

# The Grapevine Great Hinton

**Editor Richard Clarke 870635**

**April 2003**

## Great Hinton Parish Council

### Parish Highways

You may recall that in the last Grapevine I outlined the concerns that your Parish Council has over road safety at the top of the hill in Coldharbour. We have followed this up with a letter to the County Council asking that they take urgent steps to at least improve warning signage on both approaches to this dangerous corner. I will keep you updated on this matter as we, along with Keevil PC, are very concerned that action should be taken.

The contractors have recently started work on the Semington By-Pass. As the contract progresses there is likely to be a fairly substantial increase in traffic using the village as a "Rat-run" to avoid delays caused by the work. Anticipating this we recently wrote to the County Highways department asking them to take measures to limit the additional traffic but they have responded in an entirely negative way. We will try again to have our concerns heard but I am not optimistic.

### Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has decided that the replacement shelter should be a brick structure with a tiled roof, rather than the alternatives of timber or metal and Perspex. A preliminary quote has been obtained which, at £2,200, is just affordable. There is an opportunity for us to apply to the County Council for grant support of up to 50%. A grant application is being prepared for submission shortly and other quotes are to be obtained in order to ensure value for money. The timetable for construction will, to a large extent, be determined by the progress of the grant application and at the present time we have no firm indication of how long that process will be.

### New Parish Councillor

I am very pleased to announce that Mary Clipson, of Ashwell Cottage, has joined us as a Parish Councillor, which brings us back to a full complement of five councillors.

### Best Kept Village Competition

It's that time of year once again. We have submitted our entry and the judges can be expected at any time

from late May onwards. Judging covers the cleanliness and tidiness of public spaces but also places a great deal of emphasis on the condition and "presentation" of all visible features in the village. The condition of the village hall, telephone box, notice board, village pump, etc, will therefore be important to a good score. Less obviously but equally important they also look closely at private gardens visible from the road, the condition of hedges, fences and verges and also seek an overall impression of how "Well Kept" the village truly is. We have a tremendous record in this competition and with just a small effort we can do well again.

**Chris Munday Chairman**

**Tel: 870912**

## From the Vicarage Steeple Ashton

Dear Friends

This time of year can become increasingly busy. It is lovely to see spring bursting forth once again, but this heralds the appearance of many jobs in and around the garden. Then perhaps we are planning, or getting ready for holidays.

In a few weeks we will be celebrating the climax of Jesus life as we remember again his death and resurrection, through which he became the Saviour of the world, as his name signifies. Can we make time in our busy schedules to think about what this can mean for each of us?

There is a story in the Bible about two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus often went to their home away from the pressing crowds. On one occasion Mary was quietly sitting listening to him. Martha was over-busy in the kitchen. In time she came to where Mary and Jesus were sitting and complained that Mary was doing nothing to help. Jesus said to her, gently, "Martha, there is no need to put on an elaborate meal. Provide something simple and come and be with me."

Jesus longs for us to spend time with him, so that we can feel his love and peace filling our lives. Then refreshed we can go out into the world to love others in his name. If we are able to spend time with Jesus this Eastertide, in worship and reading our Bibles, we will find our lives enriched by him.

A very happy Easter

**David Hart**

## Christian Aid Village Collection

£80 was donated and put to the Southern Africa Food Emergency Appeal. Christian Aid is also addressing the underlying causes of this crisis, such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, conflict, debt and unfair trade rules.

## Art Club

**Our Annual Exhibition will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Village Hall. It is hoped to display arts and crafts at this Exhibition.**

Please contact Mike Truman (870607) or Carol Clarke (870635) if you are able to display your craft so that a space with table can be reserved for you.

Watch out for the poster on the Village Hall notice board advertising this event.

## B-Y-O Evenings

As always Tuesday evenings are attracting many villagers who want to catch up on village news and enjoy an inexpensive night out from 8.30 to 10.30 ish

Buy Your Own drinks is the only rule of the evening.

Hope to see you there.  
**Mike Truman**

## Get hooked on Fly Fishing

If you would like to try your hand at fly fishing contact Paddy Warke at Horseshoe Farm Annexe on the Triangle at the Strand (Tel 871874). He is kindly offering lessons free of charge and will provide the equipment. This is for adults only.

## Computer Training Classes

The response for places in the classes run by Chippenham College tutors in the Village Hall has been excellent. There are 12 students of mixed age, gender and ability starting the morning sessions on 28 April.

I have started a reserve list as the College would be happy to run a further session from 1 to 3 p.m. if there is sufficient interest. Please ring me on 870607 for more details.

All levels accepted – even me and I'm a raw beginner!

**Anne Truman**

## Lunch Club

We've had a successful third season, sampling some interesting and enjoyable meals. There's usually around 20 of us and if you would like to come along for the first time you will be very welcome.

The last lunch of the season will be our **Easter lunch on Thursday 10 April**, but we are planning an outing during June.

I had hoped to visit Highgrove but our application was turned down. I then tried Tyntesfield but at present only groups of up to five are admitted by appointment.

So I suggest we either visit Malmesbury Abbey and gardens, Montacute House or Dyrham Park. We will take a vote on your choice at the Easter lunch.

**Audrey Plummer**

### Home Alone Puppy

**Black lab puppy needs walker for Friday each week**

**Call Emma 01380 870637**

## Badminton Group

On the evening of Friday 24 January thirteen members of the badminton group gathered at the Topsy Toad Bulkington to enjoy a fish and chip supper to celebrate another successful year of sporting prowess. Our thanks to Ken Young for making the arrangements and for ensuring that our weekly contributions had stretched enough to cover the cost.

On Friday 14 February the men were able to win some brownie points by presenting each of our lady members with a red rose to commemorate Valentine's Day. Additionally each of the members was presented with a leather key case suitably decorated with a pair of badminton players embossed in gilt on one side.

In March we welcomed the return of Kevin Crumpler after his sojourn in the snowy depths of Kazakastan. Despite the rest of us being muffled up to the eyebrows on the coldest

night of the year he arrived in shorts and a t-shirt! After Kevin's first evening of badminton for several months one member was heard saying "I thought Kevin might have become rusty during his time away but he wasn't – damn him!!" (So how did you stay so fit Kevin?)

Our most recent recruit, Paul Squibs, is making a significant contribution to our Friday night activities and plays a mean game at the net with reactions as quick as Wyatt Earp.

As the foregoing demonstrates the Badminton Group grows and prospers. We currently have nine members from within the village plus ex pats Judy and Colin and three other supporters from outside the village. And thanks also to Steve Barker for his occasional contributions.

**Colin Ramsey**

## Neighbourhood Watch

Please continue to be vigilant especially in respect of a so-called antique dealer who calls on the homes of elderly people without invitation and removes antiques or paintings without permission. Some premises have subsequently been burgled. The man has a withered right hand with two fingers missing. He is thought to drive a green BMW 316 - P245CTV – or a grey Volvo 740 – G224VHK.

Garden furniture is still going missing in the village. Gwen and I have recently lost a stone owl and wren that hung either side of our front door. Any information please to me.

**David Harnott**

**871196**

## Hall Bookings

There has been a surge in bookings recently and I would ask all those thinking of booking the hall to contact me well before the event. A recent success was a family and friends skittles evening - what about introducing yours to the mysterious terms of stickers up and killer?

**David Harnott**

**871196**



## Look out for Lapwings

The RSPB is carrying out a survey of lapwings countywide in Wiltshire from 1 March until 31 May so if you see one or more lapwings please let them know by filling in a survey form. These are available from post offices or by contacting Emma Foulger, Wiltshire Community Officer for RSPB on 01722 427233.



Lapwings, also known as "pewits" because of the sound they make, are birds of farm -

land. They are very beautiful birds with a crest of long feathers, dark green backs that from a distance appear black, and white bellies. They eat worms and other insects and depend on bare ground or short vegetation for nesting. In the spring the male birds perform a wonderful tumbling display flight.

Over the last 20 years lapwing numbers in the UK have fallen by half. So do please fill in a survey form which also has more information on lapwings and how to identify them. Your response will help to pinpoint areas where we still have lapwings and enable the RSPB to look at providing better habitat for them, and so encouraging an increase in numbers.



## Safari Dinner

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun? It hardly seems possible that it is 6 months since the last Safari Dinner but it will be exactly that to the day when we meet up again on **Saturday 26 April**.

Please come and join us. I have at least two names already but need more. Let me know if you will be coming – the sooner the better and then you can be sure of having no weekend visitors, no invites elsewhere and if you need it have plenty of time to arrange baby sitting.

I need to know by **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April** so that I can spend two or three hours over Easter devising schedules, screwing up paper and devising schedules until I manage to get everything tallied up and ready to go!! I will then inform you on Monday or Tuesday which course and how many guests to expect.

**Sandra 870906**

**100 Club** Many thanks to the collectors for their efforts in increasing the participants by a considerable number this year. As a result it has been possible to increase the prize fund so that there will be extra prizes of £50 in June and £50 and £40 in December. Thanks to all of you who have supported the village in this way and ensured that the hall's annual expenses are covered for another year.

**David Harnott 871196**

		£15		£12		£10		£8		£5
December	23	Mrs Gaulton	3	Ian Knight	9	Richard Andrew	30	Eddie Knight	41	Anne Truman
January	62	Helen Shipman	8	Derek Saville	39	George Mills	33	Chris Munday	5	Rosie Keith
February	10	Mike Evans	86	Cherrie Munday	68	John Fennell	61	Paul Haynes	85	Sue Smith
March	69	Mark Newman	121	Mrs C Jones	44	Neil Haynes	68	John Fennell	27	Lyn Wiltshire
Christmas Bonus of £35 to Mrs Gaulton										

## Your County Councillor

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. I also issue a newsletter on local issues from a county perspective to the parish councils each month and am happy to send this out to anyone else who is interested.

**Trevor Carbin**  
**228 Church Street Hilperton**  
**Trowbridge BA14 7RG**  
**01225 762032**  
[cllracarbin@westwiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllracarbin@westwiltshire.gov.uk)

## Ladies Club

Our year began with Skittles when the men joined us to play for the "Golly" Cup. As usual it was an evening of fun and laughter. Our congratulations to Rosie who won the cup – not bad for someone who had never 'skittled' before then! The winning man was Richard and Neil won the 'killer' game.

In February Mrs June Fleming came to tell us of the Hope Nature Project - the aim being to create a safe, stimulating working environment for adults with special needs and a facility for Trowbridge people to enjoy, based in Southwick Country Park. The centre will provide a tea-room, nature trail, rabbit village, souvenir/craft shop, children's play area, greenhouse and more. Next year our fund-raising will support this project. (This year we are supporting the work of the Children's Hospice in Fremington.)

A regular posse of cowboys and girls arrived in Great Hinton in March to keep order at the American Wild West Gourmet night! - The food was superb, as always – and not a beef-burger or baked bean in sight! Thank you to all the ladies who worked hard to make it such a successful evening.

**Our AGM/Bring & Buy takes place on 16 April, 8pm** and will be the last meeting before September. We will, however, be planning the **Village Fete to be held on Saturday, 12 July in Audrey Plummer's garden**. Look out for posters nearer the time.

We have been pleased to welcome one or two new members this year and are always keen to include more of our village ladies at our third Wednesday of the month gatherings in the Village Hall. Ring me on 870635 if you would like to come along.

**Carol Clarke**

## **FUN IN THE SUN**

**The West Wiltshire District Council offers free sports coaching for village halls during the school summer holidays. They offer courses with weekly sessions of 1 ½ hours for 4 – 6 weeks. They are suitable for all ages of those still at school.**

**While the District Council offers a range of sports, only table tennis would be possible in Great Hinton because of the size of the Hall and the fact that there is no playing field.**

**If there is enough interest the Community Committee will contact the District Council and try to organise free coaching.**

**Please contact Neil Haynes if you are interested on 870153.**

### **GREAT HINTON MEMORIAL HALL TRUST**

The Hall continues to be well used; indeed the level of usage continues to increase, as it has since the new building was opened.

During the year we have had a visit from the Lottery Commission, the major funder of the new Hall. They came to check the condition and use of the Hall and were very pleased with both, declaring themselves very happy with the use to which the Commission's money had been put in Great Hinton.

We replaced the old wooden chairs before Christmas. We did this with some of the proceeds from the Auction of Promises held last spring. This was organised to generate money to fund the Jubilee Day celebrations, but was so successful that there was sufficient to also buy the chairs.

We continue to plan two other developments in the near future. Firstly we want to upgrade the fittings and equipment in the kitchen to allow for safe, large scale catering. Secondly we want to replace the wooden tables with

lightweight tables with folding legs. We have made one unsuccessful bid for financial support for the kitchen upgrade and a second application for funding is now with the Lottery Commission. We will keep you informed of developments.

We will hold our **Annual General Meeting at 8.00pm on Wednesday 23 April in the Hall**. Please come and join us if you are interested in village hall activities and developments.

### **GREAT HINTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Normal village activities have been the order of the day since the last Grapevine. After Christmas we enjoyed our traditional Hangover Party: a great evening for all who attended. The Party was very ably organised by Kevin Crumpler, despite the fact that he was suffering from severe jetlag having just landed back in this country from Kazakhstan (for those of you unsure about its location, travel east and turn right just before you get to China). To make it worse Kevin wasn't even allowed alcoholic refreshments at the time!

The next social event due is another of our village **Quiz Evenings at 8.00pm on Saturday 5 April in the Hall**. All are welcome. These evenings have proved very popular and great fun for those who have attended them.

In addition, Audrey Plummer is organising a **Children's Activity Workshop on the morning of Saturday 5 April**. All families with young children have already been informed. If this is a success we would hope to organise more such events.

We are always looking for new ideas for activities in the village. If you have any ideas and if you are happy to help to organise them, please contact one of the Committee members or come to our **Annual General Meeting at 8.00pm on Wednesday 23 April in the Hall** (same time as the Trust's AGM).

**Neil Haynes**

## **Keevil School News**

We survived the Ofsted, folks! I feel I should put it on a badge and wear it! Our report will be "out" shortly - it will be on the internet and there will be copies in school. Thank you for all the village support - it really helped to know you were all thinking of us.

£150 was raised on Red Nose Day - hairstyles were chronic and there were lots of red garments.

Sorry to say goodbye to Louise and Nicholas - we wish them well at their new school.

Tesco vouchers, Books for School tokens, Nestle box tops and Persil Stars are still being collected.

**Mo Laycock**

### **Wiltshire Highways**

A fifth machine has now been added to the fleet of Roadmenders. These machines are used to repair potholes reported to CLARENCE on freephone 0800 232323 or detected on highway engineers' regular inspections. They can deliver hot macadam to isolated sites where potholes have occurred making a repair many times more durable than the traditional method of using cold macadam.

There are four Gully Cleaners at work every day to ensure that all of Wiltshire's road drains are cleaned and flushed twice a year. A further two machines have just been introduced specifically to clear blocked drains as quickly as possible after they have been reported.

There are about 84,000 road drains across the county.

(From the Wiltshire Highways news-sheet for March - 10 I-Spy points for each and a bonus of 50 if you see either one in Great Hinton!)

The estimated date for the opening of the Semington Bypass is 16 December.

Work on signing the "strategic box" for lorry routes, encouraging them to use the M4/A303/A34/A350, will begin this year.