

THE GRAPEVINE

GREAT HINTON

January 2010

Editor Richard Clarke 870635

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"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"

It is possible to have too much of a good thing, but successive falls of snow through late December and the New Year



provided fun for the children, photogenic pictures (mainly in black and white of course) and opportunities for acts of good neighbourliness. On the other hand there was the frustration of getting around safely on foot and by car to work, the shops or important appointments. So thanks to all who made life a bit easier whilst the snow lay deep and crisp and even.

Thanks to Kevin and Steve for clearing the road at the Peppercorn junction. For those of us down this end of the village it was impossible to go in either direction for a couple of days as the grit bin was empty. If you have steep drives please keep your own supply of salt for icy weather so that the grit provided by the Council can be used to keep the road passable for traffic. Thanks to Clarence (the Council's Highways Hotline) for eventually getting round to refilling it. Apparently the boxes are not checked on a seasonal basis so it is necessary to make a report when one needs to be refilled.

Because of the snow and the isolation of the village, Jon at the Linnet offered a special-price Sunday lunch on 10th January and nearly 30 villagers, some with whole families, enjoyed what turned out to be a super event. It was great to see well-behaved children tucking into and enjoying the food. Good food, good company and a glass or two of wine on a cold winter's day - what more could you wish for! Jon's team phoned the villagers for whom they had telephone numbers and he is sorry if you missed out.

Letters to the Editor

Delivery of Daily Papers

I was reading the following letter which appeared in the Telegraph, and I quote:

"Sir - I woke up yesterday at 7am to see footprints in the snow on my drive. Once again my Telegraph had arrived, delivered by my Pensioner Paperboy.
Christine Cara, Byfleet, Surrey."

- which prompted me, on behalf of all those who receive the Seend Post Office Daily Papers delivered in the early hours, sometimes in the most atrocious conditions, to thank John and Jean Probert for their stalwart efforts. Of course the pawprints of John's dog also appeared in the snow!

Mike Truman.

Our thanks also to the Postman seen only one day wearing long trousers and Michael Bulling for delivering the milk.

THANK YOU

I should just like to say a big thank you to all the kind people who offered to do shopping etc. while it was difficult to get out of the village during the big freeze. I consider myself very lucky to live in such a community-minded village. So thank you everyone for your support in many ways, not just during the bad weather but also throughout the year. Audrey

Mens' Christmas Dinner

Our annual get together at the Linnet was supported by twenty-four villagers and we welcomed Matt and Toby who have only recently moved to the Village. We all thoroughly enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal with many other dishes to select from. Thanks to Jon and his staff for the first class food and service. Thanks also to David, Ron and Kevin for the generous prizes for the raffle which was well supported and raised £166.00 for the Ladies chosen charity, the Trowbridge Contact Centre for Children.

Next Christmas will be our fourth, doesn't time fly! Mike T.

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a great evening. We appreciate that Dom and Gill let us use their field for the bonfire which this year was the biggest yet, thanks to the container-load of broken pallets which arrived just as it was thought the construction job was finished. Luckily Steve was on the scene with his JCB and with Kevin directing operations the two piles were merged into an enormous mound which was eventually topped with a chair and the guy made by Lilly with embellishment from Mum and Dad so it looked like? Thanks to the ladies for the traditional soup and hotdogs and to my fire crew with the matches. I hope that you all enjoyed the event - I endeavour to present a seamless display but am still working on it!

David Hamott

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Happy new year to all, especially my team of little helpers who spread the police word around the village. As many of you will know, there has been an increase in burglaries in the area with intruders stealing car keys to drive away. Perhaps it is not a good idea to leave the keys on the hall windowsill or table - and ladies, where do you leave your handbag when you go to bed?

If you wish to be added to my group e-mail for super fast information, please send me an e-mail on

hamott@tiscali.co.uk

David

Our "BUY YOUR OWN" Tuesday evenings at the Linnet from 8.30 - 10.30pm is still as popular as ever; there are usually half a dozen villagers to chat to, and frequently as many as twelve to fifteen. The Pub is a great venue to catch up with Village gossip, and to put the world to rights. Come and join us if you can. Mike T.

SAFARI DINNER SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

Please let me know by Friday the 16th whether you would like to join in.

Sandra 870906

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS & BYE WAYS

Yet again it's time to walk the footpaths of Great Hinton Parish to ascertain their condition. The last time we walked them in October 2008 it turned out to be atrocious weather which deterred many turning out, so we have moved it forward a few months with the hope that the weather will be much improved and this will encourage more people to come along. The present weather conditions have made conditions underfoot very difficult and a few of the stiles have been damaged, therefore care needs to be taken.

One good bit of news is that on one of our longer footpaths the Parish Council has been in touch with the Wiltshire National Probation Service and they have agreed to consider it as one of their projects on the Community Payback Scheme, and after all technicalities are tied up we have great hopes that the work will be carried out in the spring.

The latest response from Wiltshire Council on Parish Footpath maintenance is that it could be some years before Great Hinton will be given consideration in the present rota system. There are many other Footpaths & Bridle Ways in the parish needing to be maintained. TO SAVE EXPENSE AND TO MAINTAIN ENJOYABLE ACCESS WE YET AGAIN PROPOSE, WHEN THE WEATHER IS MORE SUITABLE AND WE HAVE HAD THE ANNUAL WALK REPORT, TO ARRANGE SMALL WORKING PARTIES TO CARRY OUT GENERAL MAINTENANCE AT WEEKENDS, SUCH AS CLEARING UNDERGROWTH, REPAIRING STILES ETC.

The latest Definitive Footpath Map for Great Hinton issued by Wiltshire Council is available to view in the Village Hall, though there has been a small amendment in routing which has yet to be corrected on the map. Anyone wanting small individual copies of the map can obtain one by phoning me on 01380 870632

Please put this date in your diaries and come along

**GREAT HINTON PARISH
ANNUAL FOOTPATH WALK
SUNDAY 21st MARCH 9.30a.m.
MEET AT VILLAGE HALL**

***Maps & other directions will be provided
ALL ARE WELCOME***

John Fennell Village Footpath Officer

Great Hinton Ladies Ruby Anniversary Lunch

Great Hinton Ladies Club began 40 years ago when 7 ladies met for coffee in each others homes – they almost called themselves Great Hinton Young Wives, but as one founder member said it was a good job they didn't! On Sunday 27th September 5 founder members and 29 others, past and present, enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the village hall. Ladies came from as far away as Cornwall, Devon and Derbyshire. We have grown to approximately 35 members now and meet in the Village Hall, only reverting to people's homes whilst the new hall was being built.

Over the years we have raised funds for charity at jumble sales, flower shows and of course the annual fete which is as popular as ever. For many years it was held in the garden at Gleffinnan with the attraction of train rides, and is currently in the garden at Hillbrow Cottage where pony rides, a bouncy castle and welly throwing can be accommodated. We have given up on the wet and cold version of carol singing around the village and now use the hall, inviting the villagers to join us. This has become very popular with the children. We have raised over £13,500 for 25 different charities, ranging from national charities such as CLIC, The Kidney Foundation, RNLI and The Hungerford Fund, to local ones – Wiltshire Air Ambulance, RUH Newborn Baby Unit, Dorothy House, Steeple Ashton Church, Larkrise School and many, many more – all equally deserving.

Each year we play skittles, entertain our men folk with gourmet cooking, treat ourselves to a Christmas meal out and invite speakers to our meetings. We have had many interesting evenings with talks on weaving, embroidery, cake decorating, canal art, bees, well dressing, miniature musical instruments, tombstones!, birds in Seend, and the Life of a Garden Gnome! – to name but a few. We often have 'hands on' evenings where we have made crackers, silk scarves, painted glass, given each other shoulder massages (in the very cold old hall!) and had a go at Belly Dancing! For 11 years we spent our October meeting packing a total of 676 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We lead a very interesting and varied life and intend to continue doing so for many years to come. We are all looking forward to our Golden and even Diamond Anniversary. Many thanks to all current members who produced such lovely food for our lunch which was enjoyed by all who came.

Sandra Crumpler Chairperson

Lunch Club

Lunch Club continues to thrive. At Christmas we decided to have a change from turkey and Carol roasted a delicious joint of pork. I think she thought she was feeding the whole village by the size of the two joints she produced complete with really crispy crackling!! However one of the joints proved more than adequate for the number of members present so I think Richard must have lived on roast pork until he and Carol flew off to spend Christmas with their family on the French/Swiss border.

The January lunch saw a very good attendance for a winter warmer, which was most welcome during the cold weather. We are very pleased to welcome Carolyn to our lunchtime get-together especially as she has offered to help with the cooking!

If anyone else would like to join us we meet on the second Tuesday of each month from October to April. All are most welcome. The next lunch will be on February 11th at 12.15 for 12.30 in the village hall. If I've not put an invitation through your door, do let me know. Audrey 870586

FILM SHOWS – THE START OF THE 2010 SEASON

The next film of the season in Steeple Ashton village hall is 'Amelia' on 6th March at 7.30 (doors open at 7.00) with a star cast including Ewan McGregor, and tells of the adventures of the legendary pilot Amelia Earhart who disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 while trying to fly round the world. If you haven't been to one of our film shows before I do urge you to give it a try! The seats are comfortable, there is a bar, the screen is large and the sound is clear. You don't need to worry about driving miles or parking – enjoy a fun, trouble free evening!! There will be another film in April, but the spring titles are not out yet. Gill Verschoyle

BADMINTON players meet on Friday evenings and play at the Bowerhill Sports Centre. Enquiries to Ken on 870403.

ART CLUB meets on Thursdays in the Village Hall at 7.30. All welcome from beginners to expert (which none of us are!). Contact Mike Dodd on 870446 or Carol Clarke 870635

Poppy Appeal The total collected around the parish this year was £179.86. The Royal British Legion would like to thank everyone who contributed. Without your help, they would be unable to continue their welfare and benevolent work, which is of particular importance at this time. Mike Dodd

Jumble Wanted: Devizes Kats & Kits are looking for good quality Jumble & Bric a Brac for their jumble sales that are held 5 or 6 times a year in Devizes. All money raised goes to looking after the cats at the sanctuary in Wick Lane, Keevil. Donations can either be dropped in to the sanctuary or to me at Barn Cottage, or collection may be possible if you ring Carol Burch 870583

Great Hinton Ladies Club 2009-2010

At our first meeting in September we welcomed Jeanette Smith, who spoke to us about the work of the Trowbridge Child Contact Centre which is our charity for the year and we kick started the fund raising with a bring and buy cake/produce stall.

This was followed at the end of the month by a very successful lunch to celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

In October we had a very interesting talk from Michael Pope, who showed us pictures of the changes made around his farm during the making of the set for the BBC series 'Larkrise to Candleford'. It is amazing the amount of time and effort invested in setting up the 'village' for 2 or 3 days filming a month. I am sure that several of us are watching the current series and saying 'I know how that was done'!

November saw us making 'story sacks' and finger puppets for Barnardo's. These were gratefully received, as was the monetary donation which was used to give the children using the Trowbridge branch Christmas presents and a party.

The Christmas carol concert raised £133 towards the Child Contact Centre. Many thanks to everyone who came, donated, made mince pies, played music and hopefully enjoyed themselves. Thank you, Carol and Richard for organising the event.

We ended the year with 20 of us enjoying a Christmas meal at the Linnet. There was large selection of raffle prizes and the money once again went to the Child Contact Centre. Thank you to Jon and his staff for a lovely meal.

The annual skittles evening in January was fun as always, 20 ladies and 10 menfolk were there to see Sylvia and Stan Tarrant almost wipe up every prize; Stan had the best men's score and Sylvia had to play off against Sue to win the best ladies' prize and of course now is the proud owner of the 'Golly' cup for the next year. She also narrowly missed winning the 'pot' in killer which was won by Anne. Beryl and Kevin were the only players to knock down all 9 skittles.

Coming up we have:- a demonstration on cake decorating with cocoa painting and brush embroidery on February 17th, come along and have a go!; our annual gourmet evening is on March 17th, the theme is Flavours of Asia, so get your cook books out or search the internet for ideas from China, Korea, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand etc. (not all dishes contain loads of curry and chilli), and bring a guest; AGM and bring and buy books/magazines for your holiday reading, on April 21st (not 15th as on the original programme).

We hope that you will all support our Summer Fete on Saturday 26th June and help us to raise more much needed funds for the Trowbridge Child Contact Centre.

As always we would be pleased to see any new members on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Sandra Crumpler Chairperson.

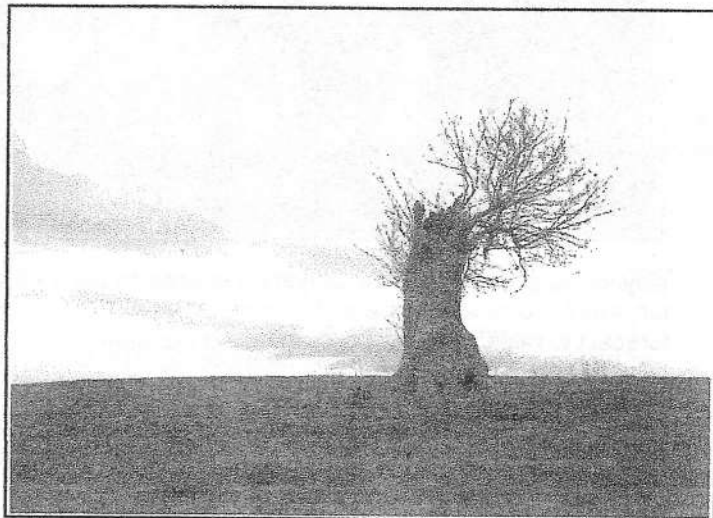
100 CLUB As indicated in the last issue the cost of a year's ticket is to rise to £15 which will be the first increase since the club started many many years ago. I hope all members will continue to support this important fundraising and when a committee member calls to ask you to renew please do not shoot the messenger, as I was the prime mover behind the increase!

To reward members and to ensure that 50% of the income is distributed, the new prize amounts are £20- £15- £12- £10- £5-. In June and December the 1st prize will be £50. These increased prizes are of course dependant on the number of members who renew their subscription or join for the first time. I am pleased to report that Eddie Knight won the December 1st prize of £50.

David

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY WITH COCKTAILS AT COLDITZ

Once again villagers gathered in the village hall for the Annual Hangover Party trying to solve the challenging games set by Quizmaster Kevin. This started with trying to guess the whereabouts of pictures taken from footpaths around the village. Even those teams with people born in the village did no better than 13/20. Do you know where this is?



Each team was then given four marbles to act out the escapes from Colditz using paper, sellotape, clips, elastic bands and pens to add colourful renditions of scenes. No gliders, but variations of pipes enabled some marbles to escape over the wall built for the occasion. Marbles bouncing or exiting at a scale speed of 70 mph were considered dead.

During the quiche supper, followed by several variations of trifle, cocktails were served with the 'Green Mirage' fooling most who thought that it contained Chatreuse or Crème de Menthe.

Suitably refreshed and with open minds each team had to choose 8 balloons which on popping revealed 8 words, which in groups of 4 (see italics below in the winning verse), had to be made into poetry for Valentine cards which were also judged on the artistic nature of their pictorial embellishment. The winning card was 'To Fanny from Reg',

*The bubbles will flow, from the Champagne you know
As you lie fat ass up at our love shack in Stow
I send you my love from the heavens above
This comes via a text 'God Bless from Your ex...'
(written by Sylvia)*

The overall winners were *The Corkers* who went home with a bottle of wine each. The evening raised £85 for the Hall Funds.

Thank you Kevin for your originality and joie de vivre, in the face of which no-one could disagree with the points awarded for our ingenuity or wrong answers!

And the correct answer is "near the brow of the field on the left as you begin to come up Coldharbour."

Village Hall Trust

It is my hope that the Trust finances will break even this year. Whilst we have lost the yoga ladies, Mike setting up the indoor bowls has more than made up for this with the rent for the afternoon and evening sessions. With increased income from the 100 Club (hopefully) we may even make a small profit and build up some reserves for the unexpected.

David

The 100 Club draw results cannot be squeezed into this edition of the Grapevine but a copy is available if required from the Editor.

Great Hinton Indoor Bowling Club



Having reached the half way stage of the first season of Indoor Bowling in the Village Hall, I am confident that our regular twenty-one members are enjoying the competition and fun, and are determined to make the Club a success.

The Christmas Competition between afternoon and evening players was a huge success, with all twenty-one members taking part. Christmas nibbles and festive drinks were served at half time. The afternoon players played rather well !!

The 2010 sessions started on the 4th January, when the singles Knock Out Competition got under way, and by the end of March a Village Champion will emerge and be presented with the Champion's Cup. This will become an annual event. An end of season competition will be arranged between the afternoon and evening

players, to give the evening players a chance to get their own back ! The introduction of Indoor Bowling is not only providing a fun event, but is also (as a self-funding organisation) generating much needed revenue for the upkeep of the Village Hall, and is forecast to raise between £500 and £600 per annum.

Mike T.

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHAN SEED

This is the first of regular articles for your Parish Magazine. The aim is to keep you informed of where I am involved on your behalf in the workings of Wiltshire Council and also to expand on particular aspects of the workings of the Council. I will also cover my involvement in local village issues. I am always happy to receive suggestions and feedback so please do contact me at any time.

Since being elected last summer I have become deeply involved in the rural affairs of the County and in particular the Division of Summerham and Seend. I attend as many of the seven Parish Council meetings as I can but there are inevitable clashes with other evening meetings. I have been elected as Chairman of the Melksham Area Board and your Parish is making a significant contribution to both the Area Board and the Community Area partnership. Most parishes have also received community grants from the Area Board and I will be supporting Great Hinton's application for funds to restore the red telephone box.

I have been appointed as Chairman of the Urchfont Manor Adult Learning Centre Board of Management and have recently taken on as Chairman of the northern half of the County's Operational Flood Working Group. This Flood Group works closely with Agencies and local Flood Groups to minimise the effects of flooding in the County. This will also give me an opportunity to help with the particular flooding issues in Keevil, Bulkington and Poulshot as well as in other local areas.

I am a member of the Management and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee which examines many detailed aspects of the Council's work. I am also a Member of the

Licensing Policy Committee and the Western Area Planning Committee. Residents have told me that there is concern at the handling of planning matters by Wiltshire Council. I am always happy to discuss individual applications with residents or Parish Councils. I only have three weeks from the registration of an application to call it in for a Committee decision so I need early involvement to be effective in my help.

If you need to contact me please telephone 01380 850 696 or e-mail jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Great Hinton Parish Council

Parish Council Finances

At the meeting of the Parish Council in January we had to set the amount of the 2010/11 Council Tax Precept. This is the money that is collected from each household in the Parish as a part of the annual Council Tax collected by Wiltshire Council that we use to fund the activities of the PC and covers items such as the grass cutting through the summer at the top entrance to the village. I am pleased to be able to report that for the fourth consecutive year we have been able to hold the precept to just £1,800, which means that yet again Great Hinton will have one of the lowest Parish precepts per household of any Parish, with an active Parish Council, in the County.

Telephone Box

We are pressing ahead with our plans for the refurbishment of the phone box and I am hopeful that the work will be undertaken in the Spring. We have identified a supplier of the parts that we will need in order to replace the panels where BT have in past used Perspex for re-glazing and who will also be able to supply us with everything else we need, including exactly the right shade of red

enamel paint. We have also received a very competitive quotation from a local tradesman for the labour. In total the cost is expected to be in the region of £745. Whilst the Parish Council might be able to cover this cost from reserves it would represent a single payment equivalent to some 50% of our normal annual budget.

With the encouragement of our new, and I must say very hardworking, local councillor Jonathan Seed we are submitting a community grant application to the new Melksham Area Board of Wiltshire Council for the whole amount.

Once the refurbishment is complete we will be putting on display inside the Box a copy of the definitive footpath map of the Parish in order to make the wonderful countryside that surrounds us more accessible and easier to navigate.

Wiltshire Council Service Bulletins / Contacting the Parish Council

During the recent bad weather Wiltshire Council sent to Carol Burch, in her capacity as the Clerk to the Parish Council, a number of service bulletins by e-mail covering areas such as updates on the waste collection. Carol has offered to share these with anyone who provides their e-mail address to her. In these days with many in the village using e-mail as a regular, and often their preferred, means of communication I am pleased to be able to provide the Parish Council e-mail addresses below should you wish to use this way of contacting us:

carolburch@btinternet.com
diane.norris@tesco.net
george@mcdonic.orangehome.co.uk
gillgilby@hotmail.com
mikedoddch@tiscali.co.uk

Chris Munday

Chairman Tel: 870912

oldchessils@yahoo.co.uk