

THE GRAPEVINE GREAT HINTON

September 2013

Editor Richard Clarke 870635
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Report from the Parish Council

As the County winners of the the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition for 2012, we were entered this year for the Winner of Winners Competition which is open to the winners of the County round for the past two years. Great Hinton were third in the competition this year after Dinton and Ramsbury. The Judges' reports will reveal what we might give attention to when they are published later this month. The village will be able to compete again in 2014 when we must try to capture the ultimate accolade of being the best of the best!

The Wiltshire Council Core Strategy hearing closed last month and the Council has just published its final changes to its original proposals. It is unlikely that the Parish Council will wish to comment on this consultation. During the hearing the matter of village boundaries was raised. It will be remembered that originally Great Hinton was to lose its village status including a development boundary, but this decision was changed and the village status and its development boundary were included in the proposals considered at the inquiry. When this matter was discussed at the inquiry it was argued it was not necessary for these to be retained. This was strongly opposed and the status quo was supported as the removal of the development boundaries would lead to the possibility of large extension to villages. The Inspector of the Core Strategy hopes to present his report following the inquiry by the end of October.

The Council is aware that the Wiltshire Council has issued a consultation with regard to traffic speed and we are investigating so that a response can be made.

George McDonic Chairman

Footpaths

I am currently the Parish Council footpath officer. If you know of any footpaths in our parish which need any TLC please let me know on 870302. Although I walk the footpaths there may still be some that are unknown to me!

Gill Verschoyle

Village Hall Improvements

For those who stand at the sink in the hall kitchen to wash up it has been a frustrating experience watching hot water trickle from the tap. When the hall was built, an 85 litre immersion heater water tank was installed but because of restricted height there was never a sufficient head of water to give a reasonable flow at the tap. It took an hour to reach working temperature and consequently there was no hot water immediately available to users of the kitchen or in the toilet handbasins. For the short periods the hall is generally hired for, it is costly and

wasteful to heat so much water.

Furthermore, although it is piped to the toilets, the length of the pipework meant that it took too long for the hot water to reach the handbasins.

So a solution was needed which the hall committee sought advice on from Steve Adams, our local building expert. Since the hall was built technology has moved on and there are now hot water systems which function at mains pressure and it was recommended that we install an unvented system to give a hot water feed at mains pressure from a 15 litre tank in the kitchen and a smaller one to supply the toilet handbasins. After taking just 10 minutes to come to working temperature they will provide hot water on demand.

All hall users will benefit from the improvement to the hot water system which will provide a more hygienic environment in the kitchen and toilets. With the reduction in the heating costs from the greater efficiency of the system which includes automatic cut off timer switches we will be able to reduce the consumption of electricity and keep down the hire charges.

Having accepted the best of three estimates and awarded the contract for the installation to Ewart Adams & Son who quoted £1656, we applied for and were given a grant of £875 from the Melksham Area Board. With a generous donation of £500 from the Village Community Committee, it meant that only £281 had to be used from the hall funds, so keeping intact most of our reserves set aside for future maintenance.

WHY NOT HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL?

We have a well-kept Village Hall which is available for anyone to hire at very reasonable rental charges. It is fitted with all the modern facilities including a fully equipped kitchen.

The Hall is the right size for family parties, with the use of the skittle alley if required.

For a small charge you may also hire chairs, tables, crockery and cutlery for parties in your home.

If you are a 100 Club Member, you are contributing to the upkeep of the Hall, so why not enjoy your investment by using it!
For Village Hall Bookings, please contact
Rebecca Locke on 01380 870588

Bonfires

Letter to the editor:

I would have loved to have put my washing out today and opened all my windows but someone has a stinky bonfire going. I know there are no rules about bonfires on beautiful sunny days but just to be charitable, maybe the person who decided to light this bonfire doesn't realise the nuisance they've caused all day. It would be nice to enjoy the few sunny days we have without having everything seeped in stinky smoke! Not to mention the waste of electricity due to having to put the washing in the tumble drier!

Editor's reply

This very point was made 10 years ago in the Grapevine and the guidelines issued by the old District Council still hold good, so please follow them for the sake of good neighbourliness:

- ❖ Don't light bonfires on days when people are likely to be using their gardens or hanging out washing (i.e. when the sun is shining!).
- ❖ When possible **restrict bonfires to the evenings, after 6 p.m.**
- ❖ Don't leave bonfires to burn unattended and don't bank them up to burn overnight.
- ❖ Site bonfires as far away as possible from neighbouring houses and think about the wind direction.
- ❖ Only burn garden waste if it is dry. Don't forget you can recycle garden waste at the local household waste recycling centres in Melksham, Trowbridge and Warminster, or you can compost it.
- ❖ Recycle what you can rather than burn it, especially paper.
- ❖ Don't burn plastics, paint, rubber or roofing felt as all may emit harmful substances. It is an offence to cause the emission of dark/black smoke.
- ❖ Keep a water supply or fire extinguisher close at hand.

Film Shows for the Autumn season:

September 21st. Summer in February - about the Newlyn School of artists. A beautiful film, magical but powerful, set amid the timeless beauty of the Cornish coast in the approaching shadow of the Great War.

November 9th. The Great Gatsby - no info needed!

December 14th. Song for Marion - Terence Stamp and Vanessa Redgrave give wonderful performances in this touching film about a choir competition.

Book your tickets through the Village Shop or Gill 870302

Dog fouling

Letter to the editor:

I wonder if you could put something in the Grapevine about dog fouling. We get a lot of people walking their dogs in Back Lane to get to the bridle path and open fields. Unfortunately a few of them also seem to think that the Lane is a toilet for dogs!

My elderly neighbour had to pick up after a dog yesterday as the person let her dog "go" on the road and just walked away and left the mess on the road.

This is a fairly regular occurrence in the Lane and its unfair on the residents, especially those who have children/grandchildren.

There is a dog fouling sign on the post outside Lorne Cottage which states the fine etc., but obviously this is ignored by some.

Editor's reply

The law states that:

Dog owners must pick up any mess made by their pets in public places such as roads, footpaths, school playing fields, sports fields, parks. Wiltshire Council enforcement officers can issue on-the-spot fixed penalty notices [up to £1000] and refer offenders for prosecution. If people spot someone not clearing up after their dog they can report incidents to Wiltshire Council by ringing 0300 456 0100.

Further advice comes from DEFRA when walking dogs in fields:

Dog mess, especially from unwormed dogs, also harbours parasites that can harm farm animals especially cows and sheep. If your dog is caught short, please clear up its mess and dispose of it in a dog bin. If there isn't a bin near by, please don't leave it behind on the path or hang it on a tree in a bag. Instead, dispose of it safely at home by double wrapping it and putting it in your standard household refuse.

So please heed the advice and the law to make sure we enjoy a pleasant environment where we can all walk with our heads up rather than down.

THE KIOSK LIBRARY

A large number of new titles have just been put on the shelves so once again we have taken several bags of books to the Mind Charity Shop on Paxcroft who are always very happy to have them.

Thanks to everyone who supports this very successful village venture and, to those of you who haven't tried it yet, please feel free to browse the shelves - there's a wide variety to choose from as well as a seat to sit on while you make your decision!! New titles for children as well so something for all the family.

Should you have any books to contribute please either leave them in the blue box or with one of us. Your comments always welcome.

Happy reading! Gwen & Anne

LUNCH CLUB

This has been a very good year with membership now up to twenty-six and we rarely have less than twenty attending each month. This year we have even entertained two lots of visitors. Richard and Carol's two older grandchildren were with us on two occasions and two of my cousins from Australia joined us while they were staying with me in March.

Our outing this year proved to be successful in spite of the fact that lunch was probably the worst we have had since outings began twelve years ago. However we soon put that behind us when we very warmly welcomed by our hosts at The Old Vicarage, Hilmarton. Although not one of the bigger gardens we have visited it was so imaginatively laid out and easy to walk around. The day finished with afternoon tea relaxing in the sun and making friends with two beautiful brown Labradors belonging to our hosts.

If you'd like to come along to the lunches every first Thursday of the month from September through to April, do let me know. Audrey 870586

GREAT HINTON YOUTH CLUB

After six months in the planning, the Great Hinton Youth Club finally opened its doors on 19th April. This would not have been possible without the help of Youth Action Wiltshire who were a great support in sourcing insurance, providing us with some new equipment and gaining the relevant qualifications to enable the youth club to be self-run.

After taking courses in First Aid/Health and Safety, Child Protection and a Youth Leadership weekend, the Club is now fully operational and enjoyed by the older children in the village. They have put together itineraries for Friday evenings, taking turns in organising various different themes from games nights indoors to sporting events outdoors.

They all had great fun and really got into the spirit of Disney when they all dressed up and organised the children's games at the Fete (see picture). They raised a total of £187.80 on the day with £93.90 going towards their funds for the year. This I am sure you will all agree is a massive achievement for them and a great way for them to be involved in the local community.

The Youth Club takes place on a Friday evening from 7.30 to 10pm in the village hall (or outside, weather permitting).

For further information, please call Debbie Scott 870410 or Rosie Keith 871772.



ART GROUP

Can you draw a straight line? No? Well it's not necessary as there aren't many straight lines in nature but there is plenty of beautiful scenery to try to portray around us. We would love some new members from the village. Our group is very relaxed with no formal tuition, but plenty of encouragement from our members. At the moment there are just 10 members and we are never all there at the same time. Where are all you male artists? Mike would like some male company!

We meet regularly on a Thursday evening, 7.30-9.30pm in the Village Hall. You can just draw, use watercolours, watercolour pencils, acrylics or pastels. We usually have some background music on, make a hot drink half way and enjoy a chat, though sometimes if we are really concentrating we are as quiet as mice!

We start our new term on 12th September so if you are thinking about having a go, do join us then at 7.30pm.

Carol Clarke 870635

MEN'S FIFTH CHRISTMAS DINNER

A provisional booking has been made for Friday 20th December at the Lamb on the Strand. I shall be contacting all those who came to the previous Christmas Dinners with full details as soon as I have the information from the Pub on the menu selection and cost, etc. Anyone from the Village who would like to join us is welcome, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike T. Tel: 870607

E-mail: michealtruman@btinternet.com

GREAT HINTON ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

16th -17th November 2013

Calling all arty-crafty villagers! Do you have a hidden talent? Have you made something that pleases you that could be displayed in our exhibition?

We are planning to repeat the successful Exhibition held a few years ago where we had the opportunity to show village skills - art, needlework, cake-decorating, woodwork, stained glass, etc. Exhibits can be offered for sale (with a percentage going to the Ladies Club charity of the year) or for display only.

We were impressed by your skills before and I am sure we will be again, so come on, don't be shy, make sure your masterpiece is on display.

Full details will be given on a flier and application form to be put through your door very soon.



BOWLING CLUB

The Annual General Meeting has been arranged for Monday 9th Sept in the Village Hall from 7.30 - 8.30pm.

You will have received an agenda prior to the meeting. Come and have your say.

So here we go again, starting our fifth season. We start bowling on Monday 16th September (from 2.30pm and 7.30pm - times as before). The Christmas "Singles Knock-Out Competition" and the competition for the "Champions Cup" has been arranged. Sandra, our defending champion, having won the cup twice, will be looking for a challenger! Who will that be?

Hope to see you all on the 9th Sept for the AGM, and the 16th for our first bowls session. Mike T.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

A very big thank you to all NHW distributors for passing on the newsletters and forwarding the rural crime information to your neighbours.



I'm sure you were all made aware from your NHW contact about the theft of power tools from The Linnet in June. This incident happened whilst the owners were on holiday and the builders had left for the evening. Unfortunately, no tools have been recovered as yet. There were also a couple of items stolen from local villages from outbuildings so this is a good time to remind you all to ensure all your power tools/garden equipment is locked away in a secure place.

There are many products available to help you identify and protect your valuables; two that I have been informed about by the police are:

SMARTWATER is a liquid applied to all your valuables which gives it a unique DNA that links it directly back to you if your valuables are ever lost or stolen and then recovered by the police. You can purchase this directly from the police at a reasonable price. Further information can be obtained from www.smartwater.com

IMMOBILISE is a website that enables you to itemise your property free of charge by detailing your individual items by serial numbers e.g. mobiles, tv's, laptops, etc., and can be very useful for insurance purposes if ever your property is lost, stolen and recovered by police. This service is free and you can update it whenever you need to. For further information visit www.immobiliser.com

I recently had a report about a shooting of 4 buzzards in the village. The birds were shot and then dumped in a ditch. These details were passed on to the police in the hope that they are able to help stop this occurring again by alerting the public of this incident. I

am sure that you are all aware that it has been illegal to shoot any birds of prey for over 50 years.

Unfortunately cold calling/phone and email scams are still on the increase, especially to the more vulnerable people in the community. The advice from the police is to not give anyone any of your personal information over the phone or online. If they are genuine, they will not mind giving you their details for you to get back to them!

If you would like to be alerted by text/email of any local incidents that have recently occurred, please either call or email me your details on deb.scott@virgin.net

Useful Information

Emergency Calls in the UK 999
Non-emergency Calls in the UK 101

Debbie Scott NHW Area Coordinator
870410

Badminton Group

We play for an hour at the Christie Miller Sports Hall on Fridays at 8 p.m. There is still room for others to join us so if you are interested give me a call. **Ken 870403**



BULK OIL PURCHASE

Would you like to save money? Here at Community First in late 2011 we joined together with 15 other Rural Community Councils to form part of an oil buying syndicate across the whole of England. Since our first bulk order in October 2011 our members in Wiltshire have purchased over 600,000 litres between them saving in excess of £24,500 compared to the average price for heating oil in Wiltshire. This represents an average saving of over £25 per order.

The Community First scheme is a non-profit making service with income coming only from the annual membership fee which covers the basic administration costs. When any surplus does occur it helps fund Community First's Good Neighbour Scheme

We have come a long way over the last two years and the scheme operates throughout the whole of Wiltshire, covering over 80 villages and towns and in excess of 300 members. We would like to see other residents have the opportunity to save money on their heating oil bills as well.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me;

Jessica Emery Community First
01380 732809
jemery@communityfirst.org.uk

As the children go back to school, be warned! A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school:

'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

In addition to the work for the Council as a Member of the Cabinet with responsibilities for communities, campuses, area boards, leisure, libraries and flooding, I feel that it is important not to slip in the work that is needed and required by the community that elected me. Clearly that means attending Parish Council meetings whenever I can, but there is much more to being an effective Councillor than simply attending Parish Councils, however important that may be. I also spend a good deal of time dealing with individual casework, be it on planning matters or even issues as simple as grass cutting. In addition there are also highways to be maintained and monitored throughout our widely spread area and this also takes up time and annually I try and drive around the Division with the Area Highways Manager and look at the outstanding issues in the area. This is always a useful exercise as we can really get business done between us and know that this will directly benefit residents.

I was in one of our villages the other day and someone asked me just what I found to do with myself in August when everyone was on holiday. Well unfortunately the Council cannot go on holiday and there are some parts of our business which have to work especially hard over the summer months. These include our leisure and library services which are part of my Cabinet portfolio. So with an increase in activity I thought it would be a good time to get in my car and visit every one of the 23 leisure centres and 31 libraries which the Council runs in Wiltshire and see just what is going on at this busy time. In any event I also feel that it is important to have an understanding and firsthand knowledge of all parts of my responsibility.

I found the whole visit experience to our County Leisure Centres and County Libraries to be thoroughly positive and hugely rewarding. What a great team we have running these services on all our behalves and I was greatly impressed by the dedication of all those who were operating these facilities. This not only included our salaried staff but also the small army of community volunteers who help to run our libraries.

So all this summer activity as well as regular village and Cabinet meetings has kept me fully occupied during the traditional holiday season and I look forward to seeing more locals when the Parish Councils really get going again in September.

These are exciting times for the Melksham Community Area as we will be in our new super Campus before the next election and although the political map of Melksham has changed your local politicians are determined that we will not let political differences cloud the this great progress.

Jonathon Seed
Tel. 01380 850696 Mob: 07770 774463
www.jonathonseed.com

Please come to Rebecca's coffee morning, to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support,



on **FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER** from 10 to 12, at 5 Peppercorn Orchard. There will be a sale of cakes, Phoenix Trading cards and a raffle.

Hope to see you there!

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN THE NATIONALLY ADVERTISED DAY

Diary Dates

Saturday 5 October
Harvest Supper and auction of produce

Saturday 2 November
Fireworks and Bonfire Night

Tuesday 10th December
Carol Singing and Christmas Readings

100 CLUB

Have you won a prize yet? If not, consider yourself a winner in waiting! As you can see from the lucky winners chart, there has been a good spread of prize winners throughout the Village.

Due to the lack of venues to make the monthly draws, the August draw has been delayed, and will take place at the first of the season's Village Lunches on Thursday 5th September.

We will, for the foreseeable future, be making the draws at the lunches, or at the Bowls Club meetings. Mike T.

Ladies Club

The big event of the year, the village fete, was held before summer had started and it was a cool and breezy day in June when the gazebos were put up in Gill and Dom's garden at Hillbrow Cottage. From the fancy dress, especially of the Youth Club members, this year's theme was instantly recognisable – Disney. Even the cake stall

sold Minnie cupcakes (which actually were quite large!)

Claire Kelly from Wiltshire Air Ambulance opened the Fete and was presented with a posie by Emily Cooper. With all the usual stalls and games, a Disney themed bric-a-brac stall, and the Youth Club selling their own hand-made jewellery and squirrel-proof bird feeders, enough money was generously spent by villagers, friends and visitors to send £820 to the Air Ambulance.

We are looking forward to this year's programme with Cheese and Wine at the first meeting, and then a Belly Dance demonstration and a craft evening. We meet at 8 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall and will be delighted to welcome new members.

The Christmas Dinner will be at The Well, Bulkington on 18th December and if we talk nicely to the men we may be chauffeured there and back.

Debbie Ellis Chair

100 Club										
These are the names of the lucky winners this year.										
2013	No.	£20.	No.	£15.	No.	£12.	No.	£10.	No.	£8.
February		Mike Evans		Gillian Fennell		Claire Evans		Peter Baker		Gwen Harnott
March	11	Beryl Francis	107	Steve Adams	116	Robert Ellis	28	Mark Souster	24	Tom Meade
April	124	Alan Seddon	80	Sarah Lukas	59	Susan Horton	94	Dorothy Young	115	Sally Cuff
May	94	Dorothy Young	54	Diane Norris	109	Jackie Adams	1	Mary Jones	6	Kathy Baker
June	43	Dom Versoyle	91	Steve Mustart	103	Judy Ramsey	6	Kathy Baker	119	Richard Clarke
July	40	Rosie Keith	119	Richard Clarke	102	Carol Clarke	84	Lisa Cornelius	66	Sandra Crumpler
Summer Bonus £50.00 to Cherry Mundy No. 86 The August Draw will take place at the Village Lunch on 5 th September										

For more reports, pictures and information on Village activities visit the Great Hinton website run by Kevin : www.gh.btck.co.uk



A pleasant stroll around the Old Vicarage garden in anticipation of a cream teal!



Congratulations to the Youth Club on their fund raising at the Village Disney-themed fete.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance

We need £6,850 a day to keep flying and every penny makes sure we can. So on behalf of those whose lives have already been saved and those that will be in the future: Thank you.