

GRAPEVINE

AUTUMN 2018

WASPS IN THE ROOF

When the trap door from the garage into the roof space was opened a few wasps were flying about in there, suggesting a nest somewhere. However, a quick scan of the roof timbers revealed nothing — a nest of the usual size of a football or smaller was nowhere to be seen. On closer inspection with a powerful torch a few wasps could be seen coming from a corner of the roof timbers at floor level.

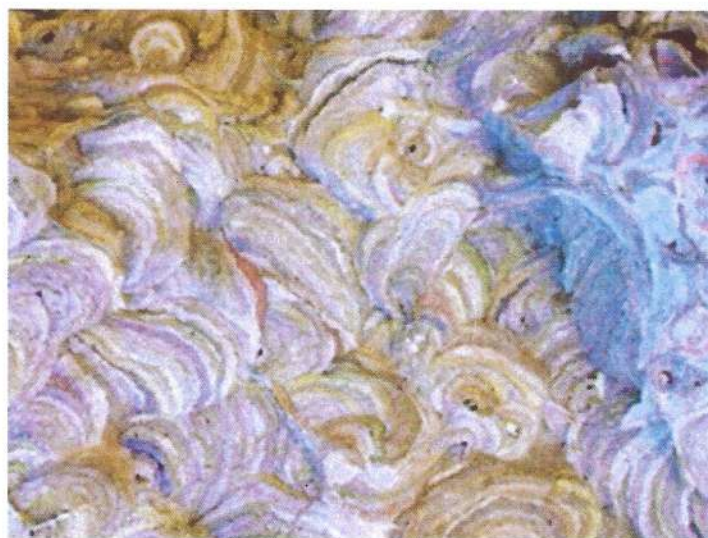
The nest was HUGE, 40-50 cm (1'4" to 1'6") in diameter. Having killed off the flying wasps (and they were large too!), the nest was pulled out and off the timbers. It was lowered to ground level in a sheet as it was heavy and delicate.



It was cut open to reveal its layered construction, with open and capped cells (where the eggs are laid and grubs develop).



The nest had an outer 'skin' of shaved wood which would have been gathered by the wasps from nearby fences and sheds, hence the various colours. So when you see a wasp and hear a faint scratching noise on a fence, it is collecting material for the nest.



The nest was kept for a while, but as there was little interest from the villagers and two local schools for their science lessons, it was offered to Stonar School who were keen to have it for theirs.

It's important to note that you should never attempt to remove a wasp nest yourself. Always ask a professional, who will have all the correct protective clothing and equipment.

Min Squibbs



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thank you to Graham Holmes for putting together and distributing the leaflet listing details of all regular clubs and upcoming social events. To remind you

Bonfire Night (villagers and friends only)

Sunday 4th November, 7:30 pm Hillbrow

Quiz Night

Saturday 24th November, 7:30 pm Village Hall

Carol Singing

Tuesday 11th December, 7:00 pm Village Hall

Pub Olympics

12th January, 7:30 pm Village Hall

Chinese New Year Supper and Wine Tasting (tbc)

Saturday 2nd February, 7:30 pm Village Hall

Horse Race Night

Saturday 9th March, 7:30 pm Village Hall

Quiz Night

Saturday 27th April, 7:30 pm Village Hall

LADIES CLUB

The **Christmas meal** will be on Wednesday 19th December, 7.30 for 8pm at The Lamb on the Strand. You can view the menu on the Lamb's webpage and I will have copies ready for the October meeting of Ladies Club.

Any lady in the village is welcome to join us for this event. If you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible as I need to pay a deposit.

I shall be collecting meal choices and full payment (£22.95 for 2 courses and £24.95 for 3 courses) by the end of October.

Sandra 870906
sandra@crumpler.org.uk

Other Ladies Club events for the coming months are:

Beauty and the Bees, 17th October 8:00 pm

Christmas Crafts, 21st November 8:00 pm

Curry Evening, 16th January 8:00 pm

Family Skittles, 13th February 2:30 pm

History of Punch and Judy, 20th March 8:00 pm

Beetle Drive and Bring & Buy, 17th April 8:00 pm

Call Sandra for more details, or just come along!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CHORAL CONCERT

Very exciting "Greater Love Hath No Man" choral concert that will be held at St James' Parish Church on **Friday 9th November**. This production will be under the directorship of Mr Graham Dalby who has overseen choral concerts at the very highest level internationally (HM The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday, HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Formal Retreat from Hong Kong) and promises to be a Trowbridge 'spectacular', highlighting the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War.

More details will be posted on the notice board.

POPPIES REQUIRED FOR WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATION

As you will have read in the September Parish Magazine there is to be a free exhibition at St Mary's Church reflecting on local men who gave their lives in the Great War. This will be on **Friday 9th November to Sunday 11th November**.

The event is being organised by the bell ringers who are busy making poppies for the backdrop to the memorabilia. We need your help to make thousands of poppies, knitted, crochet or felted. The Lunch Club and Art & Craft Group have started helping with this enormous task and if you would like to join in please contact me. I may be able to provide you with red felt, black felt and a pattern, it is so easy anyone can make one. Knitting patterns are also available. It is intended that the poppies will be reused next year.

Completed poppies may be given to me, the shop in Steeple Ashton, or the Church. The deadline for handing in is **Wednesday October 31st**, although earlier would be better, even a few at a time, as it gives more time to organise the displays.

Many thanks to all those who have already started.

Beryl 870524



GREAT HINTON FETE - 7TH JULY

This was probably the hottest fete day we have experienced! But all went well with good attendance despite the heat and the football(!). Ice creams sold out; some of the chocoholics items went into melt down! (These may well be recycled into cake for our next event in September!).



Our youngest villager Holly was too shy to present the posy so mum, Anna, stepped in to help.



We were entertained by Ellen, who sang and played her guitar and the Chippenham Morris Dancers, who must have been extremely hot and exhausted as they had already danced twice at Keevil earlier in the afternoon. They were off to visit a pub on the way home which I'm sure was well needed!

The White Elephant stall was overflowing with goods so much so that the remainder was sold two weeks later at a car boot sale, boosting profits even more.



And to finish off a good day just as we were clearing up the Red Arrows flew over in formation.

The result was excellent and a cheque for £685 will go to Julia's House and one for £227 to the Village Hall trust towards the upkeep of the hall for all to use.

KIOSK LIBRARY

At the beginning of September Barbara and I had a blitz on the library and replaced at least seventy books and the few remaining had only been on the shelves since the beginning of August. We hope you will find some titles there that will interest you.



We took eight bags to the Mind Charity shop at Paxcroft Mead and would like to say a big thank-you to both those of you who kindly donate books and of course to our readers.

Sadly we have also had quite a few unsuitable books left, either too large or in poor condition so please can you be sure your donations are in a good order.

As always, keep reading

Anne

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much to everyone who supported my MacMillan Coffee Morning.



I'm pleased to say that due to your kind donations we raised £411!

Well Done Everyone!!

Rebecca



Fiz, the representative from Julia's House, was very impressed with the fete given the small size of the village and equally impressed by the amount raised.

KC CUP

This is an award in memory of Kevin Crumpler to recognise all that he did for the village - organising the Agony Run for many years, running very enthusiastic auctions of promises to raise money for the hall and the defibrillator, putting lots of energy into raising funds for the building of the hall and for charity, and of course the renowned Hangover Parties and enormous village bonfires and generally getting everyone involved.

The Cup is presented for achievement and so far we have had village games, a photographic competition, skittles, and this year a quiz competition. If someone raises a phenomenal amount for charity, does something incredible, gains a qualification in super quick time, walks the length of the country, or a 6-year-old climbs a mountain, passes a GCSE or whatever then this would be considered.

The quiz competition ran during several of the hall events, along with the crossword and sudoku in the last Grapevine, culminating in the treasure hunt.

This year's winner is Kirste who excelled in Countdown. Sue Smith was relieved that Kirste won by a mere 5 points as she had already won two of the previous years!

For 2019 there will be another **photographic competition** as the last one was very popular (Kevin was very keen on photography). The theme this time is Seasons. Please submit 4 photos one for each season - spring, summer, autumn, winter.

They can be taken over the last 2 years up to autumn 2019 and within an area of approximately 3 mile radius of Great Hinton.

Entry is £4 per adult (17 yrs+) and £2 per child (16 and under). You can enter as many sets of 4 as you like at the appropriate fee.

Autumn has hit us with a vengeance so get those cameras out soon.

Sandra



TREASURE HUNT

The weather on the 9th September was very kind to us and everyone enjoyed walking round the village testing their brains on the treasure hunt. Thank you to Steve for organising this.



The winning pair were Susie Selwyn-Smith and Veronica Francis who now have a reputation to live up to as they also won this event a few years back.

TEA AND CAKES

Having decided to have tea and cakes in the hall, so as not to get cold outside having a BBQ as in previous years, the weather was warm! Oh well, never mind, everyone enjoyed themselves.



Thank you for all the lovely cakes provided by various village ladies.



LUNCH CLUB

Several members are still on holiday hence fourteen of us sat down at 12.30 on Thursday September 13th to start our new season. A delicious meal was served prepared by Carol and Susie with Richard serving the tea and coffee.

Unfortunately, our summer outing in June had to be cancelled. I think several of us were relieved as the weather was so abnormally hot and I for one was dreading walking around a garden in the extreme heat.

Lunch Club normally meets on the first Thursday of each month. Anyone is welcome and if you'd like to find out more please ring me, Audrey, on 870586.

GREAT HINTON MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

At the AGM in May I was pleased to report that in the year to the end of March a surplus of £1683 had been added to the funds. This includes the second of the three grants of £500 from the Parish Council.

Underpinning our finances is the 100 Club, run by Rachael Lawes and her team of collectors whose efforts have again kept the membership high and handed over the surplus of £915 after paying out prizes of £880. We are also grateful for the donation of £125 from the Ladies Club as well as the surplus of £175 given to the hall funds from the Village Fete run by the ladies and helpers. The Lunch Club was able to make a donation of £70 as well as buying new mugs. We have also installed a heater in the upstairs toilet and bought new kettles and a vacuum cleaner.

There were no unexpected bills in the year, so our cash balance held in the bank account has increased to £10,016 at the year end. It has been our aim to build our reserves to £10,000, so towards this target the trustees are now able to set aside £8000 which is up from last year's £6500. This leaves what is in effect working capital of £2000 so our financial position is sound.

However, always we live on a knife edge and depend very much on the support of the villagers through their membership of the clubs and 100 Club and joining in the social events. Without the bonus of income from any elections needing a polling station and excluding the final grant of £500 from the Parish Council, we are budgeting a surplus of just under £500 for the current year, but the trustees have decided that there is no need to increase the hourly rate from £7 an hour.

Having previously brought the hall's insurance cover up-to-date, this year's task of the committee has been to review the Trust Deed, which prescribed what trustees can do and how, and what they cannot do. Changes to the Deed approved during the year now allow for up to four elected trustees (previously two) to serve for a term of three years (previously one).

In addition to the elected trustees, the Deed continued the right of the Ladies Club, the Community Committee and the Parish Council to nominate one trustee each. These trustees now served until such time as replacement nominations are made by the respective organisations.

Consequently, at the AGM Andy Saunders and I were elected to serve as trustees for 3 years. Sandra Crumpler and Sue Andrew continue as trustees representing the Ladies' Club and the Parish Council respectively; and the Community Committee has nominated Graham Holmes to replace Jon Lawes whose advice as trustee we have greatly appreciated. Sue Smith will continue to offer health and safety advice to the Committee.

Keith Strickland also resigned as a trustee. During the year he had taken on the role of secretary to the Trust and pursued a number of issues to make sure the trustees were operating within the terms of the Trust Deed and Charity Commission regulations. Keith felt that his position as a trustee might result in a conflict of interest with his advice as secretary, but we will continue to benefit from Keith's independent advice as he has offered to remain as secretary.

Richard Clarke
Chair of Trustees

100 CLUB

These are the names of the lucky winners since the previous edition of the Grapevine:

| | No. | £20 | No. | £15 | No. | £12 | No. | £10 | No. | £8 |
|------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| April 2018 | 70 | Doris Saville | 88 | L. Unsworth | 61 | Paul Haynes | 94 | David Francis | 59 | Alice Long |
| May 2018 | 46 | Richard Newman | 57 | Bill Mannings | 67 | Andrew Burch | 51 | Alex Cooper | 107 | Steve Adams |
| June 2018 | 78 | Antony Ferrae | 116 | Debbie Ellis | 68 | Yolanda Covey | 27 | Rich Hansford | 61 | Paul Haynes |
| July 2018 | 118 | Christine Yates | 83 | Jon Lawes | 73 | Tim Smith | 27 | Rich Hansford | 39 | Sheila Jennings |
| Aug 2018 | 8 | Derek Saville | 52 | Gill Verschoyle | 35 | Keith Strickland | 71 | Malcolm Burch | 65 | Sue Andrews |
| Sept 2018 | 95 | A & M Crumpler | 9 | Terry Cunningham | 109 | Jackie Adams | 112 | Maria Kane | 21 | Monica Meade |

Summer bonus (£50): No. 14 Geoff Ainge

HEDGEHOG-FRIENDLY HINTON

Hedgehogs, beloved by all, are in serious decline so please help Great Hinton to be a more hedgehog-friendly village by making your garden into a hog haven. Some things are obvious, others less so ...

- Check long grass or vegetation for hiding hedgehogs before mowing or strimming. Their natural defence mechanism is to curl into a ball which sadly isn't protection against machinery.
- Try not to use slug pellets or pesticides as not only will this reduce the number of insects available for hedgehogs to eat, you might also make hedgehogs very ill or even kill them.
- Ensure that the sides of ponds are gently sloping to allow hedgehogs to climb out, or use a piece of chicken wire to form a ramp.

Hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December and will often move nesting sites during hibernation. But if you see a hedgehog that's really small out and about at this time of year, get in touch with British Hedgehog Protection Society for some advice: info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk or 01584 890 801.

Their most favourite foods are worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes, and they'll also eat fallen fruit. Meat-based cat or dog food, special hedgehog food, along with a few crushed unsalted peanuts, raisins or mealworms are all great for hungry hedgehogs. A bowl of fresh water will be also be appreciated by any hog out and about.

Hibernacula, the nests in which hedgehogs hibernate, may be made in log-piles, compost heaps, patches of brush or in specially built hedgehog nest boxes. Bonfires are also ideal hibernacula, so make sure you check yours before lighting them, or relocate them on the day of burning.

Hedgehogs are quite picky about what they use to make their hibernation nests, so try and make sure there are always dead leaves somewhere in the garden. Leaf- and wood-piles are also valuable foraging areas as they contain lots of insects.

Sleeping hedgehogs will be warm to the touch, whilst hibernating ones are cooler. The spines of a hibernating hedgehog will still prickle if touched but the spines of a dead one will not. Do not disturb hibernating hedgehogs as it may cause them to stir and use up valuable energy reserves.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Those of you on my NHW mailing list would have been alerted to the recent burglary at the farm in Cold Harbour. Unfortunately, they revisited several days later and took many more items. This also happened in Ashton Common during August, so please be very wary if you have outbuildings etc. These people will probably stake out the property beforehand, so be vigilant and please make sure you make a note of any vehicles you feel are suspicious as a registration number or even a picture taken on your mobile phone may help the police trace any potential criminals.

Some of you have reported telephone scams in the form of fraudsters posing as the "HMRC". The calls are usually very threatening, and it has been quite upsetting for some people. Remember, these are scams and although they seem very convincing, please do not give any information to them over the phone. Do not use any telephone numbers the fraudsters give you and never give any personal information to anyone over the phone.

If you are not already on the NHW mailing list, please consider adding yourself by contacting me on the number/email address below. If you are not receiving the NHW information emails, you are not being alerted to any incidents that are occurring locally or in the nearby towns.

Debbie Scott
NHW Area Coordinator
870410 deb.scott@virgin.net



Other useful contact numbers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Emergency Calls | 999 |
| Non-emergency Calls | 101 |
| Crimestoppers | 0800 555 111 |
| Action Fraud | 0300 123 204 |

