

THE GRAPEVINE

GREAT HINTON

September 2011

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The closure of the Linnet

After 250 years Great Hinton has lost its famous pub. In its last 10 years Jon Furby created a reputation for his prize-winning dishes and friendly staff and we wish him well in his culinary career.

The Linnet's original name was the New Inn and in the County Records Office there is a 1766 inventory of possessions for John Kingman, a victualler of Hinton, who must have been innkeeper of the New Inn. A brewhouse was added in 1816 and for nearly 100 years the inn was run by just two families. The first Wiltshire Directory to include Great Hinton was published in 1848 and lists Stephen Sims. From 1867 to 1875 Mrs Sims, probably his widow, took over. John Langley is listed as a brewer and latterly a bootmaker from 1880 to 1907. In the last published Wiltshire Directory, it is recorded that from 1911 to 1939 Howard John Langley also brewed and made cider with the large cider press at the house. The pub was taken over by Wadworth's in the 1950s, when brewing here would have ceased. Local memory says that they renovated it and changed the name to the Linnet in the early 1970s.

However there are other records which suggest a slightly different history. Occasional references to clothiers at Semington have been found. William Witcom was fined for defective white cloth in 1562. Daniel Somner who died around 1604 was a clothier of Semington, and so was Henry Coulthurst who was in business around 1710. Spinning and weaving was carried on as a domestic occupation until the 19th century and although no reference to the cloth trade in Great Hinton can be found, there is a report about "a small factory building, dated 1815, adjoining the New Inn. It is of brick, of five bays and three stories with a mansard roof, and has the segmental-headed windows with stone mullions typical of mills in the neighbouring towns. It is named as a factory in 1841, when it was owned and occupied by Stephen Sims, and the tradition that it was used for the making of cloth survives in the village."

So what of the future? No longer viable as a pub restaurant in these days of increased competition and more reliance on passing trade, we are fortunate that the Linnet has come into the ownership of Steve Adams who has sympathetically restored Fore Street farmhouse to a very high standard of design and quality workmanship. As a Grade 2 listed building there will be certain restrictions on what can be done to the old pub and any changes to the site, and if and when the time comes the Parish Council will have the opportunity to make its comments in the planning process on our behalf.

Parish Council Report

You will all be aware that I have taken over the role of Chairman from Chris Munday. Chris has served assiduously in this role over the past 17 years, and we all owe him a vote of thanks for his hard work and attention to detail during this period. His resignation from the council has left a vacancy and, after posting a notice calling for nominations for the post of councillor, we are now in the enviable position of having a number of potential candidates. Since our numbers are constrained to a total of five, we are about to start the process of making our selection.

The Annual Open Parish meeting was well attended, and gave people the opportunity to air their views and comments. Closure of the Linnet was high on the agenda, and Steve Adams explained how and why he decided to purchase the pub and its car parks.

The telephone kiosk has finally been put into use. Many thanks go to John Probert for supplying the materials, constructing and

installing the bookshelves (together with a number of books). Many more books have now been donated and our "mini-library / book-exchange" is fully operational. Gill Verschoyle has volunteered to act as librarian.

One of the key activities undertaken by the Parish Council over the past few weeks has been compiling a response to the Wiltshire Council Core Strategy Consultation Document. The document was extremely large and covered proposals for the whole of Wiltshire for the period up to 2026. We concentrated primarily on issues which were likely to impact most on our parish. These included the planned growth and massive development of Trowbridge and its environs, and the proposed abolition of small village boundaries. A questionnaire was issued to the community and the results incorporated into our response. The overwhelming majority opinion was that our village boundary should be retained, and that the development of Trowbridge should be severely constrained using brown-field sites wherever possible. A copy of the Parish Council's overall submission is available for anyone to see if they wish.

We have also had a useful meeting with the Highways Authority concerning safety issues at the A361/C232 junction at the Strand. Two options for change have been identified, and a questionnaire will be issued to the community in the near future to determine preferences. Once we receive and collate the results, further dialogue will be held with the Highways Authority. Action, however, may take longer!

Finally, it is our intention to initiate action to develop a Parish Plan or a Parish Design Statement. When completed, either will act as a framework for shaping the future of our community and can be very effective in helping the process of dealing with planning proposals. Ideally, the compilation of these documents should be driven by the community rather than by the Parish Council. We will, however, be instrumental in getting one or the other under way.

Mike Dodd Chairman

Traffic Speed

Having been told that our average traffic speed through the village does not qualify to be restricted to 20 mph I was interested to see that Great Cheverill has placed 20mph signs through the village, despite having pavements and street lighting. This caused me to brake on my bike to avoid exceeding the limit. Why cannot Great Hinton be treated the same, and whilst considering the improvements to the junction at the Lamb extend the speed limit restriction through the narrows? Ironically, having survived the blind corners for 20 years, the nearest I have come to disaster in a car was avoiding two cyclists taking a corner too wide. It is helpful that some of the white junction lines have been renewed on the village roads but the SLOW sign which was painted on the road at the top end of the village has long since vanished under repeated resurfacing.

Richard Clarke

LUNCH CLUB

The lunch club has flourished this year, gaining several new members and we enjoyed a variety of menus cooked by a team of members. On June 2nd a number of members joined the outing to Biddestone. We had an excellent lunch at The Biddestone Arms followed by a tour of the Manor House gardens led by Rosie, the head gardener, who afterwards served us with afternoon tea whilst the sun shone, as it always does for our annual trip. Anyone caring to join us on the first Thursday of each month will be very welcome. We resume lunches on Thursday 6th October at 12.15 for 12.30. Please contact me if you'd like to join in.

Audrey 870586

BADMINTON

The sports hall at Christie Miller was closed on Friday 8 April so it was decided it would be a good day for all of us to go out for a meal. Arrangements were made and fourteen of us met at the Royal Oak at Hawkeridge for a very enjoyable evening. The following Friday saw us back on the courts trying to lose the weight put on! We have managed to keep going through the summer but we are looking forward to having all the regulars back for the winter months. If you would like to join us then please contact me on 870403. Ken Young

Neighbourhood Watch News

A very big thank you to all NHW distributors for passing on the newsletters and for forwarding the rural crime information on to your neighbours.

We seem to be hearing more and more news of burglaries and telephone/internet scams with the more recent crimes being thefts of commercial parts and vehicles at both Steeple Ashton and Littleton - a little too close to home.

Only the other evening I had a call from a villager who was concerned about a man going door to door in the village trying to get people to sign up to donating to the Red Cross. He asked a lot of personal information and the lady had a very hard job getting rid of him. He was very persistent and his attitude was described as appalling. He also told each person that their neighbours had signed paperwork and got quite angry when she turned him away. This incident was reported to the police and I am unsure at this point whether he was genuinely from the Red Cross or not.

ANYONE who goes Door-to-Door must carry identification which has a photo ID and a contact number to the business's head office or otherwise, which can be called to verify the authenticity of the caller. A householder is perfectly within their rights to ask to see this ID; if they do not have this, then they have every right to turn them away. No questions. If someone is selling at the door, again they need a licence to do this. Every householder is entitled to see this and can verify the authenticity by calling the company who they represent. If there is ANY doubt whatsoever about this person, call the Police or a neighbour whilst you are checking out the details. Make sure the front door is closed whilst you do this. If they are legitimate, they will remain whilst they are being checked out. If they are not happy about the householder doing this then fine, close the door and let them be on their way...after first making a mental note about what they are wearing and then calling the Police or your NHW Coordinator.

It is only with you, the villagers, being vigilant and keeping a close eye on the more vulnerable within our community, that we can try and keep crime in Great Hinton at bay. You have all done a fantastic job phoning through information on 'door knockers' and vehicles and I hope you continue to do so. I will of course text up to date information to everybody I have mobile phone numbers for so that you are made aware of anything occurring in the village.

If you would like to be put on my email list and hear first hand all the incidents that are occurring from email scams to rural crimes, please either call or email me on deb.scott@virgin.net

Debbie Scott NHW Area Coordinator 870410

Why dial 101?

From 19 September as part of the National roll out, communities across Wiltshire will be able to dial 101, a new national non-emergency telephone number for the police service. The current non emergency number 0845 408 7000 will be phased out. While 999 is a well recognised number to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54 per cent of the public knew which telephone number to call if they wanted to speak to their local police about policing, non-urgent crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

Why is 101 being introduced?

The introduction of the 101 number will give local communities

one easy way to speak directly with their local police to report and discuss all non urgent police-related issues. It is being introduced as part of the Government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999 and help the police efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder. This new number will not change the way non-urgent calls are responded to. These will still be received by the call handlers in our police control rooms.

How does 101 work?

101 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When someone calls 101, they will hear a recorded message announcing that they are being connected to their local police force. The system will determine the caller's location and connect them to the relevant police force. If a caller is on a boundary between two or more forces, the recorded message will give them a choice of which force to be connected to. The message will also give the caller the option to select an alternative police force if the incident they are calling about took place in another force area.

When should callers use 101?

Callers should use 101 to report less urgent crime or disorder, to contact the police with a general enquiry, or to speak to a local officer. For example:

- if their car has been stolen;
- if their property has been damaged;
- where they suspect drug use or dealing;
- if they want to report a minor traffic collision;
- if they want to give the police information about crime in their area;
- or simply if they'd like to speak to a local police officer.

Can people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, use 101? Yes by using text-phone 18001 101.

What's coming to a cinema very close to you?

10th September: **Water for Elephants**, a lovely story about a vet who joins a circus and falls in love with the trapeze artist

8th October: **Oranges and Sunshine**, which is what British orphans were promised in Australia, but which turned out to be far from the truth, based on a true story

12th November: **Mao's last Dancer**: at the age of 11, Li was plucked from his poor chinese village and made to become a ballet dancer by Madam Mao.

10th December: **Jane Eyre**, the new, definitive version!

You'll enjoy them all, so do come to Steeple Ashton Village Hall. Comfortable seats. Wine from the bar. Tickets from the Shop.

Great Hinton Ladies Fete

As usual we were lucky with the weather on 25 June, although we did have our doubts in the morning whilst putting up gazebos and marquees. We raised £620 for the Trowbridge Branch of the PHAB club and £120 towards the recently acquired new stair-lift for the village hall. This brought the total raised for PHAB since September 2010 to £1192.80, for which we have received 'a very sincere thank you' - the funds have been put towards their Christmas Dinner and Summer Holiday.

Thank you to -

- o Gill and Dom for the use of their garden and field
- o all helpers who ran stalls, moved tables and chairs and erected gazebos and dressed fantastically for the occasion
- o everyone who donated raffle prizes, bottles, cakes and much more
- o the children of Seend School choir and their music teacher who came straight from a wedding to help them
- o Emily who came to demonstrate her juggling skills
- o And all who came and supported us

Hopefully we ladies will get the same support from our menfolk and the rest of the village once again next summer when the fete will be supporting 'Help for Heroes'.

From our local Councillor

I write as the holiday season draws to a close and having just returned refreshed from a week sunning myself with my family by the sea. We all need a break and I hope that many of those reading this article will have indulged themselves in a similar human battery charging exercise. Much happens in the County and our area during the summer months. I try and attend as many of the summer events as I can and meetings continue in Parish and County alike although the pace does slacken off a little in August.

I attended two particularly interesting meetings over the past month, both of which have particular relevance to all of us locally. The first was a meeting of the Melksham Area Board dedicated to older people and held during the afternoon so as to make it easier for older people to attend. We have already held two very successful younger people's Area Board meetings and so it was particularly rewarding to be the first Area Board in the County to hold one specifically for older people. It proved to be a great success and there was a wide ranging discussion on a range of topics specifically relevant to older people and often led by the indefatigable Brian Warwick who has become something of an older person's Champion in recent years. The real success of this meeting was that we were able to take away a good number of action points that would not otherwise have been considered and actually get things done for an important section of the community that wants them done.

The second important meeting I recently attended was a Conservative Party briefing on the Boundary Commission Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries. This exercise will reduce the number of Parliamentary Constituencies by fifty and will give all Constituencies a similar number of voters. It is likely that Wiltshire and Dorset will have to lose a seat between them and that several current Constituencies will change. One of the parameters set by Parliament and the Boundary Commission is that local government Divisions and Wards may not be split between Constituencies. This will therefore mean that Summerham and Seend will be allocated to one Constituency instead of being split between the current three and the most likely result will be that we become part of the new West Wiltshire Constituency of Melksham, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon. The Boundary Commission will announce their plans in mid September and appeals and submissions will follow with a final decision late 2012. Then the process of candidate selection and the work up to the next General Election will start in earnest.

Finally, as I write the car parking charges debate heats up. I have huge sympathy for town centre traders and motorists alike in this argument. Wiltshire is a County where there is a high car ownership rate in general and this is even higher in our rural Division of Summerham and Seend. However to make the first hour of parking free across the County would cost about £2million. Wiltshire Council has some hard decisions to make with a much reduced budget but those protesting about a 40p an hour parking charge must also consider which Sure Start Centre or which Bus Route or which Library or which Leisure Centre they would wish to see close instead, at a time when Wiltshire is virtually the only Council in the country that is closing none. I am afraid that making unpopular decisions sometimes goes with being the elected administration of a County but whatever happens these decisions must be taken responsibly and for the benefit of the whole community including the most vulnerable.

Jonathon Seed Member Summerham and Seend Division
Wiltshire Council Tel. 01380 850696 Mob. 07770 774463
www.jonathonseed.com

Great Hinton Mini Library

As you will have seen, the Telephone Kiosk is now a mini Lending Library, with many books to choose from, including a children's section. It is hoped that the Library will be well used; Gill has posted a notice on the Village Notice Board explaining the way we hope it will be used. Please don't use it as a chance

to get rid of some old books you don't want to keep!! Just put on the shelves two books you think your friends and neighbours in the village would enjoy, and then hopefully we'll have a new facility to give pleasure to all. Just help yourself to a book to read, and of course return before you borrow another. If you find the shelves are full, please place your book in the overflow box for future display. You can of course borrow a book from the overflow box. There is also a children's shelf, a bit thin at the moment - please add to it if you can.

There is also a local area footpath map on display, as well as information on the history of the Telephone Kiosk complete with picture.

We have lost the Pub, but gained a library, so it's not all bad!

Thanks to Mike Truman for bringing the idea to reality and to John Probert for making the bookcase. And to Gill Verschoyle who is the Librarian keeping an eye on the shelves and tidying up as necessary. Happy reading!!

Great Hinton Ladies' Club - Programme 2011

We would like to welcome any lady villagers, 'old' or new to the village, to join us every 3rd Wednesday at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, for a friendly, informal meeting when we have a chat, a cup of coffee and various speakers. We meet from September to April with a break in the summer. Our annual subscription is a mere £5 to cover the cost of the Hall. This year the charity we are supporting is 'Help for Heroes'.

Our meetings up until Christmas are:-

September 21st - Demonstration/training on the use of a defibrillator introduced by Dr Steve Locke with discussion about having one in the village. This will be an open meeting for any villagers interested - ladies and gentlemen.

October 19th - Body Shop - talk about the ethos and products - New Christmas catalogue just out - Liz Adams. Commission will go to 'Help for Heroes'.

November 16th - Gourmet meal - 'Winter Warmers' - bring a guest.

December 13th (Tuesday) - Carol Singing (all proceeds to 'Help for Heroes')

December 14th - Christmas meal at 'The Lamb on the Strand' (Raffle in aid of 'Help for Heroes') - 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Mens' Christmas Dinner

The Lamb on the Strand has been booked for our dinner this year. Please make a note in your diaries for Friday 16th December. Full details to follow.

Great Hinton Indoor Bowling Club

We restart our indoor Bowling Meetings on Monday 19th September, 2.30 - 4.30pm and 7.30 - 9.30pm as before. After a couple of weeks warm up sessions, we start the Christmas Singles Knock Out Competition, starting the first Monday in October. There will be a Christmas prize for the winner. The membership of 21 villagers, with an average attendance of 85% last season, is remarkable, and we hope you are all raring to go in this our third season.

We are pleased that Eddie and Ian, who are moving to Melksham in September, have agreed to continue their membership, and return for the evening sessions. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

As there are three places available to bring us to our maximum membership, if any Villager is interested in joining the Bowling Club, please contact Mike Truman on 870607.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 21st September - Defibrillator meeting - 8.00pm

Saturday 24th September - **Harvest Supper** will be held in the village hall at 7.30 for 8pm. All are welcome - flyers will be delivered shortly.

Safari Dinner No. 41 – Saturday 8th October

I am sure that you will want to join us on our next safari – unfortunately we are unable to guarantee sightings of elephants, lions or impala in Great Hinton, but you may glimpse the odd rabbit, owl or bat on your journey around the village between courses. As we will no longer be able to meet at the pub prior to our first courses I will have to persuade one of the host households to entertain us for pre-dinner drinks. You will be informed where to go on the invitations. As we have some funds in hand, the cost of the evening will initially increase to only £3 per person to pay for both pre and post dinner drinks. Depending on how this works out, the cost may have to rise again for future events, but I'm sure you will all agree this is still a very cheap, enjoyable evening out.

Please let me know by **Friday 30th September** whether or not you will be joining us.

If you want more information on how a safari dinner proceeds please give me a call as we would be delighted if more villagers would join in – it's great fun and the company is more important than the cooking!

Sandra 870906

Skittles – Saturday 15th October

Play starts at 8.00pm. Everyone welcome.

£3 per person (bring on the night)

to cover prizes and raise funds for the fireworks evening.

Bring your own drink and nibbles.

Prizes for the best players and of course for the worst!!

Halloween Party on Saturday 29th October

We will be having a Great Hinton halloween party which will start at 4pm and finish around 6 - 6.30 after trick or treat. It is open to all the young children in the village and grandchildren. Invitations and flyers will be sent nearer the time.

VILLAGE BONFIRE NIGHT is on Saturday 5th November at 6:30pm in the Gill & Dom's field. How big will this year's bonfire be?! Come along and join in the fun.

The cost will be £5 a head for adults but it will be free for children of school age or younger. This, however, is never enough to cover fireworks, food and insurance so come along to the skittles evening on 15th October and help boost the funds so that we can continue to hold a fireworks night, which you will all agree is a very good evening.

B.Y.O. Evenings Villagers are now meeting up and enjoying the hospitality of the Lamb on the Strand, "Our Local Pub," for our weekly get together, meeting from 8pm each Tuesday. We have found Brian, the Landlord, and his staff very welcoming. Please come and join your fellow villagers if you can. Buying Your Own drinks makes it an inexpensive evening shared with friends.

ART CLUB meets on **Thursdays in the Village Hall at 7.30. All welcome from beginners to expert (which none of us are!). Contact Mike Dodd on 870446 or Carol Clarke 870635**

WHY NOT HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL?

We have an almost new Village Hall which is available for anyone to hire at very reasonable rental charges. It is fitted with all the modern facilities including a fully equipped kitchen.

The Hall is the right size for family parties, with the use of the skittle alley if required.

If you are a 100 Club Member, you are contributing to the upkeep of the Hall, so why not enjoy your investment by using it!

For Village Hall Bookings, please contact Audrey Plummer on 01380 870586

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

At the AGM Richard Clarke reported that the new stairlift had cost £1245 and had been supplied and fitted through a local firm in Warminster at a good discount. We are grateful for the donations from the Parish Council (£120), the Village Community Fund (£100), the Ladies Club (£120), and a gift of £40 from a villager. The balance was met by drawing on the accumulated funds which had been prudently built up under the management of David Harnott. We are grateful to Joe for the electrical work and making good the walls after the removal of the old lift.

Excluding the donations towards the cost of the stairlift the regular income covered the costs with nearly £300 to spare. However the net effect is that we start this year with £663 less in the bank than a year ago. However we still have £4300 put aside for a rainy day, but we do need to add to this each year to keep a prudent level of reserves for maintenance and improvements.

We are fortunate that we have four very active clubs supported by the villagers as they make a significant contribution to the income, especially the Bowls Club which pays £500 to hire the hall.

We are grateful to all the Villagers who support the 100 Club and also to Mike Truman who has taken over running it. Mike with his team of visitors has increased the participation for 2011 so the net income will rise to £935.

100 CLUB

Thank you everybody who have subscribed to the 100 Club; the response was amazing with 120 members signed up for the 2011 - 2012 draws. Some of you will be lucky winners, in fact 62 prizes are paid out over the 12 months, which theoretically gives everyone a 50/50 chance of winning a prize! It has been suggested, now that the Linnet is closed, that the monthly draws can take place at different village events, starting with the Harvest Supper, and thereafter at either the Bowling Club evening session (last Monday in the month), or on the last Tuesday of the month at the Lamb on the Strand where villagers are meeting up for the BYO get together. The second additional bonus prize of £50 will be drawn with the other five prizes in the December draw at the Lamb on the Strand.

Good luck everybody. Mike Truman

100 Club

These are the names of the lucky winners this year.

2011	No.	£20	No.	£15	No.	£12	No.	£10	No.	£8
March	46	Richard Newman	123	Dr R Jones	41	Anne Truman	97	Sharron Tapper	108	Denise Fraser
April	103	Judy Ramsey	77	Mary Noad	107	Steve Adams	1	Mary Jones	92	Pat Putt
May	30	Eddie Knight	53	Audrey Plummer	60	Jim Brookes	38	Jenny Scrivener	115	Emma Nicholl
June	122	John Probert	28	Mark Souster	100	Ross Cornelius	36	Ruth Blake	108	Denise Fraser
July	54	Diane Norris	89	Carolyn Haynes	94	Dorothy Young	109	Jackie Adams	35	Sandy Salmon
August	42	Clive Blake	33	Chris Munday	89	Carolyn Haynes	13	Neil Harnott	10	Mike Evans

Summer Bonus : £50 – No. 34 – Carol Burch. Christmas Bonus : £50 – Who's going to be the lucky winner??