

GRAPEVINE

SPRING 2017

GREAT HINTON VILLAGE HALL

As we come to the end of the financial year, there will again be a small surplus to add to our reserves for a rainy day when there are big maintenance bills to pay as the building is now 17 years old. To help build up these reserves the Parish Council has promised £500 annually for three years which is a great help in making sure that the Hall has a long-term future in the heart of the community. Those remembering the old tin hall marvelled that it had lasted 78 years under many coats of paint and it was older than that having previously stood on Salisbury Plain.



We received a very generous bequest of £1000 from the estate of Philip Selwyn-Smith who had been a member of the committee managing the running of the Hall until he had to step down because of his ill-health. We knew that he would like some of the money to be used for the installation of heating in the kitchen and this idea prompted us to see if a grant would be available from Melksham Area Board. It was, and we were awarded £468 to cover the full cost. So, we will now use some of the bequest to put a heater in the disabled toilet and the balance will be used for other improvements as and when we see the need.

We are delighted to know that the village clubs are thriving as the rent they pay helps considerably to cover the running costs. And without their use, there would be little rationale in having the Hall as a venue in the centre of the village. So do support them and enjoy the activities and company there is to be had: Lunch Club, Ladies Club, Indoor Bowls, and the Art and Crafts Club.

The village Community Committee have organised several events with the "profit" going towards the Hall funds. These have been great fun, Pub Olympics, Bingo, Fireworks Night. The disappointment is that not more have walked the short distance to come and join in the fun – we would really love to see more villagers join in and so add more money to Hall reserves.

Thank you to all, and that is virtually everyone living in Great Hinton, for supporting the 100 Club which is a vital source of income in covering the overhead costs of running the Hall.

We have a table tennis table of competition standard which has been used by an out-of-village club and no longer meets in the Hall. You are welcome to book the Hall and hone your skills with friends; better still would be someone to set up a village table tennis club.

If you want to hire the hall contact our Bookings Secretary Rebecca on 870588. It is ideal for children's parties to give the space to run around and for family occasions when you don't want red wine spilled on the carpet!

Richard Clarke

Any questions – 87063

NORTON HOUSE, 33 GREAT HINTON

Norton House lies at the east end of Great Hinton and is believed to date back to the mid-18th century. During its history, it has been used mainly for residential occupation but has also served as the village bakehouse and a small school for boy boarders from London. It is not known when the property first became known as Norton House.

Debbie Burston, the current owner, purchased Norton House in 1994 after it had been empty for three years, the previous owners having been sentenced to spend time at Her Majesty's pleasure for 'cattle rustling'! Many stories and myths have grown from the various exploits and illegal activities of these latter-day cowboys. After three unoccupied years Norton House looked very sad and neglected and it took a lot of TLC and patience to get the former Daily Telegraph 'house of the week' back to its former self.

Since Debbie moved into Norton House several people connected to previous residents of the house have called back and have been able to fill in some gaps about the house's history and provide some fascinating old photos.

GREAT HINTON BAKEHOUSE

As far back as the 1840's Norton House was owned by a John Slater who used it as the Village bakehouse. On the Tithing Map of the time the property, in common with others in the village, was numbered differently. Then it was number 40 and not called Norton House. Now it's number 33. The bread ovens were situated at the back of the house adjoining what is now the kitchen. The property included stabling and it's probable the flour came from the local Noad mill near The Strand and the bread was sold from the small lean to shop in between the main house and the adjacent shed (now the garage). Cooking was on a range in the main

fireplace and it's believed continued to be so until the 1960's.

A VILLAGE SCHOOL

Around the start of the 20th century Norton House was used as a boarding school for fourteen boy borders. It's interesting to speculate how this may have happened. Given the social conditions of the early 1900's the pupils could possibly have been illegitimate boys born as a result of liaisons between well off male Londoners and their staff and sent away to be educated by a retired school mistress. Traces of old wall paper in the walk-in attic which runs the length of the house may indicate that at least some of the boys might have slept up there. Very hot in summer and freezing in winter! It is likely it ceased to function as a school when the House was sold as part of the Long estate in 1914. It is also possible the house was still thatched in those days as the earliest photo taken around this time possibly shows:



EARLY YEARS

The first hundred years or so of the house's history is not known and there is a gap of knowledge between 1840's and 1914 when a look at the Deeds of the house show that it changed hands five times between the start of the First World War and the end of the Second. Nothing else is known of these previous owners apart from their names

20TH CENTURY

Post War II details become a bit clearer. From around mid -1950s until the late 70s the house was in the possession of the Reid family.



The photo above shows Norton House in the mid-1950's and the one below, a view of the corner junction of Main Street and Peppercorn Orchard before the Wesleyan Chapel on the left was demolished. It shows that there was a door to the small side lean-to which was possibly used as a shop at the time.



When houses were constructed back in the mid-18th century money was spent on prettifying the façade of a house and the back and interior were much less fussy and this is typical of Norton House. There is a wooden partition instead of a brick wall between the two front bedrooms and in fact there are no internal solid walls at first floor level apart from the chimneys. Hilda Reid's future son-in-law repainted the sign over the door in the mid-1960s and this is the earliest record of the house name. He did a 'proper job' as it hasn't needed repainting since!



The aerial photo below, taken in the 1960's shows the house and its surroundings before the Peppercorn Orchard development. The windows were still of the Georgian sash type then but had been changed to lead lights by the time the house was listed with others in the village in the late 1980's.



Hilda Reid died in 1968 and Frank Reid who part owned the house followed her in 1974 when it again came up for sale. It was purchased then by the Barnes' who lived there until 1989 when they sold it to the 'cattle rustlers'. They lived there for two colourful years and Debbie moved in in April 1994.

250 YEARS OF HISTORY

Norton House has witnessed a lot of history since it was first built in the traditional local style of the time. Possibly people have been born and died within its walls. Tim Barnes said to Debbie the house was haunted..... but that's another story!

Debbie Burston

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 1st April: 48th Safari Supper - postponed

Spring is here again and time for another Safari Supper. The last one in November had a mere six households participating but we made it work by having a cross between a Safari Supper and a Pot Luck Supper. It all worked well and everyone enjoyed themselves. This version also negated the need for baby sitters which some of you may welcome.

Update: Unfortunately, the April Supper will not be going ahead because not enough people are able to make the date.

Sandra, 870906
sandra@crumpler.org.uk

Saturday 8th April: The KC Skittles Competition

You will all have had a flyer explaining how the scoring will work.

The first session for you to try and get some points was on Sunday 26th February, and the next afternoon for you to enter this competition will be on Saturday 8th April from 2-4pm in the hall. Hopefully this does not clash with rugby or football events! Don't worry if you cannot make this as I will be running at least one more session later in the year.

The competition is open to all ages and there are prizes for over 12yrs, 6-11 years and 5 and under. The play will be adjusted to allow the younger members of the village to take part. Friends and family are welcome but the KC Cup will go to the best villager. Good Luck!

Sandra

Entry fee - £4 for adults, £2 for school age children. Excess raised will go to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Please bring with you when you attend the session.

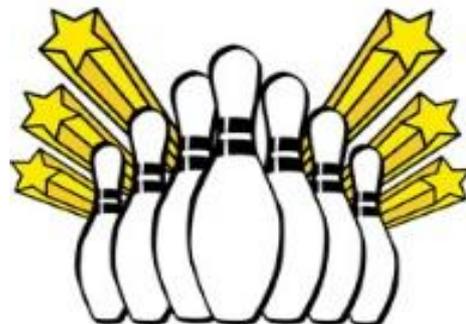
ART & CRAFT GROUP

Whether you want to paint a picture of the bird sitting on your garden feeder, knit a hat for your grandchild, produce a few silk-painted greetings cards, rustle up a new tailored jacket for spring or just finish that tapestry that has been sitting at the back of a cupboard for years, the art and craft group is the place to get the work done whilst meeting up with friendly villagers and enjoying a cup of coffee and a squashed-fly biscuit! The seven of us enjoy meeting together every Friday morning between 10am and 12 noon and would love to have more members. You don't have to be an expert at anything, just willing to have a go and we will gladly help and encourage.

We enjoyed producing home-made decorations for the club's Christmas tree displayed in Steeple Ashton church in December. Our theme was Monet's Garden which included birds, butterflies and flowers in the rich palette of purples, pinks, blues and greens used by Monet in his paintings. There were of course paper water-lilies.

We have also spent a useful couple of mornings adding an elastic strap to new hall chair cushions which provide a bit more comfort and take the chill off the plastic seats on a cold winter's morning.

If you would like to come along, contact me, Carol Clarke on 870635. You'll be sure of a warm welcome.



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor documentation and decisions made by WCC which may affect the village and the area. In this we are very much supported by our local Councillor Mr Seed who regularly attends our meetings and we are grateful for his advice on some more complex issues.

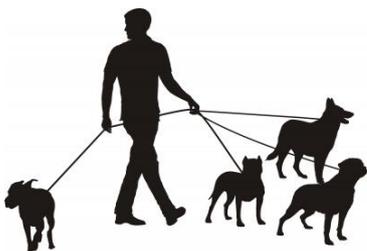
In recent weeks, we have had several planning issues to address both here in the village and on our near boundaries with both Steeple Ashton and Keevil parishes. We do make representation to them when we have concerns over proposals which may indirectly affect us. We take a great deal of time and thought before making any recommendations regarding applications to Wiltshire Council and ultimately, they are empowered to make definite decisions.

We have been grateful to some parishioners who have continued to monitor areas of concern, for example the problem with smoke caused by random burning of waste. This support is much appreciated and we will continue to do our best to promote your interests wherever possible.

Carol Burch

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been another complaint from Peppercorn Orchard of dogs fouling the area so please make sure you tidy up behind your dog before returning home.



PUB OLYMPICS – SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY

Despite the cold weather there was a record turnout for the pub Olympics of 30 adults and 12 day old Miles who slept through all the mayhem!

5 traditional pub games (skittles, dominoes, shove ha'penny, darts and table skittles) were arranged around the hall and there was just enough room for team tables in the centre.



Everyone should have played each game - this worked in most cases but I can assure you that trying to control a room of 30 adults under the influence is a lot harder than a class full of children!

The winning team was the Green team otherwise known as 'Trump Towers'! but only by a single point (is this reminiscent of the US election?) The 'yellow perils' came 4th out of 5 teams despite having 3 of the best individual scores out of the 5 games - I don't know what the other team members were up to! or perhaps they didn't put their joker on the right game. However, I think they all enjoyed themselves as did everyone else.

A profit of £110 was made and will go towards the general upkeep of the village hall.

Thank you to all who turned up.

Sandra

FROM JONATHON SEED ...

Spring and Easter are here and May is just ahead. That means that this is the last message from me as your Councillor in this term of Wiltshire Council. The next parish magazine will be distributed after the elections and I hope that I will still be your Wiltshire Councillor.

Wiltshire Council has now set its budget with a modest council tax rise. However only sound financial management at a time when central government has reduced Wiltshire funding by £120million allows many of our services and projects to continue. This means that our libraries and leisure centres remain open and the vulnerable in our community are looked after.

Over the past few months there has also been a great deal of progress on local issues and local projects. The new Melksham Oakfields Sports stadium has been built by Wiltshire Council and handed over to the football and rugby clubs for their management, future funding and use. This will be a real bonus for local youth - and the not so young alike. The Melksham Campus preparation of the market square is almost complete and this alone will be a great enhancement to the Town. The new Melksham skatepark is also nearing completion and this will be a welcome facility for all our youngsters to use.

More locally we have also seen local projects come to fruition with Wiltshire Council investment to help them along. The great thing about many of these projects is that they have involved partnership working with local groups and often attract joint local funding. These projects include the interactive road safety signs in Seend High Street, restarting Poulshot Village Cricket, heating for the kitchen in Great Hinton village hall, new kitchen works in Semington village hall, disabled toilet facilities at the Acreshort Lane hut in Steeple Ashton,

Keevil railings and bin repairs, and not forgetting the essential help for Bulkington War memorial restoration.

All the above is despite serious central Government cuts to local government funding and just shows that even in these austere times funding can be found for worthy local projects - if there is a strong will and sound financial management is in place.

Best wishes

Jonathon

Jonathon Seed

Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries
and Flooding

Chairman, Melksham Area Board, Wiltshire
Council Member for Summerham & Seend,

www.jonathonseed.com. Tel. 07770 774463

A NEW BABY!

As you know, Claire and I welcomed Miles Alexander Ferrão into the world at RUH on 9th January 2017 at 1.12 a.m. He weighed 6lbs 7ozs.



Miles is now 10 weeks old and he and mum are both doing well! We'd really like to thank all the villagers for their well-wishes and for all the cards and gifts we received. We are all very grateful and Miles has been made to feel very welcome as the newest member of the village.

Anthony Ferrão (Lorne Cottage)

LADIES CLUB

The Ladies Club kicked off another year in September, with a cheese and wine evening and an informative talk on Larkrise Community Farm - our chosen charity for the year. Since then we have enjoyed some interesting monthly talks and demonstrations including; an introduction to acupuncture, creating sugar craft decorations for our Christmas cakes, a talk on orchids and our annual skittles match. Congratulations to Joyce who took home the Golly Cup as the highest scoring lady!



In December Carol organised another wonderful evening of Christmas carols and readings. It was great to get so many villagers together to sing carols and enjoy the delicious mince pies and mulled Wine. Thanks to all those involved and especially to all the children who entertained us with their piano pieces!

Another highlight in December was our Christmas meal at The Lamb on the Strand. We were treated to a complimentary cocktail on arrival and I think we would all agree it was a great night with good food and service to match.



As well as enjoying all these activities we have also been raising money for our chosen charity through our regular raffles, the harvest supper, Christmas raffles and the donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards. In January, we were able to donate £339 to Larkrise Community Farm and £112 to the village hall!

Ladies Club is on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the village hall from Sept to April. New members and ideas always welcome.

Rebecca

Programme for Spring 2017:

Weds March 15th

Gourmet Dinner, French theme - bring a guest along.

Weds April 19th

AGM

Mon May 22nd

Fete planning meeting- at Rebecca's, 5 Peppercorn Orchard. (Please note this is a change of date from the Ladies Club Programme)

Sat June 24th

Village Fete

For further information please contact either of the joint chairs:

Rachel Lawes 01380 870070

email: rachaellawes@hotmail.co.uk or

Rebecca Locke 01380 870588

email: rebeccalocke@live.com

LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club has been very successful again this year. In fact, at the March lunch 22 members were seated for a most enjoyable meal of a very warming sausage casserole cooked by Susie, followed by a delicious key lime pie produced by Carol.



Lunch Club is now in its seventeenth year. When it began in 2000 we were looking for ways to raise funds to help maintain our beautiful new hall and it was suggested that at each lunch we held a raffle with prizes donated by members. All members have been very generous throughout the years thus we have been able to purchase various items of cooking utensils for the kitchen. Our latest spending spree procured new cushions for the chairs in the hall. I think you will all agree it is more comfortable to sit on a warm seat in the cold, wintry weather!!

Lunch Club meets on the first Thursday of each month from September till April with an outing in June to an open garden somewhere in the area, after first dining in a hostelry local to the garden being visited.

Our membership stands at 24 when we are all in attendance. If you would like to join us

You will be very welcome.

Ring Richard on 870635 or Audrey on 870586

KIOSK LIBRARY

After a very good lunch in the Village Hall on 2nd March Sylvia B and myself decided it would be a good time to sort out the books in the Kiosk; bad weather had prevented us doing it earlier. We replaced all the books that had a 2016 date on them with nearly all the books from the overflow bookcase in the Hall. So, Readers now have a very wide choice of titles to enjoy!

The books we replaced have now been given to charity and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who kindly keeps us supplied with new titles. Please remember that good clean condition is key.

Also, my grateful thanks to Beryl who kept the library going whilst I was looking after Mike. I have donated his original watercolour of the Kiosk to the Village Hall- a print of which can also be seen in the Kiosk along with its 'history'.

Keep Reading.....!

Anne



100 CLUB

The village 100 club is a major source of financing the running costs of the village hall. We have 114 members who pay £15 subscription per year. Around half the income is redistributed as prizes. 5 monthly cash prizes of £20, £15, £12, £10 and £8. There are also two bonus prizes - one in the summer and one at Christmas. It's that time of year again when my helpers come knocking on your doors for the annual subscription. They will be carrying spare tickets for all those who wish to purchase another ticket this year. Thank you to everyone for buying a ticket(s), your support is very much appreciated. Thank you also to my helpers for collecting the subscriptions. Good luck to all in 2017/18.

Rachael Lawes

100 Club – 2016/7

These are the names of the lucky winners

	No.	£20	No.	£15	No.	£12	No.	£10	No.	£8
Sept 2016	76	Rachael Lawes	118	Christine Yates	66	Sandra Crumpler	83	Jon Lawes	38	Jenny Scrivener
Oct 2016	76	Rachael Lawes	16	D&R Drinkwater	19	Jemma Batten	45	John Putt	50	Sylvia Tarrant
Nov 2016	81	Sylvia Baker	45	John Putt	37	Mary Strickland	36	Ruth Blake	39	Sheila Jennings
Dec 2016	65	Sue Andrews	95	A&M Crumpler	5	Mike Truman	105	Robert Noad	30	Eddie Knight
Jan 2017	30	Eddie Knight	21	Monica Meade	91	Steve Mustart	118	Christine Yates	7	Sue Selwyn-Smith
Feb 2017	34	Carol Burch	2	Steve Haynes	106	Hilary Davis	78	Antony Ferrae	99	Joyce Newman

Christmas Bonus £50 Dom Verschoyle No. 43

Last year Great Hinton 100 Club celebrated its 30th year. It was initiated by Min Squibbs to help provide much needed funds for the maintenance and running costs of the Memorial Hall as it continues to do today.

In 1986 the Memorial Hall was a WW1 hut from Salisbury Plain in a sad state of repair, being replaced in 2000 by today's building.

The Club started with about 80 members (perhaps 100 was over ambitious - anyway it had to have a name) each paying £12 annually. It wasn't till 1998 that there were 100 plus members, and today membership numbers 114 although this fluctuates yearly.

So far since its inception approximately £38,000 has been paid in membership with approximately £19000 being repaid in prize money.

Min submitted this article for inclusion in the last year's Autumn Grapevine. My sincere apologies to Min for inadvertently omitting it from the autumn issue.

Audrey

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Hopefully you are receiving the Daily and Weekly Crime News by email. (See contact details below if you are new to the village and you would like to be added to the mailing list).

We have had a couple of incidents recently in the village; a smashed window on a stable at the field by the bus stop, and a broken bin lid which may have been used to climb onto to see over a fence as well as a pushed in letterbox (this has been reported to the police). Both incidents happened about two weeks ago, and those of you who are on the Neighbourhood Watch mailing list will have been notified. Please contact me if you are not on the list so that you are notified of up to date local criminal activity.

More recently a shed was broken into and two chainsaws stolen. Although this information was circulated to villagers by email from the Parish Clerk, it was not reported to either the police or Neighbourhood Watch. It's really important that every incident, no matter how seemingly unimportant, is reported to NHW to enable co-ordination of heightened awareness and vigilance both by villagers, particularly close neighbours, and the police, by way of more regular drive-throughs.

You will notice from the emails there has been a general increase in burglaries of garages/sheds etc., mainly in the local towns, but please ensure you lock all your equipment away in a secure location and if possible, take photos for identification purposes. There are many ways of security marking your equipment by either scratching your postcode into the paintwork or using forensic coding liquid such as *Smartwater* which you can use on all your valuables.



There has been an increase in hare coursing on local farms as well as across the county. Hare coursing, in which dogs are used to chase, catch and kill hares, was made illegal in the UK under the Hunting Act 2004. Not only is it illegal, but they destroy fencing, crops and wildlife. Anyone convicted of the offence can receive a fine of up to £5,000 by a magistrates' court. Police insist that people involved in hare coursing are often involved in other kinds of criminal activity, such as theft and burglary, as well as trespass and criminal damage, so if you see any suspicious activity, please report it to the Police.

Again, internet fraud and phone scams are becoming increasingly common so be vigilant when speaking to your caller. Never give your details to anybody that has called you for information on the telephone, especially financial matters. If they are from a legitimate source, they won't mind you checking their details and returning their call

Debbie Scott

NHW Area Coordinator

870410

deb.scott@virgin.net

Other useful contact numbers

Emergency Calls	999
Non-emergency Calls	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040

