

# GRAPEVINE

**Spring 2000**

## Progress Report On The New Village Hall



Well, we have been telling you about it for some time. Now you can see it for yourself. Our old Village Hall has gone and the new Hall is growing before our eyes.

The builders started as planned on 7<sup>th</sup> February. the first task was to demolish and take away the old Hall. For many villagers this must have brought mixed feelings. Some of you will have used the old Hall for social events for many years and some of you will have spent time maintaining and refurbishing it over the years. It may have been old and tatty but it was part of the village scenery. What we do know from the builders is that it did not take long to pull it down; it was no longer safe.

The new Hall, as you can see is growing rapidly. We hope that the builders have not inconvenienced villagers; they are certainly very aware of the need to keep disruption to a minimum and are tidy and well organised, but inevitably there were occasions in the early stages of demolition and the laying of foundations, when lorries had to park in Main Street picking up and delivering skips and cement.

The builders are ahead of schedule by a few days so the target finish date of late June is still likely to be met.

# GREAT HINTON



## GREAT HINTON NEWS

It is always difficult to imagine what a new building will look like and what size it will be when it is under construction. When completed, the Hall will be larger than the old Hall by about two thirds. Mike Truman, the village artist in residence, has very kindly produced an artist's impression of the Hall, working from the drawings. Thanks Mike and we are all very sorry to hear that you and Ann are moving away from the village.

Once the Hall is completed we will be looking for help in fitting out the building with some work in the kitchen and some finishing of paintwork. We are sure that we can rely on volunteers to help out in late June/early July. If you are willing to help please speak to any members of the Trust Committee (see separate report from the Committee). Finally we will be having an official opening of the building and some early 'christening' activities. We do hope everyone will get involved; now its a bigger and better Hall we can get lots more people into it.

### Editorial

I would like to hand over the editing of the Grapevine due to personal and business commitments. Therefore, if you are interested in editing the Grapevine then please contact me and I can give you more details before you decide.  
If anyone would like to include any articles in the next Grapevine, please drop them in to me at Church Farm.

**All articles should be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2000.**

*Mark Newman* (870040)  
mark@newman35.freemove.co.uk

### 100 Club Winners

	December	Christmas Bonus	January	February
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sandra Crumpler	Mr. G. Field	Mrs. Nicholl	Ken Young
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Carol Clarke	Joyce Newman	Sue Smith	Peter Alker
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alice Hallam	Paul Winterburn	Mrs. S. Kibblewhite	Joe Norris
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Brown	-	Paul Winterburn	Alice Hallam
5 <sup>th</sup>	John Parsons	-	Pat Hall	John Parsons
6 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Burch	-	Sharon Day	Derek Saville
<b>Numbers Drawn By:</b>	May Newman	May Newman	Dorothy Young	Mike Truman

The new 100 club year has begun with 108 members and the first monthly draw took place on the last Tuesday of March.

	March
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Newman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Golly Burston
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Salmon
4 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Gates
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. S. Kibblewhite
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Gaulton
<b>Numbers Drawn By:</b>	Mrs. E. Pitcher



### Report From The Great Hinton Memorial Hall Trust

As you will understand, all the work of the Committee currently is focused on the new Hall Building Project. It is a very significant responsibility and does involve a surprising amount of work particularly for Chris Munday, the Project Leader, who meets regularly with the builders and the architect and has to make complicated monthly submissions for grant funding in line with monthly expenditure.

The funding of the building is based on money raised by the village plus a series of grants. When you are awarded a grant you do not get sent a cheque for the whole amount. Instead you have to make monthly claims to the grant holders to release part of the grant based on very detailed proof of the cost of work undertaken during that month (i.e. builders costs, solicitors costs etc). We are very dependent on the significant amount of work currently being undertaken by Chris.

There have recently been some changes in the membership of the Committee. Kevin Crumpler, who has been closely involved in the Village Hall Project from its most recent inception, made the decision to leave the Committee due to pressure of work. We are very grateful to Kevin for his involvement in the grant submissions and in the Trust Committee. Those of you who know Kevin will be aware of the great enthusiasm and commitment he has for anything he does, and we will miss that. Kevin was the Village Community Committee representative and Derek Saville has kindly agreed to take over as the Community Committee's representative on the Trust Committee.

The other membership change is that Ann Truman is being replaced by Carol Clarke as the Ladies Club representative. Ann and Mike Truman are moving away from the village, but luckily not too far. Those villagers who know them will miss Ann and Mike a great deal. They have both been closely involved in village activities for many years and are two of the most sociable and welcoming people around. I am sure that we all wish them well in their forthcoming move and happiness for the future.

To confirm the Committee's membership it is now:

Carol Clarke (Ladies Club Rep)  
Neil Haynes (Chairman)  
Chris Munday (Project Leader)  
Mark Newman (Treasurer)  
Derek Saville (Community Committee Rep)

*Neil Haynes*

### Neighbourhood Watch

Having been in touch with P.C. Drage, our village policeman, I am happy to confirm that all has been quiet since the last issue of the Grapevine. Long may it continue!

*Sandy Salmon* (870662)





## Great Hinton Parish Council

I am often surprised by the number of planning applications and related matters that arise in Great Hinton, especially as ours is one of the smallest parishes in West Wilts. During the last few months however we have seen an unusually large volume of planning issues, covering matters such as controversial business and agricultural use proposals, routine house extensions and the major highway proposals for a Semington by-pass.

### Semington By-Pass

I would like to thank everyone who visited the display of the Semington By-pass proposals, in the old village hall at the end of January, when there was unanimous opposition to the Southern extension of the road. The formal submission to the County planners supported the principle of a by-pass for Semington village but very strongly objected to extending the new road beyond the A361 Devizes Road. The list of attendees at the January consultation along with a copy of all of the written comments provided by visitors, were attached to the letter from the parish council. We have since heard that the District Council voted to support the proposals in full, despite their discontent over the lack of consultation on the Southern extension. As soon as we hear any further news we will let the village know.



### Making your voice Heard

The Parish council is only a consultee on planning matters and we also need to make our comments within the framework of planning law. Whilst such formal representation can be effective it can also be limited in conveying the strength of emotions aroused. It is therefore important for people to voice their opinions in as many ways as possible.

I would like to remind people that anyone can make written objections to, or support, planning proposals. The policy of the district council is also such that any member of the public can address the area committee meetings that decide planning applications, notice of which is placed on the village notice board. If you feel strongly about any planning matter please make your views known to a parish councillor but please also make direct contact with the planning department, Adrian Fox (our District councillor), Mrs. Joan Savage (our County councillor), and any other relevant person or organisation. In this way decision makers can be made very clearly aware of your views.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The redevelopment of the village hall means that we will not be able to hold our normal Annual Parish meeting, instead the Parish council will issue a written annual report in early summer. All parish council meetings are open to any parish resident and advance notice and meeting agenda is placed on the village notice board. Whilst we have no hall Parish Council meetings are held in a private home and therefore space at meetings is limited. If at any time you would like to know when the next meeting is to be held or would like to attend a meeting please contact the Clerk, Carol Burch

### Parish Footpaths – Volunteer Needed

Our public footpaths are an important amenity which are under constant threat from problems of disrepair, blockage etc. The County Council has first class footpaths officers in the highways department who are very good at dealing with landowners and in procuring repair works. As a Parish Council we urgently need a volunteer to act as liaison with the County Council. This is a



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simple task but it would particularly suit someone who is a regular user of the footpaths around the village. If you would like to volunteer or just want more information please ring myself at any time.

### **Best Kept Village**

We have again entered this competition. Judging for the district will be during May.

*Chris Munday* (Chairman)

## Village Hall Community Committee

The Community Committee has had a quiet period recently because the focus of the village's energy has been on the new Hall building. However the 100 Club continues to thrive and the Committee will now be looking forward to organising activities in the new Hall, including events to mark its opening.

Membership changes have also hit this Committee. Mike Truman has been actively involved in this Committee for many years, chairing it for some time. As reported above Ann and Mike Truman will be moving from the village shortly so they will leave a big hole in the Committee and its activities. In addition Kevin Crumpler who has been the Committee's Chair for the last few years has also stood down from the Committee due to work pressure. Kevin's energy as Chair has taken us through a very positive period of fun and fund raising with a series of very successful Agony Runs as well as a range of other events.



Finally Jean Hallam has stood down as Committee Treasurer after a number of years in the post. We are very grateful for all the work Jean has done as Treasurer. The more successful the Committee, the more work there is for the Treasurer. Judy Ramsey has kindly agreed to take over as Committee Treasurer.

Is there anyone out there who would like to join the Committee. Its a friendly and informal group. It does not involve a great deal of work but it is dependent on enough people to share the work around.

If you are interested contact Diane Norris, the Committee Secretary, on telephone number 870519.

### **AGM**

As you will know by now the old hall has been demolished and the new one beginning to take shape. This means the AGM cannot be on **Open** one as we are using members' homes for meetings at the moment. The accounts will be audited as usual and will be published on the village notice board. We look forward to holding an open meeting as soon as the new hall is useable.

### **Millennium Time Capsule**

Would you like to be put into a Time Capsule? We are still looking for ideas for a time capsule, to be incorporated in the new hall building. Have a photograph of your family taken outside your house. Put your name and address and any other information, such as when you moved here, on the back and let me or David Harnott have it. It would give a flavour of life in Great Hinton in 2000. Anything else you think should be included please let David know.

*Diane Norris*

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### Safari Dinner – Millennium Edition

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April was celebrated in true 'April Fool' style by 27 of us changing houses for our first safari dinner of the millennium in the rain!

We decided to splash out and celebrate in style starting at Gwen and David's with Bucks Fizz and Champagne.

We then progressed to our first courses and on to the main courses at different venues. All the guests managed to turn up at the correct places at the right time. However, between leaving Gwen and David's and arriving at Carol and Richard's some of the umbrellas had decided to swap owners; both Diane and Carol had the wrong ones!! It turned out that Diane had Carol's but the other one was not hers. So if you have lost a green umbrella and are wondering whose black one you have got - see Diane!

There were no further strange goings on and the 'Grand Finale' of the evening was more champagne and fireworks at Val and Peter's. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and is looking forward to the next one in October/November time. Many thanks to all the cooks, who as usual provided some wonderful food.

The date for the next dinner, No. 19 (it doesn't seem possible that we've been doing this for 9 years now), will be published in the summer Grapevine so keep an eye out, book the date in your diary and join us for a fun time.



*Sandra Crumpler*

### Ladies Club

We have enjoyed three very successful meetings since the last issue of the Grapevine.

In January we had our annual Skittles evening, once again partners came along and a jolly time was had by all. Next year we will be able to hold this event in the new Village Hall!

For the February meeting Carol welcomed us all to her home to hear Mr. Girvan of Devizes give an illustrated talk titled *Guess What?*. He'd brought with him some fascinating items from bygone days, including a Chastity belt!!

In March Carol opened her home for us once again for our Gourmet Night – this year the theme was *A DELIA DO* and the ladies and guests sat down to a superb meal together with wine supplied by the ladies. Thanks from all of us to Carol and Richard for their kind hospitality and hard work arranging the evening.

Again in April we will meet at Carol's for the A.G.M. Please do try to be there as it's our last meeting of the season – hopefully we may start the next season in the new Village Hall!

Sadly Mike and I won't be living in the village then so would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the lovely friends we've made in the eighteen happy years we've been in Great Hinton. We won't be far away, will keep in touch and will certainly be back for the Grand Opening of the new Village Hall – which has been so much a part of our lives for a long time now!!! We wish you all many happy times in this superb new building.

*Anne Truman* (Secretary)

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### Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal

The Year 2000 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and this also coincides with the fact that the Wiltshire Air Ambulance helicopter has now picked up its 1000<sup>th</sup> patient, which you will agree is a notable achievement.

You may already know that, in the Autumn of 1998 the Wiltshire Air Support Unit in Devizes took delivery of a new, faster helicopter, the Boeing MD-900 Explorer, to replace the reliable but ageing Bolkow 105.

For many years the amount of money the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal has had to raise to keep the Wiltshire Air Ambulance flying was fixed at £160,000 a year; unfortunately, this has now risen to an amount in excess of £200,000 a year.

This target is obviously much harder to reach for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal and therefore any contributions in time or money would be welcome. But, perhaps the most significant way to help the Appeal with its long-term funding is to leave a legacy in a will. If that is the case, it is definitely best to consult a solicitor on this matter. We appreciate that this is a very personal matter for anyone contemplating such a far reaching decision.

We have noted that over the last few years many people have requested that donations be given to the Appeal instead of gifts at wedding anniversaries and flowers at funerals. We feel that this is very beneficial and that this situation will continue.

For further information on how you can support, fundraise for, or give to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance contact Steve Chesworth or Frank Swan at The Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal, Dorman House, Malmesbury Road, Chipenham, Wiltshire SN15 5LN. Tel: 01249 463431

### Bats In The Belfry – Or Maybe In Your Roof?

This part of Wiltshire lies within the range of one of our rarest and most threatened mammals – the greater horseshoe bat. This pear-sized animal with small, bright eyes and an elaborate nose-leaf, tends to live in buildings in Summer and underground sites in Winter. At dusk it emerges to feed, hunting along hedgerows and over pastures for cockchafer, moths and other large insects. Like other bats it has a sophisticated *echolocation* system, letting out ultrasound squeaks and listening to the echoes coming back, although unlike other bats it goes this through its nose!



The greater horseshoe bat has undergone a drastic decline due to loss of habitat, use of insecticides and disturbance at roosting and hibernation sites; with only 4000 individuals remaining and 14 known breeding roosts in the country. Wiltshire is at the eastern edge of its current range, with the old stone mines around Bradford-on-Avon and at RAF Chilmark, providing nationally important hibernation sites; and a variety of house roofs, barns and boiler rooms providing Summer roost sites. We have a responsibility to look after these important places and perhaps help the bat to re-colonise former areas!

Although a rough distribution map can be compiled and some protection work is done by English Nature involving several Sites of Special Scientific Interest, little else has ever happened in Wiltshire. Overall, information is pretty scanty and out of date. Therefore, the recently initiated Wiltshire Greater Horseshoe Bat Project, run by the Wiltshire Bat Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, with funding from Wessex Water, aims to visit all known roost sites and search for new ones. As a householder in west Wiltshire, your help is needed! Dr. Sarah

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Grinsted, the project officer, is out with her bat detector and step ladder, looking for any type of bat roost, as well as greater horseshoe bat roosts, and can provide plenty of free information and advice about bats. If you know you have bats or think you might have, please get in touch with her. Sarah can be contacted at home (tel. 01722 743092) or via the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ, tel. 01380 725670).

### Welcome To New Villagers

Welcome to Alastair and Rosie Griffin with 2½ year old Monty and 2 month old Lily at Griffin's Lodge in Main Street.

### Odd Jobs?

Too busy to do those boring, repetitive jobs?

.. if yes then ask Colin Crumpler to do them for you!



I will be available from 3<sup>rd</sup> April until 25<sup>th</sup> April so if you want a job done whether it's painting, gardening, car washing, lawn mowing, etc. then you'd better book a date and time soon before I get fully booked.

*Colin Crumpler (870906)*

