

# THE GRAPEVINE GREAT HINTON

February 2015

Editor Richard Clarke 870635  
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## From the Editor

After compiling 33 issues of the Grapevine since 2000 I've decided that it's time that I should see if there is someone else who'd like to be the village reporter. In fact the title I've always used is Editor as the Grapevine can only exist if you let me have news of your groups, and I'm grateful that I have had your support over the years by letting me have your contributions. Each edition is sent to Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham where the early editions are in the paper archives and the more recent stored electronically. So one day someone may read about the closure of the Linnet as our local pub which once brewed its own beer, how the telephone box became a library, and how we celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee on 4 June 2002. That was an event attended by 140 villagers (which must have been high on everyone) with lunch in the pub carpark, games, evening barbecue and lighting the beacon at the top of Back Lane. This is the essence of village life – events and activities to join in and foster the community spirit so that we can have fun and relaxation together without driving to the bright lights, and of course watching out for each other, both young and old.

In this edition as usual you'll find the reports of the clubs and activities with the invitation to join in – do come and support them to keep numbers to a viable level and they would all be especially delighted to welcome new villagers who've arrived in the last year or two.

Thank you Mike for your appreciation of the Grapevine whilst I have been editor and your encouragement for someone to take over. It's a great opportunity to learn what your computer can do!  
Richard Clarke

**I am sure I speak for all Grapevine readers** when I say that Richard Clarke who, after thirty-three issues of the Grapevine, has earned a well deserved retirement. Thank you Richard for all the hours you have devoted to this important vehicle of communication, and I sincerely hope that someone in the Village reading this will come forward and consider producing their own version of the Grapevine twice a year. We have so few facilities in the Village, with most events taking place in the Village Hall, that we need the Grapevine to report on the activities taking place, and advise on forthcoming events. I am sure Richard will be happy to meet a future editor to help in any way he can.

Mike T

## Great Hinton is best again!



On behalf of the village Di Norris and Sue Andrew went to Mildenhall last October to be presented with the Laurence Kitching Best Kept Village Award. Having won the CPRE Wiltshire Best Kept Small Village award in 2012, we were able to enter this Winner of Winners competition which was judged not only on the neat and tidy appearance of the village, but also for our facilities – the defibrillator, library, map, hall, – and the Grapevine!

### Village Website

Thank you Claire for running the website. News, information, updates and photos on any village activities can be emailed to [gh@claireharbour.co.uk](mailto:gh@claireharbour.co.uk). The website is the way event organisers can keep villagers up to date on what's happening in Great Hinton.

### From our local councillor

February is the month in which Wiltshire Council sets its budget for the Financial Year. The budget setting process involves many meetings both to work up the budget but also to present the budget to the public whose money we are spending. That is the difficulty that Councillors have as we try to produce a balanced budget by mid February and take what is becoming a year on year 10% cut in our central government funding with no prospect of any improvement in future years - whoever wins the General Election. All this takes place before the Council vote on the

budget. This year the stringent central government cuts to our funding mean that we are having to find significant savings from across the whole range of Council services. We try to do this without reducing front line services to our residents but inevitably the deeper the central government cuts bite the more effects will be seen on local operations.

Somehow we manage to keep the County going without too much disruption and our roads do get repaired, our libraries remain open, our leisure centres continue to run, our campus building programme continues and most importantly our most vulnerable residents continue to receive the help that they need. These are difficult times but rest assured that your Council will continue to do its best for our County.

There remains good news in the midst of the dreary financial shenanigans and much of it is within my own Cabinet portfolio area. I am afraid that it is inevitable that at budget time Cabinet members become a little tribal as they fight to maintain their own service budgets and service delivery. In my own areas I am pleased that we have maintained our flood alleviation funding in excess of £1million, that we are retaining and enhancing our leisure centres, that our Campus programme continues, our Area Board grant funding continues and we have managed to protect our valued library service. All this has been achieved whilst at the same time we are maintaining all of the services to the vulnerable in our county.

So I think that the message is that budgets are not all bad news if they are managed carefully!

Jonathon Seed  
Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding  
Member - Summerham and Seend Division  
Wiltshire Council  
Tel. 01380 850696  
Mob: 07770 774463  
[www.jonathonseed.com](http://www.jonathonseed.com)

### Badminton Group

A group of us from the village plus some friends meet on a Friday night at Christie Miller from 8.00pm for an hour's Badminton. New members of any ability and age would be welcome so if you are interested please ring Ken on 810403.

**Ken 870403**

## Village Bowling Champions



The Ladies Club organise this annual competition which although competitive is always played in a friendly manner until the evening ends with the killer knockout rounds. Mike Truman won a bottle for best man and Rebecca was in top form winning the Golly Cup for best lady and was the last survivor in the killer competition. And thank you Rebecca for running such a successful evening!

## VILLAGE KIOSK LIBRARY

Thank you to everyone who supports the Library by donating and borrowing books. We have recently put a lot of new titles on the shelves and hope you are enjoying the selection. Novels or biographies in good, clean condition always welcome - but please no text books. Both the Mind Charity Shop and Dorothy House have been pleased to receive the books we removed. We would like to welcome any newcomers to the village to use our unique little Library - no limit on how long you keep the books and definitely no charge! Keep reading..... Gwen and Anne.

Message sent by  
Delia Best (Police, Communications  
Officer, Wiltshire)



## INTERNET SECURITY ADVICE THROUGH GET SAFE ONLINE

Did you know that 80 per cent of online crime is easily preventable by taking simple steps to protect

computers, smart phones and tablets? **Get Safe Online** aims to provide practical advice to help people protect themselves while using the internet. The website covers a wide range of topics. It would be a useful read for parents, businesses and the vulnerable and elderly too. Get more information at [www.GetSafeOnline.org](http://www.GetSafeOnline.org)

**Are you a parent or carer (including grandparents) of a child aged 8 – 12?** You may have already seen or heard about the new National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children online safety campaign, **Share Aware**. Many parents feel out of their depth in understanding what their children are doing online and what the risks might be. This campaign is aimed at parents and carers of children aged 8-12, and is a good tool to help with understanding what children like to get up to online, which should help parents to have those difficult conversations with children about staying safe.

There is a downloadable Share Aware guide for parents that has three main purposes:

- ✓ To provide an overview of sites, apps and games that children and young people use from a user-perspective
- ✓ To give parents the confidence to facilitate balanced and informed conversations about what their children are doing online
- ✓ To encourage parents to look at social networking platforms themselves and form their own views about the appropriateness of popular sites for their children.

Wiltshire Police supports the campaign, and we encourage you to read the guide, watch the video with your children, and to start having those important conversations about staying safe as a family. So visit <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware>

**Wiltshire Police – Our purpose: To prevent crime and protect the public.**



The time is approaching for membership renewals, and as you may already know, I am handing the administration to Rachel Lawes who has kindly agreed to carry on this important organisation. Rachel will be arranging for the volunteer collectors to call on you during February and early March to collect the £15 per member for the March 2015 – February 2016 period, and hopefully enlist some new members from villagers who have recently moved into Great Hinton. Please support the 100 Club as 50% of the collections make a vital contribution to maintaining our Village Hall, our only main community facility. And of course the monthly draw prizes are financed from the other 50% of the 100 Club collections. Good luck everybody, and thank you Rachel for taking on the 100 Club administration.

Mike T.

## Great Hinton Indoor Bowls Club



We are just completing our sixth year of bowling, and with eighteen active bowlers will be entering our seventh season with great enthusiasm. We have invested in a new carpet carrier and a new carpet, which makes our meetings far more pleasurable. Our bowling sessions are on Mondays from September to March with the afternoon players meeting from 2.30 - 4.30pm, and the evening players meeting from 7.0 - 9.0pm. We would welcome two new members to join in the afternoon sessions, and two new members to join the evening players. We unfortunately have to restrict the overall membership to ensure that everybody has a fair share of bowling time. For full details of the club, please call at No 38, or phone Mike on 870607.

All members of the Bowling Club members will greatly miss our dear friend Peter, who after a short illness passed peacefully away on Friday 9th January. His "quippy" sense of humour contributed greatly to keeping our meetings light hearted and good fun. Mike T



## Village Flower Tubs

We are so grateful to Peter Baker for his green-fingered skills and the time he spent in

maintaining the flower tubs around the village. Stan and Sylvia Tarrant kindly looked after the village floral displays when Peter became ill, and now we are looking for someone to continue Peter's good work. The displays are the large pot outside the telephone box, the stone container at the entrance to the village and the pots outside the village hall. The task could be shared between several people if necessary. If you'd like to volunteer to do this please contact Sue Smith on 870616.

## Family Fun Day

The Village Community Committee wants you to reserve **Saturday 5 September** in your diaries and calendars. As it was logistically too difficult to organise another Agony Run in memory of Kevin, there is going to be a family fun day at which the KC Cup will be awarded. There will be a treasure hunt, BarBQ and games. Watch the website and notice board for more details nearer the time.

**Going free** – Gwen has lots of plastic flower pots – please collect if you'd like them.



**Lunch Club** continues to flourish. We have had between eighteen and twenty members

attend every lunch this season. Thanks to our team of cooks we have enjoyed some delicious meals. We have managed to make a little profit after hall hiring charges so were able to purchase fabric for new tablecloths which Carol and I managed to make up at the Art & Craft group one Friday just before Christmas. The cloths had their first airing at the Christmas lunch. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by all thanks to Carol, Richard, Anne, Beryl and Carolyn. We still have room for more diners should anyone care to join us – the more the merrier! We continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month from September to April. If you feel you would like to join us just give me a ring..

All of us, especially the ladies, say a big thank you to Kathy (Baker) for coming along to do the washing up. Her stalwart work is much appreciated.

For our popular annual garden visit with pub lunch and tea I have found an "Open Garden" on the other side of Devizes at Chirton. It looks rather nice, is small, extending to 1 acre in area but leading to a woodland walk which some of our members may like to explore. It belongs to Tim & Jenny Papé and is named 'Mallards'. They do private openings and the entrance fee is only £5 including tea. I haven't yet tried out the local hostellers for lunch in the area but I'm sure that will not prove too difficult!

**Audrey 870586**

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

A gentle reminder to lock up all your outbuildings/sheds/garages as we have had a few incidents (one in the village) of equipment being stolen or attempted burglaries from outbuildings. Hopefully you are all receiving the email information I have been forwarding to you, especially regarding the new neighbourhood watch website [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) which gives valuable information on safeguarding your property. Also I recently sent an information sheet from Action Fraud giving detailed information about protecting yourself both online and on the telephone. This is now becoming a huge problem for many and therefore being aware of what to do if you are in this situation may help.



We have also had a change in our local village policing team. Rose Baldock has moved to Melksham town centre and therefore Helen Wilson is our new PCSO alongside Emily Thomas. If you are new to the village and would like to be alerted by email/text of any local incidents and information from Neighbourhood Watch, please either call or email me your details to [deb.scott@virgin.net](mailto:deb.scott@virgin.net)

#### Useful Information

<b>Emergency Calls in the UK</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Non-emergency Calls in the UK</b>	<b>101</b>
Debbie Scott	

**The Ladies Club** year got off to a great start last September, with a really enjoyable cheese and wine evening. It was well attended and we were pleased to welcome some new members. In October, Rosie introduced us to Magnetic Wellness Jewellery. This proved very popular, with quite a few of us going home with bracelets! In November we hosted our annual skittles match and invited along our partners and friends. The winner of both the Golly Cup and Killer was Rebecca - much to her surprise and embarrassment!

The festive season was well and truly kicked off with the village carol singing in the hall on December 16th. As ever Carol organised a wonderful evening of carols, readings, mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks to everyone involved, especially to the children who sang beautifully and played their piano pieces so well.

We finished 2014 in style with our Christmas meal at The Lamb on the Strand. It was a lovely evening and we all agreed that it was one of the best meals we've had in recent years. The staff could not have looked after us any better and the food was delicious. We particularly appreciated our free cocktails on arrival!

We started 2015 with a fascinating talk by Geoffrey Carr, on *The Loss of the Titanic* and a Wiltshire family who were aboard.

Alongside these social events, we have so far raised £478.63 for our chosen charity - Alzheimers Support, through the ladies' and men's Christmas raffles, carol singing, and Christmas card donations.

Future dates for your diaries:

18 March - Gourmet Dinner (theme to be decided)

15 April - AGM and Bring & Buy

May TBA - Fete Planning Meeting

20 June - Village Fete

The Ladies Club meets at 8pm in the village hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to April. New members are always welcome.

For further information please contact either of us:

Rachael: Tel 01380 870070 or 07717 810938  
email [rachaellawes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachaellawes@hotmail.co.uk)

Rebecca: Tel 01380 870588 or 07770 750669 email [rebeccalocke@live.com](mailto:rebeccalocke@live.com)



#### COFFEE with ART AND CRAFT Calling all villagers with 'portable' hobbies.

Our change from a Thursday evening to Friday mornings has worked well and our numbers have increased to 8. Some paint, some knit, crochet or sew. It's an enjoyable morning of chat, coffee and craft and we would welcome any villagers to join us even if you just want coffee and a chat.

If you have an unfinished project in your cupboard here is your opportunity to bring it along to complete. One of our group is putting the finishing touches to the Royal wedding family group in miniature and it is wonderful! We meet Fridays 10-12 in the village hall. Do join us.

Carol Clarke 870635

#### Report of the Parish Council Meetings

Jonathon Seed regularly attends to advise on local matters and report on wider issues. Recently he has spoken about the travellers sites and particularly the new one on the Devizes side of the Semington roundabout. It is expected to get planning permission subject to making the entrance smaller although Jonathon's view is that this will be over-development.

Last year's hedge growth was quite lush and there have been several lengths which have overgrown the verge or obscured traffic sight lines. The council has asked field owners and residents to cut back the hedges and have the option to employ contractors if problems persist.

Willow Services will continue with the grass cutting of the verges at the top end of the village. Matt Long has offered to maintain the area around the village pump.

The bellringers at Steeple Ashton are marking the one hundredth anniversary of the death of local servicemen in the Great War with 100 peals plus their age at the time of death.

The precept was set again at £3000.

Any questions or comments to the Parish Council chairman George MacDonic or secretary Carol Burch at [carolburch@btinternet.com](mailto:carolburch@btinternet.com)

#### WHY NOT HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL?

We have a well-kept Village Hall which is available for anyone to hire at very reasonable rental charges.

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

For a small charge you may also hire chairs, tables, crockery and cutlery for parties in your home.

For Bookings, please contact

**Rebecca Locke on 01380 870588**

The enclosed leaflet explains the benefits of signing up to this service to get updates about police and crime matters in and around our area. Sign up online or post the registration form in the police post box (the one on the left) on the village hall wall.

The youth club is now meeting on the second Friday evening of the month from 7.30-10.00pm in the village hall. For further information, please contact Debbie Scott 870410 or Rosie Keith 871772.

Tickets are £6, available 4 weeks before the film night from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. Doors open half an hour before the film starts. Ice creams and sweets will be available and as usual we will have a bar. Profits from these films will go to St. Mary's Preservation Trust and Friends of Keevil School (FOKS). For further information please phone volunteers **Gill** on 01380 870302 or **Alison Wilson** on 01380 871701.

Also starring **Keira Knightley**, **Charles Dance**, **Matthew Goode** and **Mark Strong**.



**Trick or Treat** the sunshine made these little horrors a little less scary – thanks to all who were brave enough to open their doors and hand over sweets.



**Pub Olympics** – held not in a pub but pub games in the hall last November when 4 teams of 5 competed in the Olympics spirit, which for most playing darts was not about winning but just hitting the dart board! There were other opportunities to show off skills formerly acquired with a glass of beer in hand or a dubonet and soda – bar skittles, shove ha'penny and dominoes. In the fifth game of putting the golfers amongst the teams were well beaten and had their excuses about the state of the course, the speed of the green, the weather and noisy spectators soundly rebutted!

The **Village Community Committee** look forward to having your support for the other events they will be organising. Any suggestions to improve village life and amenities can be made to:

George McDonic – Chairman of the Parish Council (871924)  
Jon Lawes – Chair of Community Committee organising social events (870070)  
Richard Clarke – Chair of the Hall Management Committee (870635)  
Gill Verschoyle - Footpath Officer for the Parish Council (870302)

**Let's hear your views and have your support at the Hall Trust and Community Committee AGMs on Thursday 21 May in the hall at 7.30pm.**

As you read the Grapevine, you will realise that the Village Hall (our only communal meeting place within the Village) has been well used throughout the year, and it's thanks to all 100 who have paid the £15.00 per year along with other fund raising events that the Hall running costs can be kept so low. If you have been lucky enough to win one of the five prizes from each monthly draw, please send your name and address to the Village Hall, so we can put a winner's envelope in your letter box in the near future. Good Luck! Mike T.

**These are the names of the lucky winners**

	No	£20.00	No	£15.00	No	£12.00	No	£10.00	No	£ 8.00
September	40	Rosie Keith	57	Bill Manning	89	Peter Thorne	18	Peter Doel	14	Debbie Ellis
October	70	Doris Saville	56	Claire Evans	100	Ross Cornelius	11	Beryl Francis	24	Tom Meade
November	110	Will Scott	14	Debbie Ellis	26	Matt Batten	92	Pat Putt	23	Debbie Burston
December	11	Beryl Francis	92	Pat Putt	72	Colin Ramsey	46	Richard Newman	19	Gemma Batten
January 2015	56	Claire Evans	111	Debbie Scott	4	Gwen Harnott	25	Maureen Cunningham	3	Ian Knight
February	121	Paul Squibbs	79	Gillian Fennell	117	Paula Williams	124	Alan Seddan	107	Steve Adams

**CHRISTMAS £50.00 BONUS** was won by **TERRY CUNNINGHAM** (No. 9)