

# The Grapevine Great Hinton

Editor Richard Clarke 870635

**MARCH 2002**

## Life in Nepal

Colin Crumpler

Many thanks to those who helped at my Jumble Sale and bought raffle tickets – the total raised was £193 of which I sent £48 to the Air Ambulance Appeal. I am very grateful for the remainder, which has helped to buy various specialist items of equipment which I need for the trip.

The raffle winners were:

Sunday Lunch at The Linnet – Russell Crumpler  
Lead Crystal Decanter & Glasses – Joan Barker  
'Cuddly Pig' – Charlotte (The Linnet)  
Bottle of Wine – Sue (The Linnet)  
Fridge Water Filter (courtesy of Knees) –  
Kate Preece (Westbury)

## The latest news

Some of you will have seen the email sent from Colin, but for those of you who haven't here is a brief summary of what he is up to.

Having survived getting up at 5.30 am, walking with a heavy rucksack, leaking tents, altitude sickness and 10 inches of snow on the tent one morning, he seems to be enjoying himself. He has seen wild boar, rhino and deer, been on an elephant ride, visited various temples and some villages and been white water rafting. Whilst trekking the group take it in turns to be leader for the day so at times he is in charge!! Bearing in mind that Snowdon is 900m, he has been up several peaks a lot higher than this already – one of 4500m. They have completed a short trek of 12 days, which included the 'sight-seeing bits' and a training trek of about two and a half weeks, when they started on the higher peaks. At the moment the third trek is taking them to Everest Base Camp and should last for the whole of March.

The intention was to go to a village prior to this third trek and build some latrines for them; however there were 600 maoists camped out there and they could not go. Work was found for the group at a Mother Teresa's Old People's Home in Kathmandu where they had to scrub floors, make beds and entertain the old people.

Hopefully once Colin returns he will be able to write a much more interesting report for the next issue of the Grapevine.

Sandra

## CHARGE of the KNIGHT BRIGADE (GREAT HINTON QUIZ COMPETITION)

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February Knights of the Square Table rode into town in their quest to seize the much sought after Holy Grail (the Holy Grail being the Great Hinton Quiz trophy kindly donated by David and Gwen Harnot).

For over two and a half hours five teams were visually tantalised by 48 pictures that had to be identified, then aurally challenged by some oh so familiar pieces of music whose names escape you at crunch time. In between these teasers, brains were battered by U.S.A., geography, history, sport, science and other (un?)familiar subjects.

Despite the efforts of the Tuesday Tipplers who weaved their way into an early lead but then fell away and the elegant resistance provided by the studious Librans, the Knights triumphed for the second time. Penetrating attacks by the Enigma team and more rumbustious rumblings from the Flying Pigs were not enough to thwart "King" Eddie and his cohorts.

To the winners our congratulations (hope you enjoyed the wine), to the other four teams Bravo!! The general consensus seems to be that the evening was a convivial social success. Disputes were few and were suitably dealt with by the Quiz Masters using a blend of gentle diplomatic benevolence (Ha! Ha!).

Thanks to all 33 participants who responded so well to the challenges set them at a fairly crisp pace. Hope to see you at the next quiz evening having had the time to sort out your moons from your planets, learned that Capital Cities will usually mean the more obscure parts of the world, and when studying picture boards remember that politicians are not just photographed when in power but even they were once sweet little kids.

Judy Ramsey

## FROM THE VICARAGE – A MESSAGE FOR EASTER

Dear Friends,

I came across this quotation by Soren Kierkegaard recently:

***"If I were a doctor and I could prescribe one cure for the modern ills of life it would be silence."***

I would like to ask that we keep silent, first of all at the foot of the cross, where Jesus died for us – and then at the empty tomb, to recall the wonderful truth that, in the words of a well known hymn –

"He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good;  
That we might go at last to heaven  
Saved by his precious blood."

Here is the starting point for life to begin in a new way. Reconciliation is now possible between us and God and then between one another. God is concerned about the state of his world and He has done what is necessary to change it for good. Each of us needs to accept his solution in Jesus, which provides hope for us now and a glorious future to anticipate in the world to come.

Otherwise, we have ourselves to blame if things go from bad to worse.

In Christian love,

*David Hart*

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## LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS (as produced by Hubbard's cereals!)

<i>Sing in the shower.....</i>	<i>Be the first to say "Hello"....</i>
<i>Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated.....</i>	<i>Return all things you borrow.....</i>
<i>Watch a sunrise at least once a year.....</i>	<i>Make new friends but cherish the old ones.....</i>
<i>Never refuse homemade brownies.....</i>	<i>Keep secrets.....</i>
<i>Strive for excellence, not perfection.....</i>	<i>Plant flowers every spring.....</i>
<i>Learn three clean jokes.....</i>	<i>Have a dog.....</i>
<i>Compliment three people every day.....</i>	<i>Always accept an outstretched hand.....</i>
<i>Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.....</i>	<i>Wave at kids on school buses.....</i>
<i>Keep it simple.....</i>	<i>Be there when people need you.....</i>
<i>Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know....</i>	<i>Don't expect life to be fair.....</i>
<i>Be forgiving of yourself and others.....</i>	<i>Never underestimate the power of love.....</i>
<i>Say "Thank you" a lot.....</i>	<i>Live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation.....</i>
<i>Say "Please" a lot.....</i>	<i>Don't be afraid to say "I made a mistake".....</i>
<i>Avoid negative people.....</i>	<i>Compliment even small improvements.....</i>
<i>Wear polished shoes.....</i>	<i>Keep your promises (no matter what).....</i>
<i>Remember other people's birthdays.....</i>	<i>Marry only for love.....</i>
<i>Eat Hubbard's cereals daily.....</i>	<i>Rekindle old friendships.....</i>
<i>Have a firm handshake.....</i>	<i>Count your blessings.....</i>
	<i>Call your mother.</i>

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## In Memory of Jean Hallam

As many will have noticed, bulbs have been planted at the base of the hawthorn tree at the entrance to the village. It is hoped to add to these in the Autumn.

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new neighbours at 8 Peppercorn Orchard – Debbie, Paul and Robert Ellis – who moved in just before Christmas. Hopefully with the spring and summer on the way we will all be out and about and can get to know each other. We all hope they will enjoy life in Great Hinton.

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**THE LINNET** Congratulations to Jon and his staff for reaching the finals for the "Best Pub Restaurant" in the nationwide competition. Although the winner was selected from Wales, The Linnet finished runner up which is an amazing result for our pub. As you will probably know, The Linnet's restaurant has been enlarged and redecorated, providing more space for some extra tables and there is a high tech new kitchen. Call in to sample the new menu, but it is advisable to book on 01380 870354

**Buy Your Own Club** Tuesday evenings at the Linnet are still as popular as ever. We usually meet at about 8.30pm to enjoy a good chat with a drink with no rounds to buy. Come and join us. **Mike Truman**

### Neighbourhood Watch

#### The Mystery of the Re-appearing Gnomes (with apologies to E.B.)

One day they were there, the next they were gone. 3 Gnomes gone walkabout. Some thought they had returned to their Gnomeland, others that they had joined the Gnome Guard. When it was suggested that they had, with others of their kind, joined the National Elf Service, it was decided that matters had been taken far enough, and the subject was declared taboo.

Suddenly they reappeared in their Gnome garden, 3 Gnomes looking none the worse for their adventures. Nobody saw them go or come back. Anybody who knows where they have been please let me know. Other suggestions will not be welcome.

Seriously folks, there have been one or two incidents in the village recently. A lorry broken into in Coldharbour and strangers in the village. Please keep an eye out for anything strange and let me know. A special word of warning to keep your garages and garden sheds locked up.

**David Harnott 871196**

#### Our County Councillor writes

Any resident is welcome to get in touch if they have any problems involving the County Council. I hold a surgery at my home on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12 noon.

**Trevor Carbin**  
228 Church Street Hilperton  
Trowbridge BA14 7RG  
01225 762032  
cllrtcabin@westwiltshire.gov.uk

### HANGOVER PARTY

There was good support for our annual party in January which was enormous fun. Once again Kevin had organised some very devious and hilarious games for the four teams, including the ever popular cocktail tasting!! Thanks too, to Neil for preparing the buffet supper and to everyone who took part in the evening – it gets better each year!

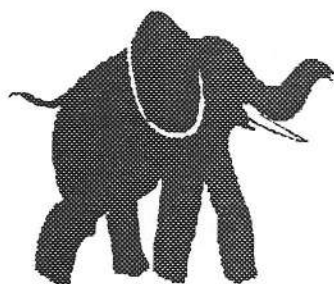
**Anne Truman**

*(I presume that this report is short because either such a good time was had by all that nobody can recall what actually happened or too many secrets were let out of the bag – Ed)*

### ART GROUP

Our Thursday evening group of eleven villagers continue to produce excellent pictures. We hope to be arranging a second exhibition to support a charity and provide funds for the village hall, and hope to include village crafts. More information in the next Grapevine.

**Mike Truman**

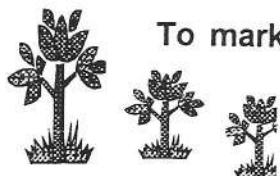


**SAFARI DINNER** The next Safari Dinner will be held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**. Write this very important date in your diaries NOW to ensure that you are free to attend and enjoy every minute of the evening.

Please let me know by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** whether or not you would like to join us and I will spend my Bank Holiday working out the courses etc so that you know by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> what you have let yourself in for this time!!

Cheers to another very enjoyable evening!

**Sandra 870906**



**To mark the Queen's Jubilee** the village hall committee have discussed the possibility of planting a row of trees to complete an avenue of trees on the approach road to the village from Coldharbour.

Any other suggestions please to **David 871196**



**100 CLUB** On going to press we are in the process of asking members to renew their subscriptions for a further year – if we have not contacted you for renewal or you wish to join for the first time, please phone me. This is a very important fund raising event and forms the basis of our expenditure on the village hall.

David Harnot 871198

### 100 Club Winners

	December	January	February	Christmas Bonus
£14	Mrs McDonic	Jenny Scrivener	Jillian Fennell	Doris Saville
£12	Monica Meade	Mrs Mills	Lynne Wiltshire	Ian Knight
£10	Tom Meade	Joyce Newman	Ian Knight	Steve Mustar
£8	Clive Black	Richard Andrew	W Mannings	
£5	Golly Burston	S.Selwyn Smith	Rod Towler	

The 100 club draw takes place on the last Tuesday of each month at the Linnet's village B.Y.O. night.

**BADMINTON GROUP** continues to prosper and grow in size. There are no eleven villagers playing regularly and they are ably supported by three guest players. Our numbers were recently swelled by the addition of Richard Andrew and Richard Clarke. Unfortunately Richard A. is currently out of action whilst he recovers from recent bout of ill health. We wish you a speedy and successful recovery Richard. We recently organised a mini tournament with Kevin Crumpler leading the "A" team and Neil Haynes leading the "B" team. The winner was decided by the team that scored the most points over the eight games played. The result was a win for the "A" team with 97 points with the "B" team coming second with 90 points. As a point of interest each team won four games.



Colin Ramsey

### LADIES' CLUB

Some of us have been globe-trotting in the last three months, with Audrey and Diane away in USA and Australia respectively and I have just returned from New Zealand. It makes winter pleasantly short though, and with Spring just around the corner, I am reminded that April will be our last meeting before the Summer break! Since our last report we've also had three of our ladies in hospital and we wish Anne, Joan and Gwen speedy recoveries to full health.

Springtime for the ladies' club means Gourmet Night (we do love our food!) and in this Golden Jubilee year we have a 1950's theme. Will it be an evening of bacon roly-poly and bread pudding I wonder? By the time you read this, some of you will know. Any way, we look forward to inviting our men folk and friends to help us reminisce and possibly rock and roll the night away.

Looking back, we were very grateful for your support for the "Carols by Candlelight" in the village hall. We raised £100 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. It was a great success and will be repeated next December.

**Lunch Club** has continued to thrive. We normally have about 18 members present. It is very pleasant to meet together with friends and acquaintances from the village and enjoy a meal in convivial surroundings.

This is not an "exclusive" club and anyone is welcome to come and join us even if you can

There were a handful of children there, but we would love to have seen more.

In January we enjoyed a skittles night when Joan won the 'killer' round and Pat, the Golly Cup. Mrs Constance Rigby came in February to talk about and demonstrate the art of pressed flowers. Her enthusiasm and the wonderful colours provided by her hobby were much enjoyed by the ladies.

April brings our AGM and Bring & Buy with any profits from the evening going to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. That will be the final fund-raising event for them for a while (we were able to send them £687 from the Summer Village fete as well) and we need to decide on a worthy cause for the coming year. Any suggestions?

Thank you to everyone who so faithfully supports the club on the third Wednesday of each month, 8pm in the hall. We have a lot of fun and would love to welcome more of you village ladies. If you'd like to come, give me a ring or just turn up – you'll be made very welcome.

Carol Clarke 870635

only come occasionally. Give it a try sometime!

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. from September to April and then have a break during the summer months.

We look forward to seeing some new faces.

Audrey Plummer

### JUBILEE PARTY

The organisation for the JUBILEE PARTY to be held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June is at the ideas stage and the following format for the day seems to be getting a good reception:

- Lunch in the Linnet front car park for all the family
- Possibly a colour theme or a dress code!
- Children's games
- Jubilee raffle
- Skittle competition using the outdoor boards
- Late afternoon – a team treasure hunt around the village on foot
- Evening barbecue with music (Live?)
- Setting light a beacon and/or fireworks

We need to decorate the car park with bunting etc. and we would also like to present a memento of the day to all the children in the village.

Jonathan has kindly allowed the Linnet car park to be used and the pub will be open for the day.

Currently Audrey, Anne, Mike & Kevin are organising the event but would welcome other volunteers. You may be asked to arrange the raffle; keep the finances; organise the BBQ; run the skittles; organise the tables etc. The Memorial Hall will provide a back-up if it's a rainy day.

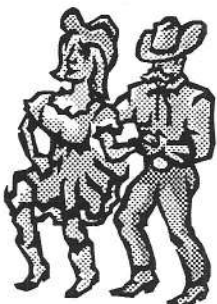
Now we need to accomplish two things .....

### GREAT HINTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Community Committee is the group that puts together a programme of social activities for the village and supports the Hall Trust through fund raising.

Since Christmas we have held the Hangover Party and a Quiz Evening. Many thanks to Colin and Judy Ramsey for organising and running a very successful quiz and to Audrey for organising the food. All of those who attended left happier and wiser - we now know for example that the capital of Paraguay is Asuncion, jolly useful if you are ever visiting the area.

A 'sub-committee' led by Kevin Crumpler is working on activities to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.



### Will you be coming? & Raising funds?

The major fund raising activity is the AUCTION OF PROMISES on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April with viewing from 15:00 and the auction starting at 17:00. We have already been promised...

- Children's pony ride for 2 hours
- Framed watercolour print of Keevil or Steeple Ashton church
- Hand painted silk cushion
- 3 hours of EXCEL spreadsheet training
- 2 hours of gardening
- 2 hours of ironing
- ..... now think what you could offer

We will be accepting both items and also provisions of a service so please telephone with your promise, but don't be surprised if we visit you one evening if we haven't heard from you – so be ready!

In order to provide the lunch every household attending will be asked for a specific contribution. Again, please telephone if you will be coming so that we can base our plans on the expected numbers.

With your help we can make this a memorable day.

**Kevin Crumpler 870906**

Richard Andrews has been running Whist Drives fortnightly for the last two months, with the number of participants increasing. The last of those currently planned is on Monday 25 March. Richard and the Committee will then decide whether we continue with regular Whist Drives in the Hall.

The next event is a village Barn Dance. This is a complete contrast from the Quiz Evening; no need to exercise your brain but you will need to exercise your legs and jump about a bit. Do join in the fun - see below for details.

Led by David Hamott, work has almost been completed on renewing membership of the 100 Club for 2002/3. I hope you have joined the Club; now just sit back and wait to collect your winnings.

**Neil Haynes**

### BARN DANCE IN THE VILLAGE HALL 8.00pm Saturday 13 April

£5 a ticket to include a buffet supper; bring your own drinks.

Led by caller - "the ever popular" Reg. For tickets contact Diane Norris (870519)

## **GREAT HINTON MEMORIAL HALL TRUST**

Now we have the new village hall, the work of the Trust has changed and quietened down a little. We continue to work in partnership with the Community Committee to ensure that we have enough money coming in to cover the running costs of the Hall, and to see the Hall used as much as possible, particularly by people from the village and surrounding area.

The one continuing problem we have with the Hall which, as I write we are still trying to get solved, is a fault in the alarm system. This has become a source of much frustration for all of us as the contractors have appeared to solve the problem on a number of occasions only for the fault to reappear after a few weeks. We can offer our thanks to those people who turn out to reset the alarm when it goes off, but what we must do is achieve a permanent solution to the problem as soon as possible.

After much deliberation over how to cope with cleaning the Hall we have taken the decision to employ someone for a few hours a month to do this

job. This has already resulted in a very significant improvement in the state of the Hall and we will continue with this arrangement.

Occasional and regular lettings of the Hall continue to increase with the latest regular event being the fortnightly Whist Drives organised by Richard Andrews.

Working with the Community Committee we are just about to make an application for Lottery funding to upgrade the kitchen in the Hall. When the Hall was built the kitchen was not a priority because money was tight. Events in the Hall are now demanding more and better kitchen equipment; for example the regular Lunch Club is very successful and providing hot meals for 20 plus members is almost impossible in the present kitchen.

We will be holding our AGM in early May. Look out for an announcement on the date and time of the meeting on the Village Notice Board and outside the Hall.

**Neil Haynes**

## **GREAT HINTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Semington By-Pass**

The decision of the Public Inquiry was published just before Christmas. As you will probably know the Secretary of State decided to allow the proposal, including the extension South of the A361 (Devizes Road) that we and others objected to.

The Appeal Inspector took account of our objection but concluded that the benefit of the Southern extension outweighed any environmental impact. In particular the Inspector commented in his report; "...that little noise should be expected (in Great Hinton village) and I believe that, with time, the extensive planting would soften what limited noise and visual effects there might be."

We can only hope that the impact on our environment is indeed limited but I fear that the reality will be as intrusive as we originally suspected. Anyone who would like to see the full report should contact Chris Munday.

Construction work has already started with the building of a temporary diversion of the Canal, with the full contract likely to commence this year.

### **Council Tax**

We all received our Council Tax bill a few weeks ago, and I am sure that you will have seen that the funding of the Parish Council has leapt by 63.1%. This increase will result in the Parish Council receiving total funding of £2,500.

As outlined in the last edition of the Grapevine the shelter at the village bus stop was destroyed last year and the Council have decided that we need to replace it. With this in mind we needed an extra

£1,000 in our budget in order to meet the construction cost. Investigations have so far shown that a timber structure is likely to be too expensive, whilst a metal frame with plastic glazing would be inappropriate in a rural setting. The probable solution will be to build a simple block-work structure with sloping roof, similar to the previous shelter.

We also face other minor increased costs such as insurance premium and an increase from £200 to £250 for the grass cutting, at the entrance to the village. From the comments that I have received I think a majority share the Parish Council's view that the contractor did an excellent job last summer, achieving a consistent quality that we haven't seen for quite a number of years.

### **Highway Maintenance**

The County Council "Parish Lengthsmen" are due to visit us again at the beginning of May so if you are aware of a small repair or other task please let one of your Parish Councillors know.

### **Best Kept Village**

We have once again entered the best kept village competition. Judging is based on maintenance and tidiness of public facilities (such as the Hall, Phone Box, Notice Board Village pump etc) and public spaces (the roadways, verges etc). The judges also take into account boundary fences and hedges and also private gardens visible from the road. If together we can maintain, or even improve, the standards of previous years we can once again do well - remember we won the district round last year and only just fell short of the County prize. Judges usually arrive in late May.

**Chris Munday Chairman 870912**

**HALL BOOKINGS - session (morning, afternoon or evening) costs £10 which must be one of the cheapest halls in the area.**  
**To book phone David 871196**