

THE GRAPEVINE

GREAT HINTON

February 2011

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From Our Wiltshire Councillor

Firstly a Happy New Year to you all. We enter 2011 knowing that we will all have to tighten our belts and enter an age of austerity. Our national finances are in a mess and that means local cuts also, however we are where we are and the news is not all bad. Your Council in Trowbridge has planned well for the expected cuts although even we only planned for 27% and not the 28%, with loading in the first two years, that we were told to make. Life will be tough but we are determined to do our best for the people of Wiltshire. There are times to justifiably have a go at your Wiltshire Council when we get it wrong but I am proud to be a Member of a Council that is getting it right most of the time. To illustrate my point just recall the news stories over the dreadful weather in December and early January and you will see what I mean. We have seen rubbish piling up in the streets of Bristol, rubbish not being collected in Gloucestershire, deep staff cuts in Somerset and roads being left ungritted across the country due to lack of funds. Just for once have a smile and recall what happened with our rubbish and our roads in Wiltshire during the same period. Our rubbish was collected almost entirely on time regardless of weather or holidays and even many of our minor roads were gritted whenever the gritters could be spared.

Let us also turn to our future - and one issue that is very close to home is the development of modern buildings where we can enjoy our leisure time and deal with our Council services. The Wiltshire Council Cabinet has agreed that the Melksham Community Area Campus will receive £10million investment and will be complete by mid 2013. Ask yourself when was the last time that anyone invested £10million in Melksham and which other Council has the vision to do this in an age of austerity? This will be a project with a new swimming pool, a new leisure centre, a new indoor bowling facility and a range of new service delivery centres plus possibly a new library. It will be run by a Melksham Trust Board and so you will have a say in how it is run. Not only that but the Melksham Area Board will be advising the Council just what detailed facilities they believe the Melksham Community Area should have in the new Service Campus. You can have your say in forming this opinion in by:

- Taking part in the Campus consultation run by the Community Area Partnership at
<http://melksham.communityarea.org.uk>
- Turning up and having your say at the special Melksham Area Board Campus Meeting on Tuesday 29th March at 6 p.m. in the Melksham Assembly Rooms. It is here that decisions will be made by your Councillors.

So look forward to a 2011 when Wiltshire people can be justly proud that not only are we getting the services for which we pay our Council Tax and investment in our future but we generally get our services with a smile and we can all have our say on how our services are delivered.

Jonathon Seed

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



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The sum collected on a house-to-house basis around the parish this year amounted to £216.39, our best total ever. Well done everybody! Lydia Peters, our new Local Honorary Organiser for the Appeal, would

like to thank everybody for their generous support. Without such donations, the Royal British Legion would be unable to continue its vital welfare and benevolent work.

Despite the inclement weather, there was also a good turnout for the brief Memorial Service led by the Rev. Tony Longdon held outside the Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday.

Mike Dodd

Friends of Keevil School (FOKS)

Keevil School not only had a new Headmaster in Max Burr this academic year but also a change of Chair for FOKS. Jan Flynn stepped down after her two year tenure, and co-Chairs Melody Aspinall and Catherine Cosgrove took the post for the next two years with Rachel Harvey as Deputy Chair. Many thanks go to Jan for her sterling work - it will be a hard act to follow her.

FOKS were very busy behind the scenes last term, with progress on the long awaited playground Timber Trail, and fundraising through the school calendar and tea-towels. The children enjoyed a fancy dress disco in October and a visit from Father Christmas just before the start of the Christmas holiday.

Early in January FOKS organised and funded a pantomime to come to Keevil Village Hall for all the school to watch. The children seemed to really enjoy the experience (oh yes they did!)

We are currently fundraising for new benches for the playground as well as sports equipment storage for the playing field. This term we will be organising a collection of unwanted clothes, textiles and fabric, so please do bear us in mind if you are having a sort out. We are also going to be recycling printer inkjet cartridges so please don't just throw them in the rubbish - give them to us!

Other events this term include another Children's disco, the School talent show, and an Easter Hamper Grand Draw. We plan to hold another Scarecrow trail in May.

If you would like details on any FOKS activity, please feel free to contact me. Rachel Harvey 870217

STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS

Another successful season - and only two more films to go until we close for the summer! The films are:

'Made in Dagenham', 12th Feb, an entertaining film about the strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, when women walked out in protest against sexual discrimination. It stars Bob Hoskins and Miranda Richardson,

and 'The King's Speech' - 12th March - enough said!!

Tickets for 'Made in Dagenham' are selling fast already, and I think you'll have to be smart to get a ticket for 'The King's Speech'! Available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop

A BIG THANK YOU TO CHLOE AND LIAM for all their help delivering film leaflets! Gill Gilby

A Tribute to David Harnott

It was such sad news to hear that David had passed away on 27th December after a short illness. Our sincere thoughts are with Gwen and her family, who throughout his illness, whenever possible, opened their front door for David to keep in touch with all his friends and his interests in the Village.

Since Gwen and David arrived in the Village 13 years ago, David made it his business to become a true community member. He would frequently be seen out and about on Village business, which included Treasurer of the Village Hall Trust Committee as well as managing all the associated Hall services, organiser of the 100 Club, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, and of course arranging the annual firework display.

David also started a snowdrop planting programme, and planted additional trees at the top entrance to the Village.

He was a regular customer of the Linnet and the Tuesday BYO evenings, and was also a keen member of the Bowling Club. Needless to say, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Mike T.

Snowdrops

As the new year gets underway, many of us look forward to the first early signs that new life is emerging from the ground. Snowdrops, sometimes known as 'snow piercers', push their dainty little heads out into sometimes atrocious weather conditions to lighten this time of year. The flowers are very attractive to bees and it is one of their earliest food sources. For the last few years in late January or early February David Harnott displayed his passion for enhancing the snowdrop population in our village. David could be seen pottering quietly away at the side of the hedgerows planting snowdrops to provide an ever increasing display for future years. This was typical of David's nature, thoughtfully planning ahead and supporting village life (not to mention his competitive spirit in trying to outdo Keevil's display!).

This year in memory of David's contribution we are planting 150 more snowdrops into our village grass verges to continue the work he started. We ordered 100 plants "in the green" and further pots of flowering plants which arrived at the end of January. The working party managed to plant them on the first Sunday morning in February and it was thought such a worthy tribute to David that more snowdrops are to be bought to be planted on the following weekend. Roger and Di Drinkwater

I would like to thank everyone in the Village who helped and supported us over the last few months. David was so pleased to see his visitors. Also thank you for supporting our charity - Barts Mesothelioma Research - so far almost £600 has been raised.

Our grateful thanks to everyone.

Gwen, Denise, Lynn and Neil

Bart's Mesothelioma Research is a group of doctors, nurses and laboratory researchers aiming to improve the treatment and increase our understanding of mesothelioma and lung cancer. Mesothelioma is the main type of cancer caused by asbestos poisoning. Mesothelioma and other asbestos-related illnesses such as lung cancer and pleural plaques are increasing in incidence even though asbestos was little used after 1980. The problem is that there is a delay of between 30 and 50 years from the exposure to asbestos dust and the development of one of the diseases.

From your roving reporter

When I sent a postcard to the village whilst on my European travels recently, I wasn't sure what the correct collective noun for us all is. Should we be called Hintonites, Hintonians, Hintons, or something completely different as is often the case for inhabitants of French towns. But why is it that the people from Bourges are not Bourgeoisie?

I wondered if there an agreed form for us? And when and how did we become Great? Answers on a postcard or by email to the Editor, please. Take care Golly.

Mens' Christmas Dinner.

Our third Christmas Dinner was well attended by twenty three men from the Village. It was a pleasure to welcome Andy Williams and Alex Cooper who have recently moved to the Village, and hope they enjoyed meeting their neighbours. We also welcomed the late arrival of John Lawes, who made it safely back from Norwich through difficult wintry conditions.

Instead of the usual raffle, Kevin was asked to auction the generously contributed prizes, and managed to raise a staggering £251 - "Wow" - plus donations of £28 making a total of £279 which has been handed to the Ladies Club for their chosen charity P.H.A.B. (Trowbridge Branch). Our compliments go to Jon and his Staff at the Linnet for the first class food, and the usual courteous service. Hoping to see you all again next Christmas. Mike T.

Great Hinton Indoor Bowling Club.

We are now halfway through our second season, and still going strong with twenty one Village members; there are, however, vacancies for 2 more Monday afternoon players, and 1 more Monday evening player. Should anyone be interested (from the Village) please contact Mike Truman on 870607 for details.

The Singles "Knock Out" Competition draw has been made, and is under way; Sandra, our last year's champion, will be defending her possession of the magnificent Champion's Cup.

Thanks to all members for their enthusiastic support.

100 Club.

We are now coming up to the time for **100 Club** subscription renewals, and collectors will be coming round at end of February and early March for your subscription of £15.00 per head.

The first draw will be on the last Tuesday (BYO evening) in March in the Linnet at 9 - 9.30pm, please come along. Your subscriptions are really appreciated and necessary as half of the collections go into the Village Hall maintenance and running cost expenses, and the other half is paid back in monthly prizes and bonuses. If you have not been lucky so far, maybe 2011/12 could be your lucky year. Either way you can be satisfied that your money is invested in a jolly good cause, and thank you for that. See below for the lucky winners for period August 2010 - January 2011. Mike T.

B.Y.O. Evenings Come along on Tuesday evenings 8.30 - 10.30pm to the Linnet bar and take the opportunity to enjoy a social evening together. Although numbers have dwindled during the cold winter conditions, there is a warm welcome for anybody to come and get to know your neighbours better - and enjoy a soft or alcoholic drink and a chat. On Tuesdays you only **Buy Your Own** drinks. Do come and join in. Mike T.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

I have taken on the role of co-ordinator for our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and I hope that I can continue it at the same level as David did for many years. I recently attended a meeting of all local NHW co-ordinators at Melksham Police HQ. There have been some recent burglaries in both Seend and Ashton Common. Burglars broke into sheds and outbuildings, taking mostly gardening equipment. Please ensure that all your gardening tools are locked away in a safe place at all times as they may strike again.

The police are very concerned about 'distraction burglaries' in the area. These burglaries tend to be aimed at vulnerable people living on their own, particularly the elderly, and are usually carried out by people that are not from the area, but work together all over the country carrying out various tasks e.g. pathing, roofing, tree maintenance etc. It was suggested that you do not use these people as the job they carry out is not usually to a great standard and normally costs a lot more than they quoted. If you are at all worried about anyone who knocks on your door offering to carry out a trade, please call the police and inform them immediately. Preferably get chains fitted on your doors, do not let anyone into your house without checking their ID and phone the company on their ID to check that they are who they say they are.

The same also applies to "Pedlars". These are the people who go from door to door selling dusters, etc. out of a large black holdall. If you have anyone knocking on your door that fits this description, the police have asked that you call them immediately. The people who sell these items are generally from a large organisation and are selling goods illegally with illegal documentation.

There was also a demonstration on SMARTWATER which is a liquid applied to all your valuables giving it a unique DNA that links it directly back to you if your valuables are ever lost or stolen and then recovered by the police. If you purchase it through local police the cost is £15. You can obtain further information on www.smartwater.com or ask me if you prefer.

We were also informed about a service called IMMOBILISE which is a website on which you can log all your all your property with serial numbers e.g. mobiles, tv's, laptops, etc., and can be very useful for insurance claims if ever your property is lost or stolen, or establishing ownership if recovered by police. This service is free and you can update it whenever you need to. For further information visit www.immobiliser.com or again feel free to contact me.

And finally, if you would like me to send on the information I receive from the police about local crime, please either email me on deb.scott@virgin.net and I will add you to my email list or telephone me on 870410. Debbie Scott

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.

The Hall complies with all health and safety regulations.

A car park at the rear of the Linnet Pub can be available by pre-arrangement with the Pub Landlord. 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

Great Hinton Ladies Club

We have had several interesting meetings since the last Grapevine. In September, Ken Collier came and told us about the work of Trowbridge PHAB which is our charity for this year and so far has received a total of £379 from a cake sale, the carol singing and ladies' and men's raffles at their respective Christmas dinners. The next big fund raising event for the charity will be the fete at the end of June so please come along and support this good cause.

October saw a group of us gingerly making our way up the steps to the back entrance of Trowbridge Museum (not to get up to mischief, but this is the only way in once the Shires has closed). We were given an interesting talk by Pat Whitehead, who has designed for Mary Quant, about the history of the weaving sheds in Trowbridge followed by a demonstration from Ivan Clark.

Leslie Bastonie came in November and helped us to make models of snowmen, Christmas trees and penguins in icing with which to decorate our Christmas cakes. As usual everyone thoroughly enjoyed this 'hands on' meeting. We are hoping she will return at Eastertime 2012 to demonstrate Easter chicks and decorated chocolate eggs.

The carol singing in December was again well supported, although it would be good to see a few more children there as they enjoy it so much. Many thanks to Carol Clarke for organising it and to Mike Evans for getting the players together to provide music, without which we would all be totally lost. It is certainly a lot warmer in the Hall than the days when a small damp group of us used to 'squeak' our way around the village in the cold and wet!

Many thanks to Jon and his staff at the Linnet for a lovely Christmas meal which 20 members enjoyed.

And finally, last month we played our annual skittles match and Golly was there for the first time in fourteen years to present the 'Golly Cup' to the best lady player. He donated this to us a few years back and it has been won by a different member each year. This year Carolyn Haynes was the highest scoring lady having beaten Diane by a single skittle!



Still to come – Feb 16th 'Brush up on First Aid'; March 16th – Gourmet Evening; April 20th – AGM and a fun 'Beetle Drive'; and of course the fete on Saturday 25th June.

Lunch Club

In December 20 people sat down to a traditional Christmas lunch when we were pleased to welcome several new members. January and February saw an equal number of diners. If anyone else would like to join us we shall be delighted to welcome you. We meet on the first Thursday of each month from October until April.

In June we have an outing to an "Open Garden" somewhere in the county and a meal at a hostelry in the vicinity of the garden we are visiting. We always seem to manage to have good weather for this outing. Do join us if you can!

Audrey Plummer

BADMINTON PLAYERS meet on Friday evenings and play for an hour at the Bowerhill Sports Centre. New members of any standard always welcome. Enquiries to Ken on 870403.

GREAT HINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Finances

At the meeting of the Parish Council in January we agreed the 2011/2 Council Tax Precept. This is the money that Wiltshire Council adds to the annual Council Tax for the Civil Parish of Great Hinton and which we use to fund the activities of the PC. I am very pleased to report that for the fifth consecutive year we have been able to hold the precept to just £1,800 in total, which means that yet again Great Hinton will have one of the lowest Parish precepts per household of any Parish, with an active Parish Council, in the County.

A361 at "The Strand"

The PC has long campaigned for better road safety on the A361 Devizes Road around the junction at the bottom of the village. In particular we have been very concerned that the conditions have become so difficult, a combination of speed and lack of visibility, that right turn into the village and right turn out have become so hazardous that it is safer to find an alternative route. The Police support and share many of our concerns but Wiltshire Highways have that area as a low priority because it is more than three years since the last personal injury accident.

The Council have however decided to place a 50 mph limit on this stretch as a result of a recent county-wide speed limit review. The PC remain concerned that this is still too high and have made representation to the Melksham Area Board of the Council seeking support for additional measures, such as signage, etc. Even if this is accepted we will continue to monitor the situation as the real answer in the long term may lie in re-modelling the road layout at the junction of the A361 and the C232, the village road.

We really need feedback from residents to help lend weight to our campaign; therefore I would please urge you to share your views or first-hand experiences with any member of the Parish Council, email addresses as below.

Telephone Box

I'm sure that all will agree that our contractor did an outstanding job in the refurbishment of the phonebox, which included the gold paint on the royal arms and a refresh of the postbox. We will shortly be seeking a quotation for installing shelves and a large board area. This would facilitate a small book exchange facility. We would also be able to display a copy of the official public footpath map and we hope to have some single page take-away sheets of suggested walks.

Chris Munday Chairman Tel: 870912
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Royal Wedding Tea Party

Friday 29th April at 3 pm

The Linnet – front car park

The pub will be open for drinks.

Thank you to Jon for agreeing to let us use the car park.

FURTHER DETAILS IN APRIL

Watch the village hall notice board.

Village Hall Trust AGM

and Village Community Committee AGM

TUESDAY 3rd MAY – 7.30 pm.

Come and enjoy a glass of wine as you vote in your representatives for the next year!

Ruby Safari Dinner

Saturday 7th May

Please let me know by Friday 29th April if you would like to join us. The theme of course is red.

Sandra 870906

GREAT HINTON LADIES CLUB FÊTE

Saturday 25th June at 2.30pm

Hillbrow House

Supporting Trowbridge PHAB

STOP PRESS NEWS.....

The stairlift in the Hall failed to respond to its electronic controls and our entreaties in December and an engineer has declared that it is not economical to repair it, even if spare parts could be sourced for a lift that was second-hand when fitted 11 years ago on the opening of the Hall. The Hall Trust Committee is obtaining quotes for the installation of a brand-new lift to meet the legal requirements for providing access to the disabled. Whilst it is only occasionally used we must have a reliable lift, which the present one was not in the last years of its life, and require little maintenance to keep our costs low. Under David Harnott's stewardship the Hall funds built up a reserve which will be sufficient to meet the expenditure, but it will be prudent to bring the reserves back up to current levels. So in the first instance donations will be gratefully accepted by the Treasurer (Richard Clarke) and then there will be fund raising events so that we can all continue to enjoy the benefits of the facilities of a Hall in a first class state of repair.

It is your amenity, so do use it for your family parties – a skittles afternoon or evening is fun for all ages. And the Lunch Club cooks have proved that the kitchen can provide hot dinners for 24 people!

The 100 CLUB - recent lucky winners

	No.	£20	No.	£15	No.	£12	No.	£10	No.	£8
August	43	D Verschoyle	111	Debbie Scott	107	Steve Adams	104	Min Squibbs	44	Matt Long
September	57	W Mannings	8	Derek Saville	11	Beryl Francis	84	L Cornelius	67	Jon Furby
October	41	Anne Truman	43	D Verschoyle	102	Carol Clarke	107	Steve Adams	89	C Haynes
November	54	Diane Norris	75	Val Austin	65	Sue Andrew	66	Sandra Crumpler	94	Dorothy Young
December	*90	M Winterburn	89	C Haynes	38	J Scrivenor	1	Mary Jones	98	E & B Adams
January	23	Golly Burston	40	Rosie Keith	20	M Newman	104	Min Squibbs	120	Stuart Brown

*December Bonus Prize £40 Mary Winterburn

Renewals are due at the beginning of March – please renew your subscription and maybe buy another one to double your chances of winning!

The 100 Club covers a significant proportion of our Village Hall running expenses.