

# THE GRAPEVINE

## GREAT HINTON

JANUARY 2009

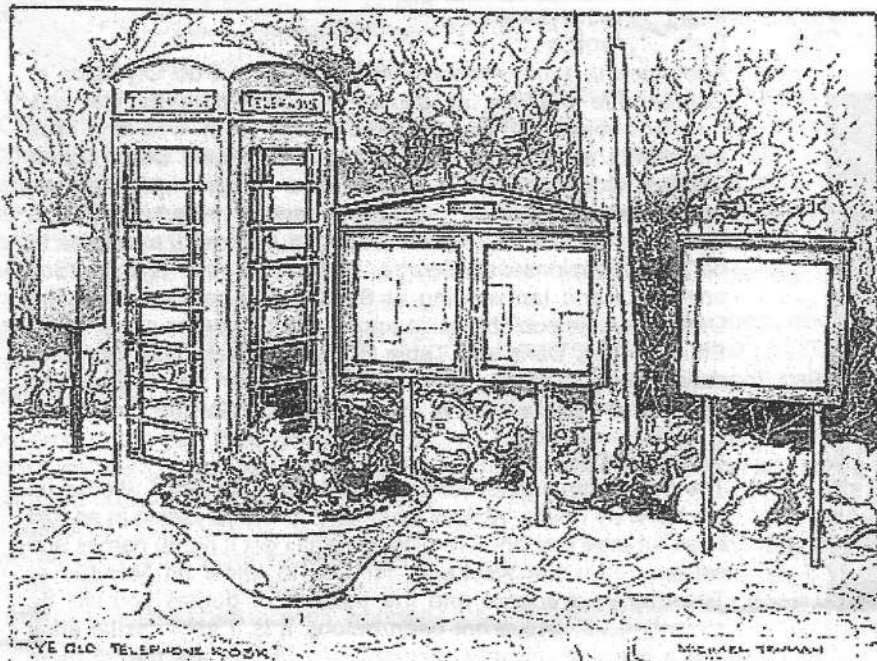
Editor Richard Clarke 870635

clarke@peppercorn.fslife.co.uk

### VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK TO REMAIN

It is with great pleasure that I can advise you all that the village Telephone Kiosk is now in the ownership of the Parish Council and as a consequence will be preserved as a part of our village.

name) first resolved to contact the GPO to request the siting of a phone box in our village. Our senior villagers may well recall the personalities serving on the Parish Council in 1935-36, namely Mr Langley, Mr Noad and Mr Webb, who played a major part in



Many of you will have seen in the local and regional press news of the current review by BT of public telephone services and their proposal to close and remove kiosks that were no longer economically viable. With less than 10 calls in the whole of 2007 made from our kiosk it was high on the list for closure. With such a low level of calls we could not realistically expect any success in fighting the closure, but the Parish Meeting in May authorised the Parish council to make an attempt to purchase the box from BT.

Fortunately BT do recognise the historic importance of some of their kiosks and created a national scheme for Parish, District and County Councils to either sponsor the retention of kiosks with their phone equipment or to "Adopt" the decommissioned box. Sponsoring was not a viable option for us at a cost of £500 p.a. but we were successful in purchasing the kiosk for the grand sum of £1.00 under the adoption scheme.

It was on 16 March 1935 that Hinton Parish Council (that was before the "Great" prefix was added to the village

the negotiations with Mr R.V. Grimstone, our then MP, to have the telephone kiosk installed. That first request was not successful because of the low revenue potential and it took the support of Mr Grimstone to persuade the Postmaster General to offer a compromise under which the Parish Council had to pay £4 p.a. for 5 years. The Type 6 Kiosk that you see today was consequently erected late in 1936 (the parish archives unfortunately do not record the actual date).

The kiosk will now cost the Parish approximately £17 p.a. for the electricity and will, of course, also need regular maintenance. I am sure, however, that all in the village will agree that this is a very small price to pay to retain an important part of the village for posterity. Incidentally any ideas for displays in the kiosk or volunteers to help with the maintenance please contact any one of your parish councillors or speak to Carol Burch.

Our thanks go to George McDonagh for his research work.

Chris Munday Chairman

### Hall Bookings

Audrey Plummer has kindly offered to take over the bookings from me so you can look forward to a better service from now on. A system of booking forms has been introduced and the hiring fees have been increased to £15 for villagers and £20 for others. Regular users have also been advised of the price review.

Future bookings please to Audrey on 870586

### Village Hall Trust

The last 12 months have been very busy due to increased legislation and me belatedly trying to catch up. Thanks to Sue Smith we now have a system in place to cover all the weekly and other checks together with a Health and Safety binder on the kitchen windowsill. Because of financial pressures on the Trust to cover increased overheads and maintenance we have had to increase the hire charges.

David Harnott

### Gourmets and Gifts

For the second year running the **Men's Dinner** at the Linnet was enjoyed by 24 villagers. It was a shame that Derek Saville was unable to attend because of his recent knee operation, we all wish him a speedy recovery. Also our new neighbour David from Bleet was unable to attend at the last minute, let's hope we see them both at the 2009 Dinner. They both very generously donated their £10 deposits to the purchase of the raffle prizes which generated funds for the Ladies Club chosen Charity of the Year "Alzheimers Support" and all monies will be donated to the local support groups in Trowbridge and Devizes.

The money raised at the dinner was:

Raffle £65

Steve Adams (donation) £20

Excess amount from somewhere £5

Auction of watercolour print of our Telephone Kiosk, the successful bidder was Paul Ellis £100

Ann Pierce of Trowbridge (a golfing friend) kindly supported the Charity with a donation of £50 and Brian Pierce (her husband) purchased a different watercolour print for £50

Total raised for Alzheimers Support was an amazing £290.

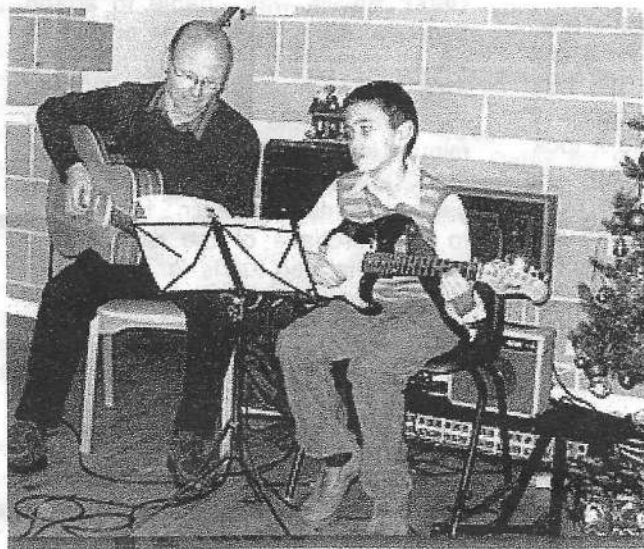
I am overwhelmed by everybody's generosity - let's do it again in 2009

Mike Truman

### WASSAILING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

To wassail you should go from house to house at Christmas time singing carols, but for some years now the villagers have joined in the wassailing (which also means to make merry with mulled wine and mince pies) at the Hall. Our thanks go to Carol Clarke for organising the evening with her choice of seasonal readings and carols and to the Ladies Club for providing the warming refreshments. For five years Ken Young has played the keyboard to lead the singing, and we are very grateful to him, but this year he thought it was time for youthful talent to take his place. Mike Evans inspired William, Daniel and Adam to perform excellently for our enjoyment and Chloe and Josie melted our hearts with their seasonal duet. We hope that they will all be happy to take the star billing at this year's festivities.

The retiring collection of £110 was given to the Ladies Club Charity of the Year – Alzheimers.



### Village Wine Tasting Evening

The very popular Village Wine Tasting Evening, when Steve Locke will try and impart his vast knowledge upon us before we end up drinking too much wine, is returning once again on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**. The evening will cost £7 a head which will cover the purchase of various wines at £7 a bottle. More information nearer the time.

### Junior Sunflower Competition.

There was a disappointing response to the challenge but I am pleased to say that Chloe and Liam Scott won prizes for the tallest and the largest sunflowers. **David Harnott**



### Pub Olympics

Apologies to those who couldn't make the Pub Olympics in October due to a very last minute change of date (the Hall was double booked). However, the event went well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Five teams played Darts, Table Skittles, Dominoes, Shut-the-Box and Skittles which are all traditional pub games. Despite coming no-where in the Dominoes the 'Black Depression' soon showed themselves to be pub champions with George taking the lead in Shut-the-Box and Darts and Ian winning at Skittles and coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Darts. Female pub champion appears to be Di who came first in Shut-the-Box, Darts and Table Skittles. Either these three are very lucky or talented. If the latter is true then we shall have to adopt a handicap system at the next event! **Sandra Crumpler**

### Safari Supper

The next safari supper will be on **Saturday 18 April**. Please let me know by Friday 10 April whether you will be joining in so that I can arrange (and then re-arrange until I get it right!) names and courses over the weekend, for you to know on Monday or Tuesday your course and the number of guests you will be expecting. If you've not been before, it is a very casual affair and a good way to meet neighbours. Please ask me for more details on how the whole evening progresses. **Sandra 870906**

### Village Traffic - Speed Limit

It has long been an aim of the Parish Council to secure a 20mph limit on all roads in the village. A number of years ago our campaign was successful in securing a 30mph limit, but it has been difficult for us to get any further reduction because of Government Highways guidelines. We now believe that, as a result of changes in Government policy, we have an opportunity to once again press our case for the 20mph limit.

Our case is centred on the fact that we have no footpaths, which means that there is a mingling of vehicles and pedestrians, which is inherently unsafe if the vehicles are allowed to travel at speeds up to 30mph. This situation is exacerbated by the stop for the school bus being across the road in Ashton Road. This means that our schoolchildren have to walk along the village roads, often in the dark, and run the gauntlet of the traffic that uses the village as something of a "rat-run".

To strengthen our case we need factual data about the volumes and nature of the traffic, particularly the flow in Main Street. Our Community Police Officer is being very supportive and has arranged for automatic "speed strips" to be placed in the village which measure volumes and speed. It is hoped that the results of this will be available to us within 8 weeks.

We would also like to conduct our own survey of a typical working/school day in order to help us understand the volumes, analysed by time segments. To conduct this survey we need volunteers to help with the counting. If you share our concerns about speed, please help with a little of your time. We do need your help to make our village a safer place, especially for the village children. Would volunteers please contact Carol Burch, myself or any of the Parish Councillors.

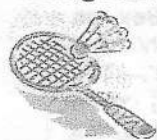
**Chris Munday Chairman 870912**

### Neighbourhood Watch

Whilst most of us have been locked up tight in the recent cold weather there have been burglaries in the area. If you wish to be advised immediately of my receipt of e-mails from the police, please e-mail me and I will put you on the list.

harnott@tiscali.co.uk

### Village Badminton Club



Our group continues to meet on Friday evenings and if anyone would like to join us please contact me.

Two of our group have entered the "Carlton National Leisure Centres Championships" which is open to social players (i.e. non-league players). We wish John and Paul (friends from outside the village) all the best. If they are successful they could progress to regional or national championships – and then we will ask them to coach us rather than play against them!

Did you know that Badminton had its roots in an old children's game in England known as "battledore and shuttlecock." This game is played by two persons with small rackets, called battledores, made of parchment or rows of gut stretched across wooden frames, and shuttlecocks, made of a base of some light material, like cork, with trimmed feathers fixed round the top. The object of the players is to bat the shuttlecock from one to the other as many times as possible without allowing it to fall to the ground.

British Army officers in India played a grown up version of this game. Known in its early days as "poona" (the name of a garrison town), it was played with many people who tried to keep the "bird" (shuttlecock) in the air. A net came to be added later and the sport derived its name from Badminton House in Gloucester where the game was played at lawn parties hosted by its owner, the Duke of Beaufort. During that time, the game was referred to as "The Game of Badminton," and in 1873 the game's official name became Badminton.

The name shuttlecock is frequently shortened to shuttle; it may also be known as a bird or birdie. The "shuttle" part of the name was probably derived from its back-and-forth motion during the game, resembling the shuttle of a loom; the "cock" part of the name probably derives from the resemblance of the feathers to those on a cockerel.

Ken Young 870403

### Happy New Year to you all from FOKS at Keevil School

May I first start by saying a massive 'thank you' to everyone who has supported any of our numerous fund raising events over the Christmas period. Whilst we appreciate that everyone is so busy at that time and the financial burden tends to weigh heavy, the turnout to all our events was fantastic and as a result the coffers look healthy. This will allow us to set new goals and targets where some of the money may be spent – always benefiting the children at the school.

The Snowball was a massive success raising just over £2000 at present, but more importantly, all those who attended had a great time – so much so that we are probably going to repeat the idea (possibly with slight variations!) next Christmas.

Our Christmas hampers and a coffee morning raised over £370 between them and the school calendars for 2009 have made £350 so far. We still have some left to sell at £6 each or 2 for £10. - currently on sale at the school office.

We will be making the first draw of the 100 Club in February so if there are still some people out there who would like to take part in this draw, then there is still time. It costs £12 and you could win a first prize of £50, second of £25 and third at £15 in one of our 3 draws over the academic year. Please contact Lesley Carter (01380 871966) or Sarah Henry (01380 870577) for tickets or alternatively drop into school where we have a stash of forms!

**2009 expects to hold some fun with events such as a scarecrow trail in Keevil village. This will be held over the weekend of 9/10 May with further details to follow.** Anyone wishing to know more about this or wanting to take part in the organisation of it then please contact Simon Downey on 01380 828316.

**On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7pm, we are hosting a ladies shopping night at the school where for a small admission fee with free glass of fizz, there will be craft stalls and pampering sessions for the fairer sex amongst us to spoil ourselves.** Once again I will give more details in the next issue; however, this is one not to be missed.

**For the children, we are holding a school disco on February 13<sup>th</sup> which always tends to be great fun!**

Jan Flynn Chair of FOKS

## Steeple Ashton Multiplex!!

Sang along with Mamma Mia – loved the glorious costumes in The Duchess – enjoyed a glass or two of wine and a chat with friends – the Steeple Ashton Multiplex has it all!

The Cinema has enjoyed a great season so far this winter, and we're looking forward to 'Easy Virtue' on 7<sup>th</sup> March. 'Easy Virtue' is great fun. It is a smashing version of Noel Coward's 20s culture clash between dusty English aristocrats and a brash and bohemian American who comes as a glamorous, sexy new bride to a very traditional stately pile. 'Easy Virtue' stars Jessica Biel, Kristin Scott Thomas, Colin Firth and Kris Marshall. What more can we say?

Tickets are available in the Steeple Ashton village shop at £5 each – don't wait, we usually come close to a sell out! Doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7.30 – but get there in lots of time for a glass or two!!

**The Lunch Club** continues to flourish thanks to all the team who continue to set up the tables, buy the drinks, cook and donate raffle prizes. Its very good value for money and it's nice to catch up on village news and have a "good old chinwag!" Anyone is welcome to join us on the second Thursday of each month at 12.15 for 12.30pm.

Audrey Plummer

### 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 and have a gossip. We meet at about 8.30pm each Tuesday to enjoy an inexpensive evening as you only Buy Your Own drinks. Do come and join us if you can – all are welcome.



### VILLAGE ART CLUB

We are meeting at 7.30 every Thursday evening. If you want to rediscover a dormant skill or try painting in any medium for the first time do come and join us. More information is available from Mike Dodd on 870446 or Carol Clarke on 870635.



## PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AND BYE-WAYS

Sunday 5 October turned out to be an atrocious weather day for walking the footpaths with very heavy rain all day, and I would

like to thank all the brave people who turned out to carry out the inspections, getting soaked to the skin in the process. In fact the weather was so bad that all the walks were not completed until the following weekend.

From the reports on the condition, access, obstructions, etc., to each path and stile on the routes as provided by each small group, a master report was compiled and presented to the parish council.

After discussion it was agreed that the general overall condition of the Public Paths was satisfactory but there were certain paths that gave grave concern such as paths blocked / no stiles / damaged stiles / dangerous obstructions / muddy and overgrown approaches.

The parish council is unable to deal with major obstructions, etc., and by law need actions to be taken by WCC, so all the major problems were compiled into a report which was submitted to the Wiltshire County Footpaths Department.

The latest response from WCC is that they are in the process of taking actions where they can. However, due to the latest reshuffle in council control, things like maintenance to stiles, etc., are to be carried out by the County Council on a rota basis with all other parish councils in West & North Wiltshire, so it could be some years before Great Hinton would be given consideration.

The alternative is that the parish council can enter into competition with other local parishes and bid for a grant from WCC to carry out the works. The downside to this is that whatever we were awarded would need to be matched by a equal sum from our Parish Council and this could only be attained by raising the parish levy which is included in the council tax.

To save this expense (which would surely not be popular) and to maintain enjoyable access, it is therefore proposed when the weather is more suitable to arrange small working parties to carry out general maintenance at weekends to clear undergrowth / make repairs to stiles etc. Dates for these working parties will be posted on the village notice board. Please come along. All are welcome including dogs on leads.

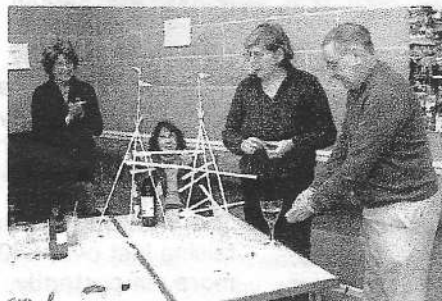
We are obtaining an enlarged copy of the latest definitive Footpath Map for Great Hinton issued by Wiltshire County Council and this will be available to view in the Village Hall in the near future. Anyone wanting small individual copies of the map can obtain one by phoning 01380 870632 **John Fennell**

## The 'Young Ones' were chilli hot on the night

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January the annual Hangover Party was in full swing. The first, cerebrally challenging, wall game was a just a bit too stretching with the mathematics for some. Try this one - "Amanda had a daughter called Amelia. Amanda was the '.....' of Amelia's mother?" \*\* The 'Pepperpots stormed ahead with 18.5 points out of 20 on this round.

The chance to build a 'stopwatch' out of paper, sellotape, elastic bands and marbles caused blind panic with some teams and drove others literally up the wall. The 'Young Ones' devised a simple, calibrated, rolling marble channel and were never more than 3 seconds adrift on the three timed runs.

Whilst the chilli and baked potatoes were being served (with various degrees of hot chilli being available), the ever popular cocktail game maintained its sense of mystery as no-one managed to correctly name all the ingredients in any of the cocktails.



Those sampled were 'Whiting Sunset', 'Negroni', 'Creamy Sex on the Beach' and 'Mud Slide'. The latter being coffee liqueur based was an appropriate ending to the meal.

By this time the 'Young Ones' had secured a lead. Despite the local doctor imitating 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and his team getting a perfect score in the final semaphore game, this was not enough to secure a victory. The 'Young Ones' kept their lead and all received a bottle of wine. Congratulations to Stan & Sylvia, Maureen & Terry, Fiona & David and son.

\*\* 'name'

See you all again next year - Kevin

## LES PERRETT 1923 - 2008

We are very sad to have lost our good neighbour Les, who at the age of 85 was the oldest villager to have been born in the village - in Briar Cottage long before it found itself in Peppercom Orchard.

The booklet which the villagers returning from the War were given shows that Leslie George Perrett joined the Royal Army Service Corps on 6 January 1942 as a driver and was discharged medically unfit on 21 February 1945.

All his working life was spent as a driver for G.T.Brown Transport in Steeple Ashton where many villagers found work post-war. He was a mechanic at heart using his spare time restoring classic cars and in retirement driving lorries for his son-in-law David Probert in Keevil.

His close friends know that Ruby never allowed him to go shopping with her, having once had the embarrassment of him not knowing how to stack the shopping in the bags at Tesco's.

He will be greatly missed by his neighbour and close friend Eddie Knight who enjoyed a coffee and a chat with Les most days. Also Sandy Salmon who was accustomed to his reassuring neighbourly visits.

From contributions by Mike Truman and Sylvia Tarrant

## GREAT HINTON 100 CLUB DRAW WINNERS

	No	£15	No	£12	No	£10	No	£8	No	£5
August	63	May Newman	85	Sue Smith	37	Ron Jennings	102	Carol Clarke	74	Steve Locke
September	83	David Harnott	88	L.Unsworth	111	D.Scott	66	Sandra Crumpler	25	M.Cunningham
October	66	Sandra Crumpler	15	Ken Young	4	Gwen Harnott	93	Elizabeth Newman	51	Mrs Chey
November	64	P.Selwyn Smith	30	Eddie Knight	66	Sandra Crumpler	89	Caroline Haynes	86	Mrs C Munday
December	78	Tom Rolls	29	Elena Newman	68	John Fennell	115	Emma Nicholl	33	Chris Munday

## DECEMBER BONUS PRIZE £50 WILL SCOTT

Renewals are due in March; please renew your subscription or buy another one to double your chances of winning!

The 100 Club covers a significant proportion of the hall expenses