

## GREAT HINTON VILLAGE NEWS

### NEWMAN TRUST

### Larkrise School Hydrotherapy Pool Started

After six years of fund raising the amount collected has now reached over £33,000. This includes over £3,000 raised by various village events, the largest amount being £2,606. from the 1986 Agony Run. The Variety Club of Great Britain has promised £5,000 and a further £5,000 has been promised from another source, so the total of £56,000 is now in sight. This has meant that work has been able to start on the project and the first turf was cut on Monday, 22nd February, 1988, by the late John Newman's daughters Sharon and Tracey photographed here with their grandmother Mrs. May Newman and Mr. Mark Brotherton, Headmaster of Larkrise School. It is hoped the pool will be in use by mid-summer, 1988. The Trust still has the remaining £13,000 to raise - anyone wishing further details please contact Mrs. May Newman.

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PAEAN OF PRAISE FOR GREAT  
HINTON BEST KEPT SMALL VILLAGE.

Sap is rising  
Stumps are stirring  
Snowdrops thriving  
Lawnmowers whirring.

Ours the Best Kept Village  
remember  
Keep up the standard we've  
achieved  
Ours the Standard till  
September  
Can't win this year,  
(are we relieved?!).

Joan Barker.



Photograph by kind permission of Wiltshire Times  
News Series.

## VILLAGE FIELD

The result of the Questionnaire as published in the Winter Issue of the Grapevine was as follows:

- 31 Households voted in favour
- 11 Households voted against.

This result enables the Village Hall Committee to start making enquiries about the availability of land in our locality. If anyone reading this has any ideas in this respect please contact Bill Barker on 870131. The Committee endeavoured to collect all the questionnaires but regreably a few householders were not at home when we called.

## LADIES CLUB

The result of the Carol Singing was a handsome collection of £60.00 which was forwarded to The Dorothy House.

Our January and February meetings made good use of local talent. Hilary Davies entertained us with a demonstration and talk on spinning in January. Several members tried their hands at carding and spinning but found that it was not quite so easy as it looked!

In February Veronica Francis showed us a video of how to deal with accident victims and talked about general First Aid. It proved to be a most instructive and valuable evening.

Our March meeting will be on Wednesday 16th march when Mrs. Jennifer Harrison will talk on Wiltshire Wildlife.

The Village Fete this year will take place on July 16th and it is hoped to hold a second Flower Show in September - see Notice Board for details.

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New Year's Eve saw a party of us celebrating in the Village Hall and a jolly time was had by all who came.

Audrey Plummer. - - - - -

## WHIST

We would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the Christmas Whist Drive so helping to make it such a success that the organisers had to go out and fetch their kitchen chairs and table!

The last Drive in this season will be held on 26th April, 1988. One or two extra nights may be arranged after this date if there is enough support.

Whist evenings continue to be enjoyable for all. If anyone in the village would like to come to the Hall on Tuesday nights at 7.30p.m. they will be most welcome.

Richard Andrew.

# SPORT

## TABLE TENNIS TALK:

The period since Christmas has been a fairly fruitful one for all three village teams. Great Hinton 'A' have improved on their early season form in Division One and the 'C' Team have shown considerable improvement in the Third Division.

Great Hinton 'B' meanwhile have reached the final of the Third Division Knockout Cup. This is the fourth consecutive year that the 'B' Team has reached this stage of the competition. Hopefully we will be able to win the Trophy next month, thus becoming the first ever team to retain the Wally Griffin Trophy since it's introduction twenty years ago.

All our Teams will be hoping to finish the season on a high note in the remaining four weeks.

Stuart Wickham.

# 100 CLUB

The December Draw took place the second to last Tuesday of the month at the Christmas Whist Drive. The winners were: First - Mrs. M. Welsh, Second - Mrs. D.M. Newman, Third - Joanne Norris, Fourth - Mrs. C. Burch, Fifth - Mr. K. Young. To finish the year there were two extra "Losers Prizes" drawn in early January when the names of all those who had held numbers for both years and won nothing were put in Bill's bowler hat! Mrs. J. Newman and Mr. R. Ainger both won £5.00.

This year there are 88 members with the prizes being £18, £10, £6, £5 and a quarterly prize of £15. Members are villagers, relatives of villagers, some living over 50 miles away, and four Whist players from Trowbridge and Steeple Ashton.

The January winners were: First: Mr. Tapsell, Second - Mrs. Hocking, Third - Mr. Crumple, 4th - Mrs. Thorn.

February winners were: First - Mr. W. Irons, Second - Mrs. C. Burch, Third - Mr. C. Blake, Fourth - Mrs. J. Hallam.

Results of the Draw, which takes place at 7.30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month are put up in the Village Hall and on the Notice board near the telephone-box.

Min Squibbs.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It has not been possible to finalise the Great Hinton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to report in this issue. Full details will be set out in the Summer issue of The Grapevine.



# **GREAT HINTON WILD LIFE**

## ROOKS.

Just a short distance away to the north of the village, in the low meadows towards Semington, you will find what remains of our nearest rookery. What remains because some nests were blown away by the high winds a few weeks back.

High in the top branches of a group of tall trees are a few large nests easily see, made from large twigs and these will be lined with grass, hair, leaves and fibres of many sorts.

The rooks love high trees and like us they must miss the lofty elms especially those which grew within the village.

Although very wary of humans at ground level, they like to be close to human habitation and observe our activity from a-high.

They are the most sociable of birds keeping together in flocks and feeding together in the fields and one cultivated land. When feeding on open ground there is usually one of their number acting as a look out from a suitably high vantage point. They certainly know a man especially with a gun, but a person in a car is not too much of a problem as can be observed on the motorways when they seem to take great risks picking at carrion or the salty grit for which they have acquired a taste. Such is their communal way of life, it is said, they will hold court and sit in judgment on 'criminal' birds and have been known to mob and even kill an offender.

At this time of year they are very busy nesting with plenty of hoarse cawing as they communicate to one another's warning to stay away from their particular part of the tree top. A pair of rooks will use the same nest year on year repairing it for each new breeding season. Given a chance they sometimes steal sticks from a neighbour's nest should they both be away feeding or collecting new material.

Like a lot of other animals the rook seem to regulate their numbers depending upon the food resources in the area. Many more will be found where cereal crops are grown in abundance. Dependent upon all the prevailing circumstances a pair will raise from one to six young.

Rooks are a very interesting bird and just see their spectacular aerial displays in the Autumn when they twist and tumble and dive headlong through the air, it would seem for the sheer fun of it.

Roy Ainger.

## **FOOTPATHS**

It has been suggested that an annual walk is arranged during April every year to establish Public rights of way and record the condition and signing of footpaths so that a report can be submitted to the Parish Council for action as required. Those people who would like to take part should contact Ivor Davies, 3 Peppercorn Orchard. A suggested date for the walk is Saturday, 16th April, 1988.

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### **NEXT DATE FOR VILLAGE SKIP.**

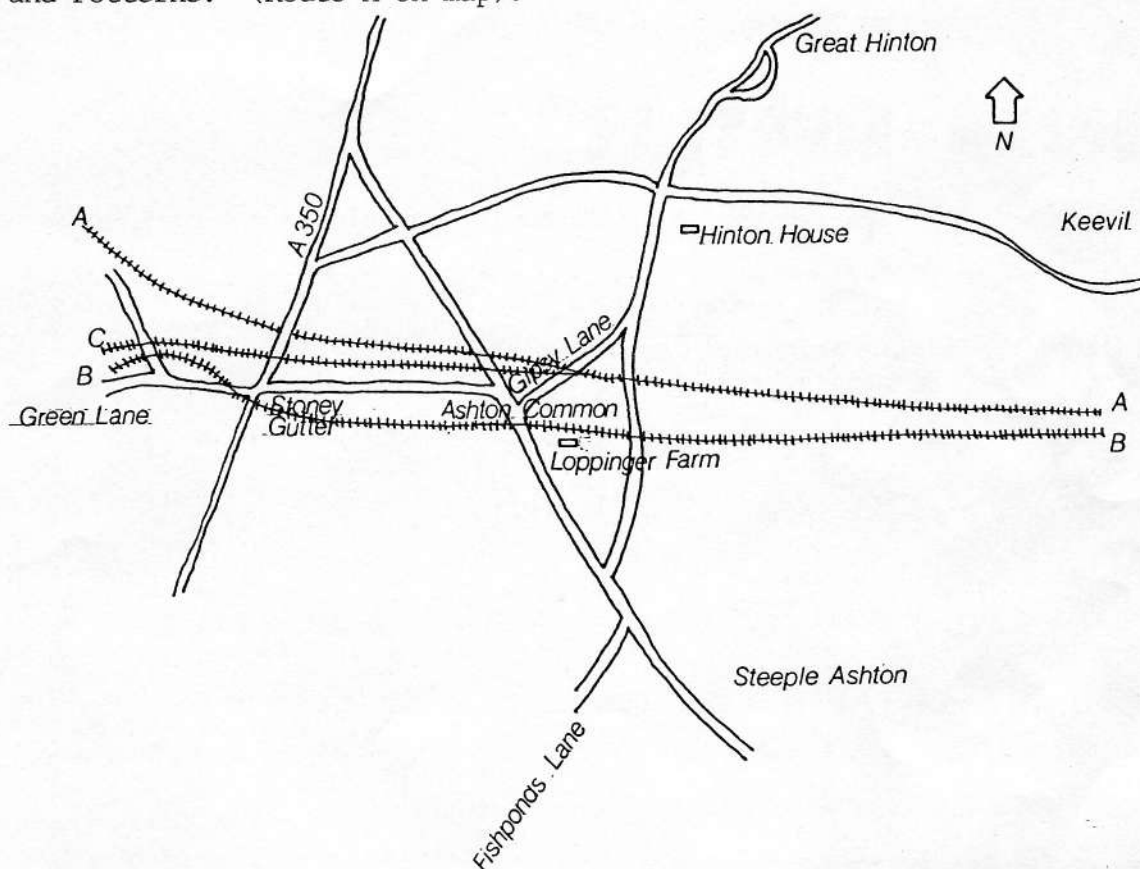
There will be a Skip by the Bus Shelter on Monday March 21st.

# ASHTON COMMON TO MANCHESTER THIRD CLASS RETURN PLEASE !!

LOCALISED RAILWAY MANIA :

by Brian Plummer, Great Hinton (Written about 10 years ago for Parish Newsletter).

It is difficult to imagine, especially in the post-Beeching era, that Steeple Ashton and Great Hinton were once in the minds of the railway speculators. This first occurred in 1834 when the BASING and BATH RAILWAY proposed to build a line connecting these places via Shalbourne and Bedwyn. This line was projected via the north of Trowbridge, Hilperton, Stoney Gutter Cross Roads, Ashton Common, Gipsy Lane, Castleleaze Farm heading eastwards, skirting south of Keevil and on to Bulkington, Worton and Potterne. (Route A on map).



In 1845 the SOUTHERN COUNTIES and BRISTOL, BATH and DOVER DIRECT RAILWAY, sponsored by the L.S.W.R., was projected. This was to follow the natural route via Bath, Bathford, Trowbridge, Devizes, Vale of Pewsey to Silchester. Here the line was to fork, one branch going to Weybridge and London, the other to Reigate for the south east and Dover. The Wiltshire cloth towns were specifically mentioned in the prospectus and a complicated network of junctions with all the railways it intended to intersect was expected to bring much revenue, particularly by the Manchester and Southampton Railway. This line (Route B on map) would have left the G.W.R. by Trowbridge Station, ran through Longfield, crossed the Ashton Road at Blackball Bridge, ran parallel to Green Lane and on to Stoney Gutter. It would have crossed Common Hill by the farm and run onto Loppinger Farm and then due east keeping about one furlong south, parallel to the first route described.

No whistles echoed across our fields, however, as both schemes came to nought. It was not until 1902 when the rattle of the surveyors' chains was heard again. This time it was the BRISTOL, LONDON & SOUTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY who projected a line almost identical to the route of 1834. Differences were that the line was to come across by Islington Motors, the cricket grounds and Palmer Gardens, Trowbridge, then to Green Lane and Stoney Gutter once more (Route C).

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## LOCALISED RAILWAY MANIA, CONTINUED.....

We all know that this scheme failed too but it is interesting to reflect that it nearly became possible to walk on to a platform at Ashton Common and say 'Third Class return to Manchester, please'. No doubt out line would have been axed by now but a local farmer pointed out to me, there would still be the cuttings and embankments where the children could play and the ragwort could grow.

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We are grateful to Audrey for this historical contribution which we are sure will interest alot of our readers.

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## PARISH MEETING

Great Hinton Annual Parish Meeting - This will be held in the Hall on Wednesday, 23rd March at 8 p.m.

### AGENDA.

Minutes of the last meeting held on March 25th, 1987.  
Chairman's report/Matters arising.,  
Financial Report.  
Village Hall and Community Committee Meetings.  
Road Safety Progress report.  
'Open Gardens' and Best Kept Village Competition in 1988.  
Trees in Village.  
Parishioners points of view.

COME AND AIR YOUR VIEWS.

Come and meet your friends with coffee and biscuits afterwards.

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## AGONY RUN

Full details of the 1988 AGONY RUN to be held on SUNDAY, 5th JUNE, will be included in the Summer issue of the Grapevine. Watch Notice Board for more information.

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Congratulations to Angela Giddings (formerly of Watts Farm) on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Christopher Farnsworth . We would like to wish them all happiness in their future together.

Congratulations also to Carol and Malcolm Burch are the arrival of their first baby, Ellen Mary, born on 31st January. A much needed new member for the Toddlers Club!

Thanks to Bill Irons of The Linnet for his hospitality on Christmas morning - a lovely opportunity to wish village friends a Happy Christmas!



## GENERAL

Best wishes to Maureen and Maurice Leary in their new home in Back Lane and welcome to the village to Anne & George Nokes who have moved into Maureen and Maurices' former home.

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### GREAT HINTON HISTORY:

We are trying to write a book on the Village history and would be very grateful if anyone could give or lend, us any photographs or information.

Russell Crumpler (870906) and Anthony Putt (870214).  
7, Peppercorn Orchard. 5, Littleton.

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I collect The cards out of the P.G. Tips tea and teabag packets and would be grateful to receive any. I also have swops.

Andrew Squibbs, 23A Great Hinton.

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### FOR SALE:

Childs Desk, School Type :	£15.00.
Childs Bike - Suite 4 -7 yr. old:	£15.00.
Beginners Skateboard - plastic.	£ 3.00.

All in good condition.  
Keevil 870634 - evenings.

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## CHURCH

All of us in Great Hinton would like to convey our good wishes to Derek Burden, our Vicar, for his continued medical progress.

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### EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to thank all the contributors for this issue of The Grapevine and hope the items keep coming in to make each issue as varied and interesting as possible.

ALL contibutions for the Summer issue to be in by 15th MAY latest please.

MIKE TRUMAN.



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