



DECEMBER 2002

We are lucky to have so many people organising events, activities and services for us to enjoy as villagers and I am pleased to see from the reports that record numbers are participating in Village life. If you lived in city you might just know your neighbour but in Great Hinton we have a great feeling of community which is such a support when accidents and burglaries occur. So if you are not yet involved, here is your invitation to join in. It's your village – enjoy it! – and let the season of goodwill last throughout the year.

Richard Clarke Editor 870635

Great Hinton Parish Council

Parish Highways

As many of you will know there was a serious road accident between a car and heavy lorry a few weeks ago on the corner outside "Quilkins", at the top of the hill in Coldharbour. Fortunately – and miraculously – the car driver from our village was not seriously injured on this occasion, though it has highlighted how potentially dangerous this "blind" corner can be.

The Parish Council meeting on 4th December will consider what representations we should make to the County Highways Authority as we open a campaign to improve safety on this narrow, twisting stretch of road. The options available would seem to be to:

- Press for the re-introduction of the 7.5 tonne weight limit that was temporarily in force earlier this year;
- Argue the case for greatly improved warning signage on both approaches to the corner;
- Propose the installation of an improved, anti-skid, road surface; etc.

As a Council we will be liaising with Keevil Parish, Trevor Carbin (our County Councillor) and Adrian Fox (District Councillor) in order to ensure co-ordination and maximum impact. If you have any thoughts as to how road safety at this corner or indeed any other location around the village can be improved, then please contact any of your parish councillors.

With winter upon us now, we once again face the prospect of months of damage to the road edges, and the resultant muddy road surfaces, both through the village and on the approach roads. Consequently I would like to appeal for everyone to reduce traffic speed, so that passing can be undertaken more carefully.

Bus Shelter

Nothing has been finalised on the bus shelter. Various design ideas have been investigated, including styles of pre-fabricated shelters, and we are now looking at having something built to order. There is also a possibility of some grant assistance. We hope that the new shelter which is finally chosen will be built in early Spring.

Parish Council Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a Parish councillor. The duties and responsibilities are not onerous nor is there any great time commitment required (usually a maximum of 6 meetings in a year), but it is a vital element of local democracy. We urgently need a volunteer who would be willing to help protect and serve our community and local services. If you would be willing to join the Parish Council please telephone me or any of my fellow councillors for an informal chat.

Chris Munday
Chairman
Tel: 870912

Neighbourhood Watch

During the recent spate of burglaries it was reassuring to know that people were watching out for suspicious activity and strangers in the village. It is thought that the burglar was disturbed on two occasions before he could enter properties. So now that he has been apprehended and found with stolen property in his possession we can hope that we will be a crime-free area again. However, let's continue to be vigilant and take sensible precautions when leaving the house empty. Leave some lights on, preferably on a time switch, tell your neighbour if you are going away for more than a day, and do report anything suspicious to the Police. Keep a note of the Police contact numbers in your personal telephone and address book

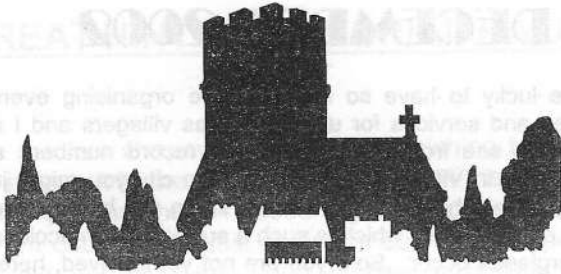
01380 735 735
01225 763101

David Harnott
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Tel: 871196

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2002

Congratulations to Great Hinton for a best-ever collection of over £124 and The Linnet with its static box raised over £14 as well. Many thanks for your generosity and support for all retired Service men and women in need of help.

Bill Barker



Steeple Ashton Vicarage

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches, I thought I would share with you the words of a popular Arabic Carol, called 'On the Eve of Christmas' which is one of the items in 'Shine on, star of Bethlehem' from Christian Aid.

On the Eve of Christmas	Hatred will vanish
On the Eve of Christmas	The earth will flourish
On the Eve of Christmas	War will be gone
On the Eve of Christmas	Love will be born

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

It is Christmas

When the spirit of revenge dies in me

It is Christmas

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

It is Christmas

When I am buried in the being of God

It is Christmas

I pray that it will be Christmas for each of us in a new way this year.

In Christian love,

David Hart

The poem is from "Shine on, star of Bethlehem" compiled by Geoffrey Duncan. Christian Aid ISBN1853114170

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our service this year was held in the hall on Sunday, 13th October. It was good to see so many people there, especially the children.

The auction of fruit and vegetables made £73 which was sent to Action-on-Homelessness. Many thanks to all who helped to decorate the hall and to all who donated fruit, vegetables, tinned food, jam, etc.

Audrey Plummer

Christmas Lunch

The Lunch Club continues to flourish. We all enjoy our monthly get together for a good chat to catch up with village news.

We shall be holding our traditional Christmas lunch on Thursday, 12th December at 12.15pm for 12.30pm at the cost of £3.50 per head.

All will be welcome as long as you book your place by ringing Richard and Carol on 870635 or me by Monday, 9th December.

Audrey Plummer 870586

Carols by Candlelight

By popular request, on Tuesday 17th December we will once again hold an evening of Christmas Carols, Stories and Poetry by candlelight with mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall. We would like to invite all villagers to join us, especially the children. This replaces the often wet, cold walk by a frozen few around the village to raise money for our chosen charity. We will still have a collection - last year it was a magnificent £100 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. This year our charity is the Children's Hospice in Fremington, near Barnstaple, Devon. Do come, the more the merrier, and if you have something Christmassy you would like to read, sing or play then let me know by the first week in December.

Carol Clarke 870635

Ladies Club

B.Y.O. Night

Tuesdays at The Linnet 8.30 - 10.30pm (but come to the Carols by Candlelight first on 17th December!)

As popular as ever and more villagers have joined in.

Buy Your Own drinks and enjoy a good chat to catch up on village news or world affairs! Enjoy your local pub.

PARTIES, ANNIVERSARIES,
WEDDINGS, MEETINGS ETC

Great Hinton Memorial Hall is available
for private lettings.

Charges are low and we offer
preferential rates for local residents.

For information and bookings
Contact David Harnott on 871196

The "Feathers" are still Flying

The Badminton group continues to flourish. Despite the fact that some members have occasionally preferred to go on holiday rather than play Badminton (I know – it's extraordinary isn't it) we have been able to play continuously throughout the year.

Some months ago we increased our fees to £1.50 per session – 30p of which was allocated to Village Hall funds. As a result the group developed a healthy surplus and has been able to pay £70 into village hall funds towards the cost of the new chairs.

Village membership numbers 14 although we have temporarily lost the services of Kevin, and Richard Andrew has been incapacitated through injury. These numbers are augmented by three stalwarts from outside the village. We would be very pleased to gain new members and beginners are very welcome.

Colin Ramsey 870202

Ladies Club

We were so pleased to have met some new ladies at our first meeting in September when we held a wine and cheese evening. Despite the fact that some of our regular ladies were away for one reason or another, there was a good turn-out and with so many plates of nibbles we could have held a wedding reception!

In October we filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child charity as usual, and yet again increased the number to around 60 boxes which were well and truly packed with goodies. Thank you ladies for your generosity – and a special thank you to Doris for producing so many hats and scarves on her trusty knitting machine, to Carol for arriving with a box full of cuddly toys that she had pre-washed, and to Audrey and Diane for delivering all the boxes to the depot.

Our creative skills were tested in November when Audrey and her friend taught us how to make silk scarves. There were many pretty results from the technique using vinegar, dye and the microwave. We always enjoy trying something different – sometimes discovering talents we didn't know we had, other times having a good laugh at our efforts. An example of past experience was when we all tried glass-painting and one of our members painted a beautiful Clarice Cliff-style design, only to lose it all when she put the glass in the dishwasher some time later!

We round the year off with a Christmas meal in The Linnet on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm for 7.30pm – and of course we know it will be delicious – as always. We are very grateful to Jon for tolerating 20 and more chatty women in party mood! I shall need to hand the menu choice sheet to John by 11th December at the latest so if you have expressed your wish to come and have not yet given me your choice please phone me asap.

Carol Clarke 870635

Art Group

The Art Group (now two years old) is still proving to be a very productive and entertaining evening. Meeting as always on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30pm. "Come and join us". No decision has yet been made on a date for the Group's second exhibition, but it is likely to be early Spring 2003, when it is hoped that the exhibition can include handicrafts. Please contact Mike Truman 870607 or Carol Clarke 870635 if you are willing to display your craft or hobby product.

Mike Truman has framed prints available of his paintings of our local churches:-

St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton

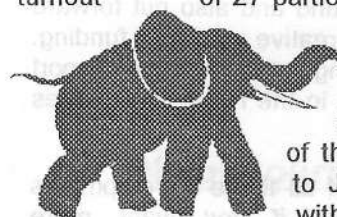
St Leonard's Church, Keevil

St George's Church, Semington

Each picture sold (at £45.00) includes a £5.00 donation to the church.

Safari Dinner

This was yet another successful event, with a record turnout of 27 participants and it was thoroughly



enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Carolyn and Neil for hosting the Coffee, Port and Cheese at the end of the evening. Thanks also go to Jon at the Linnet for coping with the influx of 27 villagers for half an hour at the beginning of the evening. His dinner guests must wonder what on earth is going on!!

The next Safari Dinner will be in April/May 2003 and the date will be published in the next edition of the Grapevine – don't forget to add it to your diary the minute you see it!

Sandra

PARTY TIME

**CELEBRATE WITH FRIENDS AND SEE IN
THE NEW YEAR AT**

THE LINNET

**ENJOY A BUFFET SUPPER INCLUDING VENISON
HAGGIS SEAFOOD AND A VEGETARIAN OPTION
DELICIOUS SELECTION OF DESSERTS
AND THEN THE TABLES WILL BE MOVED TO MAKE
WAY FOR DANCING TO JON'S DISCO
CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT
COME IN FANCY DRESS ON A SEASONAL THEME
SANTA AND HIS HELPERS, RUDOLPH, FAIRIES,
PIXIES, ANGELS, ETC.**

8.00PM TO 1.30AM

TICKETS AT £30 – PAYMENT IN FULL ON BOOKING.

JON 870354

GREAT HINTON MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

Since the last Grapevine report, the finishing touches have been put to the interior decorations of the Hall. In addition you may have noticed a great improvement to the front door. Our initial choice of colour and type of paint did not give the good quality finish that we wanted for the entrance to our Hall so Mike Truman took on the front door as a project and has done an excellent job.

We have now replaced the wooden chairs in the Hall with new plastic chairs. Many of the old chairs have had to be scrapped over the last year as they are delaminating and becoming dangerous. The new chairs were funded through the Community Committee with the money that was left over from the Jubilee Day Auction of Promises. We have also had a good quality fence erected along the west boundary of the Hall and will eventually need to erect a fence at the rear of the building.

We are still trying to get funding to upgrade the Hall kitchen to make it easier to cater for greater numbers. Our first grant application was unsuccessful but we have reapplied to the same fund and also put forward an initial application to an alternative source of funding. At the same time we are hoping to get financial support to replace the wooden tables in the Hall – new tables to go with our new chairs.

We will keep you informed of all these developments through the Grapevine, but if you want more information please contact me.

Our thanks go to Judy and Colin Ramsey for donating the hostess trolley and china to the Hall as they down-size and get ready to move onto a narrow boat.

GREAT HINTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We have had three social events in the Hall since the last Grapevine, starting with the Village Skittles on 14 September. This was a lively evening as usual. In the final nail-biting game of "Killer", Claire Evans held off the opposition to emerge as winner. She walked off with an enormous cash prize (we had arranged a Securicor escort home for the winner). If you don't know what Killer is, come along to the next Skittles Evening.

On 12 October we held the first Harvest Supper in the new Hall. The Hall was beautifully decorated and the food was excellent. Just short of 30 villagers crowded around a long communal table and were very well looked after by a team of helpers led by Audrey Plummer.

The final event before Christmas was the Quiz Evening. This is becoming a popular village activity and again around 30 villagers met on 23 November. The evening was very well organised and led by Ann and Mike Truman who kept us all working hard throughout the evening with a good range of 'mental challenges'. The village has discovered in Ann and Mike our own natural quizmasters, with Ann as the Ann Robinson and Mike as the Nicholas Parsons of Great Hinton. The competition was tight to the end when one team held off all challengers to win yet again – congratulations to the "Knights of the Square Table" led by its patron, Eddie Knight, the Godfather of Quiz Evenings. The challenge is on to match the Knights at the next Quiz Evening – or we might just ask them to set the questions!

Neil Haynes 870153

VILLAGE HANGOVER PARTY

Saturday 11 January

All welcome for an evening to lift the New Year blues.

Put the dates in your diary and look out for more information on the Village Hall notice board.

EASTER CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Saturday 5 April

10.00am-12.30pm

GREAT HINTON 100 CLUB DRAW

		£15		£12		£10		£8		£5
March	100	Brenda Hobbs	87	Ruby Perrett	69	Mark Newman	63	May Newman	9	T Cuning'm
April	99	J Newman	31	Mrs McDonic	1	Mary Jones	97	S Tapper	33	Chris Munday
May	52	P Parsons	25	M Cuning'm	37	M Ashton	99	J Newman	8	Derek Saville
June	64	P S-Smith	45	John Putt	27	L Wiltshire	84	Fred Hobbs	80	Joe Brown
July	10	Mike Evans	84	Fred Hobbs	59	H Brown	62	H Shipman	58	Golly Burton
August	19	R Andrews	69	Mark Newman	73	Colin Ramsey	51	Mrs Ghey	65	W Propert
September	27	L Wiltshire	3	Ian Knight	85	Sue Smith	48	B Shipman	77	Mary Noad
October	67	J Furby	102	Carol Clarke	41	Ann Truman	95	K Crumpler	26	E Welch
November	84	Fred Hobbs	32	Julie Doel	68	Val Austin	75	J Fennell	30	Eddie Knight

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS TO THE VILLAGE
THE NICHOLS FAMILY WHO HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO QUILKINS ON COLD HARBOUR
AND WENDY MITCHELL AT COPPERFIELD NO 39B (ONE OF THE BUNGALOWS)