

# The Grapevine Great Hinton

**DECEMBER 2005**

**Editor Richard Clarke 870635**

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## Great Hinton Parish Council

### Bus Shelter

Early in the summer our new bus shelter was vandalised by the spray painting in yellow of some unpleasant words. Fortunately it was spotted very quickly and the District Council were contacted for assistance. I am pleased to report that as a consequence of a speedy response from the Maintenance Department of West Wilts DC the offending paint was removed and the bus shelter is once again in pristine condition.

Whilst the responsiveness of our District Council is heartening, it was very disappointing to discover that the mindless vandalism that seems to afflict most towns had now moved out into the countryside.

### Fore Street Farm

The Parish Council learnt recently that planning consent had at long last been granted for the restoration of this important building. Fore Street Farm has existed for at least 300 years and I am sure that its future at the heart of our village is now assured for many more years to come and, like many of you, I look forward to seeing what's revealed when the protective sheeting is removed some time next year.

### Best Kept Village Competition

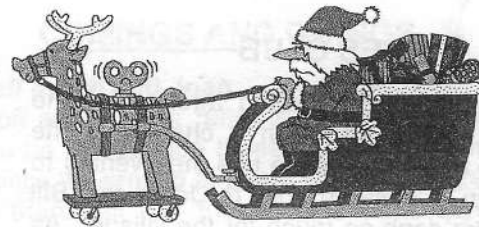
Congratulations to everyone.... we were voted the **Best Kept Small Village in West Wiltshire 2005**. The judging took place back in late May. The judges were particularly impressed by the complete absence of litter, and I know that this is at least in part due to the efforts of a number of people who pick-up litter from the street close to their properties. This win meant that we were entered into the County round of the competition, unfortunately less success at this higher level with Great Hinton being judged third out of four.

**Chris Munday Chairman**

**870912**

Grateful thanks to everyone who supported the **Action for Epilepsy** tea party in October either by being there, making cakes, donating raffle prizes, or serving tea. We were able to send £410 and they were delighted. Thank you.

Anne Truman



## Top Team at the Linnet

Congratulations again to Jon Furby on winning the top prize in this year's starters and light bites category in the Pub Chef Awards cook-off competition. His baked pork and mustard tart on mushy pea compote with mint pesto had the judges' taste buds alive with enthusiasm for his cooking. Jon has been landlord at the Linnet for five and a half years and says he is happiest cooking the honest quality food for which the pub is renowned. Having cooked in London, Australia and Scotland Jon always looks at bringing in the sort of worldwide experiences he has had, but he says "I'm a Yorkshireman so I love home-cooked food. Nearly everything we serve is made from scratch including ice-cream, pasta and bread. It is all freshly prepared and is in the style I would describe as modern English with a world-wide twist." With the pub's head chef Neil Clark winning the prize for best overall pub chef in the competition last year we have a formidable duo with an enviable reputation. Why not take a look at their Christmas menu and be tempted!

**For booking telephone Jon**

**01380 870354**

*(With acknowledgement to the Wiltshire Times)*

## Fireworks in the Field

Once again a combined effort by many villagers saw another successful Fifth of November with the men led by Kevin giving us another huge bonfire. With the ladies providing hot sustenance and Roger (with some help from me) letting off the fireworks, all seemed to enjoy themselves, including the adults. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way and to those of you who bought the tickets to fund the cost of the fireworks. Your comments are welcomed to make next year even better. At present it is intended to shorten the programme and have more large spectacular fireworks – please let me know what you think.

**David Harnott**

**871196**

## Poppy Collection

Mike Dodd was the collector this year as we expected we would have moved. In the event we were still here but Mike kindly did the collection and sent £130.50 to the district organiser in Cold Ashton. For those who don't know, Mike lives in Cold Harbour and appropriately has a boat moored outside! Well done Mike, perhaps you can be persuaded to do it again next year.

**Bill Barker**

## CHILDRENS' WORKSHOP

There is no news from the Childrens Workshop except to say that the next one will be on Saturday 10th December from 10am till 12noon. The cost this time will be £2.50 per child as we've had to buy some new materials etc.

For details please phone me.

**Audrey**

## LADIES CLUB

When the Club meetings started again after the summer break, we began with a change to the planned Beetle drive in order to use the evening to say goodbye in a suitable way to Joan and Bill Barker who have done so much for the village. As expected, a good number of Joan and Bill's friends turned out to say their respective thankyou's and wish them well as they move to be nearer their daughter and get used to 'bungalow-living'.

In October the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were filled with gifts for children in Romania. Well done ladies for providing 55 complete boxes and plenty of extra items to fill a lot more which were taken by Audrey Plummer to the new warehouse. It seems it is more difficult to obtain empty shoe boxes these days – they apparently have to be squashed flat by the shops for storage – so unless we can all be persuaded to follow in the footsteps of Imelda Marcos it will be a recurring problem! Hilary McFall, local organiser, has expressed her thanks and it has been suggested that next year we might go as a group to see the new warehouse and learn more about the work.

We were so proud of two of our members, Val and Terrie, who demonstrated their expertise in spinning wool and silk, as well as showing us how it had been woven and knitted into beautiful items like scarves, shawls, a rug, gloves, etc. at our November meeting. The craftsmanship was superb, as well one might expect it to be – they are both members of the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners and Weavers. Needless to say we all wanted a turn at the spinning wheel but our efforts produced chunky-knit yarn compared to their 3-ply. Terrie had also produced cute toy animals which had been 'moulded' using fleece and a lethal-looking spiked and barbed tool. Val had even farmed her own silk-worms and bred angora rabbits for the raw materials to make some of her items. We were very impressed.

We hope all the villagers will cram into the hall for the increasingly popular **Carols by Candlelight evening on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.** As always we will be led on the keyboard by Ken Young and mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Then the ladies will enjoy a Christmas meal together at The Linnet on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December.

There is a very good evening coming up next year **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February.** We will be entertained by John Craig who is a retired Chief of Wiltshire Fire Brigade. His talk "Going to Blazes" is, I have heard, excellent, talking about the funnier side of the fire service, and I would therefore like to invite any villager to join us for that evening – male or female..

Thanks to everyone in Great Hinton who supports the events and fund-raising organised by the Ladies Club and I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas. **Carol Clarke**

## KEEVIL SCHOOL NEWS

Keevil School opened this term with 68 pupils – the highest number for a very long time! We would, therefore, be very grateful for advance notification of names and dates of birth of children who are expecting to join our school community in the next few years. Please contact school for an application form. (Tel. No: 01380 870376)

Our junior pupils are looking at Victorian times. If anyone has any pictures, artifacts etc from this era that we could borrow, we would take great care of them. We've recently been reading a letter from PC Newbery's great grandmother, written after she had watched the Diamond Jubilee procession go by! What a wonderful resource for our pupils to see! We shall be visiting Sevington Victorian School in December: watch this space for our anecdotes!

The Upper Juniors are taking part in the International Lego Robotics Challenge at Bath University this term. It is certainly a challenge for us: there is a Lego robotics event, in which pupils programme their robot to complete various set tasks and then there is a presentation to do before judges on this year's theme: Ocean Odyssey! Our thanks go to Andy Vick for his tremendous support and Blue Max for providing us all with T-shirts for our "Big Day".

**Mo Laycock**

### FRIENDS OF KEEVIL SCHOOL

#### **Keevil School '100 Club'**

How about trying your luck and joining our '100 Club'? For as little as £12, you could win up to 3 prizes from each of the 6 draws to be held during the school year. Cash prizes reflect the amount of tickets we sell, so go on, have a go today! For more information, please contact Jan Flynn on 828248 or ask at the school.

#### **Sponsored Run – KEEVIL AIRFIELD**

The committee has been extremely busy organising this event for next year which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Keevil Airfield.

We are planning a much larger event for over 500 runners to raise as much money for the School as we can. Delivering this event will need a lot of "hands to the pump" and ALL help will be gratefully received.

If you would like to assist with marshalling or manning the stands on the day, or leaflet drops before the big event, then please either forward your details to the school or contact Debbie Scott asap and let us know how you will be able to help us.

It only remains for us to say **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and a big **Thank You** to everybody who has supported us during the year. We look forward to bringing you more fundraising and school news in 2006!!

If you require further details on any of the above, please contact Debbie Scott on 870410 or Keevil School on 870376.



## FOOTPATHS

I have previously described my role as Footpaths Officer; it is to walk the footpaths and keep an eye out for stiles that are obstructed, paths that are overgrown and any other problems that might occur. As there are around 10 miles of footpaths within the parish I also rely on others to spot points of interest and pass them to me.

Current points of interest: (1) the footpath (No. 16) that runs across Fore Street Farm and at the back of Peppercorn Orchard – the Parish Council is in discussion with the planners as to whether the proposed barn will require a minor diversion of the route or whether the barn could be re-sited. (2) a continuation of the same footpath which runs ENE towards the northern end of Stoggy Lane is obstructed by an electric fence – the District Footpaths Officer has been informed of this.

The Parish Council should soon obtain an electronic version of the footpaths within Great Hinton – I am not sure of the copyright issues but I think this should make life a little easier for residents to see the range of footpaths within the Parish. At the very least there should be a copy for the Notice Board but as yet I do not know when this electronic version will be available.

Any points on footpaths please let me know.

**Jim Clipson** **Ashwell Cottage**  
james@clipson.net

## LUNCH CLUB

This season has seen a dropping in support, some unfortunately through illness, and we are losing Joan and Bill when they move to their new home in St. Neots. So, like the Art Club and Ladies Club we have welcomed some new members from outside the village. With the company of our neighbours from Steeple Ashton it means we have a viable number to cover the costs so for the moment we shall continue with the present arrangement.

Our Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 8th December when all will be welcome.

The New Year lunch will be on Thursday 12th January when again all will be welcome especially if there are any new members who would like to join us. Please phone me if you would like to come.

**Audrey Plummer** **870586**

**BYO Club** The Tuesday evening at the Linnet is now a well-established get together venue for villagers wanting a sociable chat over a drink. Please come along 8.30ish until 10.30 and support your Pub, and the rule is - pay only for your own drinks!  
**Mike Truman**

A big thank you to everyone who supported my **Macmillan coffee morning** in September. Between us we managed to raise £171.50 for Cancer Relief. **Rebecca Locke**

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### **Farewell to Bill and Joan.....**

We're off at last after, after a few hold ups which seem to be the fashion these days, just 23 happy years since we arrived at Lorne Cottage. We would like to thank all our friends and especially the Ladies Club for such a splendid send off and a very generous gift towards our new garden.

Goodbye, Happy Christmas, and God bless you all.

Joan and Bill Barker, 2 Pope Road, Eynesbury,  
St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2TG  
Tel 01480 218885



*Goodbye from the Ladies Club and their men*

### **We welcome into the village.....**

**Jill and Dominic Versecoil** who have moved into Hillbrow Cottage from Greenwich.

## GOLLY - PROUD TO BE 50!

I just wanted to say a big thank you for the collection for my birthday present which I used for a fantastic evening out to see the Royal Philharmonic play in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey. The first half of the concert was a "Last Night of the Proms" programme with all the old favourites and lots of flag waving. After the interval the orchestra were joined by Nigel Kennedy. I've always wanted to see him and he exceeded expectations. If you ever get the chance to watch him play I thoroughly recommend you go, he makes the fiddle talk to you – pure genius.

After a picnic washed down with bubbly the evening finished with a grand finale fireworks extravaganza as a tribute to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. As I said, a brilliant evening and thanks again so much.

And now for something different – I'd like to see what level of support there would be for a Barn Dance for the village next year. If you are interested, let me know.

**Golly**

**870454**

## BADMINTON

The interest and enthusiasm is still being maintained with 14-16 players each week. Courts are booked for an hour at 8 pm on Fridays at the Christie Miller Sports Centre and you will play for at least 45 minutes. We then enjoy a Coke and a natter in the bar. Do phone if you would like to join us.  
**Ken 870403**

## GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

### THE VILLAGE SHOP

The Post Office in Steeple Ashton will be moving from the Pub to the Village Shop on Wednesday 7 December. To start with it will only be open each Wednesday from 9.30 to 1.30. Please support it by getting your Christmas card stamps there – and also chose something from the selection of Christmas goodies now on sale.

If you have a hot drink in the in the café between 12 and 15 December you will be treated to a free mince pie. And don't forget to pick up an order form for your Christmas fruit and vegetables, milk, cream and bread. What an excellent way to avoid the queues of the supermarkets!

**The Village Shop 871211**

**TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER**

7 – 8 pm in the Hall

### CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS READINGS WITH MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

*Bring the children*

Collection for Ladies Club Charity of the Year  
St Mary's Steeple Ashton Preservation Trust

**Sunday 18 December at 11.15**

St Mary's Church

### FAMILY TOY AND GIFT SERVICE

Please bring gifts of toys, warm socks, hats, scarves etc for homeless and disadvantaged people of the district to this service. Also any dried goods, tins, of soup, etc. – all will be welcome gifts at this time of year.

### KEEVIL SCHOOL

#### CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PRODUCTION

will be held on Monday, 19th December at 6.30pm in St. Leonard's Church, Keevil and afterwards please join us in the School Hall for festive refreshments. Our collection this year will be for the school in Sri Lanka that we hope to link with over the next few months.

## AND IN THE NEW YEAR

**SATURDAY 14 JANUARY**

at 7.30 in the Hall

### ANNUAL VILLAGE HANGOVER PARTY

Blow away your post Christmas and New Year headaches with our annual village celebration and evening of fun and games.



### RECYCLED CHRISTMAS CARDS

A box will be placed in St Mary's Church porch and also the Shop porch in Steeple Ashton for you to recycle your Christmas cards during January. This will be supporting the Woodland Trust and their conservation schemes.

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

If you want to have a party and save your carpets from the ravages of your guests why not book our village memorial hall (but not for a Greek plate throwing party!) It's warm and cosy with soft lighting and the kitchen facilities are excellent.

And to be really one up, you could arrange a skittles party.

Enquiries to David Harnot 01380 871196.

### ART CLUB

We meet every Thursday evening in the Hall for two hours from 7.30. All standards welcome – from beginners to budding artists! If you would like to know more give either of us a call.

**Carol Clarke 870635**

**Colin Ramsey 870374**

### Coming Soon

#### VILLAGE WINE TASTING EVENING

Find the best cheaper wines.

Absolutely no commitment to buy as the lecturer is a local doctor and not wine agent.

Event dependant on enough support so please let a committee member know if you are interested.

*Kevin David Di Rebecca Anne Carol Roger*

### 100 Club

		£15		£12		£10		£8		£5
July	51	Mrs Chey	99	Joyce Newman	100	Brenda Hobbs	42	Clive Blake	104	Andy Squibb
August	36	Ruth Blake	10	Mike Evans	76	Rachel Lawes	81	Mrs Nicholl	79	Gillian Fennell
September	90	Mary Winterburn	114	I.M. Franklin	81	Mrs Nicholl	120	Mrs C. Davis	17	Jeff Newman
October	77	Mary Noad	39	A Goodenough	74	V. Harvey	17	Jeff Newman	15	Ken Young
November	60	Shirley Brookes	104	Andy Squibbs	22	Paul Winterburn	39	A Goodenough	119	Ron Parr