please think about the sort of service you could offer up for auction. Last time they ranged from gardening and babysitting to days out complete with picnics. What hobbies could you share? What skills could benefit others?

The other way you could help the Air Ambulance is to come to the auction and get carried away with the bidding. Lots that are already registered include:

- paella for 4 cooked alfresco
- silk cushion colour-coordinated to your furniture
- summer picnic for 2 at Stourhead including transport
- 3 hours of 'odd jobs' in the house or garden
- champagne breakfast for 4

This is a great opportunity for children to think about things they could do. **Lots to be registered with Kevin on 870906 preferably at least a week before the event.**

Race Night

On Saturday 8th March in Great Hinton Village Hall at 8.00 pm there will be a Race Night organised by one of our villagers. There will be fee of £5 which will cover all bets, no extra money will be needed as a token system will operate and prizes will be awarded accordingly at the end of the evening. Anyone who has attended a Race Night before will know how much fun they can be – pass the word and keep the **8th March** free. Further details will be sent out a couple of weeks beforehand.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The sum collected on the house-to-house appeal around the village this year was £200.16, a 40% increase on last year. Well done, everybody! Chris Morgan, the local honorary organiser for the appeal, would like to thank everybody for their generous support. Without such donations the Royal British Legion would be unable to continue its vital welfare and benevolent work.

It was good to see 30 and more people congregate outside the Memorial Hall for the brief memorial service led by Rev Tony Longdon at mid day on Sunday, Armistice Day.

Mike Dodd

Great Hinton Parish Council

Road Safety – The Strand – An Update

In the last edition of The Grapevine I highlighted our continuing concern about road safety around the junction of the village road and the A361 and The Lamb. Ciara McVeigh, who is our local Police Community Officer, attended our recent Parish Council meeting and was able to report that the Police also consider this to be an area of concern to them.

A recent survey by The Wiltshire Speed Camera Partnership has, however, showed that only a small percentage of traffic on this section of the A361 breaks the national speed limit of 60 mph. The threshold for intervention by the Partnership is for 20% or more of all traffic to be in excess of the prevailing limit, consequently there will be no action on this front. The Parish Council remain convinced that the real problem is that the limit is too high and should be reduced.

The good news is that Ciara has advised that the Police believe that safety could be improved if the length of "double white lines" is extended, further restricting overtaking. As a first step to improved road safety we are very supportive of the Police in this and will be lobbying both the Officials and the politicians at the County Council for early action.

If you feel as strongly about this matter as we do I would urge you to write or email our County Councillor, Julie Swabey, julieswabey@wiltshire.gov.uk, or to the cabinet member responsible for highways, Miss Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, fleurderhephilipe@wiltshire.gov.uk.

If you prefer to write then letters should be sent to County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN. The more people who write the louder our collective voice.

Road Safety – Coldharbour Crossroads – An Update

The planning application for the enlarged, advertising sign adjacent to Coldharbour crossroads was refused by The District Council. The company subsequently appealed that decision to The Secretary of State, but I am pleased to report that this appeal was also unsuccessful. We hope that this means that this potentially dangerous sign will be removed in the near future.

A Small Success

The recent replacement of the water main through Keevil resulted in the road through their village being closed for a number of weeks either side of Christmas. As a Parish Council we were astonished to discover the traffic diversion sent both cars and commercial vehicles through Main Street of our village and the narrow single track road to The Strand. As a direct result of bringing

our concerns to the attention of the Highways Department common sense for once prevailed and the signage for the diversion was changed to send the re-routed traffic via the A350 and A361. It is not often that we achieve success so quickly but it is nice to know that occasionally we can make a difference.

Chris Munday Chairman 870912

Great Hinton Ladies' Club

With a membership of 30 plus ladies now, we have a great time and are still very keen to welcome new members to join us on the third Wednesday of each month, 8pm in the hall.

Our year began in September with an enjoyable Wine and Cheese evening where the ladies displayed their skills and interests by bringing along something that had kept them busy during the summer. And in October we did as we always do for this month – filled about 70 shoeboxes for the charity Operation Christmas Child. In November we were full of admiration for the expertise of Jane Clements, a Journeyman of the Waterways Craft Guild, who demonstrated the Roses and Castles artwork we so often see on the narrowboats on the Kennet and Avon. She told us something of the history of the craft and brought along a number of objects - small tables, water-pitchers, and plates, on which the scenes are painted. We squeezed 28 ladies onto a long table in The Linnet for our Christmas meal and hope we did not disturb fellow diners too much by our chatter and laughter. In January we held our annual skittle evening and Claire Evans won the Ladies Champion Golly Cup with an immaculate average pinfall of 9.

In February we have a local bee-keeper coming to talk to us and in March, along with husbands and partners we look forward to our famous Gourmet night. April will be our AGM/Bring & Buy.

Carolyn Haynes Chairman 870153

A belated thank you to all those who supported my Macmillan coffee morning last September. Between us we raised £256.50 for cancer support which is great!

Rebecca Locke

Forthcoming Events

14 February Thursday – Lunch Club
29 February Friday – Steeple Ashton Movie Night
8 March Saturday – Race Night
24 March Monday – Bulkington Train Rides
13 April Sunday – Debbie's London Marathon
20 April Sunday – Auction of Promises
27 April Saturday – Safari Dinner
10 May Saturday – Keevil 10k Run

At the end of February somebody will be calling on members requesting renewal and all new villagers will be approached to join. The 100 Club income is vital for funding the village hall expenses so please renew and join. If you are not visited for any reason please give me a ring and I will call round.

David 871196

100 Club

These are the names of the lucky winners this year.

	£15	£12	£10	£8	£5
July	Tim Smith	Mary Winterburn	Helen Shipman	Monica Mead	Sue Smith
August	Mrs Ghey	Golly Burston	Claire Evans	Eddie Knight	Dom Verschoyle
September	A R Nicholl	Andy Squibbs	Paul Winterburn	L Unsworth	May Newman
October	Mark Newman	Lisa Cornelius	A R Nicholl	Chris Munday	Colin Ramsey
November	S Adams	Kevin Crumpler	Ann Truman	Joyce Newman	Audrey Plummer
December	Mike Gilmore	Golly Burston	Ron Jennings	Di Drinkwater	Sylvia Tarrant
£50 Christmas Bonus Prize Richard Newman					