



# GRAPEVINE

## GREAT HINTON VILLAGE NEWS



### BEST KEPT VILLAGE

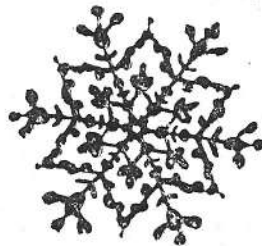
There was a tremendous village turnout on Sunday afternoon the 4th October to watch the unveiling outside the Linnet of the Wiltshire Best Kept Small Village Shield. This was presented to Great Hinton by Colonel Sir Hugh Brassey, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire in his capacity as President of the Wiltshire branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Mr. Victor Bush, Chairman of our Parish Council, also accepted the Wiltshire County Council plaque and the West Wiltshire District council plaque and certificate, which will all be mounted in the Village Hall as a reminder of a marvellous effort by everyone in the village. A cheque for £45 was also presented by the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald. All the children who took part in the poster competition received prizes.

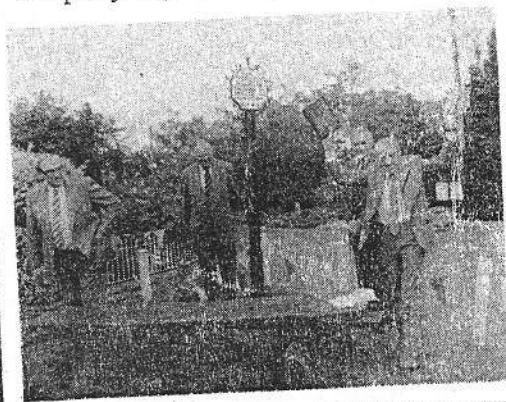
It was a lovely warm, sunny afternoon, happily rounded off by everyone enjoying wine and cheese in the Village Hall.

Joan Barker.

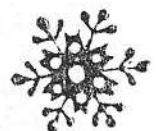
Some of the 110 villagers who gathered for the presentations at the Linnet Car Park

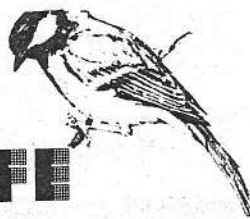


Mr. Vic Bush & Dignitaries  
Displaying the Awards.



*A Wonderful Christmas  
To All of You!*





## GREAT HINTON WILD LIFE

Having spent my early years living very close to the river Medway in Kent and then in a more suburban area of Hertfordshire and, before coming to Great Hinton, the village of Emberton in North Buckinghamshire, I have greatly missed seeing the abundance of bird life which exists in all of those areas.

It is quite wonderful to see flocks of geese, ducks, swans and even the flocks of common gulls in the evening sky, which stopped overnight on the rivers and lakes and in winter all through the day as well. These, in addition to the smaller garden birds, which, strange as it may seem, are in noticeably greater numbers in suburban areas and town parks. However, the village has its share of birds and wild life in general; house sparrows and the starlings aplenty and, as in the town, you can hear the starlings mimic the trill note of the modern telephone.

In addition to these birds there are, of course, many others and this is a very good time of year to see them as they come in closer to the houses and farms for food and shelter during the winter. Already the blue tits are beginning to feed at the nut baskets and it's much easier to see the woodpeckers when they privilege us with a visit to the nearby trees and is a good time of year to see the Storm Cock.

With so many barns being demolished and converted and many of the larger trees gone, it's nice to know we have some tawney or small owls in the village; lovely to watch them silently fly in the dusk of the evening. Should you have a fish pond in the garden beware of 'Frank' the Heron! They spot the fish from very high up when they fly over. Herons are a territorial bird - if you want to keep them away from the gold fish introduce an authentic plastic heron to the pond side. Frank won't trouble you any more!

The traffic claimed the lives of two young foxes in our area a couple of months ago. I'm bound to say Good Luck to any others on 5th December that might live and add interest to our local country scene.

Roy Ainger.

## LADIES' CLUB

Please to remember the fifth of November! We remembered with a generous supply of rockets and sparklers and a superb bonfire and two jolly guys made by local children. There was an abundance of jacket potatoes, sausages and hot soup which were enjoyed by all. Our thanks to those who helped to make it a very successful evening.

Another successful event was the Gourmet evening on November 18th. We invited husbands and guests to come and sample the various dishes made by members. Everyone voted the evening a great success and Mike Truman, giving a vote of thanks, suggested we make it an annual event!

The carol singers will be out in force (we hope!) on Monday, 21st December. Anyone who would like to come and sing should assemble at The Linnet car park at 7 p.m. Proceeds this year will go to one of the local charities.

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Our good wishes go to Mark Newman who has just embarked on a degree course in Computer Science at London University's Imperial College.

Audrey Plummer.

# SPORT

## TABLE TENNIS TALK:

It is about one third one the way through the current Table Tennis season and the three village teams have had very mixed fortunes so far. Great Hinton 'B' are near the top of the Third Division, whilst the other two teams are struggling in their respective leagues. We hope, however, that as the season progresses all three teams will prosper either in the League or in the Cup competitions. We are always looking to strengthen the teams so any prospective players can always contact Stuart Wickham on Keevil 870202.

## THE VICAR OF GREAT HINTON

Yes, Great Hinton has a Vicar even though it hasn't a Church. From time immemorial Great Hinton, as regards Church life, has been linked with Steeple Ashton and still is - it is part of the ecclesiastical parish of Steeple Ashton (and I regret the name 'Great Hinton' doesn't appear in its official title!). So far as anyone knows, there has never been a Church of England church at Great Hinton (though there was until relatively recently a Methodist Chapel). Steeple Ashton church, like its Vicar, has always been shared by Great Hinton - so much so that the North Porch of the Church (still there though now walled in for security reasons) is, or was, known as the 'Hinton Porch', and a well-designated and probably well-worn footpath led across the fields to join Hinton Lane and then the village itself.

St Mary's, Steeple Ashton, is still your parish Church and I, of course, very much regard Great Hinton as part of my Parish. Nowadays, those linked to Church life come either to Steeple Ashton or to Keevil - it doesn't matter which you choose, and nowadays they are both part of the same group of Parishes (Semington being the other one in my charge).

All four villages are very distinct communities and, as I've said in the Church Newsletter this month, it's good to see Great Hinton blossoming as a community in its own right, achieving much, including this "Grapevine" news-sheet, and I'm grateful to Mr. Truman for the opportunity of writing this paragraph in it. I wish it well and congratulate Great Hinton on producing it. Perhaps you'll be building your own Church next!

Derek Burden.

## 100 CLUB NEWS:

September Winners:	1st. Mr. P. Wickham. £18.50.	2nd. Mrs. M. Leary. £15.00.
	3rd. Mr. M. Truman. £10.00.	(Quarterly Prize)
	4th. Mrs. J. Hallam. £ 6.00.	5th. Mrs. M. Welsh. £5.00.
October Winners:	1st. Mrs. D. Storey. £18.50.	2nd. Mrs. D. Young. £10.00.
	3rd. Mr. G. Keene. £ 6.00.	4th. Mr. K. Crumpler £ 5.00.
November Winners:	1st. Mr. V. Newman. £18.50.	2nd. Miss J. Hallam. £10.00.
	3rd. Mrs. G. Probert. £ 6.00.	4th. Mr. P. Sawyer. £ 5.00.

Special Christmas Prize of £30.00 to Mr. J. Hallam.

The December Draw will be held a week earlier than usual on 22nd December at the Christmas Whist Drive.

The 1988 100 Club to commence in January - our Third year.

£12.00 payable in January, 1988, to Min Squibbs. Please join in this very profitable Draw and help boost Hall funds at the same time.

Jean Hallam.



# CITY TO VILLAGE

Malcolm and Madeline Welsh from Wallington, which is in the London Borough of Sutton, near Croydon, moved to Great Hinton with their two boys this time last year after twelve years in the London area. He and his family moved to be nearer the centre of his work in publishing in Southern England and Wales. I asked Malcolm to put on paper some of their reactions to living in a village in contrast to city life and he had these thoughts to reflect.....

It took us some time to get used to the friendliness of the local people who would stop and chat as though they had known us for years. In London this friendliness would be treated with suspicion as though there was some kind of catch. Very rarely would people speak, especially on the trains where newspapers were held high as a shield against the evil risk of communication.

We are now getting used to and enjoying the deafening quiet of the country life in contrast to the deafening noise of city life, and enjoy hearing the Post Office van getting near and nearer to our house each morning!

The fresh air in Great Hinton, compared with diesel and petrol fumes of the Big City, is a delight shared by many of our visiting friends from the city who are always eager to arrange another visit soon!

Madeline and I were always very nervous to let our two sons, who quite naturally are football mad, travel alone to local parks or to the nearest football field because of heavy traffic and all the criminal activities we hear about, and I would answer their protests by saying "Never mind, we shall soon be in the freedom of the countryside where you can play football to your hearts content". How wrong I was! I still have to drive them to Trowbridge or Devizes to kick a ball around in the town parks. I do hope that the suggestion made at the last Parish Council meeting that consideration should be given to buying or renting a local field will be pursued as, with more children in the village, I am sure it will be a worthwhile village amenity.

After nearly twelve months Madeline and I have learned to "stock up" with provisions as we are no longer able to stroll around the corner for a packet of tea as I found out one morning when I came down to make a cup of tea, I had to get dressed and motor to the nearest town for provisions and eventually get my well earned cup of tea! I still wouldn't change the peace and tranquility of the village with the convenience of shops.

I sometimes return to Croydon on business and one occasion when I was with Madeline back on our familiar territory, dodging heavy traffic and milling with the crowds, all of whom seemed to share the same expression of gloom, I turned to Madeline and said "This is all so familiar, it's almost as if Great Hinton had never been", and it seemed very strange to point the car towards M4 and Wiltshire instead of our usual stop-start congested short journey to our previous home.

We are convinced that our move to Great Hinton and the country was the right one even though we still have more adjusting to do, we intend to remain here as long as the foreseeable future allows.

Malcolm Welsh.

## VILLAGE PARTY

Come and join in a Fun and Games Party to round off the Christmas Festivities to be held in the Village Hall on Friday, 15th January, 1988 at 8 p.m.

Tog yourself up in party dress and come and let your hair down!!!

Please bring your own drinks and glasses. A Ploughman's Supper will be provided.

Entrance charge: £1.00 per ADULT, to be paid to Diane Norris who will give you an entrance Ticket. Don't delay! Numbers are limited.

Many prizes to be won!!

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Poppy Appeal: This year £39.36 was collected, thank you everyone.  
Diane Norris.

FOUND: Pair of boys B.M.X. gloves on Bonfire Night - please contact Diane Norris.

# GREAT HINTON

Hail to you Great Hinton!  
Gem of the Wiltshire plains,  
Set within your tiny bounds  
Of meadows, streams and lanes.

Your people spread their harmony,  
Around your village life,  
Nurturing love and happiness,  
Obliterating strife.

Wider may your bounds e'er grow  
And ties of friendship keep,  
And may your stream of life e'er flow  
In channels strong and deep.

by Mrs. E.A. Truman. (Resident of Warrington Home, Waterhouse Lane, Monkton  
Combe, Bath).

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## GENERAL NEWS

Our best wishes go with Richard and Hazel Culverhouse who have moved to Heywood. Their involvement in village activities will be sadly missed, but we are pleased that Richard is to continue with his duties as Clerk to the Parish Council. Richard has kindly helped out by printing the Village Grapevine news sheet for us. We hope they will be frequent visitors to the village.

We would like to welcome Mr and Mrs. Padget who have moved into Richard and Hazel's house and also Mr. & Mrs. Skeggs and family to Peppercorn Orchard.

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### WHIST DRIVES:

The Tuesday Whist evenings continue to be both popular and well supported. New players always welcome.  
Please note the Christmas Whist will be held in the Hall on Tuesday, 22nd December. There will be a mammoth Raffle as well as super prizes to be won.

## VILLAGE FIELD

I/WE WOULD LIKE THE VILLAGE TO HAVE THE USE OF A FIELD FOR SPORTING AND  
GENERAL VILLAGE ACTIVITIES. TICK. ☐

I/WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE NEED FOR A VILLAGE FIELD. TICK. ☐

Signed.....

Please cut out and have ready for collection.

It is important that you complete this questionnaire so that  
the Village Hall Committee can take the necessary action  
on your behalf. Thankyou.



#### EDITOR'S NOTES:

The events in the Village have, as expected, slowed down a little since the last Quarter's hectic newsheet, so I am grateful to those people who have sent in their articles, which make very interesting reading.

If you haven't yet contributed why not have a go in the Spring issue!

Possible subjects could be :

- a) Walks around Great Hinton, including lack of sign posts!
- b) Wild flowers etc. to look for in our hedgerows.
- c) Great Hinton in the 'old days', including old photographs if you have any please.
- d) Gardening section - tips for each season.
- e) Historical facts about Great Hinton - for instance WHY are we called GREAT HINTON?
- f) Favourite country recipes.

Etc. etc. etc.

Whatever you contribute, please let me have it by mid-February, 1988 latest.

If anyone would like to advertise their local business in the Grapevine, for a small fee, please give full details to Editor at 38, Great Hinton, by mid-February.

MIKE TRUMAN.

#### FOR SALE:

SCALEXTRIC Track plus a few accessories, approximately 20ft. straight track, Le Mans Start, Curves, Chicane, Power Unit etc.....£50.00.  
KEEVIL 870634.

#### WANTED:

Travel Cot in good condition.  
Sarah Truman MELKSHAM 709692.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR