

# THE GRAPEVINE GREAT HINTON

**February 2013**

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## A tribute to Mike Dodd

It was with great sadness that many from the village gathered at St Mary's Church in Steeple Ashton on 3<sup>rd</sup> January for Mike's funeral and heard the tributes from his son and two daughters, friends and colleagues. These told us that Mike was the master of many professional skills and had a great love of the arts. We are grateful that he used these talents and invested his time in our village life as chairman of the Parish Council, member of the Hall Management Committee and the figurehead of the Art Group.

## Parish Council business

At its January meeting it was proposed and accepted that George McDonic, vice chairman, should take the chair and Sue Andrew would be vice chairman. In reflecting on Mike Dodd's service to the Council, George said that he had been an energetic and excellent Chairman and ensured that matters of importance had always been brought to the attention of villagers. A donation in Mike's memory would be sent to the Above and Beyond Charity which each year provides approximately £3 million to the nine central Bristol hospitals – and aims to make a difference to every patient and every condition.

The Council considered it most important that the problems of local flooding arising from the recent heavy rainfall should be investigated by the appropriate authorities to avoid any further inundation. Assurance is also needed that the pumping station in Peppercorn Orchard is capable of dealing with similar conditions. Subsequently George was invited to a meeting of the Wiltshire Council Operational Flood Working Group to report on the conditions experienced in the village. The chairman of the group is Councillor Seed, our local member on Wiltshire Council. George made a presentation to the group and it was agreed to hold a site meeting when representatives of Wiltshire Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency would attend and make investigations. The date of the rendezvous is yet to be confirmed. Since the meeting, the Area Highway Engineer has inspected the drainage around Back Lane and Main Street and a working order has been raised for the system to be jetted. If any problem is found during the cleaning, it will be programmed for repair.

A planning application for horticultural development has been submitted for Brooke Cottage, 2 The Bleet, the greater part of the site being in Steeple Ashton parish. It was considered that the proposal was satisfactory and the planning authority has been advised that there is no objection from the Council.

The budget for 2013-2014 was considered and it was unanimously agreed it would be prudent to increase the precept by £200 to provide a sum of £2000. There has not been an increase for six years, and along with a small increase in expenses there will be the cost of the local election.

The English Local Government Elections will take place on 2 May. There are five seats on the Great Hinton Parish Council. In advance of that date public notice of the election will be given with information of how to become a candidate. At the first meeting of the new Council, the five Councillors will choose its Chairman and other officers.

George McDonic Chairman 871924

## From our Local Councillor

It is hugely sad for Great Hinton that we enter 2013 without the lead of Mike Dodd as Chairman of the Parish Council. I got to know Mike well and he did a great job leading the affairs of the village over the past couple of years. Mike will be sadly missed and I will certainly miss his wise counsel together with his cheery help and direction. However life goes on and Mike would have wanted it that way, so a Happy New Year to you and let us hope that 2013 brings prosperity and success to one and all.

2013 is a particularly important year in terms of local government as we not only have the Wiltshire Council Elections on Thursday 2nd May but we also have elections for each of the 236 Parish Councils in Wiltshire and of course this includes the seven in Summerham and Seend and Great Hinton in particular. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of these local Parish Councils over the past four years and look forward to working with the new Parish Councils for the next four years - provided that you decide to re-elect me in May! In the meantime all the candidates will be around asking for your views on how we have done to date and what we can do to make things better in the future. To me this is a vital part of the relationship between the community and the elected representatives and it is equally important that you the electors are able to hold us to account for our performance on your behalf over the electoral period in question.

As I listen to the news in these early January days I am confident that Wiltshire Council will pass your test and how sad it is to hear the troubles being experienced by neighbouring Councils who are having to close libraries and put off the building of new leisure facilities, as well as having to put up their Council Tax. Here in Wiltshire the story is so very different and we have opened new libraries and have started building a series of impressive new Campuses which will include brand new state of the art leisure facilities. In our community area we are particularly fortunate to see the first "super Campus" being built in Melksham with every confidence that it will open next year. All this does not happen by accident and it has taken a great deal of careful financial management in County Hall for Wiltshire to be so well placed in local government terms.

In spite of severe central Government cuts to local government funding, including the cuts to the funding of Town and Parish Council Precepts, it is good news that Wiltshire Council has been able to balance its budget for the financial year as well as continuing with its policy of freezing Council Tax for next year. In addition Wiltshire Council has just taken the decision to support our hard-pressed Town and Parish Councils by making up the last minute cut in Precept funding announced just before Christmas by the coalition Government. It has been difficult but Wiltshire Council has found the money needed to make up this shortfall and has done so because the administration supports our town and parish councils, and if these Councils do increase their precepts it is mostly due to good local projects supported by their communities. So even in this cold and austere economic climate there is a little bit of winter warmth about and a great future for our very special County of Wiltshire.

Jonathon Seed 01380 850696  
Wiltshire Council Member for Summerham and Seend

## Best in Wiltshire

As every edition of the Grapevine is sent to the Wiltshire and Swindon History Office in Chippenham, it is worth recording here a little late but for

posterity that residents in Great Hinton are celebrating their village being named the **best kept small village in Wiltshire**. We last won the title 25 years ago and worked hard to repeat the victory in the section for villages of 500 people or fewer. The title is awarded by the Wiltshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England whose chairman is our own George McDonic. He said: "The judges are looking for two things: evidence of community spirit and effort, and that the village has been kept in good order and that it's evident that there is a pride in the village from its inhabitants."

The award presentation was made on Sunday 23 September at the Village Hall, when Wiltshire's Lord Lieutenant and County CPRE president Sarah Troughton unveiled a shield. Air Commodore Nigel Williams, chairman of West Wiltshire CPRE District Group, presented a framed certificate to the council. The award comes with a cheque for £150. As chairman of the Parish Council, Mike Dodd said, "It's not a massive amount, but it's good for the village. I'm sure we'll find a project for it. We do a lot in the village, one way or another, so there is a lot we could spend it on."

Many villagers got involved in preparing for the judges' visit, making sure all their gardens and communal areas were up to standard. Mr Dodd said: "We just keep it clean and looking as good as possible. The judges are looking for how well the gardens are kept, whether the hedges and footpaths are neat and for special features. We have a nice village pump and we've now got a telephone box library. The phone box was being closed down, so we bought it, decorated it and now use it to swap books."

A new portable defibrillator machine for the village hall was also unveiled at the CPRE award ceremony. The parish council was given a grant by Melksham Area Board for half the cost and raised the rest with an auction of promises.

## The Kiosk Library (or Village Kindle!)

We are pleased to report that the Library is still very popular and would like to thank those of you who use it and contribute books. The Mind Charity shop on Paxcroft have been very pleased to receive any that have been on the shelves for a while. We aim to bring you new titles regularly, the latest including Fifty Shades of Grey - so form an orderly queue!!

Keep reading!

Your Librarians - Anne and Gwen

## Men's (4th) Christmas Dinner

The Lamb on the Strand was again our venue for the Men's Dinner. Brian and his staff provided excellent food and service.

We were all saddened by the news of Mike Dodd's sudden death - he had been booked in to join us. Tributes were voiced to remember this good man, acknowledging his friendship and his many involvements in our community.

The evening was a great success producing £188.00 from the raffle and auctioned items. This money has been passed to the Ladies Club for their charity of the year - "The Wiltshire Air Ambulance Service"

Thanks to those who provided such generous prizes.

Mike T.

## Bowling Club

No one has yet mastered this tricky indoor sport of short mat bowling which hasn't deterred the enthusiasm of our 24 members, which is the number we started with in 2009. Now that the Carpet Handling Carrier is fully operational, (thanks to the £300 grant received from The Melksham Area Board) the setting up and storing the carpet is no longer a chore.

As always, we meet on Mondays, from 2.30 - 4.30pm and 7.30 - 9.30pm. The 2012 - 2013 session finishes with a Finals Evening on Monday 25th March, when the "Champion's Cup" will be played for and presented.

Mike T.

## Steeple Ashton Films

Our January film ANNA KARENINA was a sell out, so it was good to see you all again after our Christmas break. The film was a strange production, flitting in and out from a stage production to actual location, which was odd, to say the least. However lots of people thought it was great and goes to prove that it's a subjective experience.

A comedy, GAMBIT is our next film, on 9th February. Starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman. An art curator (Firth) decides to seek revenge on his abusive boss (Rickman) by conning him into buying a fake Monet, but his plan requires the help of an eccentric and unpredictable Texas rodeo queen.

9th March will bring us QUARTET starring Dame Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Pauline Collins and Billy Connolly. This film is sure to be a big hit. Basically anything with Maggie Smith in is likely to be a hit.

Our April film will be ARGO, a dramatisation of the 1980 joint CIA-Canadian secret operation to extract six fugitive American diplomatic personnel out of revolutionary Iran, starring Ben Affleck. The date for this is 13th April.

We are also hoping to be able to show the new film musical version of LES MISERABLES on 11th May, starring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway.

Why not come along and enjoy an evening watching a film in HD on a HUGE screen, with wine, soft drinks, ice-creams and sweets available. Doors open at 7pm with the films starting promptly at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop and Edington Post Office. Profits go to Friends of Keevil School and St. Mary's Preservation Trust.

For further information please phone volunteers Gill on 01380 870302 or Lynda on 01380 871701.

## WHY NOT HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL?

**We have an 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.**

**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 Audrey Plummer on 01380 870586**

## 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**





## Neighbourhood Watch

A very big thank you to all NHW distributors for passing on the newsletters and forwarding the rural crime information to your neighbours. I am still receiving many alerts from police about thefts of 4x4's and quads, as well as a big increase in tractors and farm equipment thefts in the rural areas of the county. Thankfully the spate of burglaries in surrounding villages has eased off, though I would still be very vigilant about locking up your outbuildings and garden equipment as these may increase again as the weather improves.

Thankfully the recent incident at Sainsbury's car park in Melksham where a handbag was stolen by two foreign nationals in their late 30's had a successful outcome due to vigilant shoppers recording the incident on their phone. An elderly gentleman threw himself in front of a reversing car to distract shoppers whilst gang members stole a handbag from the passenger side of the car. Thankfully shoppers were watching from around the car park and saw the men individually getting into a car and therefore were able to pass the relevant details onto the police who subsequently made an arrest. I guess this is a lesson to all ladies not to leave your handbags on your passenger seat!

Unfortunately cold calling/phone and email scams are 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!

Thankfully, you are being vigilant and we were able to pass information onto the police about a suspicious car parked up in Back Street a few months ago. This led to police cautioning the driver for possession of cannabis! Please keep being vigilant in the village and pass on any information you think looks suspicious. I will of course text up to date information to everybody I have mobile phone numbers for so that you are made aware of anything occurring in the village. If you wish to be notified this way, please let me have your mobile number. If you would like to be alerted by email of any local incidents that have recently occurred, please either call or email me your details on [deb.scott@virgin.net](mailto: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

**Lunch Club** meets on the first Thursday of every month until April. We now have 25 members and there's still room for more. So do join us at 12.15 for 12.30 for an enjoyable meal cooked by a team of ladies.

The cost has just been increased to £6.50 with the profit going to the Hall maintenance fund. Just let either of us know if you would like to come.

Audrey Plummer 870586 Richard and Carol 870635

**ART CLUB** meets on Thursdays in the Village Hall at 7.30. It was hard for us to start again in January without dear Mike. He always had the tables up, heating on and music playing for us. We miss him but we are meeting again with seven artists and welcome new members from beginners to expert (which none of us are!). Contact Carolyn Haynes 870153 or Carol Clarke 870635



## Wiltshire Air Ambulance

It's been a year since the new trustees took responsibility from the National Health Service for running the air ambulance charity. We've all been on a sharp learning curve – and still are, but it's been fun as well as an honour for us to be involved in one of Wiltshire's great and popular charities. When the air ambulance took off for the first time in 1990, it did so thanks to collaboration between the Police, the county's road ambulance service and us, the people of Wiltshire who funded a minority share of the cost of the helicopter. However with public resources becoming tight in the current recession, the dynamics are changing and our share of the cost of the aircraft will have to increase. By 2015 we anticipate the charity will need to fund the majority of the aircraft costs, which will become predominantly an air ambulance providing back up to the police. This is because the police will be mandated to use the new National Police Air Service in the first instance.

This means we will have to dig deeper to keep flying but with the support and goodwill of everyone of us lucky enough to live in Wiltshire, keep flying we will. Please join me in thanking our gallant air crews of pilots, paramedics and police observers for all the time, attention and care they devote to our health and our safety.

Richard Youens

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

All of us who live or work in Wiltshire are rightly proud of our Air Ambulance. In service for over twenty years now, our life-saving helicopter has been involved in almost 15,000 missions to medical emergencies and accidents. Almost half of all incidents attended are Road Traffic Collisions across our county roads or on the motorways. Other situations include cardiac arrests, horse riding accidents, work related injury, sporting injuries, farm accidents, fires and burns. No two days are ever the same.

And no location is ever too remote (even though it may be for an ordinary land ambulance) and no regional specialist hospital too far for our team of dedicated pilots, paramedics and police officers. Our unique service offers our patients the best possible prospects of survival and full recovery. WAA can be at an incident within 11 minutes. You may have heard the phrase 'Golden Hour' – this is used to describe the hour directly after an incident has taken place. It is imperative that the injured party receives medical attention within this hour to minimize the risk of life changing injuries or in some cases, death.

Everyone in Wiltshire has a stake in the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. It is an essential service that serves all the people of Wiltshire whatever your age or gender. We are there for those life and death situations where the speed of the helicopter and the skill of the crew play a major part in the patient's chances of survival and recovery.

Do please continue to support us with your donations. At present we have to raise about £1million each year, but this will rise to about £2.5 million from January 2015 onwards.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance,  
Air Support Unit, Police HQ,  
London Rd, Devizes,  
Wiltshire SN10 2DN

T: 01380 739453

E: [info@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](mailto:info@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk)

W: [www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk)

**Total money sent to Wiltshire Air Ambulance from Carol Singing evening, Christmas raffles and auction and money in lieu of Christmas cards was £442.05.**





We may only be small but we are the best!

**100 CLUB** Another year is racing by for 100 Club contributors, some have been lucky winners, some not so lucky, never mind, at least you know that half of your investment finances our annual Village Hall maintenance expenses which seem to increase every year, but are vital to maintain the high standard of available hall facilities, and will hopefully attract your future hirings.

We thank you for your support in the past and hope to have it again. Collectors will be calling during early - mid March and we look forward to you renewing your annual £15.00 per head subscription for 2013-2014.

Hope you are a winner soon.

Mike T 870607

### The Dance That Gives So Much...

My name is Tracey Jones and in 2007 I lost my left leg below the knee in a road traffic accident. It might therefore come as a surprise to you that I work as a professional dancer and teacher of dance. If my discipline had been pure Jazz or ballet I might not have been so lucky but the dance form I teach is Egyptian Folk and Oriental (belly dance) which is mainly flat footed and low impact.

So why Egyptian dance? Well, back in 1994 I wanted to arrange a day out for my mum and I to do something fun and girly together, and I booked us up on a Middle Eastern dance workshop. We had so much fun, dressing up and learning beautiful hand and arm movements, and floating veils around! It was great finding something we could both enjoy.

Then after I had my daughters in 2001 and 2003 I suffered some pelvic problems afterwards, and I soon realised that even though I was going to the gym 3 times a week, nothing was really helping. It was then it dawned on me, that I needed a pelvic dance to fix a pelvic problem. I found a weekly class and was surprised and delighted to find women there of all ages and backgrounds. I worked really hard at the hip techniques, even

practicing at home and soon I had got really quite good at it, not only that my pelvic problems got to a point where I felt happy about my body again. My confidence and self esteem blossomed, and I hadn't realised how low I had actually been, having been at home and feeling rather isolated bringing up small children.

In 2006 I won the UK National Belly Dancing Championship and started to perform mainly in theatre all over the UK. Only six months later I had the accident and had my left leg removed. It came as a terrible shock.

Two years later I had moved to Devizes from South Wales and I realised I was depressed and my mobility was awful, I could barely walk around the shops, or do the housework without feeling exhausted and in great pain. It was then I decided to dance again. It took 8 months to make a leg I could dance on, there were many tears, trials and errors....

Well, I have now been dancing, performing and teaching since 2009. My mobility levels now are amazing and even other amputees do not realise I am also an amputee. I put this down to having a strong pelvis, after all the pelvis is the origin of all movement in the body, including walking! In 2011 I appeared on the 'This Morning' show to talk about my return to dance and also started working for limb charities, to help increase the mobility in other amputees.

I am totally driven to share this dance with as many women as possible, those who would try something a bit different. The dance is a personal journey and can release more than just physical problems. I call this dance the 'pilates' of the dance world. I am a level 2 Fitness instructor but these days just teach this dance, and other things I do that I enjoy to keep fit are yoga, pilates, running and cycling, but only thanks to the dance! That is what has given me the core strength, balance and good posture.

In 2010 my partner Neil and I moved to Twyford Farm opposite the Lamb on The Strand and started to renovate it. We love it here. I am delighted with the sense of community spirit where we live.

It is with this spirit that I have started two new dance classes for women in the area, which I hope will be embraced and supported. We do like to dress up but absolutely no bellies have to be bared, you are not too old, too young or too immobile to come and give it a go. Last year I taught two quadruple amputees at the amputee games at Stoke Mandeville Stadium!! I also teach a professional level troupe who perform all over the country.

If any of the WI or Women's groups would like a talk, workshop or demonstration I am more than happy to donate my time.

For more information and class details contact me on

**01380 870956 or 07702 166944**

and visit my website

**[www.wiltshirebellydance.com](http://www.wiltshirebellydance.com)**

<b>100 Club</b>										
<b>These are the names of the lucky winners this year.</b>										
	No	£20.00	No	£15.00	No	£12.00	No	£10.00	No	£ 8.00
September	124	Alan Seddon	31	George McDonic	96	Jonathan Tapper	5	Mike Truman	110	Will Scott
October	50	Sylvia Tarrant	107	Steve Adams	31	George McDonic	79	Gillian Fennell	109	Jackie Adams
November	73	Tim Smith	15	Ken Young	57	Bill Mannings	104	Min Squibbs	90	Mary Winterburn
December	64	Phillip S. Smith	124	Alan Seddon	61	Paul Haynes	65	Sue Andrew	8	Derek Saville
January 2013	99	Joyce Newman	115	Sally Cuff	40	Rosie Keith	79	Gillian Fennell	11	Beryl Francis
<b>WINNER OF DECEMBER CHRISTMAS BONUS of £50: No. 88 – Linda Unsworth</b>										

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